

Web Application Development Diploma in IT/FI Year 2 (2021/22) Semester 3	Week 15 2 hours
Practical 13 – Web API (OAuth 2.0)	

OBJECTIVES

In this practical, you will:

- Learn how to use configure a Single-Sign-On using OAuth 2.0 to a Web API server.

REFERENCES

- Google Developers - Google Identity OpenID Connect
https://developers.google.com/api-client-library/dotnet/guide/aaa_oauth

INSTRUCTIONS

Part 1 – OAuth 2.0

Recall from the last 2 practical exercises, you have learnt that you are able to retrieve and send JSON from the Web API server. The Web API server also allows students to vote on the popular books to purchase. Our NP Book Rental application want to know which student is carry out these activities, hence an authentication and authorization process is required. Instead of storing all students' information (including login password) in the application, we are going to make use of a third-party trust-worthy server to help us to authenticate and authorize each user. The authorization method we are using is known as OAuth2.0 and the third-party authorization server that our application is to connect to through Web API is Google.

Understanding OAuth 2.0

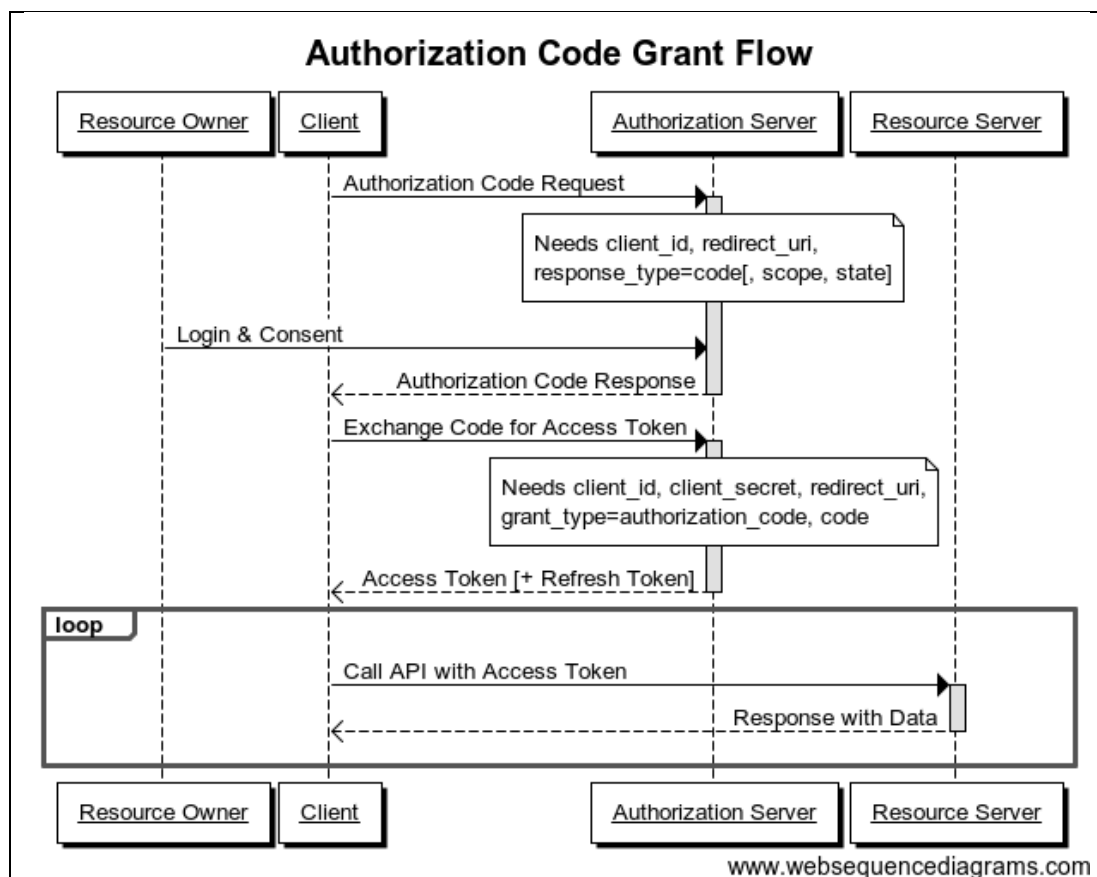


OAuth 2.0 is the industry-standard protocol for authorization. OAuth 2.0 focuses on **client developer** simplicity while providing specific authorization flows for **web applications**, desktop applications, mobile phones, and living room devices.



