



OAuth with PeeringDB For Network Operators

UKNOF45, London, UK.

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<https://www.inex.ie/>





INEX

- Peering point for the island of Ireland, member owned association, not for profit, founded in 1996
- ~100 members
- Peak of ~400Gbps
- Dual infrastructure, 8 PoPs, own dark fibre
- Opened INEX Cork in 2016
- Home of IXP Manager

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[RETURN TO STORE](#)

An open protocol to allow
secure authorization in a
simple and standard method
from web, mobile and
desktop applications.

– OAuth 2.0 *Definition*

Why is this relevant for network operators?

OAuth 2.0 Roles

- The **resource owner** is the *end-user* (for us at least).
- The **client** is the *third party application* looking for access to the *user's account*.
- The **authorization server** is that which presents the interface for the *user* to approve / deny access to the *client*.
- The **resource server** is the API server used to access the *user's information* (*often the same as the authorization server*).

OAuth 2.0 - IDs, Secrets and URLs



PeeringDB

Search here for a network, IX, or facility.

[Advanced Search](#)

Register a new application

Name
INEX IXP Manager

Client id
dha3G0j8SIJZOxiVN21i

Client secret
mqqPx5kdVbUjxsd3a6x

Client type
Confidential

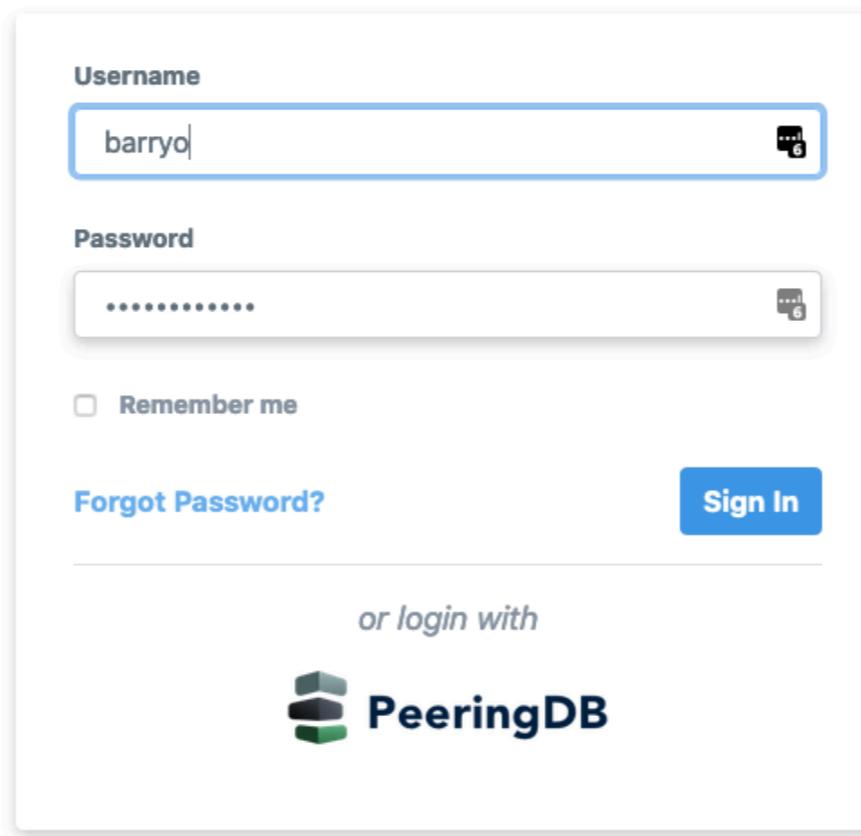
Authorization grant type
Authorization code

Redirect uris
`https://www.inex.ie/ixp/auth/login/peeringdb/callback`

[Go Back](#)

Example OAuth Process

Let's look at IXP Manager with PeeringDB.



