Authorization and authentication are two distinct concepts in the realm of security, often used together but serving different purposes:

1. **Authentication**:
   * Authentication is the process of verifying the identity of a user or entity attempting to access a system or resource. It answers the question: "Who are you?"
   * It ensures that the user is indeed who they claim to be before granting access to the requested system or resource.
   * Authentication methods include passwords, biometric scans (such as fingerprint or facial recognition), security tokens, smart cards, and more.
   * Once authentication is successful, the system can proceed to determine what actions the authenticated user is allowed to perform.
2. **Authorization**:
   * Authorization, on the other hand, is the process of determining whether an authenticated user has the necessary permissions to access specific resources or perform certain actions within a system. It answers the question: "What are you allowed to do?"
   * It controls access to resources based on the permissions associated with the authenticated user's identity.
   * Authorization mechanisms enforce policies that dictate who can access what resources and what operations they can perform on those resources.
   * Authorization is often implemented using access control lists (ACLs), role-based access control (RBAC), and other similar mechanisms.

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