

WebSphere security



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Unit objectives

After completing this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain basic security concepts
- Describe the WebSphere Application Security architecture
- Describe enhancements to certificate management
- Configure fine-grained administrative security
- Configure application security
- Describe SSL concepts and configuration
- Describe support for multiple security domains
- Describe auditing features and functions
- Describe support for Java Platform, Enterprise Edition 6 (Java EE 6) security annotations



Topics

- WebSphere security basics
- WebSphere user registries
- Administrative security
- Application security
- Security domains
- Java 2 security
- SSL basics
- Certificates and certificate authorities
- SSL within a WebSphere cell
- Security auditing



WebSphere security basics

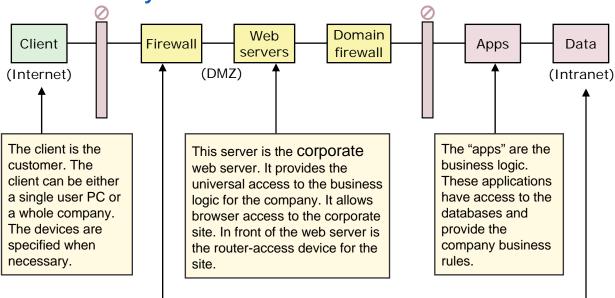


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Basic security end-to-end model



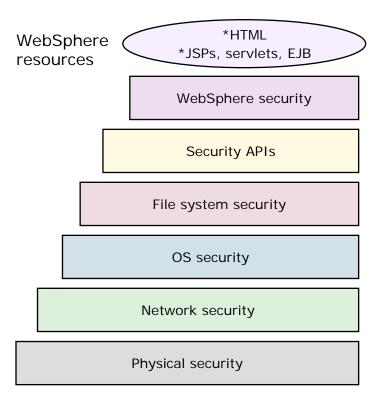
This firewall is the router to the Internet. An ISP (Internet service provider) typically provides it. This model, however, can apply to a corporate intranet. This router separates the internal network from the outside network.

This data is the corporate data. Ultimately, it is the information that the company wants to share with the customer. This data can be centralized or distributed. For this example, the data is accessed through business logic.



WebSphere Application Server security overview

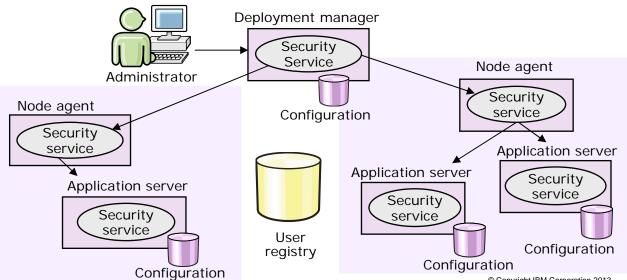
 Security can be applied at different levels





WebSphere security service: Big picture

- Security service runs locally in each process (deployment manager, node agent, and application server)
 - Security workload not bottlenecked to a single process
 - Security service failure affects only a single process
- Separation of authentication mechanism and user registry





Types of security

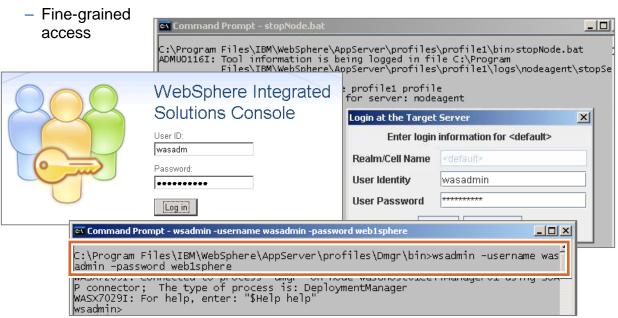
- Administrative security
 - Protects things such as administrative console, wsadmin, scripts
- Application security
 - Protects
 access to the
 applications
- Java 2 security
 - Protects the local systems





Administrative security

- Protects administrative console, scripts, wsadmin, and others
- Access can be restricted through:
 - Administrative roles





Application security

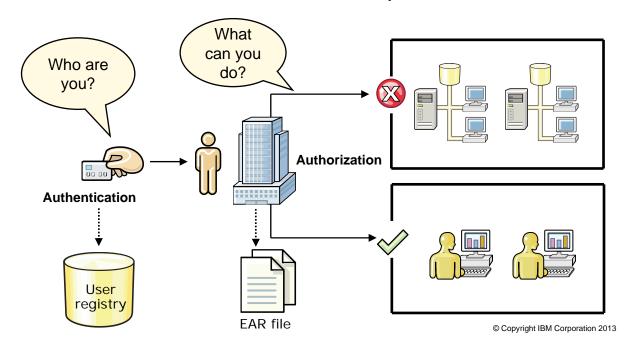
- Enables security for the applications in your environment
- Provides application isolation and requirements for authenticating application users
 - Security constraints protect servlets
 - Method permissions protect EJBs