OAuth 2.0 enables applications to obtain limited access to user accounts on an HTTP service, such as Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Twitter. It works by delegating user authentication to the service that hosts the user account, and authorizing third-party applications to access the user account.

Access token is the most important part in OAuth 2.0, Access token is a piece of random string generated by the authorization server and is issued when the client requests them after being authenticated successfully. Application (client) uses access token to make API requests on behalf of a user. The access token represents the authorization of a specific application to access specific parts of a user's data. It has a limited lifetime, which is defined by the authorization server.



OAuth 2.0 defines 4 roles:

Resource Owner: A user who owns the login credentials and personal information (e.g. Microsoft account owner, Google account owner, Facebook account owner.) The resource owner provides consent to authorization server whether the account can be used for login purpose for an application and the scope of the authorization granted (e.g. what information to be released to the application).

Resource Server: server hosting protected data (for example Google hosting individual profile and personal information).

Client: Application requesting access to a resource server (e.g. NP BookStore Web Application).

Authorization Server: Server issuing access token to the client. This token will be used for the client to request the resource server.

Scenario:

1. A website wants to obtain information about your Google profile.
2. You are redirected by the client (the website) to the authorization server (Google).
3. If you authorize access, the authorization server sends an authorization code to the client (the website) in the callback response.
4. Then, this code is exchanged against an access token between the client and the authorization server.
5. The website is now able to use this access token to query the resource server (Google again) and retrieve your profile data.

You never see the access token, it will be stored by the website (in session or cookie for example). Google also sends other information with the access token, such as the token lifetime and eventually a refresh token.

This is the ideal scenario and the safer one because the access token is not passed on the client side (web browser in our example).

References:

<https://oauth.net/2/>

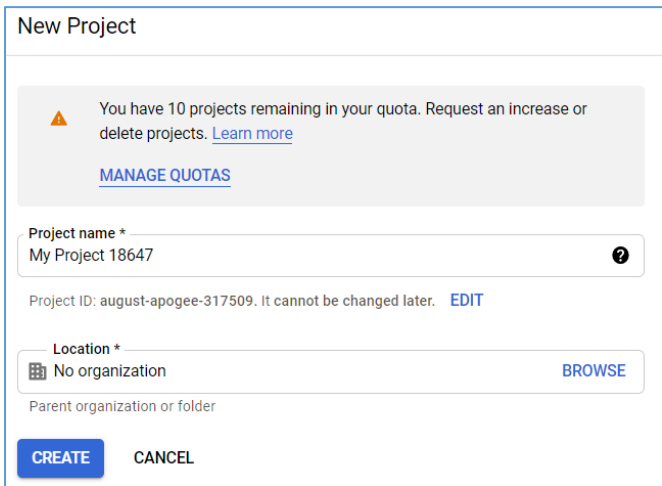
<http://www.bubblecode.net/en/2016/01/22/understanding-oauth2/>

Part 2 – Create a Google API Console Project and Client ID




Before using the Google authentication and authorization server, we need to register our application, i.e., NP Book Rental, with Google. A Client ID and Client Secret will be provided after registration, which our application will need to provide when accessing the Google authorization server. The Client ID and Client Secret helps the login provider (i.e. Google) to understand which application is requesting for the authenticated user's profile to provide user security. Google will also present the user which a consent screen for agreeing to exchange user's data with the requesting application which in this case is our web application along with information about what our application would receive from the user's profile stored in the provider.

1. Log into <https://console.developers.google.com> with your **personal** Google account.
2. At the top of the page, next to the **Google Cloud Platform** logo, there should be a project dropdown list. Click on that and select New Project. Give the project a name and click on the Create button.




