

## multi-factor authentication - Glossary | CSRC

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The means used to confirm the identity of a user, process, or device (e.g., user password or token).

**Sources:**

[CNSSI 4009-2015](#) under authenticator

Authentication using two or more factors to achieve authentication. Factors include: (i) something you know (e.g. password/personal identification number (PIN)); (ii) something you have (e.g., cryptographic identification device, token); or (iii) something you are (e.g., biometric). See authenticator.

**Sources:**

[CNSSI 4009-2015](#) under multifactor authentication

An authentication system that requires more than one distinct authentication factor for successful authentication. Multifactor authentication can be performed using a multifactor authenticator or by a combination of authenticators that provide different factors. The three authentication factors are something you know, something you have, and something you are.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 1800-17b](#) under Multifactor Authentication

[NIST SP 1800-17c](#) under Multifactor Authentication

Authentication using two or more factors to achieve authentication. Factors are (i) something you know (e.g., password/personal identification number); (ii) something you have (e.g., cryptographic identification device, token); and (iii) something you are (e.g., biometric).

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 1800-12b](#) under multifactor authentication

Something that the claimant possesses and controls (typically a cryptographic module or password) that is used to authenticate the claimant's identity. This was previously referred to as a token.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5](#) under authenticator

An authentication system or an authenticator that requires more than one authentication factor for successful authentication. Multi-factor authentication can be performed using a single authenticator that provides more than one factor or by a combination of authenticators that provide different factors.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5](#)

The three authentication factors are something you know, something you have, and something you are. See authenticator.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5](#)

Authentication using two or more different factors to achieve authentication. Factors include something you know (e.g., PIN, password), something you have (e.g., cryptographic identification device, token), or something you are (e.g., biometric). See authenticator.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-172](#)

Authentication using two or more different factors to achieve authentication. Factors include something you know (e.g., PIN, password), something you have (e.g., cryptographic identification device, token), or something you are (e.g., biometric).

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-172A](#) under multifactor authentication

Authentication using two or more factors to achieve authentication. Factors include: (i) something you know (e.g., password/personal identification number [PIN]); (ii) something you have (e.g., cryptographic identification device, token); or (iii) something you are (e.g., biometric).

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 1800-27B](#) under Multifactor Authentication

[NIST SP 1800-27C](#) under Multifactor Authentication from [CNSI 4009-2015](#)

Something the claimant possesses and controls (typically a cryptographic module or password) that is used to authenticate the claimant's identity. This was previously referred to as a token.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-171r3](#) under authenticator

Authentication using two or more different factors to achieve authentication. Factors include something you know (e.g., PIN, password), something you have (e.g., cryptographic identification device, token), or something you are (e.g., biometric). See authenticator.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-171r3](#)

See authenticator type and multi-factor authenticator.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-63-4](#) [

] under authenticator

An authentication system that requires more than one distinct type of authentication factor for successful authentication. MFA can be performed using a multi-factor authenticator or by combining single-factor authenticators that provide different types of factors.

**Sources:**

[NIST SP 800-63-4](#) []

[NIST IR 8523](#) from [NIST SP 800-63-4](#)

Something the claimant possesses and controls (typically a cryptographic module or password) that is used to authenticate the claimant's identity.

**Sources:**

[NIST IR 8523](#) under authenticator from [NIST SP 800-63-4](#)

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Source: [https://csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/multi\\_factor\\_authentication](https://csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/multi_factor_authentication)