

microsoft.public.sharepoint.portalserver: Re: access via login page rather than popup box

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anonymous_at_discussions.microsoft.com

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Thanks for the info, John.

So did you just end up accepting that a popup login box was the only way to go or are you trying to write something customized for web-browser based login?

Ben

>-----Original Message-----

>Ben, I had the exact same question as you. The following is what I found out

>from Microsoft about this:

>

>

>

> Let me walk you through the security model on which WSS and SPS are

>based:

>

>If SPS was strictly intended to be an application used by Web browsers, this

>would be easy.

>

>But it's not. Every site, its contents, and the server that runs it is

>accessible via Web services, WebDAV, and even (in some cases), a precursor

>to WebDAV known as FrontPage RPCs (no relation to DCE RPCs). In other

>words, we're fully prepared to be accessed by non-browser HTTP clients.

>

>The problem with forms-based security approaches, often used both by custom

>applications as well as by commercial identity management products like

>Netegrity, Cleartrust, and many other products, is that

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they'll intercede in

>*the connection process and issue a 302 redirect. If the client isn't a*

>*browser, there's nothing there to receive the signon page. Even foregoing a*

>*302 and having an ISAPI filter or ASP.NET handler pop up a form won't do it.*

>*There's nothing in Word (for example) to read that form.*

>

>*Furthermore, WSS (and SPS) pushes security down to the store level, so no*

>*matter how you try to get to a site, document library, etc., your Windows*

>*logon token will be compared to the Windows-compatible ACLs we put in SQL*

>*Server. If you don't have sufficient credentials to get what you desire, we*

>*hit you with a HTTP 401, which should tell your browser (or rich client,*

>*like Excel, for example) to throw up a standard logon prompt (basic or NT*

>*challenge/response) to be completed.*

>

>*So, several things can be distilled from this:*

>

>*1. Anything you use for accounts must present actual logon tokens (i.e., a*

>*bundle o' SIDs) to us. LDAP names (which is all AD/AM can provide) aren't*

>*good enough. On the other hand, AD in Windows Server 2003 scales very,*

>**very* nicely.*

>

>*2. Any custom means of gathering logon credentials won't work from anything*

>*but a browser. If you can forego access from anything but a browser (e.g.,*

>*no Office integration), you could insert an ISAPI filter that forces 302*

>*redirects and/or its own login form.*

>

>*3. Anything they're using must be able to react to 401 results. That's*

>*going to force a popup logon window if the credentials you obtained via a*

>*form aren't sufficient. After three failures, we hand back a custom page*

>*that allows the user to request access to the resources to which they're*

>*being denied. This actually might be fine for you.*

>

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>
>
>*Nasty business, but understandable once you get in to why
it's nasty*
>*business. All in all, our security model is closer to
that of a file system*
>*than that of a traditional Web application.*
>
>*"Ben" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in
message*
>*news:e78d01c3f0a3\$d5d66940\$a401280a@phx.gbl...*
>> *Does anyone know how to force that users log in to SPS*
>> *2003 via a custom web form (rather than the standard*
>> *Windows authentication popup box)?*
>>
>> *Thanks!*
>>
>
>
>.
>