

Identity and authentication  
Introduction

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Introduction: learning goals



- Understand what identity and authentication are and how they relate
- Understand the types of authentication approaches
- Understand the strengths and weakness of the approaches
- Understand how different approaches can be combined for better security

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Topics, all required



- Identity  
What is an identity?  
How are identities used?
- Authentication  
What is authentication used for?  
What are the basic factors used in authentication systems?
- Authentication: knows: passwords  
What are the issues with password-based systems?  
How can the issues be minimized?

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### Topics, all required, contd.



- **Authentication: knows: other**  
What are other knowledge-based authentication systems?
- **Authentication: has**  
What are some possession-based authentication systems?
- **Authentication: is**  
What are some authentication systems that use physical characteristics?

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### Topics, all required, contd.



Click [here](#) for a good time!



- **Authentication-mf**  
How can you combine different authentication approaches to achieve still-better security?
- **Authentication-problem**  
What computer security problems are not solved by good authentication?
- **Identity-management**  
What is identity management in the context of authentication?

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**Identity**

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Identity

Meriam-Webster

- *“who someone is: the name of a person”*
- *“the qualities, beliefs, etc., that make a particular person or group different from others”*

The free dictionary

- *“the individual characteristics by which a person or thing is recognized”*

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An identity



- Uniquely specify an individual person  
e.g., name, username, ID number, set of characteristics
- An identification is usually created within a specific context  
e.g.,
  - User account names
  - Passport numbers
  - Driver’s license numbers
  - Social Security numbers

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### An identity, contd.



*Continuity of identification without an actual identification*

- Sometimes use of an identification is extended beyond the original context e.g., Social Security numbers
- Note that a context could be 'the same person I talked to yesterday' with no binding to a known specific person  
See Purpose Built Keys (PBK)

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### An identity, contd.



- Often, ID used without the person directly involved e.g., employer sending earnings information to tax man
- ID used to define to whom information applies
- ID only useful if ID issued by a trusted party to a unique individual
- Real ID implies specific verification procedures

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### NSTIC



NSTIC

- National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC)  
*Helping individuals and organizations utilize secure, efficient, easy-to-use and interoperable identity credentials to access online services in a manner that promotes confidence, privacy, choice and innovation*
- U.S. government effort
- Bless private identity providers – e.g. Harvard

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### NSTIC, contd.



- 4 guiding principles  
Privacy enhancing & voluntary  
(e.g., pseudonyms OK)



Secure & resilient



Interoperable



Cost effective & easy to use



- Ended during Trump administration
- No Biden effort

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**Authentication**

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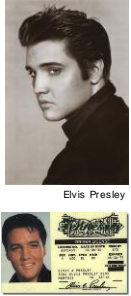
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**Authentication**



- **Authentication**  
Bind a physical person to an identification  
Whether you know the person's identity or not
- **When a person needs to authenticate**  
They need to provide the ID value  
Account name, ID number, driver's license number, etc.  
Note that personal names are ambiguous IDs in many cases  
And provide a verifier that they are the person who is specified by that ID value  
e.g., physical presence and picture ID, password, ...

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**Authentication by possession or knowledge**



- In some cases, knowledge of the ID itself is seen as authenticating  
e.g., bank's use of SSNs  
The banks believe SSNs are secret
- In some cases you can authenticate without identifying  
e.g., movie ticket  
Authenticate that you are a member of the group of people who paid to see the movie, but no identity is used (e.g., name)

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### Ideal Authentication



- An ideal authentication system would be able to deal with:
  - Transparency  
adversary can see all the exchanges
  - Loss or failure of any hardware or software
  - Hardware or software under control of adversary
  - Physical injury to individual
- Nothing deployed today meets all requirements
  - But some promising research
    - e.g., HumanAUT: Secure Human Identification Protocols

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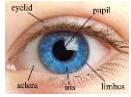

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### Authentication Factors

123-45-6789



- To authenticate themselves, a person needs to provide a **verifier** that can be used to differentiate the person from other people
- Verifiers used for authentication
  - Something a person **knows**  
e.g., password, PIN, ...
  - Something a person **has**  
e.g., ID card, handheld, ...
  - Something a person **is**  
e.g., fingerprint (a.k.a., biometrics)
  - Something a person **can do**  
e.g., signature
  - A combination of the above

