



The User's Guide to AKO Authentication

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Summary

This guide is written for anyone with an AKO ID who would like to learn more about AKO Authentication. We will first provide background on the AKO Identity and the AKO Enterprise Directory, and then explain how AKO Authentication enables users to maintain the same identity across hundreds of Army systems.

The AKO Identity

Your AKO Username (also called an AKO ID) is your official AKO Identity. This name, which commonly takes the form of *firstname.lastname*, is stored in the AKO Enterprise Directory along with nearly 1.7 million other usernames.

Each AKO ID is unique and cannot be repeated. Deactivated accounts are recorded so that new users cannot adopt the ID of a former user.

If you have successfully logged into an Army system with your AKO ID and you are having problems with how that system behaves, you should contact that system's administrator or help desk. However, if you are having problems logging into a system with your AKO username and password, you can go to AKO and click on "Lost Password" to reset it.

The AKO Enterprise Directory

The AKO Enterprise Directory is the comprehensive Army repository for usernames, passwords, and other Army information. For a complete list of the user information that is stored in the Directory, please see the Interface Control Document (doid #3206).

The AKO Enterprise Directory is updated nightly to ensure that your data is as accurate as possible. The data in the Directory comes from the Total Army Personnel Database (iTAPDB). You can view what information the Directory has about your account by logging into AKO and clicking on "My Account" in the left navigation bar. You can update certain information (phone number, organization), but to update other information (Rank, MOS, etc.) you must contact your S1.

AKO Authentication

In addition to AKO, over four hundred systems use the AKO Identity in order to protect their content from unauthorized users. When you use your AKO Identity to login to an Army system, your username and password are checked against the AKO Enterprise Directory to ensure that you are a valid user. Army systems that are protected by AKO Single Sign-on (SSO) have an additional benefit: when you sign in to an SSO-protected system, and then visit another SSO-protected system, you will not have to sign in again.

You can recognize an application that uses AKO Authentication because it will ask for your AKO Username and Password. The application will also display the following logo:



The Benefits of AKO Authentication

AKO Authentication is designed so that Army users can access Army systems with one username and one password. Army systems are rapidly adopting AKO Authentication in order to provide the ease of single sign-on across multiple sites, and to simplify their account creation and management processes.