

CODE INSPECTION DOCUMENT

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Introduction

1.1 Purpose and scope

Code inspection is the systematic examination of computer source code, in order to improve the overall quality of software. We are to apply code inspection techniques to evaluate the general quality of selected code extracts from a release of the GlassFish 4.1 application server.

We are going to analyse a portion of SecurityMechanismSelector class, from com.sun.enterprise.iiop.security package.

1.2 References

We are reviewing GlassFish source code, version 4.1.1, revision 64219¹. The code under analysis is typeset right in the document.

As a reference, we quote the code inspection checklist in appendix A.

1.3 Overview of the document

This document develops as follows. In chapter 2 we provide some general information about the class we are assigned and its functional role, to better understand the context we are moving in. Chapter 3 represents the core of the document, because the thorough analysis of the methods is detailed there.

Appendix A contains the whole code inspection checklist, as a support.

¹ This is the link to checkout the whole code: https://svn.java.net/svn/glassfish~svn/tags/4.1.1@64219

Class presentation and functional analysis

SecurityMechanismSelector class is part of the security module on the server side of GlassFish. In particular, the class belongs to com.sun.enterprise.iiop.security package, which provides security infrastructure and technology integration to Enterprise JavaBeans¹.

We understand that the objective of the class is to select the appropriate security information to be sent in the IIOP message to the client. IIOP stands for Internet Inter-ORB Protocol, which is what makes it possible for distributed programs written in different programming languages to communicate over the Internet.

Our understanding of the document is confirmed by the Javadoc description of the class, quoted below:

¹ We recall that an enterprise bean is a server-side component that encapsulates the business logic of an application. The business logic is the code that fulfils the purpose of the application.

```
* This class is responsible for making various decisions for selecting
109
      * security information to be sent in the IIOP message based on target
      * configuration and client policies.
      * Note: This class can be called concurrently by multiple client threads.
      * However, none of its methods need to be synchronized because the methods
      * either do not modify state or are idempotent.
115
      * @author Nithya Subramanian
116
117
118
     @Service
120
    @Singleton
121
    public final class SecurityMechanismSelector implements PostConstruct {
```

In particular, we are assigned the following methods from the class to analyse:

- evaluate_client_conformance_ascontext;
- evaluate_client_conformance_sascontext;
- evaluate_client_conformance.

We are going to describe them in detail later (chapter 3), but for now it is useful to present the call hierarchy of the first one, generated through NetBeans IDE. The call hierarchy tree for the private boolean evaluate_client_conformance_ascontext in class SecurityMechanismSelector

private boolean evaluate_client_conformance in class SecurityMechanismSelector

public SecurityContext evaluateTrust in class SecurityMechanismSelector

public int setSecurityContext in class SecurityContextUtil

private void handle_null_service_context in class SecServerRequestInterceptor

public void receive_request in class SecServerRequestInterceptor

public void receive_request in class SecServerRequestInterceptor

By reading the documentation of the methods in the tree we understand that the class under analysis offers some methods to select the appropriate security context for the server, based on target configuration and client policies, and returns them to setSecurityContext, which authenticates the client. The result of the authentication process is passed to the server-side request interceptor, and in particular to receive_request method. A request interceptor is, roughly, a software element designed to transfer context information between clients and servers.

Analysis of the methods

In this chapter we are going to check the compliance to the checklist (see appendix A for reference) of the three methods we are assigned.

Each section of the chapter goes through a specific method, whose code we show entirely, for the sake of completeness. In order to improve readability, the code of the method has been split into fragments, which are followed by a report of the issues we spotted.

Tabs are shown, highlighted by a \forall symbol.

