Adopting OAuth 2.0 for First-Party Applications

Building the Authentication Layer

Janak Amarasena wso2

The Authentication Layer

- Handling authentication in an API centric manner
- Being able to handle multiple authentication options
 - Ex: Passkeys, Email OTP, Magic links, Social Login, etc.
- Preferably having a generic way
 - Allowing apps to handle different authentication options easily

The Authentication API

An interactive API that can handle user authentication in an API centric manner

Expectations:

- Describe what data is needed to proceed with user authentication
- Provide info for the app to build the UI representations

A passkey sample;

```
Initial OAuth Authorization request
Response
 "error": "insufficient authorization",
 "auth session": "cff110f9-d997-4b2f-abf2-a8bd61ba1061",
 "nextStep": {
   "stepType": "AUTHENTICATOR PROMPT",
   "authenticators": [
       "authenticatorId": "RklET0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw",
       "authenticator": "Passkey",
       "idp": "LOCAL",
       "metadata": {
         "i18nKey": "authenticator.Fido",
         "promptType": "INTERNAL PROMPT",
         "additionalData": {
            "challengeData": "eyJyZXF1ZXN0SWQiOiJoZVRORE1CbHFWMD..."
       "requiredParams": [
         "tokenResponse"
```

```
Second request with auth data

{
    "auth_session": "cff110f9-d997-4b2f-abf2-a8bd61ba1061 ",
    "selectedAuthenticator": {
        "authenticatorId": "RklET0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw ",
        "params": {
            "tokenResponse": "eyJyZXF1ZXN0SWQiOiJTV2NEZmpCcEZMOXdzc2Yx..."
        }
    }
}
```

Success response with authorization code

Generalizing the Authentication Requirements

- A generic api able to handle any authentication mechanism
- Describe what data is needed to proceed with user authentication
- Provide info for the app to build the UI representations

Generalized representation (Passkey and Email OTP)

Passkey

```
"authenticators": [
    "authenticatorId": "RklET0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw",
   "authenticator": "Passkey",
    "idp": "LOCAL",
   "metadata": {
     "i18nKey": "authenticator.Fido",
     "promptType": "INTERNAL PROMPT",
     "additionalData": {
        "challengeData": "eyJyZXF1ZXN0SWQiOiJoZVRORE1CbHFWMD..."
    "requiredParams": [
      "tokenResponse"
```

challengeData is base64 encoded json data containing the challenge. Base64 encoding is done as a workaround to maintain the generic API contract.

Email OTP

```
"authenticators": [
     "authenticatorId":
"ZW1haWwtb3RwLWF1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw" ,
     "authenticator": "Email OTP",
     "idp": "LOCAL",
     "metadata": {
       "i18nKey": "authenticator.email.otp",
       "promptType": "USER PROMPT",
       "params": [
            "param": "otp",
            "type": "STRING",
            "order": 1,
            "i18nKey": "otp.param",
            "displayName": "OTP",
            "confidential": true
      "requiredParams": [
        "otp"
```

Submitting the data;

application/json

```
"auth_session": "6e6880d8-0e9d-45a6-bc4f-6efd048957c4" ,

"selectedAuthenticator": {
    "authenticatorId": "RklET0F1dGh1bnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw" ,
    "params": {
        "tokenResponse": "eyJyZXF1ZXN0SWQiOiJTV2NEZmpCcEZMO..."
    }
}
```

application/x-www-form-urlencoded

```
auth_session = 6e6880d8-0e9d-45a6-bc4f-6efd048957c4 &
authenticatorId = RklET0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw &
params.tokenResponse = eyJyZXF1ZXN0SWQiOiJTV2NEZmpCcEZMO...
```

Generalizing the Authentication Requirements cont.

