

# Implementing the challenge handler in Android applications

fork and edit tutorial (<https://github.ibm.com/MFPSamples/DevCenter/tree/master/tutorials/en/foundation/8.0/authentication-and-security/user-authentication/android/index.md>) | report issue (<https://github.ibm.com/MFPSamples/DevCenter/issues/new>)

## Overview

**Prerequisite:** This tutorial is a continuation of the **CredentialsValidationSecurityCheck**'s challenge handler implementation ([../credentials-validation/android](#)) tutorial. Make sure to read it first.

The challenge handler implementation will be modified to fit the `UserLoginSecurityCheck` created in the matching security check tutorial ([../security-check](#)), and will demonstrate a few additional features (APIs) such as the preemptive `login`, `logout` and `obtainAccessToken`.

## Creating the challenge handler

1. Create a Java class that extends `WLChallengeHandler`:

```
public class UserLoginChallengeHandler extends WLChallengeHandler {  
  
}
```

2. Add a constructor method:

```
public UserLoginChallengeHandler(String securityCheck) {  
    super(securityCheck);  
}
```

3. Register the challenge handler:

```
WLClient client = WLClient.createInstance(this);  
client.registerChallengeHandler(myUserLoginChallengeHandler);
```

## Handling the challenge

In this example, the challenge sent by `UserLoginSecurityCheck` is the same one sent by `PinCodeAttempts`: the number of remaining attempts to login (`remainingAttempts`), and an optional `errorMsg`. The `handleChallenge` method is responsible for collecting the username and password from the user.

## Submitting the credentials

Once the credentials have been collected, use the `WLChallengeHandler`'s `submitChallengeAnswer(JSONObject answer)` method to send an answer back to the security check. In this example, `UserLoginSecurityCheck` expects *key:values* called `username` and `password`. Optionally, it also accepts a boolean `rememberMe` key that will tell the security check to remember this user for a longer period. In the sample application, this is collected using a boolean value from a checkbox in the login form.

`credentials` is a `JSONObject` containing `username`, `password` and `rememberMe`:

```
submitChallengeAnswer(credentials);
```

You may also want to login a user without any challenge being received. For examples, showing a login screen as the first screen of the application, or showing a login screen after a logout, or a login failure. We call those scenarios **preemptive logins**.

You cannot call the `submitChallengeAnswer` API if there is no challenge to answer. For those scenarios, the MobileFirst Platform Foundation SDK includes a different API:

```
WLAuthorizationManager.getInstance().login(securityCheckName, credentials, new WLLoginResponseListe  
ner() {  
    @Override  
    public void onSuccess() {  
        Log.d(securityCheckName, "Login Preemptive Success");  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onFailure(WLFailResponse wIFailResponse) {  
        Log.d(securityCheckName, "Login Preemptive Failure");  
    }  
});
```

If the credentials are wrong, the security check will send back a **challenge**.

It is the developer's responsibility to know when to use `login` vs `submitChallengeAnswer` based on the application's needs. One way to achieve this is to define a boolean flag, for example `isChallenged`, and set it to `true` when reaching `handleChallenge` or set it to `false` in any other cases (failure, success, initializing, etc).

When the user clicks the **Login** button, you can dynamically choose which API to use:

```
public void login(JSONObject credentials){  
    if(isChallenged){  
        submitChallengeAnswer(credentials);  
    }  
    else{  
        WLAuthorizationManager.getInstance().login(securityCheckName, credentials, new WLLoginRespons  
eListener() {  
            @Override  
            public void onSuccess() {  
                Log.d(securityCheckName, "Login Preemptive Success");  
            }  
  
            @Override  
            public void onFailure(WLFailResponse wIFailResponse) {  
                Log.d(securityCheckName, "Login Preemptive Failure");  
            }  
        });  
    }  
}
```

## Obtaining an access token

Since this security check supports *remember me* functionality, it would be useful to check if the user is currently logged in, during the application startup.

The MobileFirst Platform Foundation SDK provides an API to ask the server for a valid token:

```
WLAuthorizationManager.getInstance().obtainAccessToken(scope, new WLAccessTokenListener() {  
    @Override  
    public void onSuccess(AccessToken accessToken) {  
        Log.d(securityCheckName, "auto login success");  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onFailure(WLFailResponse wLFailResponse) {  
        Log.d(securityCheckName, "auto login failure");  
    }  
});
```

If the user is already logged-in or is in the *remembered* state, the API will trigger a success. If the user is not logged in, the security check will send back a challenge.

