

Use JSON Web Tokens to Secure Web API Methods



Paul D. Sheriff

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT, FAIRWAY TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

www.fairwaytech.com psheriff@fairwaytech.com



Goals



Secure Web API with [Authorize]

Setup JSON Web Tokens

Read JWT settings from configuration

Build bearer token and send to Angular



Secure Get() Method



Secure methods/class
using [Authorize]
attribute

```
[Route("api/[controller]")]  
public class ProductController : BaseApiController  
{  
    [HttpGet]  
    [Authorize]  
    public IActionResult Get()  
    {  
        IActionResult ret = null;  
        List<Product> list = new List<Product>();  
    }  
}
```



Demo



Secure Web API

Show error



JSON Web Token Overall Steps



Adding JWT

Add JWT package

Add JWT bearer
token checking
package

Store default JWT
settings in
configuration file

Register JWT as
the authentication
service

Add bearer token
options to validate
incoming token

Build JWT token
and add to
authorization object



Use .NET Core to add
packages
JWT tokens
JWT bearer token

```
TERMINAL  
dotnet add package System.IdentityModel.Tokens.Jwt
```

```
TERMINAL  
dotnet add package Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authentication.JwtBearer
```



Demo



Add JWT token package

Add JWT bearer token checking package



Configuring JWT



Configuring JSON Web Tokens

A secret key used for hashing data sent to the client

The name of the issuer of the token

The intended audience of the token

How many minutes to allow the token to be valid



Store these items into
appsettings.json in
Web API project

```
{
  "Logging": { ...
},
  "JwtSettings": {
    "key": "This*Is&A!Long)Key(For%Creating@A$SymmetricKey",
    "issuer": "http://localhost:5000",
    "audience": "PTCUsers",
    "minutesToExpiration": "10"
  }
}
```



Create JwtSettings
class

Holds all required
data for generating
JSON Web Tokens

```
public class JwtSettings {  
    public string Key { get; set; }  
    public string Issuer { get; set; }  
    public string Audience { get; set; }  
    public int MinutesToExpiration { get; set; }  
}
```



Create
GetJwtSettings()
method in Startup.cs

Create new instance
of JwtSettings

Read data from
appsettings.json

Return settings

```
public JwtSettings GetJwtSettings()
{
    JwtSettings settings = new JwtSettings();

    settings.Key = Configuration["JwtSettings:key"];
    settings.Audience = Configuration["JwtSettings:audience"];
    settings.Issuer = Configuration["JwtSettings:issuer"];
    settings.MinutesToExpiration =
        Convert.ToInt32(
            Configuration["JwtSettings:minutesToExpiration"]);

    return settings;
}
```



Demo



Store JwtSettings into JSON file

Create JwtSettings class

Create method to read settings



Set JWT as Authentication Service



Register JWT as
authentication provider
in Startup class

Create instance of
JwtSettings class

Call method to read
from JSON file

Add Authentication
options

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    // Get JWT Token Settings from JwtSettings.json file
    JwtSettings settings;
    settings = GetJwtSettings();

    // Register Jwt as the Authentication service
    services.AddAuthentication(options =>
    {
        options.DefaultAuthenticateScheme = "JwtBearer";
        options.DefaultChallengeScheme = "JwtBearer";
    })
```



Add bearer token
service

Set parameters using
settings object

```
.AddJwtBearer("JwtBearer", jwtBearerOptions =>
{
    jwtBearerOptions.TokenValidationParameters =
        new TokenValidationParameters
        {
            ValidateIssuerSigningKey = true,
            IssuerSigningKey = new SymmetricSecurityKey(
                Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(settings.Key)),
            ValidateIssuer = true,
            ValidIssuer = settings.Issuer,

            ValidateAudience = true,
            ValidAudience = settings.Audience,

            ValidateLifetime = true,
            ClockSkew = TimeSpan.FromMinutes(
                settings.MinutesToExpiration)
        };
});
```



Tell Web API project
to use the
authentication
configured

