

Getting Started With Passkeys

Crawl, Walk, Run

HYPR



What Are Passkeys?



/'pas,kēs/
noun



[We've] known that at some point “traditional MFA” would become “legacy MFA” and need to be reassessed or even replaced... I urge every CEO to ensure that FIDO authentication is on their organization's MFA implementation roadmap.”

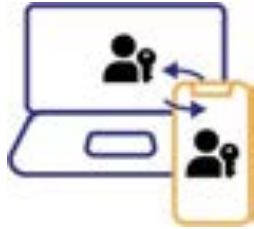
Jen Easterly

Director, CISA

Based on FIDO standards, passkeys are a replacement for passwords that provide faster, easier, and more secure sign-ins to websites and apps across a user's devices. Unlike passwords, passkeys are always strong and phishing-resistant.

Passkeys simplify account registration for apps and websites, are easy to use, work across most of a user's devices, and even work on other devices within physical proximity.

Flavors of Passkeys



SYNCED PASSKEY

- A FIDO2 credential that's synced to a user's devices. Can be shared with others using Airdrop or a QR code.
- Passkey syncing between devices is via your iCloud, Google, or Microsoft accounts.
- Passkeys are not copied between different platforms (e.g. iCloud ⇒ Google).



DEVICE-BOUND PASSKEY

- A FIDO2 credential that stays on a user's device on which it was created. Largely supported by Apple (iOS), Microsoft, and Google (Android).
- Can be used on the device's mobile apps and browsers that support the WebAuthn/CTAP APIs.
- Not automatically synced to your other devices.



APP-LEVEL PASSKEY (fka FIDO UAF)

- Like a device-bound passkey but dedicated to a specific mobile app and not provided by the platform (Google, Microsoft, Apple). Mobile browser capability is unavailable with this type of credential.
- Passkey is not managed by Google, Microsoft, Apple.
- Useful for high value transactions but limits UX.

Top Two Benefits of Passkeys

1. Password management headaches virtually go away

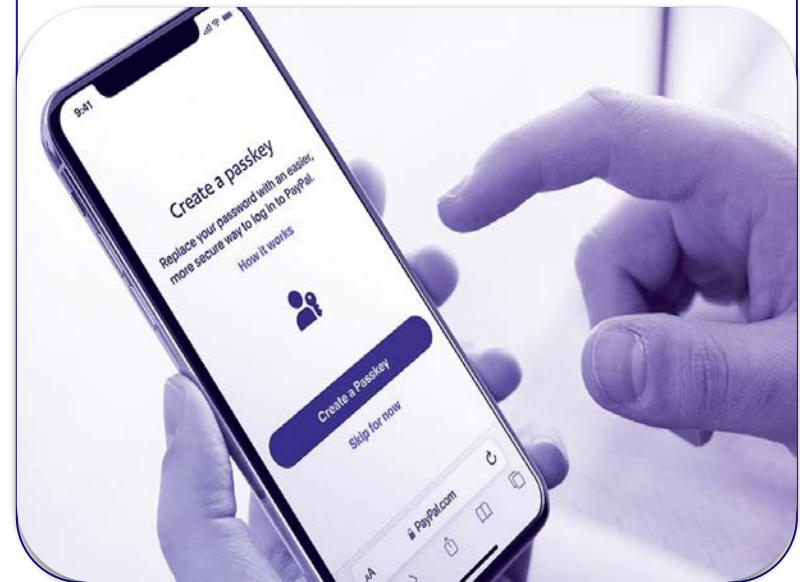


Old Phone

New Phone

Users no longer need to enter a password when they get a new phone. This solves a major UX problem.

