

# Sharing M3 content with Partners

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## Overview

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### Approach

The proposal is to utilise the Oauth 2.0 standard to share specific pieces of M3 content with members of a partner community in a way that is secure and enables M3 to accurately track engagement.

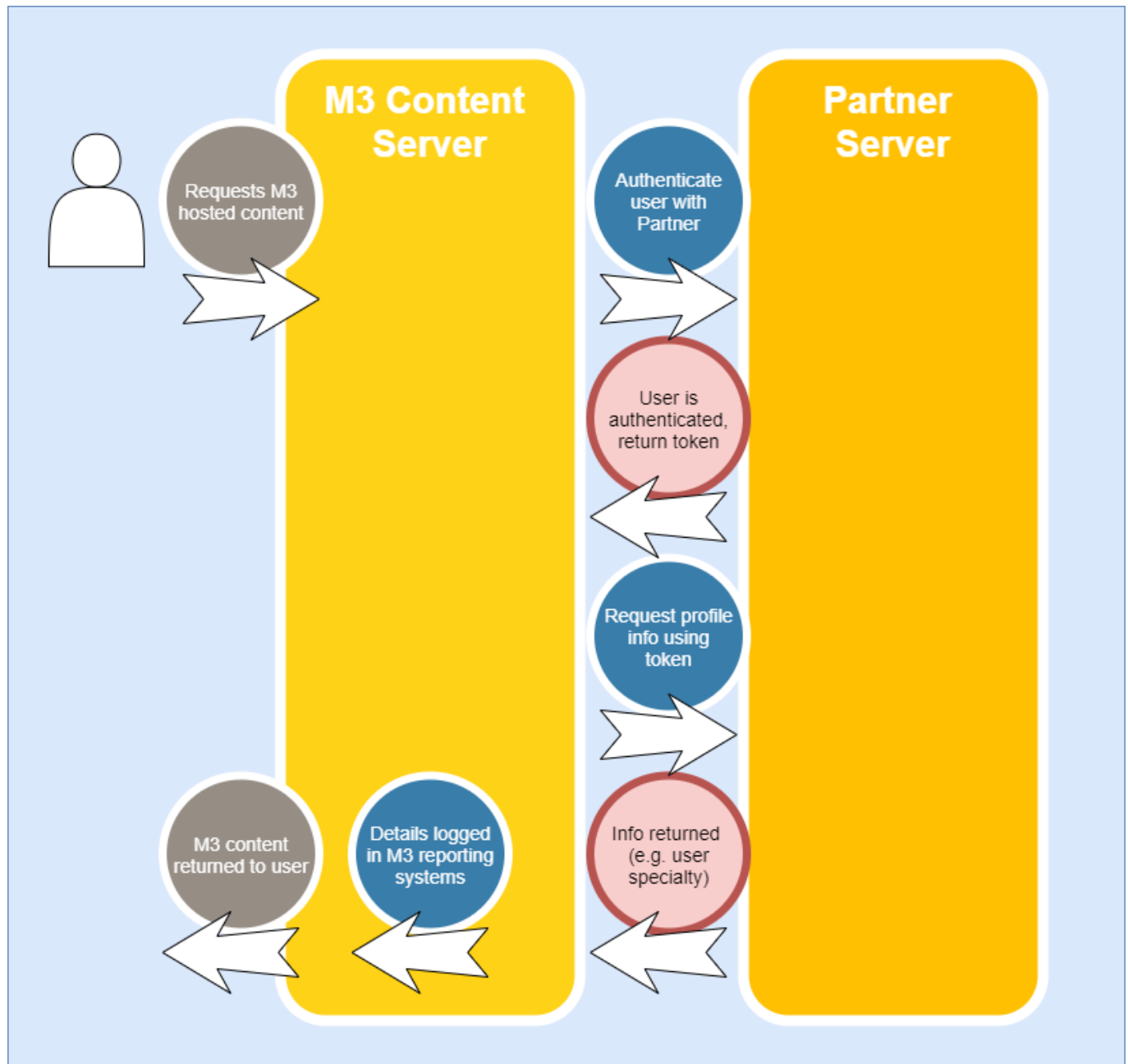
Principles of this approach:

