What is FIDO and what problems does this organization address?

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Details

The Fast Identity Online Alliance, FIDO, is an organization whose primary goal is to develop strong, standardized means of multifactor authentication. FIDO was created in July of 2012 with the motive to create a form of authentication that did not require the use of a password. PayPal, FIDO's founding board member, partnered with Samsung to launch a biometric authentication for their customers; this form of biometrics involved the use of the customer's fingerprint to log into their accounts and pay for online purchases.

This form of multifactor authentication functions by storing the user's information locally on their device; the purpose of this method of storage is to keep the user's personally identifiable information from being stored in a cloud service, mitigating any concerns related to the safety and security of their biometric data. Application developers are benefited by the use of biometric authentication, since they do not have to take into consideration what operating system the mobile client will be using.

The Fast Identity Online Alliance standards will incorporate a full scope of biometric authentication to include: fingerprint, iris scanners, voice recognition and facial recognition; this allows the user to choose their preferred means of authentication to fit their needs.

This set of standards assists with the protection of accounts from phishing attacks and other forms of "credential-based attacks with FIDO Authentication, the account recovery process when a FIDO device is lost or stolen becomes critical to maintaining the integrity of the user's account" (globenewswire.com). With the Internet of Things projected to include 15 billion devices to be connected by 2021, the determination to accomplish password-less authentication is being greatly researched and developed.

References

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