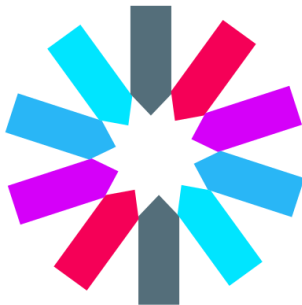




IBM App Connect Enterprise with OAuth JWT authentication support



JWT



Contents

User Defined Policy in IBM App Connect Enterprise	3
JWT Policy Builder utility for IBM App Connect Enterprise.....	3
Policy Builder Form.....	4
User Policy generated view.....	8
JWT Policy usage in IBM App Connect Enterprise	9
JWT validation manual testing using valid and tampered tokens.....	9
JWT validation automation testing (97 test cases)	10



User Defined Policy in IBM App Connect Enterprise

IBM App Connect Enterprise does not bring OAuth JWT authentication out-of-the-box. This authentication is generally done on the API Management level like IBM API Connect, APIGEE, Kong, Tyk etc. Leveraging [User Defined Policy](#) along with a subflow (developed as a common utility in a library for reusability) brings the *experimental* feature to IBM ACE.


As per User Defined Policy documentation, a user defined policy has no predefined properties, so that you can define your own properties. Hence, custom fields are created which are read by the subflow for rule implementation.

It is easy to make humane mistakes while creating the policy xml manually (editing directly the policy.xml file) however, to avoid such situation, a simple JWT policy builder Web GUI utility has been created. With this Web GUI utility, the policy is created instantly without any error since selecting values on the policy-builder form will enable only supported features and disable/hide unsupported feature. Let's have a look at the Web GUI utility.

JWT Policy Builder utility for IBM App Connect Enterprise

The below picture shows a glimpse of the Web GUI utility for User Defined Policy creation. The Web GUI is divided in two sections (i) Policy Builder Form on the left and (ii) User Policy generated view based on right.

Values selected on the Policy Builder Form will reflect live changes on the User Policy generated view. Let's understand the Policy Builder Form, its capabilities and possible values.

 JWT Validation Policy

Token Expression

XPath Expression to be used to extract the token from API requests

☒ HTTP Bearer Authentication Header

☐ Custom Expression

JWT Signing Method

Specifies the method to be used by the policy to decode the token.

NONE (not recommended)

☐ Skip Client Id Validation

Skip client application's API contract validation.

client_id

should be one of

comma separated Client Ids

☐ Validate Audience Claim

The token will be valid only if the aud claim contains at least one audiences value.

☐ Expiration Claim Mandatory

If a claim is marked as mandatory, and exp claim is not present in the incoming JWT, the request will fail.

☐ Not Before Claim Mandatory

If a claim is marked as mandatory, and nbf claim is not present in the incoming JWT, the request will fail.

☐ Validate Custom Claim

The token will be valid only if all expressions defined here are valid.

Advanced options

Configure methods and resources

Additional options


Restrict API with HTTP methods

JWT Policy Name

Specifies the policy name, same name to be used for policy download.

