TOPIC : ENTERPRISE KEY MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS OF SYSTEMS IN SUPERIOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

ABSTRACT

Nowadays companies are moving from using simple systems in the IT department to utilizing complex systems that have various varying components used such as the operating systems used and the technological infrastructures used. With the change in complexity comes the need to create more secure systems thus necessitating the need for data encryption and decryption metrics systems to ensure the integrity and fidelity of the data and information in motion in the system.

The aim of this paper is to explore and exploit the Enterprise Key Management Plan of a collective of enterprise systems for the purpose of concluding which are the best methods in this field.

Keywords: Enterprise Key Management Plan, Enterprise Key Management Policy, Cryptography, Data in Motion, Ciphers, Digital Certificates

INTRODUCTION

Authentication is the process by which credentials are presented and validated to enable access. There are a number of different methods of authentication. Passwords are the most common type of authentication and are usually coupled with user identification (user IDs). Tokens and certificates are often used in place of passwords to provide a higher level of security. Tokens can contain unique identifiers (e.g., digital signatures or keys). Tokens can also store biometric data—for example, fingerprints.

There are several different types of combinations of authentication. Higher levels of security are generally associated with more levels of authentication (multifactor). For example, two-factor authentication might include a token and a password. Kerberos is a protocol for authentication made up of two components: a ticket (distributed by a service) for user authentication and a key that is developed from the user's password. Another authentication scheme is the Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP), which uses a representation (hash) of the user's password to authenticate

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How to Authenticate Users With API Keys

Nowadays, it's quite usual to authenticate the user via an API key (when developing a web service, for instance). The API key is provided for every request and is passed as a query string parameter or via an HTTP header.

The API Key Authenticator

Authenticating a user based on the request information should be done via a pre authentication mechanism. The SimplePreAuthenticatorInterface allows you to implement such a scheme really easily.

Your exact situation may differ, but in this example, a token is read from an apikey query parameter, the proper username is loaded from that value, and then a user object is created:

// src/AppBundle/Security/ApiKeyAuthenticator.php

namespace AppBundle\Security;

use Symfony\Component\HttpFoundation\Request;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\Authentication\Token\PreAuthenticatedToken;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\Authentication\Token\TokenInterface;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\Exception\AuthenticationException;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\Exception\CustomUserMessageAuthenticationException;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\Exception\BadCredentialsException;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\User\UserProviderInterface;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Http\Authentication\SimplePreAuthenticatorInterface;

class ApiKeyAuthenticator implements SimplePreAuthenticatorInterface

{

public function createToken(Request $request, $providerKey)

{

// look for an apikey query parameter

$apiKey = $request->query->get('apikey');

// or if you want to use an "apikey" header, then do something like this:

// $apiKey = $request->headers->get('apikey');

if (!$apiKey) {

throw new BadCredentialsException();

// or to just skip api key authentication

// return null;

}

return new PreAuthenticatedToken(

'anon.',

$apiKey,

$providerKey

);

}

public function supportsToken(TokenInterface $token, $providerKey)

{

return $token instanceof PreAuthenticatedToken && $token->getProviderKey() === $providerKey;

}

Once you've configured everything, you'll be able to authenticate by adding an apikey parameter to the query string, like http://example.com/api/foo?apikey=37b51d194a7513e45b56f6524f2d51f2.

The authentication process has several steps, and your implementation will probably differ:

**createToken**

Early in the request cycle, Symfony calls createToken(). Your job here is to create a token object that contains all of the information from the request that you need to authenticate the user (e.g., the apikey query parameter). If that information is missing, throwing a BadCredentialsException will cause authentication to fail. You might want to return null instead to just skip the authentication, so Symfony can fall back to another authentication method, if any.

In case you return null from your createToken() method, be sure to enable anonymous in your firewall. This way you'll be able to get an AnonymousToken.

**supportsToken**

After Symfony calls createToken(), it will then call supportsToken() on your class (and any other authentication listeners) to figure out who should handle the token. This is just a way to allow several authentication mechanisms to be used for the same firewall (that way, you can for instance first try to authenticate the user via a certificate or an API key and fall back to a form login).

