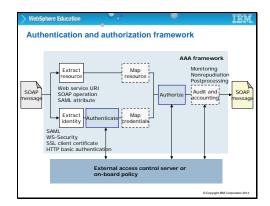




Authentication, authorization, and auditing

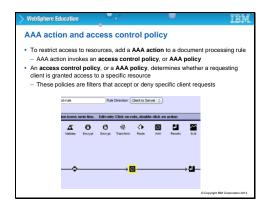
In the DataPower appliance, AAA represents three security processes: authentication, authorization, and auditing.

Authentication verifies the identity of the request sender. Authorization determines whether the client has access to the requested resource. Auditing keeps records of any attempts to access resources.



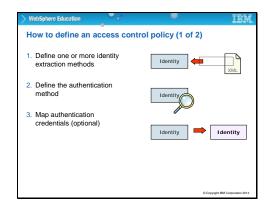
Authentication and authorization framework

This diagram shows the high-level flow of a message through the Triple-A process. First, extract the credentials from the incoming message. These credentials are authenticated against an internal or external list. Next, extract the resources that are trying to be accessed. Then, check authorization by comparing the authenticated user credentials against the resources again by consulting an internal or external list. At each of these stages, some transformation of the credentials or resources might take place to satisfy the needs of the destination system. Finally, opt to maintain an audit trail of what happened, which is the third A in the acronym. Also, do some post-processing before sending the message out. The processing can include transformation, encryption, digital signatures, and other forms of message manipulation.



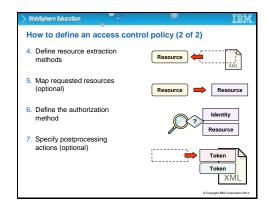
AAA action and access control policy

The usual way of implementing a Triple-A policy is to use a Triple-A action on a rule. By double-clicking the Triple-A icon, you can set all the parameters that it needs. The next few slides go through those parameters.



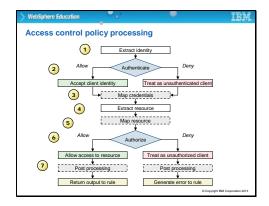
How to define an access control policy (1 of 2)

Here is the first part of how to define an access control policy. First, define one or more identity extraction methods – look as some of the choices on a subsequent slide. Next, define the used authentication methods, and then optionally map the authentication credentials.



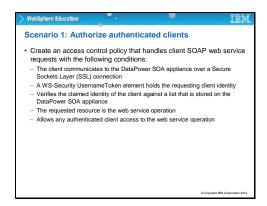
How to define an access control policy (2 of 2)

Continuing from the previous slide, define the resource extraction used methods; then optionally map the requested resources. Next, define the authorization method that is used, and finally specify any post-processing actions, if any.



Access control policy processing

This diagram shows the decisions that are made during normal Triple-A processing. First, decide whether the user is valid. If not, you might choose to reject the message, or assign the authentication to a guest user account. Next, check the authorization of the account, which might lead to a valid or invalid outcome. If it is valid, proceed to post-processing and send the message out intact. If it is invalid, optionally do some error processing, and terminate processing the message.



Scenario 1: Authorize authenticated clients

Now look at some typical triple-A scenarios. For first one, create an access control policy that handles client SOAP web service requests with the following conditions: The client communicates to the DataPower SOA appliance over a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) connection.

A WS-Security UsernameToken element holds the requesting client identity. Verify the claimed identity of the client against a list that is stored on the DataPower SOA appliance.

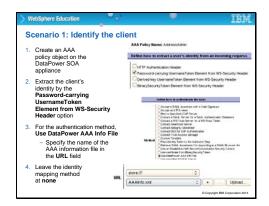
The requested resource is the web service operation.

The policy allows any authenticated client access to the web service operation.



