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What is OAuth?

OAuth is an open standard authorization protocol that provides applications with the ability to secure specific access. OAuth uses authorization tokens to prove identity between consumers and service providers, allowing you to authorize one application to interact with another application on your behalf without revealing your password.

For example, you can tell Facebook ESPN.com can access your profile or post updates to your timeline without telling ESPN your Facebook password. This greatly reduces risk: if ESPN is compromised, your Facebook password remains safe.

OAuth works in 6 steps:

Step 1 - User Display Intent

Step 2 - The consumer Gets Permission

Step 3 - The user will be redirected to the service provider

Step 4 - User Grants Permissions

Step 5 - Consumer receives an access token

Step 6 - Consumer Access to Protected Resources

Reference:

Sobers R. (April 5, 2012). *What is OAuth? Definition and How it Works.*

<https://www.varonis.com/blog/what-is-oauth>