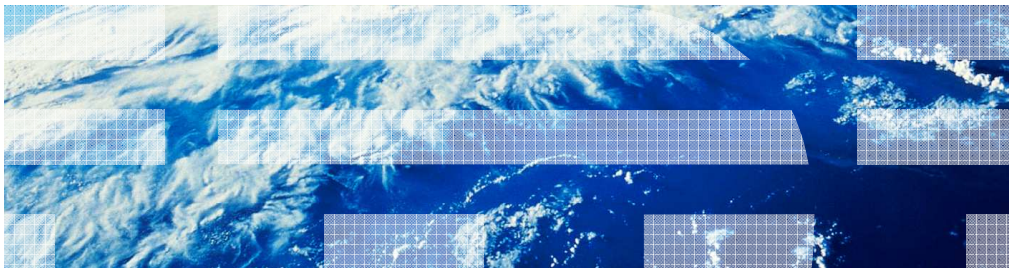


# IBM WebSphere Application Server V8

Enhanced security and governance



This presentation describes security enhancements in IBM WebSphere Application Server V8.

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- Security hardening
- Security configuration report improvements
- Security audit log improvements

This presentation covers three new features in WebSphere Application Server that enhance the security of your WebSphere environment.

The first topic covers improved default settings that harden your application server environment without the need to modify your security configuration.

The next topic describes new information provided in the security configuration report.

Finally, you will see improvements to security audit log management behaviors.

## ***Security hardening***

This section covers security hardening.

## Additional features enabled by default

- More secure default settings enhance security:
  - CSv2 connections now require SSL
  - New HttpOnly settings on LTPA and session cookies guard against cross-site scripting attacks
  - Session security is enabled to restrict access to the user who created the session.
  - Web authentication is set to make login information available to unprotected resources.

To provide stronger security, new installations of WebSphere Application Server Version 8.0 are configured with stronger default settings.

CSv2 (or Common Security Interoperability Version 2) inbound and outbound connections to WebSphere Application Server are set to require SSL to provide stronger transport level security.

Web security is made more secure by new HttpOnly settings on LTPA cookies and session cookies. The HttpOnly attribute on these cookies will mitigate the possibility of cross-site scripting vulnerability attacks, the HttpOnly attribute is enabled on the LTPA cookie and the WASReqURL cookies by default.

Session security is enabled by default. This ensures that when a session is created for a user, only that user can access the session.

Finally, by default, web authentication is configured so that authentication information is available to unprotected resources. This enables those resources to access information in a secure session without failing and can also be used to determine the login under which unprotected resources were accessed.

## CSIV2 SSL required default

The screenshot displays the IBM WebSphere Administration Console interface. On the left, the navigation pane shows the path: **Security** > **Global security**. The main content area is titled "Global security > CSIV2 inbound communications". It contains several sections:

- CSIV2 Attribute Layer:** Includes "Propagate security attributes" (checked) and "Use identity assertion" (unchecked).
- CSIV2 Transport Layer:** Includes "Client certificate authentication" (set to "Supported") and "Transport" (set to "SSL\_required"). Below this is an "SSL settings" section with "Centrally managed" selected and "Manage endpoint security configurations" chosen.
- CSIV2 Message Layer:** Includes "Message layer authentication" (set to "Supported") and "Allow client to server authentication with:" (set to "LTPA").

An orange arrow points from the "Security" > "Global security" path in the left navigation pane to the "Transport" dropdown menu in the "CSIV2 Transport Layer" section.

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To locate the CSIV2 transport setting in the left navigation area of the console, open “Security” and select “Global security”.

On the “Global security page, Under Authentication, expand RMI/IIOP and select either inbound or outbound CSIV2 communications.

The transport security setting is under CSIV2 Transport Layer.

## HttpOnly configuration for web security single-sign on

The screenshot shows the IBM Global Security console. On the left, a navigation tree is expanded to 'Web and SIP security' > 'Single sign-on (SSO)'. The main panel displays the 'Global security > Single sign-on (SSO)' configuration. Under 'General Properties', the following settings are visible:

- Enabled
- Requires SSL
- Domain name:
- Interoperability Mode
- Web inbound security attribute propagation
- Set security cookies to HTTPOnly to help prevent cross-site scripting attacks

Buttons at the bottom include 'Apply', 'OK', 'Reset', and 'Cancel'. An orange arrow points to the 'Set security cookies to HTTPOnly...' checkbox.

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The new HttpOnly attribute controls whether scripts can be included in cookies.

When HttpOnly settings are enabled, cross-site scripting attacks are mitigated by permitting only HTTP elements in cookies.

To locate the HttpOnly setting for LTPA cookies, first go to the “Global security” panel, expand the “Web and SIP security” section and click the “Single sign-on (SSO)” link.

The HttpOnly option is the last setting on the panel.