Scenario 1: Sample SOAP request message

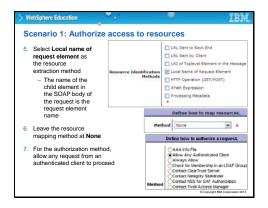
The example shows a simple Web Services Security header with a name and password in clear text. Because of clear text, it is important that the protocol is HTTPS to ensure that the sensitive data is encrypted.



Scenario 1: Identify the client

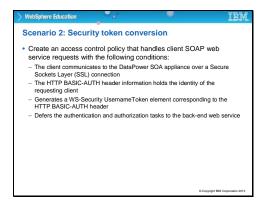
Here is how to identify the client. Create a AAA policy object in the policy rule to extract the clients identity by using the Password-carrying UsernameToken Element from the WS-Security Header.

For the authentication method, use an internally stored AAA Info File. Specify the name of the AAA information file in the URL field, and leave the identity mapping method set at "none".



Scenario 1: Authorize access to resources

Next, authorize access to resources. Authorization is done by selecting the Local name of the request element as the resource extraction method. The name of the child element in the SOAP body of the request is the request element name. Leave the resource mapping method at None; then, for the authorization method. Allow any request from an authenticated client to proceed.



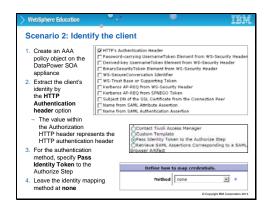
Scenario 2: Security token conversion

For the second scenario, look at doing a security token conversion. Create an access control policy that handles client SOAP web service requests with the following conditions. The client communicates to the DataPower SOA appliance over a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) connection, sending an HTTP document with a BASIC-AUTH header that contains the identity of the requesting client. Generate a WS-Security UsernameToken element corresponding to the HTTP BASIC-AUTH header, and defer the authentication and authorization tasks to the back-end web service.



Scenario 2: Sample HTTP request message

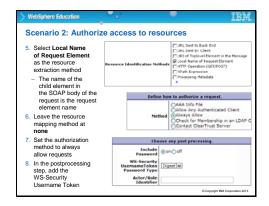
In this example, a Basic-Auth header contains a tokenized version of the user identity. Because it is encrypted, it does not require use of an encryption protocol in this case.



Scenario 2: Identify the client

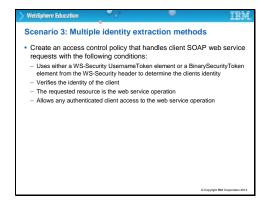
To implement this scenario, first identify the client. Start by creating a AAA policy object in a policy rule that extracts the clients identity by using the HTTPs Authentication header option.

The value within the Authorization HTTP header represents the HTTP authentication header. For the authentication method, specify Pass Identity Token to the Authorize Step, and leave the identity mapping method at none.



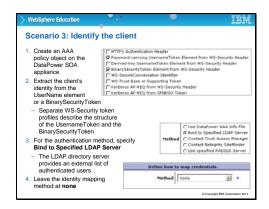
Scenario 2: Authorize access to resources

To authorize access to the resources, select Local name of request element as the resource extraction method that uses the name of the child element in the SOAP body as the request element name. Leave the resource mapping method at none and set the authorization method to Always Allow requests. In the post processing step, choose "Add WS-Security Username Token".



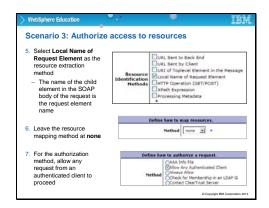
Scenario 3: Multiple identity extraction methods

In the third scenario, multiple identity extraction methods are shown. First, create an access control policy that handles client SOAP web service requests with the following conditions. It uses either a WS-Security UsernameToken element or a BinarySecurityToken element from the WS-Security header to determine the clients identity. Regardless of which it is, verify the identity of the client. Then, get the name of the requested resource, which is the web service operation, and allow any authenticated client access to that operation.



