

# Keeping Pace with OAuth's Evolving Security Practices

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SECDES-meeting 18 October 2024




Step 1  
Find Friends

Step 2  
Profile Information

Step 3  
Profile Picture

### Are your friends already on Facebook?


Many of your friends may already be here. Searching your email account is the fastest way to find your friends on Facebook.


 Gmail

Your Email:


Email Password:

Find Friends


 Facebook will not store your password.

 Yahoo!

Find Friends

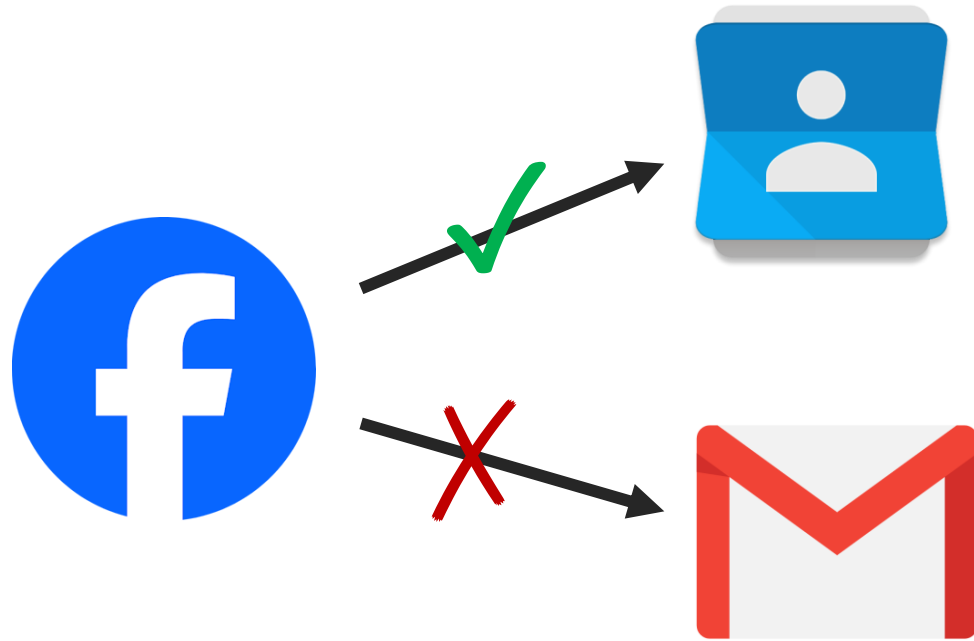
 Windows Live Hotmail

Find Friends

 Other Email Service

Find Friends

If a third party wanted access to an account,  
you'd give them your password



So...

how can I let an app

**access my data**

without giving it my password?

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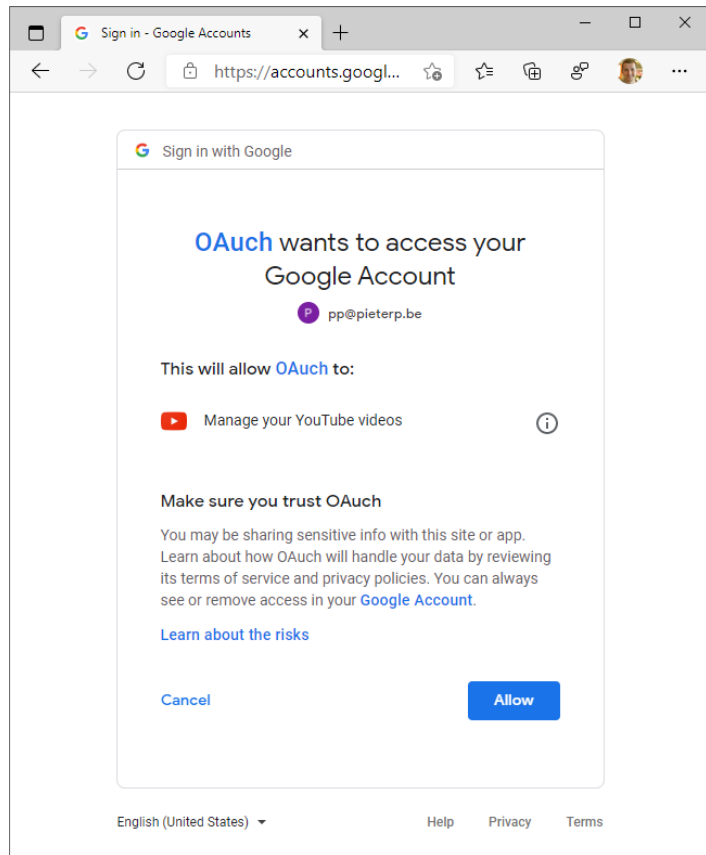
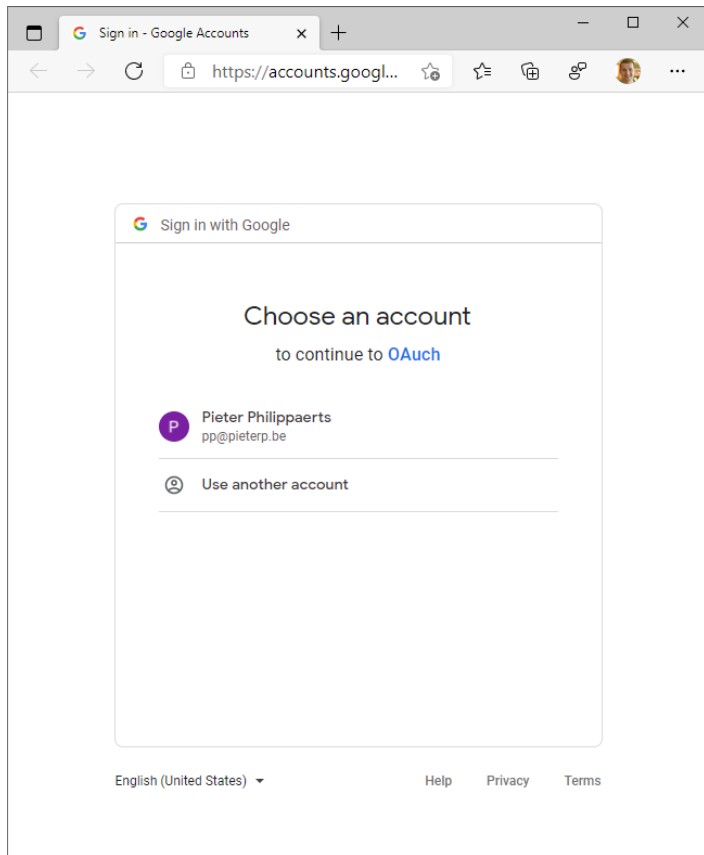
f Sign in with Facebook

