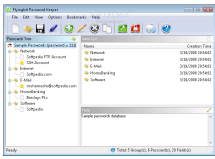


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FlyingBit Password Keeper

By: Dragos Ichim, Editor, Software Reviews

All-in-One Password Manager

Secure encrypted vault for your passwords

Long forgotten is the time when I used to store on a notebook all my passwords for websites, email accounts, FTP or SSH accounts, or the Online Banking codes and credit card pin numbers. It was even worse when the writing pad got lost as I had to make numerous calls to stop any kind of electronic fraud, especially when it was about the banking cards. Now we use automatic FillForms and PasswordManagers applications, and as there are lots of programs offering us so many alternative features, we try choosing the most comprehensive one. There are lots of protective methods in assuring our privacy and security. The files, folders and processes can be concealed from view, hidden somewhere in a secure folder, locked within a bogus volume with a unique password or encrypted in a database using different cryptographic algorithms. FlyingBit Password Keeper is a secure organizer that allows you to store pin numbers for credit cards, serial numbers, passwords etc., in an encrypted database. Regarding the algorithms used for protection you are able to choose from AES (Rijndael) using 128 and 256-bit keys, or Blowfish (64-bit block cypher using 256-bit key) and Twofish (128-bit block cypher using 256-bit key). The freeware application is equipped with a nicely designed interface and its architecture and functionality are quite pleasing. You don't need to be a PC master to realize how it works as it is very easy to use and handy at the same time. Probably the hard part will be transferring all the information from your writing pad into an electronic form, but after this is done, you will see life with hazel eyes as there will be no password problems (like memorizing or storing) anymore. Initially you have a demo database to play with (with 111 as password). The Passcard's Tree is divided into four major categories: Network, Internet, E-mail and Home Banking. As these members are present by default, there is nothing stopping you in adding new miscellaneous groups or delete everything and start from scratch. These groups can contain different passcards with an intuitive user-defined name according to your needs. The items included can be as many as you want, having ordinary fields like passwords (hidden behind asterisks if desired), login or host name, url, card and serial numbers and IP addresses, or you can define your own using the custom type where anything can be written. For the last one an intuitive image can be chosen. As soon as you complete this database don't forget to save it and encrypt it using one of the four protection algorithms provided. As all of them have their strengths and weaknesses, looking on the Internet for information will help you choose the best one for your demands. Talking about portability, well, you will be surprised to find out that the software can be installed with ease on any memory stick. Save your database(s) on this storage volume and go anywhere you want along with your data. Having a safe database copy on your home computer is the smartest thing to do in case your pen-drive gets lost. In this case there is nothing to worry about, as the data is protected by an encryption method, therefore is safe from reading of a third-party. FlyingBit Password Keeper also supports multiple databases, in case you are used to storing information in different files or having the same data encrypted by all algorithms the program provides. Switching between databases is easy, as you can log off from one and open another. Refreshing the database list is done with the help of *Search* option located within the *Options* menu. Another feature which might be considered important is erasing the clipboard, to avoid storing data in a volatile memory and forget about it afterwards. The nice touch is given by the fact that copy/paste is working only in the first 10 seconds by default, otherwise the memory gets cleared and the operation must be redone. The clearing time is user-defined, from 0 to 100 seconds. The bookmarks menu is very useful as it provides easy access to the most frequently used passcards. Looking in the

software's settings we find different viewing options regarding the program's toolbar, status bar and main window, system tray choices or common options (run on system startup or copy the Passcard field on middle mouse click). Clearing the clipboard memory can be deactivated if considered unnecessary. FlyingBit Password Keeper does not come with an assistance file and this is not a good point for a software of its kind, as this free application has a pretty wide serviceability. **The Good** FlyingBit Password Keeper is an easy-to-use application and free for everyone to use. With a nice interface, its usability recommends it as an alternative for everyone with loads of passwords or secret numbers written on scrap bits of paper. Its files are portable through memory stick storages. It can clear the clipboard memory to prevent the leak of important information. Supports multiple databases and allows the user to choose from four encryption algorithms provided. It has its own bookmarks system for easy access. **The Bad** The Assistance menu is not available and there are no backup or restore options for databases. The support of just three languages (English, Russian and Ukrainian) is a bit poor. Currently, there are encryption applications using Blowfish algorithm with 448-bit key, so there might be a need for upgrade. **The Truth** As a freeware, FlyingBit Password Keeper is a handy tool in storing all the important information you might have. Easy to use and portable, the application lets you enjoy using all its features and indeed there is no need for help when the demonstration database allows its functionality to be seen completely. *Here are some snapshots of the application in action:*