

Some help required: Different flavour of logon via FormsAuthentication?

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Hi there,

I've been doing some asp.net coding (finally), and I've created an app that takes in some data, validates it, performs a calculation and writes it to a db. My intention is to use Forms Authentication so that surfers have to enter an id (and only an id) in order to move around the site. Folder structure is thus:

Broker (top level app folder, contains web.config, deny all unauth users)

CP (Product Info folder, contains Apply Online.aspx)

So, all well and good. I'll have my login page in the Broker folder, and that will force anyone to login if they try to go to Broker or CP, then redirect them to where they want to go.

But as usual, there's a kink in the line. In some cases, a single id will not suffice, there needs to be an identifier and an id, meaning a different login form, or altering the existing one. I could get the people who require two ids to go directly to the login page, and pass in a querystring parm that identifies that they are 'special', and alter the form and code behind accordingly.

The question is, what then? I was thinking of storing their authentication details in a cookie (as seems to be common practice), utilising the user value part of the cookie to store details about them – basically, the surfer is resolved down to an agent id (which is good enough for 80% of the surfers), but the 'special' 20% need extra info to be resolved to that agent id.

I could store the agent id in the User Name of the auth ticket, and then the extra info about them in the User Data auth ticket (i.e. the fact that they are 'special' and the required extra data).

The big problem is, what happens when the cookie expires? They will be redirected to the login page (as they are no longer authenticated), and the app will have lost site of the fact that they are 'special', and present them with the standard login form. Could I store the fact that they are special in ViewState? I don't want to use Session as that will expire as well, same problem... I suppose I could set the cookie to expire in 12 hours, giving them plenty of time to do their work...

Also, am I right in believing that once you're authenticated, that's it? I.e. the fact that some people are 'special' won't really matter in the call to `Application_AuthenticateRequest`?

Ta all,

Mike K.