

Re: Forms Authentication: login page in a separate web app

Source:

<http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security/2003-11/0307.html>

From: Brad (*nospam_at_co.lane.or.us*)

Date: 11/25/03

Date: Mon, 24 Nov 2003 19:55:54 -0800

Jim & Hari,

Here's the section from the book (and t's definitely worth having a hard copy of this as I do)

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dnnetsec/html/SecNetch08.asp>

=====

Hosting Multiple Applications Using Forms Authentication

If you are hosting multiple Web applications that use Forms authentication on the same Web server, it is possible for a user who is authenticated in one application to make a request to another application without being redirected to that application's logon page. The URL authorization rules within the second application may deny access to the user, without providing the opportunity to supply logon credentials using the logon form. This only happens if the name and path attributes on the <forms> element are the same across multiple applications and each application uses a common <machineKey> element in Web.config.

=====

In our case we have one web application that is our intranet portal. The portal app has the login page and handles creating the forms authentication. All other web apps point to this one login page. When the login is completed login page redirects back to the calling page...and now the user is back in the web app which required the authentication. All that's left for a web app to do is populate the app sepcific roles in the authentication ticket and retrieve the roles....which we do in common base class for the global.asax. The portal app even manages the roles for all of the other apps and serves them up to the other apps via a web service.

In the end all our web apps can implement the basic of common security with very few lines of code.

Brad

"Jim Cheshire [MSFT]" <jamesche@online.microsoft.com> wrote in message

microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security: Re: Forms Authentication: login page in a separate web app

news:707\$YVtsDHA.3444@cpmsftngxa07.phx.gbl...

> Brad,

>

> *I'm not aware of any part of that book that indicates that you can point
> multiple applications to one login page. Maybe I'm not completely aware
of*

> *what Hari is asking about.*

>

> *Hari, if you want to have one login page for multiple applications, you
> can't do that. However, if you want to allow a user to login using a
login*

> *page and then have that login valid for other applications, that IS
> possible.*

>

> *The two do not accomplish the same thing. In the latter, it is assumed
> that a user will always log in to your application from one specific
> application. The scenario you originally described did not seem to relate
> to that requirement.*

>

> *Jim Cheshire, MCSE, MCSD [MSFT]*

> *Developer Support*

> *ASP.NET*

> *jamesche@online.microsoft.com*

>

> *This post is provided as-is with no warranties and confers no rights.*

>

> -----

> >From: "Brad" <nospam@co.lane.or.us>

> >References: <042201c3934f\$14869690\$a401280a@phx.gbl>

> >Subject: Re: Forms Authentication: login page in a separate web app

> >Date: Mon, 24 Nov 2003 11:04:38 -0800

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cpmsftngxa07.phx.gbl!cpmsftngxa06.phx.gbl!TK2MSFTNGP08.phx.gbl!TK2MSFTNGP11.

> phx.gbl

> >Xref: cpmsftngxa07.phx.gbl

> microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security:7659

> >X-Tomcat-NG: microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security

>

> >Hari – This is quite possible and in fact we're using it; our portal app

> >manages all logins for all apps. You should read up on how to do this

in

> >Building Secure Microsoft ASP.NET Applications

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>[http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dnnetsec/h](http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dnnetsec/html/secnetlpMSDN.asp)
> tml/secnetlpMSDN.asp
>>
>>
>>
>> "Hari Menon" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message
>> news:042201c3934f\$14869690\$a401280a@phx.gbl...
>>> Hi,
>>>
>>> I would like to create a WebApp, say MySecurityProvider,
>>> that just contains a login page that knows how to
>>> authenticate a user. And I want other web apps, e.g.
>>> MyTestWebApp, that require authentication to point their
>>> loginUrl to the login page in my web app.
>>>
>>> Is that possible? I tried setting the loginUrl in
>>> MyTestWebApp to point to /MySecurityProvider/login.aspx.
>>> What happens is that the redirect to the login page
>>> succeeds and the login goes through as well and the
>>> cookie gets issued (I set the path to "/" in both the
>>> RedirectFromLoginPage() as well as in the <forms> tag).
>>> But the protected resource in MyTestWebApp still cannot
>>> be accessed. When I access an unprotected resource in
>>> MyTestWebApp and check the cookies that are set, I do see
>>> that the auth cookie IS there. But somehow I do not seem
>>> to be able to access the protected resource on
>>> MyTestWebApp – it always redirects me to the login page.
>>>
>>> Am I doing something wrong or is this not supposed to
>>> work?
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