myJWTPolicy

Download

 JWT

This IBM App Connect Enterprise UserDefined Policy must be used along with the subflow developed for validating the signature of the token and asserts the values of the claims of all incoming requests. *The policy validates JWT with JWS format and not JWE.* The below policy is a reflection of fields selected on the left section to build the policy. Changing the fields will change the policy.xml immediately. You can download the policy using the Download Button on the left.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<policies>
  <policy policyName="myJWTPolicy" policyType="UserDefined" policyTemplate="UserDefined">
    <JWT_location_in_API_requests>HTTPInputHeader/Authorization</JWT_location_in_API_requests>
    <JWT_Signing_Method>NONE</JWT_Signing_Method>
    <Skip_Client_Id_Validation>TRUE</Skip_Client_Id_Validation>
    <Client_ID_Expression></Client_ID_Expression>
    <Validate_Audience_Claim>FALSE</Validate_Audience_Claim>
    <Audience_Claim_Mandatory>FALSE</Audience_Claim_Mandatory>
    <Expiration_Claim_Mandatory>FALSE</Expiration_Claim_Mandatory>
    <Not_Before_Claim_Mandatory>FALSE</Not_Before_Claim_Mandatory>
    <Validate_Custom_Claim>FALSE</Validate_Custom_Claim>
    <Mandatory_Custom_Claim_Validations></Mandatory_Custom_Claim_Validations>
    <Advance_Apply_configuration_to_all_API_method_and_resources>TRUE</Advance_Apply_configuration_to_all_API_method_and_resources>
    <Advance_Apply_configuration_to_specific_API_method_and_resources></Advance_Apply_configuration_to_specific_API_method_and_resources>
  </policy>
</policies>
```



[Policy Builder Form](#)

Breaking down the Policy Builder Form to Segments.

JWT Origin

Token Expression

XPath Expression to be used to extract the token from API requests

☒ HTTP Bearer Authentication Header

☐ Custom Expression

Specifies from where in the request the JWT will be extracted: * HTTP Bearer Authentication Header * Custom Expression

If you set this field to HTTP Bearer Authentication Header, the JWT is expected as Bearer (shown above).

If you set this field to Custom Expression, provide an XPath expression that returns the token (shown below), adds a new Token Expression field in the form to provide the expression.

Token Expression

XPath Expression to be used to extract the token from API requests

☐ HTTP Bearer Authentication Header

☒ Custom Expression

HTTPInputHeader/jwt

JWT Signing Method

JWT Signing Method

Specifies the method to be used by the policy to decode the token.

NONE (not recommended)

RSA (256, 384, 512)

PS (256, 384, 512)

ED (EdDSA - Ed25519)

ES (ECDSA 256, 284, 512)

HMAC (256, 384, 512)

Specify the signing method expected in the incoming JWT from the Select options. The policy rejects the token if the JWT has a different signing method. Specifying the length of the key is not required.

If you select *NONE* as JWT Signing Method, the new segment *JWT Key origin* will be hidden.



JWT Key Origin

JWT Key origin

Origin of the JWT Key. The JWKS option is not supported if the token Signing Method was set to HMAC. Field value is ignored if the token Signing Method was set to NONE.

☒ JWKS ☐ Certificate ☐ Key

JWKS will be read from

☒ URL ☐ File ☐ Text

URL

https://{yourDomain}/.well-known/jwks.json

JWKS Caching (in minutes)

Caching will allow app to perform faster, however caching needs to be handled for signing key rotations.

60

JWKS Service timeout (in seconds)

connectTimeout - The URL connection timeout.

readTimeout - The URL read timeout.

If zero, no timeout (infinite). Default is 10 seconds.

10

Specifies where to obtain the key for the Signature validation.

Key Origin	Source	Description
JWKS	URL	The URL to the JWKS server (recommended in most of the scenarios)
	File	The absolute path to the Certificate
	Text	Minified JWKS or JWK JSON pasted
Certificate	File	The absolute path to the .cer file
	Text	In-lined certificate (generally Base64 encoded) without ----BEGIN/END CERTIFICATE----
Key	File	The absolute path to the .pem file
	Text	In-lined Public Key (generally Base64 encoded) without ----BEGIN/END PUBLIC KEY----

If you select *NONE* as JWT Signing Method, the entire segment will be hidden.

If you select *HMAC* as JWT Signing Method, a new field will be added to mark if the Key provided is Base64 encoded or not. It will also disable *JWKS* and *Certificate* from Key Origin options and *URL* from Source options (shown below).

JWT Signing Method

Specifies the method to be used by the policy to decode the token.

HMAC (256, 384, 512)

JWT Key origin

Origin of the JWT Key. The JWKS option is not supported if the token Signing Method was set to HMAC. Field value is ignored if the token Signing Method was set to NONE.

☐ JWKS ☐ Certificate ☒ Key

KEY will be read from

☐ URL ☒ File ☐ Text

file://

https://{yourDomain}/.well-known/jwks.json

☒ Key is Base64 Encoded

In certain scenarios, the Key is not Base64 encoded

If you select JWT Signing Method apart from NONE and HMAC, and select JWKS as Key Origin and URL as Source, the JWKS Caching and JWKS Service timeout fields will be visible (otherwise hidden).

JWKS Caching (Time to Live) - This time field, in minutes, during which the policy is locally cached and considers the JWKS as valid. Caching will reduce the latency for fetching the JWKS again and again from the server. Retry mechanism is implemented to handle rotating signing keys.

JWKS Service connection timeout (seconds) - Sets the maximum time, in milliseconds, to wait for a response when authenticating the access token validation endpoint. The default value is 10 seconds.



Skip Client ID Validation

☐ Skip Client Id Validation
Skips client application's API contract validation.

Client Id Field Name

should be
one of

comma separated Client Ids

If you check this field, the policy does not verify that the client ID extracted from the JWT matches a valid client application of the API.

By default, *Skip Client Id Validation* is unchecked i.e., Client Id validation will be enforced.

Client ID Expression (the field below the check box) must be provided to enforce this policy criteria. Provide the *Client Id Field Name* from where the Client Id to be fetched (default value is set to *client_id* as specified in the [OAuth 2.0 token exchange draft](#)). The authorized Client Ids must be mentioned in the next field (multiple values can be written as comma separated values).

