

RE: security for WS call from behavior and ASP.net

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Date: 06/07/02

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Hello,

I apologize for the delay on this. I would recommend using SOAP headers and authenticating at the message level.

This is the approach adopted by the WS-Security specification; one of a set of specifications that comprise the Global XML Web Services Architecture (GXA) initiative.

With this approach, security is applied at the SOAP message level through a set of SOAP extensions. SOAP messages are self contained, with headers carrying the relevant security attributes including security tokens that contain usernames to support client authentication. Confidentiality and integrity is provided by a variety of message-level encryption techniques.

Advantages

- Security is independent from the underlying transport, making the approach ideally suited to the loosely coupled, heterogeneous environments for which Web services are designed.
- Provides end-to-end security and accommodates message routing through intermediate application nodes.
- Supports multiple encryption technologies.

Disadvantages

- There is generally more development effort involved with message level techniques.
- The GXA specifications are in the early stages of development and as a result are not yet defined standards.

I hope this helps!

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