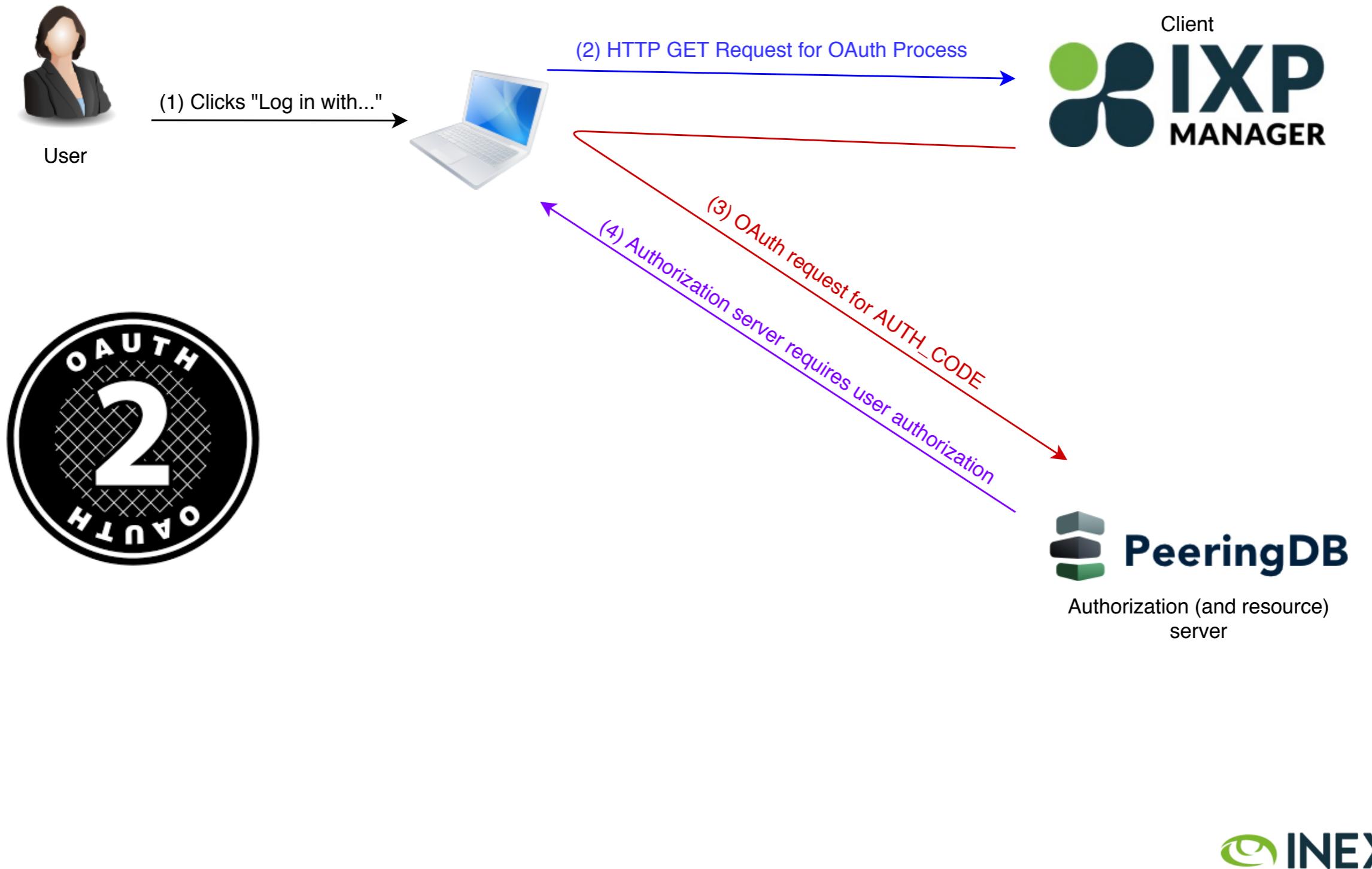
What happens if we click on *Login with PeeringDB*?

