

Why is there a growing need for non-shareable credentials?

Andrew Bud, CEO & Founder

One interesting, but not often discussed aspect of biometrics is their ability to furnish credentials that are non shareable. We think a lot about the threats from identity theft from criminals or state actors stealing my identity and impersonating without my consent. But there are a number of use cases in which organizations have to protect themselves against complicit credential sharing against people, deliberately sharing their credentials with another person.

For example, there are a number of organizations who understand that there was a threat to their privileged access system if the owners of those privileged credentials deliberately share them with another person. For example to engage in work sharing. In a more benign environment, many organizations know that older people share their credentials with younger people so that they can help them operate their accounts.

This is a benign example, but it increasingly will create problems in terms of establishing accountability. And in terms of the forensic investigation events when they take place. So we have to think about how can we create credentials, which are resilient to deliberate sharing by their owners.

And in that context, genuinely present faces are an outstanding solution. Because like, all biometrics, the genuine article is unique. I cannot share my face deliberately, at least not without major and extremely unpleasant surgery. So the only way that I could possibly share my face would be to give someone a copy and invite them to use it.

But using various forms of liveness and genuine presence assurance technologies, we can prevent the successful presentation. Of facial or other biometric credentials. And it's that ability to prevent the sharing of credentials that opens up a whole new realm of protection, security for the individual or protection for an organization and the ability to assure accountability and the forensic investigation of events.