

AI Fullstack Software Development

# User Authentication and Role-Based Authorization

Job Connector Program

# Outline

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- Authentication
- Role-based Access Control
- Refresh Token Strategy
- Social Authentication (Google)

# What Are Authentication and Authorization?

- **Authentication** → Verifies *who* the user is.
- **Authorization** → Defines *what* the user can do.
- Both are essential for securing modern web applications.
- Usually implemented together but serve different purposes.

## Example:

When you log into a website, authentication checks your identity, and authorization checks your permissions.



*Wait a minute, who are you?*

# Authentication: Identity Verification

Confirms the user's identity (e.g., **email**, **username**, **password**). Usually handled with login forms, JWT tokens, or OAuth providers. Common methods:

- Basic Authentication
- Token-based Authentication (JWT)
- Session-based Authentication
- OAuth / Social Login

# Authorization: Access Control

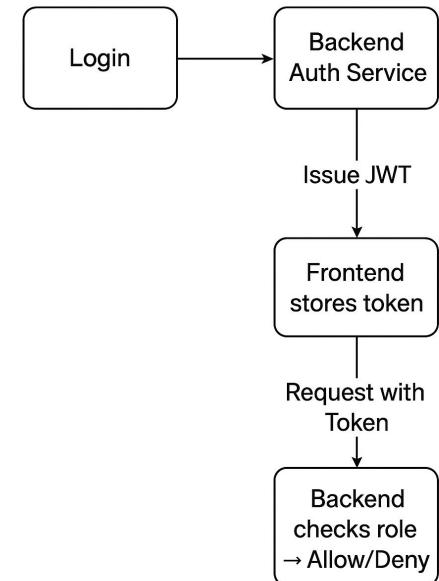
- Determines *which actions* a user is allowed to perform.
- Depends on roles or permissions:
  - **Admin, User, Guest**, etc.
- Implemented after **authentication succeeds**.

## Example Scenario:

*Only Admins can delete posts, while regular Users can only read or comment.*

# Authentication & Authorization Flow

1. **Login Request:** User sends credentials to the backend.
2. **Authentication:** Server validates identity (hash check).
3. **Token Issuance:** JWT or session created upon success.
4. **Authorization:** Token verified, roles checked before allowing access.
5. **Access Granted:** Server responds with protected resource.



# How It Works in the Backend?

Initialize express project, **bcrypt** (for hashing), and **jsonwebtoken** (for jwt generator)



```
npm install express bcrypt jsonwebtoken dotenv  
npm install -D typescript ts-node-dev @types/express @types/jsonwebtoken
```

# Implementing Authentication Service

```
● ● ●  
import bcrypt from "bcrypt";  
import jwt from "jsonwebtoken";  
  
export class AuthService {  
  private secret = process.env.JWT_SECRET || "secret123";  
  
  async hashPassword(password: string): Promise<string> {  
    return await bcrypt.hash(password, 10);  
  }  
  
  async comparePassword(password: string, hash: string): Promise<boolean> {  
    return await bcrypt.compare(password, hash);  
  }  
  
  generateToken(payload: object): string {  
    return jwt.sign(payload, this.secret, { expiresIn: "1h" });  
  }  
  
  verifyToken(token: string): any {  
    return jwt.verify(token, this.secret);  
  }  
}
```

- Handles password hashing, token creation, and verification.
- Keeps logic reusable for controller and middleware.
- To generate **JWT\_SECRET**, use the following command in your terminal:
  - `openssl rand -base64 32`
- This command will produce a secure random string that you can set as your **JWT\_SECRET** in the .env file, for example:
  - `JWT_SECRET=your_generated_secret_here`

# Handling Login and Register

```
● ● ●  
import { Request, Response } from "express";  
import { AuthService } from "../services/auth.service";  
  
export class AuthController {  
    private authService = new AuthService();  
  
    async register(req: Request, res: Response) {  
        const { email, password } = req.body;  
        const hashed = await this.authService.hashPassword(password);  
        // Normally: Save user to DB  
        res.json({ message: "User registered", email, hashed });  
    }  
  
    async login(req: Request, res: Response) {  
        const { email, password } = req.body;  
        // Normally: Fetch user from DB  
        const valid = await this.authService.comparePassword(password, "storedHash");  
        if (!valid) return res.status(401).json({ message: "Invalid credentials" });  
  
        const token = this.authService.generateToken({ email, role: "user" });  
        res.json({ message: "Login successful", token });  
    }  
}
```

- Register → hash and save password.
- Login → verify password and issue JWT token.

