nicwerks®

CLIENT BRIEF · MICROSOFT 365 AUTHENTICATION · NOVEMBER 2026

Text-code logins end February 1, 2027

Microsoft is retiring SMS and voice sign-in codes from Microsoft Entra ID. If anyone at your firm logs in to Microsoft 365 with a six-digit text, that method stops working. Here is what changes, when, and how to get ahead of it.

Since Sept 1, 2026

AUTO-ENABLEMENT UNDERWAY

Microsoft is already turning on passkeys for anyone using text or voice codes and prompting them to register at sign-in.

Feb 1, 2027

SMS & VOICE RETIRED

Microsoft-provided text and voice codes are fully retired. Six-digit texts stop being a sign-in option.

After Feb 1

BLOCKING · NO OPT-OUT

Users whose only method was a text code must register a passkey before they can sign in again. Applies to every organization.

Why Microsoft is doing this

Texted codes can be phished, intercepted, or stolen with a SIM swap, and they are behind a large share of account takeovers. Passkeys replace codes with the same thing that unlocks your phone: Face ID, a fingerprint, or a device PIN. Nothing to type, nothing to intercept.

Moving users to passkeys carries no Microsoft fee. Keeping SMS after the deadline requires contracting a third-party telecom provider, billed per message.

What your team gains

- Sign in with a glance or a touch instead of waiting on a text
- One passkey, securely synced across devices
- Nothing for attackers to phish or SIM-swap
- Fewer lockouts while traveling or off-signal
- Cleaner answers on cyber insurance and client security questionnaires

How nicwerks® runs the transition

1

Find who's affected

We audit your Microsoft 365 tenant and list everyone still on text or voice codes.

2

Deploy passkeys, unified

Passkeys live in 1Password Business, connected through Microsoft single sign-on. One login opens everything.

3

Enroll people, not policies

Plain-English comms and white-glove registration sessions before the deadline pressure starts.

4

Verify and retire

We confirm full coverage, retire text codes on your schedule, and document it for insurers.

Source: Microsoft Entra ID documentation, "Passkeys by default and retirement of Microsoft-provided SMS and voice authentication," updated July 2026. nicwerks® is a 1Password for Business partner.

Get ahead of the deadline

A passkey readiness review takes one call. We'll tell you exactly who is affected, what the transition looks like, and what it costs. help@nicwerks.com · nicwerks.com/passkeys

book a readiness review