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### Authentication Factors, characteristics



- **Forge-ability**  
Can you artificially reproduce the factor - Card swipe v. smart card
- **Replace-ability**  
Once compromised can you create a new one - Password v. fingerprint
- **Reliability in validation**  
Given an individual, can you validate that this person is who they claim to be
- **Reliability in identification**  
Finding individual in a crowd based on a factor - DNA is evolving from validation to identification

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**Authentication—knows - passwords**

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Something a Person **Knows**

Here's 2022's worst passwords  
 don't use any of these



- e.g., password
- Ideal:** this is something that is ONLY known by a single individual
  - e.g., a password which cannot be retrieved by a system administrator
  - i.e. store a hash of the password, not the password itself

123456  
 admin  
 12345678  
 123456789  
 1234  
 12345  
 password  
 123  
 Aa123456  
 1234567890

**UPDATED**

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Something a Person **Knows**, contd.

- Systems that can tell you your password if you forget it do not meet this requirement
  - Since the password must be stored in a way that it can be retrieved to be able to return it to you
  - Systems that send you a temporary password or URL to enter in a new one may be OK
  - Or might not be - depends on design



How to reset your PayPal password

How to reset your PayPal password

1. Click the link below to start a password reset process.  
 2. Click the link below to start a password reset process.  
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### Password Failure Mode



I am



you

- If I know your account name and password, then (to the computer) I am you
- The computer cannot prevent me from doing anything you are empowered to do
  - While making it look like you did it
- Therefore, if the system administrator can know your password, they can act as you
  - And you cannot prove they did so

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### Passwords



- Most common way of authentication
  - Far too common, many new requirements
    - Lots of devices
      - Multiple computers, handhelds, phones, ...
    - Web sites that need authentication to provide service
      - wsj.com, united.com, ...
    - Web sites that insist that you set up an account before you can buy something
      - Too many to list
- Often not stored securely
  - Use bcrypt

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### Passwords, contd.



- Should use different passwords for different places
  - Unless no private information and no stored ability to purchase anything at any site
    - Need to worry about site with **weakest security**
    - Not all sites ask for password over secure channel

**UPDATED** FedEx has updated its home page to use https/SSL

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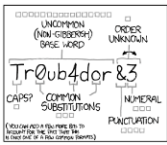
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### Passwords, contd.



- Poor consideration of human factors
  - Strict rules on password creation can be hard for many users
    - Or cause the use of passwords that get written down
  - Assigned (and unchangeable) passwords
- Too many are too easy to guess or too easy to forget

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### Password Issues



- How to manage passwords
  - Ideal – use different passwords everywhere
    - Need to remember many passwords
  - Can use password management system
    - One well-chosen & guarded password to enable many individual (maybe random) passwords

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### Password Issues, contd.



- What to do with “important” passwords
  - How to protect against person leaving or getting “truck fade”
    - Escrow in access controlled safe? - log access
  - e.g., admin password to very secure server
    - Password, kept in safe, changed after each use, relocked in safe
  - Restrict use
    - e.g., require “sudo” or “run as administrator” rather than login as root

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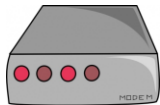
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### Password Issues, contd.



- Passwords are not just for people  
Used for access control in many types of hardware
- Example problem (real case)  
Large telephone company was deploying a new system that included many pieces of equipment at customer sites  
Auditor asked: "What is the access control?"  
Answer: "Built in passwords."  
Auditor: "How do you keep track of them?"  
Answer: "They are all the same and cannot be changed."