🐦 Sign in with Twitter

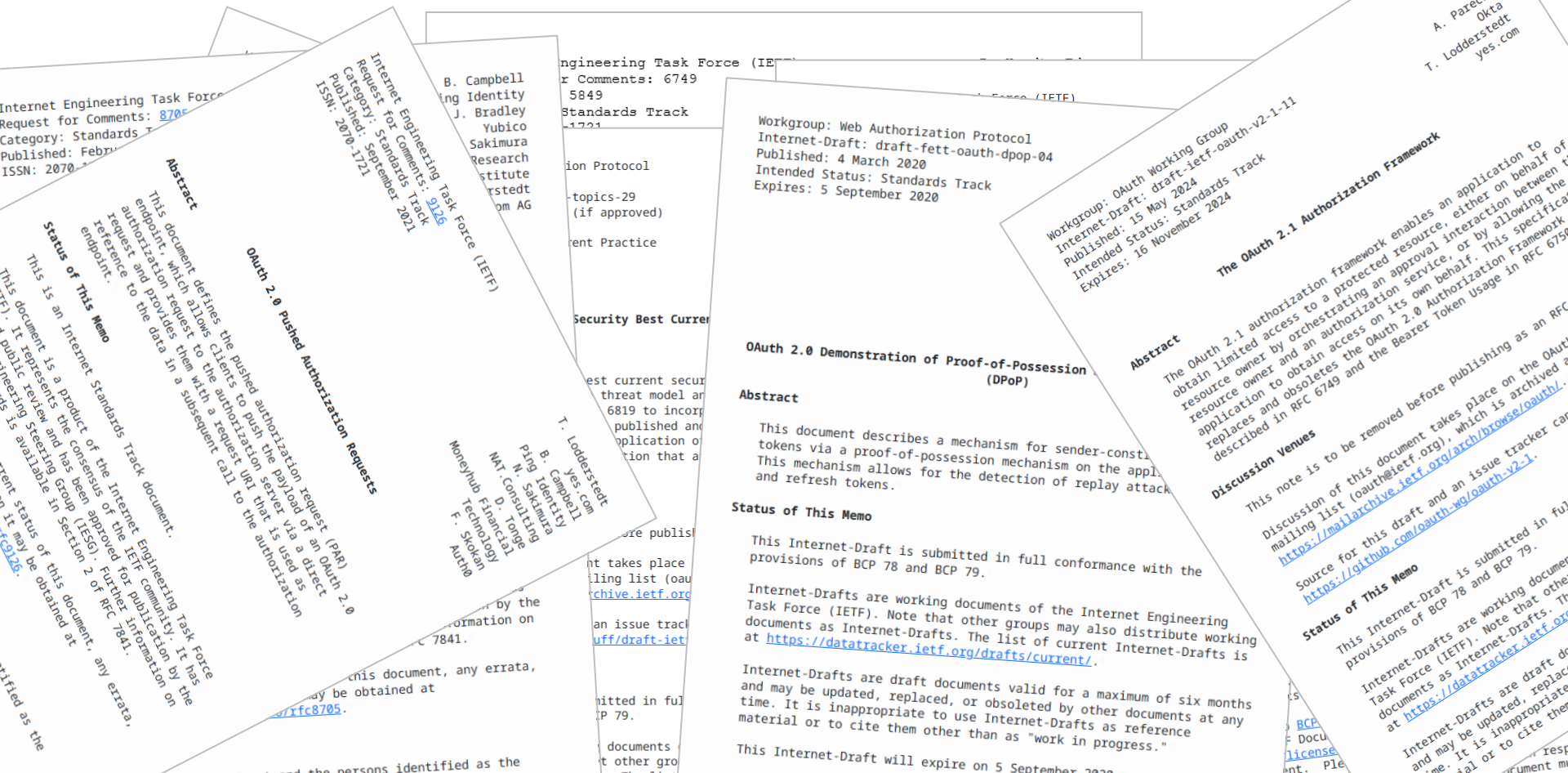
G Sign in with Google

Y Sign in with Yahoo

in Sign in with LinkedIn



# Use Cases – Grant Types



# Use Cases

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)  
Request for Comments: 6749  
Obsoletes: 5849  
Category: Standards Track  
ISSN: 2070-1721

D. Hardt, Ed.  
Microsoft  
October 2012

## The OAuth 2.0 Authorization Framework

### Abstract

The OAuth 2.0 authorization framework enables a third-party application to obtain limited access to an HTTP service, either on behalf of a resource owner by orchestrating an approval interaction between the resource owner and the HTTP service, or by allowing the third-party application to obtain access on its own behalf. This specification replaces and obsoletes the OAuth 1.0 protocol described in RFC 5849.

### Status of This Memo

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This document is a product of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). It represents the consensus of the IETF community. It has received public review and has been approved for publication by the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG). Further information on Internet Standards is available in Section 2 of RFC 5741.

Information about the current status of this document, any errata, and how to provide feedback on it may be obtained at <http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6749>.

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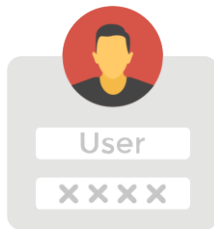
Web-server apps



Browser-based apps



Mobile apps



Username/Password access



Application access



# Use Cases – Grant Types



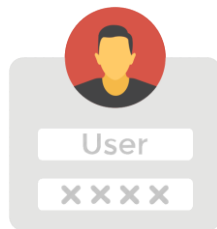
**Web-server apps**  
authorization code



**Browser-based apps**  
implicit



**Mobile apps**  
implicit



**Username/Password access**  
password



**Application access**  
client credentials

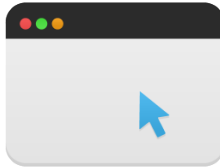
# OAuth 2.0 Roles



**Resource Owner**  
“the user”



**User-Agent**  
“the browser”



**Client**  
“the app”



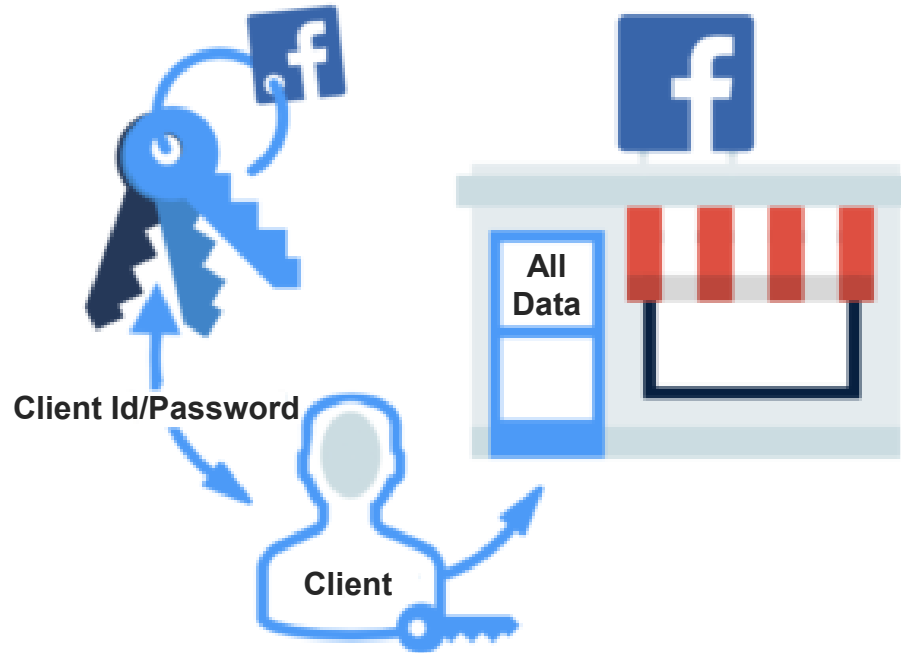
**Resource Server**  
“the API”



