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Application Security

Security tokens & OAuth2

Agenda

- Security tokens
 - Tokens history
 - JSON Web Token
- Why tokens?
- OAuth2?
 - Actors
 - Client types and profiles
 - Registration
 - Authorization flows

Security tokens

- A data structure with the following features
 - Contains information about an issuer and a subject, usually with expiration date
 - Signed, sometimes also encrypted
 - Typical roles
 - A client requests a token
 - An issuer issues a token
 - A service consumes a token
 - There is a trust between the client and the service

Security tokens

- Tokens history
 - SAML 1.1/2.0
 - XML based format
 - Very expressive with many options, including security
 - Popular in SOAP services
 - Simple Web Token (SWT)
 - Form/URL based format
 - Very limited possibilities, e.g. only symmetric signatures
 - JSON Web Token (JWT)
 - JSON based format
 - A new format with a strongly increasing prevalence
 - Lightweight, however quite expressive
 - But still SAML is much more expressive

Security tokens

- JSON Web Token

- There are 3 parts

- Header, example:

```
{ "typ": "JWT",  
  "alg": "HS256" }
```

- Claims Set, example:

```
{ "iss": "joe",  
  "exp": 1300819380,  
  "http://example.com/is_root": true }
```

- Signature

- The token is concatenation of three parts converted to base64url:

- <base64url-encoded header>.<base64url-encoded claims>.<base64url-encoded signature>

Security tokens

- Base64 vs Base64url
 - Both are intended to encode binary data into ASCII
 - However, Base64url is intended to be URL safe
 - „+“ is replaced by „-“
 - „/“ is replaced by „_“
 - Padding „=“ is usually omitted
 - optional, but not recommended
- More: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Base64>

Security tokens

- JSON Web Token, claims
 - There are 3 sets of claims
 - Registered in IANA (like iss, iat, exp, ...)
 - Public claim name
 - Private claim name
 - Common claims
 - "iss" (Issuer)
 - "sub" (Subject)
 - "aud" (Audience)
 - "exp" (Expiration Time)
 - "nbf" (Not Before)
 - "iat" (Issued At)
 - "jti" (JWT ID) Claim
- Documentation
 - <http://self-issued.info/docs/draft-ietf-oauth-json-web-token.html>

Security tokens

- More about standards
 - JSON Web Algorithms (JWA)
 - Details on algorithms around the JWT, JWS, JWE, JWK
 - JSON Web Key (JWK)
 - Data structure representing keys for signing and encryption
 - JSON Web Token (JWT)
 - Data structure for representing claims
 - JSON Web Encryption (JWE)
 - Encrypted JWT
 - JSON Web Signature (JWS)
 - Signed JWT
- Corollary: a JWT on slide 5 was actually JWS

Why tokens?

- We consider 2 main approaches for authN
 - Cookie-based authentication
 - In a cookie is only session ID
 - Whole information about an user is in session on a server
 - Token-based authentication
 - Whole information about an user is in token
 - There is no session needed – authN is stateless

Why tokens?

- What main arguments do we have for tokens?
 - Cross-domain
 - If we use HTTP header, cross domain is easily achievable
 - Stateless
 - No session is needed
 - SRP
 - Authentication process is separated from serving data
 - There is no coupling between token issuer and consumer
 - Mobile compatible
 - Most of current mobile technologies are tokens-oriented

DEMO

- JwtConsumer + JwtClient

OAuth2

- Let's imagine the following scenario
 - You have an account on Google
 - You found a very fancy calendar application on your phone market
 - You want to use it, but don't want to give the application permission to all Google account data (e.g. mails, contacts, etc. – only calendar entries)
- In this scenario we consider 3rd party application which is considered as untrusted
 - And this is the place when the OAuth2 helps

OAuth2

- Actors
 - Resource server
 - Service which is protected and understands tokens
 - Resource owner
 - User
 - Client
 - 3rd party application
 - Authorization server
 - The one who issues tokens

OAuth2

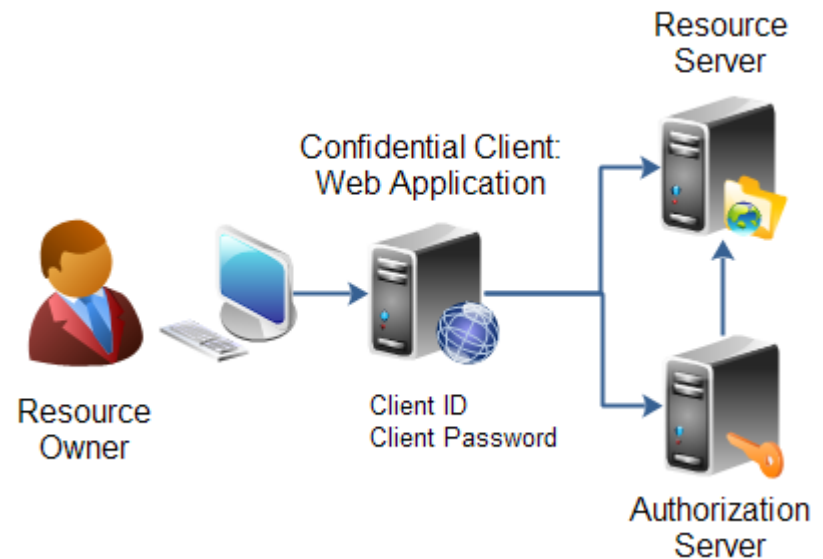
- Client types and profiles
 - We consider 2 types of clients
 - Confidential
 - Take place if client secret is known only for client application
 - Especially is not shared with resource owner
 - Public
 - The opposite situation

