LoginAs v2.0 Readme.txt

Updated: October 12, 2011

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Version History

v1.0.0

- This building block allows the administrator to create a valid session as a different user. For the purpose of validating portal customizations or troubleshooting administrators often use multiple accounts to access the system. This method allows the preserve the original password. It is a parallel to the Unix su command.

v1.0.6

- In the configuration section you can now specify System Administrator which will work for non-community Bb customers

v1.0.7

- Added link to access\_log from the config page.  
-Add option to disallow logging in as a user with system administrator role.

v1.0.8

- This is a special release for SP4 9.1 Bb Learn. Due to (finally) deprecated API.

v2.0.0

- Uses "non-deprecated" method to check for system roles.

-Clarified config page instructions for privilege escalation prevention setting.

-For Basic license clients all system roles are supported.  
-Support for SP4 9.1 added.

What is LoginAs?

LoginAs is a building block that allows authorized users to impersonate another user in blackboard. The purpose of the building block is to aid in troubleshooting blackboard issues.

Will it work on my system?

LoginAs is designed to work on all versions of Blackboard.

How does LoginAs work?

You can authorize users to login as other users without having to know their ldap or local password by:

1. Create a Bb course where all members are authorized. This is helpful as you can include instructions and AUA agreement in the course.

2. Specify system role (any system role)

3. Specify portal role if you own Community product.

How do I install it?

LoginAs is a normal building block that installs like other building blocks. Installation occurs through the Building Blocks page in the Sys Admin tab. You MUST be a system administrator to install this. If you are not, speak to your system administrator and have them read this file.

Here are the steps to install LoginAs:

1. Install the building block through the Building Blocks installation page

2. Set the Availability to "Available". You do not need change the Courses/Orgs Default so leave this "Unavailable".

2. Click the "Settings" or "Properties" button depending on your version of Blackboard.

3. You will be in a menu that you need to perform three configurations.

* Role Selection.
  + Specify a valid system role.
  + If community system is licensed you can create a custom Institution Role and assign to users that are authorized to use LoginAs.
* Course Membership (optional).
  + Create a course or organization and enroll authorized users.
  + Click “The LoginAs direct URL” link.
  + Copy the URL.
  + Create an external link inside the course/organization for the LoginAs users and paste the URL.
* Deny logging in as accounts with a system role (optional)
  + Enter ‘Yes’ to prevent users from possible privilege escalation

Using LoginAs

Users with access to the ‘System Admin’ tab will find a link under ‘Tools and Utilities’.

* Click ‘Login As Another User’.
* Enter a valid user\_id on the next screen and click ‘Login’

If a course/organization was utilized for access control.

* Click the menu item that contains the direct URL for LoginAs
* Enter a valid user\_id and click ‘Login’

Terminating LoginAs Session

* Close Browser
  + Beware of persistent cookies
* Click Logout
* Let session close do to inactivity timeout

Logging

Only users with a role of System Administrator will be able to access the logs.

* Logs can be downloaded by accessing LoginAs and clicking ‘access log file’.
* Logs can also be downloaded from the System Admin tab
  + Tools and Utilities
  + Logs

Additional Questions/Comments

Please send additional questions/comments to:

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