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With one Google account, you can use many essential everyday services like Gmail, YouTube, Drive, Photos, and more. If you own a business, you might be using their products like Adsense, Webmaster Tools, Analytics, YouTube Creators, etc. Thus, it is vital to make sure that someone else can not log in to these. Enabling 2-step verification for your Google account will prevent unwanted access and keep data safe. Let me tell you more about it and help set it up from your iPhone or iPad.

What is 2-step verification?

How do you login to a website or app like Google?

```
Username + Correct Password = Successful Login
```

Google's two-step verification adds an extra layer. Once you enable this, you must enter a one-time code (or verify via the prompt on your primary device) to log in.

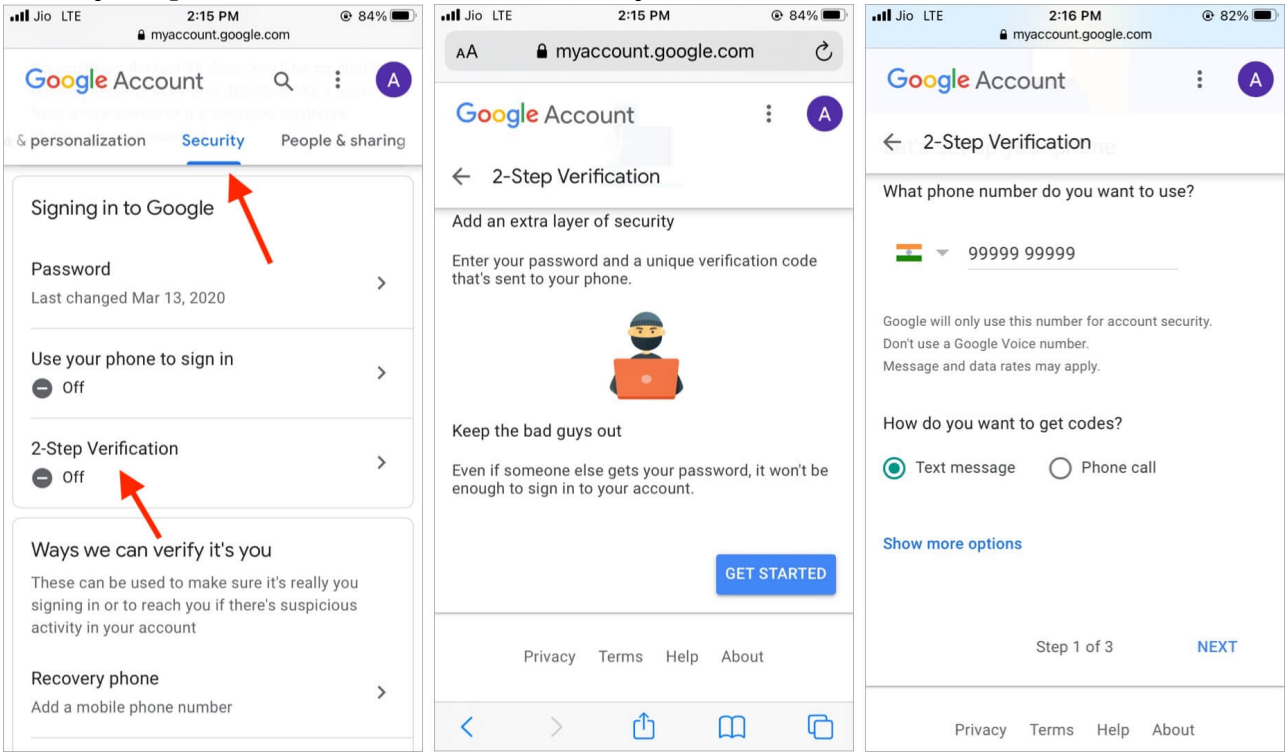
```
Username + Correct Password + 2FA Code/authentication prompt =
Successful Login
```

Two-step verification ensures that even if your password is breached in a data hack or shared with someone, they can't log in without the additional code, that is, the two-factor authentication code.

