

Own your vault.

Replace LastPass and 1Password with Vaultwarden.

A self-hosted server that works with every official Bitwarden app — browser, desktop and mobile — while your passwords live on hardware you control.

Who this is for

Anyone stuck on LastPass's one-device free tier or unwilling to rent 1Password forever, comfortable running a tiny always-on server. Basic command line and a domain name help.

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Why move off LastPass & 1Password

LastPass limits the free plan to a single device type; 1Password is subscription-only. **Vaultwarden** is a lightweight open-source server that speaks the Bitwarden protocol, so you keep using the polished official Bitwarden apps — only the server is yours. It idles at around 10–30 MB of RAM.

What you keep

All official Bitwarden clients and browser extensions · sync · 2FA · sharing/organizations. What you drop: the subscription and trusting someone else's cloud with your vault.

1 · What you need

Component	Requirement
Hardware	Any 64-bit Linux box; a Raspberry Pi 4/5 or a \$5/mo VPS is plenty
RAM	256 MB minimum, 512 MB comfortable
Software	Docker Engine 24+ with the Compose plugin
Network	A domain name and HTTPS (mandatory — see below)

HTTPS is not optional

Bitwarden clients refuse to sync over plain HTTP. You need a domain and a TLS certificate — the easiest path is a reverse proxy like Caddy, which gets certificates automatically. Plan for this before you start.

2 · Install Vaultwarden with Docker

A minimal docker-compose.yml — one lightweight container with a SQLite database on disk:

```
services:
  vaultwarden:
    image: vaultwarden/server:latest
    restart: unless-stopped
    volumes:
      - ./vw-data:/data
    environment:
      DOMAIN: "https://vault.yourdomain.com"
    ports:
      - "8080:80"
```

Start it with `docker compose up -d`. Then put it behind HTTPS. With Caddy, a two-line config gets you an automatic certificate:

```
vault.yourdomain.com {
  reverse_proxy localhost:8080
}
```

Checkpoint

Open `https://vault.yourdomain.com` and you should see the Bitwarden web vault over a valid certificate. If the browser warns about the cert, sync will fail — fix HTTPS before continuing.

3 · Create your account, then lock the door

- Register your account through the web vault.
- Then disable open registration so no one else can sign up: set `SIGNUPS_ALLOWED=false` in the environment and restart.
- Install the Bitwarden apps/extensions and point them at your server URL under Settings → Self-hosted.

4 · Import your passwords

- 1 LastPass: log in on the web → Advanced Options → Export → save the CSV. 1Password: export your vault to CSV/.1pux.
- 2 In your Vaultwarden web vault: Tools → Import Data → pick the matching format → upload the file.

Delete the export immediately

Exported files hold every password in plain text. As soon as the import succeeds, securely delete them — on Linux use `shred -u yourfile.csv`. Never leave them in Downloads.

5 · Verify, then decommission

- Confirm your entries appear and the browser extension autofills.
- Check sync works across two devices.
- Back up the `vw-data` folder regularly — it is your entire vault.
- Only then, delete your data from LastPass/1Password and cancel.

Common snags

Symptom	Fix
Clients won't sync	Almost always HTTPS: the certificate must be valid, not self-signed.
Can't register	<code>SIGNUPS_ALLOWED</code> is false; enable briefly to create your account, then disable.
Lost the admin page	Set <code>ADMIN_TOKEN</code> in the environment to enable <code>/admin</code> .

Found this useful?

This guide is free — pay what you want if it saved you time. More offline & one-time-purchase alternatives to subscription apps, plus other migration guides, at **payoncehq.com**.

Sources: official Vaultwarden project documentation and Bitwarden client docs. Commands current as of 2026; check the project pages for the latest. Independent guide, not affiliated with Vaultwarden, Bitwarden, LastPass or 1Password.