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SAML authentication with Azure Active Directory

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Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) is an open standard for exchanging authentication and authorization data between an identity provider and a service provider. SAML is an XML-based markup language for security assertions, which are statements that service providers use to make access-control decisions.

The SAML specification defines three roles:

- The principal, generally a user
- The identity provider (IdP)
- The service provider (SP)

Use when

There's a need to provide a single sign-on (SSO) experience for an enterprise SAML application.

While one of most important use cases that SAML addresses is SSO, especially by extending SSO across security domains, there are other use cases (called profiles) as well.
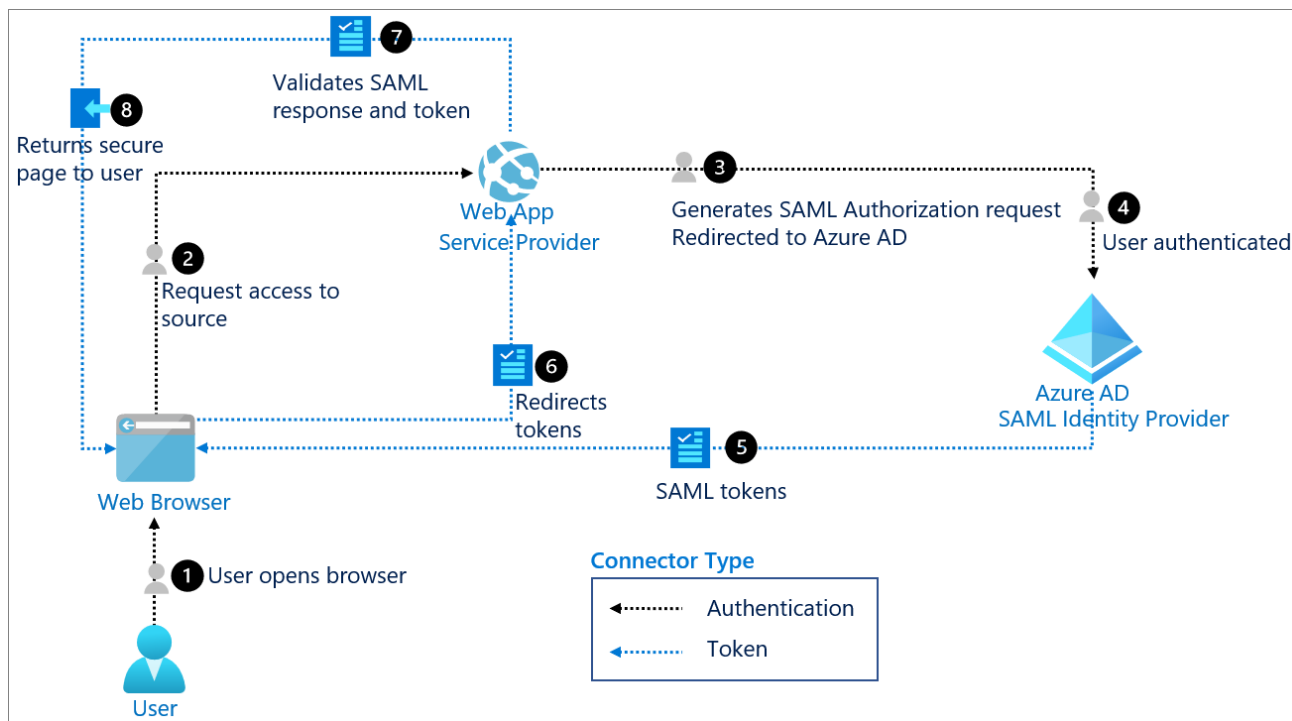
Components of system

- **User**: Requests a service from the application.

- **Web browser**: The component that the user interacts with.

- **Web app**: Enterprise application that supports SAML and uses Azure AD as IdP.

- **Token**: A SAML assertion (also known as SAML tokens) that carries sets of claims made by the IdP about the principle (user). It contains authentication information, attributes, and authorization decision statements.

- **Azure AD**: Enterprise cloud IdP that provides SSO and Multi-factor authentication for SAML apps. It synchronizes, maintains, and manages identity information for users while providing authentication services to relying applications.

Implement SAML authentication with Azure AD

- Tutorials for integrating SaaS applications using Azure Active Directory

- Configuring SAML based single sign-on for non-gallery applications

- How Azure AD uses the SAML protocol

Recommended content

Azure Single Sign On SAML Protocol - Microsoft identity platform

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Tutorial: Azure AD SSO integration with Azure AD SAML Toolkit

Learn how to configure single sign-on between Azure Active Directory and Azure AD SAML Toolkit.

Azure AD Connect: Use a SAML 2.0 Identity Provider for Single Sign On - Azure

This document describes using a SAML 2.0 compliant Idp for single sign on.

How the Microsoft identity platform uses the SAML protocol

This article provides an overview of the single sign-on and Single Sign-Out SAML profiles in Azure Active Directory.

Configure a SAML 2.0 provider for portals with Azure AD - Power Apps

Learn how to configure SAML 2.0 for portals with Azure Active Directory.

Tutorial: Azure Active Directory integration with SAML SSO for Confluence by resolution GmbH

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Troubleshoot SAML-based single sign-on - Azure AD

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