



Quick Start Guide

ForgeRock Access Management 5.1

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Abstract

Quick introduction to ForgeRock® Access Management for new users and readers evaluating the product. ForgeRock Access Management provides authentication, authorization, entitlement, and federation software.



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Preface

The Quick Start Guide shows you how to quickly install and get started with ForgeRock Access Management.

This guide is written for access management designers and administrators who build, deploy, and maintain services for their organizations. This guide covers the tasks you need to quickly get Access Management running on your system.

About ForgeRock Identity Platform™ Software

ForgeRock Identity Platform™ is the only offering for access management, identity management, user-managed access, directory services, and an identity gateway, designed and built as a single, unified platform.

The platform includes the following components that extend what is available in open source projects to provide fully featured, enterprise-ready software:

- ForgeRock Access Management (AM)
- ForgeRock Identity Management (IDM)
- ForgeRock Directory Services (DS)
- ForgeRock Identity Gateway (IG)

Chapter 1

First Steps

This guide shows you how to quickly set up an instance and get started with access management. In reading and following the instructions in this guide, you will learn how to protect a Web page using a Web policy agent.

Important

You need a Linux, Solaris, or Windows system that can run the Web policy agent (see the *Web Policy Agent Release Notes* section, *Web Policy Agents Platform Requirements*) with a minimum of 1 GB of available RAM memory, a few hundred MB of free disk space, a web browser, and an Internet connection to download software.

If you are using Mac OS X, set up a virtual machine running Linux to try these procedures because the web policy agent is not built for Apache HTTP Server on Mac OS X.

1.1. About

AM provides a service called *access management*, which manages access to resources, such as a web page, an application, or web service, available over the network. Once it is set up, AM provides an infrastructure for managing users, roles, and access to resources. In this chapter, you manage access to a single web page.

AM centralizes access control by handling both *authentication* and *authorization*. Authentication is the process of identifying an individual, for example, by confirming a successful login. Authorization is the process of granting access to resources to authenticated individuals.

AM centralizes authentication by using a variety of authentication modules that connect to identity repositories that store identities and provide authentication services. The identity repositories can be implemented as LDAP directories, relational databases, RADIUS, Windows authentication, one-time password services, and other standards-based access management systems.

AM lets you chain together the authentication services used. Authentication chains let you configure stronger authentication for more sensitive resources for example. They also let you set up modules that remember a device when the user logs in successfully. Or that evaluate the risk given the login circumstances and therefore can require more credentials when a user is logging in from an unusual location. This chapter uses AM's built-in identity repository and authentication modules to make it easier to get started.

AM centralizes authorization by letting you use AM to manage access policies separate from applications and resources. Instead of building access policy into a web application, you install a

policy agent with the web application to request policy decisions from AM. This way you can avoid issues that could arise when developers must embed policy decisions into their applications. With AM, if policy changes or an issue is found after the application is deployed, you have only to change the policy definition in AM, not deploy a new version of the application. AM makes the authorization decisions, and policy agents enforce the decisions on AM's behalf.

The rest of this chapter has you demonstrate AM access management by installing AM, creating a policy, and installing a policy agent on a web server to enforce the policy for a web page.

1.2. Software Requirements To Try Out ForgeRock Access Management

This chapter shows you how to install the software AM needs to protect a web page. You will learn how to install Apache HTTP Server, Apache Tomcat, AM core server with the AM console, and AM Apache Policy Agent. Installation instructions for Java Development Kit (JDK) are not included in this chapter, as AM is a Java web application, and the JDK is pre-installed.

- **Java Development Kit.** AM is a Java web application, and requires a Java Development Kit installed on the system where it runs.

The AM web policy agent installer is also a Java program.

- **Apache HTTP Server.** Apache HTTP Server serves the web page AM protects.
- **Apache Tomcat.** Because AM is a Java web application, it runs in a web container, in this case, Apache Tomcat.
- **AM core server with The AM console.** This is the main web application for AM. AM sets up a DS server at configuration time to use, in this case, to hold AM's configuration and to serve as an identity store and authentication service.
- **AM Apache Policy Agent.** Install a policy agent in Apache HTTP Server to intercept requests from users and enforce access policy decisions AM makes. The policy agent intercepts requests from users, and enforces access policy decisions made by AM. The policy agent enforces policy by redirecting users to AM for authentication and by contacting AM to get authorization decisions for resources, such as the web page to protect.

Follow the steps in the following sections of this chapter to learn how AM protects a web site without changing the web site itself.

1.3. Setting Up the Software

This section includes the following procedures that detail how to set up AM to protect a web page:

- Procedure 1.1, "To Prepare Your Hosts File"

- Procedure 1.2, "To Install Apache HTTP Server"
- Procedure 1.3, "To Install Apache Tomcat"
- Procedure 1.4, "To Install ForgeRock Access Management"
- Procedure 1.5, "To Configure a Policy"
- Procedure 1.6, "To Create a Web Policy Agent Profile"
- Procedure 1.7, "To Install a Web Policy Agent"

The procedures in this section are written for use on a Linux system. If you are running Microsoft Windows, adapt the examples accordingly.

Procedure 1.1. To Prepare Your Hosts File

AM requires that you use fully qualified domain names when protecting web resources. This is because AM uses HTTP cookies to keep track of sessions for single sign-on (SSO), and setting and reading cookies depends on the server name and domain.

You can get started with AM without setting up separate systems for each fully qualified domain name. Give your system `openam.example.com` and `www.example.com` aliases by editing your `hosts` file.

Alternatively, if you already have a DNS set up, you can use that instead of your `hosts` file.

- Add the aliases to your `hosts` file using your preferred text editor.

```
$ sudo vi /etc/hosts
Password:

### Edit /etc/hosts ###

$ cat /etc/hosts | grep openam
127.0.0.1    localhost openam.example.com www.example.com
```

Procedure 1.2. To Install Apache HTTP Server

Apache HTTP Server is a popular web server that is supported by AM's web policy agents. Apache HTTP Server might already be installed on your system, but since you are installing software for the sole purpose of getting started with AM, install the web server separately instead of modifying any existing installations.

Full installation instructions are available [online](#).

1. Verify the correct tools are installed to build Apache HTTP Server 2.2 from source.

For Linux distributions, you need development tools including the C compiler. How you install these depends on your distribution.

For Red Hat and CentOS distributions:

```
# yum groupinstall 'Development Tools'
```

For Ubuntu distributions:

```
$ sudo apt-get install build-essential checkinstall
```

2. Download Apache HTTP Server 2.2 sources from the [Apache download page](#).

The AM web policy agent requires Apache Portable Runtime 1.3 or later, so make sure you download Apache HTTP Server 2.2.9 or later.

3. Extract the download.
4. Configure the sources for compilation.

The `--prefix` option can be used to install the Web server in a location where you can write files.

```
$ cd ~/Downloads/httpd-2.2.25
$ ./configure --prefix=/path/to/apache
```

5. Compile Apache HTTP Server.

```
$ make
```

6. Install Apache HTTP Server.

```
$ make install
```

7. Edit the configuration to set the server name to `www.example.com` and the port to one, such as 8000 that the web server process can use when starting with your user ID.

```
$ vi /path/to/apache/conf/httpd.conf
$ grep 8000 /path/to/apache/conf/httpd.conf
Listen 8000
ServerName www.example.com:8000
```

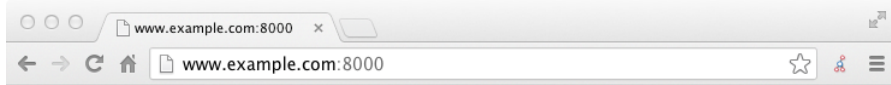
8. Test the installation to ensure Apache HTTP Server is working.
 - a. Make sure that your system's firewall does not block the port that Apache HTTP Server uses.

See the documentation for your version of your system regarding how to allow traffic through the firewall on a specific port. A variety of firewalls are in use on Linux systems. The one in use depends on your specific distribution.

- b. Start the web server.

```
$ /path/to/apache/bin/apachectl -k start
```

- c. Point your browser to following URL: `http://www.example.com:8000`.



It works!

This is the page to protect with AM. Do not proceed with the next steps unless this page appears.

Procedure 1.3. To Install Apache Tomcat

AM runs as a Java web application inside an application container. Apache Tomcat is an application container that runs on a variety of platforms. The following instructions are loosely based on the `RUNNING.txt` file delivered with Tomcat.

1. Make sure you have a recent JDK release installed.

One way of checking the version of the JDK is to list the version of the **javac** compiler.

```
$ javac -version
```

If the **javac** compiler is not found, then either you do not have a Java Development Kit installed, or it is installed, but not on your **PATH**.

Section 2.3, "Java Requirements" in the *Release Notes* indicates what JDK versions are supported. Supported JDK versions also work for Tomcat.

