Is Consumer-Oriented Strong Authentication Finally Here to Stay?

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Session Abstract

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) was heralded as the "password-killer"; it never happened. A dozen other technologies attempted to simplify the authentication conundrum since then; unfortunately, things just went from bad to worse.

Undaunted, a new industry consortium - the Fast Identity Online (FIDO) Alliance (www.fidoalliance.org) - has embarked on killing this dragon once and for all. It remains to be seen if it will succeed. Judging from the companies who have gotten on board this band-wagon, it appears to have momentum; but consumers - as always - will have the last word.

In the meantime, we might want to learn what makes FIDO different - architecture, protocols, security, the players, potential benefits and risks - so we can be prepared to pilot it (if intrigued), toss it into the dust-bin as just more marketing blather, or take a wait-and-see attitude for a little longer.

The session will provide details on FIDO: technology, architecture, protocols, application-integration, security and how it compares to other authentication solutions. With this knowledge, the audience will be able to take it back to their companies and plan on what they should do with respect to consumer-oriented strong-authentication.

Target Audience

Business managers responsible for consumer-facing applications; application architects and developers, information security technologists, information security auditors, technical operations staff. While the topic will be a little technical, it is intended to be an introduction to FIDO. So, anyone interested in learning about strong-authentication with FIDO will benefit.

Speaker Bio

Arshad Noor is the CTO of StrongAuth, Inc., a Silicon Valley company focused on strong-authentication and enterprise key-management for 13 years. Arshad has been working in the IT industry for 28+ years, working for companies such as Sun Microsystems, Citibank, BASF Corporation, New York Life Insurance Company and the Port Authority of NY and NJ. He has focused on strong-

authentication since 1999 and has been responsible for building public key infrastructures for some of the world's largest and smallest companies.

He is an avid open-source aficionado and has released many open-source cryptographic solutions over the years: CSRTool, StrongKey, StrongKey CryptoEngine, StrongKey CryptoCabinet (with more coming soon).

He has been part of the FIDO Alliance for 3 months and is a member of the two primary technical working groups. He has already led the StrongAuth team towards creating an implementation of one of the two FIDO protocols to flawlessly pass interoperability tests with many FIDO authenticators.

Speaker Details (optional):			
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