NTLM Authentication

Overview

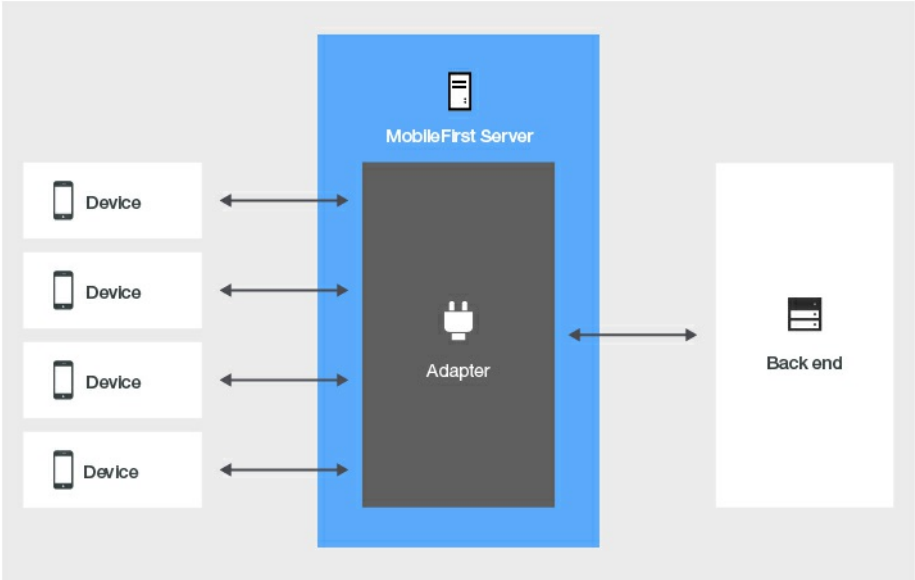
The NTLM protocol is a challenge-response mechanism for authentication users in Windows operating systems. This tutorial explains how to use a MobileFirst adapter when connecting to a back end or resource that is protected by NTLM protocol for user authentication.

Topics:

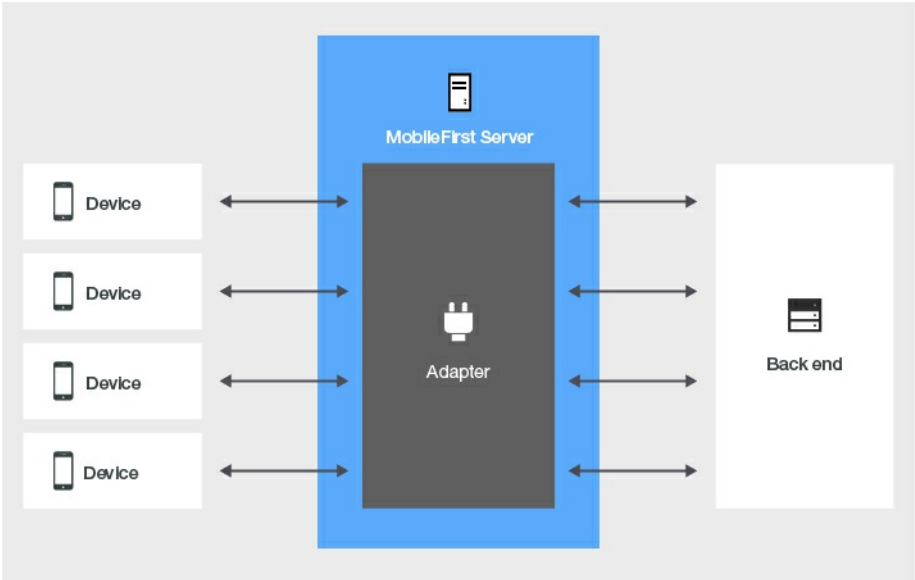
- Back-end connection settings (connectAs="endUser/server")
- Using NTLM authentication with ServerIdentity
- Using NTLM authentication with UserIdentity

Back-end connection settings (`connectAs="endUser/server"`)

For MobileFirst Server to handle sessions when connecting to a back-end system, you can use either of the following 2 approaches: * `connectAS="server"`: All sessions use the same connection context to the back end. This is the MobileFirst Server default behavior.



* `connectAS="endUser"`: Each session is authenticated separately and has a unique connection context against the back end.