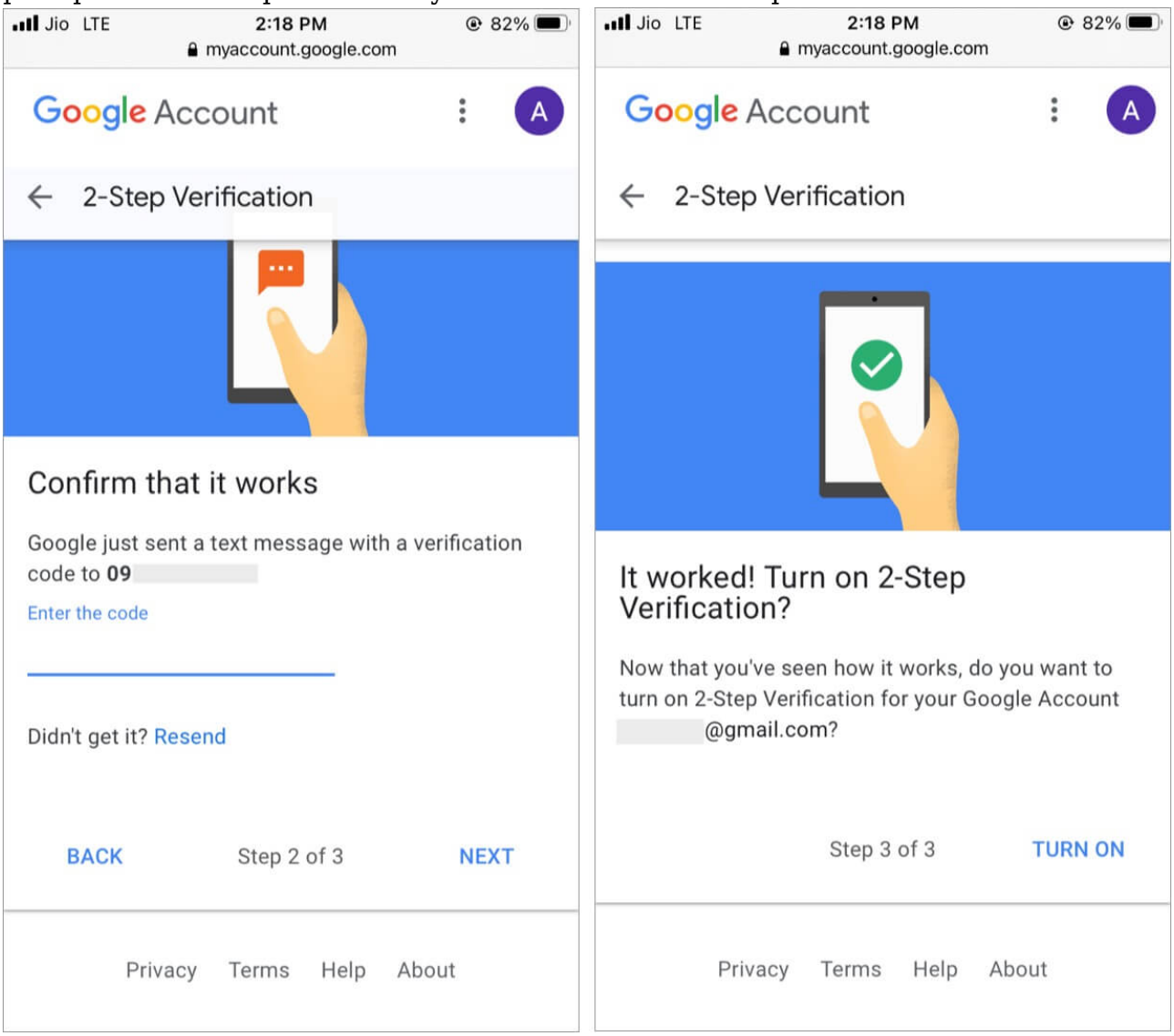
Let us see how to set up 2-step verification for your Google account from your iPhone or iPad.

Turn on 2-step verification for your Google account

1. Visit myaccount.google.com on your iPhone using a web browser like Safari or Chrome. Sign in if asked.
2. Scroll right to the left on *Home*, *Personal info*, and tap **Security**.
3. Scroll down and tap **2-Step Verification**.
4. Tap **GET STARTED**. Type your Google password to continue.
5. Enter your phone number and choose how you would like to receive the codes.



6. Enter the code on the subsequent screen and tap **NEXT**.
7. Tap **TURN ON**.
   Note: After enabling 2FA, scroll down to choose other verification methods like Google prompts and Backup codes. They are better verification options than SMS.



You have successfully enabled two-step verification for your Google account. From now, whenever you try to login into any service that Google owns (YouTube, Gmail, Google Photos, Drive, etc.), you will receive a code via text message that you have to enter after the correct Google account password.

Now, every time you try to log in from a non-trusted device, you must verify it's you using any of the verification methods. I have explained below the list of options you have and how

you can enable them.

How to verify it’s you while logging in to your Google account

After setting up two-step verification, you have to confirm every time to verify it’s you who’s trying to log in. For this, there are several methods. On the login screen, you have the choice to choose the verification method you prefer.

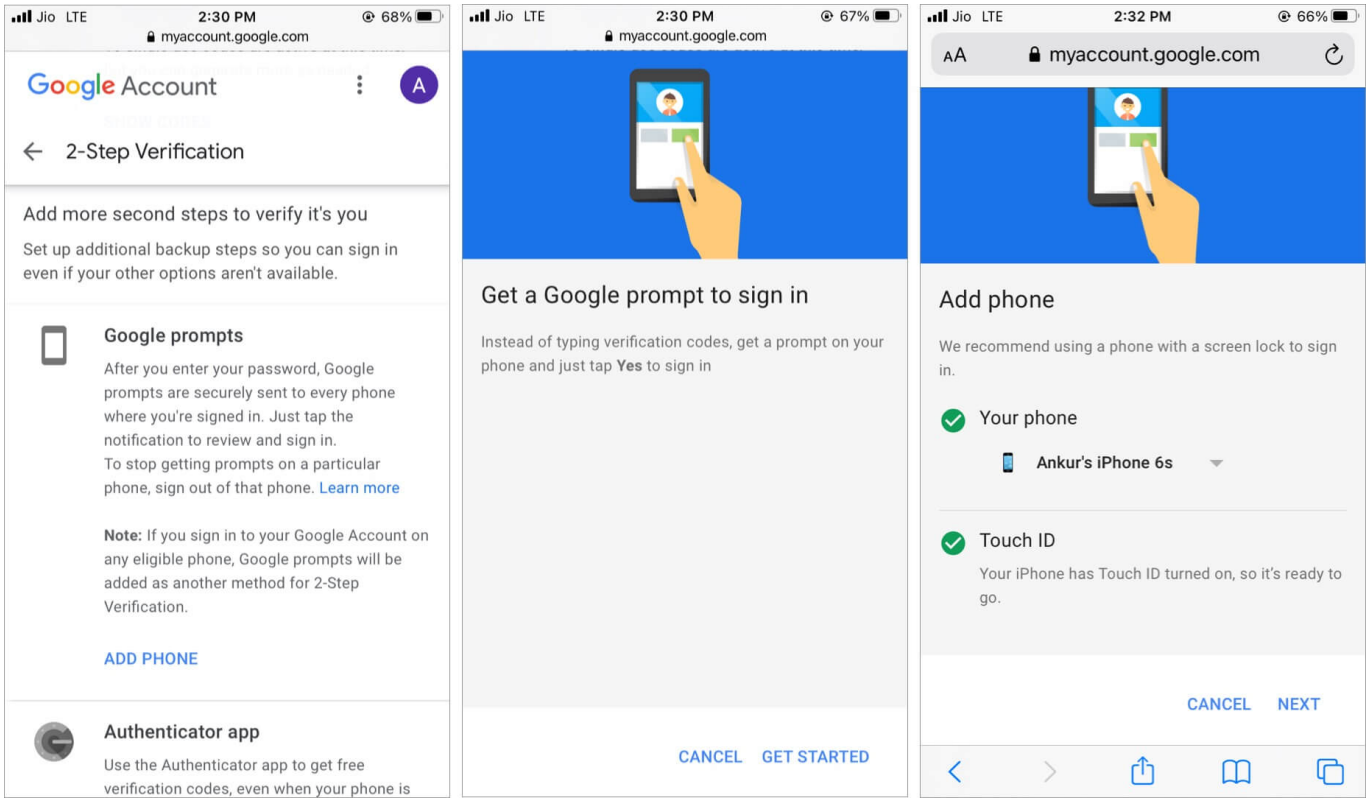
Verify using code received via text message or call

