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Single Sign On with CAS

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Introduction

- Configured Alfresco to use CAS with every version since 3.4





Why?

- Users really like less passwords
- Docs are old and incomplete





Need to getRemoteUser

- Docs rely on mod_auth_cas
- Not part of core CAS
- Depends on Apache
- Complicated
- Really old CAS
(4.2 available)





Who?

- Can't change Alfresco username
- Make sure you configure CAS to send static username

```
<property name="usernameAttributeProvider">  
  <bean  
class="org.jasig.cas.services.PrincipalAttributeRegisteredService  
UsernameProvider"  
      c:usernameAttribute="uid" />  
</property>
```





What?

- Use CAS java client
- Configure Alfresco by changing web.xml
- CAS can be configured by:
 - JNDI
 - Properties file
 - System properties
 - Web.xml
 - Spring security also possible





Where?

- Why not use web-fragment.xml?
- Breaks deep linking i.e. always log in to the dashboard



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/leppre/15699815797>



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Order is important

- CAS filters need to be applied before the Alfresco auth filter
- This is why a web-fragment does not work
- Some refactoring could make web-fragment work





How?

- Up to version 5.0.c
- Make changes to share-config-custom.xml
- Make changes to alfresco-global.properties





What changed?

- New CMIS endpoint not available via the share proxy before 5.0.d





New CMIS endpoint

```
<endpoint>
  <id>alfresco-api</id>
  <parent-id>alfresco</parent-id>
  <name>Alfresco Public API - user access</name>
  <description>Access to Alfresco Repository Public API
that require user authentication.
          This makes use of the authentication
that is provided by parent 'alfresco' endpoint.</description>
  <connector-id>alfrescoHeader</connector-id>
  <endpoint-
url>http://localhost:8080/alfresco/api</endpoint-url>
  <identity>user</identity>
  <external-auth>true</external-auth>
</endpoint>
```





Patching

- ALF-21367/MNT-15795 provides a patch to SlingshotAlfrescoConnector
- Differences between 5.0.d and 5.1
- (or see my github)





What happened to logout?

- The property `context.externalAuthentication` causes the logout option to disappear
- Quite easy to put back
- This has changed frequently





Welcome to the Hotel California

- You can check out but never leave
- Logout returns you to the dashboard, which sends you to CAS, which logs you back in again



Lots of change

- The way log out works has changed with every new version
- Part of Aikau and hopefully more stable
- Still hard to configure





Customize logout

- Now need to subscribe to the `ALF_DOLOGOUT` event
- Replace `alfresco/services/LogoutService`
- Need to configure CAS logout page and logout destination





service.Xhr

- Logout used to be GET now POST
- By default Aikau changes the Content-Type to be application/json
- Server side logout service doesn't understand json

```
headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/x-www-form-urlencoded' },
```





Invites

- Complex interaction
- Consider switching off invite emails





Passwords

- Password not held in Alfresco any more
- Fairly easy to change the password link in the header menu
- Tab in profile not so easy



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Sparse user info

- Consider synchronizing with user repository
- LDAP a good option
- Allows access to non-web login





Resources

- <http://github.com/wrighting/alfresco-cas>
- <http://tech.wrighting.org>
- @techwrighting
- ian.wright@well.ox.ac.uk



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