2. Download Apache Tomcat 7 from its [download page](#).
3. Extract the download.

```
$ cd /path/to
$ unzip ~/Downloads/apache-tomcat-7.0.42.zip
$ mv apache-tomcat-7.0.42 tomcat
```

4. On UNIX-like systems, make the scripts in Tomcat's **bin/** directory executable.

```
$ chmod +x /path/to/tomcat/bin/*.sh
```

5. Set the **JAVA_HOME** environment variable to the file system location of the Java Development Kit.

On Linux, set **JAVA_HOME** as follows.

```
export JAVA_HOME=/path/to/jdk
```

6. Create a Tomcat **setenv.sh** (Unix/Linux) or **setenv.bat** (Windows) script to set the **JAVA_HOME** environment variable to the file system location of the Java Development Kit, and to set the heap and permanent generation size or metaspace size appropriately.

If you are using JDK 7:

```
export JAVA_HOME="/path/to/usr/jdk"  
export CATALINA_OPTS="$CATALINA_OPTS -Xmx2g -XX:MaxPermSize=256m"
```

If you are using JDK 8:

```
export JAVA_HOME="/path/to/usr/jdk"  
export CATALINA_OPTS="$CATALINA_OPTS -Xmx2g -XX:MaxMetaspaceSize=256m"
```

7. If you have a custom installation that differs from the documented Tomcat installation, make sure to set Tomcat's `CATALINA_TMPDIR` to a writable directory to ensure the installation succeeds. This temporary directory is used by the JVM (`java.io.tmpdir`) to write disk-based storage policies and other temporary files.
8. Make sure that your system's firewall does not block the port that Apache Tomcat uses.

See the Apache documentation for instructions for allowing traffic through the firewall on a specific port for the version of Tomcat on your system. A variety of firewalls are in use on Linux systems. The version your system uses depends on your specific distribution.

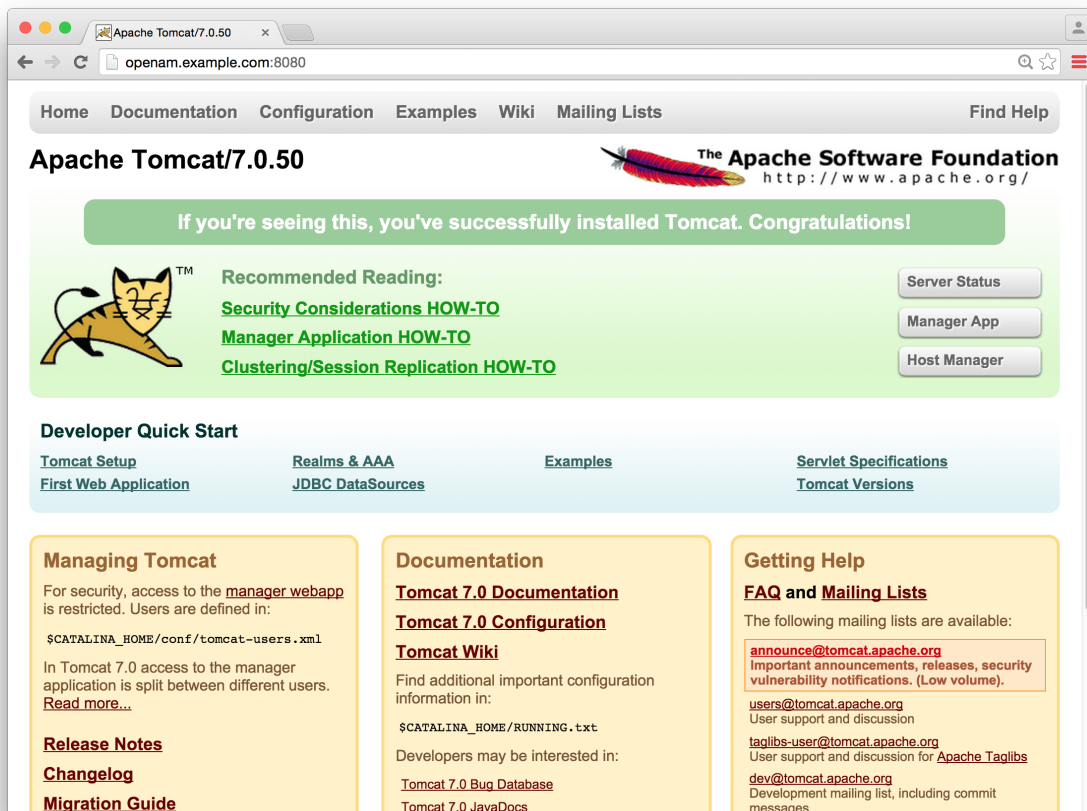
9. Start Tomcat.

```
$ /path/to/tomcat/bin/startup.sh
```

It might take Tomcat several seconds to start. When Tomcat has successfully started, you should see information indicating how long startup took in the `/path/to/tomcat/logs/catalina.out` log file.

```
INFO: Server startup in 4655 ms
```

10. Browse to Tomcat's home page, such as `http://openam.example.com:8080`.



Tomcat will serve the AM web application. Make sure you have successfully gotten to this point before you proceed.

Procedure 1.4. To Install ForgeRock Access Management

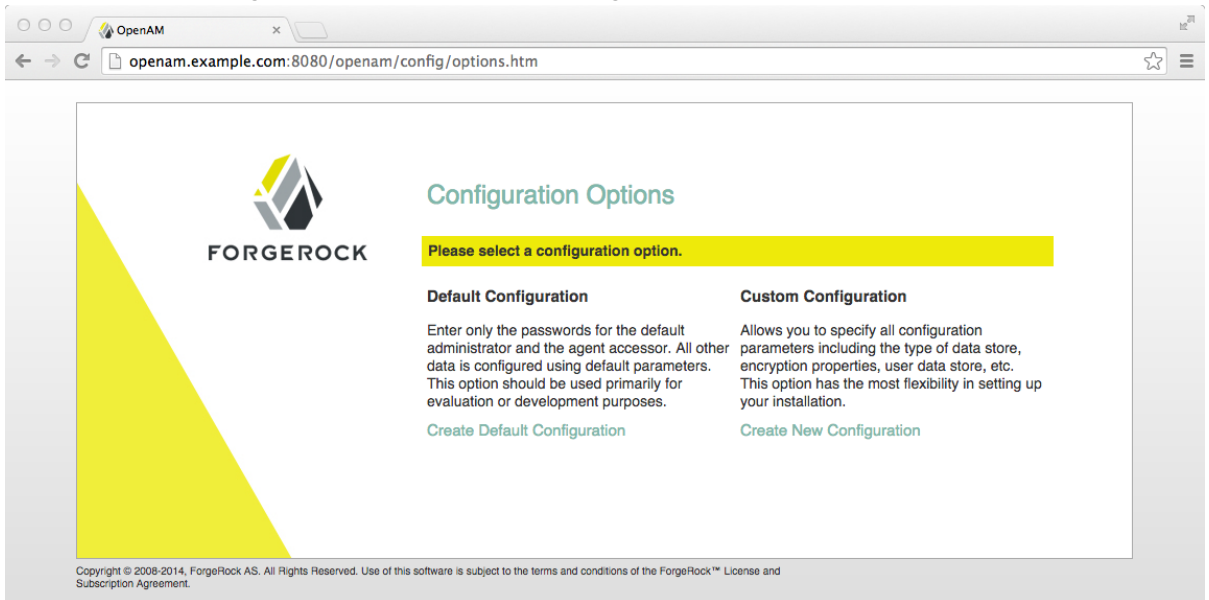
Deploy AM into Tomcat and then configure it for use.

1. Download the AM `.war` file. Access the *ForgeRock* web site, and then click the Download tab. On the Your BackStage pass to ForgeRock resources page, click Downloads. On the Downloads page, click AM. On the AM Enterprise page, click `war` in the top-right corner, and then click Download to get the `.war` file.
2. Deploy the `.war` file in Tomcat as `openam.war`.