Mostly, you just need to make sure that this method returns true for a token that has been created by createToken(). Your logic should probably look exactly like this example.

**authenticateToken**

The $userProvider can be any user provider. In this example, the $apiKey is used to somehow find the username for the user. This work is done in a getUsernameForApiKey() method, which is created entirely custom for this use case (i.e., this isn't a method that's used by Symfony's core user provider system).

The $userProvider might look something like this:

1. First, you use the $userProvider to somehow look up the $username that corresponds to the $apiKey;
2. Second, you use the $userProvider again to load or create a User object for the $username;
3. Finally, you create an *authenticated token* (i.e., a token with at least one role) that has the proper roles and the user object attached to it.

The goal is ultimately to use the $apiKey to find or create a User object. *How* you do this (e.g., query a database) and the exact class for your user object may vary. Those differences will be most obvious in your user provider.

The User Provider

The $userProvider can be any user provider. In this example, the $apiKey is used to somehow find the username for the user. This work is done in a getUsernameForApiKey() method, which is created entirely custom for this use case (i.e., this isn't a method that's used by Symfony's core user provider system).

The $userProvider might look something like this:

// src/AppBundle/Security/ApiKeyUserProvider.php

namespace AppBundle\Security;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\User\UserProviderInterface;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\User\User;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\User\UserInterface;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\Exception\UnsupportedUserException;

class ApiKeyUserProvider implements UserProviderInterface

{

public function getUsernameForApiKey($apiKey)

{

// Look up the username based on the token in the database, via

// an API call, or do something entirely different

$username = ...;

return $username;

}

public function loadUserByUsername($username)

{

return new User(

$username,

null,

// the roles for the user - you may choose to determine

// these dynamically somehow based on the user

array('ROLE\_API')

);

}

public function refreshUser(UserInterface $user)

{

// this is used for storing authentication in the session

// but in this example, the token is sent in each request,

// so authentication can be stateless. Throwing this exception

// is proper to make things stateless

throw new UnsupportedUserException();

}

public function supportsClass($class)

{

return 'Symfony\Component\Security\Core\User\User' === $class;

}

}

Now register your user provider as a service:

* YAML

# app/config/services.yml

services:

api\_key\_user\_provider:

class: AppBundle\Security\ApiKeyUserProvider

* XML

<!-- app/config/services.xml -->

<?xml version="1.0" ?>

<container xmlns="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services"

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

xsi:schemaLocation="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services

http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services/services-1.0.xsd">

<services>

<!-- ... -->

<service id="api\_key\_user\_provider"

class="AppBundle\Security\ApiKeyUserProvider" />

</services>

</container>

* PHP

// app/config/services.php

// ...

$container

->register('api\_key\_user\_provider', 'AppBundle\Security\ApiKeyUserProvider');

The logic inside getUsernameForApiKey() is up to you. You may somehow transform the API key (e.g., 37b51d) into a username (e.g., jondoe) by looking up some information in a "token" database table.

The same is true for loadUserByUsername(). In this example, Symfony's core User class is simply created. This makes sense if you don't need to store any extra information on your user object (e.g., firstName). But if you do, you may instead have your *own* user class which you create and populate here by querying a database. This would allow you to have custom data on the Userobject.

Finally, just make sure that supportsClass() returns true for user objects with the same class as whatever user you return in loadUserByUsername().

If your authentication is stateless like in this example (i.e., you expect the user to send the API key with every request and so you don't save the login to the session), then you can simply throw the UnsupportedUserException exception in refreshUser().

Handling Authentication Failure

In order for your ApiKeyAuthenticator to correctly display a 401 HTTP status when either bad credentials or authentication fails you will need to implement the AuthenticationFailureHandlerInterface on your authenticator. This will provide a method onAuthenticationFailure that you can use to create an error response.