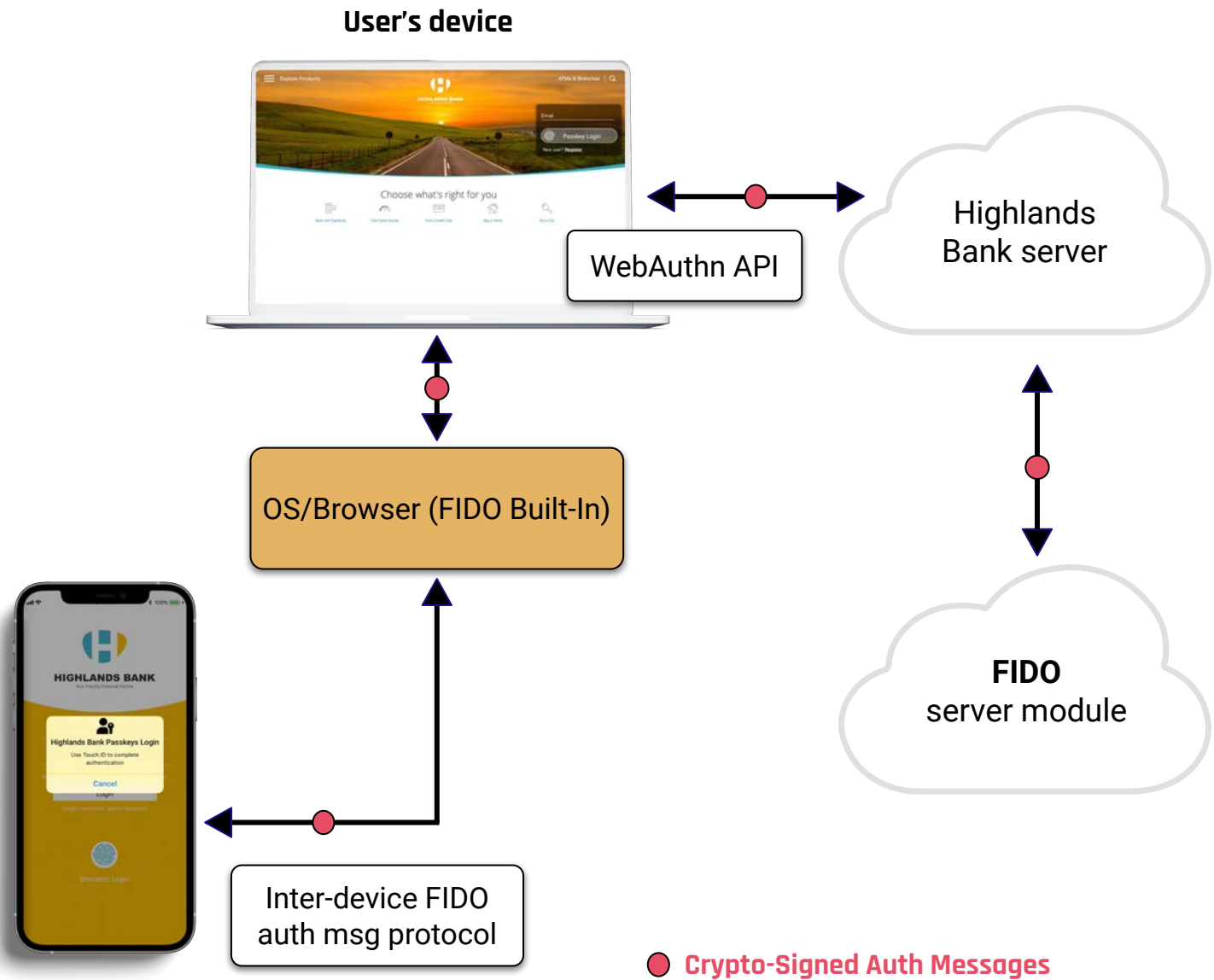
1. Fastest & easiest way to reduce ATO Fraud by way of phish-resistant authentication.



Passkeys & Phishing Resistance

FIDO Ensures:

- ✓ Right user present
- ✓ No phisher in the middle



Are Passkeys Considered MFA?

The answer is that it depends. Here's why...



SYNCED PASSKEY

- Automatically synced across Apple/Google/MS accounts
- Can be exported and shared by tools such as AirDrop
- Recoverable via Google, iCloud, etc.
- Utilizes OS and browser-based UI



DEVICE-BOUND PASSKEY

- Cannot be exported
- Not recoverable if lost or when users get new devices
- Utilizes OS and browser-based UI



APP-LEVEL PASSKEY

- Support for transaction signing
- Key generation independent of device type
- Support for custom authenticators
- Customizable user experience

Common Passkey Attributes

Bound to Origin

Cryptographic Key Pair

Phishing Resistant

Attestable

Recoverable via Relying Party

Is It MFA?

