



## What is multi-factor authentication (MFA)?

In today's world, passwords can be easily stolen or hacked, which means that the accounts and data behind those passwords are at risk. Multi-factor authentication adds at least one more layer of identity verification to that process, so your protection against hacking and fraud attempts is much stronger and more secure than a simple password.

This additional verification step could be a prompt that you approve via a mobile app, a randomly generated code that you enter when you log in to an account or application, or even a scanned fingerprint. Typically, MFA systems rely on evidence from at least two of the following categories:

1. Something you **know**, such as your login and password
2. Something you **have**, such as your smartphone
3. Something you **are**, such as your fingerprint

### Why should you care?

In 2017, the IRS prevented 597,000 confirmed identity theft returns, totaling more than \$6 billion.<sup>1</sup> And if that number represents only the returns that were stopped, just imagine how many identity theft returns were filed in total.

### Firms should consider MFA a necessary part of their security plan.

For example, if you don't have MFA, a cybercriminal could remotely access your system without your knowledge. Firms of all sizes and specialties are regularly targeted by cybercriminals using increasingly sophisticated methods — often causing devastating results for the victimized businesses.

### The good news

The good news is MFA is a seriously powerful way to protect yourself, your firm, and your clients. At Thomson Reuters, we help you stay one step ahead of the hackers — not only preventing cybercriminals from gaining access to your system, but also alerting you if a suspicious party is using your credentials.

Fear not, because there are many ways to protect your firm. We recommend you select one of the available primary methods and an additional backup method:

#### Primary MFA Methods

- Thomson Reuters Authenticator™ app (recommended)\*
- Thomson Reuters Authenticator display card
- Third party app

#### Backup MFA Methods

- Thomson Reuters Authenticator display card (recommended)
- Emergency codes (recommended)
- Additional admins
- Secondary mobile device

### Learn more

Stay ahead of the security curve and stay safe with MFA. To learn more about how to make MFA part of your own data security plan with Thomson Reuters, visit [tax.tr.com/security-plan](https://tax.tr.com/security-plan).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/key-irs-identity-theft-indicators-continue-dramatic-decline-in-2017-security-summit-marks-2017-progress-against-identity-theft>

\* Best choice — included with software and provides best user experience with push notifications