

IBM Worklight Foundation V6.2.0 Getting Started

Authentication concepts



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- Authentication concepts and entities
- Defining realms, authenticators and login modules
- Defining security tests
- Protecting applications
- Protecting adapters
- Protecting static resources
- What is next
- Check yourself questions

Authentication concepts and entities (1 of 10)

- Entity protection rules are defined by a security test that contains one or more authentication realms.
- An authentication realm defines the process to be used to authenticate users.
- Each authentication realm consists of an Authenticator and a Login Module, which are server-side components.
- The same authentication realm can be used to protect several resources.
- Each authentication realm requires a challenge handler component on the client-side.
- Detailed definitions of all authentication components are given on the subsequent slides.

Authentication concepts and entities (2 of 10) Authenticator

- An authenticator is a server-side entity that is responsible for collecting the credentials from the client application.
- An authenticator can collect any type of information that is accessible from an HTTP request object: cookies, headers, body, or any other properties.
- Worklight Server comes with a set of predefined authenticators, including:
 - A form-based authenticator that returns a challenge in the form of an HTML login form, making it useful for web environments and mobile applications.
 - An adapter-based authenticator that uses the Worklight adapter procedure to collect and validate the credentials from the client application.
 - A header-based authenticator that does not require interactive credentials collection, but checks the specific HTTP header instead.
- In addition to predefined authenticators, you can create your own custom authenticator by using the Java[™] code.

Authentication concepts and entities (3 of 10) Login modules

- A login module is a server-side entity that is responsible for verifying the user credentials and for creating a *user identity* object, which holds the user properties for the remainder of the session.
- The credentials validation can be done, for example, in one of the following ways:
 - By using a web service.
 - By looking up the user in a users table in a database.
 - By using the WebSphere® LTPA token.
- It is possible to add custom user properties according to the enterprise needs.
- A login module destroys the user identity object when the authenticated session terminates (logout or timeout).
- A login module can be configured to automatically record login attempts for audit purposes.
- In addition to predefined login modules, you can create your own custom login module by using the Java code.

Authentication concepts and entities (4 of 10) Authentication realms

- An authentication realm is a combination of one authenticator and one login module.
- Each authentication realm defines its authentication flow:
 - What should happen after the authentication process is triggered?
 - What is the form of challenge that should be sent to the client application?
 - Which credentials should be collected?
 - How and when should credentials be collected?
 - How should credentials be sent to the server?
 - How should credentials be validated by the server?
 - What will be the result of the credentials validation?
 - What will be the properties of the user identity object?
- Worklight provides several predefined authentication realms for security features, such as a remote application disable, or an application authenticity.
- Each authentication realm that is defined in the server authentication configuration should have a corresponding challenge handler in the client application.

Authentication concepts and entities (5 of 10) Security tests

- A security test is an ordered set of authentication realms that is used to protect a resource such as an adapter procedure, an application or a static URL.
- A security test defines the realms that the user must authenticate against to get access to the protected resource.
- A developer can define the order in which the authentication should be performed. For example: to request authentication in realm2 only after realm1 authentication succeeds.
- The IBM Worklight Foundation framework provides definitions of default security tests for mobile and web environments, and the ability to create custom security tests.
 - More in the following slides

Authentication concepts and entities (6 of 10)

Sample security configuration

- A resource for example, an application or adapter procedure can be protected by either of two security tests.
- Using Security test 1 means that the user must authenticate in both Realm1 and Realm2, each one with its own set of rules.
- Using Security test 2 means that the user must authenticate in Realm3 only.

Authentication concepts and entities (7 of 10)

Sample security configuration

 Each realm defines its own set of Authenticator and Login Module, meaning that each realm has its own rules for collecting credentials and validating them.

Authentication concepts and entities (8 of 10)

Sample security configuration

- Realms, authenticators, and login modules can be reused.
- On an updated configuration above, Realm2 is reused.
- Protecting a resource with Security test1 means a must authenticate in both Realm1 and Realm2.
- Protecting a resource with Security test2 means a must authenticate in Realm2 only.
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Authentication concepts and entities (9 of 10)

 When a request is made to the protected entity, IBM Worklight checks whether the session is already authenticated. If not, IBM Worklight automatically triggers a process to verify the user's identity.

Authentication concepts and entities (10 of 10) Challenge handler

- A challenge handler is a client-side entity that controls the authentication process. It is used to detect the authentication challenges in the server responses and handle them.
- A separate challenge handler instance should be created for each realm that the application must authenticate in.
- A challenge handler can be used to detect and handle both the Worklight-related and the external authentication challenges, like the authentication proxies and the gateways.
- After a challenge handler detects an authentication challenge that is returned from the server, it is responsible for collecting the required credentials and for sending them back to the server.
- After the authentication flow completes, the challenge handler can send a notification back to the Worklight framework about the authentication success or failure.
- Though customizable, a challenge handler is created with a preset of methods that you can use to submit the credentials to the built-in user authentication types of the Worklight Server.

