

Password Replacement, in a Heartbeat?

Written by Marco Attard
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As the industry gets increasingly cautious over potential security breaches Canadian startup Bionym pushes a different take on the identification-- the Nymi, a wearable device replacing the password with cardiac activity.



The wristband uses an ECG sensor to measure the electrical activity generated by the wearer's heart (not actual heart rate), which Nymi says is as unique as a fingerprint. In turn the wristband is paired with an Authorised Authentication Devices (AAD) such as a smartphone to provide app-based 3-factor security.

The company adds the Nymi system is built on Privacy by Design principles (meaning only the user has access to personal information), and has other potential applications, such as an Internet-of-Things house key, credit card replacement and even Bitcoin wallet.

“We see the Nymi as a potential game changer,” Bionym investor Ignition Partners tells Forbes. “With the breadth and depth of 3rd party application developer commitments, it’s clear there is tangible excitement at the numerous use cases presented by extending identity and presence from the smart phone onto the wrist.”

Bionym is currently looking into getting 10000 reorders before setting a release date, and also offers developers an SDK for the building of compatible applications.

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