Example OAuth Process

User clicks on *Login with PeeringDB* [1]:

1. HTTP GET request to *client* [2]: /auth/login/peeringdb
2. Returns a HTTP redirect response to send the *user* to [3]:

```
https://auth.peeringdb.com/oauth2/authorize/  
?response_type=code  
&client_id=CLIENT_ID  
&redirect_uri=REDIRECT_URI  
&scope=profile+email+networks  
&state=1234zyx
```



Example OAuth Process

The screenshot shows the PeeringDB website interface. At the top left is the PeeringDB logo. To its right is a search bar with the placeholder "Search here for a network, IX, or facility." Below the search bar is a link to "Advanced Search". On the far right, there is a user profile icon labeled "barryo" and a green menu icon. The main content area has a light gray background. In the center, the text "Authorize INEX IXP Manager?" is displayed in a dark blue font. Below this, the text "Application requires following permissions" is shown. A bulleted list follows, detailing the required permissions: "user profile", "email address", and "list of user networks and permissions". At the bottom left is a "Cancel" button, and at the bottom right is a green "Authorize" button.

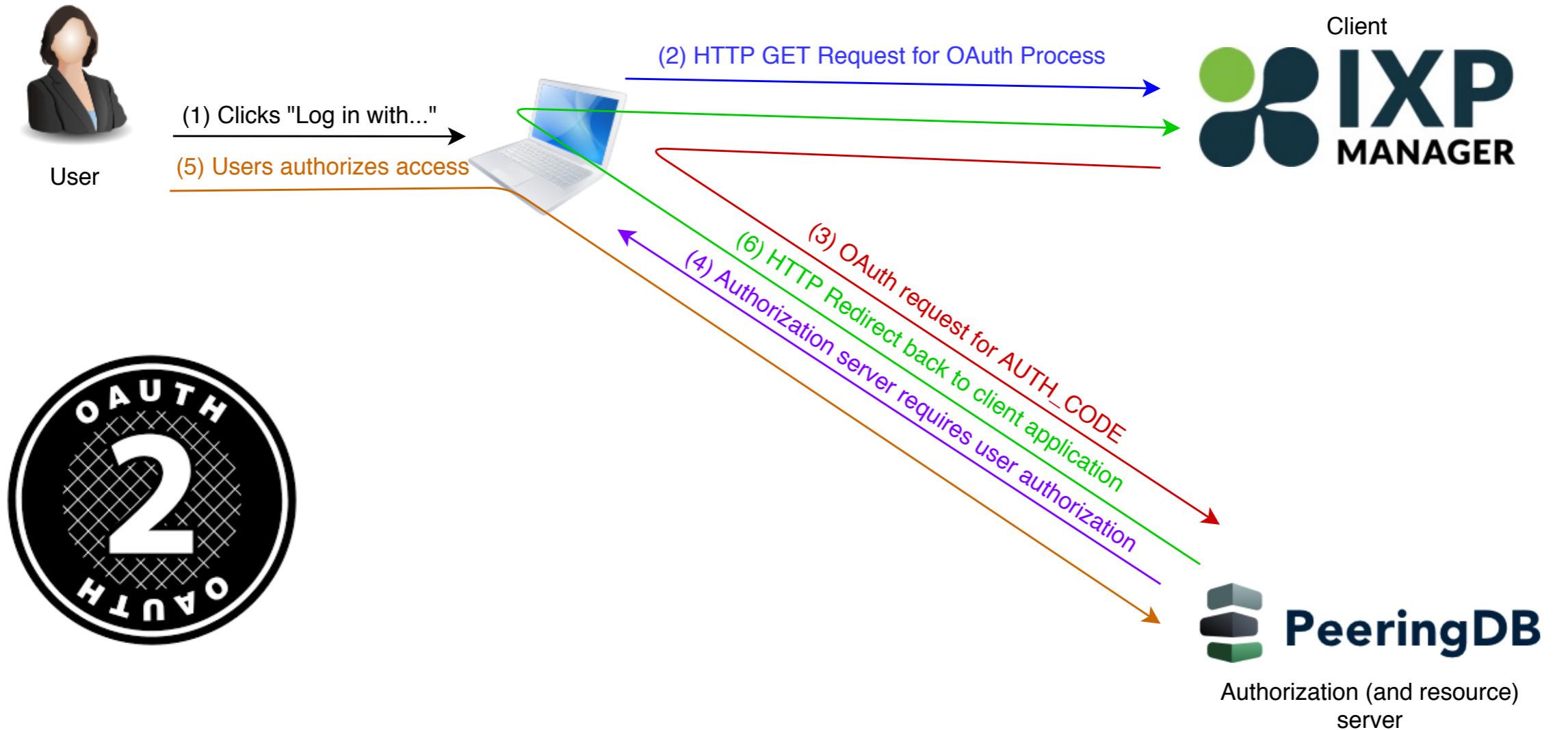
Asked to authorize **INEX's IXP Manager** [4].
(And note the requested scopes)