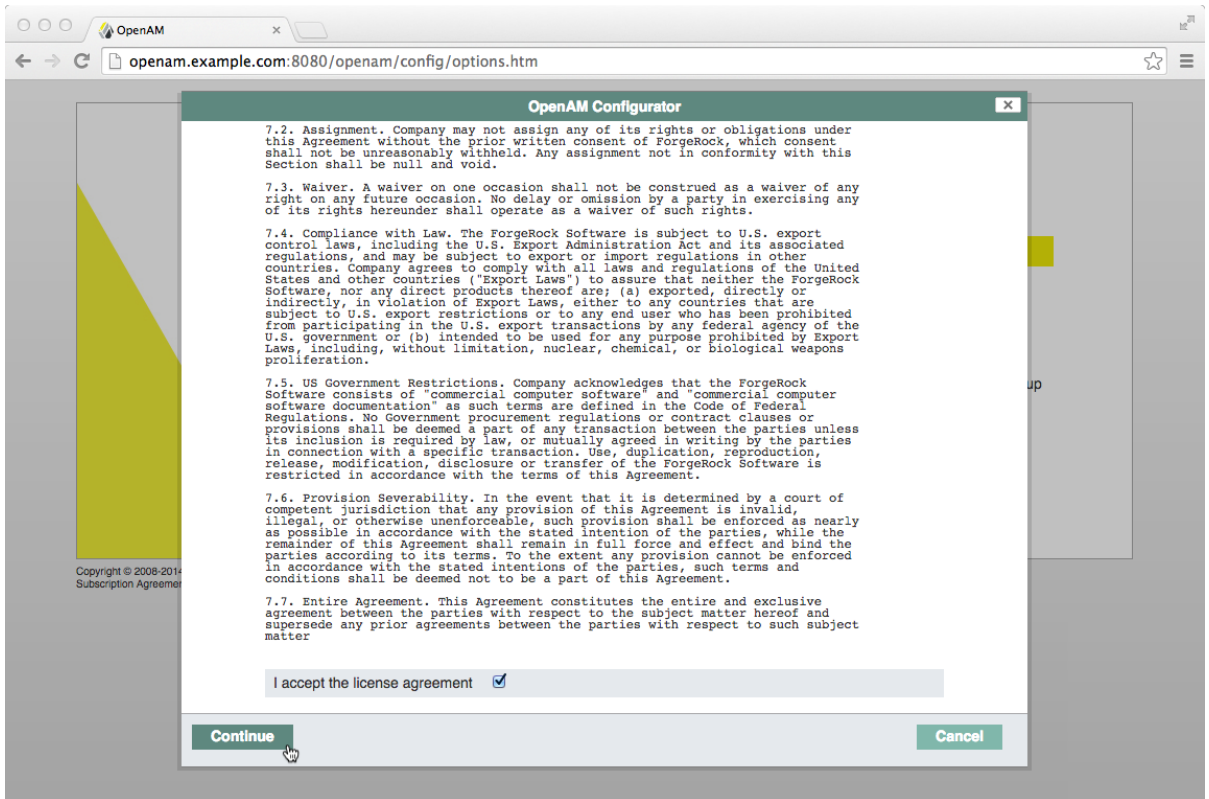
```
$ mv ~/Downloads/AM-5.1.0.war /path/to/tomcat/webapps/openam.war
```

Tomcat deploys AM under the `/path/to/tomcat/webapps/openam/` directory. You can access the web application in a browser at `http://openam.example.com:8080/openam/`.

3. Browse to AM where it is deployed in Tomcat, in this example, `http://openam.example.com:8080/openam/`, to configure the application.
4. On the AM home page, click Create Default Configuration.



5. Review the software license agreement. If you agree to the license, click "I accept the license agreement", and then click Continue.



- Set the Default User [amAdmin] password to **changeit** and the Default Policy Agent [UrlAccessAgent] password to **secret12**, and then click Create Configuration to configure AM.

OpenAM Configurator

Default Configuration Option

→ Credentials

Provide Default User Passwords

Use this option for a quick setup. Only the passwords for the super user and agent user are required. All other configuration parameters are defaulted for you. The user and agent passwords must be different values.

* Indicates required field

Default User Password

Default User [amAdmin]

* Password ☒ OK

* Confirm Password

Policy Agent User Password

Default Policy Agent [UrlAccessAgent]

* Password ☒ OK

* Confirm Password

Create Configuration Cancel

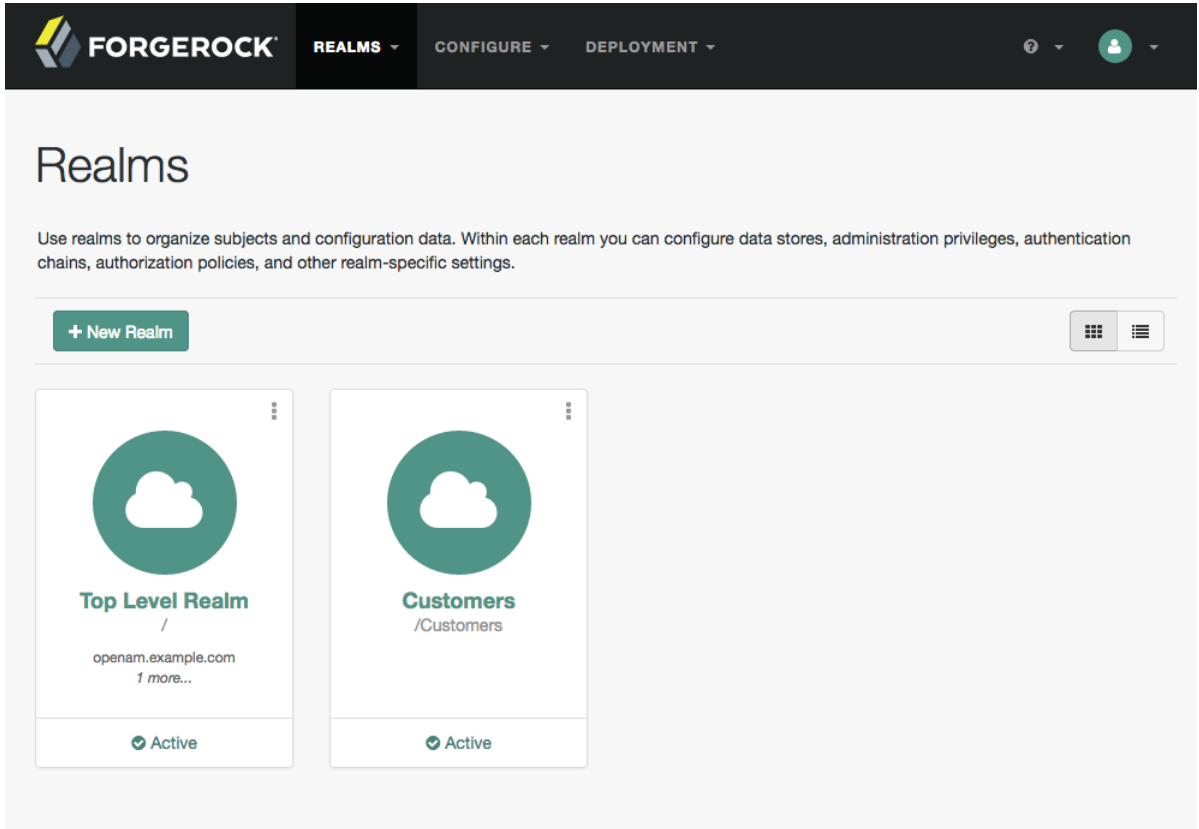
Note

If you were configuring AM for real-world use, you would not use either of those passwords, but this is only to get started with AM. The **amadmin** user is the AM administrator, who is like a superuser in that **amadmin** has full control over the AM configuration.

The **UrlAccessAgent** is not used in this guide.

- Click the Proceed to Login link, then log in as **amadmin** with the password specified in the previous step, **changeit**.

After login, AM should direct you to the Realms page.



AM stores its configuration, including the embedded DS server in the folder named `~/openam/` in your home directory. The folder shares the same name as your server instance. It also has a hidden folder, `~/.openamcfg/`, with a file used by AM when it starts up. If you ruin your configuration of AM somehow, the quickest way to start over is to stop Tomcat, delete these two folders, and configure AM again.

AM core server and The AM console are now configured. Make sure you have successfully logged in to the AM console before you proceed.

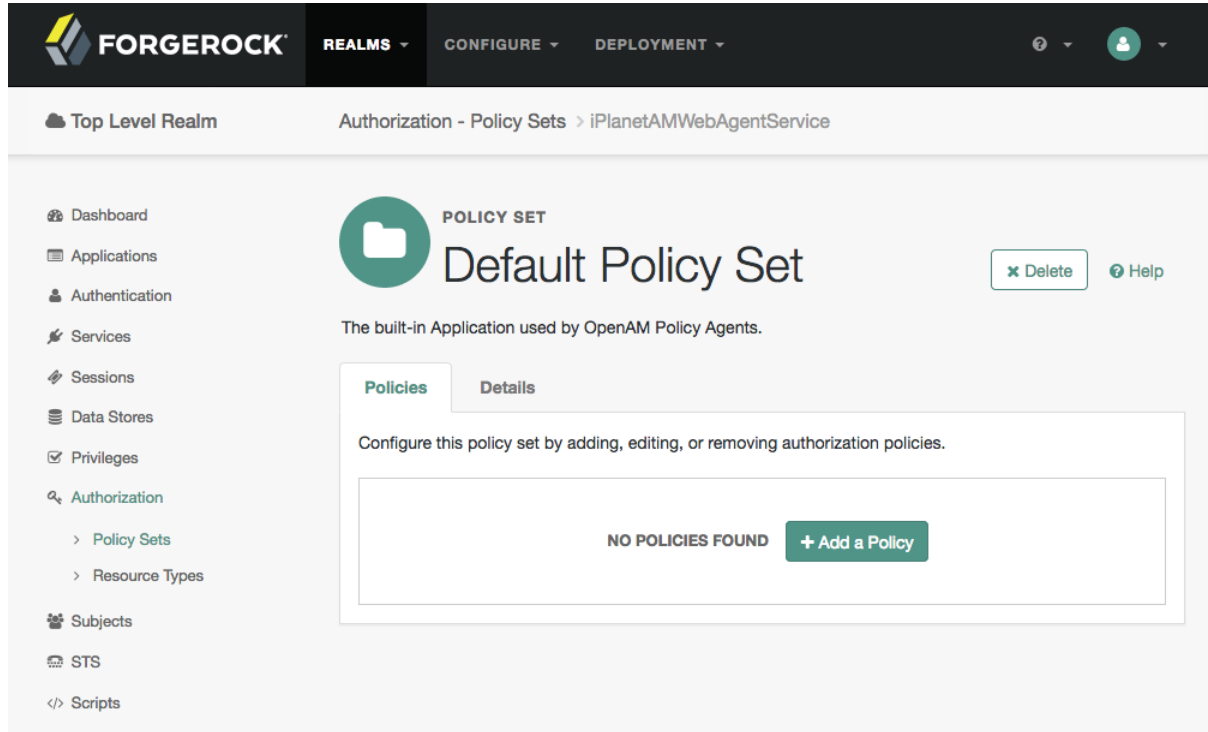
Procedure 1.5. To Configure a Policy

AM authenticates users and then makes authorization decisions based on access policies that indicate user entitlements. Follow these steps to create a policy that allows all authenticated users to perform an HTTP GET (for example, to browse) the Apache HTTP home page that you set up earlier.