No, at least not by itself.

Yes

Yes

Deploying Passkeys: Crawl

RECOMMENDATION:

Deploy passkeys as an alternative, more user friendly second factor of authentication.



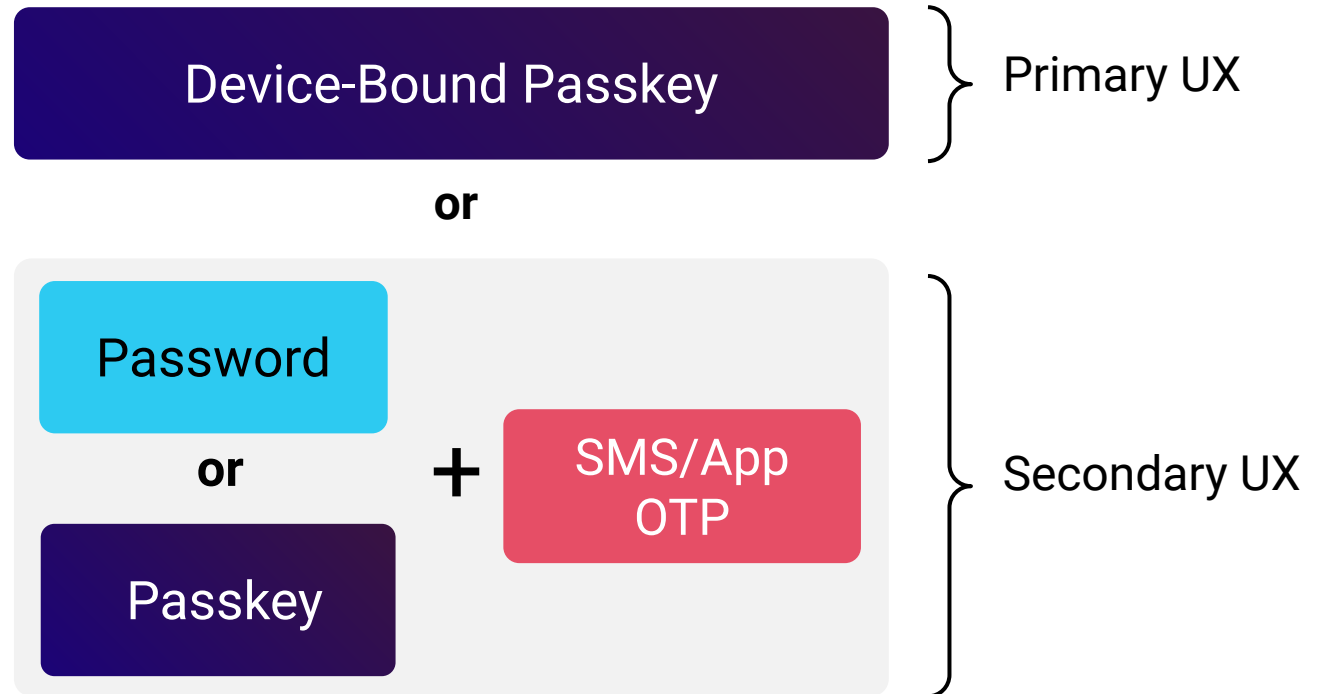
- ✓ Monitor and measure usage of passkeys for 30-90 days carefully.
- ✓ Passkeys will provide a phishing resistant option to users.



Deploying Passkeys: Walk

RECOMMENDATION:

Deploy single device passkeys as alternative, user friendly primary method of authentication.



