Long-lasting FB access-token for server to pull FB page info

Asked 6 years, 11 months ago   Active 1 year, 9 months ago   Viewed 43k times

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I'm aware that there are many questions about Facebook access-tokens and the grief they cause, but despite much experimentation and reading many frustratingly vague blog articles (FB and otherwise), I'm still struggling to get a clear answer to my needs. Let me succinctly break down my process so far:

- I am creating a site that, server-side, needs to pull the posts/statuses from a single Facebook Page

- I am an admin of that Facebook Page

- I have created a Facebook App

- Using the Facebook Graph API Explorer, I've generated a short-lived key, connected to my app and my account, that grants permission to my account to view the access-tokens for my pages

- I've converted my short-lived key to a long-lived key (60 days) ala scenario 4 from this

And here's where I am stuck. My 60 day key works fine for my server to pull the info needed from the page, but as far I can tell, there's no way to programmatically extend that 60 day key. I also do not know of a way to generate a new short-lived key without manually going to the Facebook Graph API Explorer and creating one.

Since it is my server making the requests to the Facebook API and not a user-based system (where I could easily request that a user authorize the Facebook app again), this creates a very clunky system. Since Facebook deprecated `offline_access`, is there really no permanent way to have my server pull info from my own page? Will I really have to create a new key by hand and manually update my server with it every 60 days?

Or is there something I'm missing?

Update:

> *The step-by-step guide that was previously found here has been migrated down into its own* *answer*.

facebook   facebook-graph-api   facebook-access-token

edited May 23 '17 at 11:54   asked Aug 28 '12 at 22:31

🟦 Community ♦   🟧 redhotvengeance

This is awesome. I'm in the same situation and was looking for some info on this topic. Is it safe that this token doesn't break any FB platform policies? Just asking to be sure. – onigunn Sep 17 '12 at 10:47

2 @asrijaal Facebook's own [documentation](#) (take a look at Scenario 5) says that these page access tokens do not expire. I'd say it's safe to assume that they comply with Facebook's policies. – redhotvengeance Sep 17 '12 at 16:08

"I thought it'd be good to leave a clear step-by-step process" - heaven forbid :) Thanks @redhotvengeance – Steve McGill Apr 12 '13 at 9:03

You have a typo with your page access token url. Should be a ? not a & after accounts. Spent a while trying to figure out why this wasn't working. :P – Joren Apr 15 '13 at 21:33

@Joren Indeed - it is fixed now. Thanks! – redhotvengeance Apr 15 '13 at 22:13

4 Answers

These are the steps that were previously in the question - they have been migrated to this answer.

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Having found that it is possible to generate a Facebook Page Access Token that does not expire (with help from @lgy), here is a clear, step-by-step quide for all those looking to the same:

1. Make sure you are the admin of the FB page you wish to pull info from

2. Create a FB App (should be with the same user account that is the page admin)

3. Head over to the [Facebook Graph API Explorer](#)

4. On the top right, select the FB App you created from the "Application" drop down list

5. Click "Get Access Token"

6. Make sure you add the `manage_pages` permission

7. Convert this short-lived access token into a long-lived one by making this Graph API call:

   ```
   https://graph.facebook.com/oauth/access_token?client_id=<your FB App ID >&client_secret=<your FB App

   secret>&grant_type=fb_exchange_token&fb_exchange_token=<your short-lived access token>
   ```

8. Grab the new long-lived access token returned back

9. Make a Graph API call to see your accounts using the new long-lived access token: `https://graph.facebook.com/me/accounts?`
   `access_token=<your long-lived access token>`

10. Grab the `access_token` for the page you'll be pulling info from

11. [Lint](#) the token to see that it is set to `Expires: Never` !

That should do it. You should now have a Facebook Page Access Token that doesn't expire, unless:

- You change your Facebook account password
- You lose admin access for the target page
- You delete or de-authorize your Facebook App

Any of these will cause the access token to become invalid.

If you are getting `(#100) Tried accessing nonexisting field (accounts) on node type (Page)` , go to the [Access Token Debugger,](#) copy the value of `User ID` , and use it to replace the "me" part of the URL in step 9.

edited Oct 21 '15 at 23:03	answered Feb 21 '14 at 7:11
Elad Nava	redhotvengeance
5,235 2 28 52	**18.7k** 9 42 51

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2   How and where do I do step 6? – Stefan Müller Mar 30 '14 at 21:23

5   @StefanMüller When you click "Get Access Token" on the Graph API Explorer page, a "Select Permissions" dialogue pops up. The `manage_pages` option is under the `Extended Permissions` tab. – redhotvengeance Mar 30 '14 at 22:53

2   Great! This works like a charm, and this published as the PAGE, not as a user. – Benjamin Piette Apr 23 '14 at 13:44

3   I believe this is out dated now. and you only get an access token which expires in about two months. – Qaiser Wali Aug 25 '14 at 12:52

6   I have done all of that now and it works except that the long-lived token id expires after 2 months and is not infinite. Also the [Acces Token Debugger](#) has a link at the bottom of the form to extend a short-lived access token to a long-lived access token. – SlimIT Oct 9 '15 at 2:22 ✎

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This is covered in the [Offline Access deprecation](#) document

15   Use the 60-day token for the page admin to retrieve a Page Access Token (via `/PAGE_ID?fields=access_token` or `/me/accounts`) - the
▼   Page access token will not have an expiry time

edited Feb 17 '14 at 8:37	answered Aug 28 '12 at 22:49
Juan A. Navarro	Igy

5   Sigh. Indeed, this seems to be the ticket. I could have sworn that I tried every possible combination of these steps - apparently I missed the one that actually works. What an absolutely convoluted set of required actions. Thanks for much for your help! – redhotvengeance Aug 28 '12 at 23:14

1   So many pieces all over the internet, this is one that actually works. – Ernesto May 5 '16 at 19:43

Many thanks to @redhotvengeance for step-by-step guide.

1   After some time, now there is clearly described in Facebook documentation:

https://developers.facebook.com/docs/facebook-login/access-tokens/expiration-and-extension

> Extending Page Access Tokens
>
> Apps can retrieve a page access token from Page admin users when they authenticate with the manage_pages permission. If the user access token used to retrieve this page access token is short-lived, the page access token will also be short-lived.
>
> To get a longer-lived page access token, exchange the User access token for a long-lived one, as above, and then request the Page access token. The resulting page access token will not have any expiry time.

answered Aug 25 '17 at 19:34

Athlan
3,616   3   28   51

You can also copy and past from the app dashboard on facebook. The steps:

0   1. Go to https://developers.facebook.com

     2. Select your app in the top right corner of the page (pic of what it looks like)

     3. Click on Messenger from the options on the left (it will go to setting automatically) (pic of what it looks like)

     4. Go to the "Token Generation" section in the page. Select what page you want to generate the token for. (pic of what that section looks like)

     5. The copy and past your page token where ever you need it.

Keep in mind that while in theory your token won't expire, that it is directly tied to what ever facebook account your logged into. So say

you change your password or you remove the permissions from between your account and your app then your token won't be valid any more.

answered Oct 27 '17 at 16:40

Heidi
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