1. In the AM console, select the Top Level Realm on the Realms page.

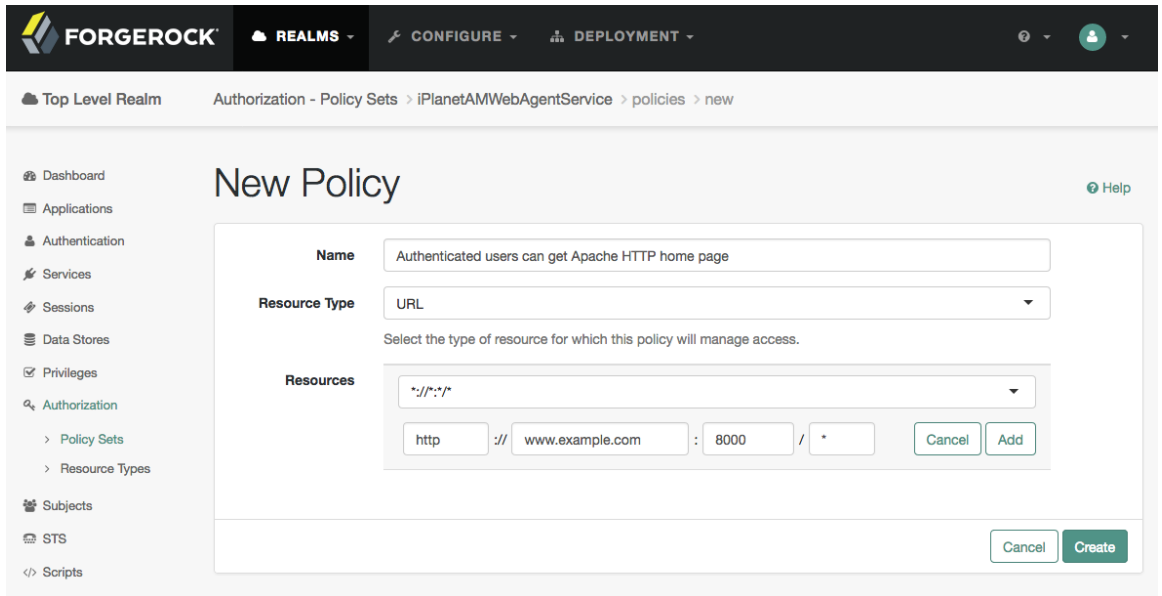
AM allows you to organize identities, policies, and policy agent profiles into realms as described in Chapter 2, "Setting Up Realms" in the *Setup and Maintenance Guide*. For now, use the default Top Level Realm.

2. On the Realm Overview page, navigate to Authorization > Policy Sets > **Default Policy Set** > Add a Policy.



For more information on the relationship between realms, policy sets, and policies, see Section 1.1, "Resource Types, Policy Sets, and Policies" in the *Authorization Guide*.

3. On the New Policy page, enter the following data:
 - a. In the Name field, give your new policy the name **Authenticated users can get Apache HTTP home page**.
 - b. On the Resource Type drop-down list, select **URL**.
 - c. On the Resources drop-down list, select the URL pattern for your policy. In this example, select ***://*.*/***, then enter the resource URL: **http://www.example.com:8000/***, and then click Add.



Top Level Realm Authorization - Policy Sets > iPlanetAMWebAgentService > policies > new

New Policy

[Help](#)

Name

Resource Type

Select the type of resource for which this policy will manage access.

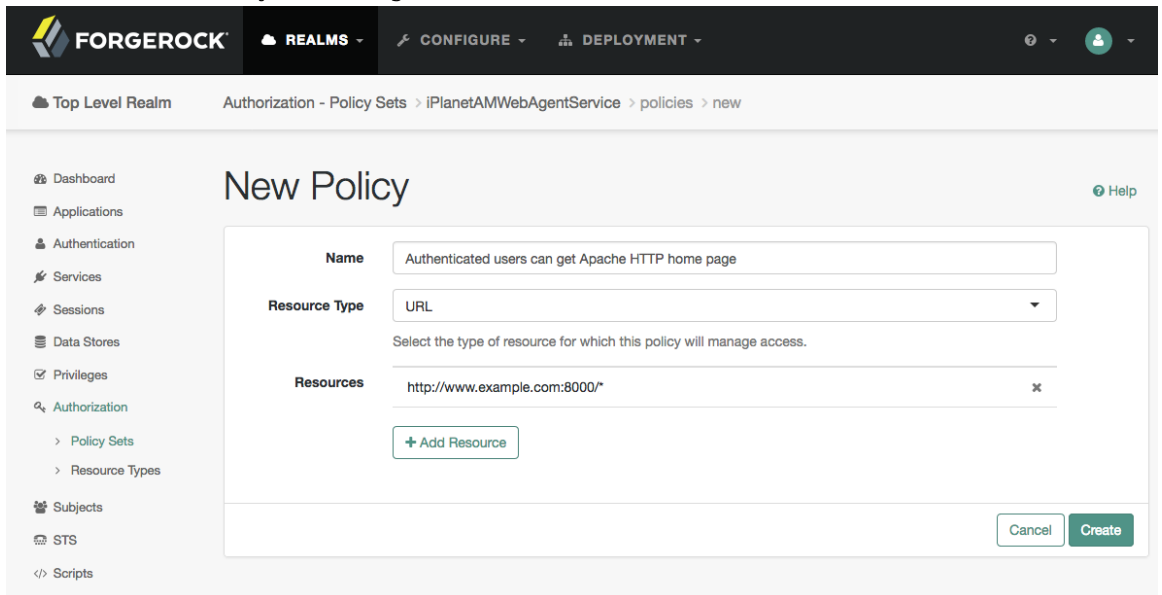
Resources

| Protocol | Host | Port | Path |
|----------|-----------------|------|------|
| http | www.example.com | 8000 | / * |

[Cancel](#) [Add](#)

[Cancel](#) [Create](#)

d. Click Create to save your settings.



Top Level Realm Authorization - Policy Sets > iPlanetAMWebAgentService > policies > new

New Policy

[Help](#)

Name

Resource Type

Select the type of resource for which this policy will manage access.

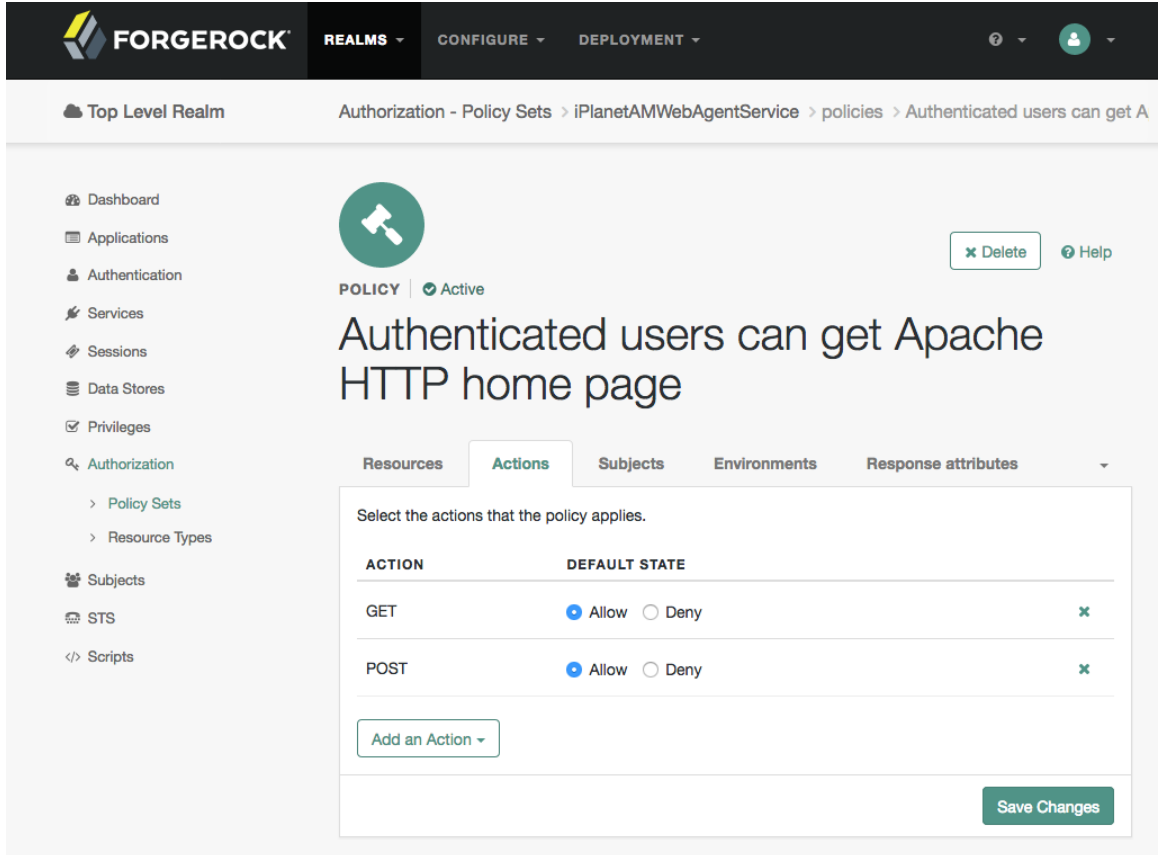
Resources

[+ Add Resource](#)