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### Spafford's Password Failure Modes



- Disclosure  
Sharing or poorly designed system
- Inference  
Pattern to the way passwords are generated
- Exposure  
Accidental disclosure of password  
e.g., substitute for username, password on Post-It note on monitor
- Loss  
e.g., forget
- Guessing
- Snooping  
Eavesdropping, secret video camera at ATM machine

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### Password Usability Issues



A few too many beers can also make things very hard

- User has to be able to type password reliably  
Passwords longer than a dozen characters get harder  
Lots of shifting and unshifting can make things harder  
Watch out for the caps lock key!  
A hand injury can make things very hard
- User has to be able to remember the password  
Random passwords fail this test  
But easy to remember passwords may mean easy to guess

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### Harvard's Password Rules

- Must be a secret between user and system  
And never stored in a retrievable way
- Must be long or "complex"  
no rules if passphrase  
1. > 10 characters  
2. Include at least one character from at least 3 of the following:  
uppercase letter, lowercase letter, number, special character

**UPDATED**

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~123456aaa~~

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### Stanford University password policy

- The longer the password, the fewer the requirements

**WHICH CHARACTERS ARE REQUIRED IN MY PASSWORD?**  
NOTE: it depends on password length!

- 8-11: requires mixed case letters, numbers, and symbols
- 12-15: requires mixed case letters and numbers
- 16-19: requires mixed case letters
- 20+ any character you like!

Passwords must be at least 8 characters.  
Passwords over 10 characters use the guidelines and reduce the length proportionally.

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### Password Length vs. Difficulty

Difficulty (in total/hashing)

Random passwords

8 char: 1 day  
9 char: 100 days  
10 char: 27 years

Password length (in characters)

Robert David Graham

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## One-Time Passwords

Create S/KEYs for user roe

```
new one-time passwords:
0: VAT KURO ORES SLIM AREN GANE
1: KONG RING WOOD OWEN HORN ROAD
2: OSLO ADEN MAY PAD ILL NIB
3: ALGE REND JET MOE SAGE RING
4: SHAG SOIL FERN WILD WADE EVE
5: FRED HENR FROM MET LARD JURY
6: AVON MATH HOYT SEED SLIM HOB
7: KING SHAB ANN SLY BONA MEAT
8: FOOD LAKE FLY APE WELL DOVE
9: IDA DATA TORE BOO SLUM COO
```

New Unique User ID (uid) = Flopp

- Use a new password each time
- Removes most of Spafford's risks
  - Interference and loss of password generator are still issues
- Paper-based
  - User gets list of use-once passwords, use & cross off system has same list e.g., S/KEY
- Electronic
  - Get password for next login when successfully logged in

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**Authentication—knows—other**

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**Graphical Passwords**



- Replace character strings with graphical information  
Different approaches
- Advantages
  - Hard to write down
  - Hard to share your password
  - Hard to do dictionary attacks

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**Faces**



- Learn  $N$  faces
- Pick out from matrix
  - Presented one 3x3 matrix at a time
- Issue: Prosopagnosia  
Face-blindness

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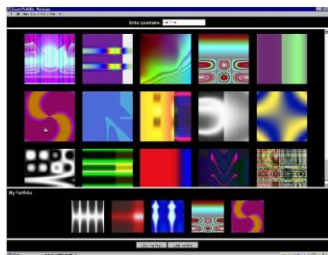
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### Select Pictures

- Pick  $N$  pictures from matrix
- Can use generated pictures (not photos) to minimize bias



Dhamija & Perrig

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### Select Pictures, contd.



NIST

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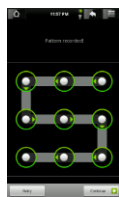
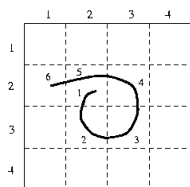
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### Draw Patterns

- e.g., Draw-a-Secret (DAS)
- Draw a pattern on a grid
- Pattern and direction of line(s) used as password



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### Blonder Picture Passwords

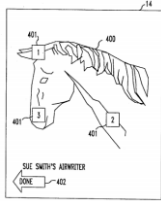


Figure 4 from U.S. Patent No. 5,559,961

- Patented by Greg Blonder (patent #5,559,961)
- Click on a sequence of locations within a picture

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### Reverse Turing Test



- Aim is to block computer generated guessing
  - Present distorted images of text & ask user to type them
- CAPTCHA**  
**C**ompletely  
**A**utomated  
**P**ublic  
**T**uring test to tell  
**C**omputers and  
**H**umans  
**A**part  
 Verify that there is a human present  
 But is it the right human?