3.1 evaluate_client_conformance_ascontext

```
/* Evaluates a client's conformance to a security policies

* at the client authentication layer.

*

* returns true if conformant; else returns false

*/
```

3.1.1 *Issues*

```
private boolean evaluate_client_conformance_ascontext(

SecurityContext ctx,

EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor iordesc,

String realmName)

{

boolean client_authenticated = false;
```

- 5 the method name evaluate_client_conformance_ascontext (line 1209) does not comply with the rule, since it contains underscore characters; given that other methods in the class follow the same pattern (lowercase words, separated by underscores), maybe this is done intentionally to improve readability.
- 6 the variable name client_authenticated (line 1215) does not comply with the rule, as it contains an underscore.
- 10 the only inconsistency in the bracing style is in line 1213, since elsewhere in the method K&R¹ style is consistently adopted (the opening brace should be placed at the end of the method declaration).

¹ K&R is the well-known shorthand for

[&]quot;Kernighan and Ritchie".

52 the **try-catch** group in lines 1219 to 1225 is roughly managed: catching a generic Exception does not allow a detailed log of the error.

```
* Conformance Matrix:
1229
        * |-----|
         | ClientAuth | targetrequires.ETIC | targetSupports.ETIC | Conformant |
1232
         1233
                        0
             Yes
                                   1
1234
                        0
                                   0
             Yes
                1235
             Yes
                       1
                                   Χ
                                               Yes
1236
             No
                                               Yes
1237
             No
                        1
                                   Χ
        * |-----|----|---
1239
1240
        * Abbreviations: ETIC - EstablishTrusInClient
1241
1242
        1243
1244
          ( (ctx != null) && (ctx.authcls != null) && (ctx.subject != null))
          client_authenticated = true;
        else
1247
          client_authenticated = false;
1248
```

- 11 single line statements in the **if-else** block (lines 1245 to 1248) should be surrounded by curly braces.
- 44 to avoid an example of "brutish programming", lines 1245 to 1248, together with line 1215, can be collapsed to the following statement:

```
| boolean client_authenticated = (ctx != null) && (ctx.authcls != null) && (ctx.subject != null);
```

However, this solution is not trouble-free (e.g., it exceeds the 80 character limit stated in rule 13).

```
if (ascontext.target_name.length != client_tgtname.length){
                      return false; // mechanism did not match.
                  for (int i=0; i < ascontext.target_name.length ; i ++)</pre>
                      if (ascontext.target_name[i] != client_tgtname[i]){
                          return false; // mechanism did not match
1265
              } else {
1266
                  if ( isSet(ascontext.target_requires, EstablishTrustInClient.value)){
                      return false; // no mechanism match.
1269
              }
              return true;
```

- 6 the client_tgtname variable (line 1257) does not comply with standard naming rules, because it contains an underscore.
- 11 the **if** statement in the **for** group (lines 1262 to 1265) should be surrounded with braces.
- 13 a limited number of lines in this fragment exceeds significantly the 80 character per line limit (most notably, line 1252); however, when it comes to nested if clauses and to method calls inside the **if** conditions, it may be difficult to comply with this limit.
- 15 the condition of the **if** statement in lines 1251 to 1252 breaks before | | operator, instead of after the operator itself, which is preferable.

Suggestions 3.1.2

To improve readability, we suggest to include the **for** block in lines 1262 to 1265 within an else clause (obviously, thanks to the use of return statement in line 1264, the behaviour of the method does not change).

evaluate_client_conformance_sascontext

```
/* Evaluates a client's conformance to a security policy
1274
          * at the sas context layer. The security policy
1275
          * is derived from the EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor.
1277
          * returns true if conformant; else returns false
1278
1279
```

```
3.2.1 Issues
```

```
private boolean evaluate_client_conformance_sascontext(
1280
                                SecurityContext ctx,
1281
                                EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor iordesc)
          {
1283
1284
             boolean caller_propagated = false;
1285
```

- 5 the method name evaluate_client_conformance_sascontext (line 1280) does not comply with the rule, due to the underscore characters inside.
- 6 the variable name caller_propagated (line 1285) does not comply with the rule, because it contains an underscore as separator.
- the only inconsistency in the bracing style is in line 1283, since elsewhere in the method K&R style is consistently adopted.

```
// get requirements and supports at the sas context layer
SAS_ContextSec sascontext = null;

try {
    sascontext = this.getCtc().createSASContextSec(iordesc);
} catch (Exception e) {
    _logger.log(Level.SEVERE, "iiop.createcontextsec_exception",e);
    return false;
}
```

52 the **try-catch** group in lines 1289 to 1294 is roughly managed: catching a generic Exception does not allow a detailed log of the error.