Google will send a code via SMS or call the registered mobile number. Enter this code to log in successfully.

SMS text messages are not hundred percent reliable and may take up to five minutes to arrive. Additionally, if you are in an area with no cellular connection or in a different country where your SIM isn’t operational, it’ll become next to impossible to verify with an SMS code. Even worse, what happens if you lose your phone! Enable other verification options just in case.

Use Google prompts in the Google or Gmail app on your phone

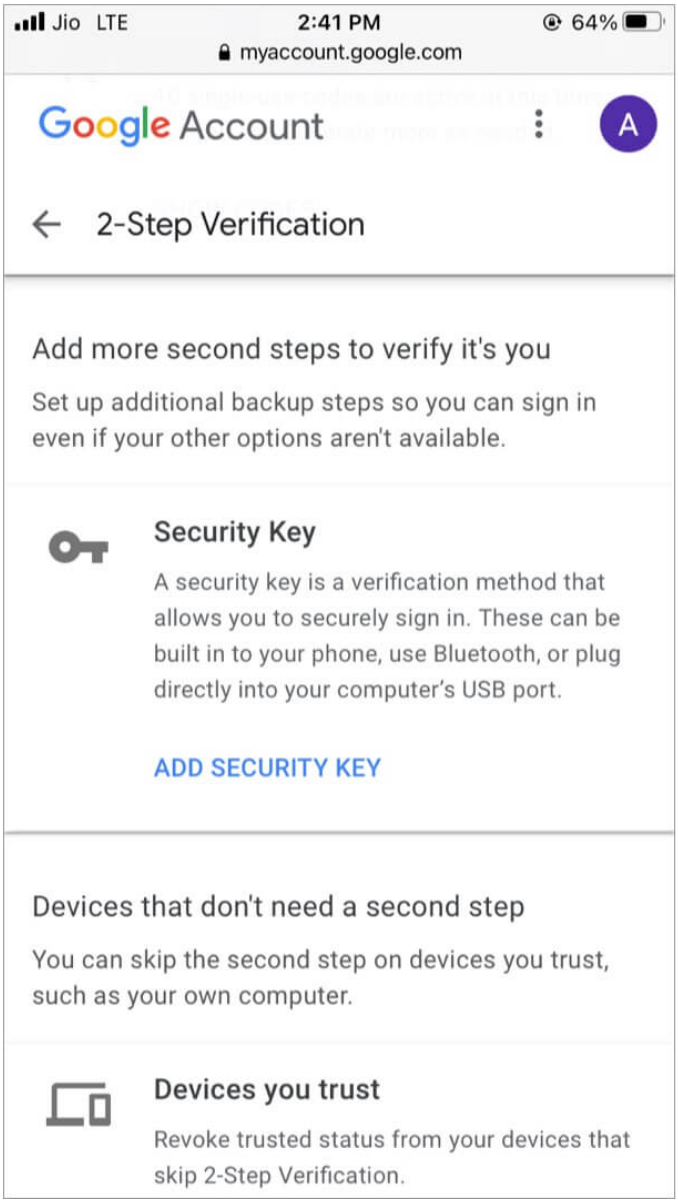
After setting up 2FA, scroll down to Google prompts → tap **ADD PHONE → GET STARTED → NEXT**, and authenticate via your Google password. If you get a prompt in your Gmail or Google app, tap **Yes** to confirm.