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### Fighting Guessing Attacks



Mr. Vigilant

- Aim: make it hard for automated on-line guessing attacks to work
- Off-line attack on leaked password files is a different issue
- Not easy to block guessing-with-knowledge attacks
  - Where attacker knows a lot about you & guesses what you might use
- Automated guessing can do 100's of thousands of guesses per day
  - Attackers try guessed passwords in probability order

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### Fighting Guessing Attacks, contd.

**LOPHTCRACK**  
**ophcrack**



- Sysadmin can run password cracker on passwords  
To see if anyone is using a weak password  
Or to break in

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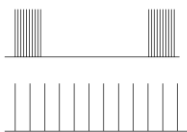
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### Fighting Guessing Attacks, contd.



- Defense against remote guessers  
Automatic lockout - disable account after  $N$  failed login attempts  
Can automatically re-enable after some period of time  
e.g., 30 minutes  
Can require intervention by support personnel  
Provides little additional protection, can be very disruptive
- Not a defense against rogue sysadmins grabbing password files

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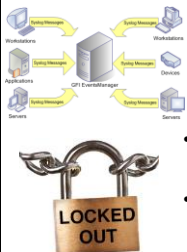
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### Fighting Guessing Attacks, contd.



- In any case, log the fact of failed attempts  
Not the "bad" passwords!  
And monitor the log  
Talk to user to see if there is something wrong
- Note: lockout enables easy DoS attack
- Automatic lockout may make it hard to change your password if you have many devices

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### Fighting Guessing Attacks, contd.

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- What should “N” be?
- Advantages of a small N (<5)
  - Catch guessing attacks faster
  - Very slightly faster, if the password is hard to guess (maybe 0.001% faster)
- Disadvantages of a small N
  - Discourage the use of different passwords for different systems
  - Encourage the use of easy to type passwords
  - Encourage writing passwords down
- My recommendation: N = 10

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### Forced Password Changes



- Common requirement - forced change of password every N days
  - Legally required by HIPAA
  - Required by PCI security standards
  - Required by most auditors
- But does it make things safer?
  - Mostly, no
  - But if the law says you have to do it, it is safer (by definition) to do it

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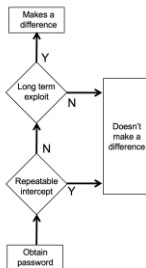
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### Forced Password Changes, contd.



- Do a flow chart:
  - Forced password change only useful if...
    - Attacker obtaining a password without cooperation and without monitoring (e.g., keystroke logger)
    - Otherwise attacker will just get the new password
    - AND, an exploit takes a long time e.g., if I can create a business & send it a check for \$100 M: I'll just do that and run
    - Likelihood of required password change happening between me getting a password and using it is very small

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### Forced Password Changes, update

**Verifiers SHOULD NOT require memorized secrets to be changed arbitrarily (e.g., periodically).**  
NIST 800-63B June 2017  
5.1.1.2 Memorized Secret Verifiers



- After much deliberation the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) issued revised Digital Identity Guidelines in June 2017 (Publication 800-63B)
- Included were guidelines for passwords (memorized secret verifiers)  
Forced periodic changes are no longer recommended
- Will take a while for others to catch up (e.g. HIPAA)

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### Bad Passwords are Not the Big Threat



- Note that most system compromises are not from involuntary password sharing  
e.g., Post-It Notes, guessing, eavesdropping, social engineering, etc.
- Far more systems are compromised by exploiting system vulnerabilities

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### Bad Passwords are Not the Big Threat, contd.



Mr. Vigilant



- But, that does not mean that good passwords should not be used  
E.g., using your pet's name as your password then bragging about the same pet, by name, on Facebook is not the best idea.
- Adding additional factors (beyond pure knowledge) improves access security

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### Worst passwords (list changes each year)



123456	123123
Password	admin
12345678	1234567890
qwerty	letmein
abc123	photoshop
123456789	1234
111111	monkey
1234567	shadow
lloveyou	
adobe123	

