

Digital Legacy

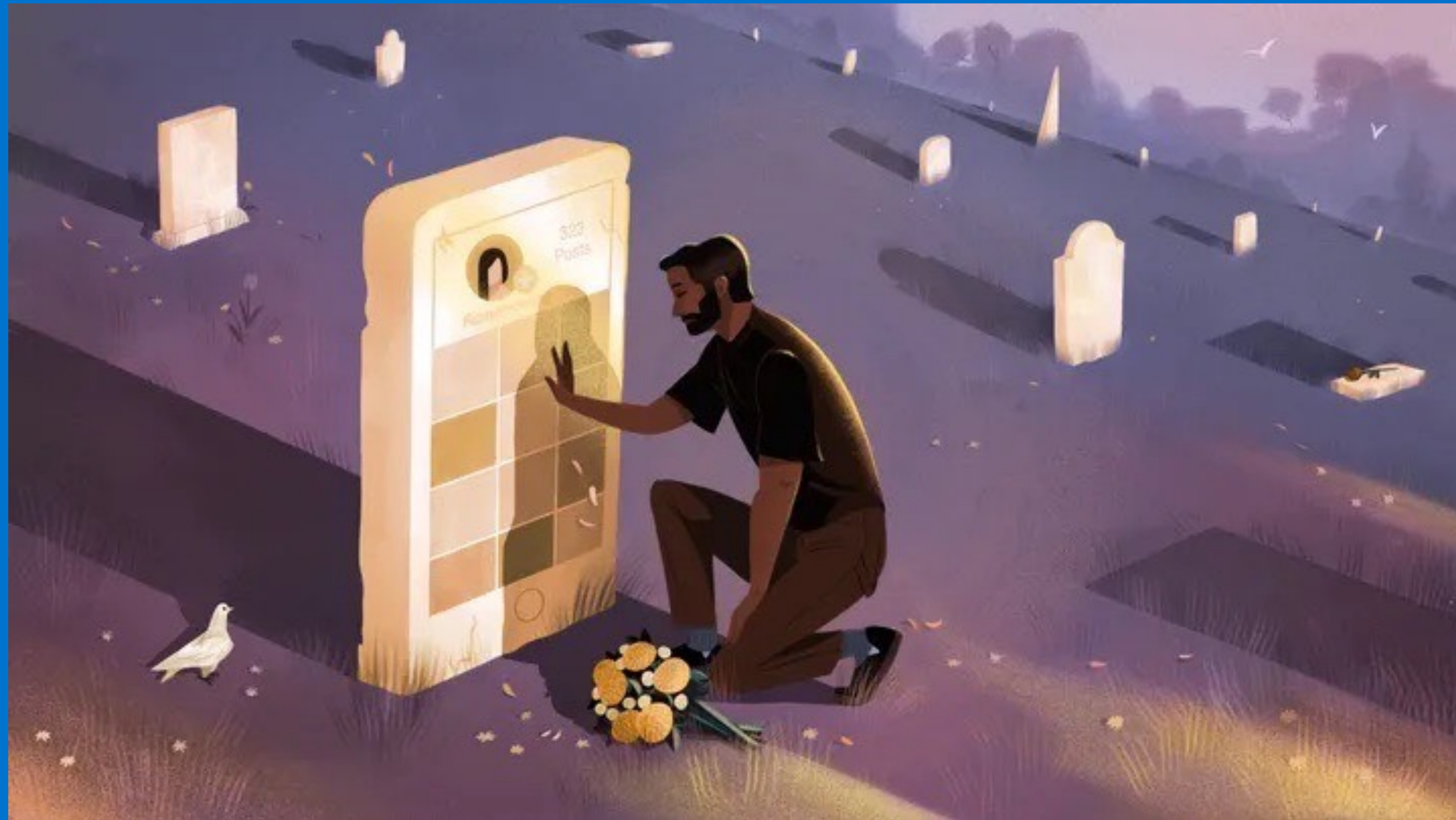
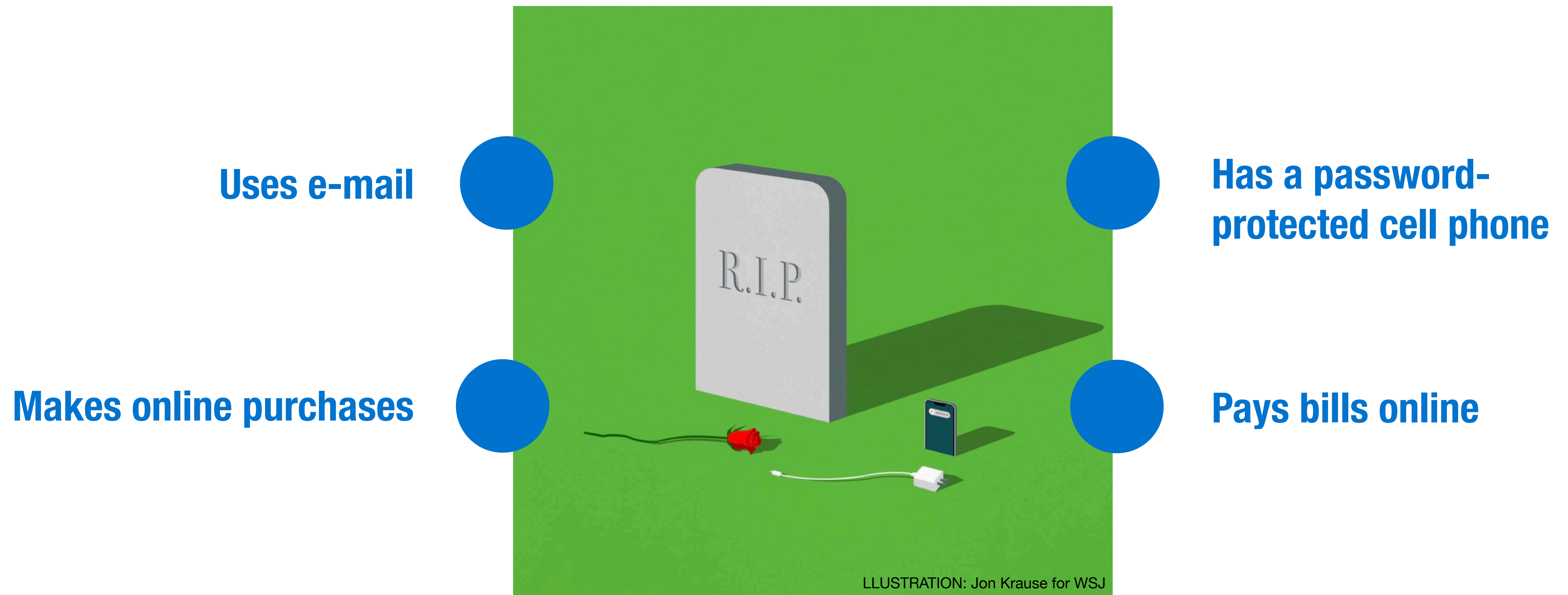


ILLUSTRATION: NICOLE ALBUM FOR HUFFPOST

Susan Culbertson
April 28, 2025

Do I have digital assets?



Defining Digital Legacy

All of your assets that are in digital form, which includes passwords, online accounts, social media profiles, music, photos, cat videos, files, subscriptions, etc... make up your Digital Estate.

A digital legacy is the collection of an individual's online presence left behind when that individual dies.

“Whether your fondest desire is to be remembered forever or to be forgotten immediately, you can craft the digital legacy you prefer.”

Joe Kissell

Why bother?

Caring for your loved ones immediately after your death by providing them with all the information they need to handle your affairs and your digital assets.

Closure and Remembrance

They won't have to rely on faded photos in a shoebox and half-forgotten, second-hand stories.

I would like family members in future generations to be able to find out what sort of person I was - what made me tick.

- Ensuring valuable or meaningful digital assets are not overlooked.

-Identity Theft Prevention:
Safeguard against unauthorized access.

Your *digital will* is an informal document that contains an inventory of your digital assets and instructions on their disposition.

This informal document might also be called a “letter of digital wishes”

Your *digital will* requires an *executor* - someone who will manage your digital assets until the digital estate is settled.

This may includes things like answering your email, posting final messages on social media, closing online accounts, and passing on your digital documents to those you want to receive them.

Digital Legacy Checklist

1.

Inventory your digital assets
2.

Decide what you want to do with each
3.

Name a digital executor
4.

Store this information in secure - but accessible - location
5.

Review and update regularly
6.

