

How do I read/write as the authenticated user with Apache/WebDAV?

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 3 years, 11 months ago

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I've set up DAV in apache2, which works great. The thing is, all read/write operations are done with the apache user's credentials. Instead I want to use the HTTP authenticated user's credentials. If I authenticate as "john", all read and write operations should use the system user john's credentials (from /etc/passwd). [suEXEC](#) seems like overkill since I am not executing anything, but I might be wrong...

Here's the current configuration:

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
    DocumentRoot /var/www/webdav
    ServerName webdav.mydomain.com
    ServerAdmin webmaster@mydomain.com

    <Location "/">
        DAV On
        AuthType Basic
        AuthName "WebDAV Restricted"
        AuthUserFile
/etc/apache2/extra/webdav-passwords
        require valid-user

        Options +Indexes
    </Location>
```

```
DAVLockDB /var/lib/dav/lockdb

ErrorLog /var/log/apache2/webdav-error.log
TransferLog /var/log/apache2/webdav-
access.log
</VirtualHost>
```

apache

authentication

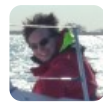
webdav

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edited Dec 24, 2020 at 11:51



Mark Rotteveel

109k ● 224 ● 155 ● 216

asked Sep 22, 2008 at 10:45



neu242

16.5k ● 21 ● 83 ● 123

2 Answers

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2



Shot answer, and as far as I know: you don't.

Long answer: it is possible to implement such a feature with an appropriate mpm, and there were [various attempts](#) to do so, but they don't seem to be very actively supported, and are at least not in the mainline Apache codebase.

peruser:

Q. Is peruser ready for production use?

A. In general, no.

perchild:

This module is not functional. Development of this module is not complete and is not currently active. Do not use perchild unless you are a programmer willing to help fix it.

That's too bad, really; most uses of WebDav I've seen store ownership information at the application layer, in the database, anyway. The consensus for doing file sharing is to use Samba instead; and that's not really a solution, I admit.

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edited Jun 20, 2020 at 9:12

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1 ● 1

answered Sep 22, 2008 at 11:07



niXar

680 ● 5 ● 13

I think the primary problem is that in order for the apache process to assume the role of a user logging in via the web, the apache (Or any HTTP server for that matter) must have the ability to switch users, in essence it must have elevated privileges, which open one up to all kinds of remote exploit problems. – [Aaron H.](#) Mar 10, 2011 at 19:59



1



We have been using davenport

(<http://davenport.sourceforge.net/>) for years to provide access to Windows/samba shares over webdav.

Samba/Windows gives a lot of control over this sort of thing, and the Davenport just makes it usable over the web over SSL without a VPN

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answered Jul 10, 2009 at 19:45

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Mark Porter

1,630 ● 9 ● 9
