SecurID

Passwordless Authentication: The Time Is Now, and Help Is Here

Hard to remember and easy to breach, passwords have always posed a security problem for organizations. But the problem has become much more critical now, with growing numbers of people accessing applications and data from far beyond traditional security perimeters. To successfully secure applications and data in the digital world, organizations need secure access that doesn't rely on passwords. But how do you go from a passwords-for-everything approach to a passwordless future? By taking it one step at a time, on a path paved by these best practices:

Take a gradual approach that's easy on users

Passwords may be a pain to deal with, but people have become comfortable with them over time. Moving away from passwords gradually will make it easier for users to transition successfully to a new way of authenticating. Begin by adopting modern authentication methods – biometrics, FIDO, OTP, etc. – in conjunction with, rather than in place of, passwords. It's a less disruptive approach that helps ensure users stay productive as they adapt to the change.

Make authenticating both secure and convenient

The point of moving beyond passwords is improving your security posture, of course – but it's important to do so without sacrificing convenience for users in the process. A key part of achieving this balance is implementing risk intelligence to determine how and when step-up authentication is needed. This can be a gradual process that moves from static policies to conditional access to dynamic, real-time risk-scoring.

Apply strong authentication at weak points

The risk of compromised credentials is highest at the weakest points in the credential lifecycle, including enrollment, password reset and emergency access. In the transition to passwordless authentication, make these the first points protected by biometrics, FIDO devices and other strong authentication methods that don't rely on traditional passwords.

Keep your eyes on the prize

You're not going to eliminate passwords overnight, and you may have some systems and applications – both legacy and SaaS – that will continue to

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require passwords for a time, if only for a small subset of users. Ultimately, though, ending costly large-scale password management, reducing the risk of a credentials-based breach, improving the user experience and other benefits make moving to a passwordless future well worth the initial effort.

SecurID: A smooth path to your passwordless future

The world's most widely deployed multi-factor authentication solution, SecurID is the identity management platform security-sensitive organizations trust on-premises and in the cloud, with:

A broad range of authenticator choices for passwordless authentication, including FIDO, push-to-approve, biometrics (fingerprint and facial), "bring your own authenticator" and hardware tokens that represent the gold standard for authentication

RSA Ready partner relationships with FIDO authentication leaders to ensure **out-of-the-box interoperability** with FIDO-based passwordless solutions

Risk scoring informed by advanced machine learning and AI capabilities that calculate access risk based on business context, device attributes and behavioral characteristics, and step up authentication accordingly

Protected self-service credential management options that eliminate password-dependent workflows to shore up security at weak points in onboarding, credential recovery and emergency access

Always-on strong authentication, with 99.95% availability and a unique "no-fail" capability for Windows and macOS that ensures secure, convenient access even when network connectivity is interrupted

Learn more about the SecurID capabilities that can help you map your organization's journey away from password-centric data security and toward a passwordless future.

About SecurID

SecurID, an RSA business, is the trusted identity platform for 13,000 organizations around the world, managing 50 million identities and providing secure, convenient access to 30 million users. SecurID empowers organizations to thrive in a digital world, with complete capabilities for modern authentication, lifecycle management and identity governance. Whether in the cloud or on-premises, SecurID connects people with the digital resources they depend on everywhere they live, work and play. For more information, go to **securid.com**.