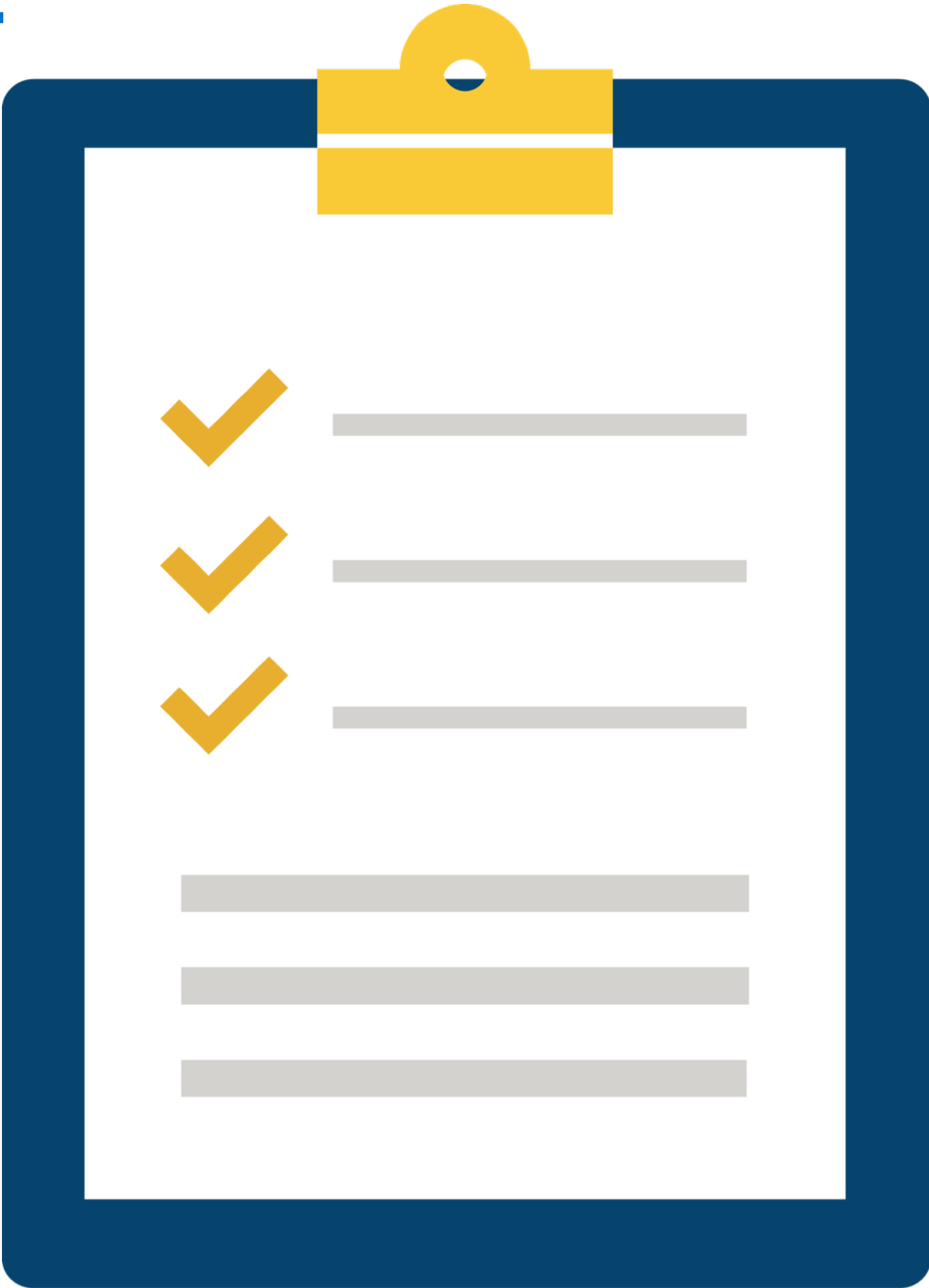
Communicate with loved ones
7.

If possible, make it legal
8.

Clean up your Contacts
9.

Organize digital photos and videos
10.

Declutter and organize files



1

Inventory your digital assets

a

Digital devices

b

Online accounts

c

Social media & platforms

d

Essential files to preserve



1a

Digital Devices

- Smart phone
- Tablet
- Computer
- Smart watch
- Smart ring
- External hard drive



- Flash drive
- E-book reader
- Digital music player
- Digital camera
- Video game system
- Router?

1a

Digital Devices

Electronic Devices	
Phone 1	
Owner:	Password/Unlock Code:
Phone 2	
Owner:	Password/Unlock Code:
Computer 1	
Owner:	Password/Unlock Code:
Computer 2	
Owner:	Password/Unlock Code:
Tablet 1	
Owner:	Password/Unlock Code:
Tablet 2	
Owner:	Password/Unlock Code:
Other Device	
Owner:	Password/Unlock Code:

1a

Digital Devices

Digital Legacy Example

Device	Username	Passcode/Pin
MacBook Air User#1		
MacBook Air User#2		
Old iMac		
iPad		
iPhone		
Apple Watch		
et cetera		

This note would be locked with a strong password - which would NOT be the same as my device passcode.

It would also be printed and placed with our digital will - in our safe.

1

Inventory your digital assets



a

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c

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d

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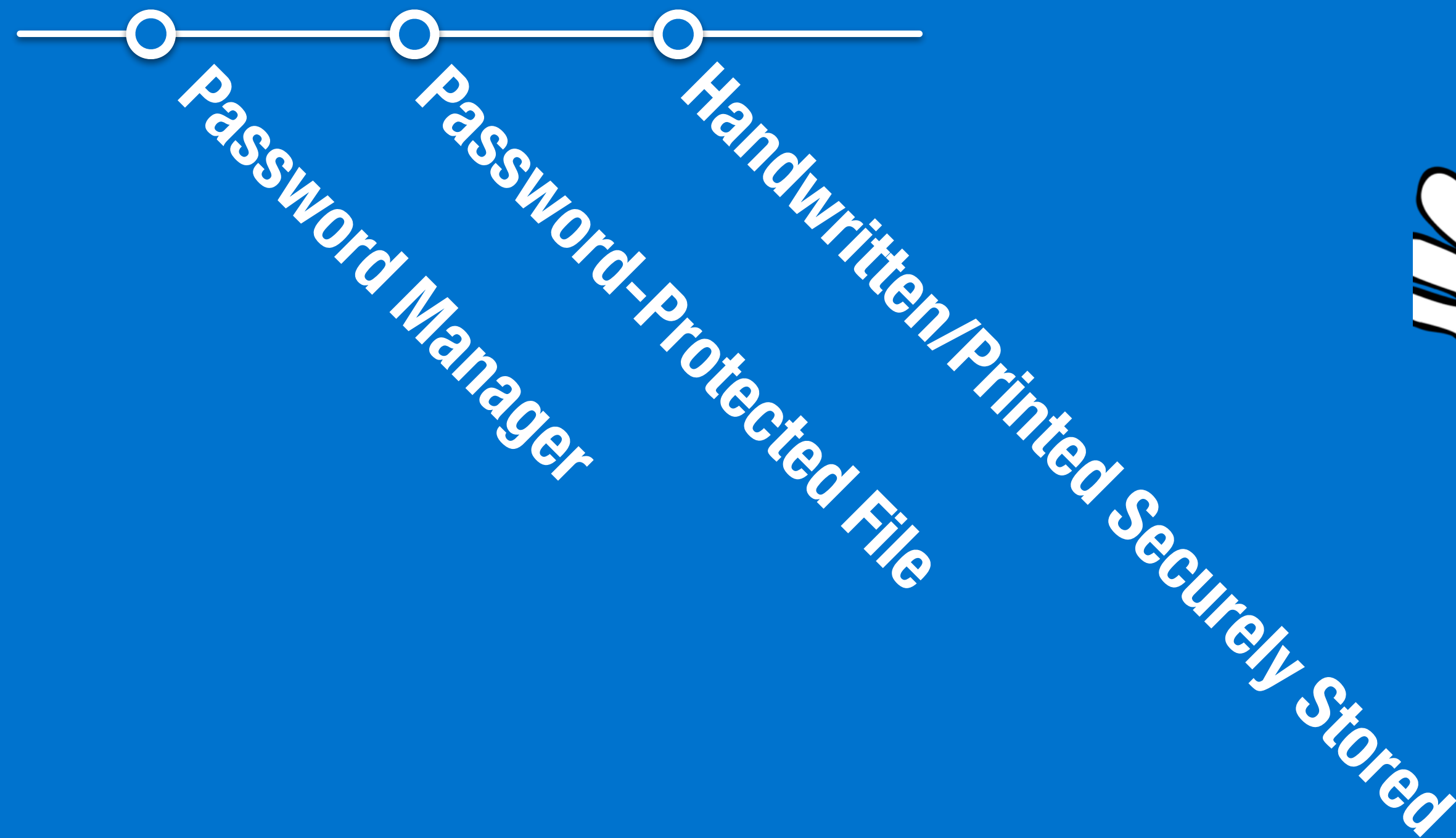
1b