Create a challenge handler to define a customized authentication flow. In your challenge handler, do not add code that modifies the user interface when this modification is not related to the authentication flow.

- Authentication concepts and entities
- Defining realms, authenticators, and login modules
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Defining realms, authenticators, and login modules (1 of 3)

- Authentication settings are configured in the Worklight project in the server\conf\authenticationConfig.xml file.
- You can modify them by using the Authentication Configuration Editor.

| authenticationConfig.xml 🛛 | | | | - 8 |
|---|------|--|---|----------|
| Authentication Configuration Editor | | | | |
| Overview | | Details (this realm cannot be modified or removed) | | + |
| type filter text | | Name*: | SampleAppRealm | |
| Login Configuration 器 Login Modules み Login Module "requireLogin" | Add | The unique name by which the realm is referenced by the protected resources. Note: If a realm uses a Facebook authenticator, its name must start with "facebook" | | |
| 🔏 Login Module "StrongDummy" | Up | Alias: | | |
| (ᄀᄀ Realm "SampleAppRealm" ()그 Realm "WorklightConsole" | Down | Class name*: The class name | com.worklight.core.auth.ext.FormBasedAuthenticator of the authenticator | |
| | | Login Module*: | StrongDummy | |
| | | On login URL: | | |
| | | Defines the path element is not s current request | n to which the client is forwarded upon successful login. If the pecified, then depending on the authenticator type, either the processing is continued, or a saved request is restored | is Ie |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Defining realms, authenticators, and login modules (2 of 3)

- Authentication settings are configured in the Worklight project in the server\conf\authenticationConfig.xml file.
- You can modify them by using the Authentication Configuration Editor.

<realms> <realm loginModule="StrongDummy" name="SampleAppRealm"> <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.FormBasedAuthenticator</className> </realm> <realm loginModule="requireLogin" name="WorklightConsole"> <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.FormBasedAuthenticator</className> <onLoginUrl>/console</onLoginUrl> </realm> <loginModules> Each realm has a name, a <loginModule name="StrongDummy"> <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.NonValid loginModule specification, a </loginModule> className of an <loginModule name="requireLogin"> authenticator implementation <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.SingleId </loginModule> and **optional** parameters. </loginModules>

Defining realms, authenticators, and login modules (3 of 3)

- Authentication settings are configured in the Worklight project in the server\conf\authenticationConfig.xml file.
- You can modify them by using the Authentication Configuration Editor.

```
<realms>
   <realm loginModule="StrongDummy" name="SampleAppRea
                                                         Each login module has a
       <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.FormBase
   </realm>
                                                         name, a className of the
   <realm loginModule="requireLogin" name="WorklightCo
                                                       implementation and optional
       <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.FormBase
       <onLoginUrl>/console</onLoginUrl>
                                                                  parameters.
   </realm>
</realms>
<loginModules>
   <loginModule name="StrongDummy">
       <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.NonValidatingLoginModule</className>
   </loginModule>
   <loginModule name="requireLogin">
       <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.SingleIdentityLoginModule</className>
   </loginModule>
</loginModules>
```


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Defining security tests (1 of 5)

- With IBM Worklight Foundation, you can set up multiple realms for a security test.
- As a part of the security test setup, you must set which realms are considered a "user realm" and which are considered a "device realm".
- Any identity from a realm that is defined as a user realm is used by IBM Worklight Foundation as a user identity for features that require one, such as push notification or application usage reports.
- An identity from a realm that is defined as a device realm is used by IBM Worklight Foundation as a device identity for features that require one, such as device provisioning, push notification, and SMS notification.

Defining security tests (2 of 5)

- After you set up your authentication realms, you must define the security tests to be used to protect your applications, adapter procedures, and static resources.
- Three types of security tests can be defined in the authenticationConfig.xml file:
 - webSecurityTest a test that enables default web security-related realms.
 - mobileSecurityTest a test that enables default mobile securityrelated realms.
 - customSecurityTest a custom security test. Does not contain any default realm.

Defining security tests (3 of 5) webSecurityTest

- Use the webSecurityTest to protect web applications.
- By default, the webSecurityTest includes a protection against XSRF attacks. For more information about this protection, see the IBM Worklight Foundation user documentation.
- Each webSecurityTest must contain one <testUser> element with a realm definition.
- This realm is considered a user realm.