# Implementing Role-Based Authorization

```
import { Request, Response, NextFunction } from "express";
import jwt from "jsonwebtoken";

export function authorizeRole(role: string) {
  return (req: Request, res: Response, next: NextFunction) => {
    const token = req.headers.authorization?.split(" ")[1];
    if (!token) return res.status(401).json({ message: "No token" });

    try {
      const decoded = jwt.verify(token, process.env.JWT_SECRET!);
      if ((decoded as any).role !== role) {
        return res.status(403).json({ message: "Forbidden" });
      }
      next();
    } catch {
      res.status(401).json({ message: "Invalid token" });
    }
  };
}
```

- Checks JWT validity.
- Verifies user's role (e.g., Admin, User).
- Restricts access based on permissions.

# The Purpose of Refresh Tokens

- Access Token (JWT) usually expires quickly — e.g., 15 min or 1 hour.
- Constantly logging in again reduces user experience.
- Refresh Token solves this by issuing a *new access token* without re-login.

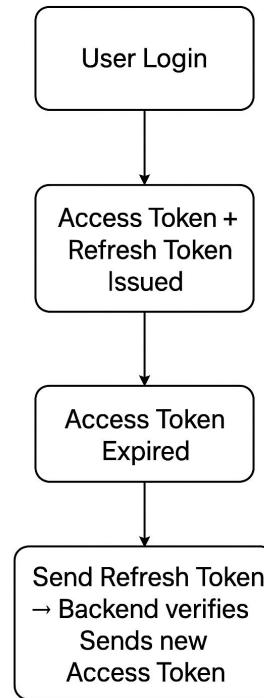
Analogy:

*Think of an access token as a short-term ticket, and the refresh token as a backstage pass that lets you renew your ticket when it expires.*



# How Refresh Tokens Work

1. **Login:** User logs in → server issues *access token* and *refresh token*.
2. **Access Token Expiry:** When the access token expires, the frontend requests a new one.
3. **Refresh Request:** Frontend sends the refresh token to /refresh-token endpoint.
4. **Validation:** Backend verifies the refresh token (signature + existence).
5. **New Tokens:** Backend issues a new access token (and optionally a new refresh token).



# Implementing Refresh Token Logic

```
● ● ●  
import { Request, Response } from "express";
import jwt from "jsonwebtoken";

export class TokenController {
  async refreshToken(req: Request, res: Response) {
    const refreshToken = req.body.refreshToken;
    if (!refreshToken) return res.status(401).json({ message: "Missing token" });

    try {
      const decoded = jwt.verify(refreshToken, process.env.REFRESH_SECRET!);
      const newAccessToken = jwt.sign(
        { email: (decoded as any).email, role: (decoded as any).role },
        process.env.JWT_SECRET!,
        { expiresIn: "15m" }
      );
      res.json({ accessToken: newAccessToken });
    } catch {
      res.status(403).json({ message: "Invalid or expired refresh token" });
    }
  }
}
```

- `refreshToken` is verified using a separate secret key (`REFRESH_SECRET`).
- If valid, the system issues a **new access token**.
- Keeps user logged in without re-entering credentials.

# How to Store Refresh Tokens Safely



```
res.cookie("refreshToken", token, {  
  httpOnly: true,  
  secure: true,  
  sameSite: "strict",  
});|
```

- Store refresh tokens in an HTTP-only cookie (not in localStorage).
- Encrypt or hash refresh tokens before saving them to the database.
- Allow only one active refresh token per user.
- Revoke or delete token on logout or password change.

Why it matters:

Prevents XSS and token theft attacks by avoiding client-side exposure.

# Token Rotation Strategy

- **Rotation** = generating a *new refresh token* each time a new access token is issued.
- Old refresh tokens are invalidated immediately.
- Helps prevent token replay attacks if a token is leaked.



