authenticate 2022
THE FIDO CONFERENCE

Tips for Painless Passwordless

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Who am I?

- DjtU3AQ_GOV9t6Xfc8hnzQ *(that's a passkey joke)*
- Self-taught WebAuthn expert
- Author of SimpleWebAuthn, and author of the revamped Duo Labs' py_webauthn
- Guiding WebAuthn adoption within Duo and the greater Cisco

"Just use WebAuthn" masks some complexity involved in making compelling authentication UX

- Why is my browser asking me to choose between **Security Key** or whatever **“This Device”** is?

- Why does the site **show an error** when I try to log in with **my phone**?

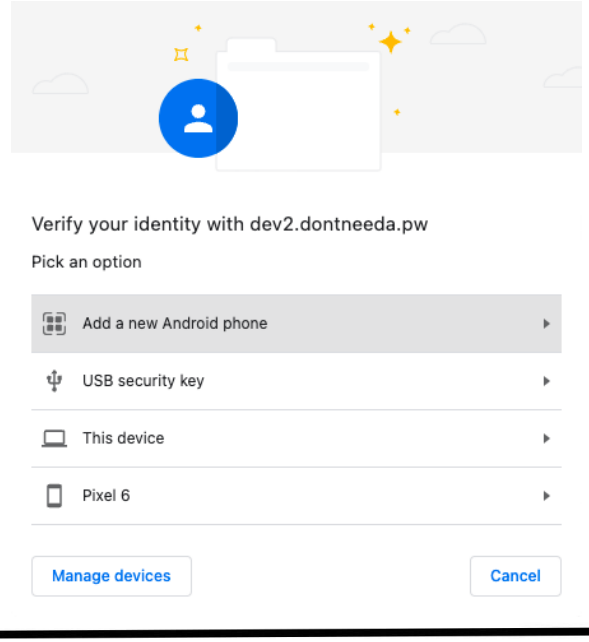
- I registered in **Chrome**, but **Safari** won't let me log in…help!

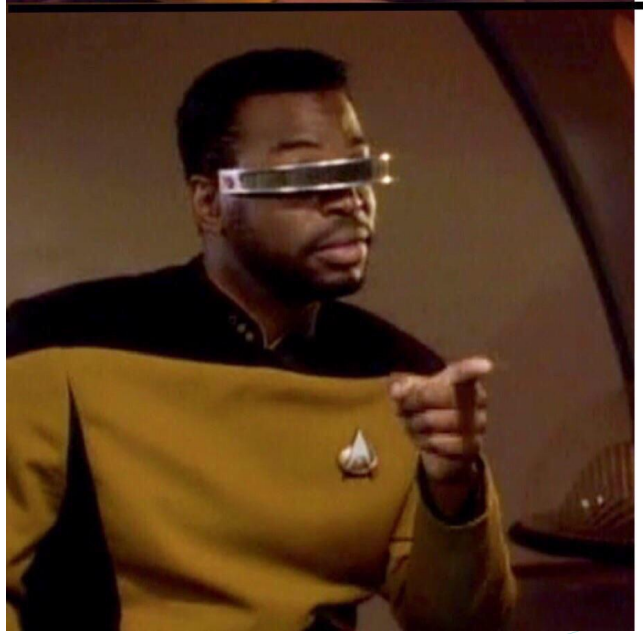
How might we create a **pleasant authentication experience**?

Tip 1: Specify an **authenticator attachment**

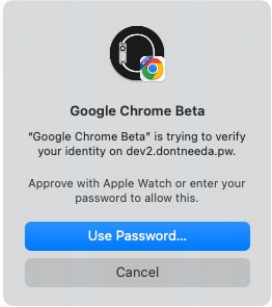
Skip potentially overwhelming browser modals.

Ask the user via UI you control, then invoke WebAuthn with that authenticator type pre-selected.



