Solution Brief

Passwordless Windows Logon

Frictionless security that begins at the edge with SafeNet Trusted Access

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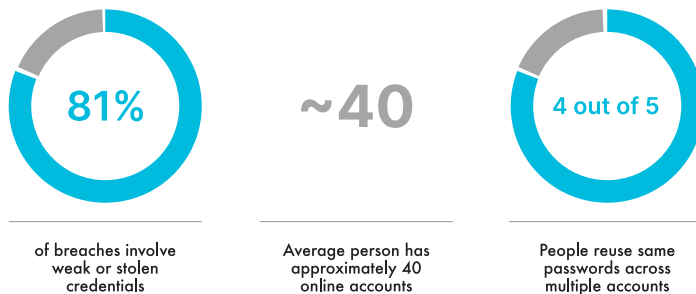
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Building a future we can all trust

The Problem with Passwords

It's hard to believe, but passwords have been around for over 60 years, and their inception has changed the digital world. Passwords are a standard, accepted process in our lives and are one of the oldest security tools in the world of software and the Internet.

However, their purpose of verifying user identities declines in today's environment as bad actors find inexpensive and tricky ways to overcome them. Even efforts such as intensifying passwords with strict policies, enforcing a second authentication factor, and user education have not solved the problem.

Passwords pose one of the most significant security risks for organizations. It's no secret that passwords and other weak authentication methods remain the primary cause of data breaches. Ironically, passwords can be a detriment to security by serving as an attack vector of weak, stolen, or reused passwords.

81%

of breaches involve weak or stolen credentials

~40

Average person has approximately 40 online accounts

4 out of 5

People reuse same passwords across multiple accounts

Other concerns surround passwords, such as the cost to the business. The average firm can spend up to USD 5.2 million per year on setting and resetting passwords; some estimates put the individual cost of a password reset at $70 each. Analysts at Gartner estimate that up to 40% of all help desk calls are related to passwords and resets, with employees losing 11 hours per year resetting passwords.

Modern organizations must accommodate diverse identities within the workforce – full-time, part-time, remote, and deskless workers, all with varying device needs. The correct passwordless authentication implementation offers the adaptability to meet these needs without compromising security.

> **User authentication requires a new way of thinking.**

Thales SafeNet Trusted Access Protection Begins at the Edge

Today's business environment is constantly evolving, and organizations need to secure communication and access for their home-based

employees, customers, partners, servers, and countless devices that maintain business continuity. IT and security teams typically prioritize logon security for accounts such as email and applications.

But, before that process occurs, users login to their desktop, laptop, or console – which usually only has a password protecting the enterprise systems. Protecting the edge is critical because a desktop provides access to numerous applications and data that users may have saved on the local drive, and even communication apps can be used to stage attacks.

Ideally, organizations need one integrated solution that provides passwordless MFA from OS login to the user's remote applications, including RDP/VDI. The solution needs to be flexible enough to accommodate the organization's particular needs and provide a consistent user experience regardless of the method used for authentication. It should not burden the user by requiring them to authenticate multiple times.

