Locked Notes

This is a tutorial on how to easily and securely save your passwords (or other sensitive data) on all of your Apple devices without having to purchase expensive apps like 1Password. I recommend this technique for those who can't easily keep track of their own passwords - and winds up carrying them on a piece of paper in their wallet or stuck to the side of their computer ! It will only take just a few minutes to get it set up…plus the time it takes you to copy or type in all of your passwords and other important information. I recommend doing the initial set-up on your iPhone or iPad which is easier than doing so on a Mac, in my opinion.

Go to Settings > Notes on an iPhone or iPad tap to set up a Password (not one you've used before), and a Password Hint. The Password hint will appear if you mis-type the password 3 times. Turn on Touch ID if your device is capable.

Create a new Note in the iCloud category, so that it will be on all your devices. List all of your Passwords and other confidential information that you desire, or make separate locked Notes for each category. Don't title it "Passwords", chose something less conspicuous like "Words of Wisdom". After you are done, tap on the Share icon on your iPhone or iPad and select "Lock Note." Use your Touch ID or Password to initially lock it. After that you will only need Touch ID or Password to "Open" the Note. That is really all it takes. When you want to open it again, tap on it, provide the password or Touch ID. When done, tap on the open Padlock at the top to immediately lock it - or let it time lock for you on a Mac (8 minutes) or when your iPhone or iPad goes to sleep (Auto Lock).

On iOS devices…the iPhone and iPad are controlled primarily with the Share icon (small square with an arrow pointing upward). That is how you add a lock to a Note and how you remove a lock from a Note.
On a Mac you add a lock by clicking the drop-down menu under Notes in the upper left of the Menu Bar and selecting 'Lock This Note'. Click on the locked note in the list and enter your password to open locked files.

On the Mac and iOS devices you re-lock the Note by clicking the open padlock at the top of the screen. If you forget to do that, an iOS device will lock when the device auto locks or you lock it with the Sleep/Wake button. A Mac will auto-lock after 8 minutes, an iPhone when it goes to sleep.

This is a very handy and secure way to remember your passwords and other important numbers, etc. Not only that, you can access the secured Notes on ALL of your Apple devices IF you remember to save them to iCloud, instead of your local computer. In addition you can access all of your Notes (and all other iCloud apps) on ANY computer…Mac or PC. Just go to www.icloud.com, sign in with your iCloud ID and password and access all your iCloud Apps including Notes.

Lastly, the reason that this simple action is very secure is that for someone to access your passwords and other important data in a Note, they would first have open the lock code on your iPhone. The FBI knows how difficult that is! Apple is making it even harder and harder because of the FBI intrusion, paying up to $200,000 to people who find weak spots in their security systems. In addition if someone gets into your iPhone, they still have to have your password or Touch ID to get into your locked Note!