Online accounts



1b

How to record this inventory



1b

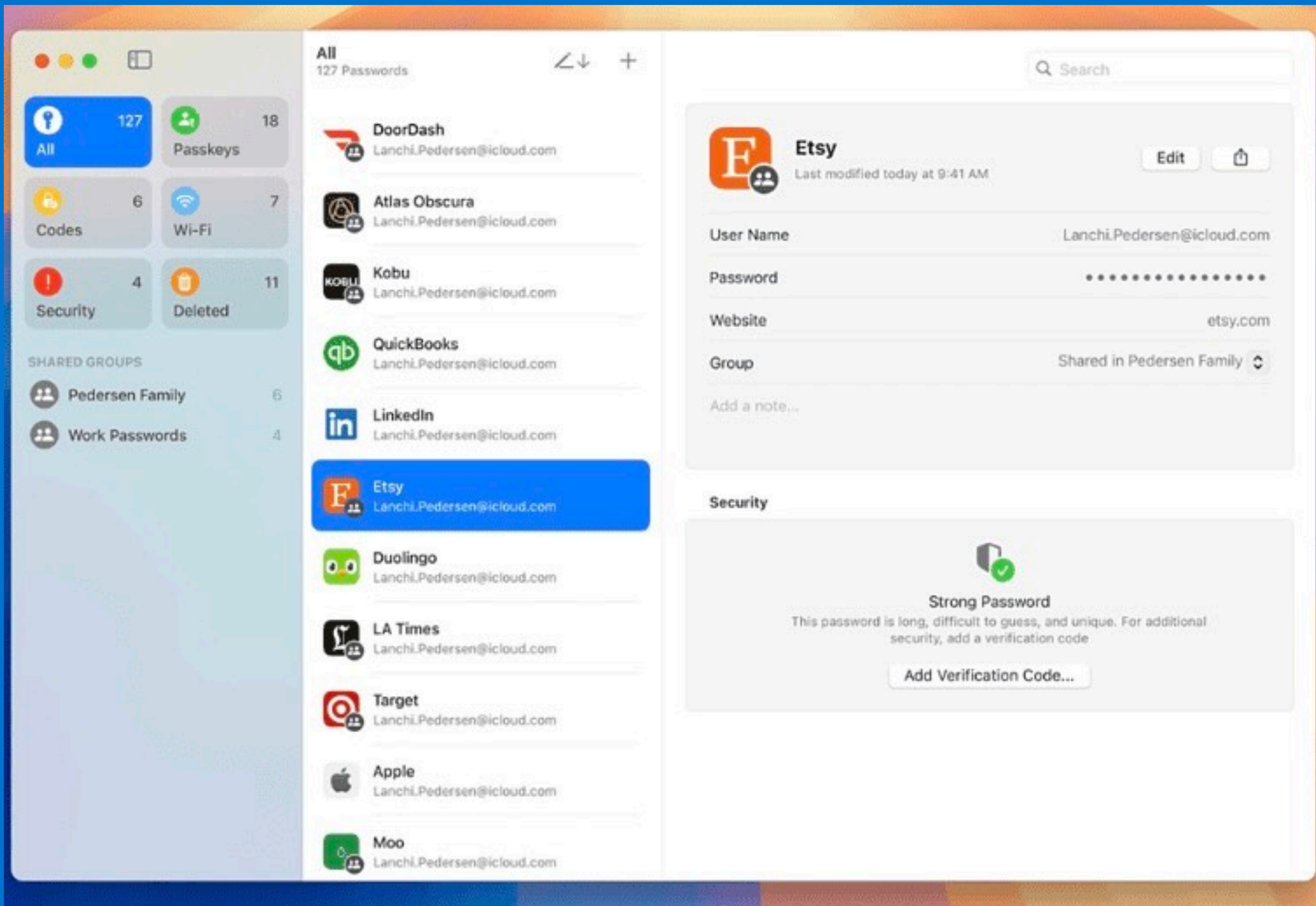
Examples of Password Managers


 **bitwarden**

Passwords (Apple)