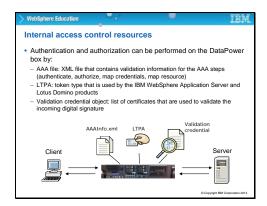
Scenario 3: Identify the client

First, identify the client. As usual, create a AAA action on the policy rule, and extract the clients identity from the UserName element or a BinarySecurityToken. Remember, the identity extraction method choices are presented as check-boxes, allowing one to choose more than one at a time. The example is allowing for separate WS-Security token profiles that describe the structure of the UsernameToken and the BinarySecurityToken. For the authentication method, in this case specify "Bind to Specified LDAP Server" which provides you with an external list of authenticated users. When again, leave the identity mapping method at none.



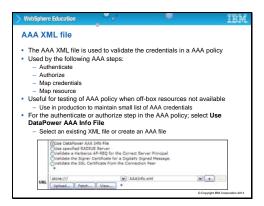
Scenario 3: Authorize access to resources

Now, authorize access to resources by choosing the method of identifying the resource. When again, choose to use the Local name of request element as the resource extraction method. As before, the name of the child element in the SOAP body of the request is the request element name. Continue to leave the resource mapping method at none, and again allow any request from an authenticated client to proceed.



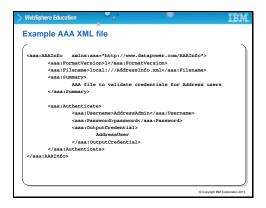
Internal access control resources

You listened to talk about by using internally stored access control mechanisms, and have seen how to use the AAAinfo.xml file. In addition to using that file for authentication and authorization, also use LTPA, which is a Token type that is used by the IBM WebSphere Application Server and Lotus Domino products. And a third internal mechanism is the use of a validation credential object, being a list of certificates that are used to validate the incoming digital signature. These three examples show how authentication can take place within the DataPower box with no necessity to reference external sources. Obviously, the process can be much more efficient than having to contact remote servers.



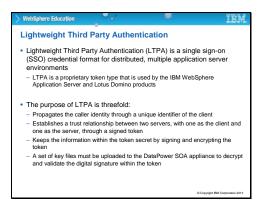
AAA XML file

The AAA XML file is used to validate the credentials in a AAA policy in the following steps - Authenticate, Authorize, Map credentials, and Map resource. It is useful for the testing of a AAA policy when off-box resources are not available. However, its use in production is not suggested unless you are by using it only to maintain small list of AAA credentials. To use the AAAinfo.xml file, in the authenticate or authorize step in the AAA policy, select "Use DataPower AAA Info File" option, then select an existing XML file or create a AAA file. The AAAinfo.xml file is obviously an editable text file, and therefore is easy to maintain if it contains a limited number of entries. Its usefulness, however, is limited to situations where you have few relatively static accounts to maintain. In a production environment, where you might potentially have tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of customers who are creating, modifying, and deleting their account information on an ad hoc basis. It would obviously be impossible to maintain all of this dynamic information in a simple text file of this nature. It is highly suggested that the AAAinfo.xml file is used in a development and test environment.



Example AAA XML file

Here is an example of the AAAinfo.xml file. As you can see, it has a relatively simple structure, and you can easily edit it to include credentials for testing purposes.

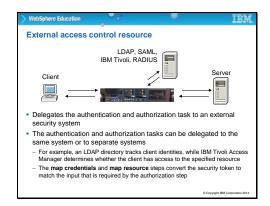


Lightweight Third Party Authentication

You heard LTPA mentioned earlier – it stands for Lightweight Third Party Authentication and is a single sign-on (SSO) credential format for distributed, multiple application server environments.

LTPA is a proprietary token type that is used by the IBM WebSphere Application Server and Lotus Domino products.

The purpose of LTPA is threefold. It propagates the caller identity through a unique identifier of the client. It establishes a trust relationship between two servers, with one as the client and one as the server, through a signed token. And it keeps the information within the token secret by signing and encrypting the token. A set of key files must be uploaded to the DataPower SOA appliance to decrypt and validate the digital signature within the token.

