

Forms Authentication and Differences Between Windows Explorer and IE

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Hi,

Hoping someone can help me. I have noticed different behaviour between a website launched from Windows explorer and Internet Explorer. I have set up a simple test application to demonstrate this problem:

1. Create a new ASP.NET application in VS.NET at <http://localhost/test>.
2. Added a default form, Default.aspx, that has a simple button that does the FormsAuthentication stuff:

```
<% @ Page language="c#" Codebehind="Default.aspx.cs"
AutoEventWireup="false" Inherits="LoginTest._Default" %>
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN" >
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<title>Default</title>
</HEAD>
<body>
<form id="Form1" method="post" runat="server">
<asp:Button id="Button1" runat="server" Text="Set
Session"></asp:Button>
<br/>
<br/>
<asp:Label id="Label1" Runat="server"></asp:Label>
</form>
</body>
</HTML>
```

```
public class _Default : System.Web.UI.Page
{
    protected System.Web.UI.WebControls.Label Label1;
    protected System.Web.UI.WebControls.Button Button1;

    #region Web Form Designer generated code
```

```

    override protected void OnInit(EventArgs e)
    {
        InitializeComponent();
        base.OnInit(e);
    }

    private void InitializeComponent()
    {
        this.Button1.Click += new System.EventHandler(this.Button1_Click);
    }
#endregion
    private void Button1_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
    {
        FormsAuthentication.RedirectFromLoginPage("user", false);
    }
}

```

2. Added a second form that does nothing:

```

<%@ Page language="c#" Codebehind="NeedsAuth.aspx.cs"
AutoEventWireup="false" Inherits="LoginTest.NeedsAuth" %>
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN" >
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<title>NeedsAuth</title>
</HEAD>
<body>
<form id="Form1" method="post" runat="server">
    Hello!
</form>
</body>
</HTML>

```

```

public class NeedsAuth : System.Web.UI.Page
{
    protected System.Web.UI.WebControls.Label LoginLabel;

    private void Page_Load(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
    {
    }
#region Web Form Designer generated code
    override protected void OnInit(EventArgs e)
    {
        InitializeComponent();
        base.OnInit(e);
    }
    private void InitializeComponent()
    {
        this.Load += new System.EventHandler(this.Page_Load);
    }
#endregion

```

```
}

```

3. Changed my web.config file to the following:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<configuration>
  <system.web>
    <compilation defaultLanguage="c#" debug="true"/>
    <customErrors mode="RemoteOnly"/>
    <authentication mode="Forms">
      <forms name="TestAuth" loginUrl="Default.aspx" protection="All"
timeout="30" slidingExpiration="true"/>
    </authentication>
    <authorization>
      <deny users="?" />
    </authorization>
    <trace enabled="false" requestLimit="10" pageOutput="false"
traceMode="SortByTime" localOnly="true"/>
    <sessionState mode="InProc" cookieless="false" timeout="40"/>
    <globalization requestEncoding="utf-8" responseEncoding="utf-8" />
  </system.web>
</configuration>

```

Now, if I load up IE by clicking on the IE icon in my desktop, then type in <http://localhost/test/NeedsAuth.aspx>, it redirects me to Default.aspx. I click on the button and it redirects me back to NeedsAuth.aspx as it should. Now if I shut down IE, then load it up again by clicking on the IE icon and go to <http://localhost/test/NeedsAuth.aspx> it redirected me to Default.aspx and I have to login again as expected.

Everything fine so far. However, if I try this via Windows explorer I get different behaviour. If I double click on 'My Computer' and enter <http://localhost/test/NeedsAuth.aspx> into the address bar, it redirects me to Default.aspx. I click on the button and it redirects me back to NeedsAuth.aspx as it should. Now if I close the window, then double click on 'My Computer' and enter <http://localhost/test/NeedsAuth.aspx> again, it does not redirect me to Default.aspx and I am fully logged in.

Similar tests with Page.Session and no authentication indicate that it also has the same behaviour.

I presume this is to do with the way Windows explorer runs IE. Get get an IExplore process in task manager if I load IE via its icon, but I do not if I enter the URL into My Computer.

This is obviously giving me a major security hole; a user could load up my application, forget to log out properly, (Or have their browser crash) then another user could come along and enter the URL and be fully logged in.

I've tried lots of things to get around this, but cannot solve the problem. Currently I'm considering using a `<body unload=> JavaScript` method to post somewhere that does the `FormsAuthentication.SignOut()`, but obviously this isn't great and wouldn't be any use if the browser crash. I've tried searching in these forums and in various newsgroups without any luck.

Hopefully its me being a muppet and I've missed something stupid. If anyone can help I'd be really grateful!

Cheers,

Kev