

## Re: User Authentication, Active Directory and more (help)

**Source:**

<http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security/2004-06/0181.html>

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**Date:** 06/17/04

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 2004 10:22:25 -0500

Yes, .NET can make use of any Windows account (local machine, NT4 domain or AD) for authentication and authorization.

The built-in support for this is in the `WindowsIdentity` and `WindowsPrincipal` classes. `WindowsIdentity` represents the Windows user and is basically a wrapper around the Windows login token. `WindowsPrincipal` contains a `WindowsIdentity` and provides the ability to do role-based authorization against a user's Windows groups by calling the `IsInRole` method with the Windows group name. You can get the current `WindowsIdentity` at any time by calling `WindowsIdentity.GetCurrent()`.

The `WindowsPrincipal` class can be associated automatically with the currently executing thread as well. The mechanism for doing this is different depending on whether it is an ASP.NET or WinForms/Console app. This association allows you to take advantage of the `PrincipalPermissionAttribute` for doing declarative security in .NET. There is quite a bit of explanation of this stuff that you can find in MSDN if you need specifics, or you can ask here.

Joe K.

"Timothy Perez" <tpssoftware@users.sourceforge.net> wrote in message news:X6CdnTDpUNfLs0zdRVn-jA@scarlet.biz...

> Hi,

>

> Can a .NET application make use of the information within the Active Directory in order to Authenticate and Authorize users?

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> For example users from a specific group have been authorize to use a number of features in the application while users from another group have not.

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> I know there is something called Code Access Security, but there seem to be classes for the Active Directory Services and classes for something called Windows Principle.

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> *I wonder if someone could get me started with this.*

>

> *Another thing is, can devices running the Compact Framework  
> be authenticated and authorized in the same way (since they don't have a  
> user logged on) Can they be a valid member of a domain ?*

>

>

> *Thnx.*