Check the *Skip Client Id Validation* field to stop client Id validation, this disables/hides the Client ID Expression field.

Validate Audience Claim

☒ Validate Audience Claim
The token will be valid only if the aud claim contains at least one audiences value.

☒ Audience Claim Mandatory
If this is checked, and one of the values from *Audience Claim Values* is not present in the incoming token, the request will fail.

Audience Claim Values

Comma separated list of supported audience values. Atleast one value must be present in the token.

comma separated audience values

Validate Audience Claim check indicates that the policy should check for at least one audience to be present in the token however, the audience value is not validated.

You can set *Audience Claim Mandatory* if you want to validate the value mention in the *Audience Claim Expression* (multiple values can be written as comma separated values). At least one audience value must match with the token's audience claim.

Validate Audience Claim is unchecked by default and hence, *Audience Claim Mandatory* and *Audience Claim Expression* are disabled/hidden. Checking *Validate Audience Claim* field will enable *Audience Claim Mandatory* and *Audience Claim Expression*.

Validate Audience Claim

☐ Expiration Claim Mandatory
If a claim is marked as mandatory, and exp claim is not present in the incoming JWT, the request will fail.

Indicates that the policy should check for the validity of the expiration claim. You can set this claim as "Mandatory" by selecting Expiration Claim Mandatory.

Validate Not Before Claim

☐ Not Before Claim Mandatory
If a claim is marked as mandatory, and nbf claim is not present in the incoming JWT, the request will fail.

Indicates that the policy should check for the validity of the Not Before claim. You can set this claim as "Mandatory" by selecting Not Before Claim Mandatory



Validate Custom Claim

☒ Validate Custom Claim
The token will be valid only if all expressions defined here are valid.

Add Condition +

Field Name	==	Field Value	✖
------------	----	-------------	---

Enables the usage of custom validations in the policy. The JWT will be valid only if all the conditional expressions are fulfilled. Conditional operators supported are: equal (==), not equal (!=), greater than (>), less than (<), greater than or equal (>=), less than or equal (<=), in (IN an array – value must be supplied as comma separated), notin (NOT IN an array – value must be supplied as comma separated)

Conditions can be added or removed using + or ✖ buttons respectively. By default, *Validate Custom Claim* is unchecked. Conditions can be added only if *Validate Custom Claim* is checked.

Advanced Options

Advanced options
Configure methods and resources

Method & resource conditions

☐ Apply configuration to all API method & resources ☒ Apply configuration to specific API method & resources

Add Condition +

GET	URI template regex	✖
-----	--------------------	---

This segment allows to specifically filter-in any URI that matches with the URI regular expression for applying the JWT policy. If the regular expression and HTTP Method doesn't match with the incoming HTTP(S) request, then the JWT policy will not be applicable.

Conditions can be added or removed using + or ✖ buttons respectively. By default, *Apply configuration to all API methods & resources* is selected. If *Apply configuration to specific API method & resources* is selected, then the condition expression segment is displayed, otherwise, disabled and hidden.

Additional Options

Additional options
Restrict API with HTTP methods

By default, an HTTP Listener source supports all methods, but you can restrict the available methods.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GET	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PATCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DELETE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTIONS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HEAD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRACE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONNECT

This segment allows to restrict any unwanted HTTP method invoking the API. By default, all methods are allowed. Uncheck the methods you want to restrict. If an API consumer invokes the API with invalid HTTP method, HTTP 405 Method Not Allowed will be replied along with the original request payload (if any).




Policy Name and Download

JWT Policy Name

Specifies the policy name, same name to be used for policy download.

myJWTPolicy

Download 

Mention the policy name for the policy generated. The same policy name will be used to save the policyxml file when downloaded.

[User Policy generated view](#)

UserPolicygenerated view



This IBM App Connect Enterprise UserDefined Policy must be used along with the subflow developed for validating the signature of the token and asserts the values of the claims of all incoming requests. *The policy validates JWT with JWS format and not JWE.* The below policy is a reflection of fields selected on the left section to build the policy. Changing the fields will change the policyxml immediately. You can download the policy using the Download Button on the left.

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <policies>
3   <policy policyName="myJWTPolicy" policyType="UserDefined" policyTemplate="UserDefined">
4     <JWT_location_in_API_requests>HTTPHeader/Authorization</JWT_location_in_API_requests>
5     <JWT_Signing_Method>RSA</JWT_Signing_Method>
6     <JWT_Key_origin>JWKS</JWT_Key_origin>
7     <JWKS_URL_or_Key>https://{yourDomain}/.well-known/jwks.json</JWKS_URL_or_Key>
8     <JWKS_Caching_TTL>60</JWKS_Caching_TTL>
9     <JWKS_Service_connection_timeout>10</JWKS_Service_connection_timeout>
10    <Skip_Client_Id_Validation>TRUE</Skip_Client_Id_Validation>
11    <Client_ID_Expression></Client_ID_Expression>
12    <Validate_Audience_Claim>FALSE</Validate_Audience_Claim>
13    <Audience_Claim_Mandatory>FALSE</Audience_Claim_Mandatory>
14    <Expiration_Claim_Mandatory>FALSE</Expiration_Claim_Mandatory>
15    <Not_Before_Claim_Mandatory>FALSE</Not_Before_Claim_Mandatory>
16    <Validate_Custom_Claim>FALSE</Validate_Custom_Claim>
17    <Mandatory_Custom_Claim_Validations></Mandatory_Custom_Claim_Validations>
18    <Advance_Apply_configuration_to_all_API_method_and_resources>TRUE</Advance_Apply_configuration
19    <Advance_Apply_configuration_to_specific_API_method_and_resources></Advance_Apply_configuration
20  </policy>
21 </policies>
```