- 11 single line statements in the **if-else** block (lines 1297 to 1300) should be surrounded by curly braces.
- 44 to avoid an example of "brutish programming", lines 1297 to 1300, together with line 1285, can be collapsed to the following statement:

```
| boolean caller_propagated = (ctx != null) && (ctx.identcls != null) && (ctx.subject != null);
```

However this line is too long (it exceeds the 80 character limit stated in rule 13).

```
if (caller_propagated) {
1302
                  if ( ! isSet(sascontext.target_supports, IdentityAssertion.value))
                       return false; // target does not support IdentityAssertion
1304
                  /* There is no need further checking here since SecServerRequestInterceptor
                    * code filters out the following:
1307
                    st a. IdentityAssertions of types other than those required by level 0
1308
                         (for e.g. IdentityExtension)
1309
                   * b. unsupported identity types.
1310
1311
                    * The checks are done in SecServerRequestInterceptor rather than here
1312
                    * to minimize code changes.
                   */
                   return true;
1315
1316
              return true; // either caller was not propagated or mechanism matched.
1317
1318
```

11 single line statement in the **if** block (lines 1303 to 1304) should be surrounded by curly braces.

3.3 evaluate_client_conformance

1340

1341

{

```
1322
           * Evaluates a client's conformance to the security policies configured
1323
           * on the target.
1324
           * Returns true if conformant to the security policies
1325
           * otherwise return false.
1326
           * Conformance checking is done as follows:
           * First, the object_id is mapped to the set of EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor.
           * Each EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor corresponds to a single CompoundSecMechanism
1330
           * of the CSIv2 spec. A client is considered to be conformant if a
1331
      CompoundSecMechanism
1332
           * consistent with the client's actions is found i.e. transport_mech,
1333
      as_context_mech
1334
           * and sas_context_mech must all be consistent.
1335
           */
1337
     3.3.1 Issues
          private boolean evaluate_client_conformance(SecurityContext
1338
                                                                            ctx,
                                                         byte[]
                                                                            object_id,
1339
```

boolean

ssl_used,

X509Certificate[] certchain)

- 5 the method name evaluate_client_conformance (line 1338) does not comply with the rule, owing to the underscore characters within.
- 6 the names of the two parameters object_id (line 1339) and ssl_used (line 1340) contain underscores, so they do not comply with the rule.
- 10 the only inconsistency in the bracing style is in line 1342, since elsewhere in the method K&R style is consistently adopted.

```
// Obtain the IOR configuration descriptors for the Ejb using
1343
              // the object_id within the SecurityContext field.
1344
              // if object_id is null then nothing to evaluate. This is a sanity
1346
              // check - for the object_id should never be null.
              if (object_id == null)
                  return true;
1350
1351
              if (protocolMgr == null)
1352
                  protocolMgr = orbHelper.getProtocolManager();
1353
1354
              // Check to make sure protocolMgr is not null.
1355
              // This could happen during server initialization or if this call
              // is on a callback object in the client VM.
1357
              if (protocolMgr == null)
1358
                   return true;
1359
1360
```

```
EjbDescriptor ejbDesc = protocolMgr.getEjbDescriptor(object_id);
1361
               Set iorDescSet = null;
1363
               if (ejbDesc != null) {
1364
               iorDescSet = ejbDesc.getIORConfigurationDescriptors();
          -∦}
1366
          ⇒else {
1367
               // Probably a non-EJB CORBA object.
1368
         \rightarrow
               // Create a temporary EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor.
               iorDescSet = getCorbaIORDescSet();
1370
         -∦}
1371

<sup>★</sup>if(_logger.isLoggable(Level.FINE)) {
               _logger.log(Level.FINE,
1374
         \rightarrow
              #"SecurityMechanismSelector.evaluate_client_conformance: iorDescSet: " + iorDescSet);
1375
         - ∦}
1376
```

