Security & Identity

Security, XSS, CSRF, ASP.NET Core Identity, JWT



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Have a Question?



sli.do

#csharp-web

Most Common Web Security Problems



- SQL Injection
- Cross-site Scripting (XSS)
- URL/HTTP manipulation attacks (Parameter Tampering)
- Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF)
- Brute Force Attacks (also DDoS)
- Insufficient Access Control
- Too much information in Errors
- Missing SSL (HTTPS) / MITM
- Phishing/Social Engineering
- Security flows in other software we use



https://www.exploit-db.com/

#2 [main] thrown in /home/www/bdz.bg/www/m/db/database.inc.php on line 44



XSS



- The Razor view engine secures you against XSS by default
 - If you decide to break it @Html.Raw(...)
- There are several rules you must follow to be secured:
 - Never put untrusted data into your HTML output
 - Before putting untrusted data somewhere, ensure it is secured
 - Encoded, Parsed, Validated, Checked for malicious contents
 - Untrusted data can be inputted anywhere in the application
 - URLs, HTML Elements, HTML Attributes, JavaScript code etc.

XSS



- ASP.NET Core provides you with anything needed to secure your app
 - Razor automatically encodes all output sourced from variables

```
@{ var untrustedInput = "<\"123\">"; }
@untrustedInput
```

<"123">

You can inject Encoders directly to your Views and use them.

```
@using System.Text.Encodings.Web;
@inject JavaScriptEncoder encoder;

@{ var untrustedInput = "<\"123\">"; }

<script>
    document.write("@encoder.Encode(untrustedInput)");
</script>
```

```
<script>
document.write("\u003C\u0022123
\u0022\u003E");
  </script>
```

XSS



You can also use ASP.NET Core Encoder Services

HtmlEncoder

<"123">

<"123">

JavaScriptEncoder

<"123">

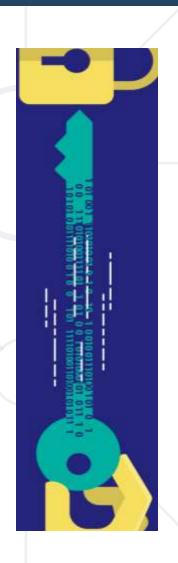
u003C\u0022<mark>123</mark>\u0022\u003E

UrlEncoder

<"123">

%3C%22<mark>123</mark>%22%3E

- Alternatively you can use the static methods
 - WebUtility.HtmlEncode and WebUtility.HtmlDecode
 - WebUtility.UrlEncode and WebUtility.UrlDecode



HtmlSanitizer



- HtmlSanitizer is a .NET library for cleaning HTML fragments and documents from constructs that can lead to XSS attacks
- https://github.com/mganss/HtmlSanitizer
- Install the HtmlSanitizer NuGet package, then:



SQL Injection

SQL Injection



- The following SQL commands are executed:
 - Usual search (no SQL injection):

```
SELECT * FROM Messages WHERE MessageText LIKE '%Nikolay.IT%'"
```

SQL-injected search (matches all records):

```
SELECT * FROM Messages WHERE MessageText LIKE '%%%%'"
```

```
SELECT * FROM Messages WHERE MessageText LIKE '%' or 1=1 --%'"
```

SQL-injected INSERT command:

```
SELECT * FROM Messages WHERE MessageText
LIKE '%'; INSERT INTO Messages(MessageText, MessageDate)
VALUES ('Hacked!!!', '1.1.1980') --%'"
```





SQL Injection



Original SQL Query:

```
string sqlQuery = "SELECT * FROM user WHERE name = '" + username + "' AND
pass='" + password + "'";
```

Setting username to John & password to 'OR '1'= '1 produces

```
string sqlQuery = SELECT * FROM user WHERE name = 'Admin' AND
pass='' OR '1'='1'
```

- The result:
 - The user with username "Admin" will login WITHOUT password
 - The pass query will turn into an bool expression which is always true