Example OAuth Process

If the *user* clicks authorize [5], the authorization service redirects back via the (verified) redirect URL [6] with an authorization code:

```
https://www.someix-ixpmanager/auth/login/peeringdb/callback  
    ?code=AUTH_CODE  
    &state=1234zyx
```

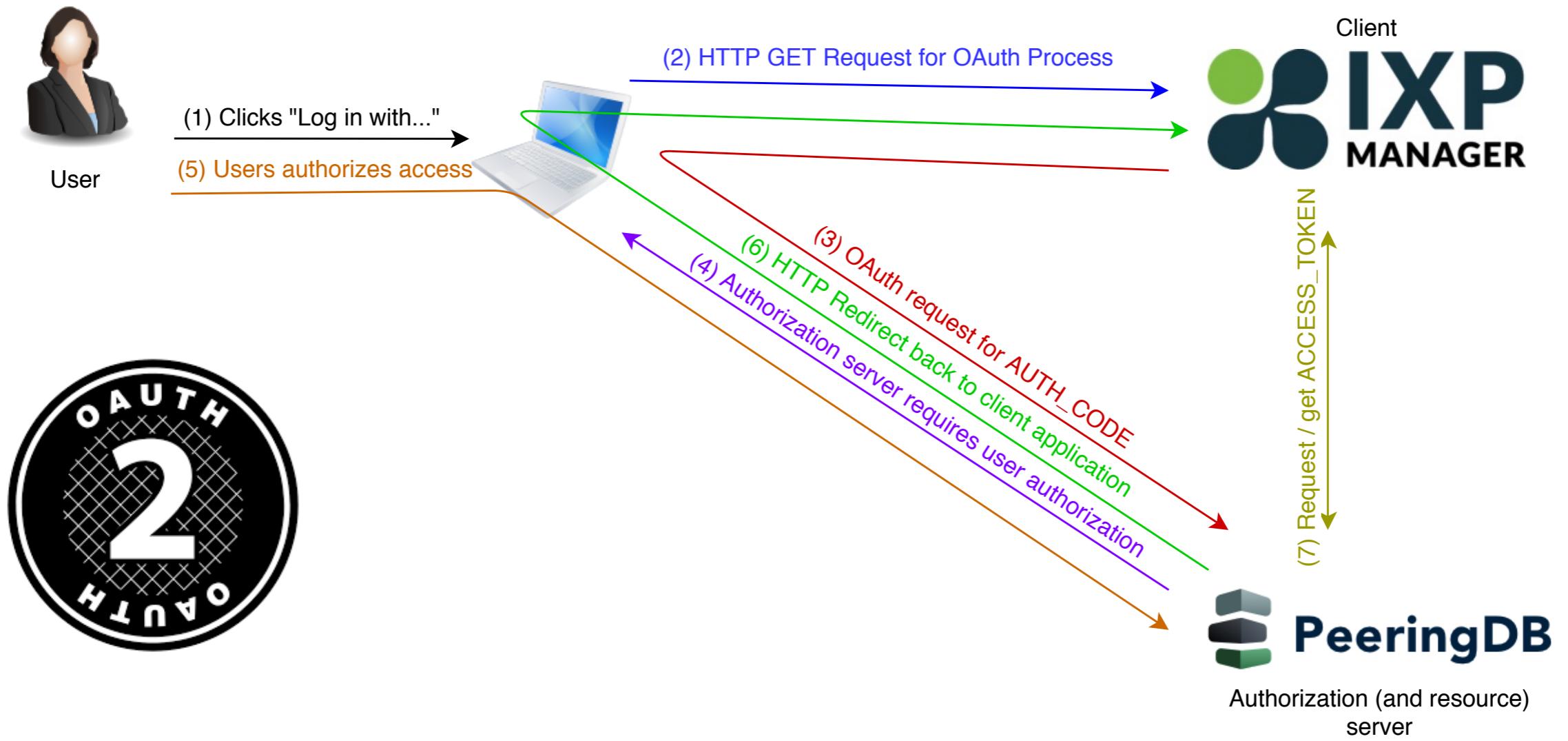
Note that (a) use of TLS mandatory; (b) redirect URL must match what was registered for the *client*; and (c) client must compare received state to what was sent.