New Project

 You have 10 projects remaining in your quota. Request an increase or delete projects. [Learn more](#)

[MANAGE QUOTAS](#)

Project name *
My Project 18647


Project ID: august-apogee-317509. It cannot be changed later. [EDIT](#)

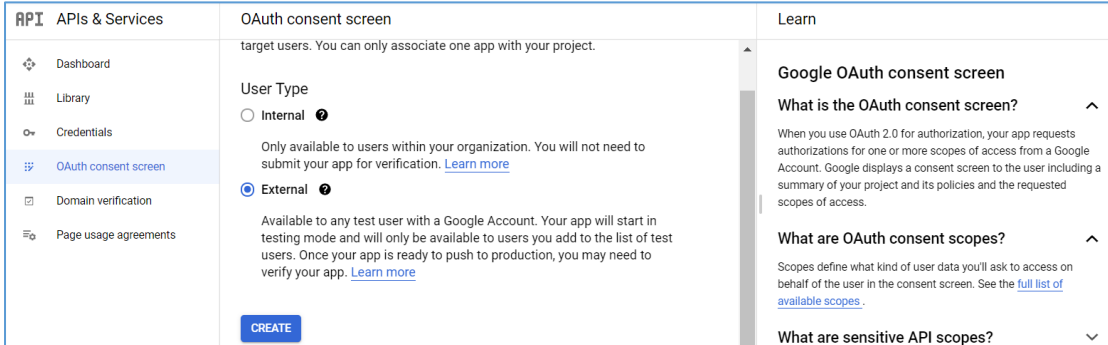
Location *
 No organization [BROWSE](#)

Parent organization or folder

[CREATE](#) [CANCEL](#)

After the project is created successfully, it will appear in the project dropdown list and a dashboard for the project appears.

3. Click on the menu icon  in the top-left hand side of the page. Navigate to **API & Services** and click on **OAuth consent screen**. Select the **“External”** User Type and click on the Create button.



The screenshot shows the 'APIs & Services' dashboard with the 'OAuth consent screen' selected. The 'User Type' is set to 'External'. The 'CREATE' button is visible at the bottom.

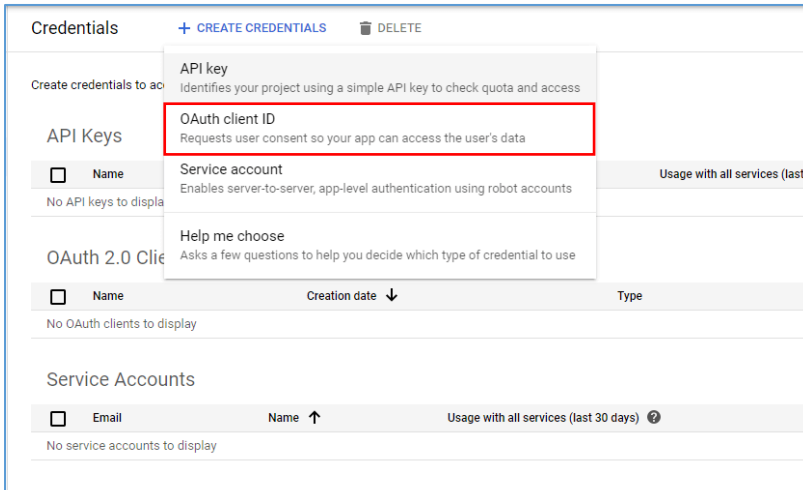
4. On the next page, provide the following information:
- App Name (e.g., NP Book Rental)
 - User Support Email (e.g., your G-mail account)
 - Application home page link (e.g. <https://localhost:<PortNumber>/>)
 - Application privacy policy (e.g. <https://localhost:<PortNumber>/Home/Privacy>)
 - Developer contact information (e.g., your G-mail account)

Click on the **“Save and Continue”** button to proceed.

5. The next page is to define the scope of access of the user account. Click the **“Add or Remove Scopes”** button to add the following scopes:
- auth/userinfo.email
 - auth/userinfo.profile

Remember to click the **“Update”** button after selecting the above scopes from a checkbox list. Click on the **“Save and Continue”** button to proceed.