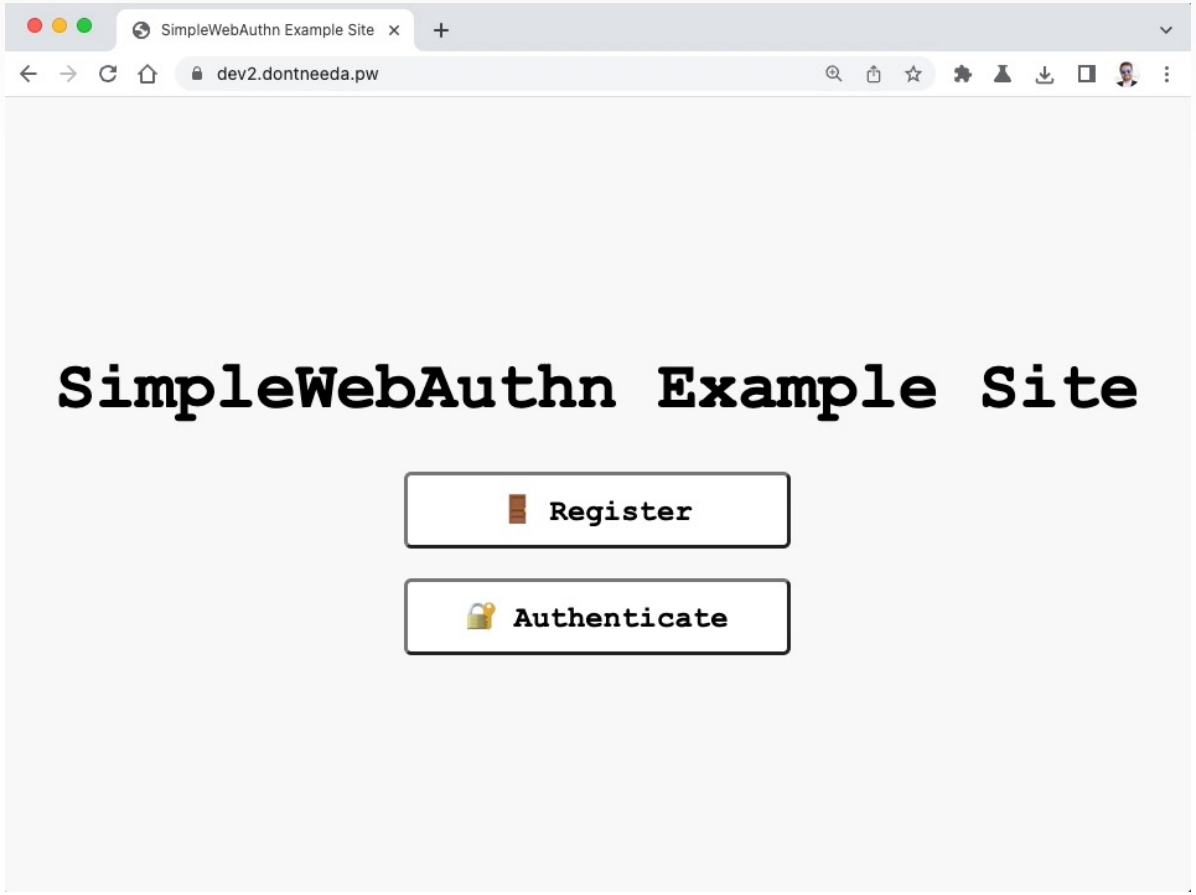


```
{
  "rp": {
    "name": "SimpleWebAuthn Example",
    "id": "dev2.dontneeda.pw"
  },
  "authenticatorSelection": {
    "authenticatorAttachment": "platform",
  },
  // ...
}
```

