



TECHNOLOGY FEATURE

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Password-Less Authentication: The Future of Secure Access

Passwords have been around for a time. The truth is that they were never good for us. We forget them. Then there are those phishing scams and data breaches. This shows that the old way of using passwords is not working and cannot be fixed. Now we have password-less authentication, which better and safer way to do things. It is about time we got something of making you remember a bunch of random letters and numbers password-less systems use things, like special codes, face recognition and security keys to figure out who you are. You use the phone you already have. You do not have to type anything. You will not forget anything. You will not get hacked because someone found out your mother's name. Now that computers can think for themselves password-less authentication will only get better. password-less authentication is the way to go. Password-less authentication makes our lives easier and safer.

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Introduction

Here is an uncomfortable truth: the average person has over 100 passwords. Most of these passwords are weak. Many of these passwords are reused. At least a few of these passwords are sitting in a data breach database somewhere right now.

Password-less authentication is not a tech upgrade. It is a much-needed rethink of how we prove our identity online. password-less authentication is faster password-less authentication is stronger and password-less authentication removes the biggest weak point in any security system: human behavior. Researchers and organizations, around the world are now exploring how artificial intelligence can make these password-less authentication systems smarter. Adapting in real time to threats rather than waiting for something to go wrong. The future of access is not a longer more complicated password. The future of access is no password at all. password-less authentication is the way to go.

"Password-less Authentication: The future of secure access lies in eliminating traditional passwords, using advanced technologies like biometrics and AI to enhance security, reduce risks, and provide faster, seamless, and more reliable user experiences."

Technology Overview

Password-less authentication works by replacing what you know with what you have or who you're. This changes everything.



The backbone of the system is public-key cryptography. Here's how it works:

- A **private key** is. Stored on your device. It stays on your device. It does not travel across the internet.
- A **public key** is stored on the server. On its own it is useless to an attacker.

When you log in your device uses the key to sign a challenge from the server. The server checks the signature with the key. If it matches you are in. So many cases such as the yahoo data breach which said that several years ago, technology giant yahoo announced that the names, email addresses, passwords, and security question answers of over 500 million users were stolen in 2014 breach, drop-box user account leak and Linked-in data breach had to do with having several passwords leaked. Earlier this year, 427 million My Space passwords were posted on the dark web for sale, stolen by the same cybercriminal who was selling the data of more than 164 million Linked-in users just one week prior. A difficult truth to face: chances are that your credentials are out there in a database controlled by an attacker.4 Moreover, new platforms and applications are developed every day, and users must sign up and make new passwords for each of them. It is very difficult for the users to keep up, thus encouraging them to use the same password for several applications. This is a very common occurrence. Now, if the user has the same password for several applications so if hacker would like the password for one application, then he could have access to all your accounts. So, with this degradation in security of the user it was thought that what if there were no passwords anymore? Now if we continue this practice of authentication, it will benefit the user in many ways: The user would be able to sign in faster to the desired account and use the service, the more user would love your application. Earlier users need to get through to the sign-up forms which included not much needed information, so eliminating those five extra minutes, we all know how precious the time is. Obviously, the security would increase once you login through password less process, there would be no passwords to be hacked

Key Findings & Impact

Password-less authentication is something that is really happening now. It is changing the way people and organizations think about security. Here is what we found out from the research and from people who are using it.

- **Better Security. Because Hackers Can Not Steal What Is Not There**

The old way of using passwords has a lot of problems. Hackers can trick you into giving them your password using phishing. They can also guess your password using brute-force attacks because people often use passwords that're easy to guess. They can use credential stuffing because people use the same password on many different sites.

password-less authentication makes all these problems go away. There is no password for hackers to phish. There is nothing for them to guess using brute-force attacks. There is nothing for them to use for stuffing. Your private key stays on your device, which means hackers have nothing to take, intercept or use against you. Password-less authentication is making things safer because hackers cannot steal what does not exist. Password-less authentication is the key to security.

Multiple Ways to Prove You Are You

One of the strengths of password-less systems are flexibility. Depending on the use case organizations can choose from:

- **Biometrics.** Your fingerprint or face does the talking



- **Security keys.** A device you plug in or tap
- **Cryptographic key pairs.** Invisible to you doing all the heavy lifting behind the scenes

Each of these methods is more secure than a password and significantly easier to use. That combination. Security and better experience. Is rare in the world of technology. password-less authentication delivers both. Authentication becomes something that just works than something you dread or delay. For organizations this also means help desk calls, less downtime and happier users. Everybody wins.

Impact of password-less Authentication

- **Stronger Cybersecurity from the Ground Up**

Breaches based on credentials are high and expensive. password-less authentication cuts that risk. Where there are no credentials to steal the entire type of credential based.

attack merely ceases to be a threat. password-less systems are not adopted in organizations. simply providing an added security. They are removing a layer of vulnerability.

- **Unlocking Digital Transformation**

With more operations being taken to the cloud, secure access is becoming increasingly. critical. And more complicated. It is possible to access password-less authentication.

applications and vital data are safely and easily stored on cloud platforms. It eliminates security as a hindrance to improvement and makes it an enabling factor. Businesses can operate more swiftly. Smart scale without compromising.

- **The AI Angle. Thinking Security.**

intelligence is starting to be incorporated into password-less systems in a way that renders them not. simply possessive but flexible. Suppose a system that identifies the behaviour on logins changes its. checks in real time and alerts on the possible threats before they are.

breaches. No human intervention required. password-less authentication is powered by AI, and it does not react to a threat. It studies, develops and remains a step-in advance. That is another method of security.

Password Authentication Threats

So, as we have discussed earlier, authentication is one of the oldest problems of information security, and it is always a living matter. Getting a password of a user is the simplest way to gain access to critical systems, steal confidential information, and much more. This is the reason why attackers are really interested in stealing passwords. The evolution of the security info brought several ways to improve the protection and security of user authentication systems, but at the same time attackers are also as brainy as we are so they also improved their techniques and tools to steal valuable information. The latest way of stealing a password from a user is asking him/her. This is the reality. Social engineering techniques evolved during this time, and nowadays the attackers are becoming smart, asking the user for password to complete his work, or fix the broken thing.

There are attacks which the software experiences and had to deal with it.

1. Brute force attack
2. Password replay attack
3. Man in the middle



What's Next?

No longer a niche idea, password-less authentication is becoming commonplace. It is going mainstream. Fast. Major technology companies are already devoted to it. Standards in the industry such as FIDO2. WebAuthn have provided developers with a structure to develop upon. The more it is adopted the greater becomes the adoption. Technology can only be made easier and more convenient. The next step on the road is to ensure password-less systems are functional on all devices and all platforms. Artificial intelligence will have an increasingly important role, in context-awareness of these systems. The password had a run. But the internet has become threats have increased sophisticated. We no longer have good habits

**“Password-less authentication is not the future of secure access.
We are already in the present. It is just beginning.”**

About the Author

Umair Sharafat is a BS IT student and is interested in cybersecurity, digital authentication systems, and modern security technologies. His work focuses on passwordless authentication, secure access systems, and the future of digital security in modern organizations and online platforms. They can be reached at umairsharafat027@gmail.com.

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