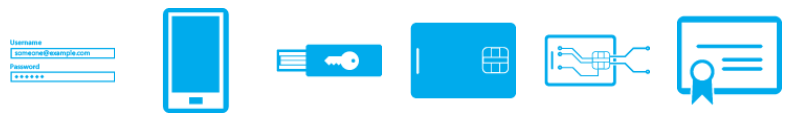
The security of two-step verification lies in its layered approach. Compromising multiple authentication factors presents a significant challenge for attackers. Even if an attacker manages to learn the user's password, it is useless without also having possession of the additional authentication method. It works by requiring two or more of the following authentication methods:

* Something you know (typically a password)
* Something you have (a trusted device that is not easily duplicated, like a phone)
* Something you are (biometrics)



Azure Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) helps safeguard access to data and applications while maintaining simplicity for users. It provides additional security by requiring a second form of authentication and delivers strong authentication via a range of easy to use [authentication methods](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/authentication/concept-authentication-methods). Users may or may not be challenged for MFA based on configuration decisions that an administrator makes.

**How to get Multi-Factor Authentication?**

Multi-Factor Authentication comes as part of the following offerings:

* **Azure Active Directory Premium licenses** - Full featured use of Azure Multi-Factor Authentication Service (Cloud) or Azure Multi-Factor Authentication Server (On-premises).
  + **Azure MFA Service (Cloud)** - **This option is the recommended path for new deployments**. Azure MFA in the cloud requires no on-premises infrastructure and can be used with your federated or cloud-only users.
  + **Azure MFA Server** - If your organization wants to manage the associated infrastructure elements and has deployed AD FS in your on-premises environment this way may be an option.
* **Multi-Factor Authentication for Office 365** - A subset of Azure Multi-Factor Authentication capabilities are available as a part of your subscription. For more information about MFA for Office 365, see the article [Plan for multi-factor authentication for Office 365 Deployments](https://support.office.com/article/plan-for-multi-factor-authentication-for-office-365-deployments-043807b2-21db-4d5c-b430-c8a6dee0e6ba).
* **Azure Active Directory Global Administrators** - A subset of Azure Multi-Factor Authentication capabilities are available as a means to protect global administrator accounts.