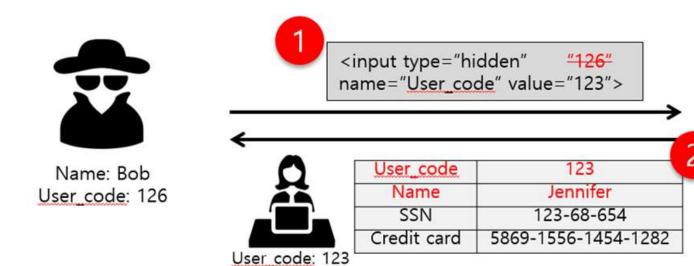
Prevent SQL Injection in EF Core



- When using LINQ-to-Entities by default Entity Framework Core escapes all parameters before executing the SQL query
- When introducing any user-provided values into a raw SQL query, care must be taken to avoid SQL injection attacks
 - By using SqlParameter or interpolated strings we are protected

```
var user = "Nikolay.IT";
var blogs = context.Blogs
    .FromSqlInterpolated($"EXECUTE dbo.GetLastPostsForUser {user}").ToList();
```

```
var user = new SqlParameter("user", "Nikolay.IT");
var blogs = context.Blogs
    .FromSqlRaw("EXECUTE dbo.GetLastPostsForUser @user", user).ToList();
```





Parameter Tampering

Parameter Tampering



- Parameter Tampering is the manipulation of parameters exchanged between client and server
 - Altered query strings, request bodies, cookies
 - Skipped data validations, Injected additional parameters



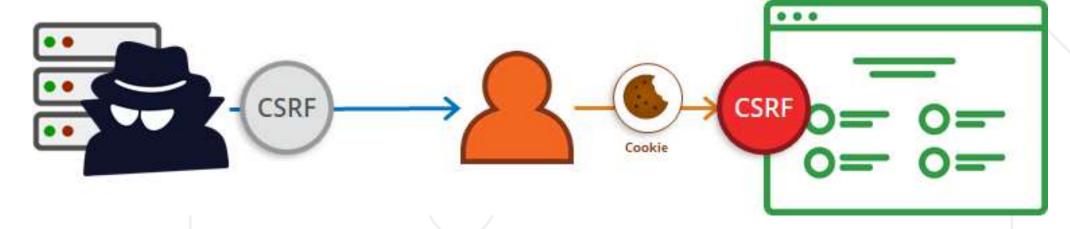


Cross-Site Request Forgery

Cross-Site Request Forgery



- Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF / XSRF) is a web security attack over the HTTP protocol
 - Allows executing unauthorized commands on behalf of some user
 - By using his cookies stored in the browser
 - The user has valid permissions to execute the requested command
 - The attacker uses these permissions maliciously, unbeknownst to the user



Cross-Site Request Forgery



What Cross-Site Request Forgery actually is:

- The user can even misclick the button accidentally
 - This will still trigger the attack
 - Security against such attacks is necessary
 - It protects both your app and your clients

AutoValidateAntiforgeryToken



- When you use the <form> tag helper in ASP.NET Core it will automatically add a special hidden field in the form, with random value called anti-forgery token
- Then you should require this token to be send
 - For a specific action

```
[AutoValidateAntiforgeryToken]
public IActionResult SendMoney(...) { ... }
```

For all action in a given controller

```
[AutoValidateAntiforgeryToken]
public class ManageController : Controller
```

Globally for the whole application

```
services.AddMvc(options =>
    options.Filters.Add(new AutoValidateAntiforgeryTokenAttribute()));
```



Authentication vs. Authorization



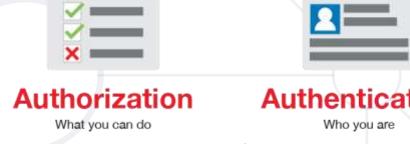
Authentication

- The process of verifying the identity of a user or computer
- Questions: Who are you? How you prove it?
- Credentials can be password, smart card, external token, etc.

Authorization



a user is permitted to do on a computer or network



• Questions: What are you allowed to do? Can you see this page?