- Partner members do not need to register with M3
- Partner members will only have access to specific agreed pieces of content, they are not granted access to M3 websites as a whole
- Agreed set of member profile information is shared with M3 for reporting purposes only, but never enough to personally identify a user

### Simplified Overview of Flow

Detailed documentation of the Oauth flow and work needed to implement it can be found later in this document, but the below gives a simplified view of the flow.

If the partner member is already logged into the partner site the flow below will be invisible to the user and happen "behind the scenes". If not already logged in the member will be interrupted with the partner site login form after the first step.



## Header/Footer (optional)

There is the option of wrapping the M3 content inside a partner header and footer. This gives the user the impression that they are moving to another area of the partner's site. To achieve this M3 requires the partner to provide separate API endpoints which return the HTML of the header or the footer as requested.

This also provides the member a means to get back to the partner website.

If the partner header/footer is static, i.e. has no personalisation and is the same for all members, the HTML can simply be provided to M3 by the partner prior to content being published (no API endpoints needed).

## Reporting

For more detailed reporting M3 requires extra information to be passed, these are known as "scopes". The below defines typical scopes that can be used:

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| Scope     | Description   |
|-----------|---|
| User ID   | A unique ID per user, may be a string or number   |
| Specialty | The user's medical specialty  |
| Seniority | The user's medical seniority  |
| Country   |   |
| Doctor    | True or False. Useful for distinguishing staff/test accounts for example  |
| Groups    | This allows an arbitrary list of tags to be assigned to a user. Can be useful if custom reporting is required that can't be satisfied by the above, for example by age groups |

It is important that whatever info is transferred isn't enough to personally identify anyone. For example if postcode was passed in groups this may be fine on it's own, but in combination with user specialty it may become enough to find someone's identity.