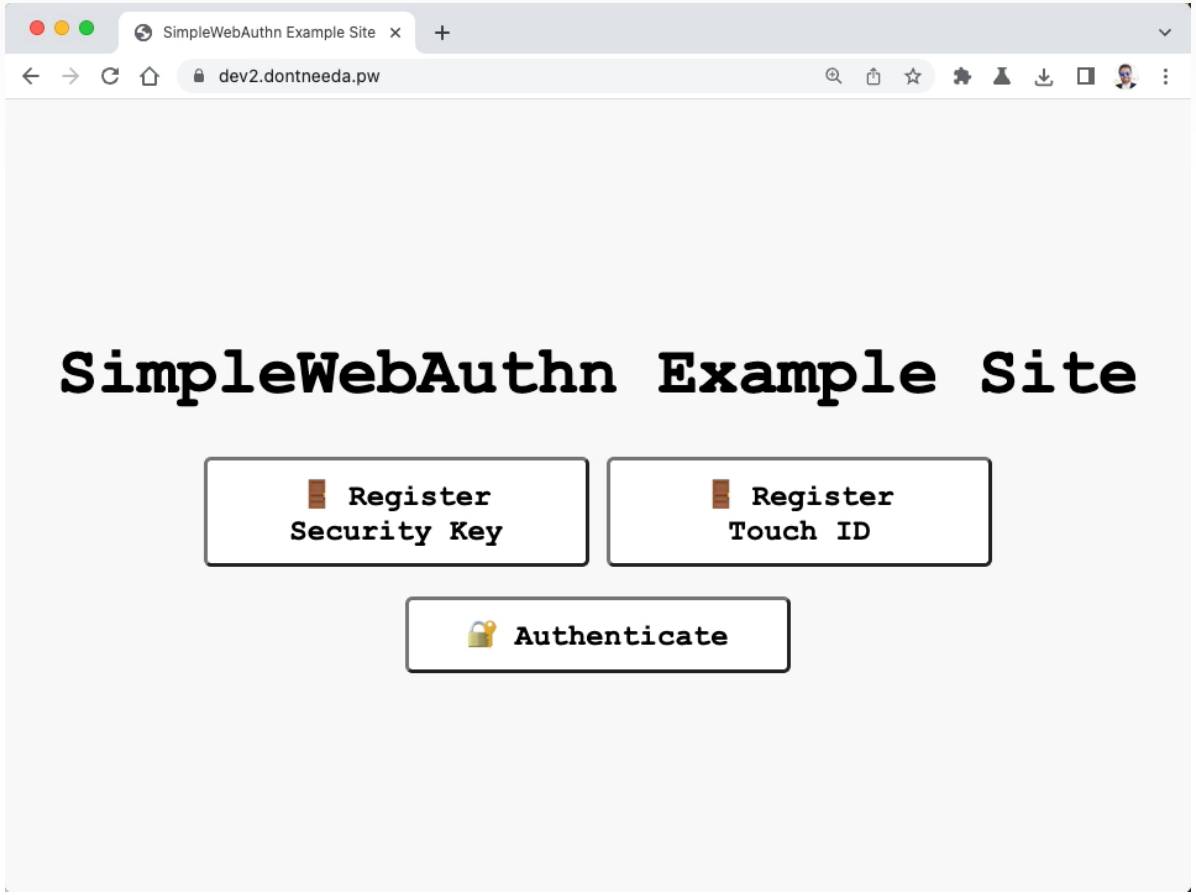


Tip 1: Demo Time

Without authenticator attachment



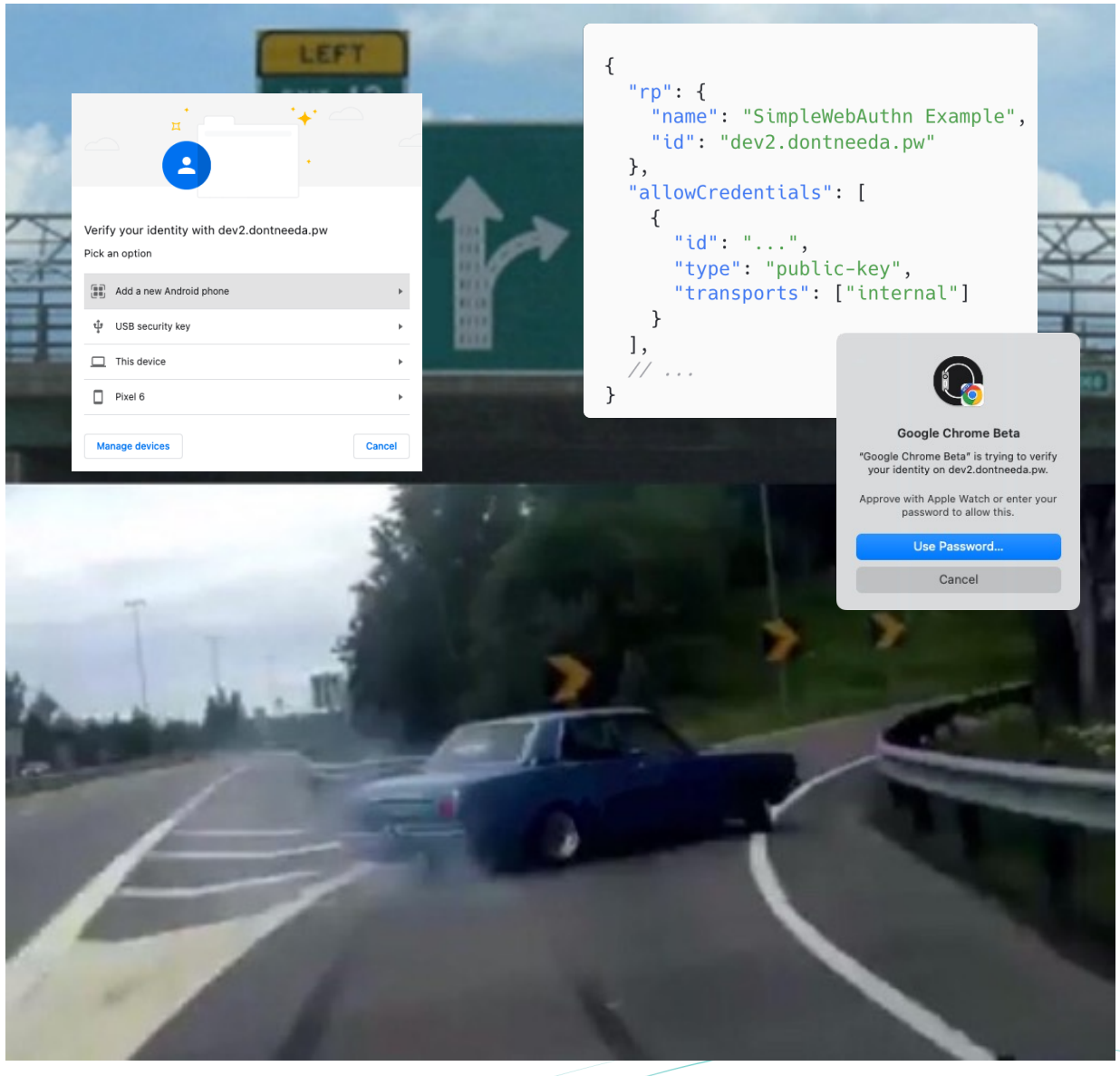
