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The token validation filter looks for the token in the request and then tries to validate it using the configured token storage implementation.

If the validation is successful, the principal object is stored in the security context. This allows you to use in your application `@Secured`, `springSecurityService.principal` and so on.



`springSecurityService.currentUser` expects a `grails.plugin.springsecurity.userdetails.GrailsUser` to perform a DB query. However, this plugin stores in the security context just a principal object, because it does not assume you are using domain classes to store the users. Use `springSecurityService.principal` instead.

This plugin supports [RFC 6750 Bearer Token](#) specification out-of-the-box.

## Sending tokens in the request

The token can be sent in the Authorization request header:

*Listing 1. Accessing a protected resource using Authorization request header*

```
GET /protectedResource HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: Bearer
eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJleHAiOiJlZ0MjI5OTU5MjIsInN1YiI6ImppbWkiLCJyb2xlcYI6WyJST0xFX
0FETU1OIiwiaWUk9MRV9VU0VSIl0sImIhdCI6MTQyMjk5MjMyMn0.rA7A2Gwt14LaYmpxNRtrCd024RGrfHt
ZXY9fIjV8x8o
```

Or using form-encoded body parameters:

*Listing 2. Accessing a protected resource using body parameters*

```
POST /protectedResource HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

access_token=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJleHAiOiJlZ0MjI5OTU5MjIsInN1YiI6ImppbWkiLCJyb2xlcYI6WyJST0xFX
0FETU1OIiwiaWUk9MRV9VU0VSIl0sImIhdCI6MTQyMjk5MjMyMn0.rA7A2Gwt14LaYmpxNRtrCd024RGrfHtZXY9fIjV8x8o
```

If you need to use the GET HTTP method (to render images in an `img` tag, for example), you can also send the access token in a query string parameter named `access_token`:

If you disable the bearer token support, you can customise it further:

```
grails.plugin.springsecurity.rest.token.validation.useBearerToken = false
grails.plugin.springsecurity.rest.token.validation.headerName = 'X-Auth-Token'
```

If you still want to have full access and read the token from a different part of the request, you can implement a [TokenReader](#) and register it in your `resources.groovy` as `tokenReader`.



You must disable bearer token support to register your own `tokenReader` implementation.

## Anonymous access

If you want to enable anonymous access to URL's where this plugin's filters are applied, you need to:

1. Configure `enableAnonymousAccess = true` (see table below).
2. Make sure that the `anonymousAuthenticationFilter` is applied before `restTokenValidationFilter`. See how to configure filters for more details.

For example, with this configuration:

### *Sample configuration to allow anonymous access*

```
grails {
    plugin {
        springsecurity {
            filterChain {
                chainMap = [
                    '/api/guest/**':
                    'anonymousAuthenticationFilter,restTokenValidationFilter,restExceptionTranslationF
                    ilter,filterInvocationInterceptor',
                    '/api/**': 'JOINED_FILTERS,-anonymousAuthenticationFilter,-
                    exceptionTranslationFilter,-authenticationProcessingFilter,-
                    securityContextPersistenceFilter',
                    '/*': 'JOINED_FILTERS,-restTokenValidationFilter,-
                    restExceptionTranslationFilter'
                ]
            }

            //Other Spring Security settings
            //...

            rest {
                token {
                    validation {
                        enableAnonymousAccess = true
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

The following chains are configured:

1. `/api/guest/**` is a stateless chain that allows anonymous access when no token is sent. If however a token is on the request, it will be validated.
2. `/api/**` is a stateless chain that doesn't allow anonymous access. Thus, the token will always be required, and if missing, a Bad Request response will be sent back to the client.
3. `/**` (read: everything else) is a traditional stateful chain.

## Validation Endpoint

There is also an endpoint available that you can call in case you want to know if a given token is valid. It looks for the token in a HTTP header as well, and if the token is still valid, it renders `guide:authentication[its JSON representation]`. If the token does not exist, it will render a `grails.plugin.springsecurity.rest.login.failureStatusCode` response (401 by default).

The relevant configuration properties for the validation endpoint are:

*Table 1. Validation endpoint configuration options*

Config key	Default value
<code>grails.plugin.springsecurity.rest.token.validation.active</code>	<code>true</code>
<code>grails.plugin.springsecurity.rest.token.validation.headerName</code>	<code>X-Auth-Token</code>
<code>grails.plugin.springsecurity.rest.token.validation.endpointUrl</code>	<code>/api/validate</code>

Note that `headerName` is only considered if `grails.plugin.springsecurity.rest.token.validation.useBearerToken` is set to `false`. Otherwise (the default approach), as per RFC 6750, the header name will be `Authorization` and the value will be `Bearer TOKEN_VALUE`.