```
public void Configure(IApplicationBuilder app, I
{
    if (env.IsDevelopment())
    {
        app.UseDeveloperExceptionPage();
    }

    app.UseCors(
        options => options.WithOrigins(
            "http://localhost:4200").AllowAnyMethod()
            .AllowAnyHeader()
        );

    app.UseAuthentication();

    app.UseMvc();
}
```



Demo



Setup JWT as authentication method

Add bearer token parameters

Tell Web API to use authentication



Inject JwtSettings Class



Create singleton of
JwtSettings class

Allows you to inject
settings into the
security controller

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    // Get JWT Token Settings from JwtSettings.json file
    JwtSettings settings;
    settings = GetJwtSettings();
    // Create singleton of JwtSettings
    services.AddSingleton<JwtSettings>(settings);
}
```



Inject JwtSettings into
security controller

Place into field
variable

```
public class SecurityController : Controller
{
    private JwtSettings _settings;
    public SecurityController(JwtSettings settings)
    {
        _settings = settings;
    }
}
```



Create constructor in
security manager

Accept an instance
of a JwtSettings
class

Place into field
variable

```
public class SecurityManager
{
    private JwtSettings _settings = null;
    public SecurityManager(JwtSettings settings)
    {
        _settings = settings;
    }
}
```



Pass settings to
security manager
within the Login()
Web API method

```
[HttpPost("login")]  
public IActionResult Login([FromBody]AppUser user)  
{  
    IActionResult ret = null;  
    AppUserAuth auth = new AppUserAuth();  
    SecurityManager mgr = new SecurityManager(_settings);  
}
```



Demo



Inject JwtSettings class

Pass JwtSettings to security manager



Build JSON Web Token



Modify
SecurityManager.cs

Create
BuildJwtToken()
method

Create a list of claims

Add subject (sub) and
JWT id (jti)

Add claims based on
properties

```
protected string BuildJwtToken(AppUserAuth authUser)
{
    SymmetricSecurityKey key = new SymmetricSecurityKey(
        Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(_settings.Key));

    // Create standard JWT claims
    List<Claim> jwtClaims = new List<Claim>();
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim(JwtRegisteredClaimNames.Sub,
        authUser.UserName));
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim(JwtRegisteredClaimNames.Jti,
        Guid.NewGuid().ToString()));

    // Add custom claims
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim("isAuthenticated",
        authUser.IsAuthenticated.ToString().ToLower()));
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim("canAccessProducts",
        authUser.CanAccessProducts.ToString().ToLower()));
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim("canAddProduct",
        authUser.CanAddProduct.ToString().ToLower()));
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim("canSaveProduct",
        authUser.CanSaveProduct.ToString().ToLower()));
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim("canAccessCategories",
        authUser.CanAccessCategories.ToString().ToLower()));
    jwtClaims.Add(new Claim("canAddCategory",
        authUser.CanAddCategory.ToString().ToLower()));
}
```



Create new JWT
security token

Add in list of claims

Add in all properties
from settings object

Return the new token
as a string

```
// Create the JwtSecurityToken object
var token = new JwtSecurityToken(
    issuer: _settings.Issuer,
    audience: _settings.Audience,
    claims: jwtClaims,
    notBefore: DateTime.UtcNow,
    expires: DateTime.UtcNow.AddMinutes(
        _settings.MinutesToExpiration),
    signingCredentials: new SigningCredentials(key,
        SecurityAlgorithms.HmacSha256)
);

// Create a string representation of the Jwt token
return new JwtSecurityTokenHandler().WriteToken(token);
```



Demo



Add method to create token



Summary



Place JWT settings in JSON file

Use a JWT settings class to avoid repetition

For more info on JWT

- Introduction to OAuth2, OpenID Connect and JSON Web Tokens (JWT)

Can use jwt.io to view token info





Coming up in the next module...

How to pass tokens back and forth

Create HTTP interceptor

