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OAuth Abuse: When "Sign in with..." Goes Wrong

A Short Scenarios

An app offers "Sign in with your company account / identity provider."
Access is approved in seconds. The app works normally.
What isn't visible is the ongoing access now granted to emails, files, or account data, even after passwords are changed.

What's Really Happening

OAuth allows apps to access accounts without sharing passwords.
That convenience becomes a risk when a malicious or over-privileged app is approved.

- No password is stolen.
- No alert is triggered.
- Access is simply granted and stays

Why This Attack Is Missed

OAuth abuse doesn't look like a breach:

- No malware
- No suspicious logins
- No account lockout

Everything appears legitimate.

What Attackers Can Do

Depending on permissions, attackers may:

- Read emails and messages
- Access cloud documents
- Monitor calendars and contacts
- Send emails as the user

All without logging in again.

Where the Risk Hides

- "Quick sign-in" options
- Third-party apps and tools
- Browser extensions
- Services asking for more access than expected

Convenience often masks the danger.

Pause Before You Approve

Ask yourself:

- Do I really need this app?
- Does it need this much access?
- Will I remember to remove it later?

How to Stay Safe

- Review app permissions carefully
- Remove unused or unfamiliar apps
- Periodically check connected accounts
- Use trusted developers and platforms

Managing app access matters.

Key Message

OAuth abuse doesn't break in, it's invited in.
A few seconds of caution can prevent long-term exposure.