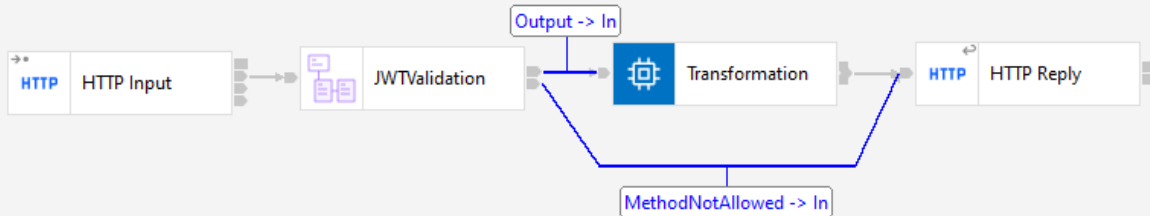
This segment shows the policy generated based on the values selected in the Policy Builder Form. You can copy-to-clipboard the policy generated or use the download button below the Policy Builder form to download the policy.



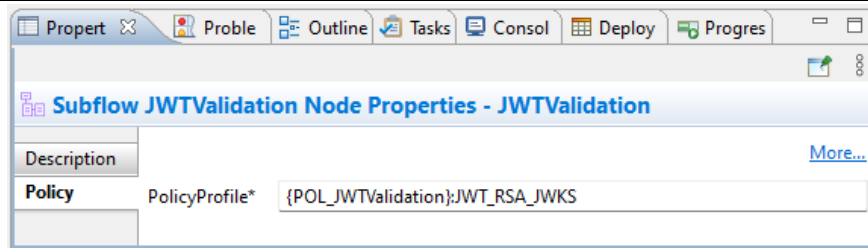
JWT Policy usage in IBM App Connect Enterprise

Let us design a simple application which will be JWT protected. The message flow (shown below) uses the JWTValidation subflow. The only configuration for this subflow is the JWT policy that was developed using the Web GUI utility.

Application using JWTValidation



JWTValidation subflow configuration



JWT validation manual testing using valid and tampered tokens

Testing with Valid token - SUCCESSFUL

Send Request

```
POST http://localhost:7800/myjwtvalidator HTTP/1.1
Content-Type: application/json
Authorization: Bearer {{RSA256}}
```

```
{
  "firstName": "Dipanjan",
  "lastName": "Das"
}
```

```
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8
3 Server: ACEISD10_HTTP
4 Date: Mon, 08 May 2023 17:14:51 GMT
5 Content-Length: 27
6 Connection: close
7
8 {
9   "fullName": "Dipanjan Das"
10 }
```

Testing with Invalid token - FAILED

Send Request

```
POST http://localhost:7800/myjwtvalidator HTTP/1.1
Content-Type: application/json
Authorization: Bearer {{RSA256Tampered}}
```

```
{
  "firstName": "Dipanjan",
  "lastName": "Das"
}
```

```
1 HTTP/1.1 500 Internal Server Error
2 Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8
3 X-Original-HTTP-Status-Code: 500
4 Server: ACEISD10_HTTP
5 Date: Mon, 08 May 2023 17:17:47 GMT
6 Content-Length: 855
7 Connection: close
8
9 {
10  "error": {
11    "code": 500,
12    "status": "Internal Server Error",
13    "detail": "BIP2230E: Error detected whilst processing a message in node 'com.ibm.broker.plugin.MbUserException class:com.dev.jwt.JWTValidation method:evaluate()' source: key: message: Unable to resolve message: Source: Key: >. \nBIP4394E: Java exception: 'com.ibm.broker.plugin.MbUserException'; thrown from class name: 'com.dev.jwt.JWTValidation', method name: 'evaluate()', file: 'JWTValidation.java', line: '262'; trace text: 'java.security.GeneralSecurityException: Signature check failed.'; resource bundle: '' key: '' inserts(optional): '{8}', '{9}', '{10}', '{11}', '{12}', '{13}', '{14}', '{15}', '{16}', '{17}' "
14  }
15 }
```