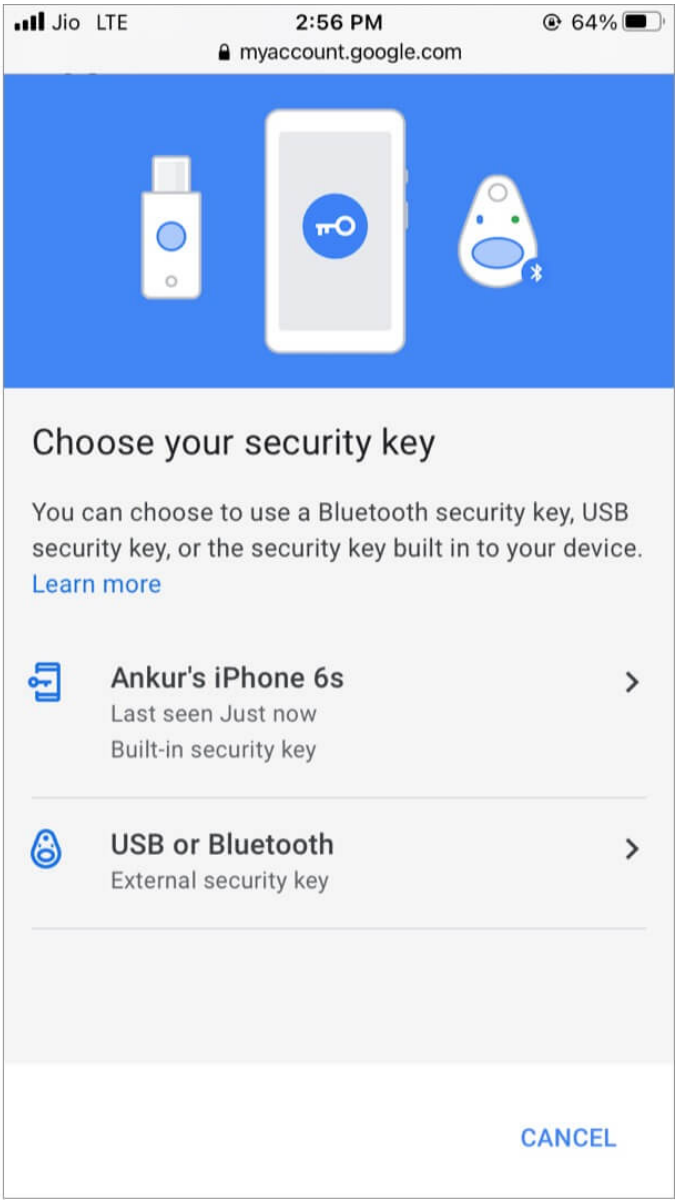


Note: Ensure you download and sign in to the official Gmail or Google app on your iPhone.

Now, when you try to login into your Google account on some other device, you will receive a notification in your phone's Google or Gmail app. It will ask if you are the one trying to sign in. Tap **Yes** to authenticate.

Use physical security keys for verification





If you have a security key that works via Bluetooth or Lightning port, tap **ADD SECURITY KEY** and proceed after enabling 2-step verification. If you have a security key with a regular USB, sign in to your Google account on a computer and set it up from there.

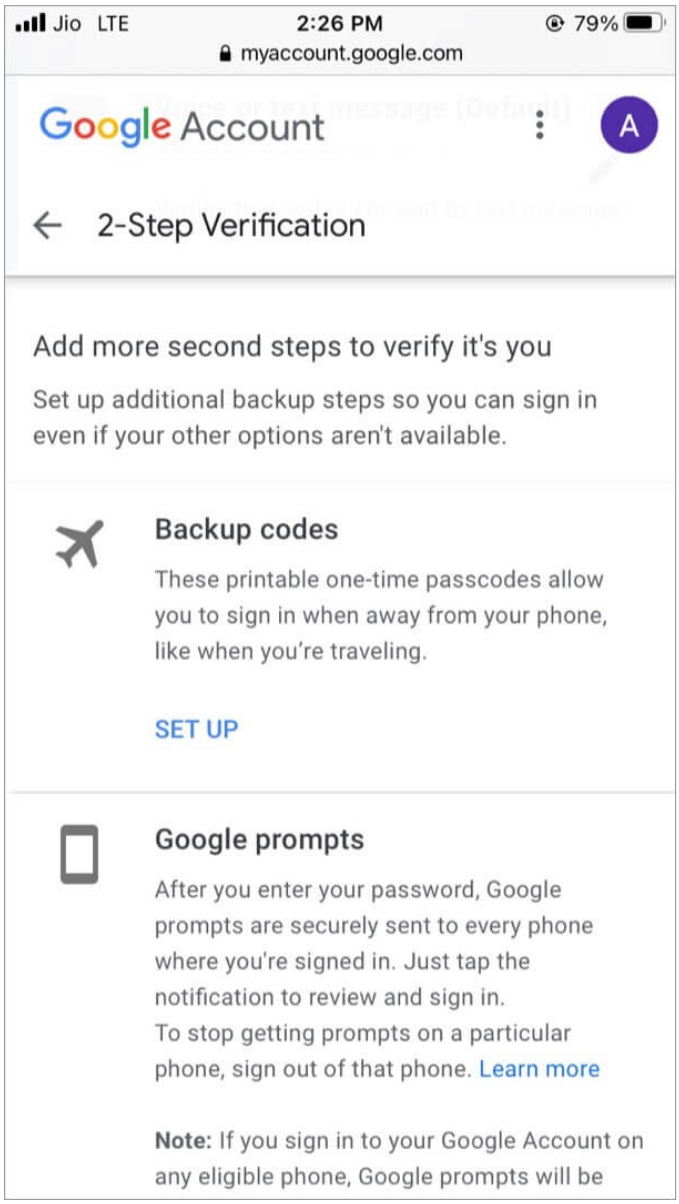
Depending on which security key you have, you will have to plug it into the device or connect via Bluetooth. Next, authenticate via the button or touch to complete the 2FA sign-in.