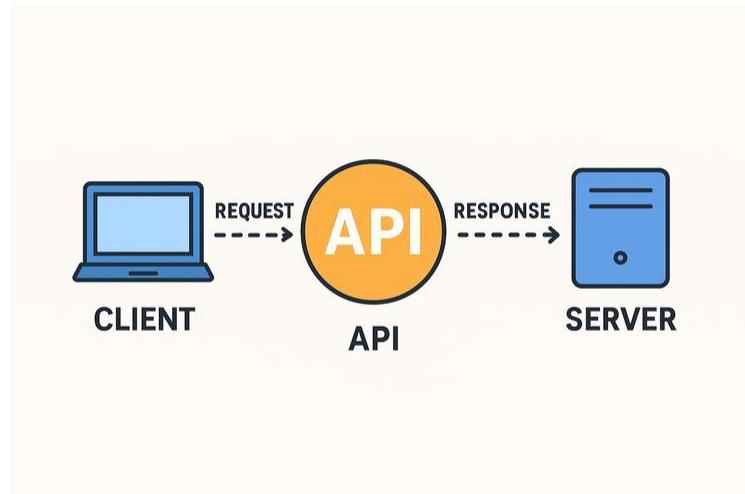
```
const newRefreshToken = jwt.sign(payload, process.env.REFRESH_SECRET!, { expiresIn: "7d" });
// Save newRefreshToken to DB, delete old one
```

# React + Vite Integration

The frontend communicates with the backend using **Axios** or **Fetch API**. Tokens (access & refresh) are used to authenticate API requests.

## Common flow:

1. User logs in → backend sends **accessToken + refreshToken**.
2. Access token stored (memory/localStorage).
3. Refresh token stored securely (HTTP-only cookie).
4. Frontend attaches token in headers for every request.



# Base URL Setup

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```
axios.defaults.baseURL = "http://localhost:3000/api";
axios.defaults.withCredentials = true; // allow cookies
```

The **withCredentials** option ensures cookies (refresh tokens) are sent automatically.

# Implementing Login Function in React

```
import axios from "axios";

export async function loginUser(email: string, password: string) {
  const res = await axios.post("/auth/login", { email, password });
  localStorage.setItem("accessToken", res.data.accessToken);
  return res.data;
}
```

- Stores **accessToken** locally after login.
- Refresh token is managed by the backend through HTTP-only cookie.

```
import { useState } from "react";
import { loginUser } from "../api/auth";

export default function LoginPage() {
  const [email, setEmail] = useState("");
  const [password, setPassword] = useState("");

  async function handleLogin() {
    await loginUser(email, password);
    alert("Login successful!");
  }

  return (
    <div>
      <input onChange={(e) => setEmail(e.target.value)} placeholder="Email" />
      <input onChange={(e) => setPassword(e.target.value)} placeholder="Password" />
      <button onClick={handleLogin}>Login</button>
    </div>
  );
}
```

# Attaching Access Token to Requests

- Automatically adds **Authorization** header for each request.
- Centralized approach for protected routes.
- Reduces repetitive code across components.

```
● ● ●  
import axios from "axios";  
  
const api = axios.create({  
  baseURL: "http://localhost:3000/api",  
  withCredentials: true,  
});  
  
api.interceptors.request.use((config) => {  
  const token = localStorage.getItem("accessToken");  
  if (token) config.headers.Authorization = `Bearer ${token}`;  
  return config;  
});  
  
export default api;
```

# Handling Token Expiration Automatically

- Intercepts failed requests (**401 Unauthorized**).
- Automatically requests a new access token using refresh token cookie.
- Retries the original API call without logging the user out.

## Result:

Smooth, persistent session for users without re-login.

