


Journal Entry 3: What is FIDO and what problems does this organization address?

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Details

Password management is a hassle for companies and organizations to deal with as it could limit or slow down how a user functions daily. Besides passwords being time-consuming, they can also be stolen causing a company or organization to lose more time and money. Because of how this hassle can affect productivity, many companies or organizations found ways to overcome these inconveniences. One of these organizations to help with overcoming this problem is called Fast Identity Online or FIDO. Fast IDentity Online was formed in July 2012 and wanted to focus on “the lack of interoperability among strong authentication technologies”. They also wanted to make the life of users easier by reducing the effort going into creating and remembering multiple usernames and passwords. The FIDO Alliance wants to make the authentication process simpler, while still having a strong authentication process that defines “an open, scalable, interoperable set of mechanisms that reduce reliance on passwords.” This Alliance uses FIDO2 which is made of the W3C Web Authentication standard and the FIDO



Client to Authenticator Protocol. FIDO2 is said to address all the issues traditional authentication has, which is security, convenience, privacy, and scalability. When it comes to security, FIDO2's cryptographic login credentials are different across every website and they never leave the user's device nor are they stored on a server, which eliminate risks of phishing and other password thefts. FIDO2 makes logging-in convenient as users can use fingerprint readers, cameras, FIDO security keys, or their own mobile devices. For privacy, FIDO's cryptographic keys are unique for each visited website, making it impossible for users to be tracked. The scalability of FIDO2 is very flexible because of how websites can turn on or off FIDO2 by a simple API call across all the supported browsers and platforms on billions of devices that consumers use every day (FIDO, 2019).

References

FIDO, & W3C. (2019, March 4). W3C and FIDO Alliance Finalize Web Standard for Secure, Passwordless Logins. Retrieved from <https://www.w3.org/2019/03/pressrelease-webauthn-rec.html.en>