[Cancel](#) [Create](#)

4. On your policy page, select the Actions tab, and then enter the following information:

- On the Add an action drop-down list, select **GET**.
- On the Add an action drop-down list, select **POST**.
- Save your changes.



The screenshot shows the ForgeRock Access Management console interface. The top navigation bar includes the ForgeRock logo, 'REALMS', 'CONFIGURE', and 'DEPLOYMENT' tabs. The breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: 'Top Level Realm' > 'Authorization - Policy Sets' > 'iPlanetAMWebAgentService' > 'policies' > 'Authenticated users can get A'.

The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: Dashboard, Applications, Authentication, Services, Sessions, Data Stores, Privileges, Authorization (selected), Subjects, STS, and Scripts.

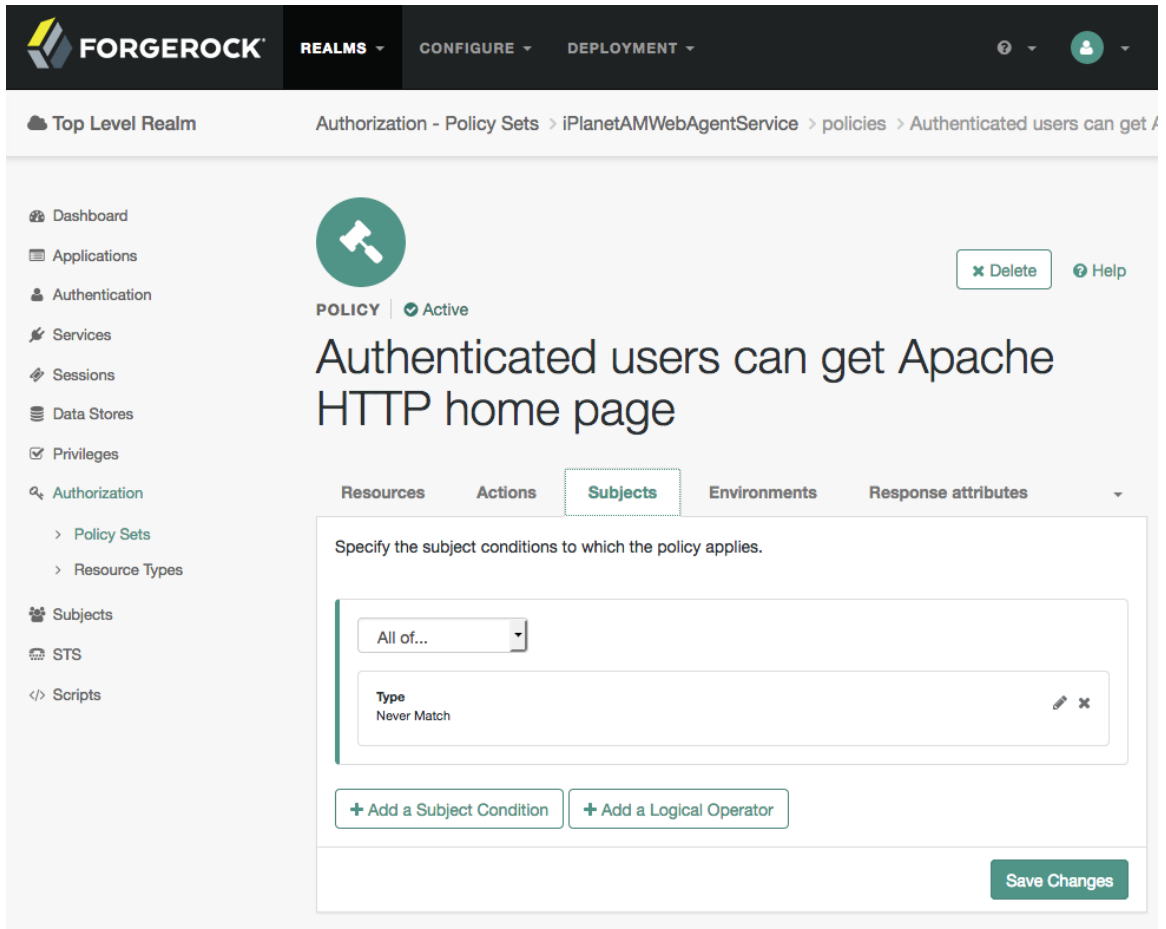
The main content area displays the configuration for the policy 'Authenticated users can get Apache HTTP home page'. The policy is marked as 'POLICY' and 'Active'. There are 'Delete' and 'Help' buttons in the top right corner.

The 'Actions' tab is selected, showing a table of actions that the policy applies to. The table has two columns: 'ACTION' and 'DEFAULT STATE'.

| ACTION | DEFAULT STATE |
|--------|---|
| GET | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Allow <input type="radio"/> Deny |
| POST | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Allow <input type="radio"/> Deny |

Below the table, there is an 'Add an Action' button and a 'Save Changes' button.

- On your policy page, navigate to Subjects and enter the following data:
 - On the All of drop-down list, review the list and select **All of...**
 - On the Type section, click the Edit icon. On the Type drop-down list, select **Authenticated Users**, and then click the checkmark.
 - Save your changes.



The screenshot shows the ForgeRock Access Management console interface. The top navigation bar includes the ForgeRock logo, 'REALMS', 'CONFIGURE', and 'DEPLOYMENT' tabs. The breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: 'Top Level Realm' > 'Authorization - Policy Sets' > 'iPlanetAMWebAgentService' > 'policies' > 'Authenticated users can get /'. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with options like Dashboard, Applications, Authentication, Services, Sessions, Data Stores, Privileges, Authorization (selected), Subjects, STS, and Scripts. The main content area displays the configuration for a specific policy. The policy name is 'Authenticated users can get Apache HTTP home page'. Below the name, there are tabs for 'Resources', 'Actions', 'Subjects' (selected), 'Environments', and 'Response attributes'. The 'Subjects' tab is active, showing a section titled 'Specify the subject conditions to which the policy applies.' Below this, there is a dropdown menu set to 'All of...' and a table with one row: 'Type' with the value 'Never Match'. At the bottom of the configuration area, there are buttons for '+ Add a Subject Condition', '+ Add a Logical Operator', and 'Save Changes'.

6. Review your configuration. To make changes to the configuration, click the relevant tab and amend the configuration.

Next, you must create a web policy agent profile before installing the agent in Apache HTTP Server to enforce your new policy.

Procedure 1.6. To Create a Web Policy Agent Profile

AM stores profile information about policy agents centrally by default. You can manage the policy agent profile through The AM console. The policy agent retrieves its configuration from its AM profile at installation and start up, and AM notifies the policy agent of changes to its configuration. Follow these steps before installing the policy agent itself.

1. In the AM console, navigate to Realms > *Realm Name* > Applications > Agents > Web, and select New in the Agents table.
2. In the page to configure your new web policy agent, set the following values.

Name

WebAgent

Password

password

Configuration

Keep the default, Centralized

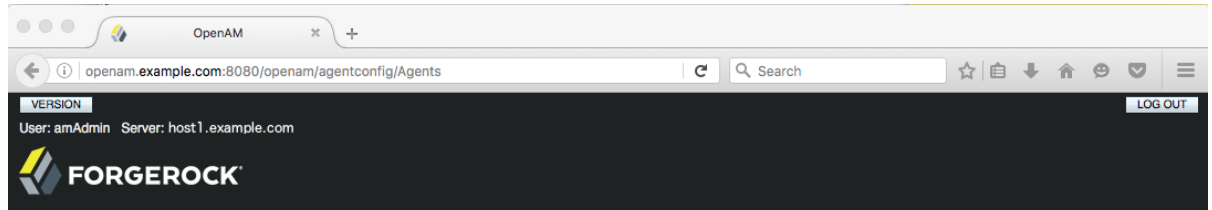
Server URL

http://openam.example.com:8080/openam

Agent URL

http://www.example.com:8000

8000 is the port number you set previously for Apache HTTP Server.



