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Killing Passwords in Windows 10 S is one of 7 big changes in Windows 10

Microsoft sees a future without passwords in Windows 10 Insider Build 17093, at least for Windows 10 S users. Microsoft has quietly worked to downplay passwords via PIN codes, fingerprint sensors, and even facial recognition. But actually killing them entirely within Windows 10 S is one of the key changes coming with what may be called the Spring Creators Update, code-named 'Redstone 4,' expected to launch in late March or early April. The build, which launched Wednesday, also includes new multi-GPU graphics settings, improved eye tracking, quicker connections using Bluetooth, and clutter-free printing, among others. Last October, one of the hidden features within the Windows 10 Fall Creators Update was a mechanism to eliminate passwords and replace them with an authenticator app—but the feature didn't actually do anything. Now it does. A password, of course, is the traditional way of accessing Windows—but it's a pain to remember and change. Within Windows 10, Microsoft implemented shortcuts of a sort, including a short PIN code or logging in with your face or fingerprint via Windows Hello. But setting those up required a password, too. Now Microsoft is using its Authenticator App for Android and iOS, which spits out an 8-digit code every minute that's uniquely keyed to your phone. It might not replace a good, strong, unique password, but an attacker would need to have access to a (hopefully) secured phone as well as your PC. To set up

Windows Hello or a PIN, you'll need to enter the Authenticator code instead. Though this is an Insider build—meaning that it could eventually change—Microsoft implies this is a permanent decision. “With the changes in this build, your Windows 10 S PC will automatically make your experience password-free,” Microsoft wrote in a blog post. What if you don't own a smartphone? At this point, we're not sure.