```
●●●  
api.interceptors.response.use(  
  (response) => response,  
  async (error) => {  
    const originalRequest = error.config;  
    if (error.response?.status === 401 && !originalRequest._retry) {  
      originalRequest._retry = true;  
      const res = await axios.post("http://localhost:3000/api/auth/refresh-token", {}, { withCredentials: true });  
      const newAccessToken = res.data.accessToken;  
      localStorage.setItem("accessToken", newAccessToken);  
      originalRequest.headers.Authorization = `Bearer ${newAccessToken}`;  
      return api(originalRequest);  
    }  
    return Promise.reject(error);  
  }  
);
```

# What is Google Social Authentication?

Google Social Authentication allows users to log in using their Google account instead of creating a new username and password.

In a backend system, we do not trust the frontend directly.

The frontend sends a **Google ID Token**, and the backend is responsible for:

- Verifying the token with Google
- Reading user information from the token
- Creating or finding the user in our database
- Returning our own application token (JWT)



This approach is secure, simple for users, and widely used in modern applications.

# OAuth Client ID

OAuth Client ID is used to identify your app when users log in with Google.

Steps:

1. Open **Google Cloud Console**
2. Create or select a project
3. Go to **OAuth consent screen** → choose **External** → fill basic info
4. Go to **Credentials** → Create **OAuth Client ID**
5. Select **Web Application**
6. Add redirect **URI** (example: **http://localhost:3000**)
7. Create and copy the **Client ID**

The Client ID is used by the frontend and backend to validate Google login requests. The Client Secret must stay on the backend and should never be exposed.

# Google Auth Service

The service layer handles all Google-related authentication logic. This keeps controllers clean and focused only on HTTP handling.

```
•••  
// services/GoogleAuthService.ts  
import { OAuth2Client } from "google-auth-library";  
  
export class GoogleAuthService {  
  private client: OAuth2Client;  
  
  constructor() {  
    this.client = new OAuth2Client(process.env.GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID);  
  }  
  
  async verifyIdToken(idToken: string) {  
    const ticket = await this.client.verifyIdToken({  
      idToken,  
      audience: process.env.GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID,  
    });  
  
    const payload = ticket.getPayload();  
  
    if (!payload || !payload.email) {  
      throw new Error("Invalid Google token");  
    }  
  
    return {  
      email: payload.email,  
      name: payload.name,  
      googleId: payload.sub,  
      avatar: payload.picture,  
    };  
  }  
}
```

# User Service

After the Google token is verified, we need to check our database.

- If the user already exists → log them in
- If not → create a new user automatically

```
● ● ●

// services/UserService.ts
import { User } from "../models/User";

export class UserService {
  async findOrCreateGoogleUser(data: {
    email: string;
    name?: string;
    googleId: string;
    avatar?: string;
  }) {
    let user = await User.findOne({ where: { email: data.email } });

    if (!user) {
      user = await User.create({
        email: data.email,
        name: data.name,
        googleId: data.googleId,
        avatar: data.avatar,
      });
    }

    return user;
  }
}
```

# Controller

The controller connects HTTP requests with our services.

Its responsibilities:

- Read request body
- Call services
- Return response

```
● ● ●  
// controllers/AuthController.ts  
import { Request, Response } from "express";  
import { GoogleAuthService } from "../services/GoogleAuthService";  
import { UserService } from "../services/UserService";  
  
export class AuthController {  
    private googleAuthService = new GoogleAuthService();  
    private userService = new UserService();  
  
    async googleLogin(req: Request, res: Response) {  
        try {  
            const { idToken } = req.body;  
  
            const googleUser = await this.googleAuthService.verifyIdToken(idToken);  
            const user = await this.userService.findOrCreateGoogleUser(googleUser);  
  
            res.status(200).json({  
                message: "Google login successful",  
                user,  
            });  
        } catch (error) {  
            res.status(401).json({  
                message: "Google authentication failed",  
            });  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Route and Final Flow

Final Request Flow:

1. Frontend sends **Google ID Token**
2. Backend verifies token with Google
3. User is found or created
4. Backend returns a successful login response

```
● ● ●  
// routes/auth.routes.ts  
import { Router } from "express";  
import { AuthController } from "../controllers/AuthController";  
  
const router = Router();  
const authController = new AuthController();  
  
router.post("/auth/google", (req, res) =>  
    authController.googleLogin(req, res)  
);  
  
export default router;
```

# Exercise

- Enhance your existing Blog App by implementing secure user **authentication** and **role-based authorization**.
- Exercise Objectives:
  - Implement user registration and login system using hashed passwords (e.g., bcrypt).
  - Use **JWT tokens** to manage user sessions and persist authentication between SSR requests.
  - Create role-based access control with at least two roles:
    - **User** → can read and comment on posts.
    - **Admin** → can create, edit, or delete posts.

# Thank you