New Web

Create Cancel

* Indicates required field

* Name:

* Password:

* Re-Enter Password:

Configuration: ☐ Local ☒ Centralized
Where agent properties are stored. Local is the server on which the agent is running. Centralized is the OpenAM Server

* Server URL:
protocol://host:port/deploymentUri e.g. http://openso.sample.com:58080/openso

* Agent URL:
protocol://host:port e.g. http://agent1.sample.com:1234

3. Click Create to save the new web policy agent profile in AM.

Next, install a policy agent in Apache HTTP Server to enforce your new policy.

Procedure 1.7. To Install a Web Policy Agent

Policy agents enforce policies defined in ForgeRock Access Management. While the policy agent's job is to verify that uses have the appropriate privileges to the resources they request, the policy agents do not make policy decisions. They call on AM to make policy decisions using information presented by the user (or the user's client application), such as the SSO token in the HTTP cookie, which AM uses to manage user sessions. A policy agent is, in essence, a gatekeeper for AM.

The agent runs inside of Apache HTTP Server as a library, which the server loads at startup time. When a request comes in, the agent redirects users to AM for authentication and calls on AM for policy decisions as necessary.

1. Download the AM policy agent for your version of Apache HTTP Server from the *ForgeRock BackStage* website.
2. Create a password file, for example `$HOME/.pwd.txt`, that the agent installer reads when first connecting to AM to read its profile. The file should only contain the password string, on a single line.

The password file should be read-only by the user who installs the policy agent.

```
$ chmod 400 $HOME/.pwd.txt
```

The password is stored encrypted after installation.

3. Make sure AM is running.

You can verify this by logging in to the AM console.

4. Stop Apache HTTP Server while you install the policy agent.

```
$ /path/to/apache/bin/apachectl stop
```

5. Extract the download.

```
$ cd /path/to
$ unzip ~/Downloads/Apache-v22-Linux-64-Agent-4.1.0.zip
```

6. Install the web policy agent in Apache HTTP Server, making sure that you provide the correct information to the installer as shown in the following example.

When you run the command, you will be prompted to read and accept the software license agreement for the agent installation. You can suppress the license agreement prompt by including the `--acceptLicence` parameter. The inclusion of the option indicates that you have read and accepted the terms stated in the license. To view the license agreement, open `<server-root>/legal-notices/license.txt`.

```
$ cd /path/to/web_agents/apache22_agent/bin
$ ./agentadmin --install --acceptLicense
...

-----
SUMMARY OF YOUR RESPONSES
-----
Apache Server Config Directory : /path/to/apache/conf
OpenAM server URL : http://openam.example.com:8080/openam
Agent URL : http://www.example.com:8000
Agent Profile name : WebAgent
Agent Profile Password file name : $HOME/.pwd.txt
...
```

7. Start Apache HTTP Server, and verify that the web policy agent is configured correctly.

```
$ /path/to/apache/bin/apachectl -k start
$ tail /path/to/apache/logs/error_log
...[notice] Apache/2.2.25 (Unix) AM WPA/4.1 configured -- resuming
normal operations
```

You can now try your installation to see AM in action.

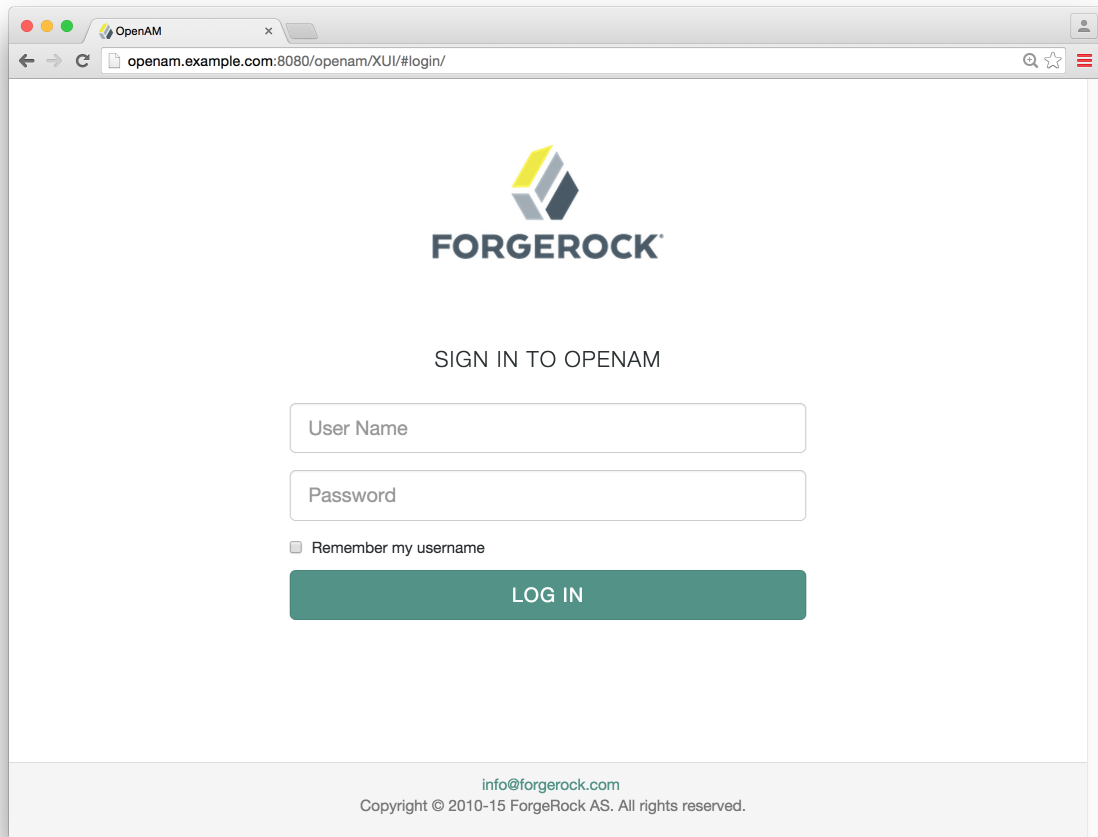
1.4. Trying It Out

Now that you have completed Section 1.3, "Setting Up the Software", you can access the protected web page to see AM at work.

1. Log out of The AM console.
2. Browse to <http://www.example.com:8000> to attempt to access the Apache "It works!" page.

At this point, the policy agent intercepts your request for the page. Your browser does not return a cookie indicating an AM session, so the policy agent redirects you to AM to authenticate.

3. Log in as the built-in default AM demonstration user **demo** with password **changeit**.



On successful login, AM sets a session cookie named `iPlanetDirectoryPro` in your browser for the domain `.example.com`. The cookie is then returned to servers in the `example.com` domain, such as, `openam.example.com` and `www.example.com`.

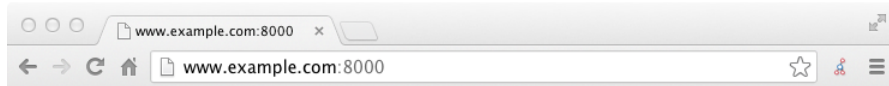
If you examine this cookie in your browser, you see that it has a value, such as `AQIC5wM2LY4SfcwciyfvJcQDUIB7KIWEH187Df_txqLdAVc.*AAJTSQACMDEAA1NLABMxMDYwNzY1MjQ0NTE0ODI2NTkx*`. This is the SSO Token value. The value is in fact an encrypted reference to the session that is stored only by AM. So, only AM can determine whether you are actually logged in, or instead, that the session is no longer valid and you need to authenticate again.

The AM session is used for SSO. When the browser presents the cookie to a server in the domain, the agent on the server can check with AM using the SSO Token as a reference to the session.

This lets AM make policy decisions based on who is authenticated, or prompt for additional authentication, if necessary.

Your SSO session can end in a few ways. For example, when examining the cookie in your browser, you should notice that it expires when the browser session ends (when you shut down your browser). Alternatively, you can log out of AM explicitly. Sessions can also expire. AM sets two limits, one that causes your session to expire if it remains inactive for a configurable period of time (default: 30 minutes), and another that caps the session lifetime (default: 2 hours).

4. After successful login, you are redirected to the Apache "It works!" page.



It works!

In the background, AM redirected your browser again to the page you tried to access originally, <http://www.example.com:8000>. This time, the web policy agent intercepted the request and found the SSO Token so it could request a policy decision from AM regarding whether the user with the SSO Token has access to get <http://www.example.com:8000/>. AM replied to the policy agent that it could allow access, and the policy agent allowed Apache HTTP Server to send back the web page.

Congratulations on protecting your first web site with AM! Notice that you had only to install software and to configure AM. You did not have to change your web site at all in order to add SSO and to set up access policies.

AM can do much more than protect web pages. Read the next chapter to learn more.

1.5. Trying Out Stateless Sessions

In the Section 1.4, "Trying It Out" section, you successfully configured AM and viewed the [iPlanetDirectoryPro](#) session cookie. The session cookie contains information for AM or a policy agent to locate the session data object on the server. Sessions that are stored on the server are called *stateful*, which is the default configuration at the realm level.

