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Python Module Index
PyOTP is a Python library for generating and verifying one-time passwords. It can be used to implement two-factor (2FA) or multi-factor (MFA) authentication methods in web applications and in other systems that require users to log in.

Open MFA standards are defined in RFC 4226 (HOTP: An HMAC-Based One-Time Password Algorithm) and in RFC 6238 (TOTP: Time-Based One-Time Password Algorithm). PyOTP implements server-side support for both of these standards. Client-side support can be enabled by sending authentication codes to users over SMS or email (HOTP) or, for TOTP, by instructing users to use Google Authenticator, Authy, or another compatible app. Users can set up auth tokens in their apps easily by using their phone camera to scan otpauth:// QR codes provided by PyOTP.

Implementers should read and follow the HOTP security requirements and TOTP security considerations sections of the relevant RFCs. At minimum, application implementers should follow this checklist:

- Ensure transport confidentiality by using HTTPS
- Ensure HOTP/TOTP secret confidentiality by storing secrets in a controlled access database
- Deny replay attacks by rejecting one-time passwords that have been used by the client (this requires storing the most recently authenticated timestamp, OTP, or hash of the OTP in your database, and rejecting the OTP when a match is seen)
- Throttle brute-force attacks against your application’s login functionality
- When implementing a “greenfield” application, consider supporting FIDO U2F/WebAuthn in addition to HOTP/TOTP. U2F uses asymmetric cryptography to avoid using a shared secret design, which strengthens your MFA solution against server-side attacks. Hardware U2F also sequesters the client secret in a dedicated single-purpose device, which strengthens your clients against client-side attacks. And by automating scoping of credentials to relying party IDs (application/domain names), U2F adds protection against phishing attacks.

We also recommend that implementers read the OWASP Authentication Cheat Sheet and NIST SP 800-63-3: Digital Authentication Guideline for a high level overview of authentication best practices.
CHAPTER 1

Quick overview of using One Time Passwords on your phone

• OTPs involve a shared secret, stored both on the phone and the server
• OTPs can be generated on a phone without internet connectivity
• OTPs should always be used as a second factor of authentication (if your phone is lost, your account is still secured with a password)
• Google Authenticator and other OTP client apps allow you to store multiple OTP secrets and provision those using a QR Code
Chapter 1. Quick overview of using One Time Passwords on your phone
CHAPTER 2

Installation

```
pip install pyotp
```
CHAPTER 3

Usage

3.1 Time-based OTPs

```python
totp = pyotp.TOTP('base32secret3232')
totp.now() # => '492039'

# OTP verified for current time
totp.verify('492039') # => True
time.sleep(30)
totp.verify('492039') # => False
```

3.2 Counter-based OTPs

```python
hotp = pyotp.HOTP('base32secret3232')
hotp.at(0) # => '260182'
hotp.at(1) # => '055283'
hotp.at(1401) # => '316439'

# OTP verified with a counter
hotp.verify('316439', 1401) # => True
hotp.verify('316439', 1402) # => False
```

3.3 Generating a base32 Secret Key

```python
pyotp.random_base32() # returns a 16 character base32 secret. Compatible with Google Authenticator and other OTP apps
```
3.4 Google Authenticator Compatible

PyOTP works with the Google Authenticator iPhone and Android app, as well as other OTP apps like Authy. PyOTP includes the ability to generate provisioning URIs for use with the QR Code scanner built into these MFA client apps:

```python
pyotp.totp.TOTP('JBSWY3DPEHPK3PXP').provisioning_uri("alice@google.com", issuer_name="Secure App")
>>> 'otpauth://totp/Secure%20App:alice%40google.com?secret=JBSWY3DPEHPK3PXP&issuer=Secure%20App'

pyotp.hotp.HOTP('JBSWY3DPEHPK3PXP').provisioning_uri("alice@google.com", initial_count=0, issuer_name="Secure App")
>>> 'otpauth://hotp/Secure%20App:alice%40google.com?secret=JBSWY3DPEHPK3PXP&counter=0'
```

This URL can then be rendered as a QR Code (for example, using https://github.com/neocotic/qrious) which can then be scanned and added to the users list of OTP credentials.