**Authorization  
Server**

# OAuth 2.0 Grant Types

# Client Credentials Grant



# Client Credentials Grant

## REQUEST

```
POST /token HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: Basic czZCaGRSa3F0MzpnWDFmQmF0M2JW
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

grant_type=client_credentials
```

Client ID &  
Password

## RESPONSE

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json;charset=UTF-8
Cache-Control: no-store
Pragma: no-cache

{
  "access_token": "2YotnFZFEjrlzCsicMWpAA",
  "token_type": "Bearer",
  "expires_in": 3600
}
```

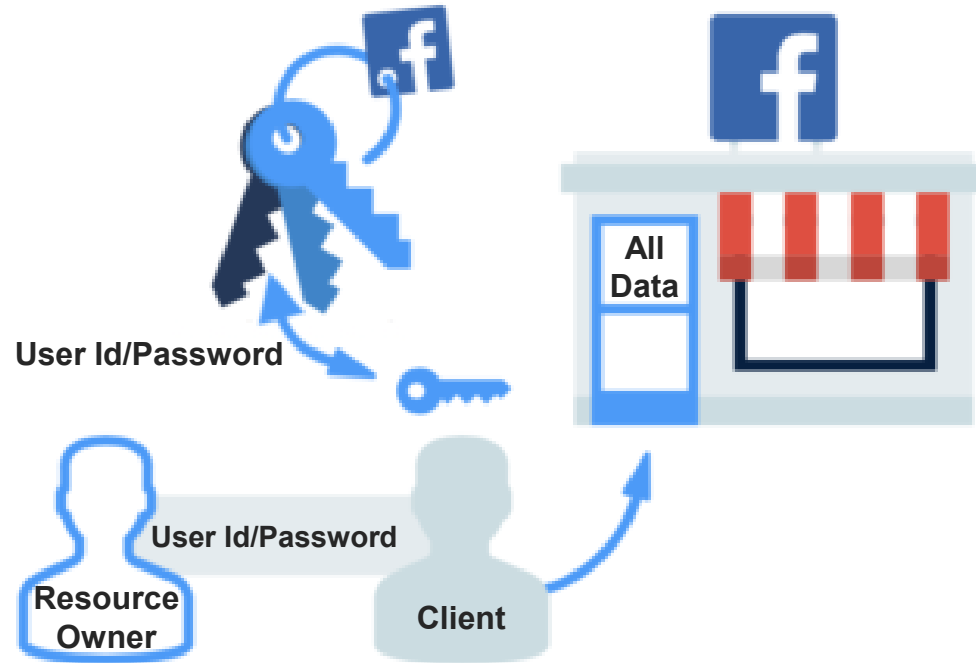
# Client Credentials Grant

- › Easy ✓
- › Secure ✓
- › Wide use case support ✗



Use the Client Credentials flow for  
Machine-to-machine authorization

# Password Grant





# Password Grant

## REQUEST

```
POST /token HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: Basic czZCaGRSa3F0MzpnWDFmQmF0M2JW
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
```

Client ID &  
Password

```
grant_type=password&username=johndoe&password=A3ddj3w
```

Resource Owner  
Username & Password

## RESPONSE

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json;charset=UTF-8
Cache-Control: no-store
Pragma: no-cache

{
  "access_token": "2YotnFZFEjrlzCsicMWpAA",
  "token_type": "example",
  "expires_in": 3600,
  "refresh_token": "tGzv3JOkF0XG5Qx2TlKWIA",
}
```

# Password Grant

- › Easy ✓
- › Wide use case support ✓
- › Secure ✗

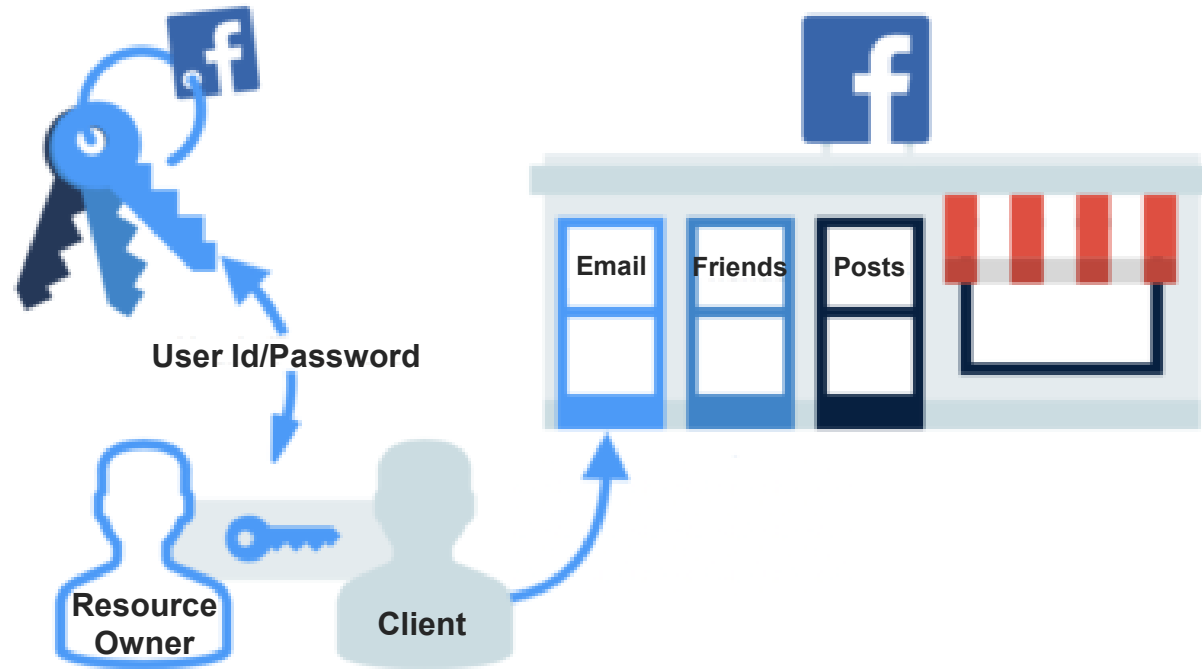
# Password Grant Threats

- › Threat #1: Exposes the username and password
- › Threat #2: No mechanism to limit scope
- › Threat #3: Trains users that it's okay to enter password in more than one place
- › Threat #4: Difficult (or impossible) to add multifactor or passwordless authentication (WebCrypto, WebAuthn)