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3	PassFaces - <a href="http://www.realluse.com/">http://www.realluse.com/</a> face blind - <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/08/30/face-blind">http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/08/30/face-blind</a>
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5	<a href="http://chitsol.com/entry/MID%EC%97%90%EC%84%9C-%EB%A1%9C%EA%B7%BB%EC%9D%88%EC%9D%84-%EC%9C%84%ED%95%9C-%ED%95%B4%EB%82%95-%EB%84%A4-%EA%80%8D%EC%A7%80">http://chitsol.com/entry/MID%EC%97%90%EC%84%9C-%EB%A1%9C%EA%B7%BB%EC%9D%88%EC%9D%84-%EC%9C%84%ED%95%9C-%ED%95%B4%EB%82%95-%EB%84%A4-%EA%80%8D%EC%A7%80</a>
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7	<a href="https://playingwithmodels.wordpress.com/2010/04/14/andorid_unlock_patterns/">https://playingwithmodels.wordpress.com/2010/04/14/andorid_unlock_patterns/</a> Figure 4 from U.S. Patent No. 5,559,961
8	<a href="http://zenolab.com/fru/products/capmonster/capmonster-lite-samples/">http://zenolab.com/fru/products/capmonster/capmonster-lite-samples/</a>
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9	facebook <a href="http://www.creativeloblog.com/branding/designers-react-new-facebook-logos-71515566">http://www.creativeloblog.com/branding/designers-react-new-facebook-logos-71515566</a>

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27	syslog <a href="http://support.ficom.com/manuals/en/esm7/esm7manual-1-032.html">http://support.ficom.com/manuals/en/esm7/esm7manual-1-032.html</a> lock <a href="http://howisavemoney.net/finances/pays/">http://howisavemoney.net/finances/pays/</a>
16	post it <a href="https://you.stonybrook.edu/innovationlab/2015/07/01/what-a-post-it-speaker/">https://you.stonybrook.edu/innovationlab/2015/07/01/what-a-post-it-speaker/</a>
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**Identity and authentication**  
**Authentication - has**

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**Something a Person *Has***

- Paper documents  
Present document to authenticate yourself
- Electronic tokens  
Key fobs, USB dongles, pocket cards, PDAs or laptops with special software  
Must prove to the system that you have the token  
Require presentation of token or an interaction with token



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**Paper documents**

- Many examples  
Drivers license, passport, health card, national ID card, work ID
- Two classes  
Possession-based  
You just need to have it - e.g., baseball game ticket  
With physical identification information on document  
e.g., signature, photo, thumb print, biometric
- Adding RFIDs to some paper documents  
e.g., passports



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### Electronic tokens

- Just like the paper one, you need to prove you have the electronic token
- Different ways
  - Direct exchange
    - User interaction not needed
    - Except maybe unlocking token - e.g., with password
    - Computer talks to token directly
  - User mediated
    - User is part of information exchange



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### Electronic tokens, direct exchange

- Electronic test to be sure you have token
  - e.g., USB dongle
    - Dongle directly accessed to get ID
    - Used for controlling copying of some software
    - Dongle can contain user certificate
  - e.g., Radio Frequency ID (RFID)
    - Wireless query retrieves serial number and maybe more
    - e.g., electronic toll collectors, building access cards
  - e.g., Near Field Communication (NFC)



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### RFID

- Wireless node queried by a scanner
- Two basic types
  - Passive
    - No internal power supply, gets power from scanner
  - Active
    - Internal power supply



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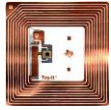
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### RFID, Passive



- Short range (< 30 feet)
- Limited information storage and retrieval  
e.g., universal serial number
- Many, not all, respond to any scanner - easy to read
- Injectable RFIDs  
pet IDs, some humans
- Some contactless credit cards  
Can clone RFID credit cards w/o having card
- Used as a product tag (electronic bar code)

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### RFIDs, contd..