## HttpOnly configuration for session security

The screenshot displays the IBM WebSphere configuration console interface. On the left, a tree view shows the navigation path: Servers > Server types > WebSphere application servers > Generic servers > Generic servers. The main content area is divided into several panels:

- General Properties:** Shows the name of the server as 'server1'.
- Container settings:** Includes 'Session management' and 'STP Container Settings'.
- Application servers > server1 > Session management > Cookies:** This panel is used to specify cookie settings for Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). It includes a 'Configuration' section with the following options:
  - Cookie name: 18RSSTONID
  - Restrict cookies to HTTPS sessions
  - Set session cookies to HTTPOnly to help prevent cross-site scrip
  - Cookie domain: [empty field]
  - Cookie path: /
- Application servers > server1 > Session management:** This panel is used to configure session manager properties. It includes a 'Configuration' section with the following options:
  - Session tracking mechanism:
    - Enable SSL ID tracking
    - enable\_cookies
    - Enable LFL rewriting
    - Enable sictocid\_rewrite

At the bottom of the screenshot, the page number '7' is visible on the left, and the text 'Enhanced security and governance' and '© 2011 IBM Corporation' are visible on the right.

Session cookie attributes are separately configurable for each application server. Therefore the HttpOnly setting is provided in each application server's configuration.

To locate the HttpOnly setting for session cookies, expand the "Servers section", then "Server types" and click the "WebSphere application servers" link.

On the "Application servers" panel click a server link.

On the server properties panel, click the "Session management" link.

On the "Session management" panel click the "Enable cookies" link.

The HttpOnly attribute is the third setting on the panel.

## Session management security integration

The screenshot displays the configuration interface for an application server. On the left, the 'Application servers' page shows a list of servers, with 'server1' selected. A link labeled 'Session management' is visible. On the right, the 'Session management' configuration page is shown, with the 'Security integration' checkbox checked. The 'Serialize session access' section is also visible, with 'Allow access on timeout' checked.

**Application servers > server1**  
 Use this page to configure an application server. An application server is a server that provides services for enterprise applications.

**Application servers > server1 > session management**  
 Use this page to configure session management properties for the container. These settings apply to both the JSP container and the...

**General Properties**

**Session tracking mechanism:**

- Enable SSL ID tracking
- Enable cookies
- Enable URL rewriting
- Enable protocol switch rewriting

**Maximum in-memory session count:**  
 1000 sessions

Allow session

**Session timeout:**

- No timeout
- Set timeout

30 minutes

Security integration

**Serialize session access:**

- Allow serial access
- Maximum wait time: 0 seconds
- Allow access on timeout

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Session security is now enabled by default so that only the user for whom a session was created can access the session.

This setting is provided for each application server.

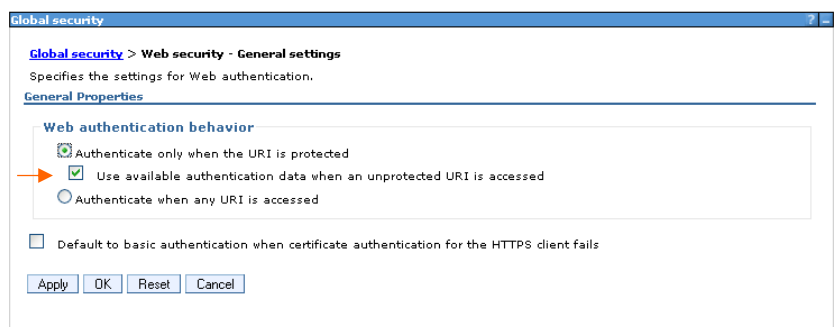
To locate the setting, select a server and click the “Session management” link.

The setting labeled “security integration” enables session security.



## Web authentication behavior

- > Web and SIP security
  - > General settings
    - Single sign-on (SSO)
    - SPNEGO Web authentication



By default, the web authentication behavior is configured to make authentication data available to unprotected web resources.

This enables those resources to access information in a secure session without failing and can also be used to determine the login under which those unprotected resources were accessed.

To locate this setting, on the “Global security” panel, open the web and SIP security area and click “General settings”

The option labeled, “Use available authentication data when an unprotected URI is accessed” controls this behavior.

## Updated security configuration report

**Global security**

Use this panel to configure administrator and the default application security profile for all administrative functions and to use as a default defined to override and customize the security policies for user application Server Core Security settings for host name: capehatteras. Report generated on: Sep 7, 2010, 15:43:53