## Technical Implementation

### Introduction

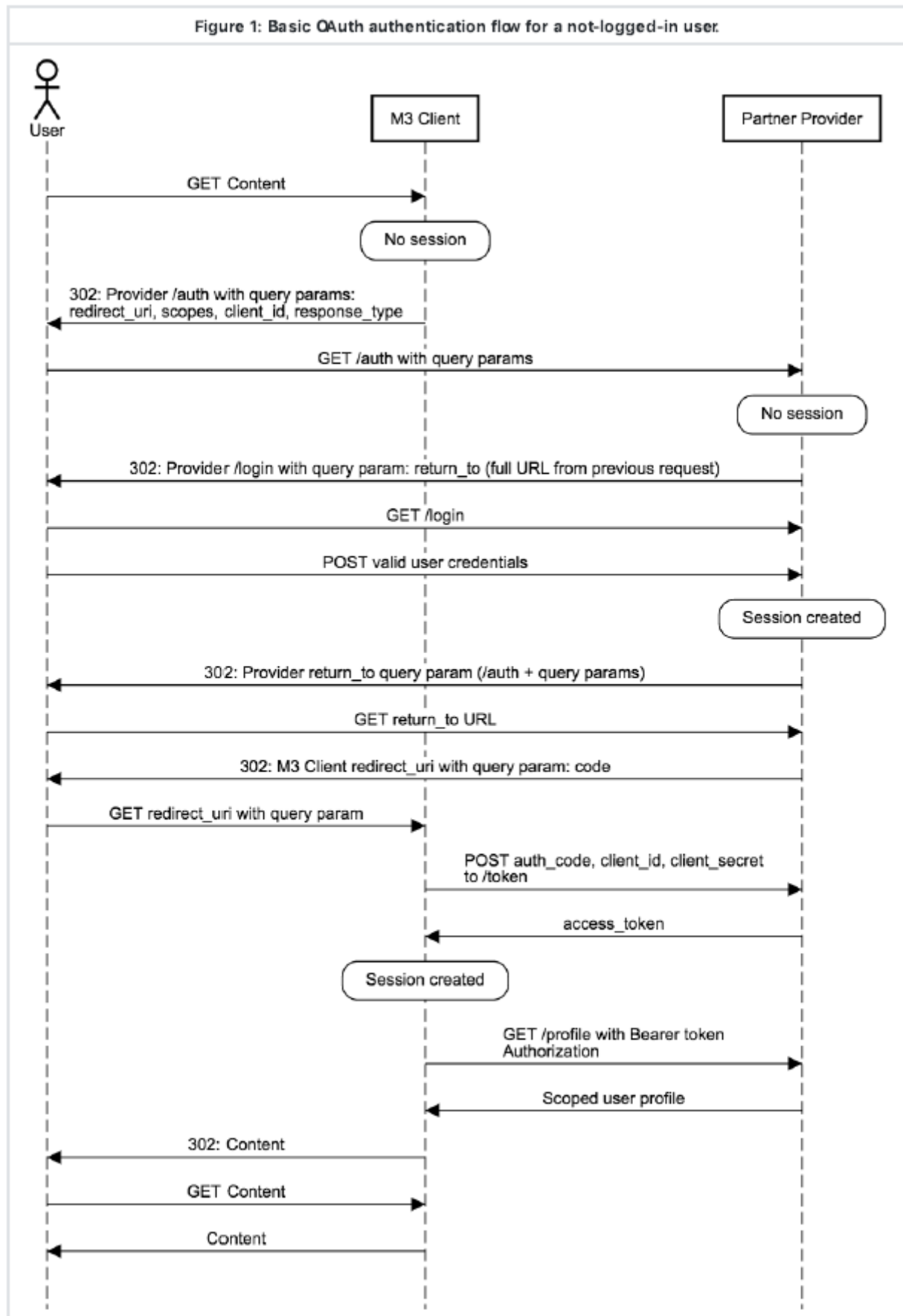
Authentication is handled using the OAuth 2.0 specification. OAuth is an open standard designed to enable users to authenticate themselves on site A using their existing account on site B. This is ideal for the scenario of sharing M3's content with partner communities.

The OAuth authentication flow uses a number of user-agent redirects, passing data using query parameters and a server-to-server request to establish a login session. Visualising the flow can be difficult, so below is a sequence diagram showing the full flow of a non-logged-in user landing on M3 content for the first time.

### OAuth Authentication Flow

We will first consider the case where a user arrives without a session on the client. The steps required to establish a session on the M3 Client can be summarised by the following points:

1. Create a cookie-based session on the partner OAuth provider.
2. Pass an auth\_code to the M3 OAuth Client from the Partner Provider via user-agent redirect.
3. Make a server-to-server request from the M3 OAuth Client to the provider to exchange the auth\_code for an access\_token .
4. Make a server-to-server request from the M3 OAuth Client to the provider to get the user profile using the access\_token .
5. Create a cookie-based session on the M3 Client.



## API Specification

To enable all of the above the Partner needs to implement the following API endpoints:

| Method | Url            | Description  |
|--------|----------------|--|
| GET    | /oauth/auth    | If the M3 client finds that the user has no valid session, then it will redirect the user to the PP Authorise endpoint.  |
| POST   | /oauth/token   | After the PP has redirected the user to the M3OC callback endpoint, a server-to-server request will be made to exchange the provided auth_code for a valid access_token . The POST body will be sent with form encoding. |
| GET    | /oauth/profile | Returns scoped profile information   |
| GET    | /api/header    | (OPTIONAL) Serves the site header as a snippet of HTML that can be inserted into any page  |
| GET    | /api/footer    | (OPTIONAL) Serves the site header as a snippet of HTML that can be inserted into any page  |