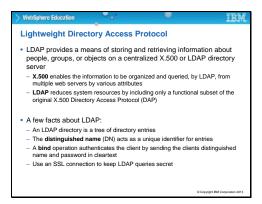


External access control resource

In addition to the three internal methods that are mentioned, you also can use external access control resources.

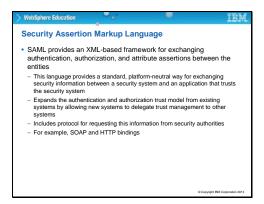
You can delegate the authentication and authorization task to an external security system. And you can choose to use the same service for both the authentication and authorization tasks, or you can split it up and use separate systems for each task. For example, you might use an LDAP directory to track client identities while an IBM Tivoli Access Manager determines whether the client has access to the specified resource. The "map credentials" and "map resource" steps convert the security token to match the input that is required by the authorization step.

DataPower supports various servers, including Tivoli Access Manager, Radius, SPNEGO, LDAP, Microsoft Active Directory, and many others. Since consulting external directories is a relatively time-consuming process, the option exists to cache certain data for rapid access. A more efficient methodology involves the use of tokens. More about token use later.



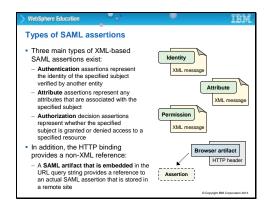
Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol, commonly referred to by its acronym "LDAP", provides a means of storing and retrieving information about people, groups, or objects on a centralized X.500 or LDAP directory server. X.500 enables the information to be organized and queried, by using LDAP, from multiple web servers by using various attributes. LDAP reduces system resources by including only a functional subset of the original X.500 Directory Access Protocol (DAP). A few facts about LDAP – its directory is a tree of directory entries. The distinguished name (DN) acts as a unique identifier for entries. A bind operation authenticates the client by sending the clients distinguished name and password in clear text, so it is advisable to use an SSL connection to keep LDAP queries secret.



Security Assertion Markup Language

Security Assertion Markup Language, or "SAML", provides an XML-based framework for exchanging authentication, authorization, and attribute assertions between entities. It provides a standard, platform-neutral way for exchanging security information between a security system and an application that trusts the security system. It expands the authentication and authorization trust model from existing systems by allowing new systems to delegate trust management to other systems. It also includes a protocol for requesting this information from security authorities, such as SOAP and HTTP bindings.



Types of SAML assertions

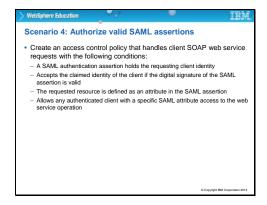
Three main types of XML-based SAML assertions exist:

First, there are authentication assertions that represent the identity of the specified subject that another entity verifies.

Second, there are attribute assertions that represent any attributes that are associated with the specified subject.

And third, authorization decision assertions represent whether the specified subject is granted or denied access to a specified resource.

In addition, the HTTP binding provides a non-XML reference: a SAML artifact that is embedded in the URL query string provides a reference to an actual SAML assertion stored in a remote site.



Scenario 4: Authorize valid SAML assertions

Continuing with the scenario examples – the fourth one shows how to authorize valid SAML assertions.

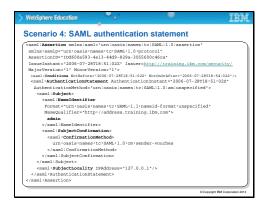
Create an access control policy that handles client SOAP web service requests with the following conditions:

A SAML authentication assertion holds the requesting client identity.

The policy accepts the claimed identity of the client if the digital signature of the SAML assertion is valid.

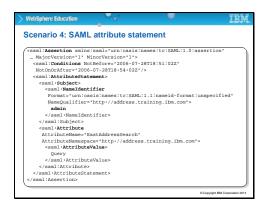
The requested resource is defined as an attribute in the SAML assertion.

The policy then allows any authenticated client with a specific SAML attribute access to the web service operation.



