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## Types of two factor authentication

Two-factor authentication (2FA) provides greater account and device security compared to password-only accesses. There are several types of multi-factor authentication (MFA) that your company can implement, including PINs, one-time authentication codes, and facial or voice recognition. When you set up 2FA for your business, consider which accounts can be included, the system requirements required, and which authentication factors work best. This article is intended for entrepreneurs who want to create an extra layer of security for their devices and business accounts via 2FA or MFA. For most businesses, large amounts of financial data and sensitive customers are stored online in their digital and cloud-based accounts. The value of this data makes small businesses a primary target for data breaches and ransomware attacks. A 2020 Verizon study found that almost 30% of all reported data breaches involved small businesses. Most users assume their passwords will keep their accounts secure. However, weaker passwords are extremely vulnerable and easy to hack. And if you're someone who struggles to remember their passwords, you're more likely to stay out of it than a cybercriminal. This is where two-factor authentication (2FA) comes in. This technology adds an extra layer of security to every access to keep your data and devices more secure than a password access. Plus, it's easy for businesses to integrate and manage within their existing network with the right 2FA solution. If you're looking to improve your system's security, here's an overview of how 2FA works, the different types of factors in place, and how it can be used as a solution to protect your business. What is two-factor authentication? device using only your username and password. Two-factor authentication provides an extra layer of security for your online accounts and digital devices, requiring an additional login credential. A "factor" refers to any way you validate your identity in order to successfully access the account or device you are trying to access. With 2FA, your account or device will ask you to enter a second factor to prove your identity, typically something that only you would have access to. By correctly entering this second factor after your password, you will have access to your account or device. Take-away points: Two-factor authentication is an additional confirmation of a user's identity in addition to the password, before they are granted account access. How does two-factor authentication work? With two-factor authentication, even if someone steals your password, it's unlikely they'll get the second one. These factors tend to be something that can only be produced through one of your other devices or by yourself. This makes 2FA more secure option than the traditional login password and allows users and organizations greater flexibility. Flexibility. Two-factor authentication requires an additional piece of information. There are typically three categories of second factors that a system may ask for: Something you know, such as a personal identification number (PIN) or a response to a security question; something you have, such as an authorization code once sent to a third-party device or application; or something that involves your physical self, such as your face, fingerprint, or your fingerprint. or voice recognition. Setting up an account or device with 2FA typically involves setting up that account or device with a 2FA system. Depending on the means of authentication, you may need to configure security queries, enter a mobile device number, register with a third-party application, or enter biometric data (usually only on mobile platforms such as FaceID or iPhone fingerprints) to successfully configure multi-factor authentication. Why is two-factor authentication important? With the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused more organizations to adopt hybrid or remote workforce in the future, two-factor authentication is an important way to keep office and remote workers just as secure. "In 2021 and beyond, technology will only continue to play a greater role [in the workplace], and with it, more information needs to be protected from cyber attacks", said Dave Clafin, CEO and co-founder of Fastest Labs, a drug and DNA testing service. "While our franchisees are working in the office, administering drug and DNA tests to their community, test results and information are sent digitally ... and contain highly confidential information that is directed to an employer or individual. " Having a 2FA system is the best way to make sure your business and customer data is secure. Cyber attacks continue to become more sophisticated and targeted, and even a small data breach can devastate a small business that lacks the resources to recover from an attack. With 2FA, even if hackers have usernames and passwords, they cannot access a user's information without the additional authentication factor. When every user in an organization is using the same 2FA solution, it makes it difficult for a hacker to access their network. This not only protects a company's staff, but also the suppliers, partners and customers they work with. "Requiring your employees, clients or clients to take a few extra steps ...[is] worthwhile in an effort to maximize cybersecurity", Clafin said Business News Daily. Types of Two-Factor Authentication There are many different types of 2FA factors that an organization can use. These are typically determined by which device or app the user will have access to and what the organization itself can access to. Here are five types of common factors that are used with 2FA: 1. SMS / TEXT messages One of the most common and simple authentication factors is to have a login code sent to the mobile phone or mobile device via SMS or text message. Once you have entered the username and password, authentication authentication It is sent to the mobile device you registered with your account, and a prompt will ask you to enter once you receive it. An SMS code has some security risks, as sophisticated hackers can be able to hijack a mobile device to get unauthorized access to an account. For this reason, organizations may wish to avoid SMS authentication unless employees use secure and business mobile devices. 