**Weaknesses in Password Management Apps Grow Concerns Towards their Reliability**

Password management applications are usually recommended by security professionals as the only way to deal with large and complex passwords. But these software programs are now posing their own security issues. A number of security researchers from Germany namely TeamSIK recently published their assessment of nine well-known password management apps on Android devices and found that none of them were completely secure.

According to TeamSIK, “The overall results were extremely worrying and revealed that password manager applications, despite their claims, do not provide enough protection mechanisms for the stored passwords and credentials. Instead, they abuse the user’s confidence and expose them to high risks.”

The nine popular password management apps that went through android app security testing by the research team included My Passwords, LastPass, Informaticore Password Manager, Keeper, Dashlane, F-Secure KEY, Hide Pictures Keep Safe Vault, 1Password and Avast Passwords.

Security vulnerabilities found in each app were reported to the app developers and fixed before being revealed to the public. Since bugs have now been fixed, it is important to patch to latest versions to avoid hackers from exploiting vulnerable versions of the applications.

Android app security testing of these apps revealed some flaws that were quite big at the surface, such as storing master password entered by user in plaintext, or making use of hard coded cryptography keys in application codes. Such flaws allowed the researchers to access secure credentials with the help of a third party app. Also, many apps could not understand the increased chances of clipboard sniffing, which helps catch credentials copied into memory to be pasted at a later time.

The researches the conducted android app security testing also revealed that app security of most of these apps is also affected by the introduction of convenience features. For instance, some apps have introduced built-in browsers for their customer’s convenience, but it also brings along a large number of security threats itself.

This definitely does not mean that password management apps are risky and unsecured. However, it is important that in order to make them fully functional, it is important to maintain and keep them regularly updated.