Software User Interface and User Experience
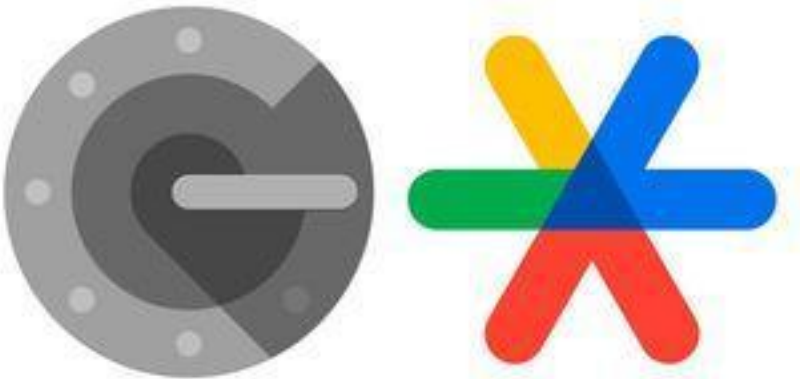
Exercise #5
Maximum Points: 10

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This exercise investigates how UI's can leverage familiar knowledge to aid users with understanding a UI. The exercise involves assessing and critiquing icons and identifying effective visualizations in existing software.

Consider the following App icons for Google Authenticator:

1. Which icon has better usage of interface metaphor? Explain you answer (providing support for your choice and critiquing the other). **[2 points]**

   I think the first icon is better since it clearly represents a safe handle. The gray makes me think of security and strength. The metaphor is that the old logo for the authenticator is like the security of a safe which will protect your data or items. The second one doesn't look like anything identifiable. Its colorful as well which makes it easily blend in with the rest of Google's icons.

2. Consider your laptop or phone (the system UI not external software). How does it effectively use interface metaphors? Provide at least 2 examples (should include the image) with your explanation. **[2 points]**

One way my laptop effectively uses interface metaphors is with the system settings general which clearly looks like a set of gears. This represents the internal parts of the computer like a machine and accessing them to change them to your preferences.

The second interface metaphor in my computer's system settings UI is the sound icon, which looks like a speaker playing audio. This very clearly involves sound which would let the user know that is where sound settings may be.