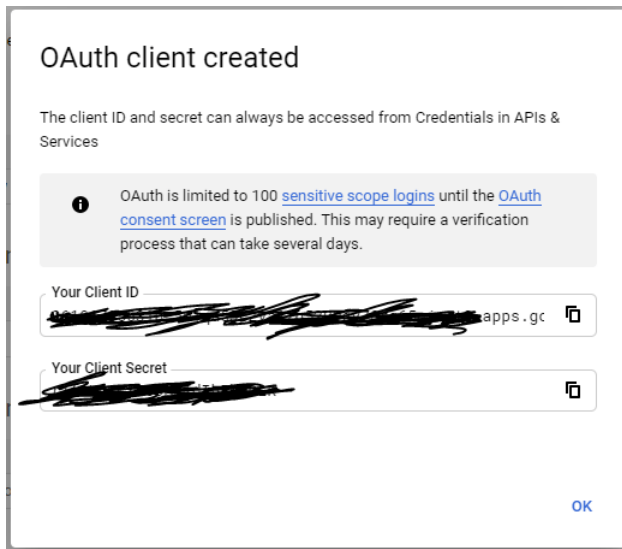
6. Skip the “Test Users” page. Click on the **“Save and Continue”** button to proceed. After this page, you will see a summary of all the information you have entered. You may edit it if need to.
7. With OAuth consent completed, we can now proceed to create an OAuth credential. Navigate to **API & Services** and click on **Credentials**. Click on the **Create Credentials** button and select **OAuth client ID**.



The screenshot shows the 'Credentials' page with the 'CREATE CREDENTIALS' button. The 'OAuth client ID' option is highlighted with a red box.

8. On the page that appears, enter the following pieces of information:
- Application type: select **Web application**
 - Name: e.g., NP Book Rental
 - Authorized redirect URL: e.g. <https://localhost:<PortNumber>/signin-oidc>

The “signin-oidc” route is handled by the ASP.NET Core OpenID connect authentication workflow middleware for Google, which we will install and configure in the next section. Once done, click on the **Create** button and you have a popup showing up the Client ID and Client Secret.

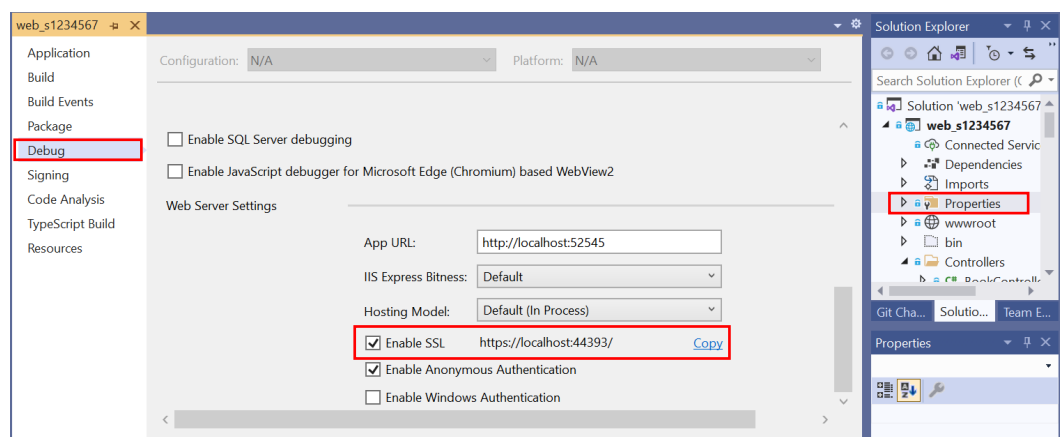


Copy down the Client ID and Client Secret on Notepad as you will need to use them in our ASP.NET Core application.