- 9 in lines 1365 to 1371 and lines 1373 to 1376 tabs are used to indent, which is to be avoided. Moreover, we suggest the use of an auto-formatting tool to fix the wild indentation in this fragment of code.
- 11 the **if** groups in lines 1349 to 1350, lines 1352 to 1353, and lines 1358 to 1359 should surround their single line statements with braces.
- 13 line 1375 does not comply with the 80 characters limit; however, it would be impossible to do so, unless the string is divided; this line is still acceptable, though, since it is less than 120 characters long (rule 14).
- 44 the initialisation of iorDescSet to null (line 1363) is useless, since the immediately following if-else group changes its value for sure.

```
/* if there are no IORConfigurationDescriptors configured, then
1378
               * no security policy is configured. So consider the client
                * to be conformant.
1381
              if (iorDescSet.isEmpty())
1382
                   return true:
1384
              // go through each EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor trying to find
              // a find a CompoundSecMechanism that matches client's actions.
              boolean checkSkipped = false;
              for (Iterator itr = iorDescSet.iterator(); itr.hasNext();) {
1388
                   EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor iorDesc =
1389
                       (EjbIORConfigurationDescriptor) itr.next();
1390
                   if(skip_client_conformance(iorDesc)){

dif(_logger.isLoggable(Level.FINE)) {

1392
             \rightarrow
                  _logger.log(Level.FINE,
1393
             \rightarrow

∃"SecurityMechanismSelector.evaluate_client_conformance: skip_client_conformance");

             ∦}
1395
                       checkSkipped = true;
1396
                       continue;
1397
                   }
1398
```

```
if (! evaluate_client_conformance_ssl(iorDesc, ssl_used, certchain)){
         \rightarrow

対if(_logger.isLoggable(Level.FINE)) {
         \rightarrow
              \rightarrow
                   _logger.log(Level.FINE,
              \rightarrow

∜"SecurityMechanismSelector.evaluate_client_conformance: evaluate_client_conformance_ssl");

              ∄}
                         checkSkipped = false;
                         continue;
1405
                    }
1406
                    String realmName = "default";
                    if(ejbDesc != null && ejbDesc.getApplication() != null) {
1408
                         realmName = ejbDesc.getApplication().getRealm();
                    }
                    if(realmName == null) {
                         realmName = iorDesc.getRealmName();
1413
                    if (realmName == null) {
1414
                         realmName = "default";
                    }
                    if ( ! evaluate_client_conformance_ascontext(ctx, iorDesc ,realmName)){

<sup>★</sup>if(_logger.isLoggable(Level.FINE)) {
              \rightarrow
                   _logger.log(Level.FINE,
              \rightarrow

¬"SecurityMechanismSelector.evaluate_client_conformance: evaluate_client_conformance_ascontext");

1420
              ∄}
1421
                         checkSkipped = false;
1422
                         continue:
1423
                    }
1424
                    if ( ! evaluate_client_conformance_sascontext(ctx, iorDesc)){
1425

対if(_logger.isLoggable(Level.FINE)) {
              \rightarrow
                    _logger.log(Level.FINE,
1427
         \rightarrow
              \forall
                       \forall"SecurityMechanismSelector.evaluate_client_conformance: evaluate_client_conformance_sascontext");
1428
              ∄}
1429
                       checkSkipped = false;
                       continue;
1431
                    }
1432
                    return true; // security policy matched.
               if(checkSkipped)
1435
                    return true:
1436
               return false; // No matching security policy found
           }
```