ASP.NET Identity



- The ASP.NET Core Identity system
 - Authentication and authorization system for ASP.NET Core
 - Supports ASP.NET Core MVC, Pages, Web API (JWT), SignalR
 - Handles Users, User Profiles, Login / Logout, Roles, etc.
 - Handles cookie consent and GDPR
 - Supports external login providers
 - Facebook, Google, Twitter, etc.

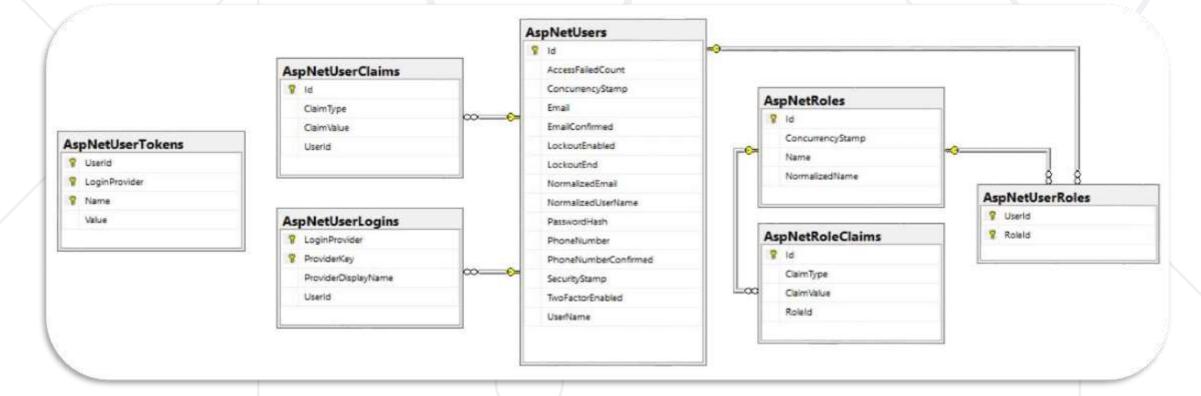


Supports database, Azure, Active Directory, Windows Users, etc.

ASP.NET Core Identity



- Typically, the ASP.NET Core identity data is stored in relational database
 - Data is persisted using Entity Framework Core
 - You have some control over the internal database schema



ASP.NET Identity System Setup



- Setup ASP.NET Identity
 - Using the ASP.NET project templates from Visual Studio
 - And then customize it



- By hand
 - Install NuGet packages, manual configuration, create
 EF mappings (models), view models, controllers, views, pages, etc.
- Required NuGet packages
 - Microsoft.AspNetCore.Identity.EntityFrameworkCore (Models)
 - Microsoft.AspNetCore.Identity.UI (Pages)

ASP.NET Core Project Template Authentication



ApplicationDbContext.cs

Holds the EF data context

- Provides access to the application's data using model objects

Startup.cs

- Can configure cookie-based (or JWT) authentication
- May enable external login (e.g. Facebook login)
- Can change default identity settings
- Can enable RoleManager with .AddRoles<IdentityRole>()



ASP.NET Core Identity Settings



Identity settings can be defined in Startup.cs

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
 services.AddDefaultIdentity<IdentityUser>(options =>
          // password, lockout, emails, user, etc.
          options.SignIn.RequireConfirmedAccount = false;
          options.Password.RequireNonAlphanumeric = false;
          options.Lockout.MaxFailedAccessAttempts = 5;
          options.User.RequireUniqueEmail = true;
    .AddRoles<IdentityRole>() // This is required for using roles
    .AddEntityFrameworkStores<ApplicationDbContext>()
```

ASP.NET Core Identity



- In Configure() there are 2 middlewares involved with identity
 - UseAuthentication() adds authentication middleware to the request pipeline
 - UseAuthorization() adds authorization to the request pipeline
- There are also DI Services for helping us with identity
 - SignInManager sign-in, sign-out, two-factor auth, lockout, etc.
 - UserManager create, read, update or delete users data
 - RoleManager create, read, update or delete roles data

User Registration



```
var newUser = new IdentityUser()
    UserName = "John",
    Email = "john@gmail.com",
    PhoneNumber = "+359 2 981 981"
};
var result = await userManager.CreateAsync(newUser, "S0m3@Pa$$");
if (result.Succeeded)
    // User registered
else
    // result.Errors holds the error messages
```

User Login / Logout



Login