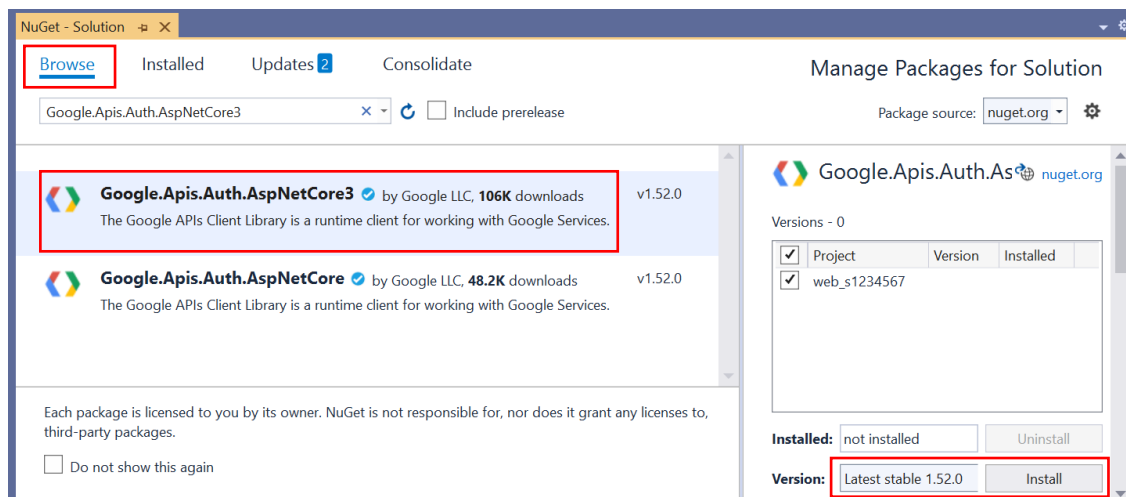
The redirect URL is used for the Google authorization server to send the Authorization Code and Access Token. You may do the following steps to check the URL and port number used by your web application from Visual Studio:

- Double-click at the “Properties” item in Solution Explorer to open the Properties panel for your ASP.NET Core Web App project.
- Select “Debug” option from the left side of the panel, scroll down until you see the URL besides the “Enable SSL” field.



Part 3 – Single Sign-On (SSO) with Google

9. Launch **Visual Studio** and open the project created in the earlier practical exercise.
10. We will use a library package to help our web application to connect to the Google authentication and authorization server. At the Solution Explorer, right-click the "Solution" of your web project and select **"Manage NuGet Packages for Solution"**, at the NuGet Manager, browse for the package: **"Google.Apis.Auth.AspNetCore3"** and install this library into your project.



11. Open the **appsettings.json** file from Solution Explorer, Add the highlighted JSON entries that contains the Google Client ID and Client Secret that you have created previously:

```
{
  "Logging": {
    "LogLevel": {
      "Default": "Information",
      "Microsoft": "Warning",
      "Microsoft.Hosting.Lifetime": "Information"
    }
  },
  "AllowedHosts": "*",
  "ConnectionStrings": {
    "NPBookConnectionString":
      "Data Source=(localdb)\\MSSQLLocalDB;Initial Catalog=NPBookWEB;
      Integrated Security=True;"
  },
  "Authentication": {
    "Google": {
      "ClientId": "[REDACTED]",
      "ClientSecret": "[REDACTED]"
    }
  }
}
```

12. Open the **Startup.cs** file from Solution Explorer, add the highlighted namespace and C# code in **ConfigureServices()** method to set up Google authentication:

```
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authentication.Cookies;
using Google.Apis.Auth.AspNetCore3;
```

```

public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    . . . . .
    services.AddControllersWithViews();

    // This configures Google.Apis.Auth.AspNetCore3 for use in this app.
    services.AddAuthentication(options =>
    {
        // Login (Challenge) to be handled by Google OpenID Handler,
        options.DefaultChallengeScheme =
            GoogleOpenIdConnectDefaults.AuthenticationScheme;

        // Once a user is authenticated, the OAuth2 token info
        // is stored in cookies.
        options.DefaultScheme =
            CookieAuthenticationDefaults.AuthenticationScheme;
    })
    .AddCookie()
    .AddGoogleOpenIdConnect(options =>
    {
        // Credentials (stored in appsettings.json) to identify
        // the web app when performing Google authentication
        options.ClientId =
            Configuration["Authentication:Google:ClientId"];
        options.ClientSecret =
            Configuration["Authentication:Google:ClientSecret"];
    });
}