AM also supports *stateless* sessions, in which the authenticated user's session is stored on the client (for example, in an HTTP browser cookie), not on the server. The session cookie cannot be updated until the session ends, when the user logs out or the session expires.

To try out stateless sessions, see Section 6.1, "Implementing Session State" in the *Authentication and Single Sign-On Guide*.

Chapter 2

Where To Go From Here

AM can do much more than protect web pages. In addition to being the right foundation for building highly available, Internet-scale access management services, AM has a rich set of features that make it a strong choice for a variety of different deployments. This chapter presents the key features of AM and indicates where in the documentation you can find out more about them.

2.1. User Self-Service Features

AM provides user self-registration and password reset services that allow users access to applications without the need to call your help desk.

AM has access to the identity repositories where user profiles are stored. AM is therefore well placed to help you manage self-service features that involve user profiles.

- **User Self-Registration.** AM provides user self-registration as a feature of AM's REST APIs. New users can easily self-register in AM without assistance from administrators or help desk staff.

For information on configuring self-registration, see [Section 2.4, "Configuring User Registration"](#) in the *User Self Service Guide*.

For details on building your own self-registration application using the REST API, see [Section 3.2, "Registering Users"](#) in the *User Self Service Guide*.

- **Password Reset.** With AM's self-service password reset, users can help reset passwords, as well as update their existing passwords. AM handles both the case where a user knows their password and wants to change it, and also the case where the user has forgotten their password and needs to reset it, possibly after answering security questions.

For details on setting up password reset capabilities, see [Section 2.5, "Configuring the Forgotten Password Reset Feature"](#) in the *User Self Service Guide*.

For details on building your own application to handle password reset using the REST API, see [Section 3.3, "Retrieving Forgotten Usernames"](#) in the *User Self Service Guide*.

- **Dashboard Service.** Users often have a number of applications assigned to them, especially if your organization has standardized SaaS, for example for email, document sharing, support ticketing, customer relationship management, web conferencing, and so forth. You can create an interface for users to access these web-based and internal applications using AM's dashboard service.

The AM cloud dashboard service makes this relatively easy to set up. For basic information on using the service, see Chapter 7, *"Setting Up the Dashboard Service"* in the *Setup and Maintenance Guide*.

AM's user-facing pages are fully customizable and easy to skin for your organization. The *Installation Guide* has details on how to customize user-facing pages.

2.2. Single Sign-On

Single sign-on (SSO) is a core feature of AM. Once you have set up AM, you protect as many applications in the network domain as you want. Simply install policy agents for the additional servers, and add policies for the resources served by the applications. Users can authenticate to start a session on any site in the domain and stay authenticated for all sites in the domain without needing to log in again (unless the session ends, or unless a policy requires stronger authentication). For details, see Section 1.9, "About Single Sign-On" in the *Authentication and Single Sign-On Guide*.

Many organizations manage more than one domain. When you have multiple distinct domains in a single organization, cookies set in one domain are not returned to servers in another domain. In many organizations, sub-domains are controlled independently. These domains need to be protected from surreptitious takeovers like session cookie hijacking. AM's cross-domain single sign-on (CDSSO) provides a safe mechanism for your AM servers in one domain to work with policy agents from other domains, while allowing users to sign-on once across many domains without needing to reauthenticate. CDSSO allows users to sign on in one of your domains and not have to sign on again when they visit another of your domains.

CDSSO works through cooperation between policy agents and the `CDCServlet` in AM. Together, the policy agents and AM use federation capabilities to translate from one domain to another. For details on how to configure policy agents for CDSSO, see Section 7.3, "Implementing Cross-Domain Single Sign-On" in the *Authentication and Single Sign-On Guide*.

Note

CDSSO only works with *stateful* sessions. CDSSO does not work with *stateless* sessions.

2.3. Standards-Based Federation

When you need to federate identities across different domains and different organizations with separate access management solutions, then you need interoperable federation technologies. Perhaps your organization acts as an identity provider for other organizations providing services. Perhaps you provide the services and allow users to use their identity from another organization to access your services. Either way, AM has the capability to integrate well in federated access management scenarios.

AM supports standards-based federation technologies.

- Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) 2.0 grew out of earlier work on SAML v1.x and the Liberty Alliance. SAML defines XML-based, standard formats and profiles for federating identities. SAML v2.0 is supported by a wide range of applications including major software as a service (SaaS) offerings. AM supports SAML v2.0 and earlier standards, and can function as a hub in deployments where different standards are used. For details on AM's SAML v2.0 capabilities, see the [SAML v2.0 Guide](#).

When your deployment serves as an identity provider for a SAML federation, AM makes it easy to develop applications called Fedlets that your service providers can easily deploy to participate in the federation. For details see [Chapter 3, "Implementing SAML v2.0 Service Providers Using the Fedlet"](#) in the [SAML v2.0 Guide](#).

- OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect 1.0 are open standards for authorization using REST APIs to allow users to authorize third-party access to their resources. These standards make it easier to federate modern web applications. OAuth for example is widely used in social applications.

AM offers support for both OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect 1.0. AM can serve as an authorization server and as a client of OAuth 2.0, while managing the profiles of the resource owners. When acting as a client, AM policy agents can be used on resource servers to enforce authorization. For details, see the [OAuth 2.0 Guide](#).

AM can serve as the OpenID Connect 1.0 provider with support for Basic and Implicit client profiles as well as discovery, dynamic registration, and session management. For details, see the [OpenID Connect 1.0 Guide](#).

2.4. Access Policies

In the first chapter of this guide you created an AM access policy and saw how it worked. AM can handle large numbers of access policies, each of which gives you control over user provisioning and user entitlements. For details, see [Chapter 2, "Implementing Authorization"](#) in the [Authorization Guide](#).

AM also supports standards-based access policies defined using the eXtensible Access Control Markup Language (XACML). XACML defines an XML Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC) language with Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) features as well. For details on using XACML policies with AM, see [Section 2.1.2, "Importing and Exporting Policies"](#) in the [Authorization Guide](#).

2.5. Protect Any Web Application

In the first chapter of the guide you installed a web policy agent to enforce AM's authorization decisions on Apache HTTP Server. That web policy agent is only one of many policy agents that work with AM.

For details about web policy agents see the [Web Policy Agent User's Guide](#).

For details about Java EE policy agents also see the [Java EE Policy Agent User's Guide](#).

Furthermore [ForgeRock Identity Gateway](#) works with applications where you want to protect access, but you cannot install a policy agent. For example, you might have a web application running in a server for which no policy agent has been developed. Or you might be protecting an application where you simply cannot install a policy agent. In that case, IG functions as a flexible reverse proxy with standard SAML v2.0 capabilities. For details see the [ForgeRock Identity Gateway documentation](#).

2.6. Modern APIs For Developers

For client application developers, AM offers REST, Java, and C APIs.

- AM REST APIs make the common CRUD (create, read, update, delete) easy to use in modern web applications. They also offer extended actions and query capabilities for access management functionality.

To get started, see [Chapter 2, "Developing with the REST API"](#) in the *Development Guide*.

- AM Java APIs provided through the AM Java SDK let your Java and Java EE applications call on AM for authentication and authorization in both AM and federated environments.

To get started, see [Chapter 3, "Developing with the Java SDK"](#) in the *Development Guide*.

- The AM C SDK provides APIs for native applications, such as new web server policy agents. The C SDK is built for Linux, Solaris, and Windows platforms.

To get started, see [Chapter 4, "Developing with the C SDK"](#) in the *Development Guide*.

AM provides built-in support for many identity repositories, web servers and web application containers, access management standards, and all the flexible, configurable capabilities mentioned in this chapter. Yet, for some deployments you might still need to extend what AM's capabilities. For such cases, AM defines Service Provider Interfaces (SPIs) where you can integrate your own plugins. For information about extension points, and some examples, see the following:

- [Customizing Authentication in the Authentication and Single Sign-On Guide](#)
- [Customizing Policy Evaluation With a Plug-In in the Authorization Guide](#)
- [Customizing Identity Data Stores in the Setup and Maintenance Guide](#)
- [Customizing OAuth 2.0 Scope Handling in the OAuth 2.0 Guide](#)

Appendix A. Getting Support

For more information or resources about AM and ForgeRock Support, see the following sections:

A.1. Accessing Documentation Online

ForgeRock publishes comprehensive documentation online:

- The ForgeRock [Knowledge Base](#) offers a large and increasing number of up-to-date, practical articles that help you deploy and manage ForgeRock software.
- ForgeRock core documentation, such as this document, aims to be technically accurate and complete with respect to the software documented. It is visible to everyone and covers all product features and examples of how to use them.

Core documentation therefore follows a three-phase review process designed to eliminate errors:

- Product managers and software architects review project documentation design with respect to the readers' software lifecycle needs.
- Subject matter experts review proposed documentation changes for technical accuracy and completeness with respect to the corresponding software.
- Quality experts validate implemented documentation changes for technical accuracy, completeness in scope, and usability for the readership.