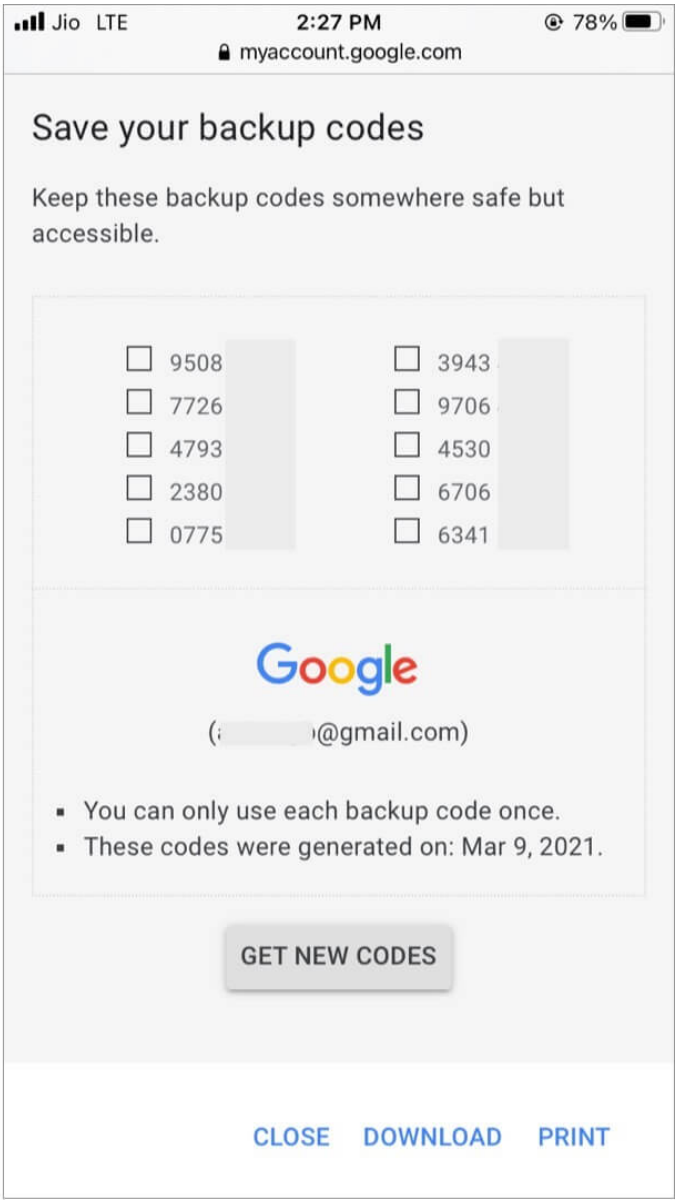
***Related**: Yubico Security Key For Two Factor Authentication*

Use your backup code to sign in

Finally, if you cannot use any of the above methods, you can also enter one of the backup codes to sign in. You are free to generate new backup codes anytime you like. Just make sure to keep them somewhere safe.

To generate backup codes after turning on 2FA, scroll down to **Backup codes**, tap **SET UP**.





You will see ten codes. Download, print, or take a screenshot (and hide it on your iPhone.)

You may also copy these codes, paste them into the iOS Notes app, and lock it.

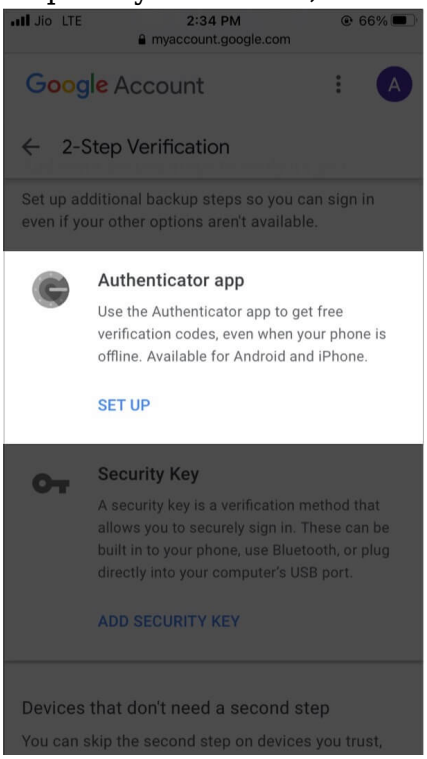
Tip – You can also use Google authenticator or other authentication apps for login verification. Let's understand more about Google authenticator and how to use it.

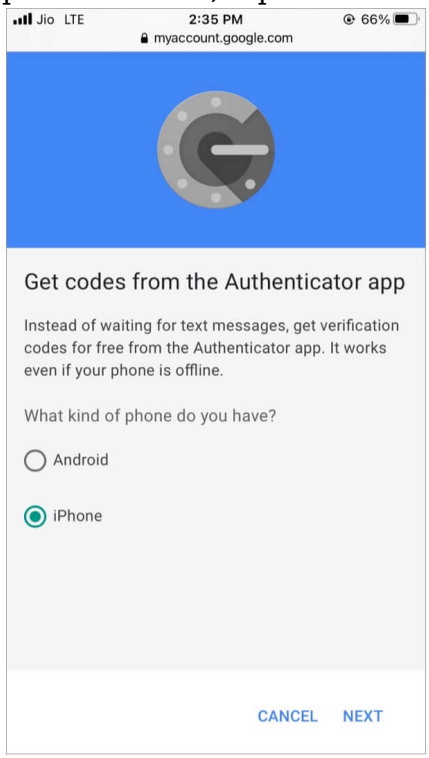
What is Google Authenticator and how to use it?

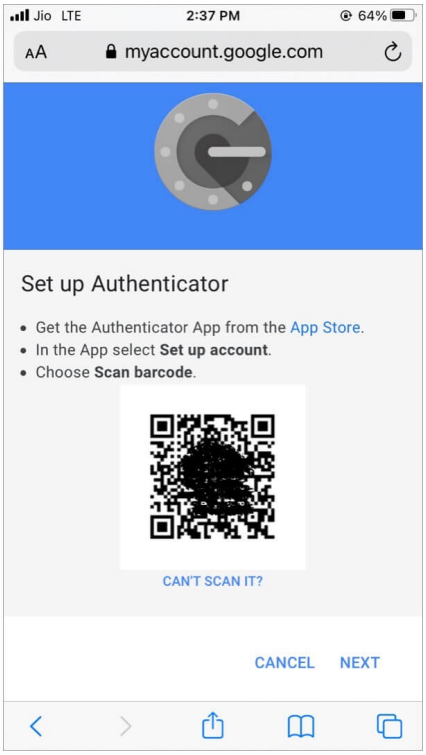
Google Authenticator is a free security tool that generates random codes to verify your identity when logging in to Gmail and other services like Facebook. It is a safer and better way to authenticate than an SMS. Moreover, it also works offline!

