

While authentication is the process of identifying who you are via user identity checks such as matching username and passwords. Authorization is the process of proving who you claim to be and the amount of authority you have, whether you as a user can edit or manipulate the system in which you occupy. The key difference being that to authenticate you need an identity, and to authorize you need permissions along with the identity.

Examples of authorization are:

- Role-based access control (RBAC) - which is controlled by the roles of a given user in a system. It ensures that only users with specific roles have specifically defined permissions to reduce admin overhead, and enhances security by enforcing the principle of least privilege.
- Access control lists (ACLs) - the rules of a system that allow who to do what. It enhances security as it minimizes unauthorized access and data breaches. Controls data traffic in the system so it doesn't pile up and slow it down, preventing network congestion.
- Principle of Least Privilege - the most bare minimum of legway in how many permissions users have, nothing more. It minimizes the potential damage with data branches and lessen human error by a long shot.