Setting up an authenticator app

An authenticator app shows a six-digit code that changes every 30 seconds. It's the safest second step: it depends neither on your mailbox nor on the network. It's optional, unless your realm requires it.

Which app?

Any TOTP-compatible app works, for example **Aegis** (Android), **Google Authenticator**, **Microsoft Authenticator** or **1Password**. A **YubiKey** works too, with the **Yubico Authenticator** app.

Setting it up

1. Open your profile, **Password and authentication** section, and choose **Set up an authenticator app**.
2. Confirm it's you: your password and a code sent by email.
3. **Scan the QR code** with your app. If you can't scan it, type the key shown under the QR code.
4. **Type the code** the app shows.
5. Save your recovery codes: they are shown only once. **Continue** becomes available only once "I have saved these codes somewhere safe" is ticked.

> **Tip: scan the QR code on two devices** (your phone and a tablet, a YubiKey, or a desktop app) before typing the code. Both will show the same codes, and losing one device won't lock you out.

When your realm requires an app and you don't have one, the same steps are shown **when you sign in**, after the email code, and you get in only once the app is set up: see When your realm requires an authenticator app.

Changing phones

Profile → **Change phone**: scan the new QR code and type a code. The old app keeps working until you confirm. You get new recovery codes, and your trusted browsers are forgotten.

Lost your old phone? See Lost or forgotten phone.

Removing the app

Profile → **Remove**: you're back to the email code alone. Not possible when one of your realms requires an app: the button is then greyed out and names the realm. You can always replace it (change phone).

Every addition, replacement or removal is confirmed by email, to all your confirmed addresses.

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