The app would need to handle any authenticator in one of three ways

- Obtain user input (ex: Email OTP)
 - API response contained metadata to obtain user input
- Perform a redirection (ex: Federated login)
 - API response contains a constructed URL the app could directly use
- Interact with the device platform (ex: Passkeys: Call platform credential APIs)
 - API response contains data the app needs to use for the system call

Handling Federated Login

- Redirect to the federated Identity Provider (redirect mode)
 - Callback to the application
 - Send the code and state to the server.
- Leveraging platform SDKs for better UX (native mode)
 - App handles the complete authentication
 - Shares id_token with the server
 - Security considerations
 - Trusting the assertion sent from the app
 - Signature validation
 - Audience validation
 - Nonce check
 - If nonce isn't supported, the server can use iat and accept the assertion only briefly after issuance

Redirect mode and native mode;

```
Redirect mode
 "authenticatorId": "R29vZ2xlT0lEQ0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6R29vZ2xl",
 "authenticator": "Google",
 "idp": "Google",
 "metadata": {
   "i18nKey": "authenticator.google",
   "promptType": "REDIRECTION PROMPT",
   "additionalData": {
     "state": "465551eb-81aa-40ee-bdae-c11fa5c5f18b",
     "redirectUrl":
"https://accounts.google.com/o/oauth2/auth..."
 "requiredParams": [
   "code",
   "state"
```

Using state to correlate the callback to the app

Native mode

```
"authenticatorId": "R29vZ2xlT01EQ0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6R29vZ2xl ",
"authenticator": "Google",
"idp": "Google",
"metadata": {
 "i18nKey": "authenticator.google",
 "promptType": "INTERNAL PROMPT",
 "additionalData": {
   "clientId": "2242226c3b0ahu68kg7...",
   "nonce": "880dc83b-97b1-4793-9bc6-af05a1f54240",
   "scope": "openid email profile"
"requiredParams": [
 "idToken"
```

Dealing with Multiple Authentication Options

Letting the app know there are multiple authentication options available for the user

```
stepType -> MULTI OPTIONS PROMPT | AUTHENTICATOR PROMPT
"nextStep": {
   "stepType": "MULTI OPTIONS PROMPT",
   "authenticators": [
        "authenticatorId": "RklETOF1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw",
        "authenticator": "Passkey",
        "idp": "LOCAL",
        "metadata": {
          "i18nKey": "authenticator.Fido"
        "authenticatorId":
"ZW1haWwtb3RwLWF1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw" ,
        "authenticator": "Email OTP",
       "idp": "LOCAL",
        "metadata": {
          "i18nKey": "authenticator.email.otp"
```

```
Submitting the selection

{
   "authSession": "6e6880d8-0e9d-45a6-bc4f-6efd048957c4" ,
   "selectedAuthenticator": {
     "authenticatorId": "RklET0FldGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw"
   }
}
```

Supporting Localization

- i18n keys for everything to be displayed in the UI
- Providing majority used language by default (in our case English)
- Providing context data to be used by the UI

```
"authenticatorId":
"ZW1haWwtb3RwLWF1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw" ,
 "authenticator": "Email OTP",
 "idp": "LOCAL",
 "metadata":
   "i18nKey": "authenticator.email.otp",
   "promptType": "USER PROMPT",
   "params":
        "param": "otp",
        "type": "STRING",
        "order": 1,
        "i18nKey": "otp.param",
        "displayName": "OTP",
```

Endpoint Discovery

Allowing links to be discoverable

```
"links": [
   "rel": "self",
   "href": "https://abc.com/authorize-challenge" ,
    "method": "POST"
   "rel": "sign-up",
   "href": "https://abc.com/sign-up",
    "method": "POST"
    "rel": "auth-enroll",
    "href": "https://abc.com/auth-enroll" ,
    "method": "POST"
```

Why We Would Need a Complex API

- Need to handle the complexities at some level
 - o Let the app deal with this?
 - Provide documentation and let the apps write the full logic
 - Too much burden on the apps
 - SDKs?
 - Replicate the logic over many platforms
 - o API?
 - Absorb the complexities centrally
 - Less burden on the app
 - Maintains consistency globally
- SDKs are definitely needed, but as a thin layer to wrap the API
- SDKs/Apps built at the granular level of the API is able to handle dynamic changes to the login flow

Get Developer Feedback Early On

- Write a app capturing different authentication options while designing the authentication layer
 - Getting early feedback helped us a lot
 - A nice API might not always be easy to implement for the app
 - Multiple iterations of the Authentication API