To use Google Authenticator, follow the below steps.

1. Download Google's Authenticator from the App Store.
2. Tap **SET UP** and choose your phone.
3. Next, you will see a QR code. Setting this up via a computer or iPad allows you to the QR code using the authenticator app on your iPhone. However, if you are following the steps on your iPhone, it isn't possible. Thus, tap **CAN'T SCAN IT?**

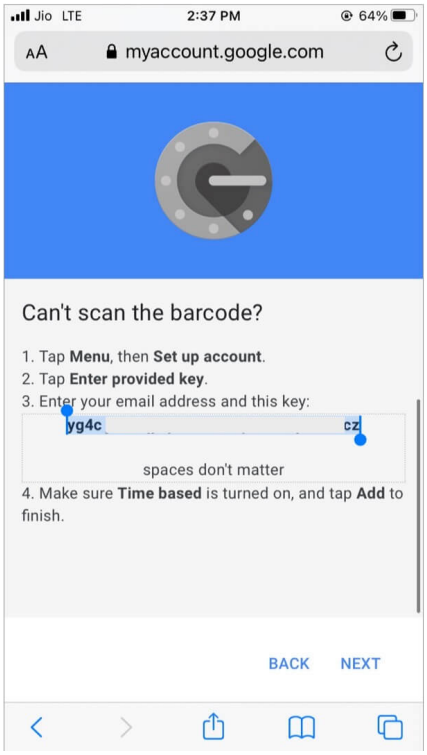


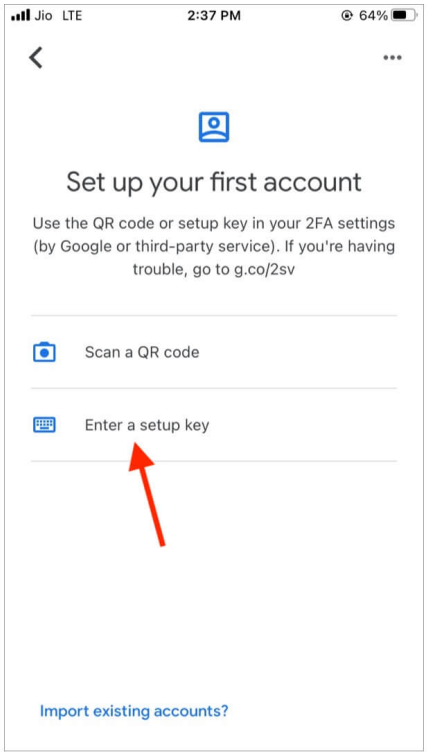


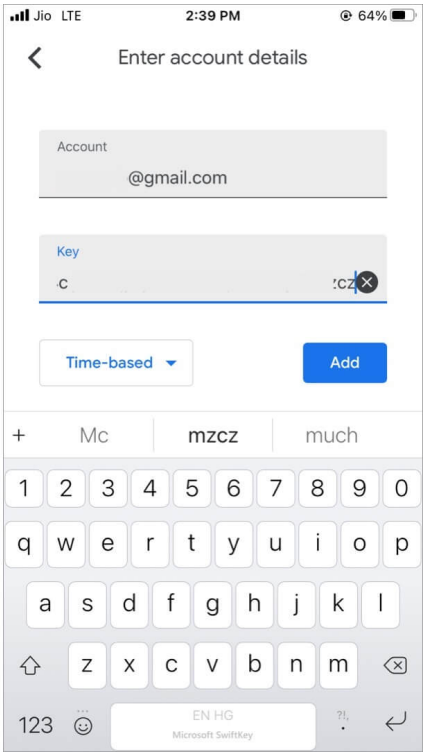


4. Now, copy the long code you see.
5. Next, open Google authenticator. Tap **Enter a setup key**.
6. Enter your Google address and paste the key. Ensure **Time-based** is selected and tap

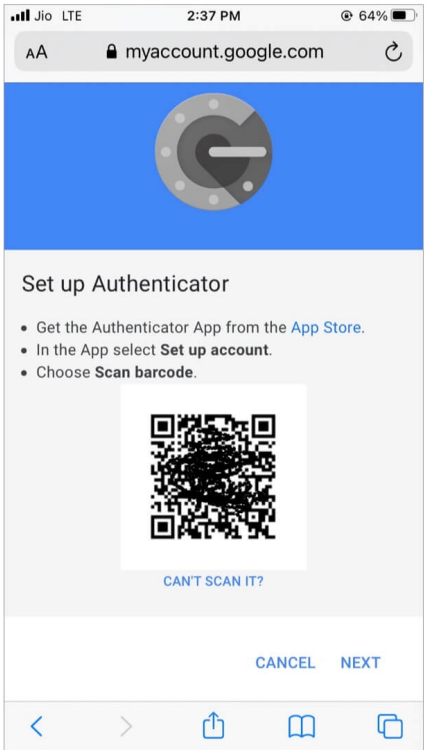
Add.