Example OAuth Process

In the background, the *client* now uses the `code=AUTH_CODE` received to get an access token via a POST request to the *authorization server* [7].

```
https://auth.peerdb.com/oauth2/token/  
    ?grant_type=authorization_code  
    &code=AUTH_CODE  
    &redirect_uri=REDIRECT_URI  
    &client_id=CLIENT_ID  
    &client_secret=CLIENT_SECRET
```



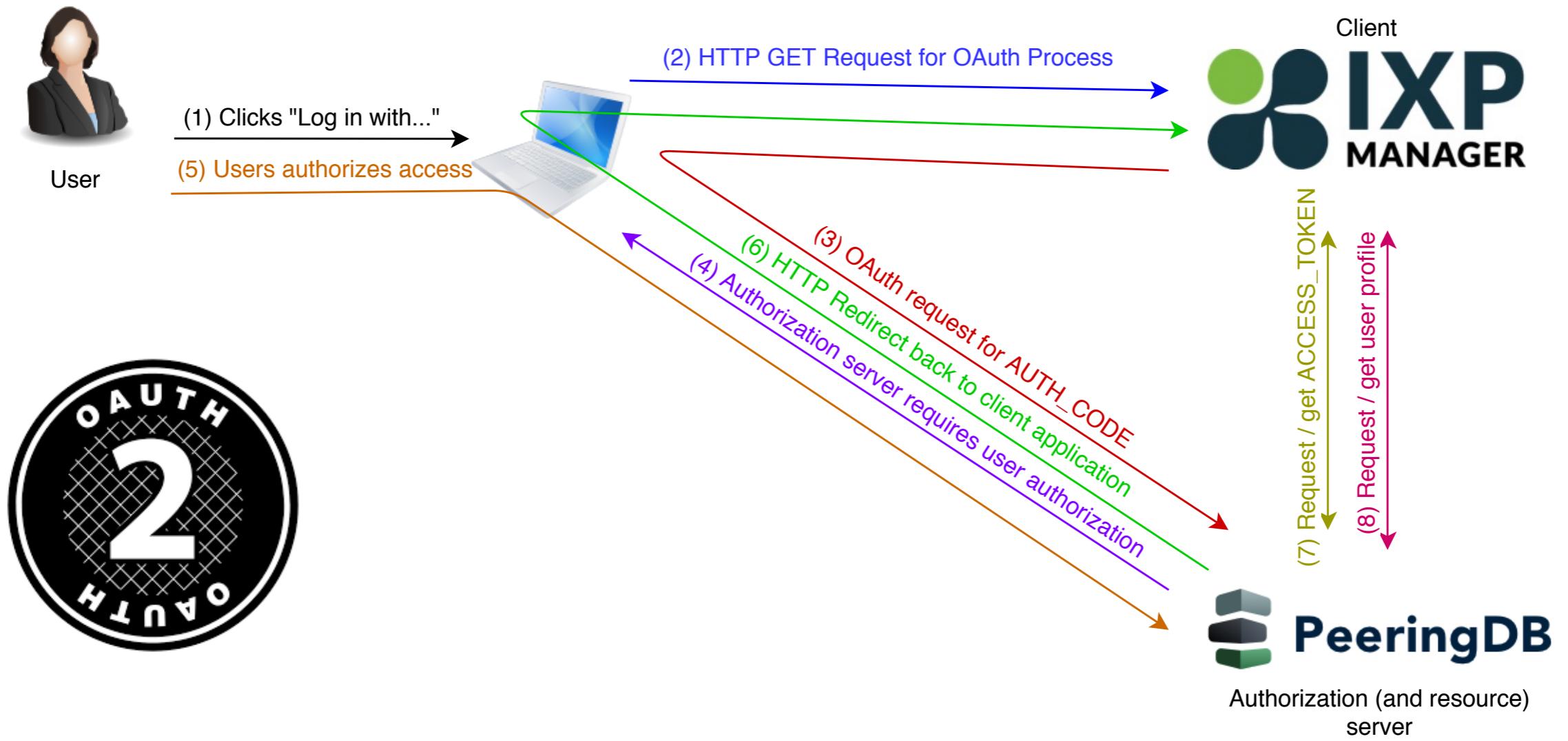
Example OAuth Process

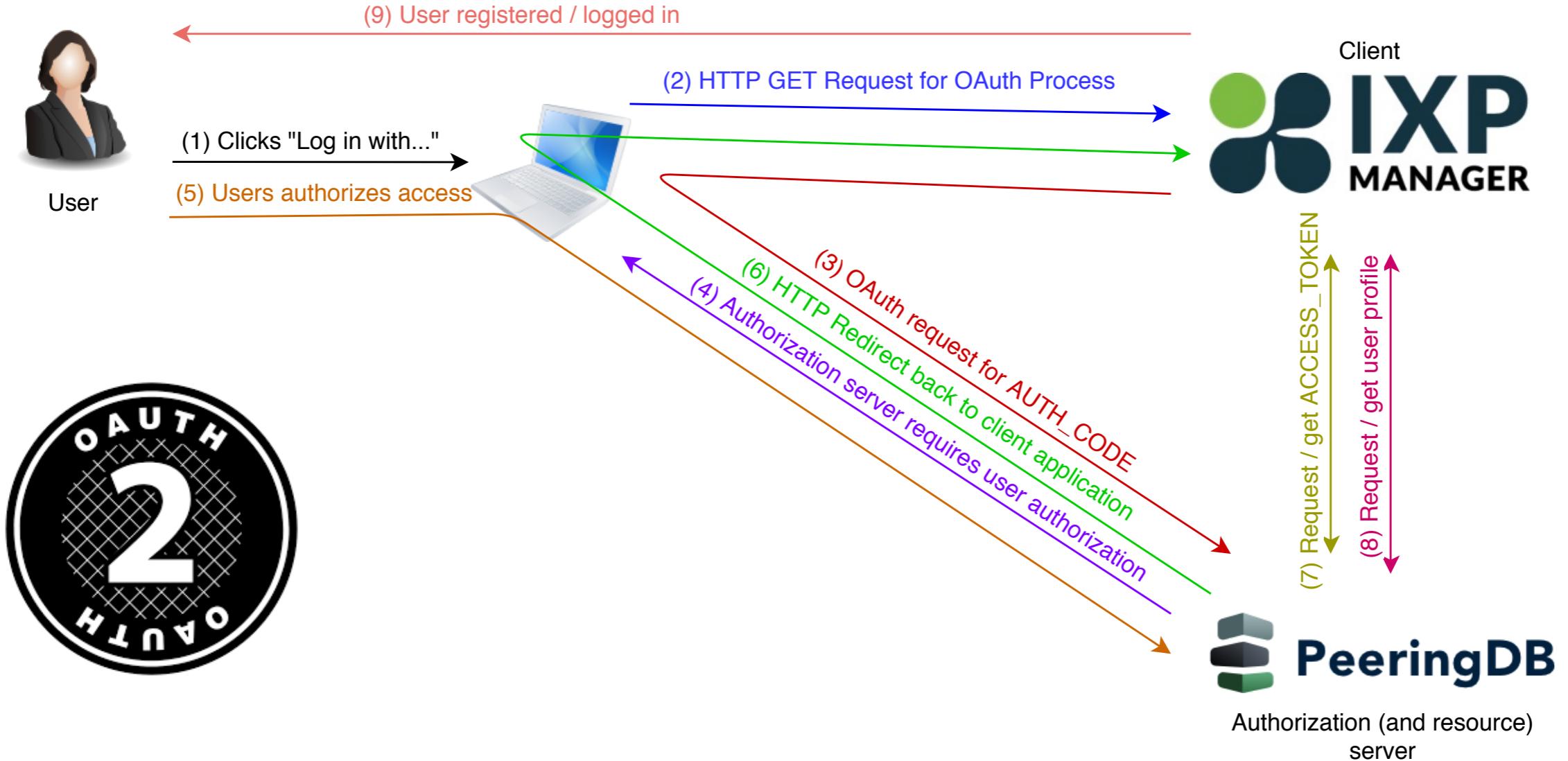
Once the *client* has an *access token*, it can request *user* information with the *scope(s)* that it has been authorized for via HTTP GET [8].