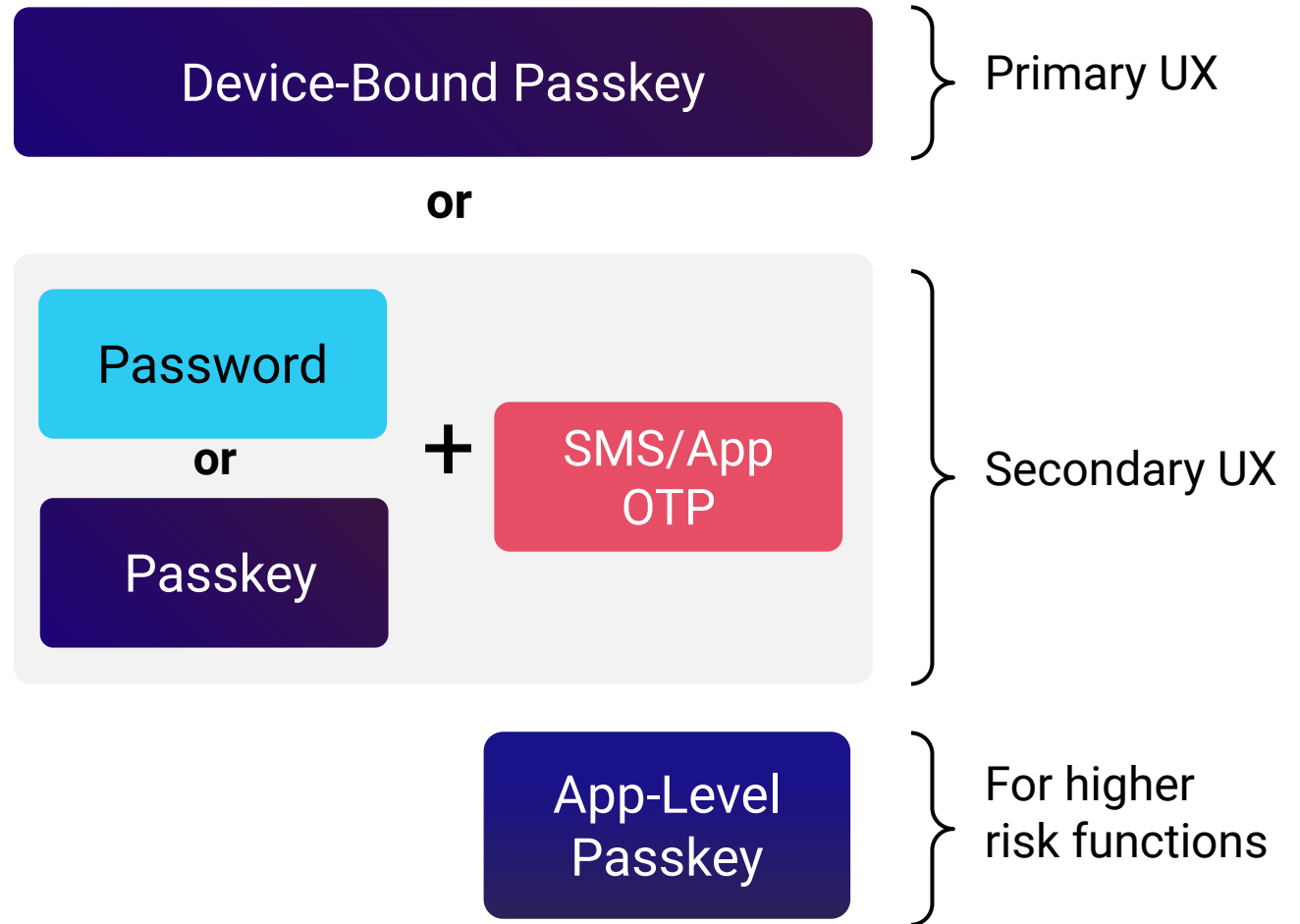
- ✓ Will result in fewer password reset requests to service desk, especially when users get new devices.
- ✓ Users have multiple phishing resistant methods of authentication.