With authenticator attachment



Tip 2: Make use of **transports**

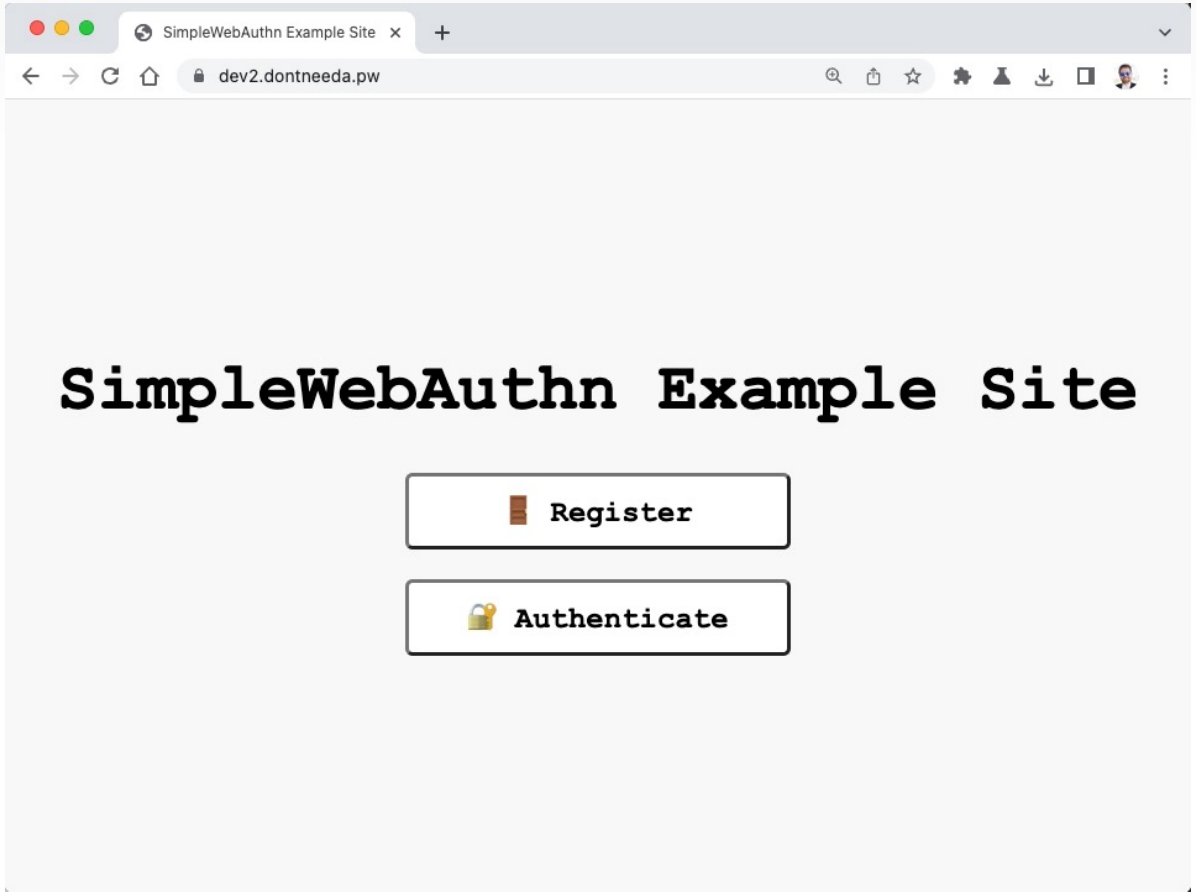
Skip potentially overwhelming browser modals.

