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Lab# 2: Authentication Vs. Authorization

Authentication and authorization are two important processes in security that work together but serve different purposes. Authentication is about confirming identity, usually with something like a username and password, to make sure a person or system is really who they claim to be. Once that step is complete, authorization decides what that confirmed identity is allowed to do or access within a system.

There are different ways to handle authorization. Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) organizes permissions into roles such as "Admin," "Editor," or "Guest." Instead of assigning permissions one by one, users are placed into roles and automatically gain the permissions linked to those roles. This makes management easier and more consistent. Another method is Access Control Lists (ACLs), which tie permissions directly to specific resources like files or folders. ACLs clearly state which users or groups can read, write, or execute a resource. Together, these methods ensure people or systems only access what they are supposed to.