

Microsoft Passkey Readiness Checklist

Prepare before Microsoft's passkey deadlines

1. Key Dates

- 1 Sept 2026** Passkeys become the default in Entra ID; SMS and voice users prompted to register.
- 1 Feb 2027** Microsoft-provided SMS and voice authentication retired.
- After that** SMS/voice-only users must register a passkey to keep signing in.

Based on Microsoft's 13 July 2026 announcement. Check current Microsoft documentation.



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2. Readiness Checklist

- ☐ We know which users still rely on SMS or voice authentication.
- ☐ We have reviewed the authentication-method policy in Entra ID.
- ☐ We have decided which types of passkey we will permit.
- ☐ We have agreed rules for company-owned and personal devices.
- ☐ We have tested the process with a small pilot group.
- ☐ We have documented recovery and replacement-device procedures.
- ☐ Staff will receive advance communication before prompts appear.
- ☐ Administrator accounts use phishing-resistant authentication.
- ☐ An emergency-access procedure exists and has been tested.
- ☐ Sign-ins and authentication changes are monitored.

3. Passkey Options

- **Synced passkeys** — iCloud Keychain / Google Password Manager
- **Microsoft Authenticator** — staff with a trusted smartphone
- **Windows Hello** — staff with their own company PC
- **FIDO2 security key** — admins, high-risk roles, shared PCs

4. Don't Forget

- Test a lost or replaced phone before it happens.
- Protect account-recovery routes as strongly as sign-in.
- Remove weaker fallback methods once stable.
- Keep leaver and access-removal processes current.

Plan the rollout. Test recovery. Tell your staff.

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