Call **`getTransports()`** during registration, then pass the transports back during authentication to help the browser find the authenticator.

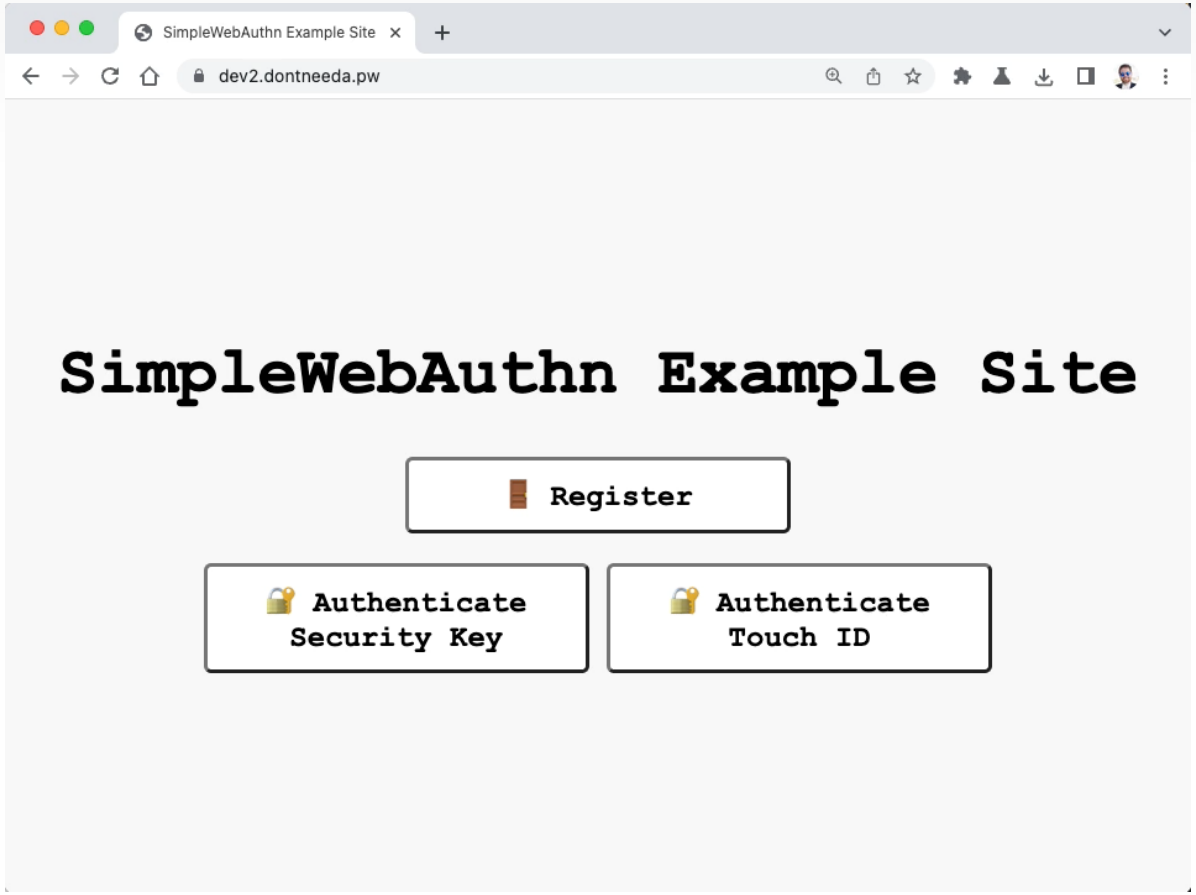


Tip 2: Demo Time

