What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a login unit configured to allow a user to log in to the image forming apparatus;

a determination unit configured to determine, in a case where the image forming apparatus operates in a function-based authentication mode, whether or not a user-selected function of a plurality of functions requires user authentication, the plurality of functions including at least a secure printing function for printing data in response to an input of a password; and

a permission unit configured to, in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function and it is determined by said determination unit that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, allow the user to use the secure printing function, even if the user is not authenticated.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user can be one of a general user whose user name is managed by the image forming apparatus, and a guest user whose user name is not managed by the image forming apparatus, and

wherein when it is determined by said

determination unit that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, said permission unit allows the user to use the secure printing function, but inhibits the user from performing operations related to data of the guest user.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a login mode operation unit configured to operate the image forming apparatus in a login mode in which the user is allowed to perform operations related to various functions which can be executed by the image forming apparatus, after the user is authenticated as the general user or the guest user, and

wherein said permission unit allows, when the user is authenticated as the general user, the user to perform the operations related to a secure print job of the general user, whereas said permission unit does not allow, when the user is authenticated as the guest user, the user to perform any of operations related to all secure print jobs.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a login mode operation unit configured to operate the image forming apparatus in a login mode in which the user is allowed to cause various functions which can be executed by the image

forming apparatus to be executed after the user is authenticated as the general user or the guest user, and

wherein said permission unit allows, when the user is authenticated as the general user, the user to perform the operations related to a secure print job of the general user, whereas said permission unit allows, when the user is authenticated as the guest user, the user to perform the operations related to a secure print job of the guest user.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is determined by said determination unit that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, and also the user is not authenticated, said permission unit allows the user to perform ones of operations other than an operation for deleting the data.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user can be a user authenticated as an administrator who manages the image forming apparatus, and

wherein when it is determined by said determination unit that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, and also the user is authenticated as the administrator, said permission

unit allows the user to use the secure printing function.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein various functions which can be executed by the image forming apparatus include a detailed information-displaying function for displaying detailed information of history of print jobs which have been executed,

wherein said determination unit determines whether or not the detailed information is always allowed to be displayed, and

wherein when it is determined that the detailed information is not always allowed to be displayed, and also the user is not authenticated, said permission unit does not allow detailed information of history of print jobs which have been executed to be displayed.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user can be a user authenticated as an administrator who manages the image forming apparatus, and

wherein various functions which can be executed by the image forming apparatus include a detailed information-displaying function for displaying detailed information of history of print jobs which have been executed,

wherein said determination unit determines whether or not the detailed information is always allowed to be displayed, and

wherein when it is determined that the detailed information is not always allowed to be displayed, and also the user is authenticated as the administrator, said permission unit allows the detailed information of history of all secure print jobs which have been executed to be displayed, whereas when the user is not authenticated as the administrator, said permission unit allows only detailed information of history of executed print jobs of the user to be displayed.

9. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus, comprising:

allowing a user to log in to the image forming apparatus;

determining, in a case where the image forming apparatus operates in a function-based authentication mode, whether or not a user-selected function of a plurality of functions requires user authentication, the plurality of functions including at least a secure printing function for printing data in response to an input of a password; and

allowing, in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function and it is determined by said determining that the user-

selected function does not require user authentication, the user to use the secure printing function, even if the user is not authenticated.

10. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-executable program for executing a method of controlling an image forming apparatus,

wherein the method comprises:

allowing a user to log in to the image forming apparatus;

determining, in a case where the image forming apparatus operates in a function-based authentication mode, whether or not a user-selected function of a plurality of functions requires user authentication, the plurality of functions including at least a secure printing function for printing data in response to an input of a password; and

allowing, in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function and it is determined by said determining that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, the user to use the secure printing function, even if the user is not authenticated.