// src/AppBundle/Security/ApiKeyAuthenticator.php

namespace AppBundle\Security;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Core\Exception\AuthenticationException;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Http\Authentication\AuthenticationFailureHandlerInterface;

use Symfony\Component\Security\Http\Authentication\SimplePreAuthenticatorInterface;

use Symfony\Component\HttpFoundation\Response;

use Symfony\Component\HttpFoundation\Request;

class ApiKeyAuthenticator implements SimplePreAuthenticatorInterface, AuthenticationFailureHandlerInterface

{

// ...

public function onAuthenticationFailure(Request $request, AuthenticationException $exception)

{

return new Response(

// this contains information about \*why\* authentication failed

// use it, or return your own message

strtr($exception->getMessageKey(), $exception->getMessageData()),

401

);

}

}

Configuration

Once you have your ApiKeyAuthenticator all set up, you need to register it as a service and use it in your security configuration (e.g., security.yml). First, register it as a service.

* YAML

# app/config/config.yml

services:

# ...

apikey\_authenticator:

class: AppBundle\Security\ApiKeyAuthenticator

public: false

* XML

<!-- app/config/config.xml -->

<?xml version="1.0" ?>

<container xmlns="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services"

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

xsi:schemaLocation="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services

http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services/services-1.0.xsd">

<services>

<!-- ... -->

<service id="apikey\_authenticator"

class="AppBundle\Security\ApiKeyAuthenticator"

public="false" />

</services>

</container>

* PHP

// app/config/config.php

use Symfony\Component\DependencyInjection\Definition;

use Symfony\Component\DependencyInjection\Reference;

// ...

$definition = new Definition('AppBundle\Security\ApiKeyAuthenticator');

$definition->setPublic(false);

$container->setDefinition('apikey\_authenticator', $definition);

Now, activate it and your custom user provider in the firewalls section of your security configuration using the simple\_preauth and provider keys respectively:

* YAML

# app/config/security.yml

security:

# ...

firewalls:

secured\_area:

pattern: ^/api

stateless: true

simple\_preauth:

authenticator: apikey\_authenticator

provider: api\_key\_user\_provider

providers:

api\_key\_user\_provider:

id: api\_key\_user\_provider

* XML

<!-- app/config/security.xml -->

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<srv:container xmlns="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/security"

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

xmlns:srv="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services"

xsi:schemaLocation="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services

http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services/services-1.0.xsd">

<config>

<!-- ... -->

<firewall name="secured\_area"

pattern="^/api"

stateless="true"

provider="api\_key\_user\_provider"

>

<simple-preauth authenticator="apikey\_authenticator" />

</firewall>

<provider name="api\_key\_user\_provider" id="api\_key\_user\_provider" />

</config>

</srv:container>

* PHP

// app/config/security.php

// ..

$container->loadFromExtension('security', array(

'firewalls' => array(

'secured\_area' => array(

'pattern' => '^/api',

'stateless' => true,

'simple\_preauth' => array(

'authenticator' => 'apikey\_authenticator',

),

'provider' => 'api\_key\_user\_provider',

),

),

'providers' => array(

'api\_key\_user\_provider' => array(

'id' => 'api\_key\_user\_provider',

),

),

));

If you have defined access\_control, make sure to add a new entry:

* YAML

# app/config/security.yml

security:

# ...

access\_control:

- { path: ^/api, roles: ROLE\_API }

* XML

<!-- app/config/security.xml -->

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<srv:container xmlns="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/security"

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

xmlns:srv="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services"

xsi:schemaLocation="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services

http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services/services-1.0.xsd">

<rule path="^/api" role="ROLE\_API" />

</srv:container>

* PHP

// app/config/security.php

$container->loadFromExtension('security', array(

'access\_control' => array(

array(

'path' => '^/api',

'role' => 'ROLE\_API',

),

),

));

That's it! Now your ApiKeyAuthenticator should be called at the beginning of each request and your authentication process will take place.

The stateless configuration parameter prevents Symfony from trying to store the authentication information in the session, which isn't necessary since the client will send the apikey on each request. If you *do* need to store authentication in the session, keep reading!

Storing Authentication in the Session

So far, this entry has described a situation where some sort of authentication token is sent on every request. But in some situations (like an OAuth flow), the token may be sent on only *one*request. In this case, you will want to authenticate the user and store that authentication in the session so that the user is automatically logged in for every subsequent request.

