[**OpenID Connect (OIDC)** is an **identity authentication protocol** that extends **OAuth 2.0** to standardize the process of authenticating and authorizing users when they sign in to access digital services1](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/business/security-101/what-is-openid-connect-oidc). It provides authentication, verifying that users are who they claim to be.

Here are **five free reference links** where you can learn more about OIDC:

1. [**Microsoft Security: What Is OpenID Connect (OIDC)?**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/business/security-101/what-is-openid-connect-oidc): This article provides an overview of OIDC and its role in verifying user identities.
2. [**Palo Alto Networks: OpenID Connect: Let’s Talk Security**](https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/blog/prisma-cloud/openid-connect-oidc-security/): Learn about the security aspects of OIDC and its use in modern applications.
3. [**Auth0: What is OpenID Connect and what do you use it for?**](https://auth0.com/intro-to-iam/what-is-openid-connect-oidc): Understand how OIDC leverages OAuth 2.0 mechanisms for identity authentication.
4. **Wikipedia: OpenID Connect**: A comprehensive resource covering OIDC’s features, components, and adoption.
5. **OIDC Playground**: Explore OIDC interactively with this playground, which allows you to experiment with authentication flows.

Feel free to dive into these resources to enhance your understanding of OIDC! 🌟