`https://auth.peerdb.com/profile/v1`

HTTP Headers:

`Authorization: Bearer ACCESS_TOKEN`





Example OAuth Process

Remember, from a *user* perspective, this is usually two clicks.

1. Click *Login with PeeringDB* [1]

- browser gets redirected to PeeringDB asking for *user* permission [2,3,4].

2. Grant permission [5]

- browser gets redirected back to client from authorization server [6]
- client receives AUTH_CODE which is exchanged for an ACCESS_TOKEN [6,7]
- client uses ACCESS_TOKEN to get user information [8]
- client creates and/or logs user in

3. User logged into client application. [9]

Sample User Profile from PeeringDB

```
{  
    "id": 999,  
    "name": "Barry O'Donovan",  
    "given_name": "Barry",  
    "family_name": "O'Donovan",  
    "email": "barry.odonovan@inex.ie",  
    "verified_user": true,  
    "verified_email": true,  
    "networks": [  
        {  
            "perms": 15, "asn": 65500, "name": "Acme Net", "id": 999  
        }, {  
            "perms": 15, "asn": 65501, "name": "Example Net", "id": 998  
        }  
    ]  
}
```

IXP Manager Verification (1/2)

How does IXP Manager validate & use user detail from PeeringDB?

- data structure okay (user details present, network(s) present)?
- user has `verified_user` and `verified_email` with PeeringDB?
- at least one of the networks are IX members?
- load (by PeeringDB ID) or create user object in IXP Manager
- created user is a read-only user by default

IXP Manager Verification (2/2)

- remove any user/network associations in IXP Manager that previously came from PeeringDB but are no longer present in the new PeeringDB network list
- add any new user/network associations (only if a *normal peering network* that is current, connected and hasn't requested PeeringDB OAuth be disabled for them)

Then either:

- if no user/network associations at end of process, delete user;
- otherwise log user in.

Do We Trust PeeringDB?

So Do We Trust PeeringDB?

This is a reasonably small industry where the significant human actors are well known to many of us.

So yes, we trust PeeringDB 😊

(evaluate your own security/threat model!)

What Are the Risks?

1. OAuth protocol is well understood, widely used and proven.
2. IXP Manager and PeeringDB use well established libraries for OAuth server / client.
3. Implementation issues?

What's the Exposure

To my mind, not a lot:

- Port details, IP addressing, NOC details (available via IX-F Export, PeeringDB, IX website)
- Traffic graphs, peer to peer graphs
- Again, read-only access by default
- Again, absolutely no superadmin access via OAuth

INEX's Experience with PeeringDB OAuth

- Launched August 29th, 2019
- 26 new users created in first two months:
 - 19 via PeeringDB, 2 by member admins, 5 by ops team
 - i.e. 73% of new users required no other actor
- Feedback has been 100% positive
 - no member has requested an opt-out
- Found issue with mailing list subscriptions.

IXP Manager Support

- Released in IXP Manager v5.2.0 on September 20th
- Enabling PeeringDB OAuth is really easy¹:
 1. Register your IXP Manager instance as an [OAuth application on PeeringDB](#).
 2. Add configuration elements to .env:

```
AUTH_PEERINGDB_ENABLED=true  
PEERINGDB_OAUTH_CLIENT_ID="xxx"  
PEERINGDB_OAUTH_CLIENT_SECRET="xxx"
```

¹ <https://docs.ixpmanager.org/features/peeringdb-oauth/>

References

- IXP Manager PeeringDB OAuth Documentation
- PeeringDB OAuth 2.0 Documentation
- OAuth 2.0 Community Site
- rfc6749, rfc6750, rfc6819
- OAuth 2 Simplified - excellent blog post.
- Laravel Socialite and Laravel Passport (via oauth2-server)
- Python Django Oauth Toolkit (via OAuthLib)

Thank You!

@ComePeerWithMe - @barryo79

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