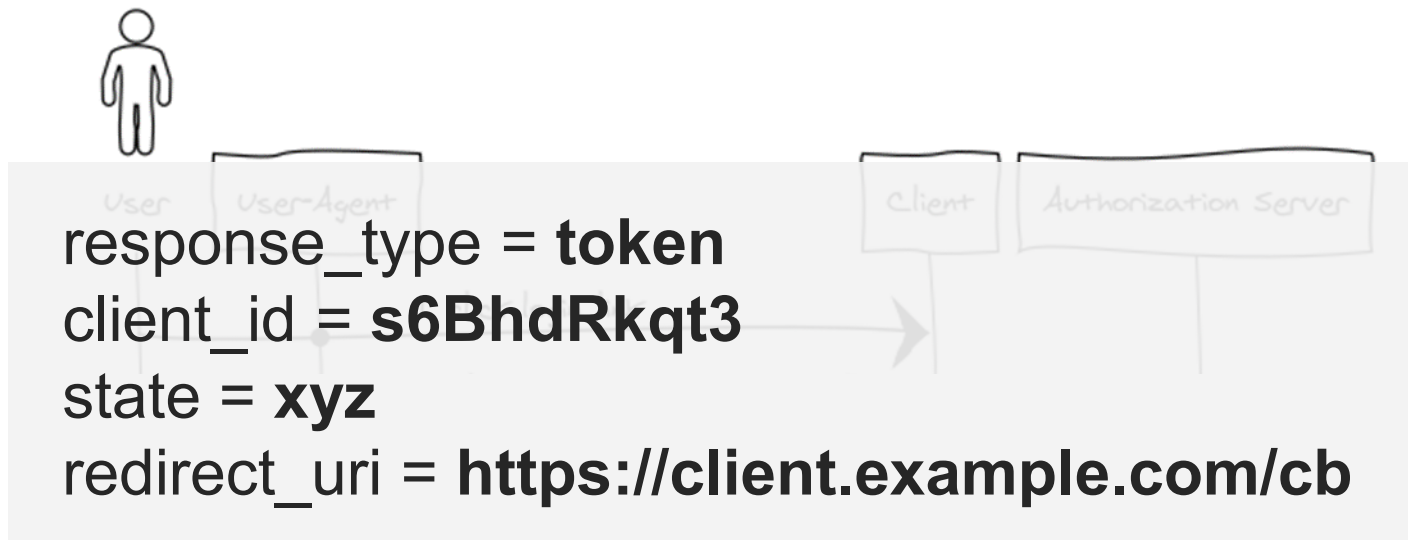


Do not use the Password grant

# Implicit Grant



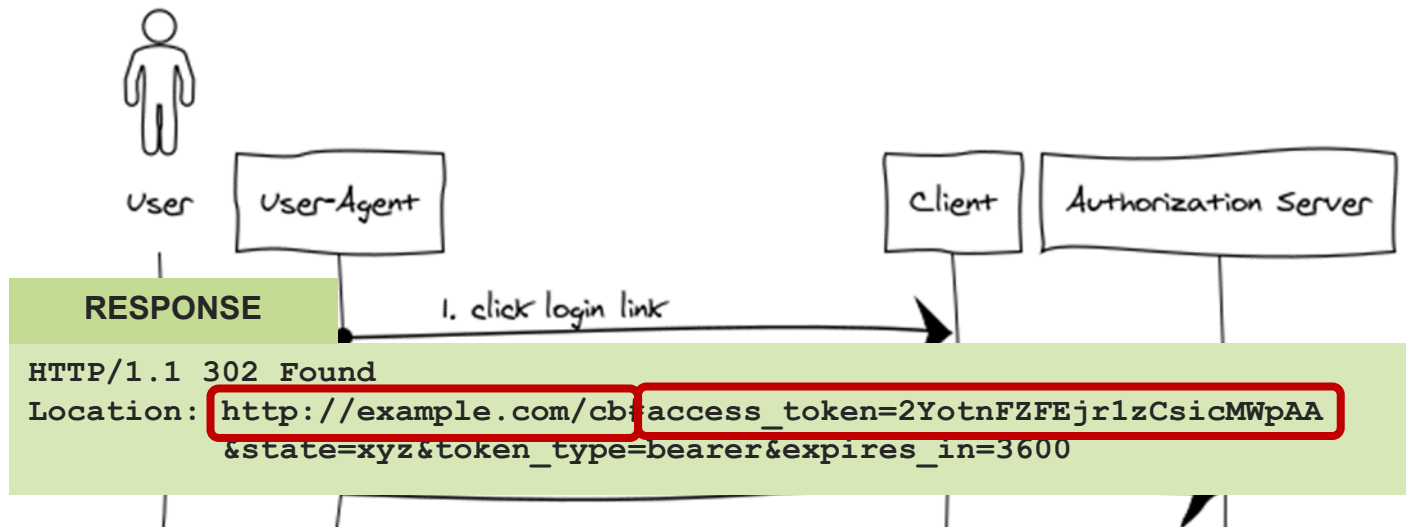
# Implicit Grant



## REQUEST

```
GET /authorize?response_type=token&client_id=s6BhdRkqt3&state=xyz
    &redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Ecom%2Fcb HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
```