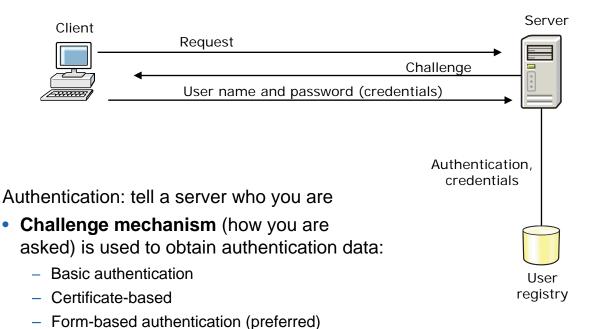
Authentication and authorization: What is the difference?

- There is a distinction between authentication and authorization
 - Authentication → Who are you?
 - Authorization → When authenticated, what are you allowed to do?





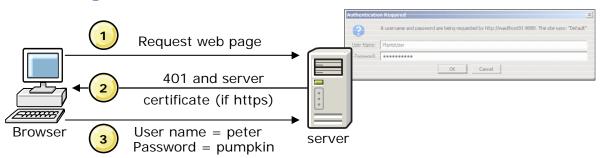
Challenge mechanism: Authentication basic steps



- Challenge mechanism is defined in the deployment descriptor
- Credentials are validated against user registry



Challenge mechanism: Basic authentication

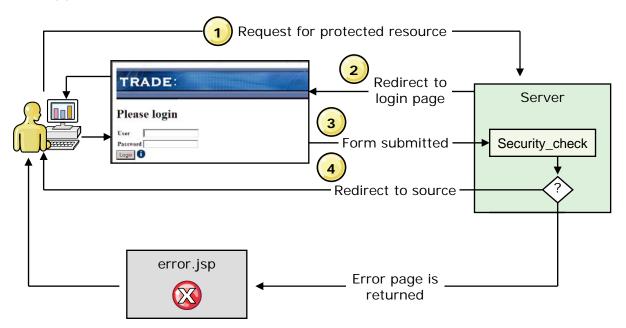


- Warning: password is not encrypted, merely encoded
 - Make sure that this channel is over HTTPS
- Warning: basic authentication token is sent across in the HTTP header
 - Danger: there is no way for the server to remove the token during a logout
 - If you walk away from a public browser, even if you log off, your credentials are still stored in the browser
 - Another person can walk up and be automatically logged in to your site
 - To remove the basic authentication token, close the browser or explicitly tell the browser to delete authentication credentials



Challenge mechanism: Form-based authentication

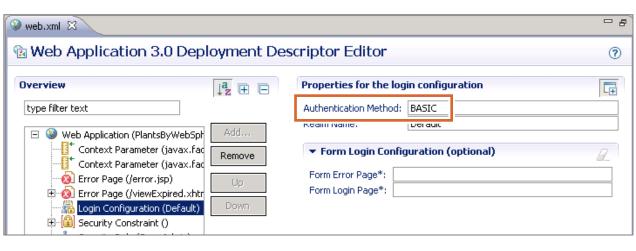
- Defined within the application
- Suggested approach





Defining the challenge type

- Challenge types are set in the EAR deployment descriptors
 - The default that Rational Application Developer uses is basic authentication
 - Form-based is defined by adding a login configuration





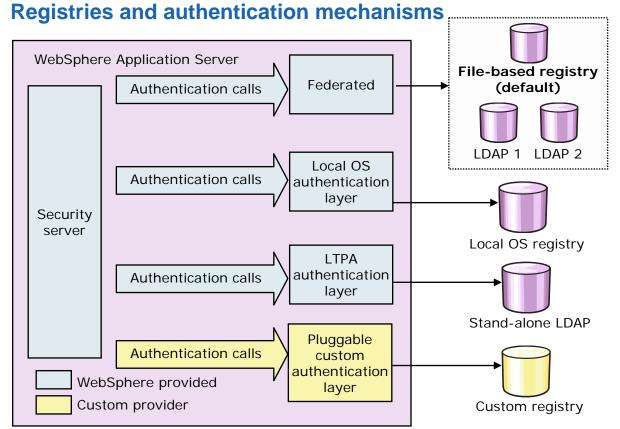
WebSphere user registries



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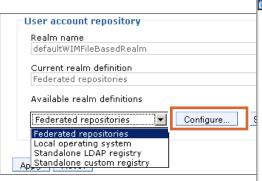
Defining user registries

- Use the administrative console to configure user registries
 - Manually (preferred)
 - Wizard (considered too simplistic)

