

# Secret Management Tools

A comprehensive overview of all aspects of secret management is beyond the scope of this book, but to be able to use secret management tools with Terraform, it's worth briefly touching on the following topics:

- The types of secrets you store
- The way you store secrets
- The interface you use to access secrets
- A comparison of secret management tools

## The Types of Secrets You Store

There are three primary types of secrets: personal secrets, customer secrets, and infrastructure secrets.

### *Personal secrets*

Belong to an individual. Examples include the usernames and passwords for websites you visit, your SSH keys, and your Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) keys.

### *Customer secrets*

Belong to your customers. Note that if you run software for other employees of your company—e.g., you manage your company's internal Active Directory server—then those other employees are your customers. Examples include the usernames and passwords that your customers use to log into your product, personally identifiable info (PII) for your customers, and personal health information (PHI) for your customers.

### *Infrastructure secrets*

Belong to your infrastructure. Examples include database passwords, API keys, and TLS certificates.