Defining security tests (4 of 5) mobileSecurityTest

- Use the mobileSecurityTest to protect mobile applications.
- By default, the mobileSecurityTest includes:
 - A protection against XSRF attacks
 - An application authenticity test. For more information, see the user documentation.
 - An ability to disable mobile applications remotely from the Worklight Console.
- Each mobileSecurityTest must contain one <testUser> element with realm definition.
- This realm is considered a user realm.

```
<mobileSecurityTest name="SampleMobileSecurityTest">
<testUser realm="SampleRealm"/>
</mobileSecurityTest>
```


Defining security tests (5 of 5) customSecurityTest

- Use the customSecurityTest to dictate your own security preferences.
- Unlike the mobile and web security tests, the customSecurityTest does not include any predefined authentication realms. It includes only the tests that are defined by the developer.
- Any number of tests can be defined within the **customSecurityTest**.
- You can define which realm to be used as a user realm by adding the isInternalUserId="true" property.
- You can define the order of realms that the user must authenticate in.

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Protecting applications

- Protecting an application means that authentication is required immediately when the application tries to connect to the Worklight Server.
- A separate securityTest can be defined for each application environment in the application-descriptor.xml file.

If no securityTest is defined for a specific environment, only a minimal set of default platform tests are carried out.

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Protecting adapters

- Protecting an adapter procedure means that authentication is required when this adapter procedure is called by a client application.
- A separate securityTest can be defined for each adapter procedure in the adapter XML file.

cedure name="getSecretData" securityTest="DummyAdapter-securityTest"/>

</wl:adapter>

- Authentication concepts and entities
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- What is next
- Check yourself questions

Protecting static resources

- A static resource is a URL that is loaded from the Worklight Server:
 - For example: the Worklight Console or Mobile Web application.
- Protecting a static resource means that the Worklight server requires authentication at any attempt to browse to the specified URL.
- The static resources and their protection can be defined in the authenticationConfig.xml file.

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- Check yourself questions

What is next

- In the following modules, you will implement several authentication types:
 - Form-based authentication
 - Adapter-based authentication
 - Custom Java authenticator and a login module
 - LDAP login module
 - LPTA token in WebSphere Application Server
- For more information about authentication, see the user documentation.

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- What is next
- Test your knowledge

Quiz (1 of 3)

Test your knowledge of the material in this module. Answers on slide 3 of the quiz.

- What is the difference between an Authenticator and a Login module?
 - An Authenticator is a server-side entity that is used to collect and validate credentials. A Login
 module is a server-side entity that is used to create a userIdentity.
 - An Authenticator is a server-side entity that is used to collect credentials and create a user identity.
 A Login module is a server-side entity that is used to validate credentials.
 - An Authenticator is a server-side entity that is used to collect credentials. A Login module is a server-side entity that is used to validate credentials and create a user identity.
 - An Authenticator is a client side entity that performs basic credentials validation. A Login module is a server-side entity that performs deep credentials validation.
- A developer created two adapter procedures. Each procedure is protected by its own security test with different realms. What would be the consequence of this approach?
 - When a user authenticates in one realm, that user will be automatically authenticated in a second one.
 - A user will not be able to use these procedures together in the same application.
 - A user will have to log in to each realm separately.
 - A user will have to log out from one realm before that user can use a procedure that is protected by another realm.

Quiz (2 of 3)

Test your knowledge of the material in this module. Answers on slide 3 of the quiz.

- What is the dependency between realm, authenticator, and login module in the authenticationConfig.xml file?
 - Each authenticator element must specify its className, realm, and loginModule.
 - Each realm element must specify a className of its authenticator and a loginModule name.
 - Each loginModule element must specify a className of its realm and an authenticator name.
 - Each authenticator element must specify its realm and its loginModule.

Quiz (3 of 3)

- The difference between an Authenticator and a Login module is the following one:
 - An Authenticator is a server-side entity that is used to collect and validate credentials. A Login
 module is a server-side entity that is used to create a userIdentity.
 - An Authenticator is a server-side entity that is used to collect credentials and create a user identity.
 A Login module is a server-side entity that is used to validate credentials.
 - An Authenticator is a server-side entity that is used to collect credentials. A Login module is a server-side entity that is used to validate credentials and create a user identity.
 - An Authenticator is a client side entity that performs basic credentials validation. A Login module is a server-side entity that performs deep credentials validation.
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 - A user will have to log out from one realm before that user can use a procedure that is protected by another realm.
- What is the dependency between realm, authenticator and login module in the authenticationConfig.xml file?
 - Each authenticator element must specify its className, realm, and loginModule.
 - Each realm element must specify a className of its authenticator and a loginModule name.
 - Each loginModule element must specify a className of its realm and an authenticator name.
 - Each authenticator element must specify its realm and its loginModule.

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