# Implicit Grant

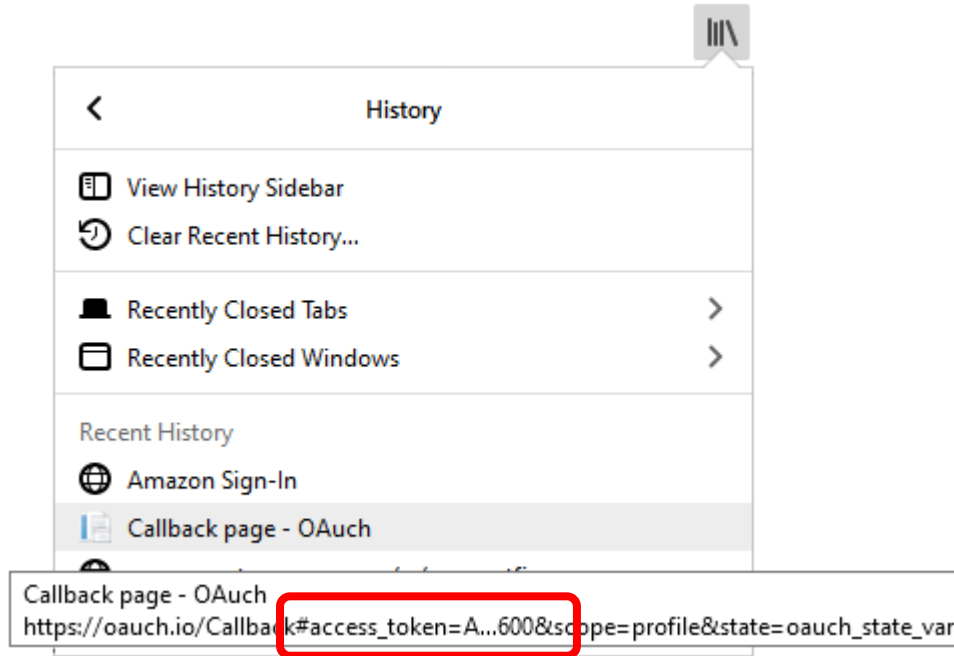


# Implicit Grant

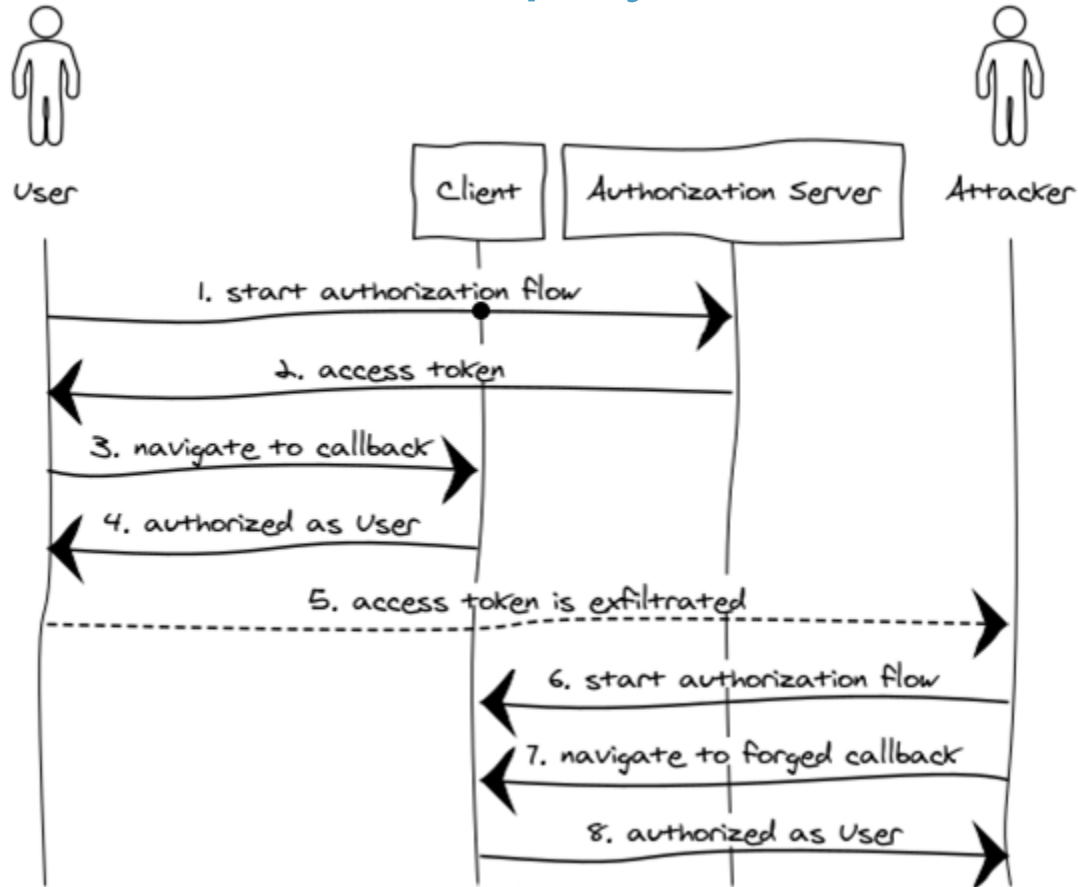
- › Easy ?
- › Wide use case support ✓
- › Secure
  - › Username and password are not exposed ✓
  - › Scope can be limited ✓
  - › User always uses official authorization page ✓
  - › Possible to add multi-factor or passwordless authentication ✓
  - › But...



# Threat #1: Access token leakage



# Threat #2: Access token replay



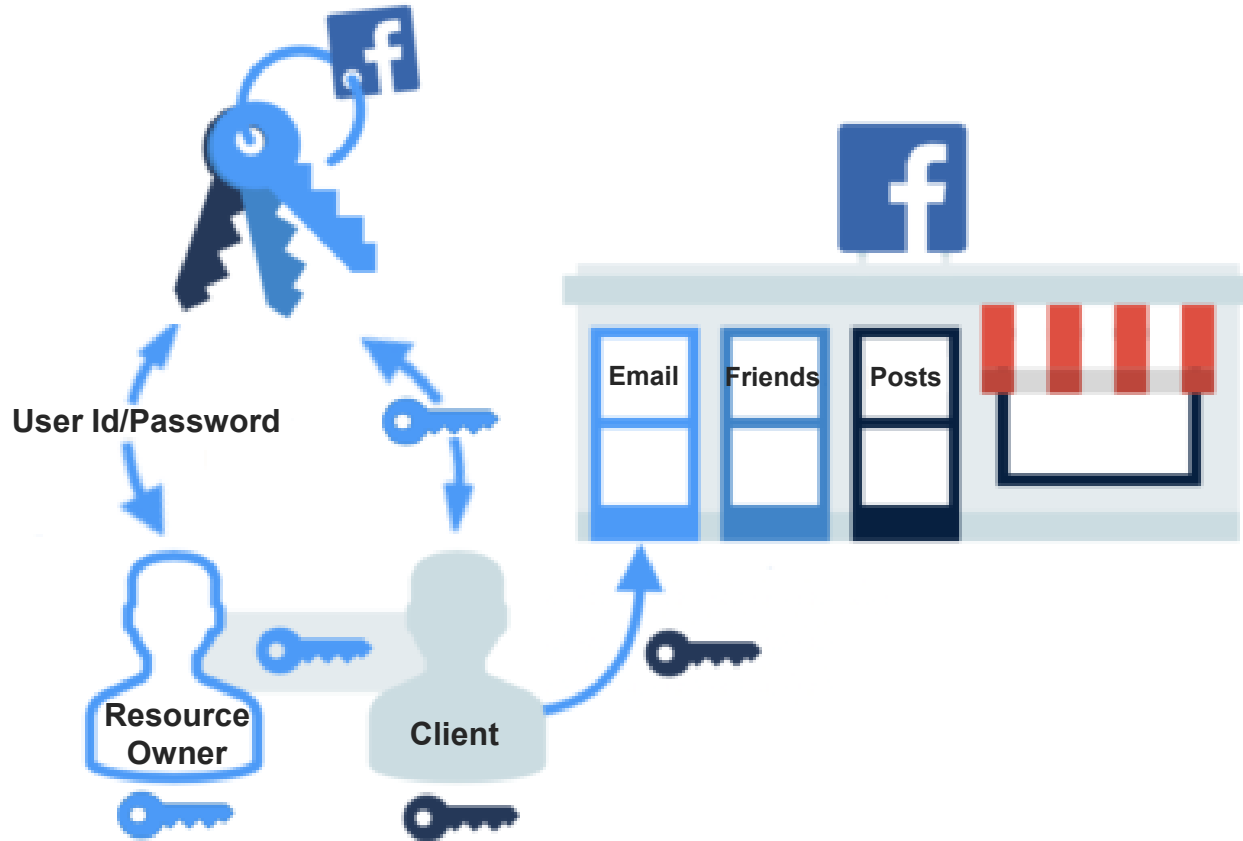
# Additional Shortcoming

- › Tokens cannot be (cryptographically) bound to a client
  - ›› Clients are not authenticated