Deploying Passkeys: Run

RECOMMENDATION:

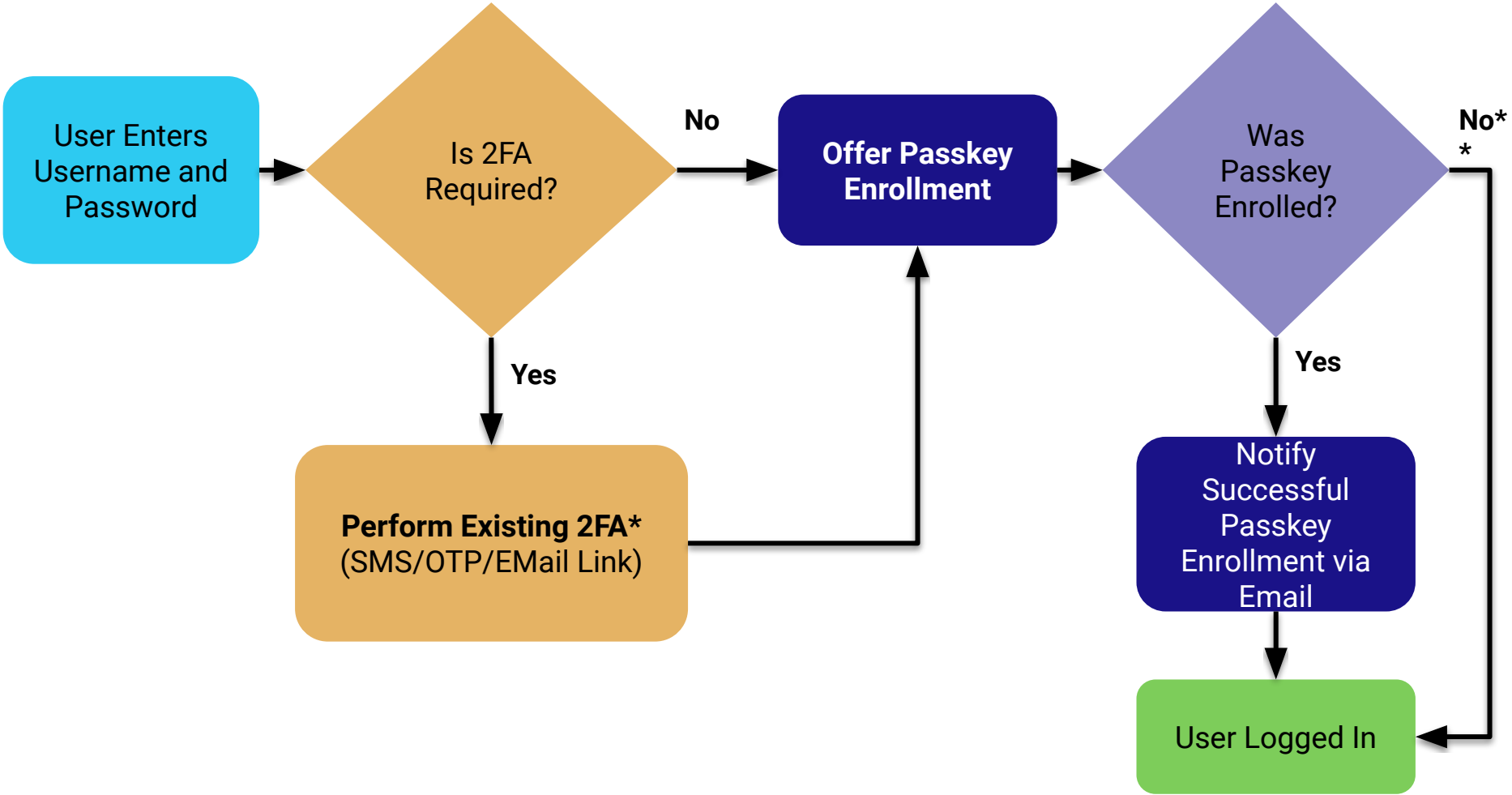
Require phishing-resistant authentication methods and layer in higher assurance credential for high risk transactions.