OAuth2

- Client types and profiles
 - Protocol emphasizes 3 types of clients
 - Server-side web application
 - Client-side application running in a web browser
 - Native application

OAuth2

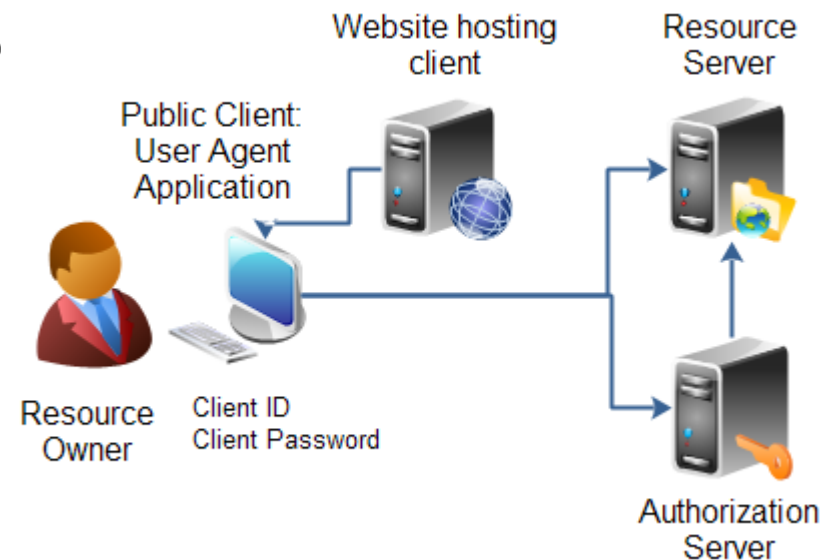
- Client types and profiles
 - Protocol emphasizes 3 types of clients
 - Server-side web application
 - The application makes API calls using a server-side programming language
 - The user has no access to the OAuth client secret or any access tokens issued by the authorization server



Source: <http://tutorials.jenkov.com/oauth2/client-types.html>

OAuth2

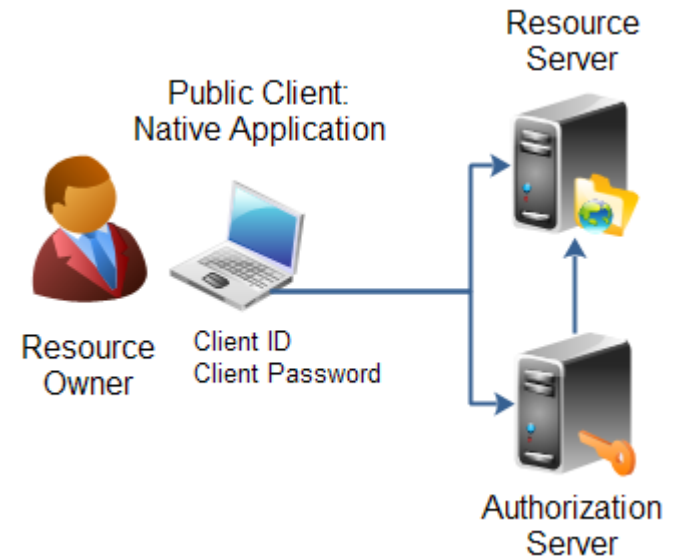
- Client types and profiles
 - Client-side application running in a web browser
 - The application makes API calls form web browser technology like JavaScript or Flash
 - Usually it is a SPA-like app hosted on web server, but run fully in a web browser



Source: <http://tutorials.jenkov.com/oauth2/client-types.html>

OAuth2

- Client types and profiles
 - Native application
 - Similar solution as client-side application
 - Usually it is desktop or mobile application
 - Difference is that everything is stored on user's device



Source: <http://tutorials.jenkov.com/oauth2/client-types.html>

OAuth2

- Registration
 - Usually in real world, an application (client) needs to register in the resource server
 - On other words, there is a trust between client and resource server, client authenticates in RS
 - As a outcome, usually client gets
 - Client ID
 - Client Secret
 - Additionally with client application a redirect URI is associated
 - Used when user (resource owner) successfully authenticates on authorization server