```

13. In the **Configure()** method, add the **authentication middleware** (highlighted code).

```

public void Configure(IApplicationBuilder app, IHostingEnvironment env)
{
    . . . . .

    app.UseRouting();
    app.UseAuthentication();
    app.UseAuthorization();

    // Enable session state
    // IMPORTANT: This session call MUST go before UseMvc()
    app.UseSession();

    // Define the default route of MVC
    app.UseMvc(routes =>
    {
        routes.MapRoute(
            name: "default",
            template: "{controller=Home}/{action=Index}/{id?}");
    });
}

```

14. Add the highlighted namespaces and replace the **StudentLogin()** action method in **HomeController** with the highlighted shown as follow. The **[Authorize]** attribute will trigger the Google authentication that we defined in **Startup.cs**, if the authentication cookie is absent or expired. (Note: Google authentication cookie and access token will expire in 1 hour.)

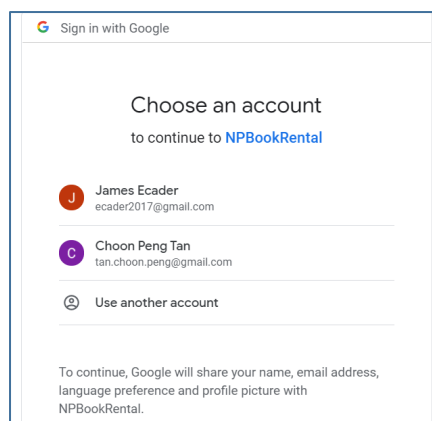
```

using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authentication.Cookies;
using Google.Apis.Auth.OAuth2;
using Microsoft.IdentityModel.Protocols.OpenIdConnect;
using Google.Apis.Auth;
using static Google.Apis.Auth.GoogleJsonWebSignature;
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authorization;
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authentication;

[Authorize]
public async Task<ActionResult> StudentLogin()
{
    // The user is already authenticated, so this call won't
    // trigger login, but it allows us to access token related values.
    AuthenticateResult auth = await HttpContext.AuthenticateAsync();
    string idToken = auth.Properties.GetTokenValue(
        OpenIdConnectParameterNames.IdToken);
    try {
        // Verify the current user logging in with Google server
        // if the ID is invalid, an exception is thrown
        Payload currentUser = await
            GoogleJsonWebSignature.ValidateAsync(idToken);
        string userName = currentUser.Name;
        string eMail = currentUser.Email;
        HttpContext.Session.SetString("LoginID", userName + " / "
            + eMail);
        HttpContext.Session.SetString("Role", "Student");
        HttpContext.Session.SetString("LoggedInTime",
            DateTime.Now.ToString());
        return RedirectToAction("Index", "Book");
    }
    catch (Exception e) {
        // Token ID is may be tempered with, force user to logout
        return RedirectToAction("Logout");
    }
}

```

15. Select **File->Save** ... (or press <Ctrl>+<S>) to save the controller file.
16. Test the page using Google Chrome and observe the result with **the Google user name** and email address appear on the label.
 - Click the **"Sign in with Google"** button in the Student Login panel
 - The Google Authentication page will appear, log in using your Google personal account