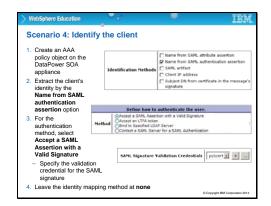
Scenario 4: SAML authentication statement

Here is an example of a Security Assertion Markup Language header that is embedded in a SOAP header.



Scenario 4: SAML attribute statement

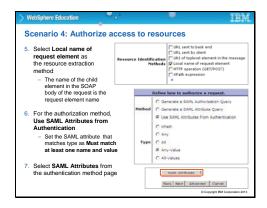
In addition to authentication and authorization information, SAML can be used to define attributes of the elements that are processed. These attributes provide a means of further identifying users and resources that are being processed. For example, a user whose name is "Fred," and an attribute of Fred might be "manager." Use this attribute of manager to provide further security checking.



Scenario 4: Identify the client

Continuing with the fourth scenario, identify the client. As usual, first create a AAA policy object in the policy rule that extracts the clients identity by using the "name from SAML

Authentication assertion" option: For the authentication method, select "Accept a SAML Assertion with a Valid Signature" and specify the validation credential for the SAML signature – "pubcert" in this example. Finally, leave the identity mapping method at none.

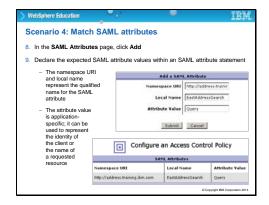


Scenario 4: Authorize access to resources

Next, want to authorize access to resources.

Select "Local name of request element" as the resource extraction method. The name of the child element in the SOAP body of the request is the request element name.

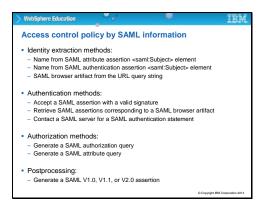
For the authorization method, click "Use SAML Attributes from Authentication", then set the SAML attribute that match type as "must match at least one name and value". Select the SAML Attributes from the authentication method page that is described on the next slide.



Scenario 4: Match SAML attributes

So here is how to match the SAML attributes.

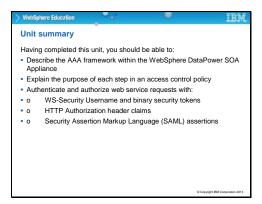
In the SAML Attributes page, click Add. Declare the expected SAML attribute values within a SAML attribute statement. The namespace URI and local name represent the qualified name for the SAML attribute. The attribute value is application-specific; it can be used to represent the identity of the client or the name of a requested resource.



Access control policy by using SAML information

So, in summary, an access control policy by using SAML information consists of:

- Identity extraction methods that might use the name from a SAML attribute assertion <saml:Subject> element.
- Or the name from a SAML authentication assertion <saml: Subject > element.
- Or a SAML browser artifact from the URL query string.
- Authentication methods that might accept a SAML assertion with a valid signature or retrieve a SAML assertion corresponding to a SAML browser artifact, or might contact a SAML server for a SAML authentication statement.
- Authorization methods that might generate a SAML authorization query or a SAML attribute query.
- Post processing that can generate a SAML V1.0, V1.1 or V2.0 assertion.



Checkpoint questions 1. True or False: To authenticate a client without using an external access control resource, compare the clients credentials against a custom DataPower AAA XML file or validate the digital signature that is used to sign the credential. 2. True or False: Mapping credentials and requested resources allows an access control policy to use different methods for authorization. The authorization step can use tokens that were not part of the original request message. 3. True or False: The postprocessing step in an access control policy adds more information to the outgoing request message or transforms the message itself.

•

Checkpoint answers 1. True. To authenticate a client without using an external access control resource, compare the clients credentials against a custom DataPower AAA XML file or validate the digital signature that is used to sign the credential. 2. True. Mapping credentials and requested resources allows an access control policy to use different methods for authorization. The authorization step can use tokens that were not part of the original request message. 3. True. The postprocessing step in an access control policy adds more information to the outgoing request message or transforms the message itself.

