Strong authentication

implemented with the Shibboleth 2.0 IdP and Free Auth



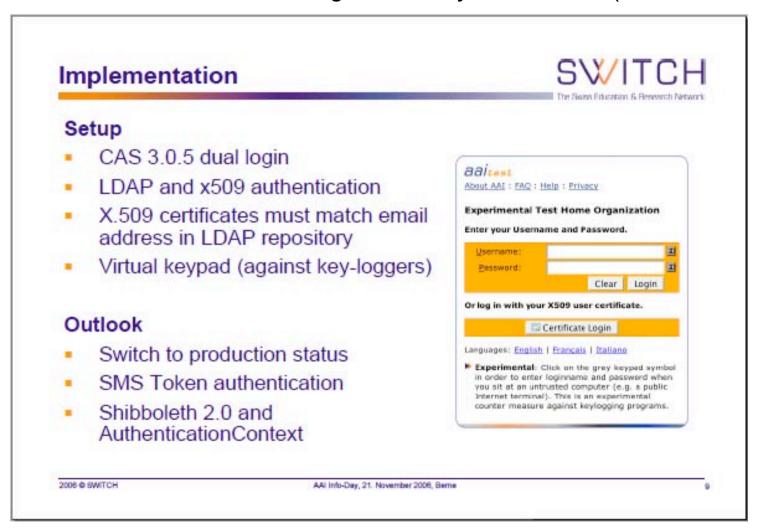


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At the 2006 AAI Info-day...

Assurance Levels – Asserting the Quality of Identities (Lukas Hämmerle)





Strong authentication

- at least two out of three authentication factors:
 - something you know (password, PIN etc.)
 - something you have (card, token, ...)
 - something you are (fingerprint, iris scan, voice, ...)
- X.509 certificates aren't everybody's darling, so we were looking for a solution...
 - with a smaller footprint on the client side (if any)
 - where software is available as open source, preferrably
- prototype implemented with
 - Shibboleth 2.0 (Beta) IdP
 - JPam (JAAS-PAM bridge)
 - FreeAuth PAM module

The SWITCHaai picture we're familiar with

WAYF Service Webserver Single Sign-On Webserver Shibboleth Authentication System SSO mod_shib Resource Service Attribute Authority Shibboleth Authent. Authent. Daemon DB Engine Service IdP Provider User DB Tomcat

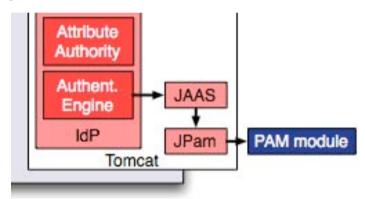
New with the 2.0 IdP: a (modular) authentication engine, which includes three authentication handlers

Authentication handlers included in 2.0

- RemoteUserLoginHandler: Web server or servlet container does authn and sets the remote user information (same as with Shibboleth 1.x)
- UsernamePasswordLoginHandler: based on JAAS, Sun's Java Authentication and Authorization Service, which uses pluggable login modules:
 - delivered with Sun's JVM: JndiLoginModule, KeyStoreLoginModule, Krb5LoginModule, LdapLoginModule, NTLoginModule, UnixLoginModule
 - JAAS is basically the Java version of PAM, but with a smaller set of publicly available login modules
- IPAddressLoginHandler

JPam comes in handy for us

- a Java/JAAS-PAM bridge (Pluggable Authentication Modules)
- allows using (native) PAM modules available on the platform where the IdP is running



• cf. http://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/libs/pam/modules.html for a (large) list of available modules, supporting one-time passwords, hardware tokens (smartcards, SecurID, ...), SQL database authentication, RADIUS, IMAP etc. etc.

Free Auth (www.freeauth.org)

- project "was born out of the need for cheap/free One Time Password authentication"
- uses 8-character passwords which can be generated by any mobile phone with Java MIDlet support
- server software available either as a PAM module or as a PHP-based implementation (for Apache integration e.g.)
- shared secret must be configured on both the mobile phone and the server (for each user/account)
- passwords are time-based, so correct time settings are essential (allowable clock skew ± 3 minutes)

Free Auth – how does it look like?

password is valid for one minute, shown in two formats

(longer form does not use special characters, easier to type on some

keyboards)



Demo

- prototype implemented with the current Shibboleth 2.0
 IdP beta version
- JPAM 1.1 (http://jpam.sourceforge.net)
- pam_freeauth (http://www.freeauth.org)
- MobileAuth 0.7 MIDlet (http://mobileauth.solhost.org)

Conclusion

- the UsernamePasswordLoginHandler in the Shibboleth 2.0 IdP allows a very flexible configuration of authentication methods
- either use a suitable JAAS login module, or add JPam as a bridge into the PAM world and pick the module of your choice
- strong authentication doesn't necessarily mean fiddling with X.509 certificates or buying expensive SecurID licenses

Enhanced Authorization

Use of authentication information and LoA at Service Provider





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Authorization with AC on SP side

Shibboleth Service Provider 2.0:

- Request an authentication context
- Enforce authentication (again)
- Rules in .htaccess/httpd.conf or Shibboleth RequestMap
- Provides attributes:
 - Shib-Authentication-Method (how a user was authenticated)
 - Shib-AuthnContext-Class (e.g. in form of "Assurance Level")

Use of these authorization attributes in the application itself!

Authentication Classes

Predefined in SAML2:

- urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:ac:classes:PasswordProtectedTransport
- urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:ac:classes:X509
- urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:ac:classes:MobileTwoFactorUnregistered
- urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:ac:classes:unspecified (default)

... or self-defined classes like "urn:mace:switch.ch:SWITCHaai:loa:3"

Example:

AuthType shibboleth
ShibRequireSession On
ShibRequestSetting forceAuthn true
ShibRequestSetting authnContextClassRef urn:[...]:X509
require homeOrganization unizh.ch