

# Five Key Factors for Simpler, More Secure SSO

## Why You Need Single Sign-On (SSO)

Today organizations on average use 100s of workforce applications. With the proliferation of Software as a Service (SaaS) applications, organizations of all sizes must manage multiple usernames and passwords, which can be frustrating for employees and tough on IT teams.

SSO can help users and IT teams work more efficiently. It not only reduces the burden placed on end users to create and manage multiple passwords, but also alleviates the hassle of remembering and resetting

passwords for all the apps being accessed for work. Essentially, SSO reduces password fatigue.

With SSO, users only need to enter their credentials once to access internal apps, and security admins can set flexible policies. Help desk teams save time by resetting fewer passwords. This benefits IT departments by saving time and money, freeing them to focus on other business initiatives.

## 5 Things to Look for in a SSO Solution

There are five key factors you should consider when researching and evaluating single sign-on solutions:

### 1 Security Focused

In addition to enabling an easy login experience for users, SSO serves as a key point for enforcing security policies. The security administrator should be able to build and enforce application access policies based on user group, location, and device trust (whether the device is managed or unmanaged, certain security features enabled or disabled, etc.) from a simple, intuitive administrative dashboard.

The administrator should also be able to generate reports and analytics of anomalous user behavior. The SSO application dashboard for end users should be protected with multi-factor authentication (MFA) or passwordless authentication to reduce risk of phishing and other identity attacks that could compromise credentials.

## 2 Fast and Easy to Deploy, Administer and Manage

SSO must be fast and easy to deploy so organizations can rapidly and constantly reap the benefits of user productivity and cost savings. Because users no longer have to manage multiple passwords and get help resetting them, the help desk should get time to do other tasks or at least be contacted less frequently.

SSO can also contribute to lower help desk costs. If the solution is easy to administer and manage whenever new applications are onboarded, it saves time and reduces administrative burden.

## 3 Works with Various Identity Providers and Applications

It is important that the SSO service integrate with any Identity Provider (IdP) that the organization has invested in across their user base, such as Microsoft, Okta and Ping. Organizations are very unlikely to switch their IdP just to adopt SSO. Hence, SSO should work seamlessly with any existing IdP.

Many organizations have environments with more than one independent user directory (also known as a forest). This can be for a variety of reasons, including the result of a merger or acquisition. The SSO solution should support multiple untrusted forests so that organizations can deploy SSO to all users while improving the security posture.

SSO should work with different web apps like Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, Workday, Box, and Salesforce through native integration or custom configuration by the admin. The widely adopted Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) or the modern OpenID Connect (OIDC) protocol can perform federated SSO. It's important for your SSO solution to support applications that follow the SAML version 2.0 or OIDC standards.

## 4 Provides the Best User Experience and Customization

SSO should be easy to use, with a centralized application dashboard (web-based portal) that allows employees to quickly find and access their applications. The software should also integrate with remote access solutions for simplified, secure access to sensitive internal applications.

Employees, contractors, and vendors expect a consistent and trustworthy experience when accessing their company's website, internal apps, and web portals. To meet this expectation, the SSO solution should allow the administrator to customize the login page and application dashboard for users.

# 5 Builds Towards the Future

The SSO solution must also keep pace as new cyber threats emerge and adversary tactics evolve. When migrating applications to SSO, you should expect to see continuous improvement in support and capabilities. SaaS offerings are meant to be easy to use and seamlessly provide more value to any application already integrated through granular access policies, adaptive authentication or a truly passwordless experience.

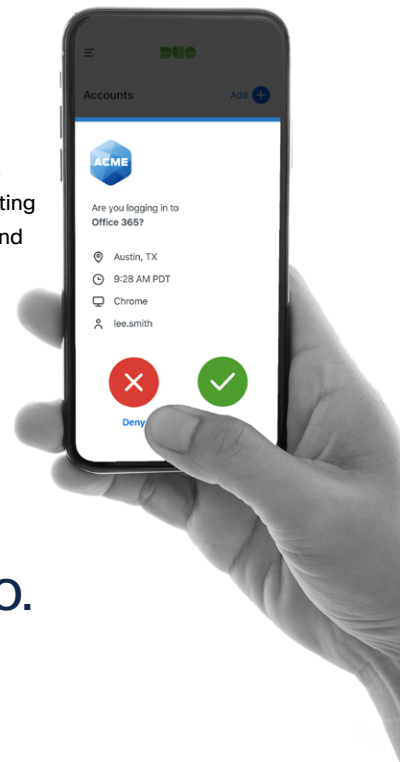


## About Duo Single Sign-On

Duo SSO is a cloud-hosted service that enables simple, secure application access for end-users and is easy to set-up, deploy and manage from a centralized platform for admins. When paired with the world's most flexible MFA or passwordless authentication, Duo SSO protects and enables access to all platforms and applications from any user, device, and location. Users can access all permitted apps and self-manage and enroll authentication devices through Duo Central. Access

to apps can be limited based on user, device health, location, and other policies of interest. Robust reporting enables you to identify and address potential risks and retain an audit trail for compliance reasons.

Duo SSO seamlessly integrates with Duo Network Gateway, a VPN-less solution trusted by thousands of organizations worldwide. To learn more, visit the [Duo Single Sign-On page](#).



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Duo Security, now part of Cisco, is the leading multi-factor authentication (MFA) and secure access provider. Duo is a trusted partner to more than 40,000 customers globally, including Yelp, Box, Generali, La-Z-Boy, Eastern Michigan University, Sonic Automotive and more.

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