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Rudi Farkas <rudi.farkas@gmail.com>

10:36 AM (1 hour ago)

to me

Perplexity Labs

<https://labs.perplexity.ai/>

Passkeys are a modern, secure, and user-friendly alternative to traditional passwords, designed to simplify and strengthen the authentication process for users. Here's a detailed explanation of what passkeys are and how they work:

What are Passkeys?

Passkeys are digital credentials that replace passwords for authenticating users. They are based on the WebAuthn standard and FIDO (Fast Identity Online) Alliance protocols, which ensure robust security and ease of use.

Key Characteristics

- **Passwordless Authentication**: Passkeys eliminate the need for users to remember and enter passwords. Instead, users authenticate using a biometric sensor (such as a fingerprint or facial recognition), a PIN, or a pattern.
- **Device-Bound**: Passkeys are stored on the user's device, such as a smartphone, computer, or security key. This storage is secure and encrypted, protecting the credentials from being stolen or compromised.
- **Public Key Cryptography**: Passkeys use public key cryptography, where a private key is stored on the user's device and a corresponding public key is stored on the server. This ensures that no secrets are shared between the device and the server, making the system resistant to phishing and other remote attacks.

How Passkeys Work

Registration

- When a user registers for a passkey on a website or application, they are prompted to create a new passkey.
- The user's device generates a unique key pair (a private key and a public key).
- The public key is sent to the server and associated with the user's account, while the private key is stored securely on the user's device.

Authentication

- When the user wants to sign in, they are prompted to select their passkey from an autofill dialog or by clicking a "Sign in with a passkey" button.