 **1Password**


1b





1b

Indicate
which
accounts
have
security
questions



www.united.com
Last modified today


User Name

Password

Website

www.united.com

Group

Not Shared 

favorite musical instrument=


favorite cold weather activity=

favorite type of music=

favorite subject in school=

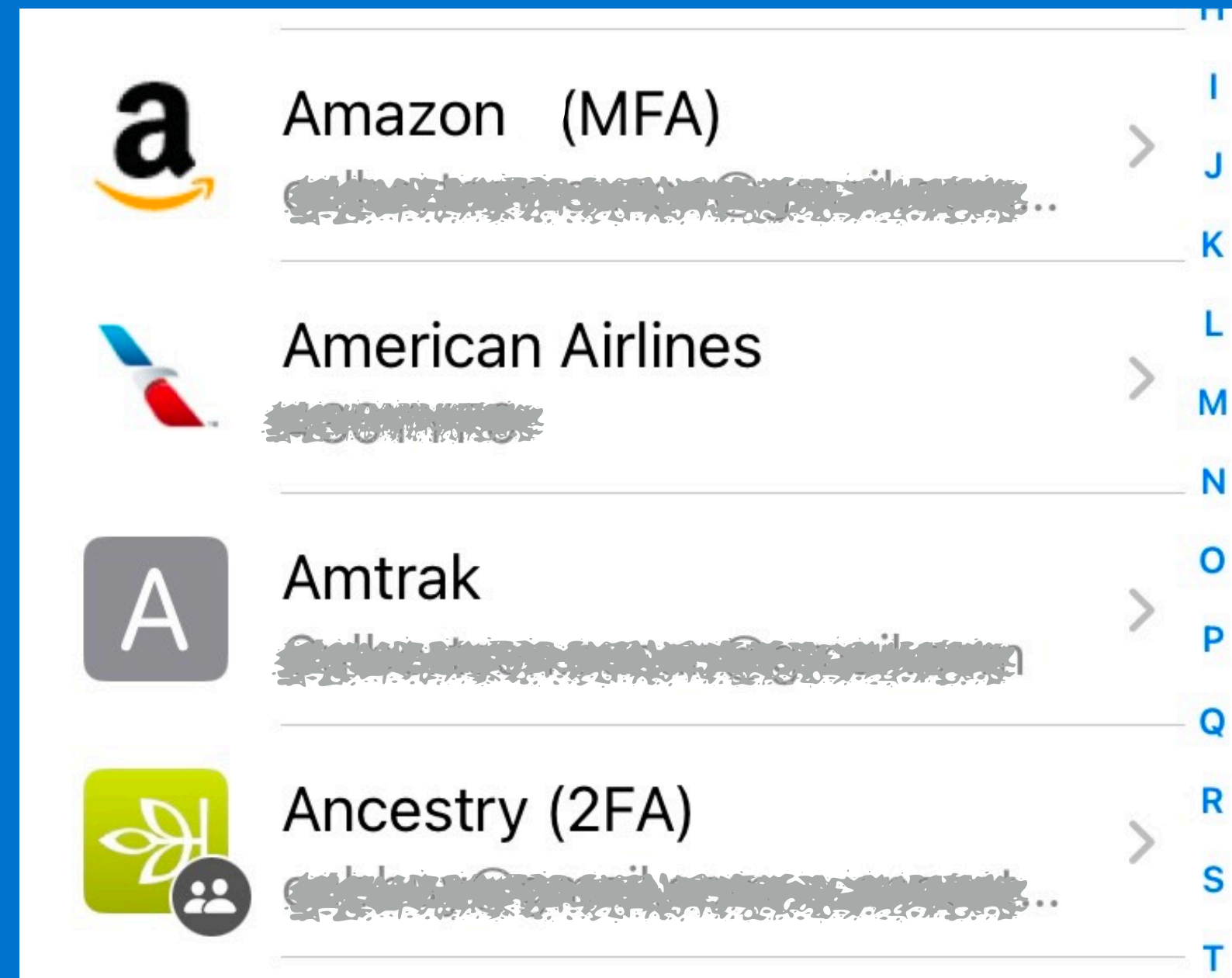
least favorite fruit or veg=t

Security

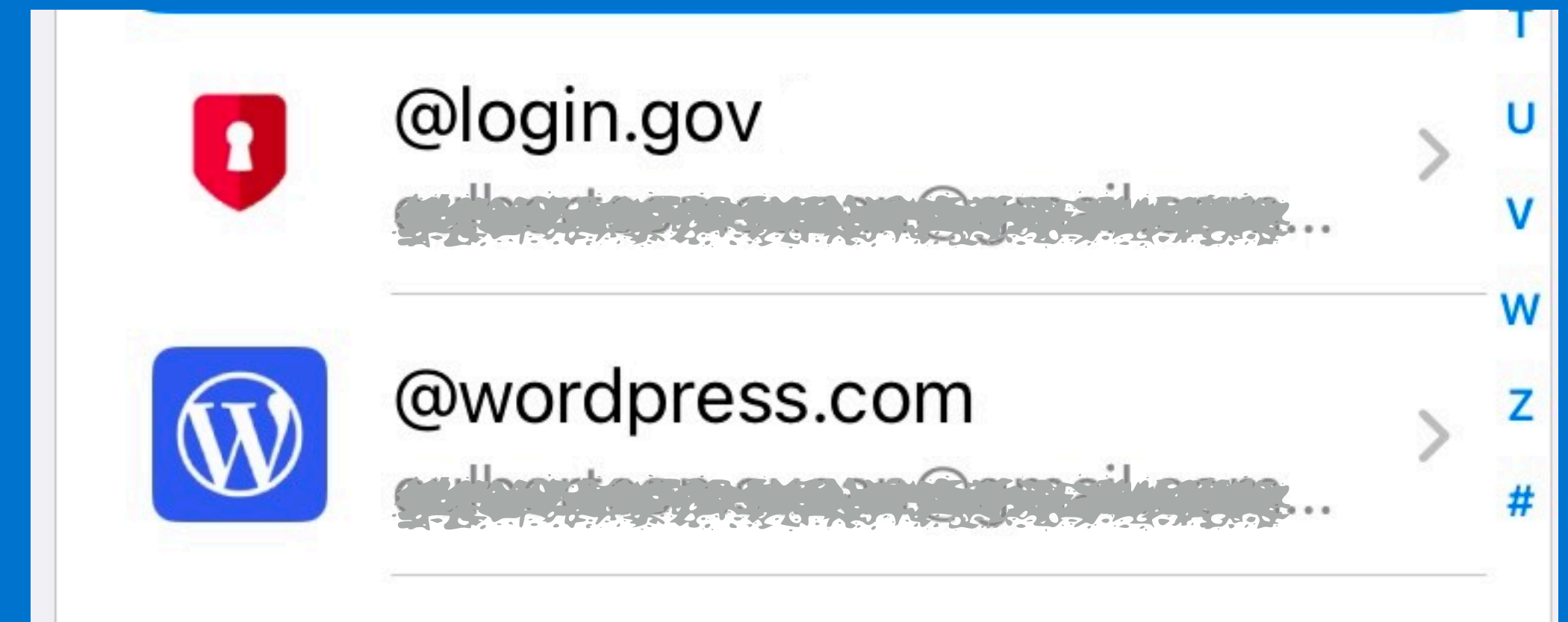


Strong Password

1b



Indicate which accounts require
2FA or MFA

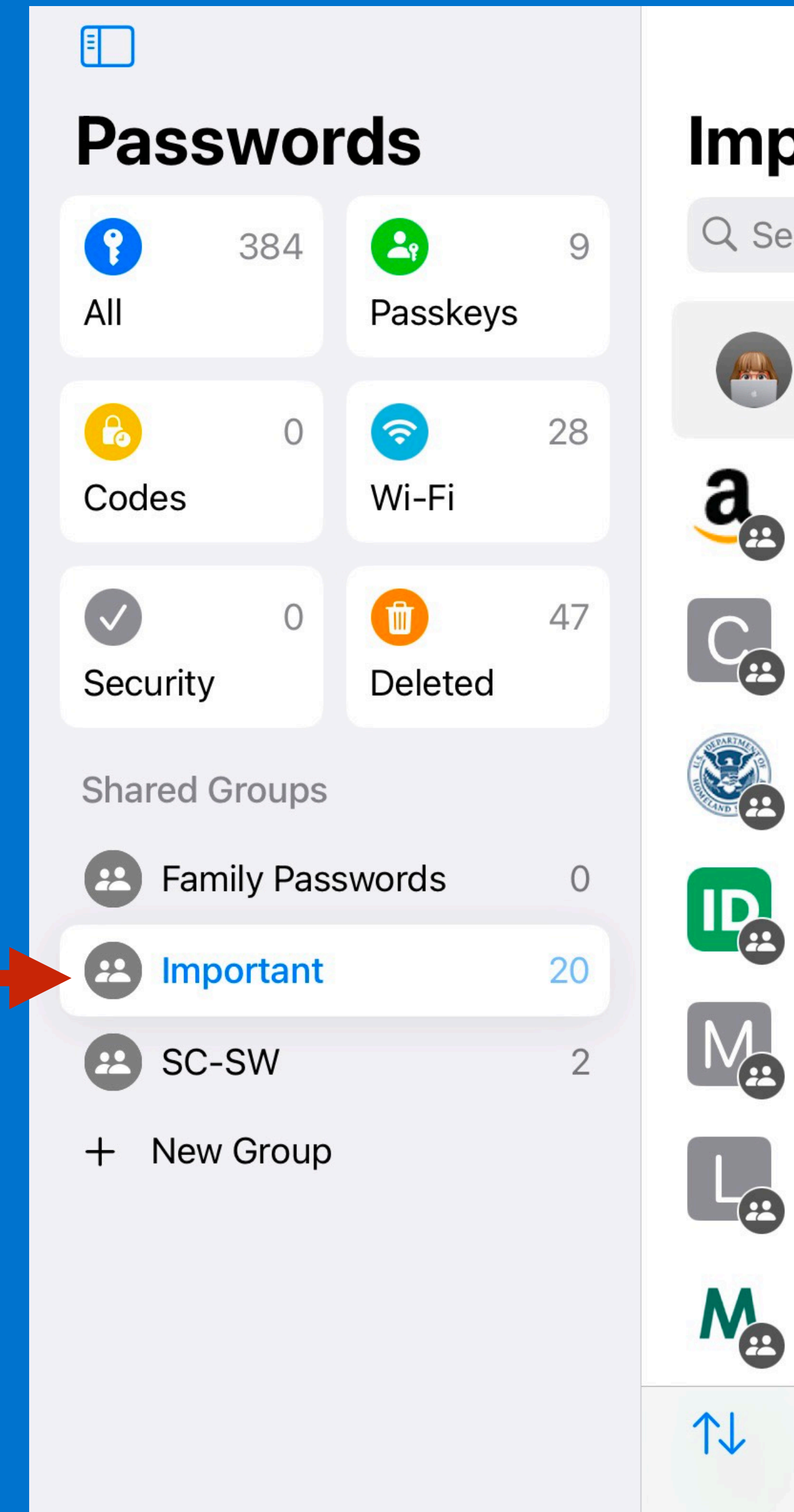


Indicate which accounts require
authenticator app

1b

Indicate which accounts are the most significant - those accounts that someone else will have to deal with in some fashion after your death.

Most password managers offer one or more ways to label or categorize accounts.



1b

Give Your Digital Executor Access to Your Passwords

(Several ways to do this)

Or

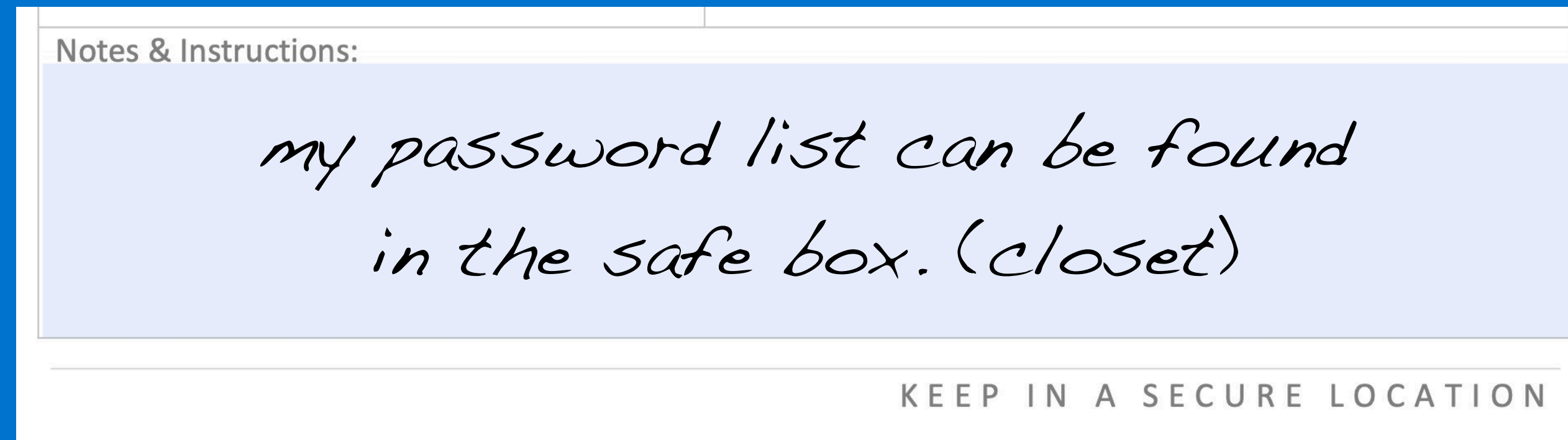
- Provide them with access to your password manager data and your master password.