Thales SafeNet Trusted Access provides passwordless, phishing resistant MFA that begins at Windows login by eliminating the AD password. While enhancing the enterprise's security posture, it further eliminates end-user friction through an excellent end-user experience. **The end-users are no longer required to manage or remember their passwords.**
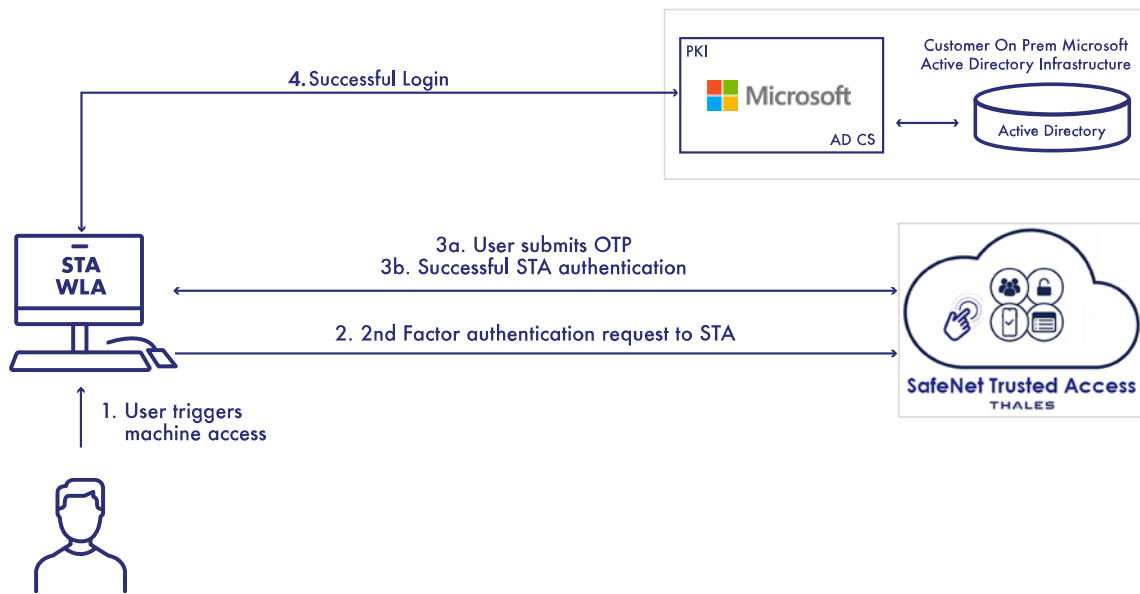
Key Benefits

- MFA by design for online and offline use cases
- Stop phishing and account takeover
- Supports SSO experience for web applications and desktop applications using Windows credentials – extends passwordless experience through SSO
- Meet cyber-insurance requirements
- Comply with industry regulations
- SafeNet Trusted Access adheres to the Zero Trust security model, which is widely considered the gold standard for authentication.

Improving the authentication experience for your workforce directly impacts productivity. Onboarding new employees can happen in minutes, and you can cover remote employee use cases and shared workstations.

The benefits of passwordless authentication are undeniable - heightened security against sophisticated cyber threats, friction-free user experiences that increase productivity and satisfaction, and cost savings for businesses.

User Authentication Flow

PKI

Microsoft
AD CS

Customer On Prem Microsoft Active Directory Infrastructure

Active Directory

4. Successful Login

STA WLA

3a. User submits OTP
3b. Successful STA authentication

2. 2nd Factor authentication request to STA

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1. User triggers machine access

Passwordless Desktop Access with any STA OTP Authenticators

SafeNet Trusted Access (STA) offers a broad range of authentication methods and adaptive access policies that evaluate risk conditions and validate users by enforcing the appropriate level of authentication where needed, ensuring the right people have access under the right conditions.

- Wide range of authentications
- Shared machine use case
- SSO to web applications
- Non-disruptive for existing Landscape
- Co-existence with and upgrade from password based MFA through WLA
- Simple and intuitive

Summary

Passwordless authentication replaces passwords with other certificate based authentication, resulting in heightened assurance and convenience. This type of authentication has gained usage because of significant benefits in easing the login experience and overcoming the inherent vulnerabilities of text-based passwords.

These advantages include less friction, greater security offered for each application, and—best of all—eliminating the legacy password.

About Thales

Today's businesses and governments depend on the cloud, data and software to deliver trusted digital services. That is why the most recognized brands and organizations around the world rely on Thales to help them protect sensitive information and software wherever it is created, stored or accessed – from the cloud and data centers to devices and across networks. As the global leader in data security and software licensing, our solutions enable organizations to move to the cloud securely, achieve compliance with confidence, create more value from their software and deliver seamless digital experiences for millions of consumers every day.