To make this work, first remove the stateless key from your firewall configuration or set it to false:

* YAML

# app/config/security.yml

security:

# ...

firewalls:

secured\_area:

pattern: ^/api

stateless: false

simple\_preauth:

authenticator: apikey\_authenticator

provider: api\_key\_user\_provider

providers:

api\_key\_user\_provider:

id: api\_key\_user\_provider

* XML

<!-- app/config/security.xml -->

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<srv:container xmlns="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/security"

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

xmlns:srv="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services"

xsi:schemaLocation="http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services

http://symfony.com/schema/dic/services/services-1.0.xsd">

<config>

<!-- ... -->

<firewall name="secured\_area"

pattern="^/api"

stateless="false"

provider="api\_key\_user\_provider"

>

<simple-preauth authenticator="apikey\_authenticator" />

</firewall>

<provider name="api\_key\_user\_provider" id="api\_key\_user\_provider" />

</config>

</srv:container>

* PHP

// app/config/security.php

// ..

$container->loadFromExtension('security', array(

'firewalls' => array(

'secured\_area' => array(

'pattern' => '^/api',

'stateless' => false,

'simple\_preauth' => array(

'authenticator' => 'apikey\_authenticator',

),

'provider' => 'api\_key\_user\_provider',

),

),

'providers' => array(

'api\_key\_user\_provider' => array(

'id' => 'api\_key\_user\_provider',

),

),

));

Even though the token is being stored in the session, the credentials—in this case the API key (i.e., $token->getCredentials())—are not stored in the session for security reasons. To take advantage of the session, update ApiKeyAuthenticator to see if the stored token has a valid user object that can be used:

// src/AppBundle/Security/ApiKeyAuthenticator.php

// ...

class ApiKeyAuthenticator implements SimplePreAuthenticatorInterface

{

// ...

public function authenticateToken(TokenInterface $token, UserProviderInterface $userProvider, $providerKey)

{

if (!$userProvider instanceof ApiKeyUserProvider) {

throw new \InvalidArgumentException(

sprintf(

'The user provider must be an instance of ApiKeyUserProvider (%s was given).',

get\_class($userProvider)

)

);

}

$apiKey = $token->getCredentials();

$username = $userProvider->getUsernameForApiKey($apiKey);

// User is the Entity which represents your user

$user = $token->getUser();

if ($user instanceof User) {

return new PreAuthenticatedToken(

$user,

$apiKey,

$providerKey,

$user->getRoles()

);

}

if (!$username) {

// this message will be returned to the client

throw new CustomUserMessageAuthenticationException(

sprintf('API Key "%s" does not exist.', $apiKey)

);

}

$user = $userProvider->loadUserByUsername($username);

return new PreAuthenticatedToken(

$user,

$apiKey,

$providerKey,

$user->getRoles()

);

}

// ...

}

Storing authentication information in the session works like this:

1. At the end of each request, Symfony serializes the token object (returned from authenticateToken()), which also serializes the user object (since it's set on a property on the token).
2. On the next request the token is deserialized and the deserialized User object is passed to the refreshUser() function of the user provider.

The second step is the important one: Symfony calls refreshUser() and passes you the user object that was serialized in the session. If your users are stored in the database, then you may want to re query for a fresh version of the user to make sure it's not out-of-date. But regardless of your requirements, refreshUser() should now return the user object:

// src/AppBundle/Security/ApiKeyUserProvider.php

// ...

class ApiKeyUserProvider implements UserProviderInterface

{

// ...

public function refreshUser(UserInterface $user)

{

// $user is the User that you set in the token inside authenticateToken()

// after it has been deserialized from the session

// you might use $user to query the database for a fresh user

// $id = $user->getId();

// use $id to make a query

// if you are \*not\* reading from a database and are just creating

// a User object (like in this example), you can just return it

return $user;

}

}

You'll also want to make sure that your User object is being serialized correctly. If your User object has private properties, PHP can't serialize those. In this case, you may get back a user object that has a null value for each property.