No More Yellow Stickies!

Implementing KeePass Password Safe at the Cal Poly Library

Helen Chu, Director of Library Information Technology
Introductions

• Who are you? Why are you here?

• Who I am
  – Director of IT, Cal Poly Library Services
  • Responsibility for security systems, practices & policies
  • Data steward
  • Information Security Committee member
  – Administrative computing: Columbia University
  – Academic Computing: UCLA
  – Humanities Background

• Who I am not
  – Security Expert
Project: KeePass
Proposed: July 31, 2006 by Helen Y. Chu
Why KeePass?

• Too many passwords!
Why KeePass?

- Cal Poly began expiring user passwords annually beginning Fall 2006
Why KeePass?

- Security is my responsibility
- Security is everyone’s responsibility
About KeePass

- Free / open-source password safe
- Locked with one master key or key-disk
- Strong random password generator
- Easy for end-user
  - Drag-n-drop
  - Auto-type
  - Easy
- Low memory requirements
- Runs off a USB drive
- [http://keepass.info/](http://keepass.info/)
About KeyPass Security

- Entire DB is encrypted
  - Secure encryption algorithms: AES & Twofish
  - Not just passwords
- SHA-256 is used as password hash
- In-memory passwords protections (pwds encrypted while KeePass is running)
- [http://keepass.info/help/classic/security.html](http://keepass.info/help/classic/security.html)
Cal Poly Implementation

- Cal Poly Library
  - Faculty librarians & staff
  - 37 Windows Users (novice – advanced)
  - 13 Macintosh Users
Problem #1

- No time for R&D
- End user buy-in
- Meet a end-user desire to participate in technology decisions
- User support services already overwhelmed
- No application level support
- Bleeding Edge Technology Advisors
  - Helen Chu, Project Manager & Technical Lead
  - Systems & Help Desk
  - 1 person from each geographic area
  - 2 novices
  - 2 advanced
  - 2 tech people
  - 2 men, 4 women
Solution 1: BETA Group

- Bleeding Edge Technology Advisors
  - Helen Chu, Project Manager & Technical Lead
  - Systems & Help Desk
  - 1 person from each geographic area
  - 2 novices
  - 2 advanced
  - 2 tech people
  - 2 men, 4 women
KeePass BETA Group :: Fall 2006

ASSIGNMENT #1

By December 1, 2006

• Beta test selected product
• Review & recommend features for deployment
• Recommend deployment strategies
• Recommend end user training dates and strategies
KeePass BETA Group :: Fall 2006

ASSIGNMENT #2

By December 15, 2006
• Work with DS, training task group to structure end user training

January 2006 & Beyond
• Assist in end user training
• Serve as local product expert
Problem 2: Misconceptions

• Perception: This is being done “at us.”
• Another technology thing I won’t understand.
• This is not helpful.
• No one will use it.
Solution 2: Truth

- Optional
- Useful.
- We care.
- BETAs are in control.
Problem 3: Motivation

• Why do I want to participate in a BETA group?
• I’m too busy.
Solution 3: Appeal

– You’re special.
– Uniquely qualified.
– You will be smarter than your peers.
– Gift.
– Recognition.
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Timeline

- BETA Group: November – December 2006
- Implementation: January 2007
- Training: January 2007
  - Online tutorial using Macromedia Captivate
  - Two basic trainings
- Assessment: February 2007
- Advanced Training: Spring 2007
KeePass BETA Group ::
Fall 2006

The Basics
- Create new database
- Adding an entry
- Adding a group or subgroup
- Auto-type or drag&drop
- Generating password

Tips & Tricks
- Shortcuts
- For Advanced Users

Security
- General security
- Clipboards
- Master Password & Key-Disk

USB Drive
- USB Only vs. server only or both
- Portability

Customization
- Default categories
- How to customize
Survey Results

• KeePass :: mixed results
  – KeePass not easy to use.
  – More secure.
  – Relief: don’t have to remember all passwords.
  – Some will use it. Some not.
Survey Results

- BETA Group:
  - Training class highly rated.
  - Training video highly rated.
  - BETAs added value to the implementation.
  - Additional volunteers for future BETA groups.

- [http://www.lib.calpoly.edu:8080/survey/viewResults.jsp](http://www.lib.calpoly.edu:8080/survey/viewResults.jsp)
Survey Results

• Security Practices & Consciousness
  – Raised consciousness for security practices & concerns.
  – IT cares about privacy and security – yours as well as our end users/students.
  – Security is everyone’s responsibility.

• [link](http://www.lib.calpoly.edu:8080/survey/viewResults.jsp)
More Information

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