OAuth2

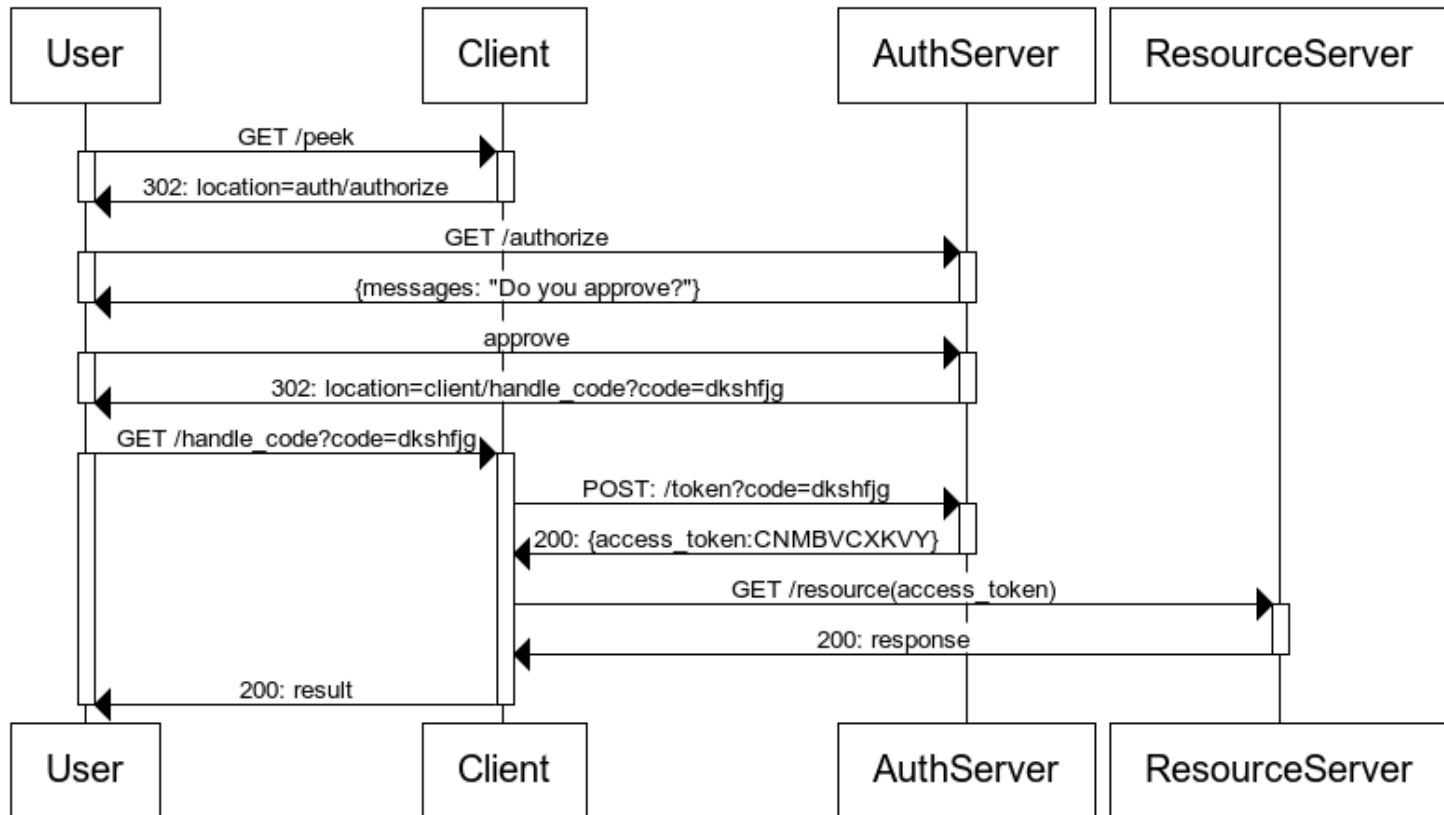
- Authorization flows
 - Authorization Code Flow
 - Implicit Flow
 - Resource Owner Credential Flow
 - Client Credential Flow

OAuth2

- Authorization Code Flow
 - Dedicated for web applications
 - Client can store secret securely on the server
 - Access token never send to the browser
 - Tokens
 - Access token: short time, gives access to resource
 - Refresh token: long time, allows to get a new access token
 - This is most often used flow