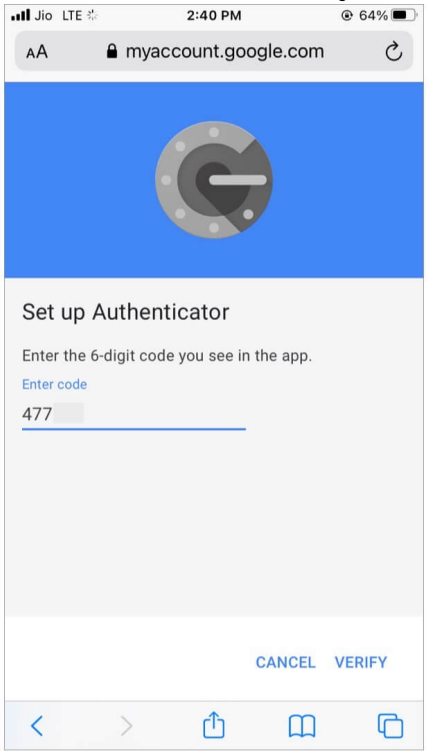


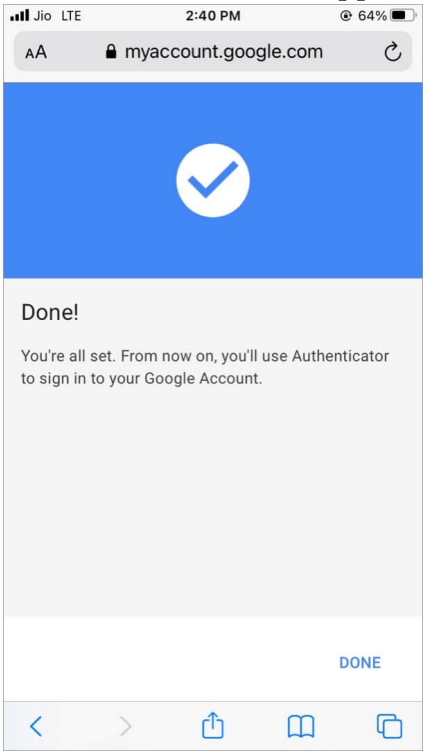




7. Now, open the browser and tap **NEXT**. Copy the six-digit code from the authenticator, paste it here, and tap **VERIFY**. You have successfully enabled the authenticator app.

