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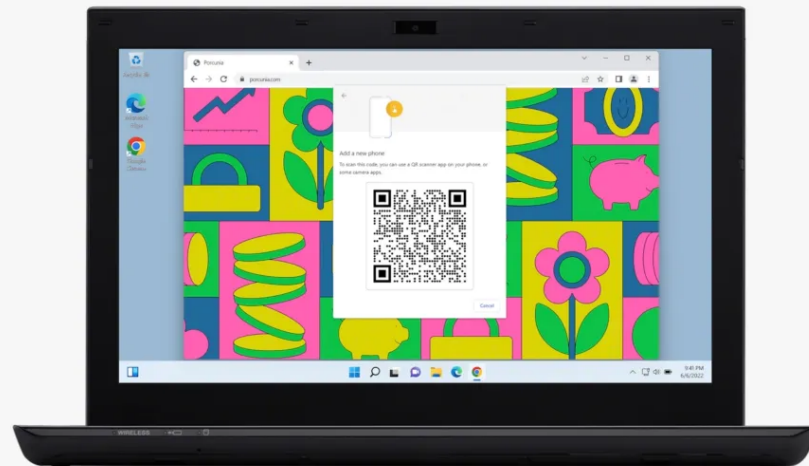
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Security

Apple 'passkeys' could finally kill off the password for good

Carly Page / 12:25 PM PDT • June 6, 2022

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Apple demonstrated “passkeys” at [WWDC 2022](#), a new biometric sign-in standard that could finally kill off the password for good.

It’s no secret that passwords are insecure, with easily guessable credentials accounting for more than 80% of all [data breaches](#), per Verizon’s annual data breach report. Passkeys eliminate the need for passwords entirely, according to Apple, and are much less susceptible to being stolen in the case of a data breach or [phishing](#) attempt.

Passkeys are based on the Web Authentication API (WebAuthn), a standard that uses public-key cryptography instead of passwords for authenticating users to websites and applications, and are stored on-device rather than on a web server. The digital password replacement uses Touch ID or Face ID for biometric verification, which means that rather than having to input a long string of characters, an app or website you’re logging into will push a request to your phone for authentication.

During its WWDC demo of the password-free technology, Apple showed how passkeys are backed up within the iCloud Keychain and can be synced across Mac, iPhone, iPad and Apple TV with end-to-end encryption. Users will also be able to sign in to websites and apps on non-Apple devices using an iPhone or iPad to scan a QR code and Touch ID or Face ID to authenticate.

“Because it’s just a single tap to sign in, it’s simultaneously easier, faster and more secure than almost all common forms of authentication today,” said Garrett Davidson, an Apple engineer on the Authentication Experience team,

Apple isn’t alone in its efforts to kill off the password. Last month, Google and Microsoft [joined forces](#) with Apple to expand support for [passwordless logins](#) across mobile, desktop and browsers. This new collective commitment was

commended by Jen Easterly, director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), who at the time called it “the type of forward-leaning thinking that will ultimately keep the American people safer online.”

Apple, Google and Microsoft said that they aim to support the new passwordless authentication standard — which has been established by the FIDO Alliance and the World Wide Web Consortium — on their platforms within the next year. If Apple’s WWDC demo is anything to go by, macOS Ventura, iOS 16 and [iPadOS 16](#) will be among the first operating systems to support the new sign-in standard.

Apple quietly announced another security feature called Rapid Security Response during its WWDC keynote, which it claims makes macOS and iOS more resistant to attack by delivering security updates in the background without a reboot. “Get important security improvements to your devices even faster,” Apple [said](#) briefly on its website. “These improvements can be applied automatically between standard software updates.”

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Robotics

Robotics investments are gaining speed after post-pandemic slowdown

Brian Heater
8 hours ago

The first six months of the year have seen \$4.2 billion invested in robotics, putting this year well on track to beat 2023's 12-month total of \$6.8 billion.



Startups

Hebbia raises nearly \$100M Series B for AI-powered document search led by Andreessen Horowitz

Marina Temkin
9 hours ago

Hebbia, a startup using generative AI to search large documents and return answers, has raised a nearly \$100 million Series B led by Andreessen Horowitz, according to three people with...



Robotics

Agility's humanoid robots are going to handle your Spanx

Brian Heater
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Digit's first job will be moving totes around a Connecticut Spanx factory — which is most definitely not a euphemism.

Fundraising

MagicSchool thinks AI in the classroom is inevitable, so it's aiming to help teachers and students use it properly

Ingrid Lunden
11 hours ago

These days, when you hear about students and generative AI, chances are that you're getting a taste of the debate over the adoption of tools like ChatGPT. Are they a...

AI

Zuckerberg disses closed-source AI competitors as trying to 'create God'

Sarah Perez
11 hours ago

In the conversation, Zuckerberg said there needs to be a lot of different AIs that get created to reflect people's different interests.

Fundraising

Andrew Ng plans to raise \$120M for next AI Fund

Kyle Wiggers
11 hours ago

AI big shot Andrew Ng's AI Fund, a startup incubator that backs small teams of experts looking to solve key problems using AI, plans to raise upward of \$120 million...

Transportation

VW taps Rivian in \$5B EV deal and the fight over Fisker's assets

Kirsten Korosec
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Hardware

FCC rule would make carriers unlock all phones after 60 days

Devin Coldewey
12 hours ago

Specifically, according to the FCC, carriers would simply have to provide unlocking services 60 days after activation.

Transportation

As battery startups fail, Sila snaps up \$375M in new funding

Rebecca Bellan
12 hours ago

Amid a fraught environment for battery startups, Sila has raised \$375 million to finish construction of a U.S. factory that will scale its next-generation battery technology for customers like Mercedes-Benz...