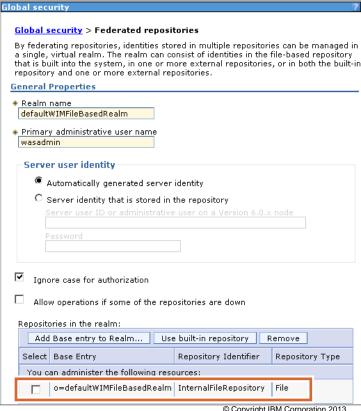




Manual security configuration

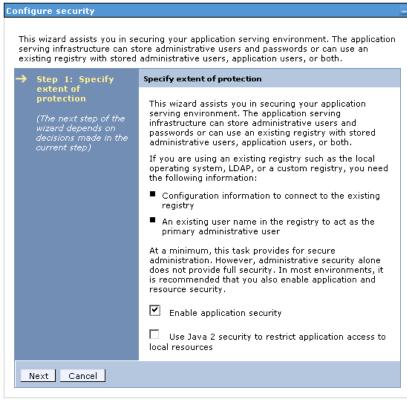


- The steps depend on the specific environment and which repository is being configured
- Much more detailed than the security wizard

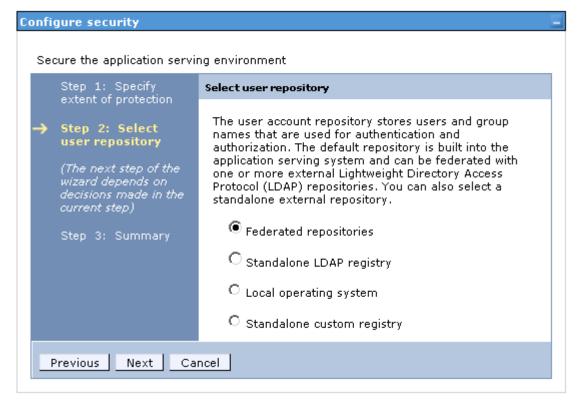




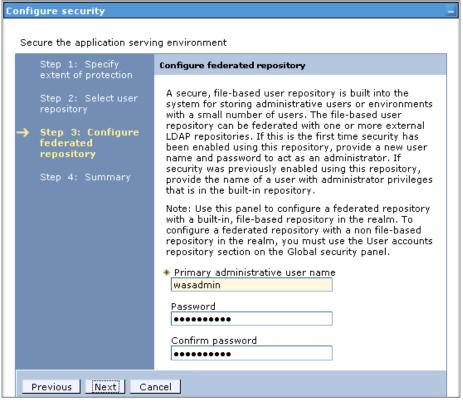
 Not detailed enough to be used for anything but simple environments

















User registry support

WebSphere Application Server supports some user registries

Local OS

NT Domain, NT WorkGroup, Windows AIX Solaris HP-UX Linux OS/400

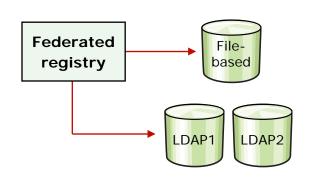
LDAP

IBM Tivoli Directory Server
IBM SecureWay Directory Server
Sun Java System Directory Server
IBM Lotus Domino
Microsoft Active Directory
Novell eDirectory
Custom (requires addition configuration)



Federated repositories

- The installation wizard and profile management tools have a default of enabling administrative security
- The default repository type is a file-based federated repository



- Federated repositories provide for the use of multiple repositories with WebSphere Application Server
- Can be:
 - File-based
 - Single LDAP
 - Custom registry

- Database
- Multiple LDAPs
- Subtree of an LDAP
- Defined and theoretically combined under a single realm
- All of the user repositories that are configured under the federated repository are invisible to WebSphere Application Server



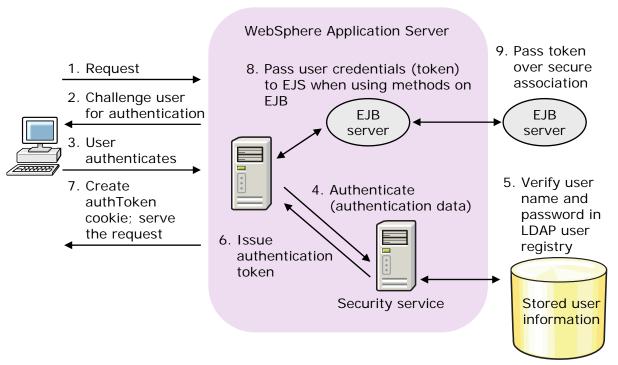
Custom registry: Configuration

Global security > Standalone custom registry Specifies a custom registry that implements the UserRegistry interface in the com.ibm.websphere.security package, For backward compatibility, the application server also supports a custom registry that implements the CustomRegistry interface in the com.ibm.websphere.security package. When security is enabled and any of the properties on this panel are changed, go to the Security > Global security panel. Click Apply or OK to validate the changes. **General Properties** Related Items * Primary administrative user name Trusted authentication Server user identity realms - inbound • Automatically generated server identity C Server identity that is stored in the repository Server user ID or administrative user on a Version 6.0.x node Configured from administrative console: Security > Global security Select Stand-alone custom registry * Custom registry class name com.ibm.websphere.security.FileRegistrySample from the Available realm definitions. ☐ Ignore case for authorization Click Configure Custom properties User name and password must exist Value Select Name New Class name must be implemented Delete and in class path