User Flows for Synced Passkeys



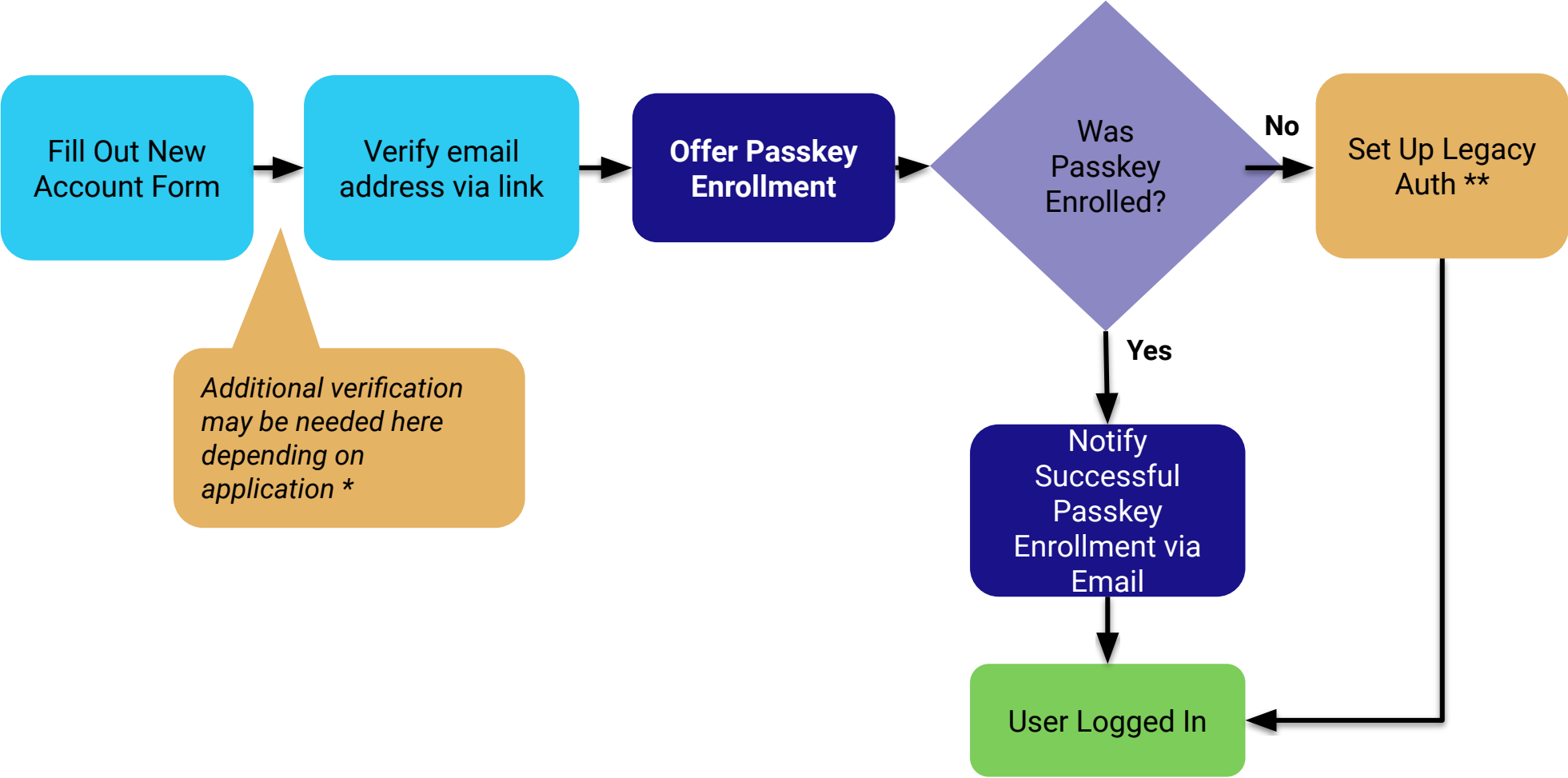
User Flows: Enrolling Synced Passkey for Existing User Account



* Your 2nd factor may differ depending on application type. The most common 2nd factors today are SMS/OTP/email Link. Note that all of these are easy to phish which is why we're adding passkeys!