```
bool rememberMe = true;
bool shouldLockout = false;
var signInStatus = await signInManager.PasswordSignInAsync(
    "John", "S0m3@Pa$$", rememberMe, shouldLockout);
if (signInStatus.Succeeded)
   // Sucessfull login
else
    // Login failed
```

Logout

```
await signInManager.SignOutAsync();
```

ASP.NET Authorization Attributes



Use the [Authorize] and [AllowAnonymous] attributes to configure
 Authorized / Anonymous access for Controller / Action

```
[Authorize]
public class AccountController : Controller
 // GET: /Account/Login (anonymous)
  [AllowAnonymous]
 public async Task<IActionResult> Login(string returnUrl) { ... }
 // POST: /Account/LogOff (for logged-in users only)
  [HttpPost]
  public async Task<IActionResult> Logout() { ... }
```

Check the Currently Logged-In User



```
// GET: /Account/Roles (for logged-in users only)
[Authorize]
public ActionResult Roles()
    var currentUser = await userManager.GetUserAsync(this.User);
    var roles = await userManager.GetRolesAsync(currentUser);
```

```
// GET: /Account/Data (for logged-in users only)
[Authorize]
public ActionResult Data()
   var currentUser = await userManager.GetUserAsync(this.User);
   var currentUserUsername = await userManager.GetUserNameAsync(currentUser);
   var currentUserId = await userManager.GetUserIdAsync(currentUser);
```

Add User to a Role



Adding a User to existing role:

```
var roleName = "Administrator";
var roleExists = await roleManager.RoleExistsAsync(roleName);
if (roleExists)
    var user = await userManager.GetUserAsync(User);
    var result = await userManager.AddToRoleAsync(user, roleName);
    if (result.Succeeded)
        // The user is now Administrator
```

Require Logged-In User in Certain Role



Give access only to Users in Role "Administrator":

```
[Authorize(Roles="Administrator")]
public class AdminController : Controller
{ ... }
```

Give access if User's Role is "User", "Student" or "Trainer":

```
[Authorize(Roles="User, Student, Trainer")]
public ActionResult Roles()
{
    ...
}
```

Check the Currently Logged-In User's Role



```
// GET: /Home/Admin (for logged-in admins only)
[Authorize]
public ActionResult Admin()
    if (this.User.IsInRole("Administrator"))
        ViewBag.Message = "Welcome to the admin area!";
        return View();
    return this.View("Unauthorized");
```

ASP.NET Core User Manager



UserManager<TUser> - APIs for managing users in a persistence store

Category		
AddClaimsAsync()	FindByEmailAsync()	GenerateChangeEmailTokenAsync()
AddToRoleAsync()	FindByIdAsync()	GenerateEmailConfirmationTokenAsync()
IsInRoleAsync()	FindByNameAsync()	GeneratePasswordResetTokenAsync()
GetUserId()	GetClaimsAsync()	GetAuthenticationTokenAsync()
ConfirmEmailAsync()	GetEmailAsync()	IsEmailConfirmedAsync()
ChangeEmailAsync()	GetRolesAsync()	CreateSecurityTokenAsync()
CreateAsync()	GetUserAsync()	ResetPasswordAsync()
DeleteAsync()	CheckPasswordAsync()	RemoveFromRoleAsync()
Dispose()	UpdateAsync()	RemoveClaimsAsync()



Claims



- Claim-based identity is a common technique used in applications
 - Applications acquire identity info about their users through Claims
- A Claim is a statement that one subject makes about itself
 - It can be about a name, group, ethnicity, privilege, association etc.
 - The subject making the claim is a provider
- Claim-based identity simplifies authentication logic
 - Commonly used in individual application parts, or micro-apps
 - Claims data is usually represented as key-value pairs

Claims



- In ASP.NET Core, Claim-based auth checks are declarative
 - The developer embeds them against a Controller or an Action
 - The developer specifies required claims to access the functionality
- Claims requirements are policy based
 - The developer must register a policy expressing claims requirements
- Claims are name-value pairs



Policies



- The simplest type of claim policy checks only for the presence of a claim
 - The value of the claim is not checked

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    ...
    services.AddAuthorization(options =>
    {
        options.AddPolicy("EmployeeOnly", policy => policy.RequireClaim("EmployeeNumber"));
    });
}
```

```
[Authorize(Policy = "EmployeeOnly")]
public IActionResult VacationBalance()
{
    //This action is accessible only by Identities with the "EmployeeOnly" Claim...
    return View();
}
```



