

Everything You Need To Know About Passkeys



Why is everyone talking about passkeys?

A passkey is a more secure replacement for passwords, and it stops **phishing** in its tracks.

Phishing
When bad guys try to steal your credential through deception.

What are passkeys?

You might have heard passkeys are new. Not true! A passkey is just a **FIDO credential**, and those have been around for years. FIDO credentials are good at blocking phishing attacks.



FIDO

An open security standard backed by the FIDO Alliance, a group focused on moving away from a password-based system.



Credential

The unique ID a user has that “gets you through the gate” when you log on to any system.

Why are passkeys so phishing-resistant?



Passkeys pair a public key with an unguessable private key which is never shared.



Every credential is tied to a real URL, which can be verified as legitimate or not.



Every credential is registered to a real human, blocking bots or other remote attackers.

Key Takeaway

Passkeys do not allow users to authenticate on an illegitimate service or website. Attackers are denied access and cannot manipulate a FIDO-enabled passkey.

What's the difference between a passkey and an authenticator?

A passkey is the credential itself, a digital file. An authenticator is where the passkey lives. For example, on a phone, laptop, hardware key, or other device.

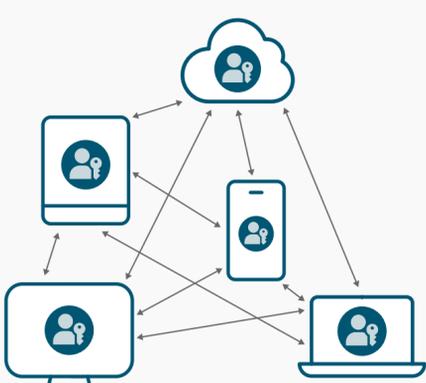


Passkey



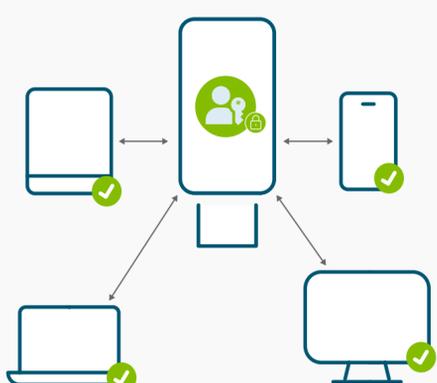
Authenticators

What's the difference between a synced passkey and a device-bound passkey?



Synced Passkey

Lives on a smartphone, tablet, laptop or other device where it can be copied and synced across many devices.



Device-bound Passkey

Lives on a USB key or other piece of hardware separate from everyday devices.

What passkeys do I use for what purpose?

Synced Passkeys	If you need...	Device-bound Passkeys
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	↓	 <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> May not work	Syncing passkey between devices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Platform flexibility between Apple, Google and Microsoft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Hardware attestation	<input type="checkbox"/> Not shareable
<input type="checkbox"/> May not meet enterprise-level security and regulatory requirements.	Shareable credentials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets strict compliance and regional certification needs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easy to recover	Complies with regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Requires more steps
<input type="checkbox"/> Not easily integrated	Account recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Use in higher security environments like mobile workstations and “bring-your-own-device”	