

**RESPECTING PRIVACY
SAFEGUARDING DATA
ENABLING TRUST**

January 28

**DATA
PRIVACY
DAY**

What is two-factor authentication?

Two-factor authentication adds a second level of authentication to an account log-in. When you have to enter only your username and one password, that's considered a single-factor authentication. 2FA requires the user to have two out of three types of credentials before being able to access an account.

The three types are:

- Something you know, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or a pattern
- Something you have, such as an ATM card, phone, or fob
- Something you are, such as a biometric like a fingerprint or voice print

Most of the tech companies now allow 2FA ... Twitter's got it. Apple's reached it, too. Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and Amazon have had it for a while. But why's two-factor authentication important, and will it keep you safe?