

Re: AUTHENTICATION IN UNIX

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- *From:* sillybanter@xxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Thu, 26 Oct 2006 17:50:06 GMT
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Pascal Bourguignon <pjb@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

sethukr@xxxxxxxxx writes:

Hi all,

I have implemented a sample FTP Server.

But it allows any user.

I need to implement a "Authendication Module" in my FTP Server(in C lang).

Help me by giving ur suggestions. How can i authenticate a valid user?????????????

The first question to answer, is what authentication database you want to use.

For example, you could keep a list of user/password specific to your ftp server, or you could use /etc/passwd, or you could use NIS or PAM or LDAP, etc).

The second question is how the authentication protocol works. The standard FTP just sends the user name and the password in clear to the server, but this allow anybody with access to the network to listen and collect the password. In some protocols, for example POP-3, instead of sending the password in clear, we can send a md5 hash of the user name + password + a token send by the server.

In any case, the server just needs to be able to find a password given a user name, and then to do the processing it needs to do to authenticate.

If you keep your user/password in a simple file (or a db file), you can just compare a password sent in clear with the password found in the database.

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If you want to use `/etc/passwd(/etc/shadow)`, you need to encrypt the password send it clear with the same salt as in `/etc/passwd(/etc/shadow)`, and compare the encrypted versions.

Or.... you could read up on PAM, do authentication through PAM functions, and leave all the details to the provided modules so that you don't have to re-invent the wheel.

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