Security Configuration Wizard | Security Configuration Report

Console Name for Certificate Management	Certificate Alias ( Key stores )	Certificate Expiry
Certificate Management	default ( CellDefaultKeyStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 12, 2011.
Certificate Management	root ( CellDefaultTrustStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	cn=capehatteras.raleigh.ibm.com ( CellDefaultTrustStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	default ( CellRSATokenKeyStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 12, 2011.
Certificate Management	root ( CellRSATokenTrustStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	cn=capehatteras.raleigh.ibm.com, ou=root certificate, ou=jobmgr01.cell01, ou=install07.jobmgr01, o=ibm, c=us ( CellRSATokenTrustStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	root ( DmgrDefaultRootStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	dummyserversigner ( DmgrDefaultDeletedStore )	Valid from Jul 30, 2003 to Oct 13, 2021.
Certificate Management	dummysclientsigner ( DmgrDefaultDeletedStore )	Valid from Jul 30, 2003 to Oct 13, 2021.
Certificate Management	root ( DmgrDefaultSignersStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	root ( DmgrRSATokenRootStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	default ( NodeDefaultKeyStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 12, 2011.
Certificate Management	default ( NodeDefaultTrustStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
Certificate Management	root ( NodeDefaultTrustStore )	Valid from Aug 12, 2010 to Aug 8, 2025.
<b>Cookie Protection</b>		
Web Authentication	com.ibm.wsspi.security.web.webAuthReq	persisting
HttpOnly custom property	com.ibm.ws.security.addHttpOnlyAttributeToCookies	true
Single signon requires SSL	requiresSSL	false
Session Security (Cell=Dmgr01.Cell01.Node=Install07.AppSrv01.Server=server1)	enableSecurityIntegration	true
<b>Java Authentication SPI Configuration</b>		
Java Authentication SPI Configuration	enabled	false

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The security configuration report, available from Version 6.1 on, is launched from a button at the top of the “Global security” panel.

In Version 8, the report includes a new section called “Cookie Protection”. It contains the security configuration setting for HttpOnly, web Authentication settings, Single Sign-on SSL setting, and the session security integration setting for each server in the configuration.

Scroll to the bottom of the report to locate the “Cookie Protection” section.

## ***Security audit log wrapping options***

The next topic to cover is enhancements to security audit log management in WebSphere Application Server Version 8.

## Enhanced audit log handling options

- WebSphere Application Server Version 7.0 introduced a new security auditing feature
- A configurable option enables the user to specify a the maximum number of log files.
- In Version 7.0 by default, the oldest audit log is overwritten when this limit is reached.
- Version 8.0 delivers an improved set of options for handling log wrapping

Option	Stop auditing?	Stop server?	Notify?	Overwrite?
Overwrite oldest (WRAP)	No	No	No	Yes
Stop server (NOWRAP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Stop logging (SILENT_FAIL)	Yes	No	No	No

WebSphere Application Server Version 7.0 introduced a new security auditing capability.

This auditing system includes basic log management features for limiting the size and number of files generated. When the maximum number of files has been generated, the system must respond either by discontinuing logging or by overwriting, or “wrapping” the log files.

In version 7.0, the default behavior is to overwrite log files, beginning with the oldest, when the limit is reached. Therefore, unless an archiving or offloading capability has been implemented, the audit information in the oldest file is lost.

Version 8.0 provides improved options for handling log wrapping scenarios. The version 7 behavior is called “overwrite oldest” and remains the default.

A second option, “stop server” discontinues the auditing and quiesces the WebSphere server process then issues a notification. No log files are overwritten.

A third option, “stop logging” discontinues auditing, allowing the WebSphere server process to continue but does not issues a notification. Again, no log files are overwritten.

Note that “notification” can mean posting failure messages to the message log file or to sending an email to one or more recipients depending on how the audit monitor service is configured.

You should choose the option that is most aligned with your priorities. If server availability has the highest priority, choose Overwrite oldest or Stop logging. If continuity of logging has the highest priority then choose Stop server or Overwrite oldest. Use Stop server when continuous and complete logging information is more critical than server availability.

## New options for handling maximum number of log file conditions

The screenshot displays the IBM Security Center for Business console. On the left, the 'Security' navigation pane is expanded to 'Security auditing'. The main area shows the 'General Properties' for an audit service provider named 'auditServiceProviderImpl\_1'. The 'Audit subsystem failure action' is set to 'No warning'. The 'Maximum number of audit log files' is set to 100. The 'Behavior when maximum is reached' dropdown is set to 'Override oldest'. Below this, there are options for 'Stop server' and 'Stop logging'. A 'Selectable filters' section shows four default audit specifications, all of which are currently enabled.

To locate the audit log wrapping settings expand the “Security” section of the navigation area and click the “Security auditing” link.

On the “security auditing” panel click the “audit service provider” link,

In the “audit service providers” table, click the link of the service provider that you are using,

On the properties panel for the audit service provider, the log wrapping options are labeled, “Behavior when maximum is reached.”

## ***Summary***

A brief summary of this presentation is discussed.

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## Summary

- WebSphere Application Server Version 8.0 provides a more secure initial environment with new, more secure default settings.
- The security configuration report now summarizes cookie security settings
- The security audit logging capability provides improved options for handling log overflow conditions

WebSphere Application Server Version 8.0 improves the security of your application serving environment by providing new, stronger default settings; A new summary of cookie security settings in the security configuration report; and improved options for handling log overflow conditions with the security auditing feature.

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## References

What is new for security specialists section of the Information Center:

[http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/wasinfo/v8r0/index.jsp?topic=/com.ibm.websphere.nd.doc/info/ae/ae/welc\\_newsecurity.html](http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/wasinfo/v8r0/index.jsp?topic=/com.ibm.websphere.nd.doc/info/ae/ae/welc_newsecurity.html)

See the information center link shown here for additional information on security enhancements in WebSphere Application Server Version 8.0.





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