** If a user does not enroll a passkey, it is helpful to show them a message explaining the value of passkeys.

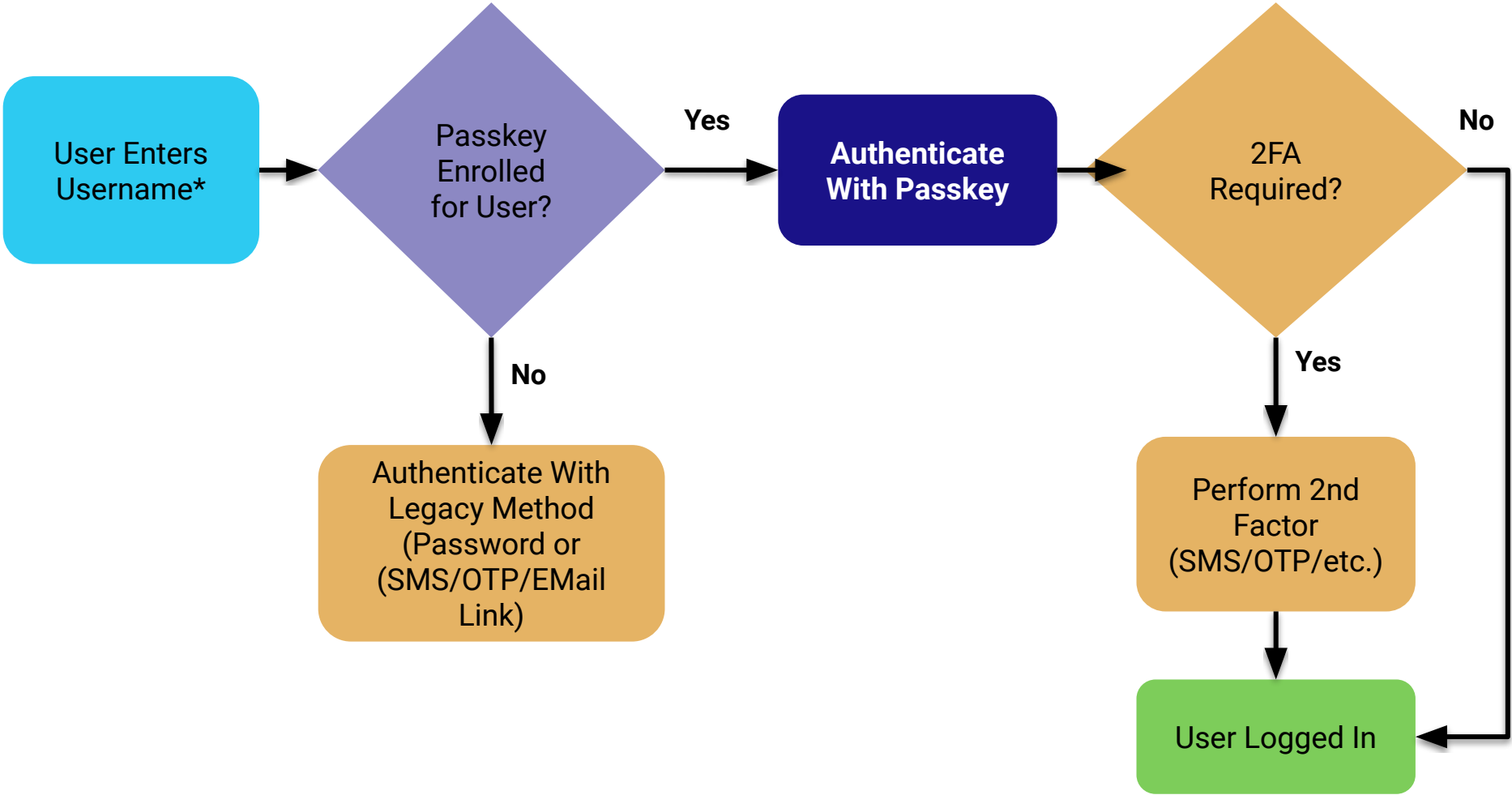
User Flows: Enrolling Synced Passkey for New User Account



* Many financial services new account flows include additional user verification such as ID scan or even in-person document verification. Other apps such as Uber require users to verify their phone number via SMS. E-Commerce apps usually only require email address verification.