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a determination unit configured to determine, in a case where the image forming apparatus operates in a function-based authentication mode, whether or not a user-selected function of a plurality of functions is set to be allowed to be used without user authentication, the plurality of functions including at least a secure printing function for secure print jobs, each secure print job having a job password; and

a permission unit configured to,

in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function, and if it is determined by said determination unit that the user selected function is not set to be allowed to be used without user authentication, request a user to input user information, and then if the user authentication used by the input user information is successful, allow a user identified by the user information to operate a secure print job of the user's own among the secure print jobs, and

in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function, and if it is determined by said determination unit that the user selected function is set to be allowed to be used without the user authentication, allow any users to operate the secure print jobs.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user can be one of a general user whose user name is managed by the image forming apparatus, and a guest user whose user name is not managed by the image forming apparatus, and

wherein when it is determined by said determination unit that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, said permission unitallows the user to use the secure printing function, but inhibits the user from performing operations related to data of the guest user.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a login mode operation unit configured to operate the image forming apparatus in a login mode in which the user is allowed to perform operations related to various functions which can be executed by the image forming apparatus, after the user is authenticated as the general user or the guest user, and

wherein said permission unit allows, when the user is authenticated as the general user, the user to perform the operations related to a secure print job of the general user, whereas said permission unit does not allow, when the user is authenticated as the guest user,

the user to perform any of operations related to all secure print jobs.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim

2, further comprising a login mode operation unit configured to operate the image forming apparatus in a login mode in which the user is allowed to cause various functions which can be executed by the image forming apparatus to be executed after the user is authenticated as the general user or the guest user, and

wherein said permission unit allows, when the user is authenticated as the general user, the user to perform the operations related to a secure print job of the general user, whereas said permission unit allows, when the user is authenticated as the guest user, the user to perform the operations related to a secure print job of the guest user.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is determined by said determination unit that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, and also the user is not authenticated, said permission unit allows the user to perform ones of operations other than an operation for deleting the data.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user can be a user authenticated as an administrator who manages the image forming apparatus, and

wherein when it is determined by said determination unit that the user-selected function does not require user authentication, and also the user is authenticated as the administrator, said permission unit

allows the user to use the secure printing function.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein various functions which can be executed by the image forming apparatus include a detailed information-displaying function for displaying detailed information of history of print jobs which have been executed,

wherein said determination unit determines whether or not the detailed information is always allowed to be displayed, and

wherein when it is determined that the detailed information is not always allowed to be displayed, and also the user is not authenticated, said permission unit does not allow detailed information of history of print jobs which have been executed to be displayed.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user can be a user authenticated as an administrator who manages the image forming apparatus, and

wherein various functions which can be executed by the image forming apparatus include a detailed information-displaying functionfor displaying detailed information of history of print jobs which have been executed,

wherein said determination unit determines whether or not the detailed information is always allowed to be displayed, and

wherein when it is determined that the detailed information is not always allowed to be displayed, and also the user is authenticated as the administrator, said permission unit allows the detailed information of history of all secure print jobs which have been executed to be displayed, whereas when the user is not authenticated as the administrator, said permission unit allows only detailed information of history of executed print jobs of the user to be displayed.

9. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus, comprising:

determining, in a case where the image forming apparatus operates in a function-based authentication mode, whether or not a user-selected function of a plurality of functions is set to be allowed to be used without user authentication, the plurality of functions including at least a secure printing function for secure print jobs, each secure print job having a job password; and

allowing,

in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function, and if it is determined that the user selected function is not set to be allowed to be used without user authentication, request a user to input user information, and then if the user authentication used by the input user information is successful, allow a user identified by the user information to operate a secure print job of

the user's own among the secure print jobs, and

in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function, and if it is determined that the user selected function is set to be allowed to be used without the user authentication, allow any users to operate the secure print jobs

10. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-executable program for executing a method of controlling an image forming apparatus,

wherein the method comprises:

determining, in a case where the image forming apparatus operates in a function-based authentication mode, whether or not a user-selected function of a plurality of functions is set to be allowed to be used without user authentication; and

allowing,

in a case where a secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function, and if it is determined that the user selected function is not set to be allowed to be used without user authentication, request a user to input user information, and then if the user authentication used by the input user information is successful, allow a user identified by the user information to operate a secure print job of the user's own among the secure print jobs, and

in a case where the secure printing function is specified as the user-selected function, and if it is

determined that the user selected function is set to be allowed to be used without the user authentication, allow any users to operate the secure print jobs.