Do not use the Implicit grant

# Authorization Code Grant

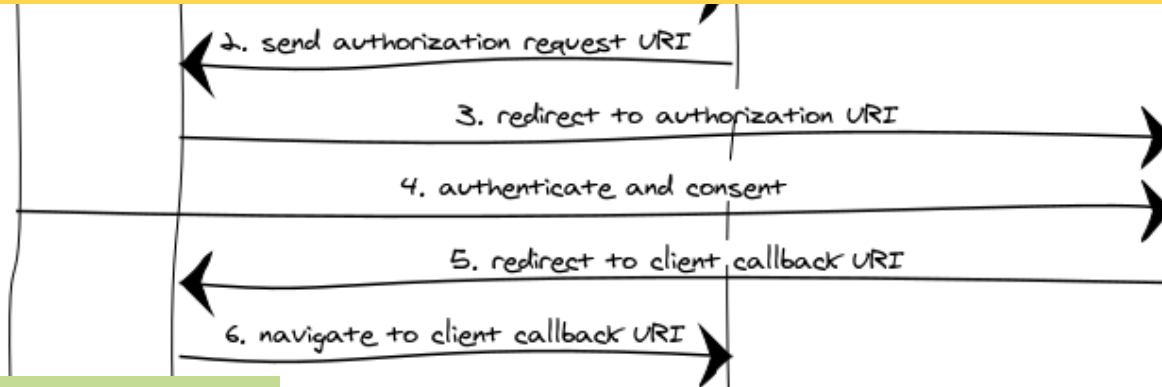


# Authorization Code Grant



## REQUEST

```
GET /authorize?response_type=code&client_id=s6BhdRkqt3&state=xyz
    &redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Ecom%2Fcb HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
```



## RESPONSE

```
HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Location: https://client.example.com/cb?code=Sp1xl0BeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA
    &state=xyz
```

# Authorization Code Grant

## REQUEST

POST /token HTTP/1.1

Host: server.example.com

Authorization: Basic czZCaGRSa3F0MzpnWDFmQmF0M2JW

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

grant\_type=authorization\_code&code=Splxl0BeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA  
&redirect\_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Ecom%2Fcb

## RESPONSE

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: application/json; charset=UTF-8

{  
 "access\_token": "2YotnFZFEirlzCsicMWpAA",  
 "refresh\_token": "tGzvs3JOkF0XG5Qx2TlKWIA",  
 ...  
}

# Authorization Code Grant

- › Easy ✗
- › Wide use case support ✓
- › Secure
  - ›› All the benefits of the implicit flow ✓
  - ›› Access tokens are not leaked ✓
  - ›› Authorization codes cannot be replayed ✓
  - ›› Clients can be authenticated ✓
  - ›› But...



# Threat #1: Insufficient Redirect URI Validation

- › Some implementations allow redirect URI patterns
  - › `https://*.benign.site/*`
  - › Matches with `https://attacker.site/.benign.site/`

## REQUEST

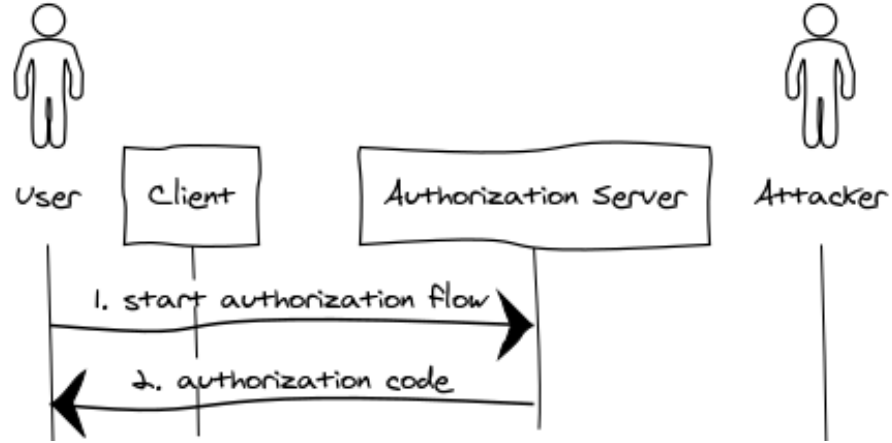
```
GET /authorize?response_type=code&client_id=s6BhdRkqt3&state=9ad67f13
    &redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fattacker.site%2F.benign.site%2F
HTTP/1.1
Host: server.somesite.example
```

# Threat #1: Insufficient Redirect URI Validation

- › Other problems exist (e.g. open redirectors, ...)
- › Always exactly match Redirect URIs with the registered values



## Threat #2: Authorization Code Injection



# Proof Key for Code Exchange (PKCE)

- › Bind an authorization code to a client's session
  - ›› Client generates a random secret per authorization request
  - ›› Client sends the hashed secret in the authorization request
  - ›› When it exchanges the authorization code for an access token, it also sends the secret
    - ››› The server can hash and compare the two hashes

# Proof Key for Code Exchange (PKCE)

## REQUEST

```
GET /authorize?response_type=code&client_id=s6BhdRkqt3&state=xyz
&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Ecom%2Fcb
&code_challenge=rLGaLy...5Z5Dc&code_challenge_method=S256 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
```

## REQUEST

```
POST /token HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: Basic czZCaGRSa3F0MzpnWDFmQmF0M2JW
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

grant_type=authorization_code&code=SplxlOBeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA
&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Ecom%2Fcb
&code_verifier=8WBGm8cbVT...bRzqts370
```



Use Authorization Code grant  
+ PKCE when a user is involved

# Use Cases – Grant Types



## Web-server apps

authorization code + PKCE



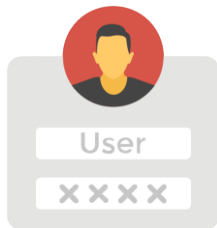
## Browser-based apps

~~implicit~~ authorization  
code + PKCE



## Mobile apps

~~implicit~~ authorization  
code + PKCE



~~Username/Password access~~  
~~password~~



Application access  
client credentials

# More Best Practices



- › Clients *should* use sender-constrained access tokens
  - ›› Mutual TLS for OAuth 2.0 (RFC8705)
  - ›› OAuth 2.0 Demonstrating Proof of Possession (DPoP, RFC9449)



# More Best Practices



- › Clients *must not* pass access tokens in a URI query parameter

›› [https://myapi.com/posts/all?access\\_token=avGt23F8fWb](https://myapi.com/posts/all?access_token=avGt23F8fWb)

