



Security Newsletter

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Lapsus\$ and SolarWinds hackers both use the same old trick to bypass MFA



Multifactor authentication (MFA) is a core defense that is among the most effective at preventing account takeovers. In addition to requiring that users provide a username and password, MFA ensures they must also use an additional factor—be it a fingerprint, physical security key, or one-time password—before they can access an account. Nothing in this article should be construed as saying MFA isn't anything other than essential.

That said, some forms of MFA are stronger than others, and recent events show that these weaker forms aren't much of a hurdle for some hackers to clear. In the past few months, suspected script kiddies like the Lapsus\$ data extortion gang and elite Russian-state threat actors (like Cozy Bear, the group behind the SolarWinds hack) have both successfully defeated the protection.

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