

# The IDmelon Reader Guide



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## 1. Introduction

IDmelon Reader is a hardware technology designed and developed by IDmelon Technologies to let users use their smartphones as a security key. As an example, users on a shared or personal computer can enjoy the passwordless login experience with a single tap with a smartphone on the reader.

IDmelon Reader supports different modes of operation each of which has different capabilities and features. In this document and the following pages, we will describe how the reader works in different modes and how you can switch between these modes.

## 2. Hardware



## 3. Basic concepts

IDmelon Reader supports 3 different working modes:

- Smartphone BLE Reader or;
- FIDO2 USB Security Key or;
- Paired Smartphone mode.

Each mode has different capabilities and designed for a use case. Users can switch and choose their working mode according to their needs and use cases.

## 4. Description of Different Modes

### 4.1 Smartphone BLE Reader

In this mode, the hardware works as a BLE reader and can distinguish the TAP of the user's smartphone, similar to the experience of TAP with access cards on NFC or RFID readers or Tap to Pay for iPhone and Android phone.

There is no need to pair the smartphone with the reader and only having the IDmelon app installed on the smartphone and keeping the smartphone's Bluetooth on is enough to work.

### 4.2 FIDO2 USB Security Key

In this mode, IDmelon hardware works as a FIDO2 USB security Key by itself. The function is the same as other FIDO USB security keys, and the user authentication for token is done by user PIN.

There is no need to have a smartphone in this mode, the hardware works independently as a FIDO security key.

### 4.3 Paired Smartphone

To have the smartphone as a FIDO2 security key in this working mode, the users must pair their smartphone with the reader. This mode is not suitable for shared computers, but has advantages over the first mode for users on personal computers.

## 5. Discover the selected mode and change it

### 5.1 Discover the working mode

You can discover the working mode of the reader by observing the color of the LED, at the time you insert the hardware into the USB port.

Once the hardware is plugged into USB, the LED flashes once on the colors of green, blue, or white.

- The **White** means Smartphone BLE Reader mode
- The **Green** means FIDO2 USB Security key mode
- The **Blue** means Paired Smartphone mode

The user needs to push and keep the button for 3 seconds, and then the LED starts blinking. As soon as blinking stops, the IDmelon USB key is ready to work in a new mode.

### 5.2 Switching between working modes

You can switch between the different mentioned working modes by pressing and keeping the push button for 3 seconds. Switching to a new mode depends on the current mode. You can only switch from “security Key mode” to “reader mode” or “paired mode”, and when the reader is in “paired mode” or “reader mode”, you can only switch to “security key mode”.

It means if you want to switch from “paired mode” to “reader mode”, first you have to switch to "security key mode" and then from "security key mode" to "reader mode".

#### *How the switching work:*

Click and hold the push button for 3 seconds, you can release the button when you hear a beep sound and the LED light starts blinking.

If the LED blinks **green**, it means the device is in the process to switch the “security key mode”, you need to wait for about 15 seconds until it stops blinking.

If the LED blinks **Blue**, it means the device is ready to switch to “reader mode” or “paired mode”. You can switch to “paired mode” if you have “IDmelon Key” app installed on your smartphone. Otherwise, the reader automatically switches to “reader mode”. It starts blinking **Blue** for about 15 seconds until it blinks white once at the end.

## 6. FAQs

### 6.1 What is the IDmelon Reader?

It is a dongle that connects to a USB port on a PC to enable a user to log into the PC, websites, and applications without having to type a password. IDmelon Reader allows a user to authenticate their identity by simply tapping their smartphone on the Reader in order to go login.

### 6.2 Who is the IDmelon Reader for?

Everyone can use the IDmelon Reader, but it is specially designed for shared PC environments in which multiple users can use a single PC without compromising security.

### 6.3 Can I use the IDmelon Reader as a FIDO2 token without a smartphone?

Unlike passwordless authentication solutions based on a security key/token, which is at serious risk of being lost, stolen, or left behind, our smartphone-based passwordless authentication solution allows you to use your ubiquitous smartphone as a FIDO2 hardware security key.

In fact, you no longer need to carry an extra physical object or the burden around. Instead, to go login, you receive a popup notification on your smartphone, which you can tap only if your smartphone is unlocked with one of the local authentication mechanisms available on the smartphone such as biometrics.

### 6.4 Do I have to buy the IDmelon Reader?

No. An individual who does not share their laptop/desktop does not need an IDmelon Reader and therefore can log into the computer and websites with simply tapping a notification on their smartphone.

However, in shared PC environments, where multiple users log into the same computer, the IDmelon Reader connects to a USB port on the PC to enable multiple users to go passwordless after simply tapping their smartphones two on the Reader and then log out of the system/app at the end of each session so that another user can log into the same PC or software.

But either way, an end user no longer carries an extra physical object, i. e. a security key, and can use their ubiquitous smartphone as a FIDO2 certified hardware security key.

### 6.5 Can a PC be shared, and multiple users use their own smartphones to login?

Yes. IDmelon Reader allows an unlimited number of users to use their smartphones as an external security key to log into windows, websites, and apps on the same PC in a convenient and secure way.

### 6.6 How many users can use the same IDmelon Reader?

An unlimited number of users can use the same IDmelon Reader.

### 6.7 Do users have to pair their smartphones with PCs via Bluetooth?

All you need to do to turn on the Bluetooth on your smartphone, tap your smartphone on the Reader, and click on a popup notification on your smartphone and go login.

### 6.8 How is IDmelon Reader different from FIDO2 security keys?

With IDmelon, you no longer carry an extra physical object, i.e. a security key, around all the time. And, in addition to unlimited storage capacity for credentials, credentials can be both managed and audited.

## 7. Get help

If you have a technical issue, please let us know: [Support@idmelon.com](mailto:Support@idmelon.com)