NP Book Rental

View Books

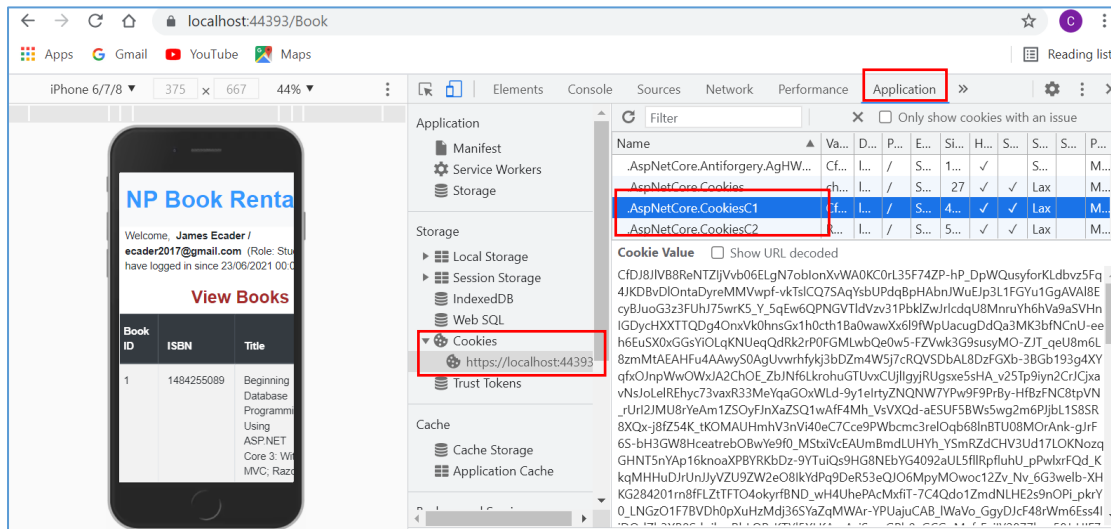
Log Out

Welcome, **James Ecader / ecader2017@gmail.com** (Role: Student). You have logged in since 23/06/2021 00:03:14

View Books

Book ID	ISBN	Title	Author	Pages	Quantity Available	Justification
1	1484255089	Beginning Database Programming Using ASP.NET Core 3: With MVC; Razor Pages; Web API; jQuery; Angular; SQL Server; and NoSQL	Bipin Joshi	503	1033	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Add"/>

17. Press function <F12> to open the Debugger of Google Chrome, Click at the “**Application**” tab and select **Storage > Cookies** field, you will see 2 cookie chunks (.AspNetCore.CokkiesC1 and .AspNetCore.CokkiesC2) created for our web app. These cookie chunks contain the access token and ID token which is created after Google authorization server granted access.



18. Stop the testing, open the **BookController** and **VoteController** class files, add **[Authorize]** attribute before the class definition so we can restrict access to all action methods in these 2 controllers by authorized users only.

```
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authorization;
. . . . .

[Authorize]
public class BookController : Controller
```

```
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authorization;
. . . . .

[Authorize]
public class VoteController : Controller
```

19. Select **File->Save All** ... (or press **<Ctrl>+<S>**) to save the controller files.

Part 3 – Logout from Single Sign-On

20. Modify and add the highlighted code in the **Logout()** action method in **HomeController**. The code will clear all authentication cookies for the web app and hence logout the user's Google account.

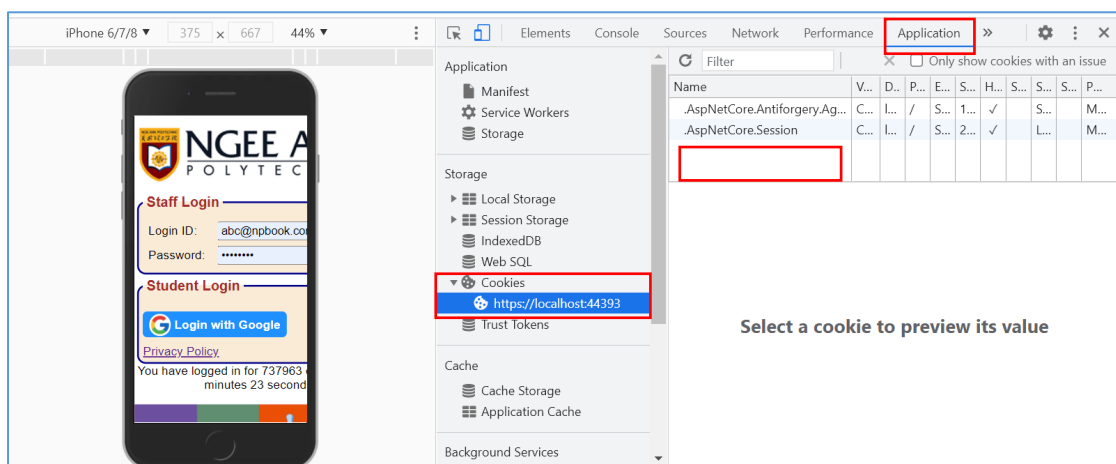
```
public async Task<ActionResult> Logout()
{
    // Clear authentication cookie
    await HttpContext.SignOutAsync(
        CookieAuthenticationDefaults.AuthenticationScheme);

    // Clear all key-value pairs stored in session state
    HttpContext.Session.Clear();

    // Go back to Home Page
    return RedirectToAction("Index");
}
```

