

glossary-authentication

Authentication is a process for associating a person with an [identity](#) in a verified manner. Verification is performed on the basis of a [credential](#): something you know (e.g., a password), something you have (e.g., a hardware token), something you are (e.g., a fingerprint scan), or a combination of these factors.^[1, 2]

Note that authentication can be leveraged by subjects other than persons, such as software agents.

See Also

- Definition of [Credential](#)
- Definition of [Identity](#)

References

1. The "What do we trust?" section of [Trusted Relationships for Access Management: The InCommon Model](#).
2. [Authentication](#) from Wikipedia.