

Re: OT – How Web Apps Do/Should Detect Authentication

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 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Nov 2008 18:05:24 -0800 (PST)
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On Nov 14, 6:48 pm, Arne Vajhøj <a...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

jehugalea...@xxxxxxxx wrote:

Can someone tell me how a web application knows whether a user is logged in?

Somehow, web applications can detect whether someone has already logged in.

I know all about ASP Membership; that's not what I'm asking.

I want to know what gets sent to the web server so it can verify the user. Is it some kind of cookie? a HTTP header? taco meat?

Any links or books where I can read all about it would be muchly appreciated.

Traditionally there are two ways:

- * a cookie with session id
- * URL rewriting that put the session id in the URL

Cookie is the standard.

Arne

Thanks.

Re: OT – How Web Apps Do/Should Detect Authentication

Can I ask another question then?

We purchased an off-the-shelf product. The company who made it claims that we can send an HTTP header to their product and it would automatically let us access their web site. They call this their 3rd party authentication method. My question is, how can this be secure if all someone has to do is generate the right header? Couldn't anyone generate the header?

I think the company's representative has lost her mind. Even if she knows what she is talking about, I can't see how her suggestion could be secure... does this mean anything to anyone?

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