Form-based authentication in hybrid applications

Overview

This tutorial illustrates the JavaScript client-side authentication components for form-based authentication. **Prerequisite:** Make sure that you read Form-based authentication (../) first.

This tutorial covers the following topics:

- Creating the client-side authentication components
- Sample application

Creating the client-side authentication components

The application consists of two main div elements:

- The AppDiv element is used to display the application content.
- The AuthDiv element is used for authentication form purposes.

When authentication is required, the application hides AppDiv and shows AuthDiv. When authentication is complete, it does the opposite.

AppDiv

The buttons are used to call the getSecretData procedure and to log out.

AuthDiv

The AuthDiv element is styled as display: none because it must not be displayed before authentication is requested by the server.

Challenge handler

1. Use the WL.Client.createChallengeHandler() method to create a challenge handler object. The realm name is a mandatory parameter.

```
var sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler = WL.Client.createChallengeHandler("SampleAppRealm"
);
```

The isCustomResponse function of the challenge handler is invoked each time that a response is received from the server. It is used to detect whether the response contains data that is related to this challenge handler. It must return either true or false.

```
sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.isCustomResponse = function(response) {
    return false;
};
```

If isCustomResponse returns true, the framework calls the handleChallenge() function. This function is used to perform required actions, such as hiding the application screen or showing the login screen.

```
sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.handleChallenge = function(response) {
  };
```

2. Create a challenge handler to define a customized authentication flow. In your challenge handler, do not add code that modifies the user interface when this modification is not related to the authentication flow.

In addition to the methods that the developer must implement, the challenge handler contains functionality that the developer might want to use:

- submitLoginForm() sends the collected credentials to a specific URL. The developer can also specify request parameters, headers, and callback.
- submitSuccess() notifies the MobileFirst framework that the authentication successfully finished. The framework then automatically issues the original request that triggered the authentication.
- submitFailure() notifies the MobileFirst framework that the authentication process completed with failure. The framework then disposes of the original request that triggered the authentication.

Important: Each function must be attached to its object. For example:

SampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.submitSuccess()

The default login form that is returned from the MobileFirst server contains the j_security_check string. If the challenge handler detects it in the response, it returns true.

```
sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.isCustomResponse = function(response) {
   if (!response || response.responseText === null) {
      return false;
   }
   var indicatorIdx = response.responseText.search('j_security_check');
   if (indicatorIdx >= 0){
      return true;
   }
   return false;
};
```

After the client application detects that the server sent a login form, which means that the server is requesting authentication, the application hides the AppDiv element, shows the AuthDiv element, and cleans up the AuthPassword.

```
sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.handleChallenge = function(response) {
    $('#AppDiv').hide();
    $('#AuthDiv').show();
    $('#AuthPassword').val(");
};
```

Clicking the login button triggers a function that collects the user name and password from the HTML input fields and submits them to the server.

It is possible to set request headers here, and specify callback.

The form-based authenticator uses a hardcoded <code>j_security_check URL</code> component. You cannot have more than one instance of it.

```
$('#AuthSubmitButton').bind('click', function () {
    var reqURL = '/j_security_check';
    var options = {};
    options.parameters = {
        j_username : $('#AuthUsername').val(),
        j_password : $('#AuthPassword').val()
    };
    options.headers = {};
    sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.submitLoginForm(reqURL, options, sampleAppRealmChallengeH
    andler.submitLoginFormCallback);
});
```

Clicking the cancel button hides the authDiv element, shows the appDiv element, and notifies the framework that authentication failed.

```
$('#AuthCancelButton').bind('click', function () {
    sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.submitFailure()
;
    $('#AppDiv').show();
    $('#AuthDiv').hide();
});
```

The callback function checks the response for the containing server challenge again. If a challenge is found, the handleChallenge() function is called again.

No challenge present in the server response means that the authentication process successfully completed. In this case, AppDiv is shown, AuthDiv is hidden, and the framework is notified about the authentication success.

```
sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.submitLoginFormCallback = function(response) {
    var isLoginFormResponse = sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.isCustomResponse(response)
;
    if (isLoginFormResponse){
        sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.handleChallenge(response);
} else {
        $('#AppDiv').show();
        $('#AuthDiv').hide();
        sampleAppRealmChallengeHandler.submitSuccess();
}
};
```

Sample application

Click to download (https://github.com/MobileFirst-Platform-Developer-Center/FormBasedAuth) the MobileFirst project.