[Note: The Logout() action method is shared between Staff and Student Login. The HttpContext.SignOutAsync() function will not cause any error even if there is no authentication cookie being saved for the web app.]

21. Test the page using Google Chrome, log in with your Google personal account and then log out. You should be re-directed to the home page and when you click at the “Sign in with Google” button again, it will prompt you to select a Google account.
22. Press function <F12> to open the Debugger of Google Chrome, Open the “Application” tab at select the Storage > Cookies field, you will see the 2 cookie chunks (.AspNetCore.CookiesC1 and .AspNetCore.CookiesC2) have been removed after you have logout successfully.



23. Go to the Book controller index by type URL: <https://localhost:<PortNumber>/Book>. You will be redirected to the Google Sign In page. This prove that the [Authorize] attribute added to the controller is working.

Part 4 – Privacy Protection Policy Page

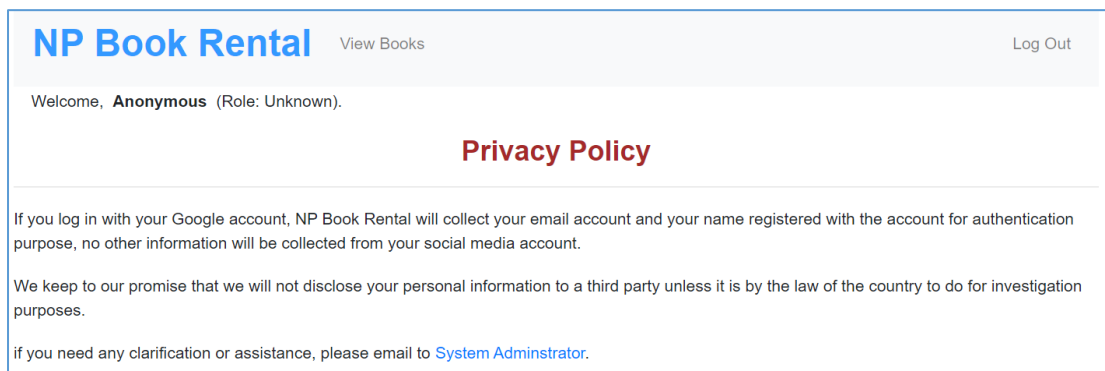


When using single sign-on with social media account, it is important to inform users what information your app is obtaining from their account and assure that the information will not be disclosed to a third-party without their consent.

24. Open the view **Privacy.cshtml** from the folder Views\Home from Solution Explorer. Replace the code from Line 4 onward with the highlighted code as follow:

```
@{
    ViewData["Title"] = "Privacy Policy";
}
<h4 class="PageTitle">Privacy Policy</h4>
<hr />
<p>
    If you log in with your Google account, NP Book Rental will collect your
    email account and your name registered with the account for
    authentication purpose, no other information will be collected from your
    social media account.
</p>
<p>
    We keep to our promise that we will not disclose your personal
    information to a third party unless it is by the law of the country to do
    for investigation purposes.
</p>
<p>
    if you need any clarification or assistance, please email to <a
    href="mailto:abc@npbook.com">System Adminstrator</a>.
</p>
```

25. Save the file and test the page by clicking the “Privacy Policy” link below “Sign in with Google” button:



CONCLUSION

- We have learnt how to configure a Google Single-Sign-On using OAuth 2.0.

Practical 13 – Checklist

No	Item	Yes/No
1	I understand how to configure a Single-Sign-On using OAuth 2.0 with Google account.	
2	I understand how the process of OAuth2 authorization and the use of access token/ID token in performing authentication and authorization.	