# More Best Practices



- › Refresh tokens must either be sender-constrained or one-time use
  - ›› Use refresh token rotation

# Where Can I Find The Best Practices?

- › OAuth 2.0 Security Best Current Practice

  - › <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-oauth-security-topics>

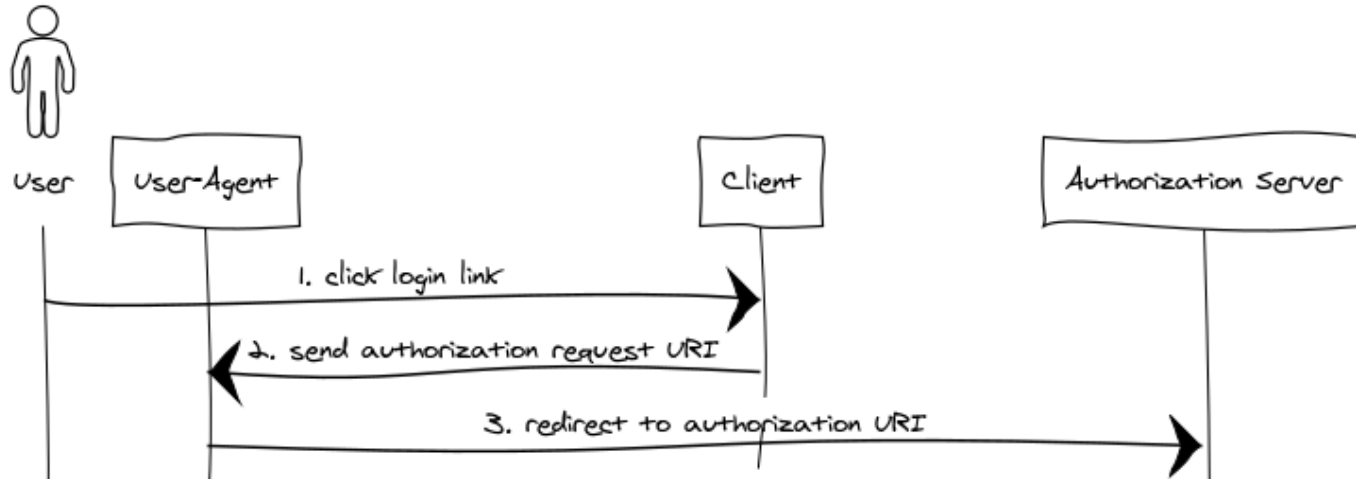
- › The OAuth 2.1 Authorization Framework

  - › <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-oauth-v2-1-11>

  - › Will be standardized soon (?)

What if you need  
**more**  
security?

# Regular Authorization Requests



## REQUEST

```
GET /authorize?response_type=code&client_id=CLIENT1234
    &state=duk681S8n00GsJpe7n9boxdzen&scope=profile
    &redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Eorg%2Fcb
    &code_challenge=rLGaLy...5Z5Dc&code_challenge_method=S256 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
```

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)  
Request for Comments: [9126](#)  
Category: Standards Track  
Published: September 2021  
ISSN: 2070-1721

T. Lodderstedt  
yes.com  
B. Campbell  
Ping Identity  
N. Sakimura  
NAT.Consulting  
D. Tonge  
Moneyhub Financial  
Technology  
F. Skokan  
Auth0

## OAuth 2.0 Pushed Authorization Requests

### Abstract

This document defines the pushed authorization request (PAR) endpoint, which allows clients to push the payload of an OAuth 2.0 authorization request to the authorization server via a direct request and provides them with a request URI that is used as reference to the data in a subsequent call to the authorization endpoint.

### Status of This Memo

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This document is a product of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). It represents the consensus of the IETF community. It has received public review and has been approved for publication by the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG). Further information on Internet Standards is available in Section 2 of RFC 7841.

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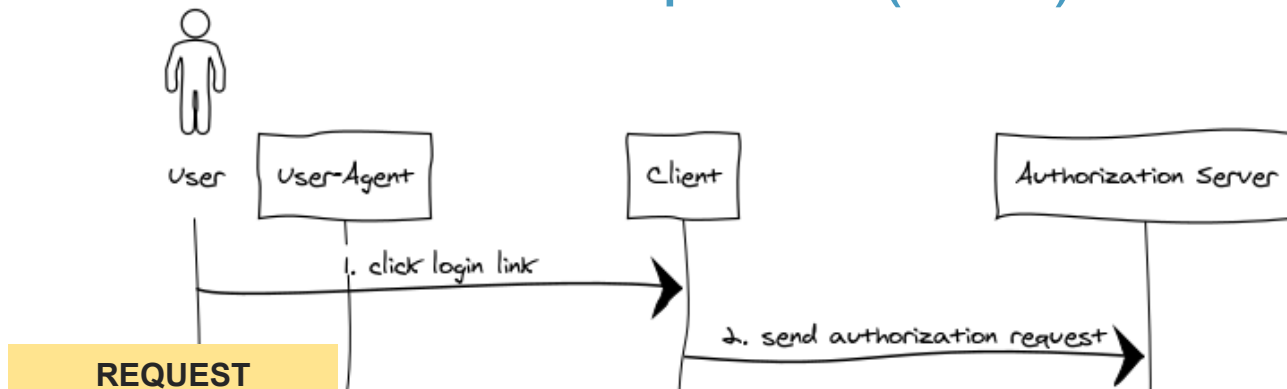
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# OAuth 2.0 Pushed Authorization Requests (RFC 9126)

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc9126>

# Pushed Authorization Requests (PAR)



## REQUEST

POST /as/par HTTP/1.1

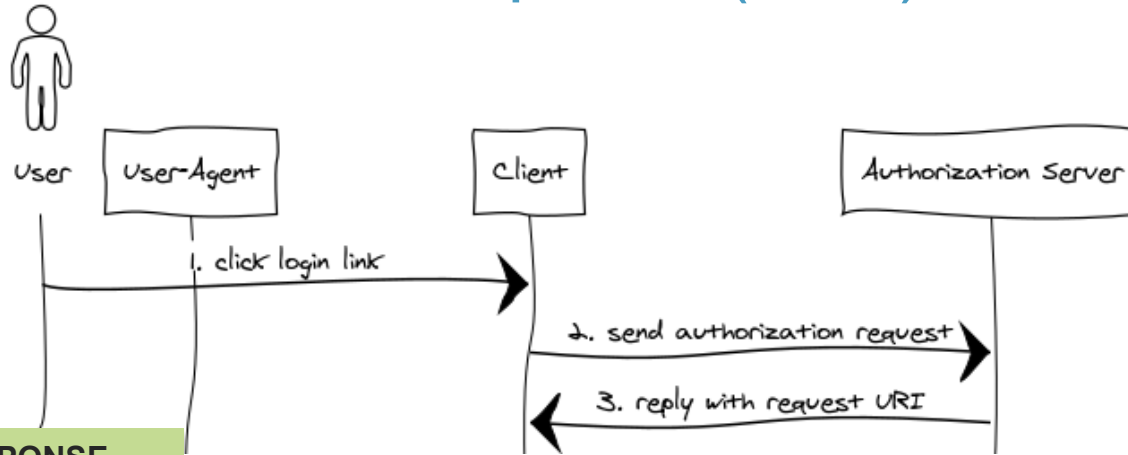
Host: as.example.com

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

response\_type=code&client\_id=CLIENT1234  
&state=duk681S8n00GsJpe7n9boxdzen&scope=profile  
&redirect\_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Eorg%2Fcb  
&code\_challenge=rLGaLv...5Z5Dc&code\_challenge\_method=S256

