

# Application Authenticity Protection

## Overview

By issuing an HTTP request, any entity can access the HTTP services (APIs) that IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation Server offers.

The Application Authenticity Protection Security Check ensures that an application that tries to connect to a MobileFirst Server instance is the authentic one and was not tampered with or modified by a third-party attacker.

Learn more (%22../authentication-concepts/%22) about Security Checks

## Availability

Application Authenticity Protection is available for:

- Cordova applications (iOS, Android, Windows 8, Windows 10)
- Native applications (iOS, Android, Windows 8, Windows 10)

**Note:** Application Authenticity Protection is **not available** in the MobileFirst Development Server. To test, follow the below instructions in a remote application server, such as a QA, UAT or Production server.

To enable Application Authenticity Protection you can either follow the on-screen instructions in the MobileFirst Operations Console → [your-application] → Authenticity, or review the information below.

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## Authenticity Flow

Application Authenticity Protection is based on certificate keys that are used to sign the application bundles. Only the developer or the enterprise who have the original private key that was used to create the application are able to modify, repack, and re-sign the bundle.

TODO: Verify correctness of diagram



The challenge token in the diagram is processed by compiled native code, so that third-party attackers cannot see the logic of this processing.

## Enabling Application Authenticity Protection

In order to enable Application Authenticity Protection for your Cordova or Native application, the application's binary file needs to be signed using the MobileFirst-supplied command line tool. Eligible binary files are: ipa for iOS, apk for Android and appx for Windows 8 Universal & Windows 10 UWP.

1. Open **Terminal** and run the command: `java -jar path-to-mfp-server-authenticity-tool.jar path-to-binary-file`

For example:

```
java -jar /Users/idanadar/Desktop/mfp-server-authenticity-tool.jar /Users/idanadar/Desktop/MyBankApp.ipa
```

The result of the command above is a `.data` file generated next to the `MyBankApp.ipa` file, called `MyBankApp.appAuthenticity.data`.

2. Open the MobileFirst Operations Console in your browser of choice.
3. Select your application from the left-side pane and click on the Authenticiy menu item.
4. Click on "Upload File" to upload the `.data` file.

After uploading the `.data` file Application Authenticity Protection will be enabled for the application.

TODO: add image of where to upload `.data` file

## Disabling Authenticity

In order to disable Application Authenticity Protection, click on "Delete Authenticity File".

TODO: add image of where to remove .data file

## Configuring Authenticity

Application Authenticity Protection has two available properties.  
To configure them:

1. Open the MobileFirst Operations Console
2. Navigate to [your application] →

TODO: add missing property description

- `expirationInSec:`
- `inactivityTimeoutInSec:`

TODO: add image of where to edit the properties