

# Token Authentication Service

## Overview

UW Information Technology provides a Token Authentication Service for access to more sensitive UW applications.

## Purpose

This higher-assurance authentication service provides authentication using Duo Security. It creates a "two-factor" authentication solution: where "something you know" – a password or PIN – is combined with "something you have" – a device that generates a code or notification that must be acknowledged. A two-factor authentication system provides better security than a single-factor system (such as regular UW NetID + password authentication) because an attacker must obtain both the user's password and their device to impersonate them.

Token authentication is used for applications that require a higher level of authentication security, including many administrative applications and functions.

## Getting Started

### UW-IT services and platforms

Token authentication is integrated with the following UW-IT services and platforms:

- UW Identity Provider (IdP)
  - Supports SAML 2.0 and the [REFEDS MFA Profile](#)
    - Web-based applications that use Shibboleth for SSO can require 2FA sessions
      - Shibboleth supports the REFEDS MFA Profile
      - For instructions, refer to "Session Management Topics" under [Shibboleth Service Provider Support](#)
    - Web-based applications that use SAML 2.0 for SSO
      - Can request 2FA using the REFEDS MFA Profile
      - Alternatively, by request, the UW IdP can enforce 2FA
- UW-IT Standard Managed Servers (Linux)
- UW Home Page Servers
- UW Shared Web Hosting
- Keynes (Administrative Mainframe)

End users interact with these resources:

- [Two-factor authentication \(2FA\)](#) – IT Connect article describes 2FA options, enrollment instructions, etc.
- [Identity.UW \(identity.uw.edu\)](#) – supports self-service user enrollment and management of 2FA devices

### Departmental systems and applications

It is possible to integrate token authentication with some departmental systems and applications.

- [Departmental Duo Integrations](#)

## External Links

- [Duo Security](#)

## Support

Contact [help@uw.edu](mailto:help@uw.edu) if you have questions about the Token Authentication Service.