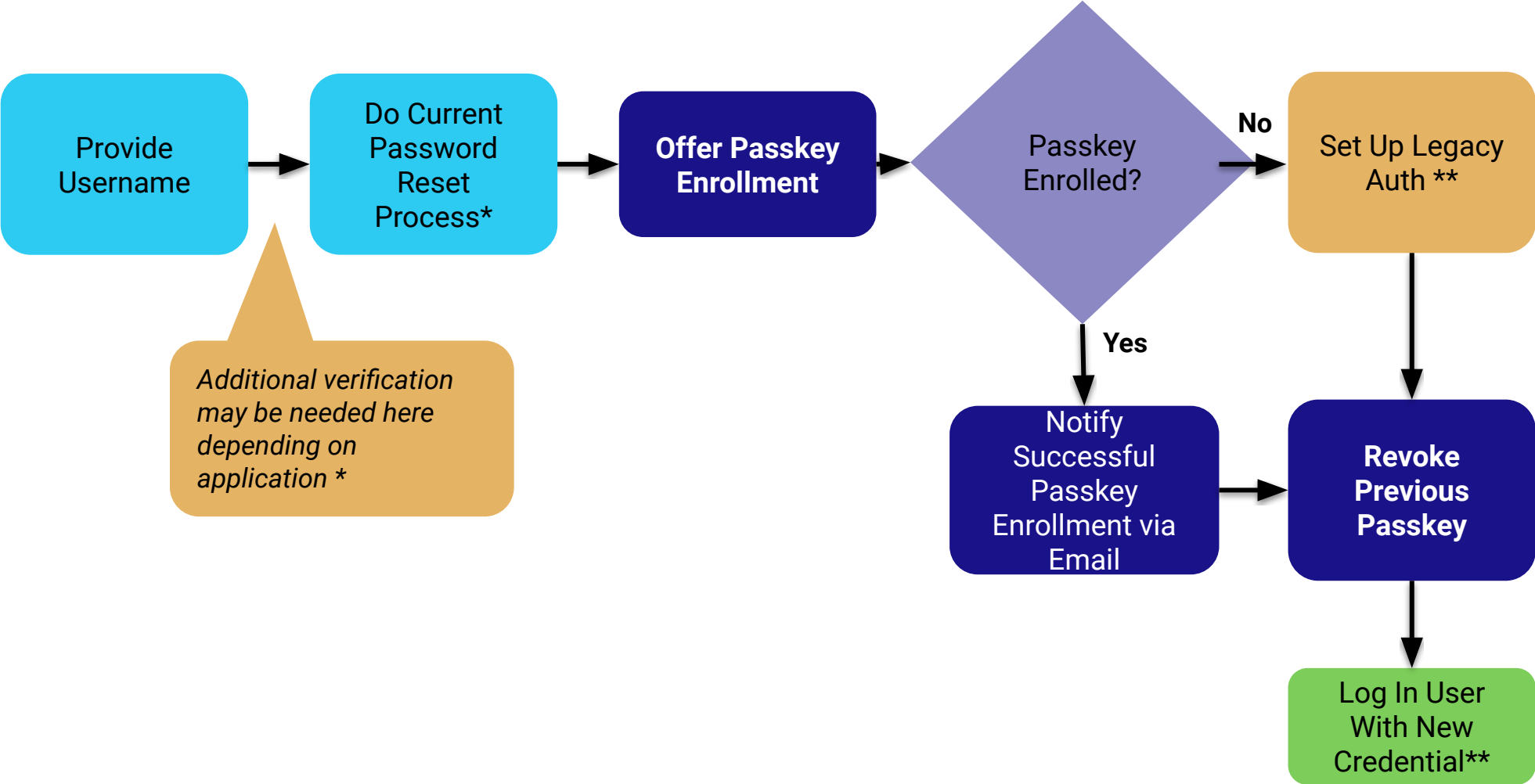
** This would most likely result in the user setting up a password or other legacy and easily phishable authentication factor. It is recommended that once a user enrolls a passkey, that this option goes away.

User Flows: Authenticating With Synced Passkeys



* Note that the username is usually remembered by the user's browser so they may not need to enter it if they're coming from a known device. Passkeys can also be invoked without the entry of a username but the experience may vary across platforms.

User Flows: Dealing With Lost Passkeys (Synced)



* Your current password reset process is most likely a email/SMS link. For more critical applications a digital document verification or service desk process may be required.

** The new credential will either be the passkey that was created or the legacy (less secure) method.

Companies Using Passkeys

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Passkeys
Deployments

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Healthcare
Corporation

1,000,000+

Passkey Users
Deployed in 10
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