

Bryan Wagner

Dr. Rosenberg

Technology 104

October 27, 2017

### Two-Step Verification

In an attempt to protect personal data and information from online thieves, many organizations, such as financial institutions or universities, that store sensitive or confidential items use a two-step verification process. With two-step verification, a computer or mobile device uses two separate methods, one after the next, to verify the identity of a user.

ATMs (automated teller machines) usually require a two-step verification. Users first insert their ATM card into the ATM (Step 1) and then enter a PIN, or personal identification number, (Step 2) to access their bank account. If someone steals these cards, the thief must enter the user's PIN to access the account (Tanaka).

Another use of two-step verification requires a mobile phone and a computer or mobile device.<sup>1</sup> When users sign in to an account on a computer or mobile device, they enter a user name and password (Step 1). Next, they are prompted to enter another authentication code (Step 2), which is sent as a text or voice message or via an app on a smartphone. This second code generally is valid for a set time, sometimes only for a few minutes or hours. If users do not sign in during this time limit, they must repeat the process and request another verification code

---

<sup>1</sup> According to Moore and O'Sullivan, users should register an alternate mobile phone number, landline phone number, email address, or other form of contact beyond a mobile phone number so that they still can access their accounts even if they lose their mobile phone (54).

(Marcy). Microsoft and Google commonly use two-step verification when users sign in to these websites (Moore and O'Sullivan).

Some organizations use two separate methods to verify the identity of users. These two-step verification procedures are designed to protect users' sensitive and confidential items from online thieves.

Works Cited

Marcy, Fredrick Lee. *Two-Step Verification*. n.d. Course Technology. Web. 18 Sept. 2017.

Moore, Aaron Bradley and Brianna Clare O'Sullivan. *Authentication Techniques*. Detroit: Great Lakes Press, 2017. Print.

Tanaka, Hana Kei. "Safeguards against Unauthorized Access and Use." *Technology Today* Sept. 2017: n. pag. Web. 3 Oct. 2017.