- Privacy issue:  
You are your RFID tags  
E.g., in badges, ID cards, clothes

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### RFID, Active



- Longer range (over 300 feet)
- Some do cryptographic challenge/response with scanner  
And only provide information to authenticated scanner
- Large information storage and retrieval
- Can include environmental sensors

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### Electronic tokens, user mediated



- Login information  
user has token that produces information needed for login
- Challenge-response  
User has token or software to accept challenge & a secret password and produce response
- “Token” can be a standalone device or software to run on a laptop or PDA



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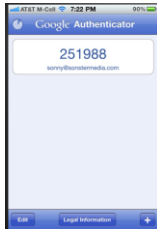
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### Electronic tokens, login information



- e.g., RSA SecureID  
Token provides new “random” number every minute  
User provides ID (e.g., username)  
Server uses ID to determine which token user has  
Looks up seed for pseudo-random number generator in token  
Determines what number should be on token display  
Prompts user for number being currently displayed  
User enters value  
Server checks response against calculated value

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### Secure ID, Issues



- RSA creates & keeps “seeds” for each token  
Seed defines pseudo-random number sequence  
Other vendors let customers create & keep seeds
- RSA was hacked (disclosed March 2011)  
Hack was based on spear phishing  
Attached file “2011 Recruitment Plan” included a Flash 0-day bug  
Seeds stolen

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### Secure ID, Issues, contd.

- Lockheed Martin hacked (disclosed May 2011)  
Lockheed Martin said hack involved Secure IDs



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### Login Information, contd.

- Some tokens require the user to enter a PIN into the token to generate the login information
- To ensure a stolen token is not a security threat  
Cannot generate proper information without the right PIN



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### Electronic tokens, challenge-response

- e.g., CRYPTOCARD RB-1  
User logs into system  
System sends user a N-digit challenge  
User enters challenge into token  
Token generates response  
User enters response into system
- e.g., US DoD Common Access Card  
Plugs into local reader  
Includes PKI certificate  
Required for remote access



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### Electronic tokens, challenge-response, contd.

- Two-factor authentication using your phone



Basic sequence:

Connect to authentication service  
Identify yourself (e.g. logname & password)

Authentication service communicates with phone

e.g.,

Sends code via SMS or data connection – you enter code

Calls phone & speaks code – you enter code

Queries app on phone, displays OK? – you press “yes”

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Identity and authentication  
Authentication - is

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Some characteristic of you



- Use characteristics of a person to identify or verify the identity of that person
  - Compare against a stored template to verify
  - Compare against a database of templates to identify
  - Security risk if central storage
- Varying degrees of reliability
- Not just physical characteristics
  - Also handwriting, gait, etc.
- Known as biometrics

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Biometrics



- Physical factors
  - Finger, palm, foot, retina, iris & face prints, DNA, hand geometry, speech, vascular patterns
- Other factors
  - Typing, handwriting, gait
- Different factors have different levels of assurance
- Most useful for authentication not for identification

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## Biometrics, Fingerprints

**On the Biometrics of the Hand**  
 The history of the use of fingerprints for identification is a long one. It is not until the late 19th century that the scientific study of fingerprints began. In 1880, Dr. Henry Faulds published his paper on the subject in the *Nature* journal. He was the first to suggest that fingerprints could be used for identification. He also suggested that fingerprints could be used to identify criminals. This was a revolutionary idea at the time. It was not until the 1920s that fingerprints were used for identification in the United States. In 1924, the FBI established the first fingerprint bureau. Today, fingerprints are used for identification in many countries around the world.



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- First biometric identification understood as unique at least as early as 1860
- Formal use for identification started in 1880s
- Dr. Henry Faulds published article in *Nature* (1880)
- Also performed 1st identification from a latent fingerprint
- Mark Twain - murderer identified by thumb print in "Life on the Mississippi" (1883)
- National collection of fingerprints in US - 1905

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## Biometrics, Fingerprints, contd.



BBC NEWS

**Malaysia car thieves steal finger**  
 By Jonathan Kaye  
 09:27 News, Kuala Lumpur  
 Police in Malaysia are hunting for members of a violent gang who chopped off a car owner's finger to get round the vehicle's biometric security system.  
 The car, a Mercedes S-Class, was protected by a fingerprint recognition system.  
 Although it is unclear when the finger was cut, it was found by four men in a car on the way to a police station in Kuala Lumpur.  
 The gang, armed with long machines, demanded the keys to the car.  
 It is worth around \$75,000 second-hand on the local market, where prices are high because of import duties.

