

# RSA SecurID Fobs

## Category: Security & Logging In

**Summary:** The SecurID fob is an electronic device that generates a time-based pseudo-random number (called the tokencode) every 30 seconds. Your current fob tokencode paired with your PIN is your "SecurID passcode" and is used to authenticate account access, such as login.

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In 2004, NASA's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) directed the agency to secure its supercomputing facilities with the RSA Security Inc's SecurID technology.

An agency-wide RSA SecurID fob (also called a token) is required to log into the NAS systems. All users must have a valid agency-wide RSA SecurID fob provided by either NAS or another NASA center. The RSA SecurID fob is a way of identifying yourself by proving you have something (fob) and you know something (your PIN).

In 2011, the OCIO determined that PINs will have exactly 8 characters, with at least 1 letter and at least 1 number. Letters are not case-sensitive, and no special characters are allowed. This requirement is being enforced for all NAS-provided fobs.

## Fob Description

The fob is an electronic device that generates a time-based pseudo-random number (called the tokencode) every 30 seconds, and presents the tokencode via its LCD display. When used in conjunction with a PIN, the pair is used to authenticate account access, such as login. This is known as One Time Password (OTP) technology.

The front face of a NAS-provided fob presents an LCD displaying six digits. The digits displayed will change every 30 seconds. Left of the six digits, six bars are displayed. These bars act as the countdown timer for the current token code displayed. Each of the six bars disappear at regular intervals until all bars are gone, at which point a new random number will be displayed and six bars re-appear to restart the countdown process.



The back side of a fob has three identifiers:

- Serial Number: This numerical sequence is unique for each fob
- Expiration Date: The "mm/dd/yy" format identifies the battery's termination date
- Mfr's Lot Number: The manufacturer's batch identifier

## Fob Care

Do not expose the fob to extreme temperature, pressure, x-rays, or magnetic fields.

If your agency-wide RSA SecurID fob was provided by NAS and is damaged or lost, immediately contact the NAS Control Room at (800) 331-8737 or (650) 604-4444. A Control Room analyst will initiate steps to replace your fob. Expect typical postal delivery delays. If your agency-wide RSA SecurID fob was not provided by NAS, please contact the RSA help desk at your center for assistance.

Before you receive your new fob, NAS Control Room analysts can issue you a set of 10 temporary passwords (each usable only once and in combination with your PIN). You may request another set if the initial set is used before your fob arrives.

More information about RSA SecurID can be found at the [RSA website](#).

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<http://www.nas.nasa.gov/hecc/support/kb/entry/58/?ajax=1>