

Something You Have

Different types of possessions for authentication

- ▶ Tokens
- ▶ Smartcards: a physical card + a smart card reader



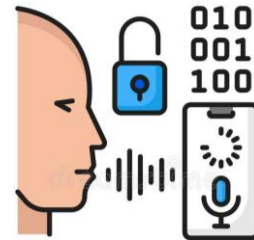
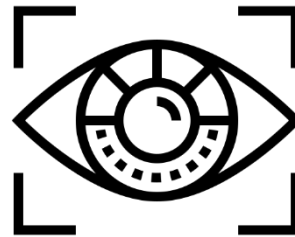
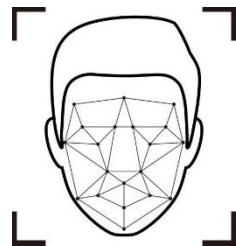
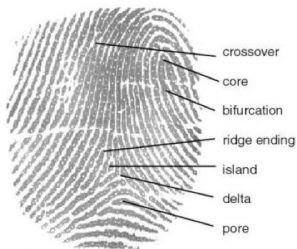
Limitations of physical belongings

- ▶ Easy to get lost. Therefore, it is safer to combine users' knowledge with physical belongings. This is referred to as **two-factor authentication**
- ▶ High cost (e.g., \$15-\$25, banks with million customers).
- ▶ Possible to get damaged (e.g., card in the washing machine, battery death)
- ▶ Non-standard algorithms.

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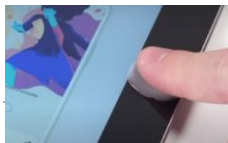
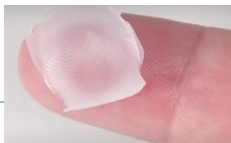
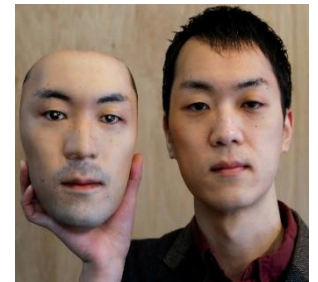
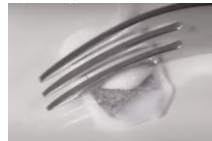
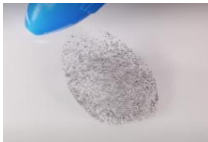
Biometrics measure some physical characteristic

- ▶ Fingerprint, face recognition, retina scanners, voice, etc.
- ▶ Can be extremely accurate and fast



Limitations of biometrics

- ▶ Private, but not secret. Maybe encoded on your glass, door handle
- ▶ Revocation is difficult: Sorry, your iris has been compromised, please create a new one...



Authorization

Access control

- ▶ Implement a **security policy** that specifies who or what may have access to each specific resource in a computer system, and the type of access that is permitted in each instance.
- ▶ It mediates between a user (or a process executing on behalf of a user) and system resources (e.g., applications, network sockets, firewalls).

Three basic elements in a security policy:

- ▶ Subject: process or users
- ▶ Object: resource that is security-sensitive
- ▶ Operations: actions taken using that resource

Subject

A **subject** is typically held accountable for the actions they have initiated. There can be three types of subjects.

- ▶ **Owner**: this may be the creator of a resource. For system resources, ownership may belong to a system administrator.
- ▶ **Group**: in addition to individual users, privileges can also be assigned to a group of users. A user joining the group will automatically have the corresponding privileges, while a user quitting the group will lose the corresponding permissions. A user may belong to multiple groups. The concept of groups makes it easier to manage and update the permissions.
- ▶ **Other**: the **least amount of access** is granted to users who are able to access the system but are not included in the categories of owner and group for this resource.

Object

An **object** is a resource to which access is controlled.

- ▶ An entity used to contain and/or receive information.
- ▶ Examples: records, blocks, pages, segments, files, portions of files, directories, directory trees, mailboxes, messages, and programs.

