```
mongos.exe --setParameter authenticationMechanisms=GSSAPI --configdb shard0.example.net, shard1.examp
```

Modify or include any additional `mongos.exe` options as required for your configuration. For example, instead of using `--keyFile` for internal authentication of sharded cluster members, you can use *x.509 member authentication* (page 363) instead.

Assign Service Principal Name to MongoDB Windows Service   Use `setspn.exe` to assign the service principal name (SPN) to the account running the `mongod.exe` and the `mongos.exe` service:

```
setspn.exe -A <service>/<fully qualified domain name> <service account name>
```

For example, if `mongod.exe` runs as a service named `mongodb` on `testserver.mongodb.com` with the service account name `mongodtest`, assign the SPN as follows:

```
setspn.exe -A mongodb/testserver.mongodb.com mongodtest
```

Incorporate Additional Authentication Mechanisms   Kerberos authentication (*GSSAPI* (page 322) (Kerberos)) can work alongside MongoDB's challenge/response authentication mechanisms (*SCRAM-SHA-1* (page 321) and *MONGODB-CR* (page 322)), MongoDB's authentication mechanism for LDAP (*PLAIN* (page 323) (LDAP SASL)), and MongoDB's authentication mechanism for x.509 (*MONGODB-X509* (page 322)). Specify the mechanisms as follows:

```
--setParameter authenticationMechanisms=GSSAPI,SCRAM-SHA-1
```

Only add the other mechanisms if in use. This parameter setting does not affect MongoDB's internal authentication of cluster members.

Authenticate to a MongoDB Instance or Cluster

Overview

To authenticate to a running `mongod` or `mongos` instance, you must have user credentials for a resource on that instance. When you authenticate to MongoDB, you authenticate either to a database or to a cluster. Your user privileges determine the resource you can authenticate to.

You authenticate to a resource either by:

- using the authentication options when connecting to the `mongod` or `mongos` instance, or
- connecting first and then authenticating to the resource with the `authenticate` command or the `db.auth()` method.

This section describes both approaches.

In general, always use a trusted channel (VPN, TLS/SSL, trusted wired network) for connecting to a MongoDB instance.

Prerequisites

You must have user credentials on the database or cluster to which you are authenticating.

Procedures

Authenticate When First Connecting to MongoDB