3.5 Working example

Scan the following barcode with your phone’s OTP app (e.g. Google Authenticator):

![QR Code](https://example.com/qrcode.png)

Now run the following and compare the output:

```python
import pyotp
totp = pyotp.TOTP("JBSWY3DPEHPK3PXP")
print("Current OTP:", totp.now())
```
3.6 Links

- Project home page (GitHub)
- Documentation (Read the Docs)
- Package distribution (PyPI)
- Change log
- RFC 4226: HOTP: An HMAC-Based One-Time Password
- RFC 6238: TOTP: Time-Based One-Time Password Algorithm
- ROTP - Original Ruby OTP library by Mark Percival
- OTPHP - PHP port of ROTP by Le Lag
- OWASP Authentication Cheat Sheet
- NIST SP 800-63-3: Digital Authentication Guideline
class pyotp.totp.TOTP(*args, **kwargs)
Handler for time-based OTP counters.

at (for_time, counter_offset=0)
Accepts either a Unix timestamp integer or a datetime object.

Parameters

• for_time (int or datetime) – the time to generate an OTP for
• counter_offset – the amount of ticks to add to the time counter

Returns OTP value
Return type str

now()
Generate the current time OTP

Returns OTP value
Return type str

provisioning_uri (name, issuer_name=None)
Returns the provisioning URI for the OTP. This can then be encoded in a QR Code and used to provision an OTP app like Google Authenticator.

See also: https://github.com/google/google-authenticator/wiki/Key-Uri-Format

Parameters

• name (str) – name of the user account
• issuer_name – the name of the OTP issuer; this will be the organization title of the OTP entry in Authenticator

Returns provisioning URI
Return type str
PyOTP Documentation, Release 0.0.1

**verify**(otp, for_time=None, valid_window=0)
Verifies the OTP passed in against the current time OTP.

**Parameters**
- otp *(str)* – the OTP to check against
- for_time *(int or datetime)* – Time to check OTP at (defaults to now)
- valid_window *(int)* – extends the validity to this many counter ticks before and after the current one

**Returns** True if verification succeeded, False otherwise

**Return type** bool

class pyotp.hotp.HOTP(s, digits=6, digest=<built-in function openssl_sha1>)
Handler for HMAC-based OTP counters.

**at**(count)
Generates the OTP for the given count.

**Parameters**
- count *(int)* – the OTP HMAC counter

**Returns** OTP

**Return type** str

**provisioning_uri**(name, initial_count=0, issuer_name=None)
Returns the provisioning URI for the OTP. This can then be encoded in a QR Code and used to provision an OTP app like Google Authenticator.

**See also:** https://github.com/google/google-authenticator/wiki/Key-Uri-Format

**Parameters**
- name *(str)* – name of the user account
- initial_count *(int)* – starting HMAC counter value, defaults to 0
- issuer_name – the name of the OTP issuer; this will be the organization title of the OTP entry in Authenticator

**Returns** provisioning URI

**Return type** str

**verify**(otp, counter)
Verifies the OTP passed in against the current counter OTP.

**Parameters**
- otp *(str)* – the OTP to check against
- counter *(int)* – the OTP HMAC counter

**pyotp.utils.build_uri**(secret, name, initial_count=None, issuer_name=None, algorithm=None, digits=None, period=None)
Returns the provisioning URI for the OTP; works for either TOTP or HOTP.

This can then be encoded in a QR Code and used to provision the Google Authenticator app.

For module-internal use.

**See also:** https://github.com/google/google-authenticator/wiki/Key-Uri-Format

**Parameters**
• **secret** *(str)* – the hotp/totp secret used to generate the URI
• **name** *(str)* – name of the account
• **initial_count** *(int)* – starting counter value, defaults to None. If none, the OTP type will be assumed as TOTP.
• **issuer_name** *(str)* – the name of the OTP issuer; this will be the organization title of the OTP entry in Authenticator
• **algorithm** *(str)* – the algorithm used in the OTP generation.
• **digits** *(int)* – the length of the OTP generated code.
• **period** *(int)* – the number of seconds the OTP generator is set to expire every code.

**Returns** provisioning uri

**Return type** str

```python
def strings_equal(s1, s2):
    """Timing-attack resistant string comparison."
    Normal comparison using == will short-circuit on the first mismatching character. This avoids that by scanning the whole string, though we still reveal to a timing attack whether the strings are the same length.
```
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