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- Fingerprint scanners can be spoofed  
 e.g., by gummy fingers, MythBusters & photo
- Fingerprint readers can be a threat to finger owner  
 e.g., car thieves cut off car owner's finger to try to steal a car - (*New Straits Times* - 31 October 2005)

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## Biometrics, Fingerprints, contd.



**UPDATED**

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- Readers are getting better  
 e.g., looking for the right temperature and blood flow in "finger" being scanned  
 But are still susceptible to peel-off fingerprints
- Fingerprint readers built into many devices  
 Beware devices that store full fingerprints
- Fingerprint stored in secure enclave on Apple iPhone & Mac – cannot be extracted

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### Biometrics, Retina



- Retina scans have been a long time target of biometric identification efforts
- Unique to the person & stable over time
- Theoretical 1 in 10 million resolution
- Process slow (10-15 seconds)  
Have to hold still and look into a scanner
- Very hard to spoof  
Eye transplant "Never say never again" (1983)  
Retina deteriorate very quickly after death or look for blood flow

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### Biometrics, Iris



- Original work done by John Daugman at Harvard  
Now at University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory
- Unique to the person & stable over time
- Very low false accept rate
- Take picture of iris  
Fast & can be taken from a distance
- Analyze iris produce code
- Compare to stored codes
- Used in some ATM machines

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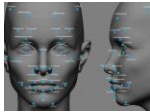
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### Biometrics, Faces



- Modes  
Identification:  
See if face is in a catalog of faces  
Authentication:  
See if face matches a given face
- Law enforcement wants systems that can find wanted people in collection of drivers license photos, attending an event or walking down the street  
Short step to tracking everyone on the street

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### Biometrics, Faces, Authentication



- Apple Face ID  
First of many systems that will use a face to unlock a smartphone
- Face ID unlocks an iPhone that has been trained to a particular face when the user actually looks at the iPhone
- The system uses 30K infrared dots projected on the face to generate a map  
Map compared with map stored in the secure enclave in the iPhone (same as Touch ID)



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### Biometrics, Hand Geometry



- Check shape of hand against database
- In use for access control since the 1980s
- Generally used with other IDs  
e.g., ID cards

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### Biometrics, Speech



IN AUTOMATED PASSPORT SECTION. THEY STOP IN FRONT OF A BOOTH FEATURING A TV SCREEN

PASSPORT GIRL (TV)  
Good morning and welcome to voice print identification. When you see the red light go on would you please state in the following order, your destination, your nationality and your full name. Surname first, christian name and initial. For example: Moon, American, Smith, John, D. Thank you.

THERE IS A FLASH AND A RED BAR LIGHTS UP

FLOYD  
Moon, American, Floyd, Heywood, R.

THE RED LIGHT GOES OFF. THERE IS A DELAY OF ABOUT TWO SECONDS AND THE WOMAN'S FACE REAPPEARS

FLOYD  
I've always wondered....

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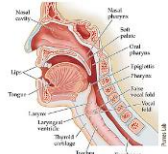
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### Biometrics, Speech, contd.



- a.k.a., “Voice Biometrics”
- User speaks specific words
  - Some systems require multiple readings
- System compares digitized voice against stored template for person
- Generally used along with other factors
- Not (yet) reliably used for authentication

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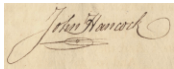
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### Biometrics, Handwriting



- Signatures among earliest identification methods
  - e.g., sign a check
- Unique to an individual
- More than just signature capture
  - Used for package delivery & credit card use
- e.g., sign name on a tablet
  - Sequence, pressure, acceleration, timing of strokes measured
  - Not just resulting image
- Can track changes over time

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### Biometrics, Keystroke Recognition



- Multiple factors measured on keyboard
- e.g.,
  - The length of time each key is held down
  - The length of time between keystrokes
  - Typing speed
  - Tendencies to switch between a numeric keypad and keyboard numbers
  - The keystroke sequences involved in capitalization
- Problems if person injured, tired, cold, etc.

