

Implementing Web Application Proxy

Eli Chang

MSSA Cohort #2

Lab Summary 6

2/16/2020

Implementing Web Application Proxy

The IT management wants to establish the Web Application Proxy to enable access to internal applications for partner companies. The requirements are to build only access to the specific internal resources and to create for administrators to remotely manage servers in the internal network for security purposes. The developers work on the modification of the internal applications to use claims-based authentication while the admin uses the initial deployment as a proof of concept. Since the external users try to use the apps, building security is essential for the project.

Importing AdatumCA certificate

The external users cannot just access to internal applications. They need to have the certificate to grant access from the Web Application Proxy. The AdatumCA certificate is imported into the Trusted Root Certification Authorities so that it can enable access to trust the certificates by the Adatum Certification Authority. Also, the client is removed from the group so that the administrators could test the proxy.

The preauthentication method

There are two types of preauthentication in the Web Application Proxy: AD FS preauthentication and Pass-through preauthentication. The AD FS preauthentication uses AD FS for claims-based authentication, whereas Pass-through preauthentication is the web application that is configured for authentication to give access to the users. Even though the AD FS preauthentication has more benefits upon the security, the lab guided to choose the Pass-through preauthentication, which allows all requests are forwarded to the backend server. Since the option is selected, the authentication grants from the Windows Authentication rather than Anonymous Authentication.

Remote Desktop Services

The Remote Desktop Services option is for the administrators to access the servers in the internal servers. There are different options in the Remote Desktop Services: Remote Desktop Connection Broker, Remote Desktop Gateway, Remote Desktop Licensing, Remote Desktop Session Host, Remote Desktop Virtualization Host, and Remote Desktop Web Access. In the lab, the Remote Desktop Gateway is the one to use for the admins because it enables the only authorized users to connect to the virtual desktops and programs over the Internet. The RD Gateway could provide better security when the admins connect to any server in the internal network.

Validating the Web Application Proxy Deployment

There are two things to prove in the lab. One is to verify access to the internal website from the client computer; the other is to conform to the internal RD Gateway server from LON-DC1, which is the domain controller in the company. If connecting to IIS webpage for LON-SVR1 is allowed, then the Web Application Proxy is appropriately deployed. For the RD connection, the setting always should be at Warn me in real life, but it was set to don't warn me in the lab for testing purposes.