- 9 in lines 1392 to 1395, lines 1400 to 1403, lines 1418 to 1421, and lines 1426 to 1429 tabs are used to indent, which is to be avoided. Moreover, indentation is wildly done in this fragment of code: we suggest the use of an auto-formatting tool to fix this issue.
- 11 the **if** groups in lines 1382 to 1383 and lines 1435 to 1436 should surround their single line statements with braces.
- 13 line 1394, line 1402, line 1420, and line 1428 do not comply with the 80 characters limit; these lines are still acceptable, though, in compliance with rule 14.
- 32 since the initialisation of realmName string is potentially useless, we suggest a refactoring of the block lines 1407 to 1416 to improve readability and reduce complexity:

3.3.2 Suggestions

We suggest to nest the **if** block in lines 1358 to 1359 inside the previous one (lines 1352 to 1353), in order to avoid a double check in case protocolMgr is not **null**.

Moreover, the following fragment is repeated several times in this method (lines 1373 to 1376, lines 1392 to 1395, lines 1400 to 1403, lines 1418 to 1421, and lines 1426 to 1429), with slight differences each time. In particular, the only varying part is the portion of string "XYZ":

We suggest to substitute all occurrences of this fragment with a call to a private method, to which "XYZ" is passed as a parameter, in order to save lines of code, reduce complexity and improve readability.

3.4 Final considerations

In general the portion of class we were assigned suffers from minor stylistic issues. Most of them will be easily corrected automatically by any of the major IDEs (among them, NetBeans and Eclipse). There are also minor redundancy issues, which can be spotted and corrected with little effort.

However, please note that security mechanisms are a complex matter, and the functional analysis and bug spotting are far beyond the objectives of this document. Deep and thorough testing is needed to guarantee the quality of code.

Α

Code inspection checklist

Naming conventions

- All class names, interface names, method names, class variables, method variables, and constants used should have meaningful names and do what the name suggests.
- 2. If one-character variables are used, they are used only for temporary "throwaway" variables, such as those used in **for** loops.
- 3. Class names are nouns, in mixed case, with the first letter of each word in capitalised.

Examples: class Raster; class ImageSprite.

- 4. Interface names should be capitalised like classes.
- 5. Method names should be verbs, with the first letter of each addition word capitalised.

Examples: getBackground(); computeTemperature().

6. Class variables, also called attributes, are mixed case, but might begin with an underscore ('_') followed by a lowercase first letter. All the remaining words in the variable name have their first letter capitalised.

Examples: _windowHeight, timeSeriesData.

7. Constants are declared using all uppercase with words separated by an underscore.

Examples: MIN_WIDTH; MAX_HEIGHT.

Indention

- 8. Three or four spaces are used for indentation and done so consistently.
- 9. No tabs are used to indent.

Braces

10. Consistent bracing style is used, either the preferred "Allman" style (first brace goes underneath the opening block) or the

- "Kernighan and Ritchie" style (first brace is on the same line of the instruction that opens the new block).
- 11. All if, while, do-while, try-catch, and for statements that have only one statement to execute are surrounded by curly braces. Example:

Avoid this:

Instead do this:

File organisation

- 12. Blank lines and optional comments are used to separate sections (beginning comments, package/import statements, class/interface declarations which include class variable/attributes declarations, constructors, and methods).
- 13. Where practical, line length does not exceed 80 characters.
- 14. When line length must exceed 80 characters, it does NOT exceed 120 characters.

Wrapping lines

- 15. Line break occurs after a comma or an operator.
- 16. Higher-level breaks are used.
- 17. A new statement is aligned with the beginning of the expression at the same level as the previous line.

Comments

- 18. Comments are used to adequately explain what the class, interface, methods, and blocks of code are doing.
- 19. Commented out code contains a reason for being commented out and a date it can be removed from the source file if determined it is no longer needed.