Or

- Emergency access: A number of password managers enable you to set up emergency access to your passwords for one or more specified people.
- Shared folders, vaults, or groups: Some password managers provide methods by which you can securely share either individual passwords or an entire folder or vault.

1b

No Password Manager ?



Notes & Instructions:

*my password list can be found
in the safe box. (closet)*

KEEP IN A SECURE LOCATION

*If you don't use an actual password manager,
you should still indicate where your passwords are kept.
(Example: spreadsheet
or document on laptop)*

1b

No Password Manager ?

Notes & Instructions:

*my passwords can be found in password-protected
Excel spreadsheet "tigress" on my computer in
"MyInfo" folder. Password is
"knuckle!Tooth#fib-950" (no quotes)*

KEEP IN A SECURE LOCATION

*If you don't use an actual password manager,
you should still indicate where your passwords are kept.
(Example: spreadsheet
or document on laptop)*

1b

So Many Types of... Online Accounts



E-mail Accounts

E-Mail Accounts	
ACCOUNT 1	
Provider:	Account Owner:
User Login:	Password:
ACCOUNT 2	
Provider:	Account Owner:
User Login:	Password:
ACCOUNT 3	
Provider:	Account Owner:
User Login:	Password:
ACCOUNT 4	
Provider:	Account Owner:
User Login:	Password:

1b

Financial Accounts

Important for both digital executor and the executor of your conventional will (if they are two different people)

Financial Accounts (e.g., banks, credit unions, brokerage accounts, mutual funds, retirement savings accounts, credit card accounts, employee benefit accounts, PayPal, Social Security, pension)

Name of Financial Institution and Web Address	Username	Password and Security Question Answer(s)

1b

Online Shopping Accounts

Online Merchant Accounts (e.g., Amazon, Blair, Craigslist, eBay, Etsy, Zappos, Wal-Mart)

Name of Online Merchant and Web Address	Username	Password

1b

Benefit/Loyalty Accounts

Benefit Accounts (e.g., airline miles, railroad miles, hotel rewards, retailer reward/loyalty programs)

Name of Benefit Account Provider, Account Owner, and Web Address	Username	Password/PIN Number

1b

Food/Delivery Services

Food/Delivery Services	
<i>The most common food and food delivery services are Costco, Instacart, Fresh Direct, Amazon Fresh, Seamless and Delivery.com.</i>	
Service:	
User Name:	Password:
Service:	
User Name:	Password:
Service:	
User Name:	Password:
Service:	
User Name:	Password:

1b

Organization Accounts

AARP
Caring Bridge
Alliance Française
Alumni Assns
Sports fans groups
ASPCA
Support groups

Organization Accounts (e.g., membership organizations and charitable organizations)

Name of Organization and Web Address	Username	Password

1b

Photography~Music~Podcast

Accounts & Subscriptions

Snapfish

Shutterfly

SmugMug

Flickr

SiriusXM

Pandora

Spotify

Apple
Music

Crime
Junkie

The Daily

Wait
Wait...Don't
Tell Me!

Dateline

Name of Photography/Music Account and Web Address	Username	Password

1b

Gaming Accounts

Gaming	
<i>The most common gaming services are Xbox Live, PlayStation Plus, Steam and Battle.net.</i>	
Service:	
User Name:	Password:
Service:	
User Name:	Password:
Service:	
User Name:	Password:
Service:	
User Name:	Password:

1b

Publication Accounts/Subscriptions

Publication Accounts (e.g., newspapers, magazines, blogs)

Name of Publication and Web Address	Username	Password

Social Media Accounts

Social Media Accounts:

List all social media accounts you currently have (include sties for photo sharing, blogging, microblogging, dating, community, meetup, etc.):

Site:	Username:	Directions (e.g. delete, archive, create memorial page, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook		
<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook (Business Page)		
<input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn		
<input type="checkbox"/> Twitter		
<input type="checkbox"/> Instagram		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pinterest		
<input type="checkbox"/> Match.com		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		

1b

Video Streaming Accounts

Video Streaming Accounts

The most popular streaming services are Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Vudu and Redbox.

Service:

User Name:

Password:

Service:

User Name:

Password:

Service:

User Name:

Password:

Service:

User Name:

Password:

1b

Messaging Services/VoIP/Conferencing

Messaging Services/VOIP	
Service:	
Phone Number:	
User Name:	Password:
Service:	
Phone Number:	
User Name:	Password:

Examples: SMS, Messages, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Signal, Ooma, Zoom

1b

Other Subscription Services

Subscriptions Services (e.g. password accounts, Microsoft products, Adobe products, Backblaze, your ISP, clothing rental, plants/flowers, etc.)

Name of Subscription Service and Web Address	Username	Password

1b

Website Accounts

Website Accounts (e.g., domain names, hosting services, online business accounts, and cloud storage sites such as Dropbox, Google Drive, Apple, iCloud, Flickr, Box)

Name of Website, Account Owner, and Web Address	Username	Password

1b

Blogger/Web Hosting Accounts & Services

Blogger/Web Hosting Accounts & Services

The most common blogging/web hosting providers are Tumblr, Blogger, Wordpress, Weebly, Squarespace, Wix, GoDaddy, Network Solutions and Hover.

Site/Service:

User Name:

Password:

Site/Service:

User Name:

Password:

Site/Service:

User Name:

Password:

Site/Service:

User Name:

Password:

1b

Other Accounts

Other

Name of Other Account	Username	Password

health/medical accounts, Listservs, dating profiles, newsfeeds

1

Inventory your digital assets



a

Digital devices



b

Online accounts

c

Social media & platforms

d

Essential files to preserve



1c

Social media and platforms

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- X (Twitter)
- Mastodon/Threads
- Bluesky
- TikTok
- Pinterest
- SnapChat
- Vimeo
- WhatsApp
- Apple
- Google
- Microsoft

Digital Death

on **ONLINE** Platforms

What happens to your accounts after you die?

 **Google**

Offers Inactive Account Manager
Choose up to 10 executors of your account
Select what you want to share with each executor

 **Facebook**

Choose if you want your profile memorialized or deleted
Assign a legacy contact to your account
Business pages will be removed

 **X**

No memorialized accounts
A family member can request account deactivation
Proof of death is required

 **Instagram**

Accounts can be memorialized or removed
Proof of death is required

 **LinkedIn**

Removal of a deceased member's profile can be requested
Information about the deceased person is required

 **iTunes**

License cannot be transferred
Your library is lost after your death

 **Snapchat**
 **Tumblr**

A verified family member can request to have a deceased user's account deleted
Death certificate may be required

 **Microsoft**
 **Yahoo**
 **AOL**

Accounts can be deleted
Proof of death is required

1c

Facebook

OR

Memorialize your page

- The word “Remembering” will be shown next your name
- Friends can share memories on the memorialized timeline
- If memorialized, best to choose a legacy contact to look after your profile
- Memorialized profiles that don’t have a legacy contact can’t be changed
- Someone must inform Facebook of your passing

Permanently delete the account

- Someone must inform Facebook of your passing



1c

Google



Inactive Account Manager

- Go to your Inactive Account Manager page
- Decide when Google should consider your account to be inactive 3 mos to 18 mos
- Add a phone number
- Confirm Contact and Recovery emails

Trusted Contacts

- Choose up to 10 people for Google to notify if your Google account becomes inactive.

