Security and Privacy

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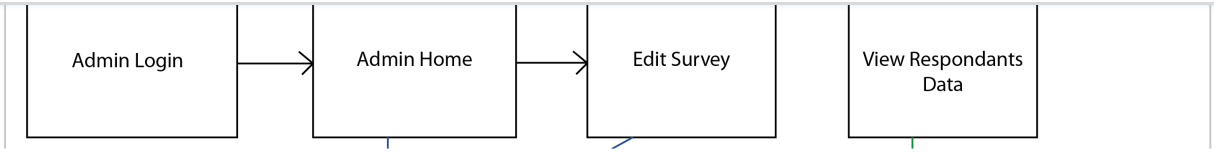
Anonymity and Privacy

QMethod does not explicitly store respondent data in a format which enables individual survey participants to be identified. All user data is referenced by completely computer generated tags consisting of unique randomised strings (UUIDs) which are not tied to the user's responses. By referencing this unique random identifier, participants can request their data to be removed from the pool of respondents without compromising anonymity.

Authentication of the Administrator Interface



A basic overview of the structure of QMethod

The administrator private layer of the application is secured (*WIP) by OAuth1.0 authentication, allowing for administrators to authenticate via an API without exposing service provider credentials. This ensures that unauthorised agents are not at any point able to hook into our private RESTful API methods to maliciously pull, update or delete data from the remote database which holds all the respondent data for surveys.

Database Security

Whilst this is partially left up to the discretion of the user, we recommend the utilisation of Mongo Atlas for your remote MongoDB database provider.

Mongo Atlas' access control, or authentication of username and password data uses a SCRAM-SHA-1 authentication mechanism, following IETF standards (RFC 5802), allowing for varying levels of access control, from administrators to read-only access.

This ensures that user and password data for driver access to your remote Mongo Atlas hosted MongoDB database cannot be easily spoofed.

with a remote Mongo Atlas installation occurs over a TLS secured protocol, which ensures encryption during transport, protecting sensitive respondent data.

In layman's terms, this ensures that recipient data even if intercepted is unreadable to outside agents, whether a security breech occurs during the transport of sensitive data between our QMethod application and the remote database service, or if the database itself is penetrated.

Mongo Atlas also has strict IP Whitelisting. If you opt to use a free or paid static IP service for your web application such as QuotaGuard, you can choose to whitelist the static IP address for further enhanced security.

Furthermore, as a paid service Mongo Atlas supports Enterprise level security options and backups, allowing users to manage their own encryption keys.

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