



THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 312: Auto Fill Those Passwords?

de Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, 715 N. Dries Street, Saukville, WI 53080-1664
wb9rqr@gmail.com

We all like convenience and dislike having to type passwords every time we want to enter a website such as our bank or favorite shopping site. Browsers such as Firefox, Edge and Chrome all make it easy to store those passwords locally on our machine and even offer to type the password whenever called for during a visit to the site. Very nice, indeed, and convenient as heck not to have to look up that password on a list and type it in. But, if you are like me, there is a small devil or angel sitting on my shoulder that whispers in my ear: "What if someone hacks your machine from afar and has access to all those passwords and goes playing with your bank accounts?". Yep, that angel or devil is correct!

So here is what I did. Being a Firefox user, I clicked this triple dash icon  found in the upper right corner of the screen and then clicked the word Passwords in the menu that popped up. In Microsoft Edge, click the 3 dots in the upper right corner, then click Settings and select Passwords from the list. The three dot (...) icon should present a similar pathway to the password screen in Chrome.

The final result in any case will give you a list of website address, username and passwords (blacked out thus: ●●●●●●●●) for which a password has been saved. To remove a blackout and reveal the password, click the eye icon . There you have a way to list of all the passwords you have stored and even a way to copy them. It is all revealed to you, but how about to others?

All the browsers have a way to edit (click the 3 dots in Firefox Password screen), remove, or even remove all saved passwords. Think about it. You might want the convenience of having the ORC login password saved, but maybe it might be prudent for you to remove your bank login password. Realize, of course, that if you remove it, you will have to type it in each time you use your on-line bank. It is up to you, but now you at least have the tools to make the choice. Happy (and Safe) Computing!