CSCI 3800 – Spring 2016

Assignment #3 – OAuth

Some reasons why should not pass the access token in the main flow:

• It's a ietf.org specification

Don't pass bearer tokens in page URLs: Bearer tokens SHOULD NOT be passed in page URLs (for example as query string parameters). Instead, bearer tokens SHOULD be passed in HTTP message headers or message bodies for which confidentiality measures are taken. Browsers, web servers, and other software may not adequately secure URLs in the browser history, web server logs, and other data structures. If bearer tokens are passed in page URLs, attackers might be able to steal them from the history data, logs, or other unsecured locations. For example, the client makes the following HTTP request using transport-layer security: POST /resource HTTP/1.1 Host: server.example.com Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded access token=vF9dft4qmT The "application/x-www-form-urlencoded" method SHOULD NOT be used except in application contexts where participating browsers do not have access to the "Authorization" request header field. Resource servers MAY support this method.

 If bearer tokens are passed in page URLs, attackers might be able to steal them from the history data, logs, or other unsecured locations

Links:

https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/an-introduction-to-oauth-2 http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-oauth-v2-bearer-1

Authorization Code Flow