1c

Apple

Legacy Contacts

- One or more contacts to access your account after your death
- Generate and share an access key with your nominated contact

To Access your Apple account

- Contact will need to request access
- Provide the access key you shared
- Upload your death certificate



Upon approval

- Three years to view photos, messages, notes, files, apps and other data and make decisions about what should happen to the information

1

Inventory your digital assets



a

Digital devices



b

Online accounts



c

Social media & platforms

d

Essential files to preserve



1d

Essential files to preserve



Essential files to preserve

(Examples)

- Personal correspondence
- Financial records
- Insurance information
- Old business documents
- Current business documents
- Unpublished stories or other writings
- Receipts
- Random stuff you downloaded
- Miscellaneous notes and snippets

1d

Essential files to preserve

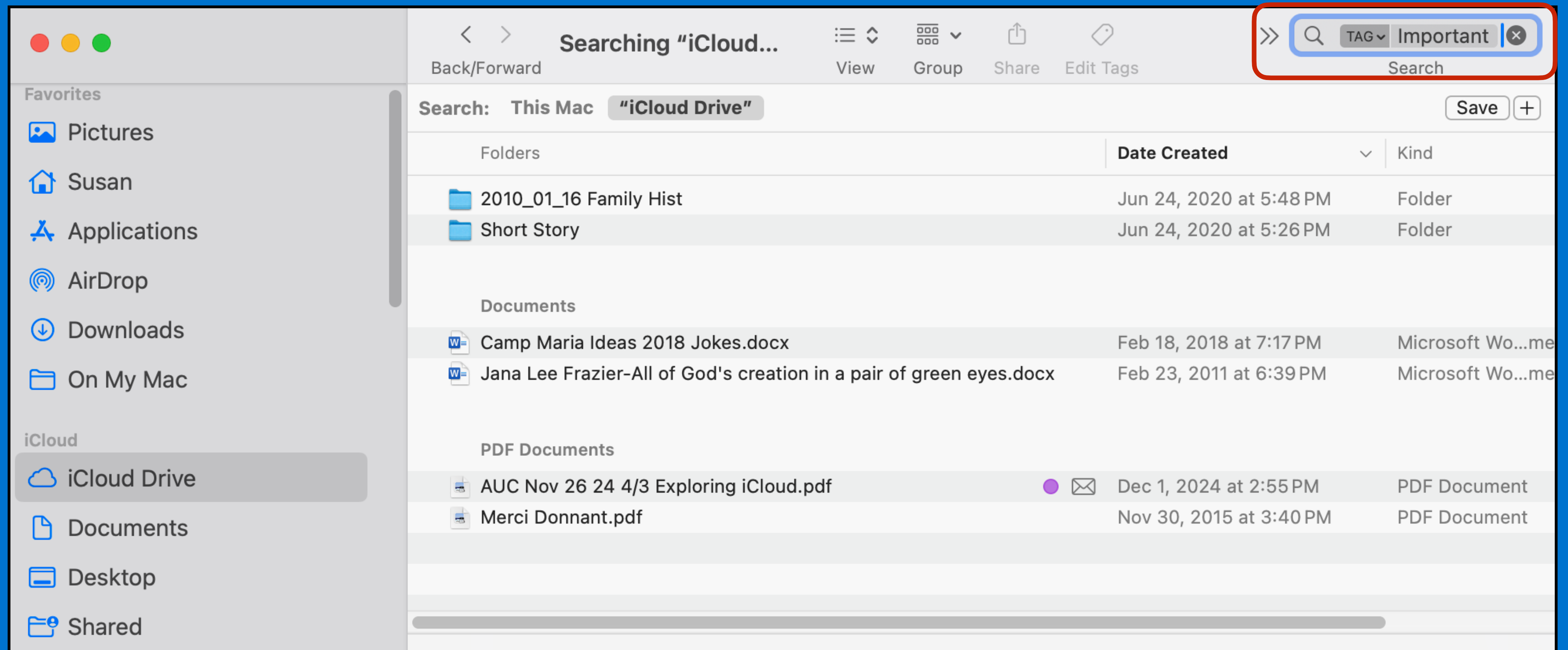
(How to go about this - with documents?)

- Tag the document (see example next slide)
- Create a folder for significant items
- Create a shared folder - one that you share with someone

1d

Essential files to preserve


Tagged documents



1d

Essential files to preserve

(How to go about this - with emails?)

- Use a  or a label to designate important email
- Create a mail folder for significant items
- On a computer, save an email to a folder on your hard drive

1

Inventory your digital assets



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Online accounts



c

Social media & platforms



d

Essential files to preserve



Digital Legacy Checklist



Inventory your digital assets

2.

Decide what you want to do with each

3.

Name a digital executor

4.

Store this information in secure - but accessible - location

5.

Review and update regularly

6.

Communicate with loved ones

7.

If possible, make it legal

8.

Clean up your Contacts

9.

Organize digital photos and videos

10.

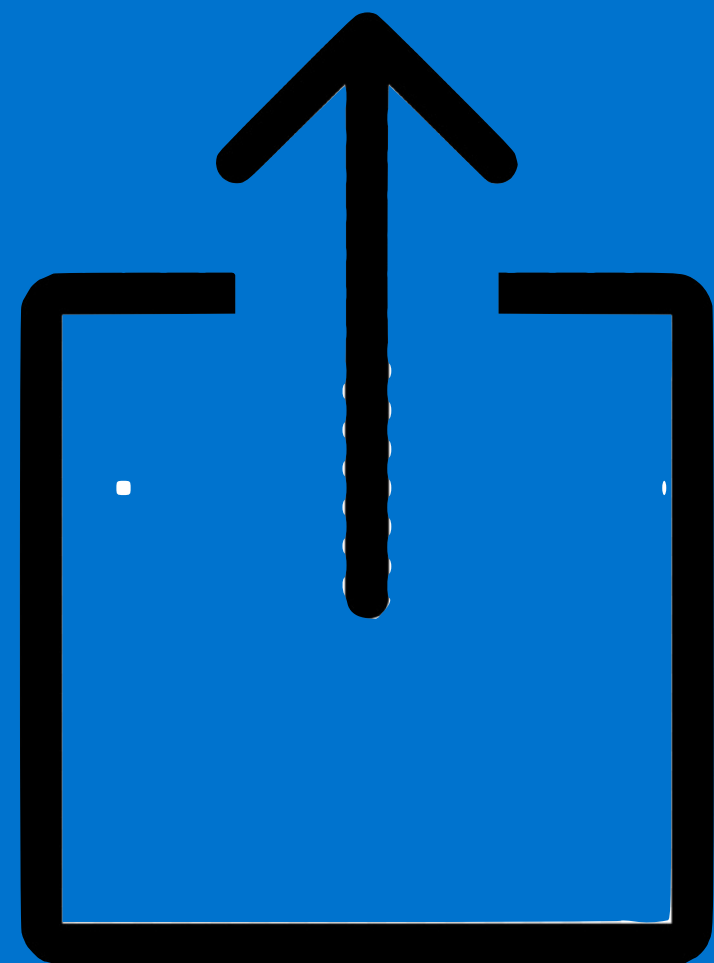
Declutter and organize files

2

Decide how you want your accounts, devices, and files handled.



Download



3

Name a digital personal representative

- Reliable – trusted to carry out your wishes
- Organized – able to keep on top of their responsibilities in a timely manner
- Digital-savvy – computer literate and good at managing accounts online
- Patient – able to deal with tricky and time-consuming tasks

