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Authentication and Authorization

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Overview

These words are often treated as one in the same when in fact they are completely different concepts and it is important to know the difference, especially when building cloud based solutions.

Authentication

Authentication is about finding out **who you are**. This is done using your **credentials** like username, id, password etc. Usernames and passwords are the standard credentials used but there are different types that are often used when doing multiple factors of authentication

- Single-Factor Authentication** - This is the most basic form of authentication and the one we are likely most familiar with. You are required one form of proof that you are who you say you are. Often with **something you know**, like a **password**.
- Two-Factor Authentication** - This form is becoming more and more popular, it has two verification gates. One of the factors will be something you know when the second factor will normally be **something you possess**, like a **phone**.
- Multi-Factor Authentication** - This is very similar to the two-factor authentication except it has 2 or more steps a use has to take to prove who they are. This method normally introduces **something you inherit** as a type of authentication, like a **finger print**.

Authorization

Authorization is about what you are **allowed** to do. This process occurs **after authentication** and determines what resources you have access to once you have proved who you are.

Tutorial

There is no tutorial for this module

Exercises

There are no exercises for this module

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