Identity - Extending & Scaffolding

Scaffolding ASP.NET Core Identity



- Identity is provided as a Razor Class Library using Razor Pages
- The scaffolder can be configured to generate source code
 - If you need to modify the code and change the behavior
- Most of the necessary code is generated by the scaffolder
 - Your project will need an update, before the process is complete
- The scaffolder generates a helpful ScaffoldingReadme.txt file
 - Contains instructions on what's needed to complete the scaffolding
- Source control is suggested, before attempting scaffolding

Extending ASP.NET Core Identity



- ApplicationUser.cs can add user functionality
- Extends the user information for the ASP.NET Core application derived from IdentityUser
 - Id (unique User Id, string holding a GUID)
 - E.g. 313c241a-29ed-4398-b185-9a143bbd03ef
 - Username (unique username), e.g. maria
 - Email (email address can be unique), e.g. mm@gmail.com
- May hold additional fields, e.g. first name, last name, date of birth



Authentication Types



- There are many types of auth in ASP.NET Core applications
 - Cookie-based Authentication & Authorization (Identity)
 - Windows Authentication & Authorization
 - Cloud-based Authentication & Authorization
 - JSON Web Tokens (JWT) Authentication & Authorization





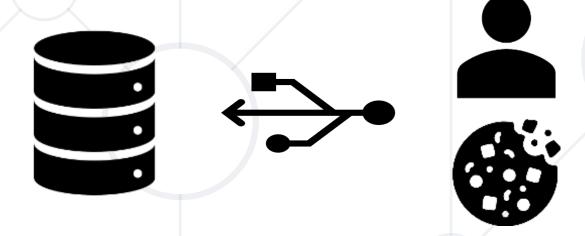


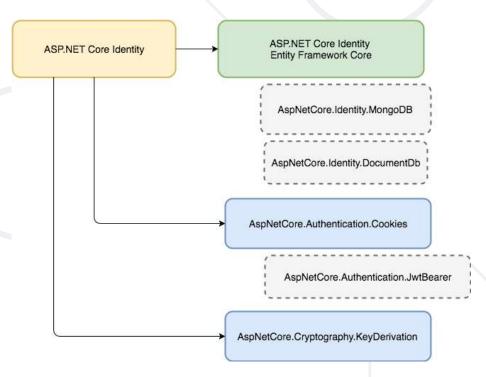


Cookie-Based Authentication & Authorization



- Cookie-Based auth is the ASP.NET Core app auth mechanism
 - Authentication is entirely Cookie-based
 - This is a major difference from ASP.NET MVC
 - The Principal is based on claims



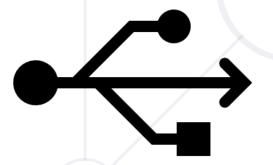


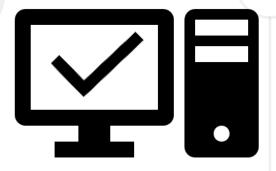
Windows Authentication & Authorization



- Windows auth is a more complex auth mechanism
 - Relies on the operating system to authenticate users
 - Credentials are hashed before sent across the network
 - Best suited for intranet environments
 - Clients, Users, Servers belong to the same Windows domain (AD)





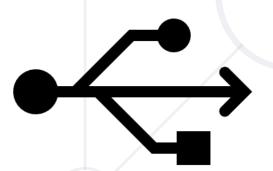


Cloud-based Authentication & Authorization '