Security

Fintech-friendly Evolve Bank disclosed a data breach, saying it may have impacted customers and partners.

Startups scramble to assess fallout from Evolve Bank data breach

Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai,
Mary Ann Azevedo
13 hours ago

Apps

Meta starts testing user- created AI chatbots on Instagram

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced on Thursday that the company will begin to surface AI characters made by creators through Meta AI studio on Instagram. The tests will begin in...

Ivan Mehta
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Climate

Rondo Energy funding shows a new way across the climate startup 'valley of death'

Climate tech startups especially those building hardware, face a particular challenge when trying to move beyond the prototype or pilot phase and start selling finished products to customers.

Tim De Chant
13 hours ago

Biotech & Health

Amazon consolidates Amazon Clinic into the One Medical brand

Lauren Forristal
13 hours ago

Amazon is folding its Amazon Clinic telehealth service into its primary care business One Medical, the company announced on Thursday. The company explained in today's blog post that, to simplify...

Apps

Just in time for the debates, Meta fixes bug impacting users' political content settings on Instagram and Threads

Sarah Perez
14 hours ago

Meta has fixed the bug that caused people to believe the company had adjusted their selections in a political content settings tool without their consent. The issue had impacted users...

Apps

YouTube Premium upgrade adds smart downloads and picture-in-picture mode for Shorts

YouTube is adding several new features for Premium users, including smart downloads and support for picture-in-picture mode for Shorts, as well as a wider rollout of its "Jump Ahead" feature...

Ivan Mehta
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TechCrunch Disrupt 2024

TechCrunch Disrupt joins forces with Google Cloud for Startup Battlefield 200

TechCrunch is joining forces with Google Cloud as its lead partner for Startup Battlefield 200. This event will highlight and support the most promising startups from around the globe at...

TechCrunch Events
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Apps

Character.AI now allows users to talk with AI avatars over calls

a16z-backed Character.AI said today that it is now allowing users to talk to AI characters over calls. The feature currently supports multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Korean, Japanese...

Ivan Mehta
14 hours ago

Apps

TikTok to challenge Amazon Prime Day with its own sales event in July

TikTok is gearing up to challenge Amazon's Prime Day event in July. The social network announced on Thursday that TikTok Shop is holding a "Deals For You Days" sales event...

Aisha Malik
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Media & Entertainment

Reliance Jio, Airtel kick off Indian telecom price hike

Manish Singh
15 hours ago

Reliance Jio and Airtel, the two largest telecom operators in India, have initiated what analysts expect to be an industrywide increase in tariffs in the world's second largest wireless market,...

Biotech & Health

SoftBank forms AI healthcare JV in Japan with Tempus

Kate Park
16 hours ago

SoftBank Group founder Masayoshi Son announced on Thursday that the Japanese tech giant has set up a joint venture in the country with Chicago-based health tech company Tempus. Together, the...

Venture

As Spain gets its latest VC fund, Southern Europe appears to be on a roll

Mike Butcher
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While startup valuations have plummeted since the bull run of 2021-2022, a factor that's hit the European startup ecosystem particularly hard, there's one region of Europe where the correction has...

Startups

Illumex is using GenAI to ease pain of getting good data into LLMs

By now we know how crucial it is to have quality data for use by large language models (LLMs), but getting data ready for the models has been an early...

Ron Miller
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Startups

Directo turns a TikTok travel hack into a deal-finding Chrome extension

A travel hack that went viral on TikTok teaches users how to save money on hotels and Airbnbs by booking directly with the properties themselves. Now, a new startup, Directo,...

Sarah Perez
16 hours ago

AI

Axelera lands new funds as the AI chip market heats up

Axelera designs AI-running chips and systems for applications like security, retail, automotive and robotics.

Kyle Wiggers
16 hours ago

AI

ChatGPT: Everything you need to know about the AI- powered chatbot

Kyle Wiggers, Cody Corral,
Alyssa Stringer
16 hours ago

ChatGPT, OpenAI's text-generating AI chatbot, has taken the world by storm since its launch in November 2022. What started as a tool to hyper-charge productivity through writing essays and code...

AI

Orby is building AI agents for the enterprise

Kyle Wiggers
17 hours ago

Orby AI, is building a generative AI platform that attempts to automate a range of different business workflows, including workflows that involve data entry, documents processing and forms validation.

Security

PortSwigger, the company behind the Burp Suite of security testing tools, swallows \$112M

Ingrid Lunden
17 hours ago

Sometimes the most successful startup ideas come from people building tools to solve their own needs. Such was the case with Dafydd Stuttard, a security expert who goes by Daf. ...

Commerce

Amazon hit with fresh class action-style suit in UK — \$3.4B in competition damages sought for 200,000+ sellers

Natasha Lomas
18 hours ago

Amazon is facing another competition lawsuit in the U.K. The latest claim, which was filed Thursday, is seeking more than £2.7 billion in damages — or around \$3.4 billion at...

Enterprise

Odaseva raises \$54M to secure Salesforce users

Ingrid Lunden
18 hours ago

Securing cloud services remains a challenge for enterprises. That's why several companies have been working on security solutions that specifically address that need. In the latest example of that, Odaseva...

Fundraising

Austin-based Ironspring Ventures raised \$100M to invest in the industrial revolution

Rebecca Szkutak
19 hours ago

When Ironspring Ventures launched in 2020 to back startups in industrial sectors like construction and manufacturing, it was one of very few early-stage venture firms paying attention to those capital-intensive...

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