Recovering your account if you lose your 2FA credentials

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If you lose access to your two-factor authentication credentials, you can use your recovery codes, or another recovery option, to regain access to your account.

Using a two-factor authentication recovery code 🔗

Use one of your recovery codes to automatically regain entry into your account. You may have saved your recovery codes to a password manager or your computer's downloads folder. The default filename for recovery codes is `github-recovery-codes.txt`. For more information about recovery codes, see "[Configuring two-factor authentication recovery methods]()."

1. Type your username and password to prompt authentication.

   > **Warning**: If you protect your personal account with two-factor authentication but do not know your password, you will not be able to follow these steps to recover your account. GitHub can send a password reset email to a verified address associated with your account. For more information, see "[Updating your GitHub access credentials]()."

2. Under "Having problems?", click **Use a recovery code**.

3. Type one of your recovery codes, then click **Verify**.

Authenticating with a security key 🔗

If you configured two-factor authentication using a security key, you can use your security key as a secondary authentication method to automatically regain access to your account. For more information, see "[Configuring two-factor authentication]()."

Further reading 🔗

- "[Configuring two-factor authentication recovery methods](#)"

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