Login Experience with the Authentication API

- Authentication flow integrated to an Android native application
- Demo flows:
 - Basic Authentication + TOTP
 - Sign in with Google (using platform SDK)
 - Passkey
- Login experience: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLfmBAF5iBA

OAuth 2.0 for FiPA Example

- MFA with Passkey + Email OTP
 - (Refer next pages)

Flow with Passkey + Email OTP

Request #1: Initiation

```
POST /authorize-challenge HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
client_id=XWRkRNkJDeTiR5MwHdXROGiJka&
login_hint=johnd@abc.com
```

Response

```
HTTP/1.1 403 Forbidden
Content-Type: application/json
  "error": "insufficient authorization",
  "auth session": "cf06ae73-9158-4d14-86fb-0bbfabcb0d45",
  "nextStep": {
    "stepType": "AUTHENTICATOR PROMPT",
    "authenticators": [
        "authenticatorId": "RklET0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw",
        "authenticator": "Passkey",
        "idp": "LOCAL",
        "metadata": {
                                                                  challengeData is
          "i18nKey": "authenticator.Fido",
                                                                  base64 encoded
          "promptType": "INTERNAL PROMPT",
                                                                     ison data
          "additionalData": {
            "challengeData":
```

"eyJytSWmFWemdCSDNFU09uZkRDWUcwZlh5dXo1eVZuRURKdUdkaHZfZDU4IiwicHViJlZGVudGlhbFJlcXVlc3RPcHR7ImNoYWxsZW5nZSI6Ikx4MFRGLWYtanlrZGlSdEdaTVdCemw0VUZObi1sYlAxVUxYelVYazRlbGciLCJycElkIjoibG9jYWxob3N0IiwiZXh0Z..."

```
}
},
"requiredParams": [
    "tokenResponse"
]
}
```

Request #2: Passkey authentication data submission

```
POST /authorize-challenge HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/json
  "auth session": "cf06ae73-9158-4d14-86fb-0bbfabcb0d45",
                                                                tokenResponse
  "selectedAuthenticator": {
                                                                  is base64
    "authenticatorId": "RklET0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw",
                                                                 encoded json
                                                                    data
    "params": {
      "tokenResponse":
"eyJyZXF1ZXN0SWQiOiJTV2NEZmpCcEZMOXdzc2YxYk92WnFwS0VtZVM4SXBocWJnb3Bm
ZXV6SEVBIiwiY3J1ZGVudGlhbCI6eyJpZCI6IlFwX05WeDluS1pvLUJpRVNyZV9rMGFzT
mVBRSIsInJlc3BvbnNlIjp7ImF1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3JEYXRhIjoiU1pZTjVZZ09qR2gwTk
JjUFpIWmdXNF9rcnJtaWhqTEhtVnp6dW9NZGwyTWRBQUFBQ..."
}
```

Response

```
"authenticator": "Email OTP",
      "idp": "LOCAL",
      "metadata": {
        "i18nKey": "authenticator.email.otp",
        "promptType": "USER PROMPT",
        "params": [
          {
            "param": "otp",
            "type": "STRING",
            "order": 1,
            "i18nKey": "otp.param",
            "displayName": "OTP",
            "confidential": true
        ]
      },
      "requiredParams": [
        "otp"
      1
    }
"messages": [
 {
    "type": "INFO",
    "messageId": "msg email otp sent",
    "message": "OTP sent to joh****@abc.com",
    "i18nKey": "message.msg email otp sent",
    "context": [
      {
        "key": "email",
        "value": "joh****@abc.com"
    ]
"links": [
  {
    "rel": "self",
    "href": "https://server.example.com/authorize-challenge",
    "method": "POST"
]
```

}

Request #3: OTP submission

```
POST /authorize-challenge HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/json

{
    "auth_session": "cf06ae73-9158-4d14-86fb-0bbfabcb0d45",
    "selectedAuthenticator": {
        "authenticatorId": "RklET0F1dGhlbnRpY2F0b3I6TE9DQUw",
        "params": {
            "otp": "D98AQF"
        }
    }
}
```

Response

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
{
    "authorization_code": "5f1b2c2a-1436-35a5-b8e4-942277313287"
}
```