The review process helps to ensure that documentation published for a ForgeRock release is technically accurate and complete.

Fully reviewed, published core documentation is available at <http://backstage.forgerock.com/>. Use this documentation when working with a ForgeRock Identity Platform release.

A.2. Joining the ForgeRock Community

Visit the [Community resource center](#) where you can find information about each project, download trial builds, browse the resource catalog, ask and answer questions on the forums, find community events near you, and find the source code for open source software.

A.3. Getting Support and Contacting ForgeRock

ForgeRock provides support services, professional services, classes through ForgeRock University, and partner services to assist you in setting up and maintaining your deployments. For a general overview of these services, see <https://www.forgerock.com>.

ForgeRock has staff members around the globe who support our international customers and partners. For details, visit <https://www.forgerock.com>, or send an email to ForgeRock at info@forgerock.com.

Glossary

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Access control | Control to grant or to deny access to a resource. |
| Account lockout | The act of making an account temporarily or permanently inactive after successive authentication failures. |
| Actions | Defined as part of policies, these verbs indicate what authorized subjects can do to resources. |
| Advice | In the context of a policy decision denying access, a hint to the policy enforcement point about remedial action to take that could result in a decision allowing access. |
| Agent administrator | User having privileges only to read and write policy agent profile configuration information, typically created to delegate policy agent profile creation to the user installing a policy agent. |
| Agent authenticator | Entity with read-only access to multiple agent profiles defined in the same realm; allows an agent to read web service profiles. |
| Application | <p>In general terms, a service exposing protected resources.</p> <p>In the context of AM policies, the application is a template that constrains the policies that govern access to protected resources. An application can have zero or more policies.</p> |
| Application type | <p>Application types act as templates for creating policy applications.</p> <p>Application types define a preset list of actions and functional logic, such as policy lookup and resource comparator logic.</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Application types also define the internal normalization, indexing logic, and comparator logic for applications. |
| Attribute-based access control (ABAC) | Access control that is based on attributes of a user, such as how old a user is or whether the user is a paying customer. |
| Authentication | The act of confirming the identity of a principal. |
| Authentication chaining | A series of authentication modules configured together which a principal must negotiate as configured in order to authenticate successfully. |
| Authentication level | Positive integer associated with an authentication module, usually used to require success with more stringent authentication measures when requesting resources requiring special protection. |
| Authentication module | AM authentication unit that handles one way of obtaining and verifying credentials. |
| Authorization | The act of determining whether to grant or to deny a principal access to a resource. |
| Authorization Server | In OAuth 2.0, issues access tokens to the client after authenticating a resource owner and confirming that the owner authorizes the client to access the protected resource. AM can play this role in the OAuth 2.0 authorization framework. |
| Auto-federation | Arrangement to federate a principal's identity automatically based on a common attribute value shared across the principal's profiles at different providers. |
| Bulk federation | Batch job permanently federating user profiles between a service provider and an identity provider based on a list of matched user identifiers that exist on both providers. |
| Circle of trust | Group of providers, including at least one identity provider, who have agreed to trust each other to participate in a SAML v2.0 provider federation. |
| Client | In OAuth 2.0, requests protected web resources on behalf of the resource owner given the owner's authorization. AM can play this role in the OAuth 2.0 authorization framework. |
| Conditions | Defined as part of policies, these determine the circumstances under which which a policy applies. Environmental conditions reflect circumstances like the client IP address, time of day, how the subject authenticated, or the authentication level achieved. |

| | |
|---|--|
| | Subject conditions reflect characteristics of the subject like whether the subject authenticated, the identity of the subject, or claims in the subject's JWT. |
| Configuration datastore | LDAP directory service holding AM configuration data. |
| Cross-domain single sign-on (CDSSO) | AM capability allowing single sign-on across different DNS domains. |
| Delegation | Granting users administrative privileges with AM. |
| Entitlement | Decision that defines which resource names can and cannot be accessed for a given subject in the context of a particular application, which actions are allowed and which are denied, and any related advice and attributes. |
| Extended metadata | Federation configuration information specific to AM. |
| Extensible Access Control Markup Language (XACML) | Standard, XML-based access control policy language, including a processing model for making authorization decisions based on policies. |
| Federation | Standardized means for aggregating identities, sharing authentication and authorization data information between trusted providers, and allowing principals to access services across different providers without authenticating repeatedly. |
| Fedlet | Service provider application capable of participating in a circle of trust and allowing federation without installing all of AM on the service provider side; AM lets you create Java Fedlets. |
| Hot swappable | Refers to configuration properties for which changes can take effect without restarting the container where AM runs. |
| Identity | Set of data that uniquely describes a person or a thing such as a device or an application. |
| Identity federation | Linking of a principal's identity across multiple providers. |
| Identity provider (IdP) | Entity that produces assertions about a principal (such as how and when a principal authenticated, or that the principal's profile has a specified attribute value). |
| Identity repository | Data store holding user profiles and group information; different identity repositories can be defined for different realms. |
| Java EE policy agent | Java web application installed in a web container that acts as a policy agent, filtering requests to other applications in the container with policies based on application resource URLs. |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Metadata | Federation configuration information for a provider. |
| Policy | Set of rules that define who is granted access to a protected resource when, how, and under what conditions. |
| Policy Agent | Agent that intercepts requests for resources, directs principals to AM for authentication, and enforces policy decisions from AM. |
| Policy Administration Point (PAP) | Entity that manages and stores policy definitions. |
| Policy Decision Point (PDP) | Entity that evaluates access rights and then issues authorization decisions. |
| Policy Enforcement Point (PEP) | Entity that intercepts a request for a resource and then enforces policy decisions from a PDP. |
| Policy Information Point (PIP) | Entity that provides extra information, such as user profile attributes that a PDP needs in order to make a decision. |
| Principal | <p>Represents an entity that has been authenticated (such as a user, a device, or an application), and thus is distinguished from other entities.</p> <p>When a Subject successfully authenticates, AM associates the Subject with the Principal.</p> |
| Privilege | In the context of delegated administration, a set of administrative tasks that can be performed by specified subjects in a given realm. |
| Provider federation | Agreement among providers to participate in a circle of trust. |
| Realm | <p>AM unit for organizing configuration and identity information.</p> <p>Realms can be used for example when different parts of an organization have different applications and user data stores, and when different organizations use the same AM deployment.</p> <p>Administrators can delegate realm administration. The administrator assigns administrative privileges to users, allowing them to perform administrative tasks within the realm.</p> |
| Resource | <p>Something a user can access over the network such as a web page.</p> <p>Defined as part of policies, these can include wildcards in order to match multiple actual resources.</p> |
| Resource owner | In OAuth 2.0, entity who can authorize access to protected web resources, such as an end user. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Resource server | In OAuth 2.0, server hosting protected web resources, capable of handling access tokens to respond to requests for such resources. |
| Response attributes | Defined as part of policies, these allow AM to return additional information in the form of "attributes" with the response to a policy decision. |
| Role based access control (RBAC) | Access control that is based on whether a user has been granted a set of permissions (a role). |
| Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) | Standard, XML-based language for exchanging authentication and authorization data between identity providers and service providers. |
| Service provider (SP) | Entity that consumes assertions about a principal (and provides a service that the principal is trying to access). |
| Session | The interval that starts with the user authenticating through AM and ends when the user logs out, or when their session is terminated. For browser-based clients, AM manages user sessions across one or more applications by setting a session cookie. See also Stateful session and Stateless session . |
| Session high availability | Capability that lets any AM server in a clustered deployment access shared, persistent information about users' sessions from the CTS token store. The user does not need to log in again unless the entire deployment goes down. |
| Session token | Unique identifier issued by AM after successful authentication. For a Stateful session , the session token is used to track a principal's session. |
| Single log out (SLO) | Capability allowing a principal to end a session once, thereby ending her session across multiple applications. |
| Single sign-on (SSO) | Capability allowing a principal to authenticate once and gain access to multiple applications without authenticating again. |
| Site | <p>Group of AM servers configured the same way, accessed through a load balancer layer.</p> <p>The load balancer handles failover to provide service-level availability. Use sticky load balancing based on <code>amlbcookie</code> values to improve site performance.</p> <p>The load balancer can also be used to protect AM services.</p> |
| Standard metadata | Standard federation configuration information that you can share with other access management software. |
| Stateful session | An AM session that resides in the Core Token Service's token store. Stateful sessions might also be cached in memory on one or more |

AM servers. AM tracks stateful sessions in order to handle events like logout and timeout, to permit session constraints, and to notify applications involved in SSO when a session ends.

Stateless session

An AM session for which state information is encoded in AM and stored on the client. The information from the session is not retained in the CTS token store. For browser-based clients, AM sets a cookie in the browser that contains the session information.

Subject

Entity that requests access to a resource

When a subject successfully authenticates, AM associates the subject with the [Principal](#) that distinguishes it from other subjects. A subject can be associated with multiple principals.

User data store

Data storage service holding principals' profiles; underlying storage can be an LDAP directory service, a relational database, or a custom [IdRepo](#) implementation.

Web policy agent

Native library installed in a web server that acts as a policy agent with policies based on web page URLs.