Without transports



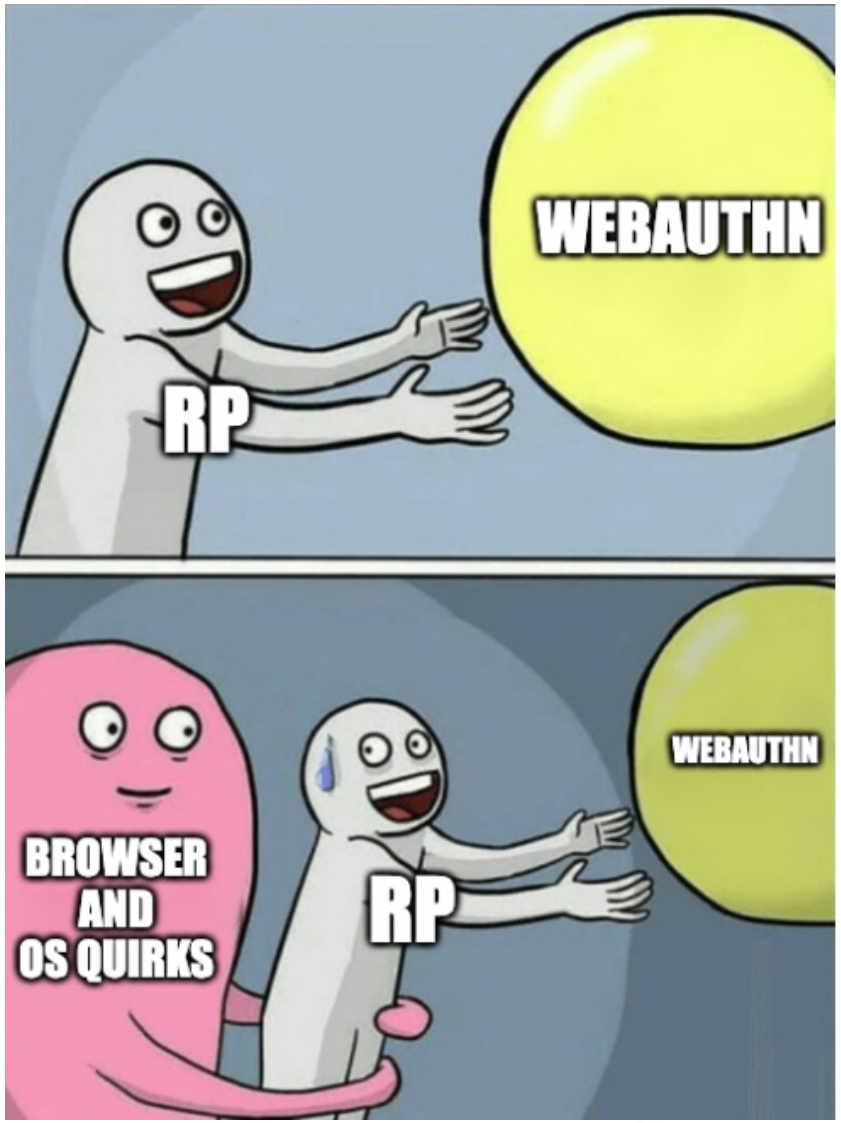
With transports



Tip 3: Leverage the browser's **user agent**

Relying parties should direct users away from guaranteed failures.