Java source files

- 20. Each Java source file contains a single public class or interface.
- 21. The public class is the first class or interface in the file.
- 22. Check that the external program interfaces are implemented consistently with what is described in the Javadoc.
- 23. Check that the Javadoc is complete (i.e., it covers all classes and files part of the set of classes assigned to you).

Package and import statements

24. If any package statements are needed, they should be the first non-comment statements. Import statements follow.

Class and Interface Declarations

- 25. The class or interface declarations shall be in the following order:
 - (a) class/interface documentation comment;
 - (b) class or interface statement;
 - (c) class/interface implementation comment, if necessary;
 - (d) class (static) variables;
 - i. first public class variables;
 - ii. next protected class variables;
 - iii. next package level (no access modifier);
 - iv. last private class variables.
 - (e) instance variables;
 - i. first public instance variables;
 - ii. next protected instance variables;
 - iii. next package level (no access modifier);
 - iv. last private instance variables.
 - (f) constructors;
 - (g) methods.
- 26. Methods are grouped by functionality rather than by scope or accessibility.
- 27. Check that the code is free of duplicates, long methods, big classes, breaking encapsulation, as well as if coupling and cohesion are adequate.

Initialisation and declarations

- 28. Check that variables and class members are of the correct type. Check that they have the right visibility (public/private/protected).
- 29. Check that variables are declared in the proper scope.
- 30. Check that constructors are called when a new object is desired.
- 31. Check that all object references are initialised before use.
- 32. Variables are initialised where they are declared, unless dependent upon a computation.
- 33. Declarations appear at the beginning of blocks (a block is any code surrounded by curly braces '{' and '}'). The exception is a variable can be declared in a for loop.

Method calls

- 34. Check that parameters are presented in the correct order.
- 35. Check that the correct method is being called, or should it be a different method with a similar name.
- 36. Check that method returned values are used properly.

Arrays

- 37. Check that there are no off-by-one errors in array indexing (that is, all required array elements are correctly accessed through the index).
- 38. Check that all array (or other collection) indexes have been prevented from going out-of-bounds.
- Check that constructors are called when a new array item is desired.

Object comparison

40. Check that all objects (including Strings) are compared with equals and not with ==.

Output format

- 41. Check that displayed output is free of spelling and grammatical
- 42. Check that error messages are comprehensive and provide guidance as to how to correct the problem.
- 43. Check that the output is formatted correctly in terms of line stepping and spacing.

Computation, comparisons and assignments

- 44. Check that the implementation avoids "brutish programming": (see http://users.csc.calpoly.edu/~jdalbey/SWE/CodeSmells/bonehead.html).
- 45. Check order of computation/evaluation, operator precedence and parenthesising.
- 46. Check the liberal use of parenthesis is used to avoid operator precedence problems.
- 47. Check that all denominators of a division are prevented from being zero.
- Check that integer arithmetic, especially division, are used appropriately to avoid causing unexpected truncation/rounding.

- 49. Check that the comparison and Boolean operators are correct.
- 50. Check throw-catch expressions, and check that the error condition is actually legitimate.
- 51. Check that the code is free of any implicit type conversions.

Exceptions

- 52. Check that the relevant exceptions are caught.
- 53. Check that the appropriate action are taken for each catch block.

Flow of control

- 54. In a switch statement, check that all cases are addressed by break or return.
- 55. Check that all switch statements have a default branch.
- 56. Check that all loops are correctly formed, with the appropriate initialisation, increment and termination expressions.

Files

- 57. Check that all files are properly declared and opened.
- 58. Check that all files are closed properly, even in the case of an
- 59. Check that EOF conditions are detected and handled correctly.
- 60. Check that all file exceptions are caught and dealt with accordingly.

Hours of work

The writing of this document took the following amount of time:

Paolo Antonini 12 hours.

Andrea Corneo 10 hours.