Passwords to be replaced by Web Authentication

1st April, 2019

It looks like login usernames and passwords are on their way out. No longer will we have to worry about the security of our login credentials. They are set to be replaced by an infinitely more secure login system known as Web Authentication. Web Authentication has become an official standard for logging in at the main Internet standards body, the World Wide Web Consortium (WWWC). It is a system that will be universally used by web browsers and platforms for simpler and stronger authentication processes. It will allow website users to log in securely to their online accounts using a digital device, biometrics (such as fingerprints and facial recognition) or USB security keys.

The WWWC spoke about the days of passwords being numbered. A spokesperson said: "It's common knowledge that passwords have outlived their efficacy. Not only are stolen, weak or default passwords behind 81 per cent of data breaches, they are a drain of time and resources." It added: "Now is the time for web services and businesses to adopt Web Authentication to move beyond vulnerable passwords and help web users improve the security of their online experiences," Web Authentication means users are at less risk of having their passwords and credentials stolen. This is because login authentication is achieved via physical devices or biometrics from our body.

Sources: cnet.com / *appleinsider.com* / *thenextweb.com*

Writing

Passwords for computers and websites are not safe enough. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

logging in / username / password / secure / standard / Internet / browser / fingerprint common knowledge / data / breaches / time / resources / vulnerable / biometrics

True / False

a) The article said passwords are on their way in. T / F

b) Login credentials might soon be replaced by Web Authentication. T / F

c) The World Wide Web Consortium said Web Authentication is dangerous. T / F

d) The article said fingerprints are not part of Web Authentication. T / F

e) The WWW Consortium suggested the use of passwords is nearing an end. T / F

f) The WWW Consortium suggested passwords are a waste of resources. T / F

g) Web Authentication increases the risk of having passwords stolen. T / F

h) Web Authentication makes use of biometrics. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**worry**	a.	makes up
2.	**credentials**	b.	attained
3.	**standard**	c.	all over
4.	**universally**	d.	limited
5.	**accounts for**	e.	fret
6.	**numbered**	f.	burden
7.	**efficacy**	g.	weak
8.	**drain**	h.	ID
9.	**vulnerable**	i.	benefit
10.	**achieved**	j.	guideline

Discussion – Student A

a) How difficult is your password?

b) How much do you worry about online security?

c) Have you ever had problems online?

d) What do you think of the idea of passwords?

e) What would you do if your passwords were stolen?

f) What do you think of the Web Authentication system?

g) What do you know about biometrics?

h) How secure do you think fingerprints and facial recognition are?

Phrase Match

1. usernames and passwords are on
2. he security of our login
3. replaced by an infinitely more
4. universally used
5. such as fingerprints
6. The WWWC spoke about the days of
7. passwords have outlived
8. they are a drain of
9. users are at
10. authentication is achieved via physical

a. secure login system
b. devices or biometrics
c. by web browsers
d. passwords being numbered
e. their efficacy
f. their way out
g. less risk
h. credentials
i. and facial recognition
j. time and resources

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) Have you ever been hacked?
c) How many passwords do you have?
d) How dangerous is the Internet?
e) What happens when someone steals your identity?
f) What is your biggest worry about being online?
g) What advice do you have for people to stay safe online?
h) What questions would you like to ask a hacker?

Spelling

1. the security of our login dcteneiarls
2. fiinitnley more secure
3. become an ifocfail standard
4. stronger authentication roepssces
5. using a digital vedice
6. fingerprints and facial cnogiriteon
7. It's common lowkednge
8. stolen, weak or fduaelt passwords
9. 81 per cent of data aebcrehs
10. move beyond elnrubavle passwords
11. authentication is ciavehed
12. imbrteiocs from our body

Role Play

Role A – USB Drive
You think a USB drive is the most useful device. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a digital camera, a smart watch or a 3D printer.

Role B – Digital Camera
You think a digital camera is the most useful device. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a USB drive, a smart watch or a 3D printer.

Role C – Smart Watch
You think a smart watch is the most useful device. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a digital camera, a USB drive or a 3D printer.

Role D – 3D Printer
You think a 3D printer is the most useful device. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a digital camera, a smart watch or a USB drive.

Speaking – Devices

Rank these with your partner. Put the best devices at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- USB drive
- digital camera
- smart watch
- MP3 player
- electronic dictionary
- 3D printer
- scanner
- smart glasses

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	e	2.	h	3.	j	4.	c	5.	a
6.	d	7.	i	8.	f	9.	g	10.	b