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**Identity and authentication**  
**Authentication—multi factor**

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**Multiple factors help**

Username:  
Password:

+



- Multiple factors significantly increases the reliability of authentication  
e.g., ATM  
Must have physical ATM card and knowledge of correct PIN
- But does not help against some common attacks  
See Bruce Schneier - *The Failure of Two-Factor Authentication*

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**Multi-factor, details**

- Requires two or more factors  
User knows, user has, user is
- Multiple checks of one factor is not multi-factor  
Two or more passwords  
Two or more biometric measurements
- Smart cards, by themselves, are not multi-factor  
They are just a more reliable way to identify a card



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### Multi-factor, the most common approach



- Something “you know” and something “you have” (i.e., a password, and a mobile phone)  
Can be an issue if the user is traveling outside of their calling zone
- Uses temporary code

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### Mobile phone based multi-factor



Note: insecure method because SMS is very easy to hack

- Call with a code  
System calls the phone and speaks a code  
User enters code during login
- Call for a code  
System shows code on web page and calls user on phone  
User enters code into phone using push buttons
- SMS a code  
System sends an SMS message to the phone with a code  
User enters code during login

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### Mobile phone based multi-factor, contd.



- Communicate with application on mobile phone  
System interacts with app on phone, e.g. user shown “yes” and “no” buttons to press
- Other factors and phone features can also be used (e.g., GPS, camera, fingerprint reader, etc.)

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### Token based multi factor



- Similar to “has”, but for multi-factor assumes another factor is involved  
In most cases a password
- User has physical or software token that generates a pseudo random sequence of codes  
User enters currently displayed code as part of login process  
Software token is an application on a smart-phone or other computer

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### Passwordless Authentication



- e.g., HarvardKey w/o password
- Assumes pre registered personal device
- Public key-based authentication message exchange (fido standard)
- Personal device will prompt for authentication (e.g. fingerprint) or authorization

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Identity and authentication  
Issues

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Mutual Authentication

You know who I am  
But who are you?

- You may have a great password but how do you know that you are logging into the right site?
- Server certificates help but not all systems or applications use them

Unicode:  
semicolon (;)  
Greek question mark (?)

And they are not error free  
e.g., UNICODE characters in domain name

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Only Part of the Problem



- Note that the best passwords or multi-factor authentication will not protect a system from a user that:
  - Opens email attachments from strangers
  - Responds to phishing attacks
  - Surfs porn sites that download malware
  - Downloads the world to an unencrypted laptop then loses it
  - Uses same password for porn site as for company site
  - ...

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### Bottom line



- Good user authentication is required, but, by itself, it is not a sufficient security mechanism

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Identity and authentication  
**Identity management**

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Identity Management



- A.k.a. Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- Maintaining a database of users
- Database includes:
  - User IDs
  - User attributes
  - Authentication information (e.g. passwords)

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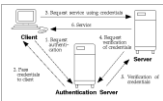
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Identity Management, uses



- Can be used for centralized authentication
- Can provide user attributes to local systems
- Attributes can be used by local systems for authorization
  - What is user permitted to do/access

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### User attributes

First Name: John  
Last Name: Smith  
Employee ID: 1234567  
Email: js@example.com  
Office: 14-623  
Title: Managing Director  
Role: employee



- Personal information  
Name, email address, office location
- Organizational IDs
- Organizational Role(s)
- Group(s)  
Used for authorization  
Some populated from other attributes, some manually

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### Identity management, issues



- Feeds from systems of record
- ID lifetime  
Creation of new IDs  
Tracking status and job changes  
Including termination  
ID reuse?
- Assigning multiple IDs to same person
- Multiple people assigned the same ID  
E.g., because of similar names

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**Identity and authentication**  
**Conclusion**

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**Identities & authentication**



- An identity is a identifier for a person  
Whether you know who the person is or not
- Authentication is binding an identity to a unique person
- The process of authentication requires an identifier and a way to verify that the person is the right person for the identifier

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**Four types of authentication verifiers**



- Knowledge-based  
What a person knows  
E.g. passwords
- Possession-based  
What a person has  
E.g., RSA token
- Biometric-based  
What a person is  
e.g., fingerprint
- Action-based  
What a person can do  
E.g. signature

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## Multi-factor authentication



- Require two or more types of authentication for authentication  
E.g. password and token

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## Identity management



- Need to maintain an accurate inventory of people for authentication to be useful

E.g. a database of active employees and their passwords and token identifiers

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