RESOURCE CENTER

Enterprise password management: Best practices for a secure organization

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Overview

Large organizations depend on hundreds, sometimes thousands, of logins to access apps, systems, and data. Managing those passwords securely is one of the most important ways to reduce the risk of a data breach. That's where enterprise password management comes in.

Enterprise password management software helps businesses store, manage, and protect passwords across their teams. They reduce the chance of weak or reused passwords and make it easier for employees to access the tools they need without sacrificing security.

This guide covers how enterprise password management works and what it takes to implement it successfully, from choosing the right tool to setting policies, automating access, and monitoring ongoing security

Why password management matters

When employees reuse passwords or share them in unsecured ways, it creates risk. Passwords can be stolen, guessed, or exposed in data breaches. If even one weak or reused password is compromised, it can open the door to sensitive information.

An enterprise password manager helps solve this by storing privileged credentials in one secure vault. It can automatically generate strong passwords, simplify sharing within teams, and ensure access is given only to the right people. By using a password manager, companies also meet compliance standards like HIPAA or SOC 2, which require secure access controls and clear audit trails.

Learn more about how enterprise-grade business password solutions can secure your organization.

What to look for in an enterprise password manager

A reliable enterprise password management software does more than just store passwords. It helps teams stay secure and organized at scale. The right solution should offer features that protect credentials, simplify access, and support long-term growth.

Look for a password manager that includes:

- **Password generation and strength checks** to create and maintain strong, unique passwords.
- **Single sign-on (SSO)** support for simplified, secure login across applications.
- **Multi-factor authentication (MFA)** to protect accounts with an extra layer of security.
- **Secure password sharing and access controls** for managing team credentials safely.
- **Integration with identity platforms** like Azure Active Directory, Okta, or OneLogin.
- **Reporting** that gives visibility into weak, reused, and compromised passwords.
- **Scalability and compliance tools** that support organizational growth and meet standards like SOC 2 and ISO 27001.
- **User-friendly design and dependable support** to ensure easy rollout and ongoing success.

Choosing a solution with these capabilities helps organizations stay secure while keeping access simple and efficient for everyone.

If you have an existing password management solution like LastPass, this help center article makes migrating from LastPass easy. Also, check out these tips for importing credentials from other systems.

Building a strong foundation

Setting up an enterprise password management system starts with defining an organization's password security policies. These might include requiring strong, unique passwords for every account, limiting who has access to shared credentials, and using MFA to protect logins.

Centralizing passwords in a secure vault helps eliminate scattered documents, sticky notes, or risky spreadsheet storage. A unified vault makes it easier for security teams to manage access and track usage.

Single sign-on (SSO) can simplify things further by allowing users to access multiple applications with a single secure login. This streamlines access without adding to password fatigue and helps prevent weak or reused credentials. Even with Single Sign-On (SSO), companies still need password managers because SSO doesn't cover all applications. Password managers provide encrypted storage for credentials, help generate strong passwords, enable secure sharing between teams, and offer additional phishing protection. Together, they create a more complete security approach than either solution alone.

Read more:
Integrating SSO with OneLogin

Tip: Check out these frequently asked questions about SSO.

Automating access and provisioning

Manually creating accounts and assigning passwords can be time-consuming and error-prone, especially in large organizations. Automating user provisioning solves this. By connecting an enterprise password manager to systems like Azure AD or an HR platform, organizations can automatically create or remove access when employees join or leave. This speeds up onboarding, reduces human error, and limits the chance of forgotten or lingering credentials.

Teams can also group users by department or role, applying shared password collections and enforcing MFA consistently. These processes save time and support smoother day-to-day operations.

Read more:
Understanding SCIM provisioning

Managing application passwords

Not all credentials belong to people. Applications, servers, and services often need their own passwords to communicate with each other. Managing these application passwords securely is just as important as protecting user logins. A reliable enterprise password manager stores these types of credentials securely. Integration with identity providers allows these systems to fit into broader access controls.

By protecting both user and application credentials, organizations reduce the risk of unauthorized access to their most sensitive systems.

Ongoing oversight and monitoring

Strong password policies aren't set once — they require ongoing attention for a secure password management solution. A password manager should include tools to monitor vault activity, assess password health, and detect security issues like password reuse or suspicious login attempts. Regular audits help identify unnecessary access or permission creep. Real-time alerts can catch credential exposure early. Breach monitoring helps detect if passwords have been compromised in third-party data leaks.

Some organizations also extend this oversight by exploring secure secrets management, used to protect sensitive credentials like API keys or system tokens beyond basic passwords.

Getting started

Enterprise password management software is about more than just keeping track of logins. It's a combination of smart security policies, automation, and oversight that helps businesses stay secure while keeping teams productive.

For organizations just getting started, launching a pilot program is a helpful first step. Evaluate current password habits, import existing credentials, and begin rolling out shared vaults and MFA across teams.

The best enterprise password manager supports growth, improves security posture, and simplifies the way users access critical resources.

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