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Windows 10 will move beyond passwords when it comes to security as Microsoft adds support for biometric authentication and other means of password replacement via the FIDO (Fast IDentity Online) Alliance.

"Moving the world away from passwords is an enormous task, and FIDO will succeed where others have failed," Microsoft says. "The need and appetite for change has never been greater, and we're thrilled to be part of this great working group whose members are actively transitioning FIDO solutions from the drawing board to implementations capable of large scale deployment."

FIDO authentication uses a bevy of security technologies, including biometrics (fingerprint scanners, voice and facial recognition), Trusted Platform Modules (TPM), USB security tokens, Near Field Communication (NFC) and One Time Passwords (OTP), as well as other existing and future technologies.

It not only unlocks Windows 10 devices, but also operations on an app-by-app basis for services such as Office 365, Salesforce, Citrix and Box.

Go Microsoft Announces FIDO Authentication Support Planned for Windows 10