OAuth2

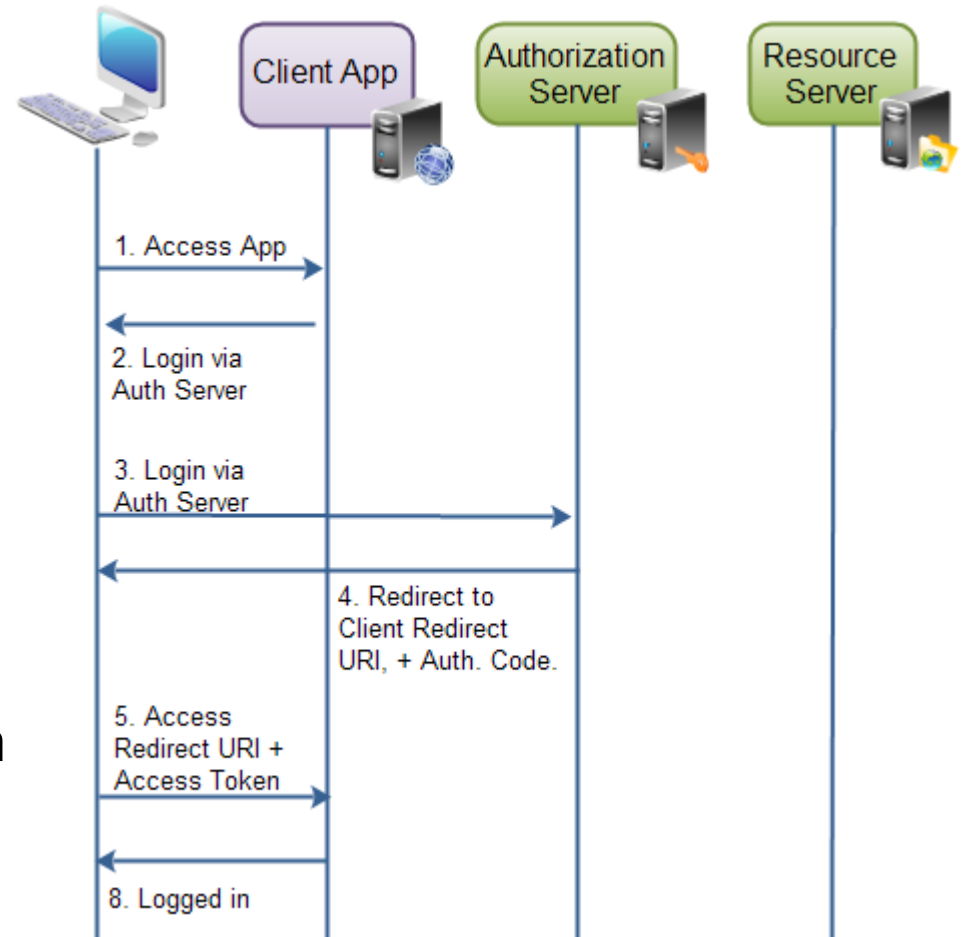
■ Authorization Code Flow



www.websequencediagrams.com

OAuth2

- Implicit Flow
 - Dedicated to desktop, SPA and mobile applications
 - Very similar to code flow, but there is no code, access token is sent directly to device
 - There is no refresh token



OAuth2

- Resource Owner Credential Flow
 - In previous flows authentication is performed on AS
 - In this case client directly authenticate on AS
 - Client get the username and password and use it for authentication
 - Client should forget the password after authentication
 - What means, that client application must be trusted
 - Authorization response
 - with access & refresh token
 - Client app use access token to access resources

OAuth2

- Client Credential Flow
 - Use for “service to service” communication
 - Client application itself ask AS for token
 - Client apps doesn't do this “on behalf” of some user – there is no user involved.

OAuth2

- Summary of use cases
 - Web-server applications
 - Authorization code flow
 - Browser based applications
 - Implicit flow
 - Username/password access
 - Resource Owner Credential Flow
 - Mobile applications
 - Implicit flow
 - Application access
 - Client credentials flow

OAuth2

- Let's see the movie
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io_r-oe3Qcw
- Let's take a look at Google OAuth2 Playground
 - <https://developers.google.com/oauthplayground/>

References

- Tokens consideration
 - <https://auth0.com/blog/2014/01/07/angularjs-authentication-with-cookies-vs-token/>
 - <https://auth0.com/blog/2014/01/27/ten-things-you-should-know-about-tokens-and-cookies/>
 - <http://jpadilla.com/post/73791304724/auth-with-json-web-tokens>
 - <http://self-issued.info/docs/draft-ietf-oauth-json-web-token.html>
 - <https://developer.atlassian.com/static/connect/docs/concepts/understanding-jwt.html>
 - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/gg185950.aspx>
 - <http://www.slideshare.net/briandavidcampbell/owasp-vancouver>
 - <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/18677837/decoding-and-verifying-jwt-token-using-system-identitymodel-tokens-jwt>
 - <http://dotnetcodr.com/2014/01/20/introduction-to-oauth2-json-web-tokens/>