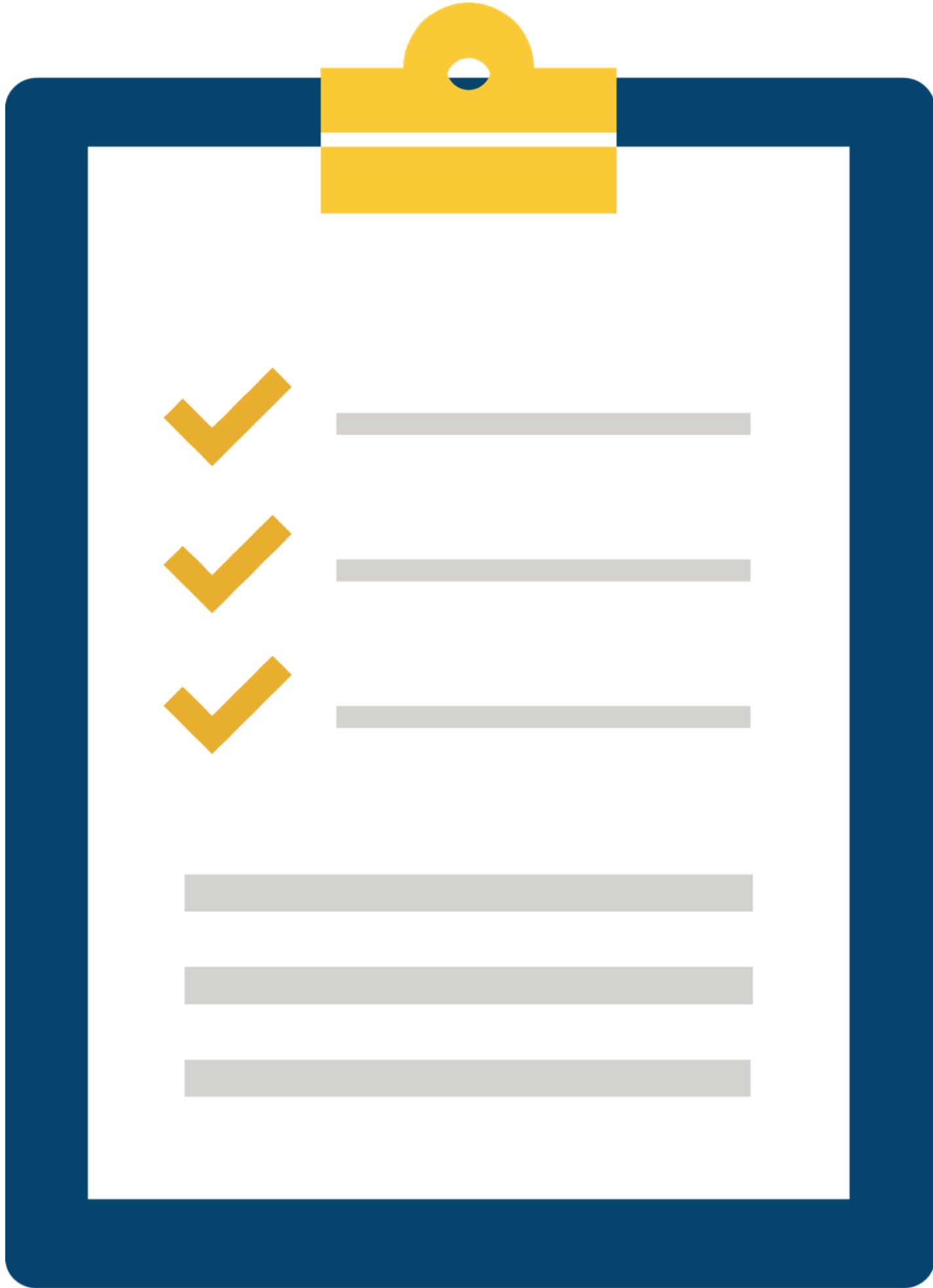


4

Store this information in secure - but accessible - location



Digital Legacy Checklist



Inventory your digital assets



Decide what you want to do with each



Name a digital executor



Store this information in secure - but accessible - location



Review and update regularly



Communicate with loved ones



If possible, make it legal



Clean up your Contacts



Organize digital photos and videos



Declutter and organize files

5

Review digital will and update it regularly

6

Communicate with loved/trusted ones



If possible, make it legal

Most legal experts recommend naming your digital executor in your Will but leaving directions in a separate digital estate plan, for two reasons.

- A Will becomes public after a person passes, so including sensitive password information in a Will might not be the best option.
- Also, a digital plan can change frequently. If you have a separate plan for your digital legacy, you can update it easily without needing to update your existing Will.

Depending on the complexity of your estate, it's always best to consult a lawyer about managing your assets.

Digital Legacy Resources

Digital Legacy Resources
*referenced at presentation
 on April 28, 2025*

	Link
Article	Digital Legacy Overview
Article	What Is a Digital Will?
Article	Grant Access To Your Devices
Article	Digital Cheat Sheet: How To Create A Digital Estate Plan
Article	What Do You Do With A Loved One's Social Media After They Die?
**Article	The digital afterlife: a guide to digital wills and legacies
Worksheet Sample	Digital Assets Inventory Worksheet
Worksheet Sample	Protecting Your Digital Estate – Worksheet for Creating a Digital Asset Plan
FaceBook Tutorial	Facebook Digital Assets - Tutorial
Google Tutorial	Google's Inactive Account Manager Guide
Apple Legacy How-To	Legacy Contact for Apple Account
Book	Take Control of Your Digital Legacy Joe Kissel
Legislation	Uniform Law Commission
Legislation	Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act - PA
American Bar Assn	Digital Property Frequently Asked Questions

Digital Legacy Resources

FindLaw

Legal Forms & Services ▾

Find a Lawyer

Get Support ▾

Learn ▾

My Account

FINDLAW / LEGAL FORMS & SERVICES / RESOURCES / ESTATE PLANNING BASICS RESOURCE / LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT RESOURCE / WHAT IS A DIGITAL WILL?

What Is a Digital Will?

What is a will

Digital will

Written by: [Rebecca Rosefelt, Esq.](#), Contributing Author

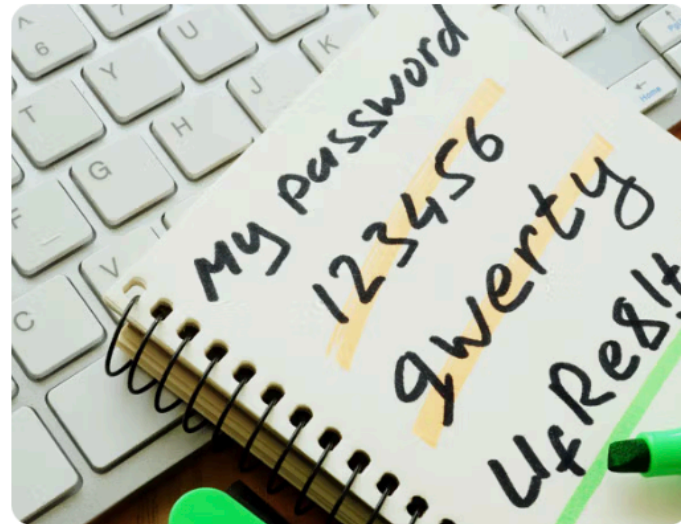
Reviewed by: [Catherine Hodder, Esq.](#), Senior Legal Writer

Last updated March 07, 2024

Planning your estate online with the most important providers	history, transaction lists, contract data, standing orders, termination provisions	Google Pay), online shops (Amazon), services for crypto currencies (Bitcoin), streaming services (Netflix, Spotify), Google account, Apple account
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7 Digital Legacy Resources

Related Content



Task: Get Your Passwords Organized

The typical person has an average of over 130 different online accounts,...

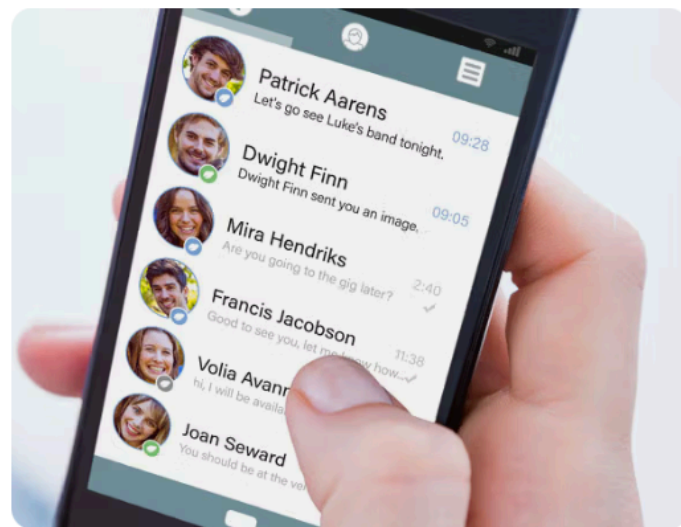
[Read more](#)



Digital Cheat Sheet: How To Create A Digital...

What happens to your digital property after you die? Great question! Here's...

[Read more](#)



Task: Clean Up Your Phone Contacts

We're all familiar with naming an emergency contact if something happens,...

[Read more](#)



Task: Organize Your Medical Contacts

The older we get, the more doctors we collect.

[Read more](#)

Digital Legacy Resources

Digital Assets Inventory Worksheet

The term “digital assets” refers to personal information that is stored electronically online “cloud” server account that belongs to an individual. Anyone who uses e-mail, a protected cell phone, makes online purchases, or pays bills online has digital assets.

Digital assets generally require a user name and/or password or PIN to access and cannot be retrieved if someone is incapacitated or passes away. Some digital assets have sentimental value. Either way, they are often very important to the individual.

Use this worksheet to record all of your digital assets by category. Then keep it in a safe place with your power of attorney, executor, and other trusted people who would need to access it. Note that some accounts allow for two factor authorization, so a note needs to be made of those are and how to access the second factor (e.g., app on phone, card in wallet, key fob).