&client\_assertion\_type=  
urn%3Aietf%3Aparams%3Aoauth%3Aclient-assertion-type%3Ajwt-bearer  
&client\_assertion=eyJraWQiOiJ...dHBzOi8vc

# Pushed Authorization Requests (PAR)



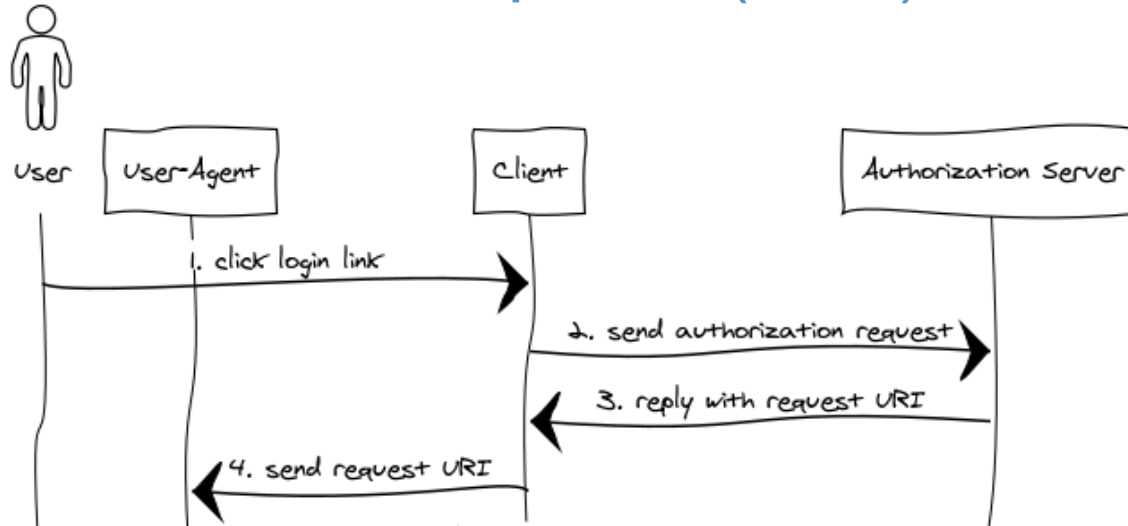
## RESPONSE

```
HTTP/1.1 201 Created
Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store
Content-Type: application/json
```

```
{
  "request_uri": "urn:example:bwc4JK-ESC0w8acc191e-Y1LTC2",
  "expires_in": 90
}
```



# Pushed Authorization Requests (PAR)

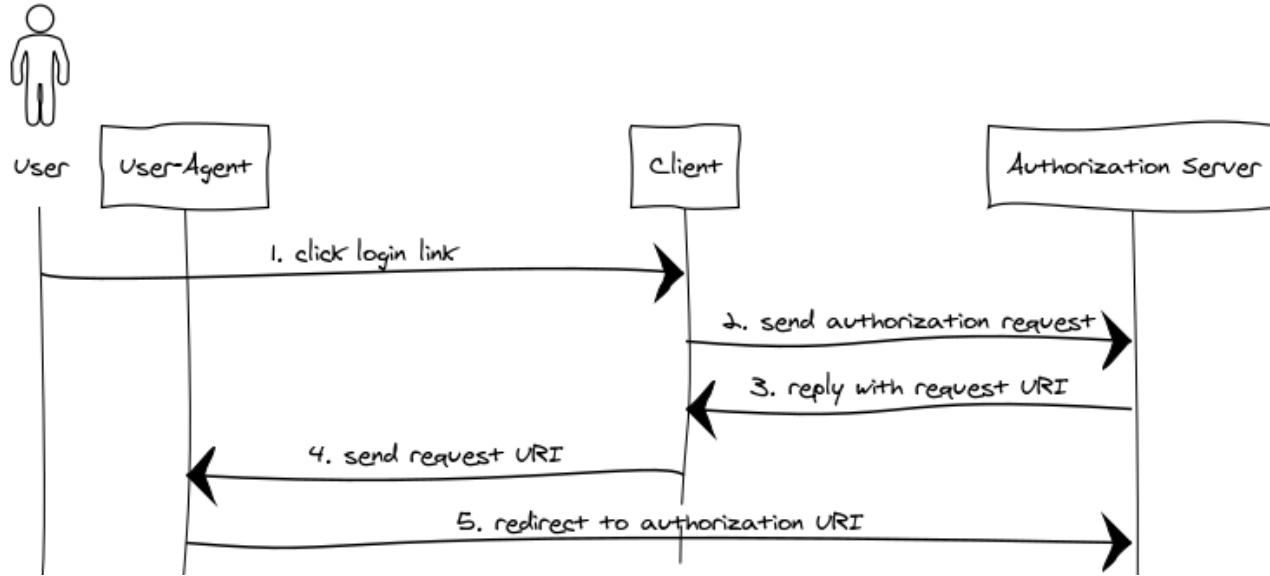


## RESPONSE

HTTP/1.1 303 See other

Location: [https://as.example.com/authorize?client\\_id=CLIENT1234&request\\_uri=urn%3Aexample%3Abwc4JK-ESC0w8acc191e-Y1LTC2](https://as.example.com/authorize?client_id=CLIENT1234&request_uri=urn%3Aexample%3Abwc4JK-ESC0w8acc191e-Y1LTC2)

# Pushed Authorization Requests (PAR)



Can we get  
**even more**  
secure?

# The Financial-Grade API Security Profile

- › Extension of OpenID Connect



- ›› OpenID Connect is an extension of OAuth 2.0

- › Focus on high-security scenarios (e.g., banking apps)

- › Gives additional requirements

- ›› E.g., which crypto algorithms to use, requiring asymmetric crypto instead of client passwords, ...

# The Financial-Grade API Security Profile

- › Current standards:
  - › Financial-grade API Security Profile (FAPI) 1.0 – Part 1: Baseline
  - › Financial-grade API Security Profile (FAPI) 1.0 – Part 2: Advanced
- › New specification coming up:
  - › FAPI 2.0 Security Profile

# Conclusion

# Conclusion

- › OAuth 2.0 is about **delegation**
  - › Clients can ask permission to access protected resources on a resource owner's (user's) behalf
- › OAuth 2.0 is a secure protocol ***if used correctly***
  - › Most servers and clients do not follow the best practices



Thank you!

<https://distrinet.cs.kuleuven.be/>

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