2. Authentication applications An authentication application works similar to a text message code. Once logged in, instead of obtaining a code sent via SMS, a time sensitive code is generated through a certified authentication application, like Google Authenticator. Many of these applications also provide backup codes in the event that a user has data connectivity problems and cannot immediately access the app. When using this form of authentication, the user can set your device to receive a push notification from the app that tells the verification code. This eliminates phishing and the penetration of the network, but can become unreliable if the user's Internet connection is spotty. 3. Biometric authentication Biometric authentication requires the user to present a physical attribute of themselves to access their account. The most common factors tend to be the voice, face or fingerprint of a person. While this is almost impossible for someone else to replicate, there are limitations to this method. If the device accessed to your account cannot correctly check the entry, face, fingerprint or other biometric data due to a device or calibration problem, will not be able to access it. 4. Hardware token The hardware tokens are FOBS keychain that produce a numeric code every 30 seconds. After the user inserts his login information, look at the device and enter the code that is on the token. Due to the cost of these units, it can be convenient for large organizations. However, it is extremely safe and impossible to hack unless someone steals the physical FOB. 5. Token Software The software counters are one of the most popular forms of 2FA for businesses. As a hardware token, a user downloads a software program approved by the organization, which generates a random access code for the account. These tokens only display the code for a limited amount of time, between 30 seconds and one minute. Tip: Companies have more options when it comes to 2FA protection, including SMS codes, authentication applications, biometric authentication and hardware or software tokens. Two-factor authentication solutions to protect your business many business applications commonly used as Google Dropbox, Salesforce, Slack, PayPal, and social media already have options to configure two-factor authentication. If you're using a username and password to log in now, you can access the settings and add two-factor verification to your login options. From there, you can change the factors you'll use as credentials and for which devices you'll require you'll request set up 2FA on all your business accounts (even those that don't offer it natively), you may want to consider a dedicated system that allows you to configure multi-factor authentication via a Single Sign-on (SSO) or Identity Access Management (IAM) portal. Some of the best single sign-on solutions for businesses include OneLogin, LastPass, Okta, Google Cloud and JumpCloud. Setting up 2FA for your business Here's how to set up 2FA for your business: 1. Determine which accounts to protect with 2FA. The first step in creating 2FA is to determine which organizational accounts need to be protected. If you're investing in an SSO or IAM solution, you can secure all your connected business accounts with multi-factor authentication. Otherwise, it's a good idea to implement two-factor authentication natively on any platform that allows you to do so. This may include applications such as email, messaging services, inventory, financial software and cloud storage accounts. 2. If necessary, update your operating system. When looking for a 2FA solution to use, make sure you have the operating systems and infrastructure to support it. All system devices used by factors shall be run on the same operating system for consistency. In addition, some 2FA solutions may require you to install additional software or application. They typically require you to run on the latest operating system for your device or web browser, so make sure all your devices are up to date. 3. Decide which factor works best for your organization. Every user in your company should use the same universal factor when logging into the 2FA system. Using the same universal factor simplifies procedures for all members of the organization, as well as IT support when they need to solve an access issue". Ease of use for employees is critical", said Steve Panaghi, Senior IT Operations Manager at Fracture. "If your [2FA] solution is hard to use, employees won't use it". In short, use an identity check factor that's right for your company. For example, if users connect to devices that do not support biometric solutions, do not use facial, fingerprint, or voice recognition as a second authentication factor. 4. Implement an implementation strategy. Before implementing your new 2FA solution, let your employees know in advance. Provide clear instructions for creating 2FA and provide IT support to those who need it. Be open to any questions and discussions about the 2FA, and allow your staff time to implement it". Employers should spend more time explaining to employees the "why" regarding account security. Before new policies are implemented, "said Roderick Jones, executive president of Concentric Advisors. A «If you explain the â €™ to employees and explain how they can be exploited in a computer attack and how this could have an impact on their work, it could resound differently with employees, and you could get more buy-in and acceptance. "Acceptance." Acceptance.

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