Name _____

Date of Preparation/Review _____

Electronic Devices (e.g., smart phone, tablet, laptop computer, desktop computer)

Name of Electronic Device and Owner/User	Password

Benefit Accounts (e.g., airline miles, railroad miles, hotel rewards, retailer rewards)

Name of Benefit Account Provider, Account Owner, and Web Address	User Name	Password/PIN

Online Merchant Accounts (e.g., Amazon, Blair, Chadwicks, eBay, Etsy, Zappos, Wal-Mart)

Name of Online Merchant and Web Address	User Name	Password

Organization Accounts (e.g., membership organizations and charitable organizations)

Name of Organization and Web Address	User Name	Password

Photography and Music Accounts (e.g., Instagram, Snapfish, Flickr, digital music accounts)

Name of Photography/Music Account and Web Address	User Name	Password

Publication Accounts (e.g., newspapers, magazines, blogs)

Name of Publication and Web Address	User Name	Password

Social Media Accounts (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Google+)

Name of Social Media Account, Account Owner, and Web Address	User Name	Password

Video Accounts (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo)

Name of Video Account, Account Owner, and Web Address	User Name	Password

Virtual Currency Accounts with Cash Value (e.g., Bitcoin, Farmville, Second Life, World of Warcraft)

Name of Virtual Currency site, Account Owner, and Web Address	User Name	Password

Web Site Accounts (e.g., domain names, hosting services, online business accounts, and cloud storage sites such as Dropbox, Google Drive, Apple iCloud)

Name of Web site, Account Owner, and Web Address	User Name	Password

A couple more tasks

Clean up your Contacts

A solid contact list will help your family if they need to make sense of your contacts.

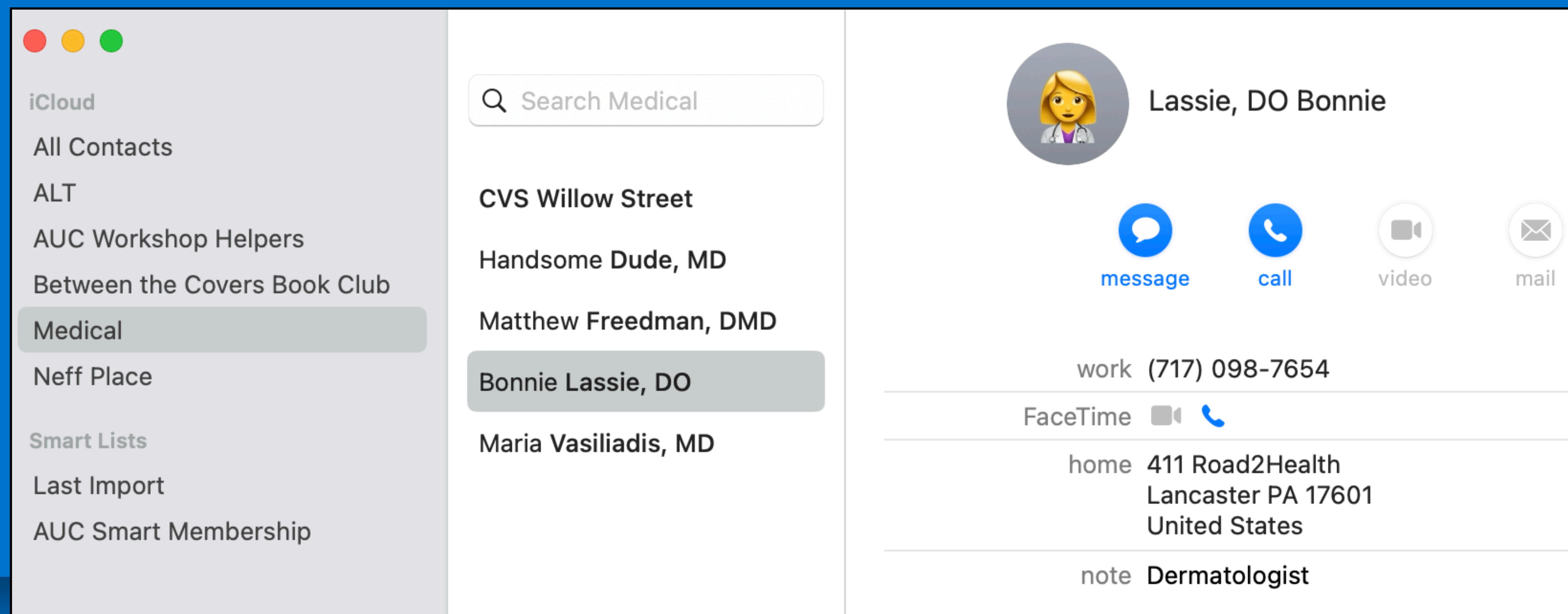
- Delete the ones who are no longer relevant
- Add details for records that might be confusing if another person needed to access your contact list
- Include a first name and last name



Organize your medical contacts

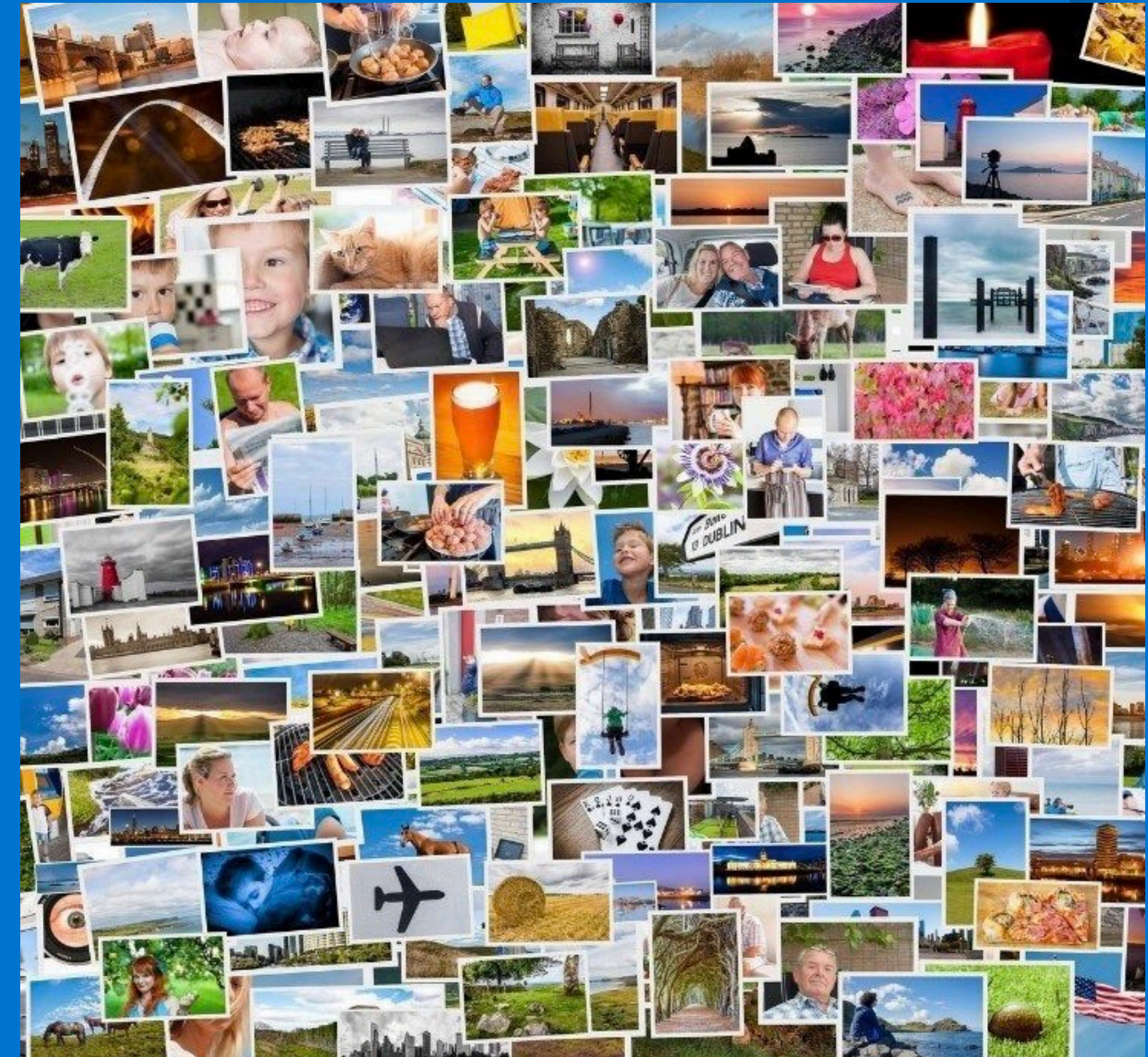
Put every doctor that your family should know in digital Contacts list

- Add and organize all the medical professionals you currently see. Group them so that they can be easily found by trusted friends or family.



9 Organize digital photos and videos

10 Declutter and organize files





Start Slowly



ILLUSTRATION: Jon Krause for WSJ

In the event of my death, I would like my electronic files, digital photos, online accounts and other digital assets to be managed as described in this document.

Thank you



(Credit: Getty Images/ferrantraite)