



PASSKEYS MAY MEAN THAT YOU WILL NEED NO MORE PASSWORDS

Apple is making a big push for password-free tech with iOS 18, and it's not stopping there. Google, Microsoft, and even banks are likely to follow suit.

iOS 18 will bring in a cool new security feature, passkeys, which means you can log in without passwords.

Passkeys are like passwordless login options for apps and websites. They're made up of a "private key" that's saved on your device and a "public key" that's linked to the service or website. The keys must match through an encrypted chat to let you in.

To prove you're the real deal, you'll need to use your face, fingerprint, or PIN code to unlock your device. The service or

website then checks the keys and lets you in without passwords or any extra 2FA codes.

Passkeys are super fast and feel just like unlocking your phone. You tap the login button in an app or website, and your phone or computer checks you out, letting you in.

Passkeys are better than passwords because current login systems rely on you, which is a big weakness. Many people use the same password for multiple accounts, making it easy for attackers to get into other accounts if they get one. Passwords also make you vulnerable to phishing attacks, where attackers trick you into giving them your passwords.

Apple has been supporting passkeys since iOS 16 and is pushing for them to be used in upcoming operating systems like iOS 18 and macOS Sequoia. Apple didn't come up with passkeys; they were developed by others.

Passkeys, created by the FIDO Alliance, are all about making authentication stronger by getting rid of the outdated password system. Apple, Microsoft, Google, and other big companies are part of the FIDO Alliance board.

To use passkeys, just visit a website or app that supports them. You might

be asked to create one, or you can do it yourself in your account's security settings. Creating a passkey is super easy: just click a button, and it'll be saved to your device's password manager.

Logging in with a passkey is a breeze. Just enter your username and click "login with passkey." Your phone's biometric authentication system will confirm you, and you'll be in. Logging in with a passkey is faster than entering a password and waiting for an MFA code.

WHICH SITES AND APPS SUPPORT PASSKEYS?

Passkeys.directory keeps track of sites and apps that offer passkey support. Some of the big names that support passkeys include Adobe, Amazon, Apple, Best Buy, Coinbase, CVS, Docusign, eBay, Google, Home Depot, Kayak, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Nintendo, PayPal, Shopify, Sony, Target, TikTok, Uber, WhatsApp, X, and Yahoo. Users can even vote for which sites they'd like to see add support.

Passkeys won't completely replace passwords anytime soon. Users can still use passwords if they prefer. But the future will see account creation without passwords, which will make things more secure.



JEFF BOHR
Naples Mac Help

Jeff is your one-stop Mac expert, an  Certified Support Professional, and 37-year Mac user.

He can be reached at jeff@jeffbohr.com or 239.595.0482