- Cloud-based auth is a more modern authentication approach
 - Authentication & Authorization work is outsourced
 - An external platform handles the User functionality
 - Ensures flexibility and speed
 - Greatly decouples the auth functionality from the others



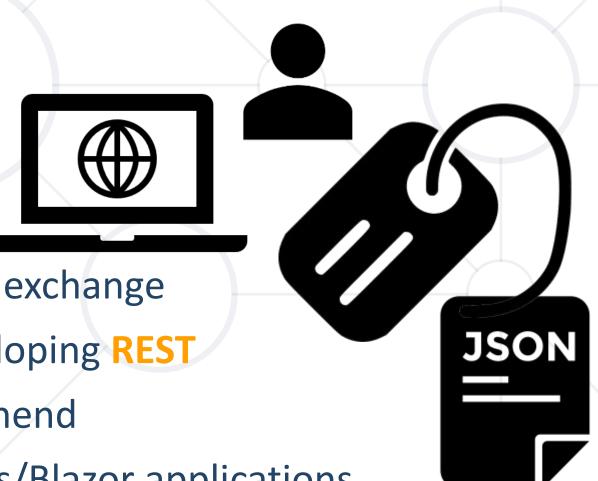




JWT Authentication & Authorization



- JSON Web Tokens is a modern JavaScript-based auth mechanism
 - Compact and self-contained
 - Focused on signed tokens
 - Work with claims
 - Data is encrypted
 - Used for auth & information exchange
 - Commonly used, when developing REST
 - Extremely simple to comprehend
 - Used in Angular/React/Vue.js/Blazor applications





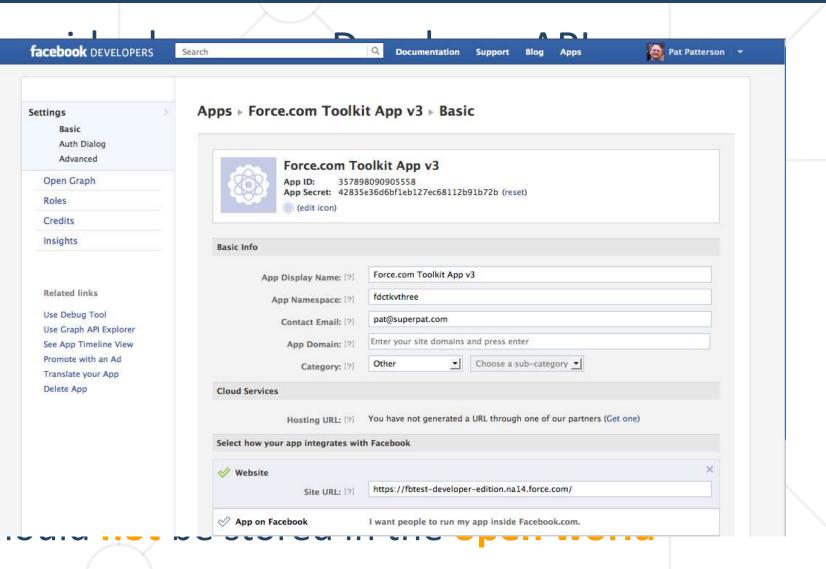


- Enabling users to sign in with their existing credentials is convenient
 - Shifts the complexities of managing the sign-in process to third party
 - Enhances user experience by minimizing their auth activities
- ASP.NET Core supports built-in external login providers for:
 - Google
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Microsoft

