



About Microsoft Authenticator and MFA

In response to inquiries regarding the Microsoft Authenticator app, please note the following:

1. Be assured that the Microsoft Authenticator **is not a government app** that is tracking or capturing any personal information on anyone. This app is safe when your phone is used properly. The multifactor authenticator process assures an additional level of security over logging into government email accounts.
2. This authenticator app, like many other multifactor authenticator apps (such as Google Authenticator and LastPass Authenticator) can also be used to secure your personal accounts.
3. Multifactor authentication – in other words, identity authentication using more than one device - is essential to secure GovGuam information, now that email and other shared information will be synchronized to the Microsoft 365 cloud.
4. The app is fully encrypted, and because of the additional security confirmation from another device, it is safe from any hackers trying to steal your data while you are safely using your phone. We all need to be vigilant as the cyber landscape continue to evolve.
5. All employees are accountable to the security of their email and respective data. This authentication process is a tool to add an additional level of security to help all government employees.

For further information on MFA:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/what-is-multifactor-authentication-e5e39437-121c-be60-d123-eda06bddf661>

Keep this in mind: The Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack was achieved thru a single compromised password:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/06/04/politics/colonial-pipeline-ransomware-attack-password/index.html>

There are other methods of multifactor identity authentication, but the least cumbersome is by using an identity authentication app, like the Microsoft Authenticator app, which does not track you, but issues a code which you then use to confirm your identity using another device, something that a hacker will not be able to do. See more information about what the app does. <https://www.androidauthority.com/microsoft-authenticator-987754/>

In the taped Governor's proclamation signing of October 2021 National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the importance of multifactor authentication was discussed as well as the Colonial Pipeline attack:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/govlougum/videos/>