For a procedure to be connected as "end user", you must declare it with a `connectAs="endUser"` attribute in the adapter XML file:

```
<procedure name="MyProcedure" connectAs="endUser"/>
```

For more information about the `connectAs` attribute, read this blog post (https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/community/blogs/worklight/entry/configuring_http_adapters_for_stateless_stateful_backend_connectivity_and_user_identity_lang=en)
(Configuring HTTP adapters for stateless/stateful back-end connectivity and user identity propagation).

Using NTLM authentication with ServerIdentity

When you use a procedure to connect to a back-end server that uses NTLM protocol without specifying the `connectAs` attribute, use the `serveridentity` element of the adapter XML file as child element of the `authentication` element.
Also add the `ntlm workstation` child element, so that MobileFirst Server knows which authentication method to use when connecting to the back end.
Make sure to pass the server and user names to the back-end server in the following pattern: *`server-name/user-name`*.

```
<connectivity>
  <connectionPolicy xsi:type="http:HTTPConnectionPolicyType">
    <protocol>http</protocol>
    <domain>your-domain-here</domain>
    <port>80</port>
    <connectionTimeoutInMilliseconds>30000</connectionTimeoutInMilliseconds>
    <socketTimeoutInMilliseconds>30000</socketTimeoutInMilliseconds>
    <authentication>
      <ntlm workstation="ServerName"/>
      <serverIdentity>
        <username>your-server-name/your-username-here</username>
        <password>your-password-here</password>
      </serverIdentity>
    </authentication>
    <maxConcurrentConnectionsPerNode>50</maxConcurrentConnectionsPerNode>
  </connectionPolicy>
</connectivity>
```

Note: When the NTLM protocol is used, the user name is always specified in the *{server-name/user-name}* format.

Using NTLM authentication with `UserIdentity`

Configure MobileFirst Server authentication

1. Create a security test to protect the procedure:

   ```
   <customSecurityTest name="NTLMSecurityTest">
     <test isInternalUserID="true" realm="NTLMAuthRealm"/>
   </customSecurityTest>
   ```

2. Use `BasicAuthenticator`, `AdapterBasedAuthenticator`, or any other authenticator that handles `userIdentity`, as the class for the realm used by the security test:

   ```
   <realm name="NTLMAuthRealm" loginModule="AuthLoginModule">
   <className>com.worklight.integration.auth.AdapterAuthenticator</className>
   <parameter name="login-function" value="MyAdapter.onAuthRequired"/>
   <parameter name="logout-function" value="MyAdapter.onLogout"/>
   </realm>
   ```

3. Add some login module to create and store user identities to be used by this realm:

   ```
   <loginModule name="AuthLoginModule">
   <className>com.worklight.core.auth.ext.NonValidatingLoginModule</className>
   </loginModule>
   ```

4. Add the `<authentication>` element and its `<ntlm workstation>` child element to the adapter XML file, so that MobileFirst Server knows which authentication method to use when connecting to the back end:

   ```
   <connectivity>
   <connectionPolicy xsi:type="http:HTTPConnectionPolicyType">
   <protocol>http</protocol>
   <domain>Put.Your.Domain.Here</domain>
   <port>80</port>
   <connectionTimeoutInMilliseconds>30000</connectionTimeoutInMilliseconds>
   <socketTimeoutInMilliseconds>30000</socketTimeoutInMilliseconds>
   <authentication>
     <ntlm workstation="wl-ntlm"/>
   </authentication>
   <maxConcurrentConnectionsPerNode>50</maxConcurrentConnectionsPerNode>
   </connectionPolicy>
   </connectivity>
   ```

5. Assign this security test to the procedure that is used to connect to the back end protected by NTLM protocol, and add `connectAs="endUser"` to the procedure declaration in the adapter XML file:

   ```
   <procedure name="getNTLMData" securityTest="NTLMSecurityTest" connectAs="endUser"/>
   ```

Adapter JavaScript code

Create a `UserIdentity` that contains a user identifier and credentials properties. Format the `userId` as *`servername/username`*:

```
function submitAuthentication(username, password){
  var userIdentity = {
    userId: "MyServerName\"+ username,
    credentials: password
  };
  WL.Server.setActiveUser("NTLMAuthRealm", null);
  WL.Server.setActiveUser("NTLMAuthRealm", userIdentity);
  ...
}
```

Create an http request to the NTLM protected back end:

```
function getSecretData(){
  var input = {
    method : 'get',
    returnedContentType : 'html',
    path : "index.html"
  };
  return WL.Server.invokeHttp(input);
}
```