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    ...
    services.AddAuthentication()
        .AddGoogle(googleOptions => { ... })
        .AddFacebook(facebookOptions => { ... })
        .AddTwitter(twitterOptions => { ... })
        .AddMicrosoftAccount(microsoftOptions => { ... });
}
```



- Each External Login
 - You have to configu
 - That application wi
 - Application ID
 - Application Secre
 - These credentials v
 - You authenticate
 - These credentials s.



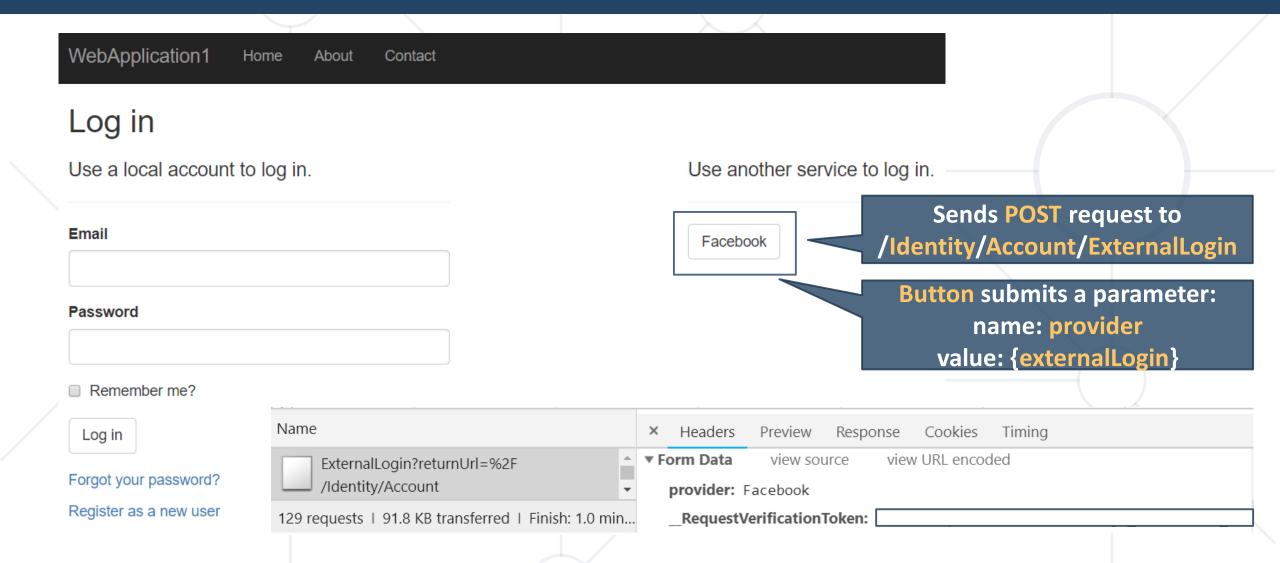


- On the back-end, it is quite simple, and quite clean
- Example: Facebook

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    ...
    services.AddAuthentication()
    .AddFacebook(facebookOptions => {
        facebookOptions.AppId = Configuration["Authentication:Facebook:AppId"];
        facebookOptions.AppSecret = Configuration["Authentication:Facebook:AppSecret"];
    });
    ...
}
```

If you use the default ASP.NET Core Login page, this will add a form







JSON Web Tokens



- JWT is a method for representing claims between two parties
 - An open, industry standard RFC 7519
 - Easy to use, and at the same time absolutely secured
- When the user successfully authenticates (login) using their credentials:
 - A JSON Web Token is generated and returned
 - It must be stored (in local / session storage, cookies are also an option)
- Whenever a protected route is accessed, the user agent sends the JWT
 - Typically in an Authorization header, using the Bearer schema

JSON Web Tokens



JWT is absolutely stateless, nothing is stored on the server

Decoded

Here is an example of an encoded and decoded
 JSON Web Token

The parts of the token are separated by dots

Encoded

As any normal auth JWT also has an expiration

eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9
.eyJzdWIiOiIxMjM0NTY3ODkwIiwibmFtZSI
6IkpvaG4gRG91IiwiaWF0IjoxNTE2MjM5MDI
yfQ.Sf1KxwRJSMeKKF2QT4fwpMeJf36P0k6y
JV_adQssw5c

The parts of the token are in a strict order

The token data does not change the token format

```
Header: (algorithm, token type)
  "alg": "HS256",
  "typ": "JWT"
Payload: (data)
{ "sub": "1234567890",
  "name": "John Doe",
  "iat": 1516239022
Verify Signature
```

HMACSHA256(base64UrlEncode(H...) +
"." + base64UrlEncode(P...), key)