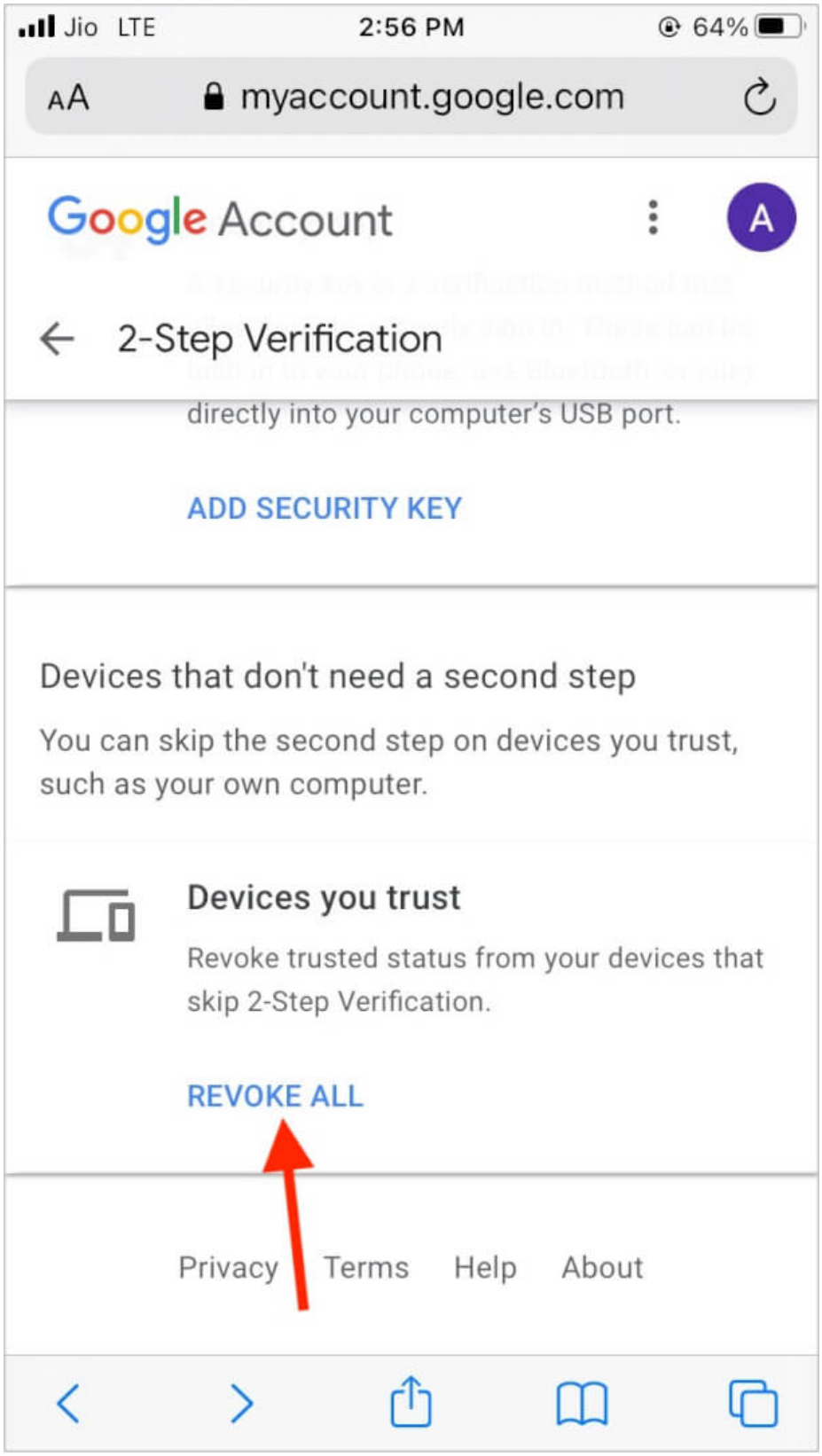






Skip 2-factor authentication on trusted devices

To ease the sign-in process, you may check “Don’t ask again on this computer” if the computer belongs to you. Do not do this on a public or office computer.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directly into your computer's USB port.
ADD SECURITY KEY
Devices that don't need a second step
You can skip the second step on devices you trust, such as your own computer.
Devices you trust
Revoke trusted status from your devices that skip 2-Step Verification.
REVOKE ALL
Privacy
Terms
Help
About

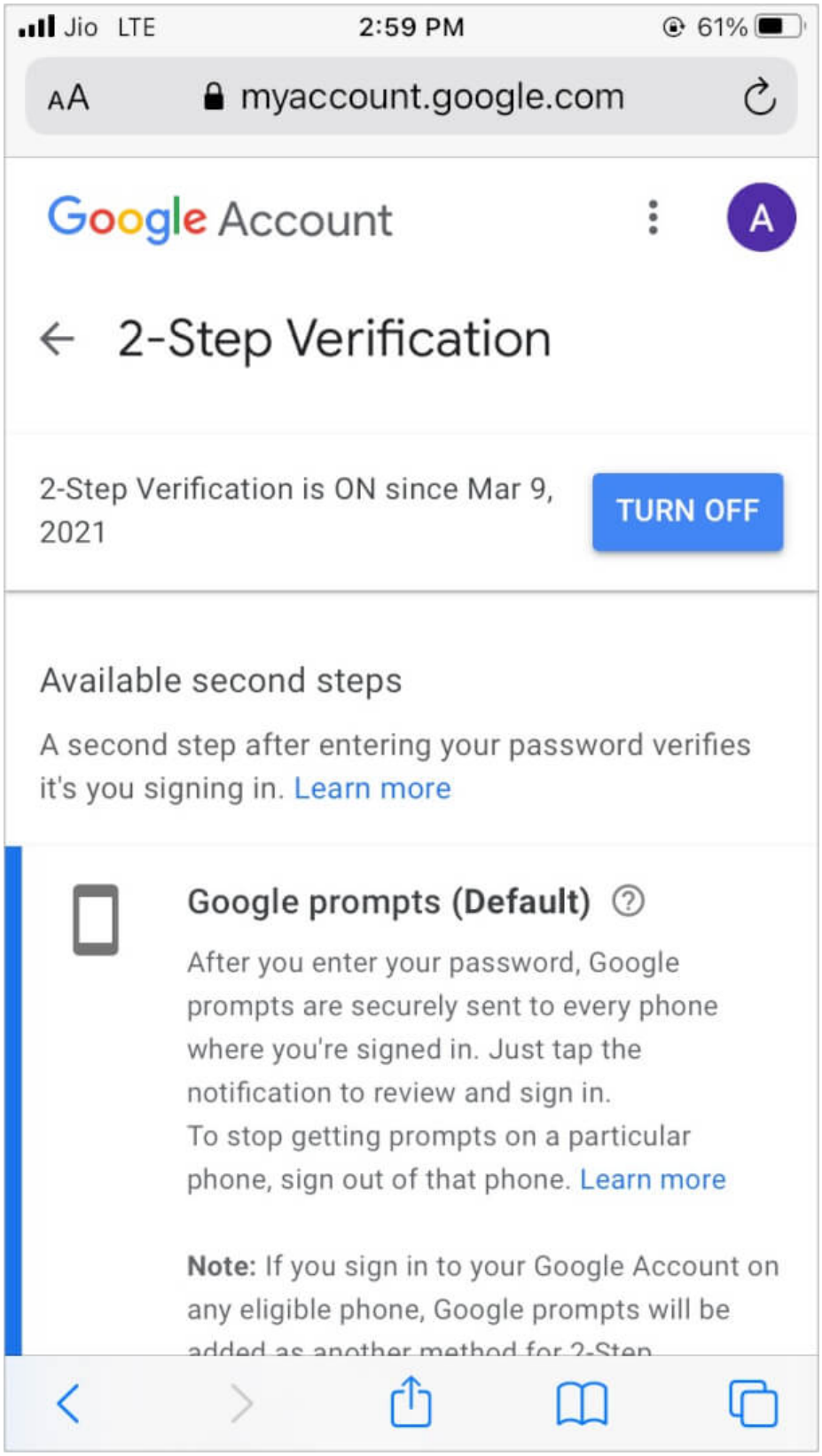
You can also remove trusted devices. Log in to your Google account → visit the **Security** tab → tap **REVOKE ALL** to remove trusted devices.

Now, you will be asked for the two-step verification code again on these devices while logging in.

How to turn off 2-factor authentication on iPhone

I would advise you not to, but you can turn off two-step verification of your Google account. To do this, follow the below steps;

1. Log in and make sure you are in the **Security** tab.
2. Tap **2-Step Verification**.
3. From the next screen, tap **TURN OFF**.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Google prompts (Default)
After you enter your password, Google prompts are securely sent to every phone where you're signed in. Just tap the notification to review and sign in.
To stop getting prompts on a particular phone, sign out of that phone. Learn more
Note: If you sign in to your Google Account on any eligible phone, Google prompts will be

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Have further questions? Feel free to ask via the comments below.

You will also love these:

- How to Use iCloud Keychain on iPhone or iPad