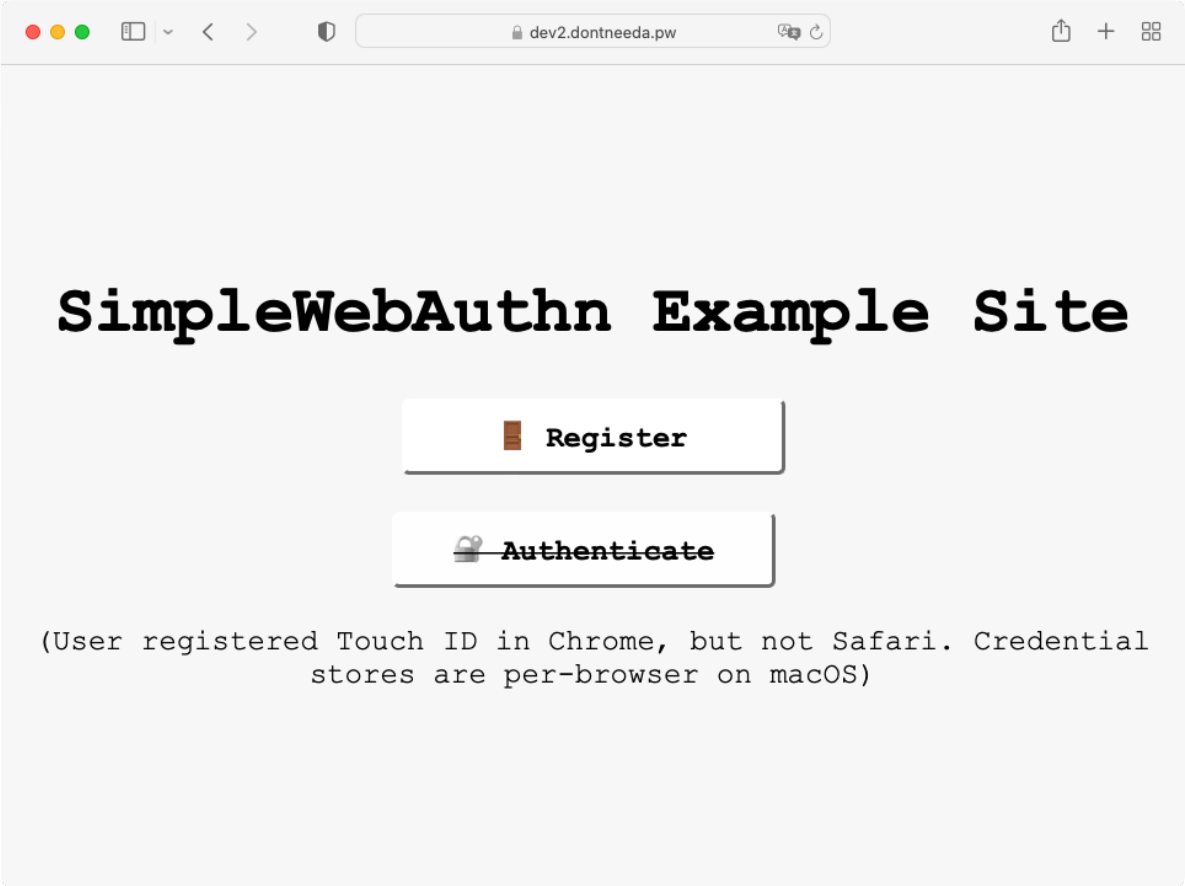
Learn to identify the OS and browser from the user-agent string, and then prepare to skip WebAuthn when you detect bad combos.



Tip 3: Demo Time

Handling **no support**

Handling **OS quirks**



WebAuthn is evolving…

- How do you handle registration of a platform authenticator via the hybrid transport?
- How do you encourage use of a platform authenticator via hybrid authentication?
- What the heck are backup state flags? Do I need DPK? *(no)*
- How do I stay on top of all this??

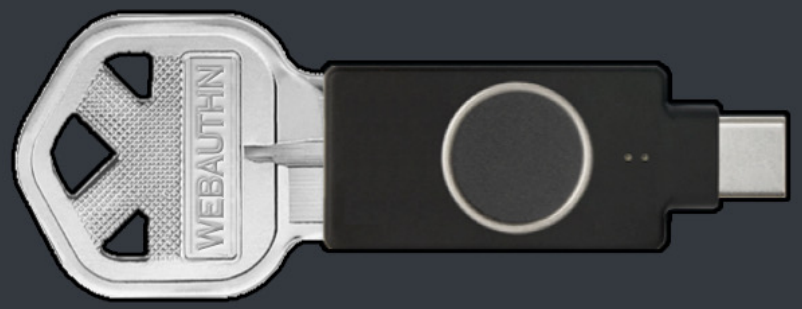
Where to find me

Twitter: @IAmKale

WACG: https://www.w3.org/community/webauthn-adoption/

Libraries (GitHub):

- MasterKale/SimpleWebAuthn
- Duo-Labs/py_webauthn



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