- JWT in ASP.NET Core is configured in ConfigureServices()
 - Install Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authentication.JwtBearer

```
public class JwtSettings
{
    public string Secret { get; set; }
}
```

```
appsettings.json

"JwtSettings": {
    "Secret": "super-secret"
},

"Logging": {
    "LogLevel": {
        "Default": "Warning"
      }
},
    "AllowedHosts": "*"
}
```

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
   // Configure strongly typed settings objects
   var jwtSettingsSection =
                Configuration.GetSection("JwtSettings");
    services.Configure<JwtSettings>(jwtSettingsSection);
    // Configure JWT authentication
   var jwtSettings = jwtSettingsSection.Get<JwtSettings>();
   var key = Encoding.ASCII.GetBytes(jwtSettings.Secret);
    services.AddAuthentication(...)
            .AddJwtBearer(...);
    // Configure DI for application services
    services.AddScoped<IUserService, UserService>();
```



```
services.AddAuthentication(options => {
    options.DefaultAuthenticateScheme = JwtBearerDefaults.AuthenticationScheme;
    options.DefaultChallengeScheme = JwtBearerDefaults.AuthenticationScheme;
}).AddJwtBearer(options => {
    options.RequireHttpsMetadata = false;
    options.SaveToken = true;
    options.TokenValidationParameters = new TokenValidationParameters
        ValidateIssuerSigningKey = true,
        IssuerSigningKey = new SymmetricSecurityKey(key),
        ValidateIssuer = false,
        ValidateAudience = false
});
// Don't forget to add app.UseAuthentication(); and app.UseAuthorization();
```



```
[ApiController]
[Route("/api/[controller]")]
public class UsersController : ControllerBase
   private IUserService _userService;
   public UsersController(IUserService userService)
       this.userService = userService;
   [HttpPost("login")]
   public IActionResult Login([FromBody]LoginUserBindingModel loginUser)
```



- JWT in ASP.NET Core is implemented using a middleware
 - The Controller Action (Endpoint) is kept "thin" to a maximum

```
[HttpPost("login")]
public IActionResult Login([FromBody]LoginUserBindingModel loginUser)
   var user = this.userService.Authenticate(loginUser.Username, loginUser.Password);
   if (user == null)
        return BadRequest(new { message = "Username or password is incorrect" });
   return Ok(user);
```



```
public class UserService : IUserService
   private readonly AppDbContext context;
    private readonly JwtSettings jwtSettings;
    public UserService(AppDbContext context, IOptions<JwtSettings)</pre>
       this.context = context;
        this.jwtSettings = jwtSettings.Value;
    public User Authenticate(string username, string password)
```



```
public User Authenticate(string username, string password)
   var user = this.context.Users.SingleOrDefault(x => x.Username == username
                                                    && x.Password == password);
    if (user == null) return null; // Return null if user not found
    // Authentication successful so generate jwt token
   var tokenHandler = new JwtSecurityTokenHandler();
   var key = Encoding.ASCII.GetBytes(this.jwtSettings.Secret);
    var tokenDescriptor = new SecurityTokenDescriptor{...};
   var token = tokenHandler.CreateToken(tokenDescriptor);
   user.Token = tokenHandler.WriteToken(token);
    // Return user
```



```
public User Authenticate(string username, string password)
    var tokenDescriptor = new SecurityTokenDescriptor
        Subject = new ClaimsIdentity(new Claim[]
            new Claim(ClaimTypes.Name, user.Username.ToString()),
            new Claim(ClaimTypes.UserIdentifier, user.Id.ToString()),
        }),
        Expires = DateTime.UtcNow.AddDays(7),
        SigningCredentials = new SigningCredentials(
                                 new SymmetricSecurityKey(key),
                                 SecurityAlgorithms.HmacSha256Signature
```

Summary



- Security in ASP.NET Core
 - Common security problems
 - SQL Injection, XSS, CSRF, Parameter Tampering
- ASP.NET Core Identity
 - Extending & Scaffolding
- Authentication Types
- Social Accounts
- JWT





Questions?













SoftUni Creative



SoftUni Digital



SoftUni Foundation



Trainings @ Software University (SoftUni)



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 Profession and Job for Software Developers
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