The `obtainAccessToken` API takes in a **scope**. The scope here can be the name of your **security check**.

Learn more about **scope** here: [Authorization concepts \(../authorization-concepts\)](#)

## Handling success and failure

As noted in the **CredentialsValidationSecurityCheck**'s challenge handler implementation ([../credentials-validation/android](#)) tutorial, `WLChallengeHandler` will call the `handleSuccess` or `handleFailure` methods upon success or failure of the challenge. You can choose to update your UI based on those events.

### Notes:

- `WLAuthorizationManager`'s `login()` API has its own `onSuccess` and `onFailure` methods, the relevant challenge handler's `handleSuccess` or `handleFailure` will **also** be called.
- `WLAuthorizationManager`'s `obtainAccessToken()` API has its own `onSuccess` and `onFailure` methods, the relevant challenge handler's `handleSuccess` or `handleFailure` will **also** be called.

## Retrieving the authenticated user

The challenge handler's `handleSuccess` method receives a `JSONObject identity` as a parameter. If the security check sets an `AuthenticatedUser`, this object will contain the user's properties. You can use `handleSuccess` to save the current user:

```

@Override
public void handleSuccess(JSONObject identity) {
    super.handleSuccess(identity);
    isChallenged = false;
    try {
        //Save the current user
        SharedPreferences preferences = context.getSharedPreferences(Constants.PREFERENCES_FILE, Context.MODE_PRIVATE);
        SharedPreferences.Editor editor = preferences.edit();
        editor.putString(Constants.PREFERENCES_KEY_USER, identity.getJSONObject("user").toString());
        editor.commit();
    } catch (JSONException e) {
        e.printStackTrace();
    }
}

```

Here, `identity` has a key called `user` which itself contains a `JSONObject` representing the `AuthenticatedUser`:

```

{
  "user": {
    "id": "john",
    "displayName": "john",
    "authenticatedAt": 1455803338008,
    "authenticatedBy": "UserLoginSecurityCheck"
  }
}

```

## Logout

The MobileFirst Platform Foundation SDK also provides a `logout` API to logout from a specific security check:

```

WLAAuthorizationManager.getInstance().logout(securityCheckName, new WLLogoutResponseListener() {
    @Override
    public void onSuccess() {
        Log.d(securityCheckName, "Logout Success");
    }

    @Override
    public void onFailure(WLFailResponse wLFailResponse) {
        Log.d(securityCheckName, "Logout Failure");
    }
});

```

## Sample applications

There are two samples associated with this tutorial:

- **PreemptiveLoginAndroid**: An application that always starts with a login screen, using the preemptive `login` API.
- **RememberMeAndroid**: An application with a *Remember Me* checkbox. The user can bypass the login screen the next time the application is opened.

Both samples use the same `UserLoginSecurityCheck` from the **SecurityCheckAdapters** adapter Maven project.

Click to download (<https://github.com/MobileFirst-Platform-Developer-Center/SecurityCheckAdapters/tree/release80>) the SecurityAdapters Maven project.

Click to download (<https://github.com/MobileFirst-Platform-Developer-Center/RememberMeAndroid/tree/release80>) the Remember Me project. Click to download (<https://github.com/MobileFirst-Platform-Developer-Center/PreemptiveLoginAndroid/tree/release80>) the Remember Me project.

## Sample usage

- Use either Maven or MobileFirst Developer CLI to build and deploy the available **ResourceAdapter** and **UserLogin** adapters (`../../creating-adapters/`).
- Ensure the sample is registered in the MobileFirst Server by running the command: `mfpdev app register` from a **command-line** window.
- Map the `accessRestricted` scope to the `UserLogin` security check:
  - In the MobileFirst Operations Console, under **Applications** → **PIN Code** → **Security** → **Map scope elements to security checks.**, add a mapping from `accessRestricted` to `UserLogin`.
  - Alternatively, from the **Command-line**, navigate to the project's root folder and run the command: `mfpdev app push`.

Learn more about the `mfpdev app push`/`push` commands in the Using MobileFirst Developer CLI to manage MobileFirst artifacts (`../../using-the-mfpf-sdk/using-mobilefirst-developer-cli-to-manage-mobilefirst-artifacts`).