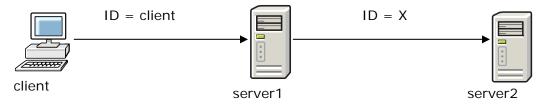
Authentication mechanism: LTPA

Allows the identity of a user to be passed around the distributed network





LTPA provides delegation



X can run as:

Option 1. Client

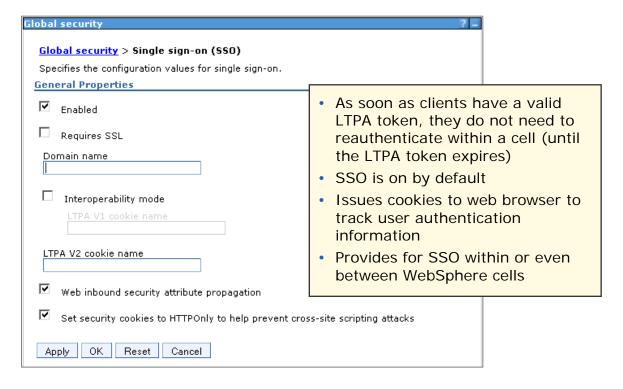
Option 2. Server 1

Option 3. Specified identity

Using an LTPA token supports delegation



LTPA provides single sign-on (SSO)





Administrative security



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Administrative security

Turning on administrative security enables many features, including:

- Authentication of HTTP and IIOP clients
- Administrative console security
- Naming security
- Use of SSL transports
- Role-based authorization checks of servlets, EJBs, and MBeans
- Propagation of identities (RunAs)
- The common user registry

Console and other administrative tools: access is initially restricted to only the primary user

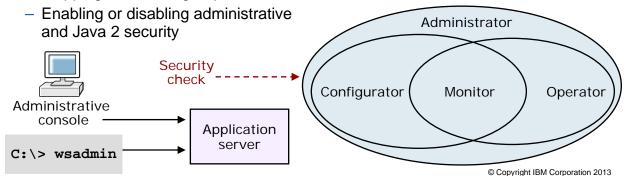
- You must create your administrative users and groups
- As of version 7, fine-grained access can be defined for console users
 - For example, Bob can be configured to have administrative access to application servers A and B
 - Fred can be configured to have operator access to only servers C and D



Console security

Defines which roles have access to the administrative tools

- Monitor: least privileged; allows a user to view the WebSphere configuration and current application server state
- Configurator: monitor privilege plus the ability to change the WebSphere configuration
- Operator: monitor privilege plus the ability to change runtime state, such as starting or stopping servers
- **Administrator**: operator, configurator, and iscadmins privilege, plus more privileges that are granted solely to the administrator role, such as:
 - Modifying the primary administrative user and password
 - Mapping users and groups to the administrator role





Additional console security roles

- iscadmins (Integrated Solutions Console)
 - Only available for administration console users
 - Allows a user to manage users and groups in the federated repositories

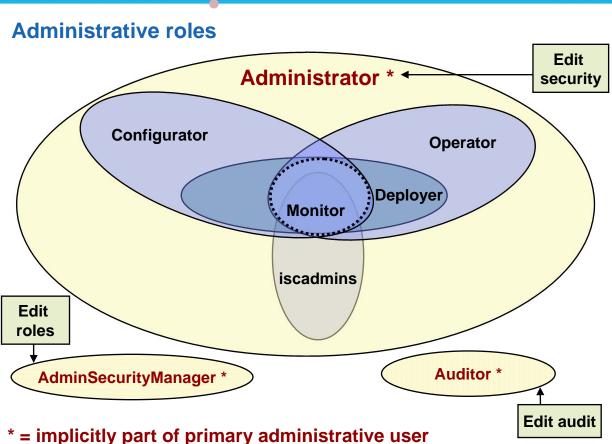
Deployer

 Allows a user to change configuration and runtime state on applications that use wsadmin

Admin Security Manager

- Allows a user to map users to administrative roles by using wsadmin
- When restricted access to resource authentication data is in effect, users can also manage authorization groups
- And others

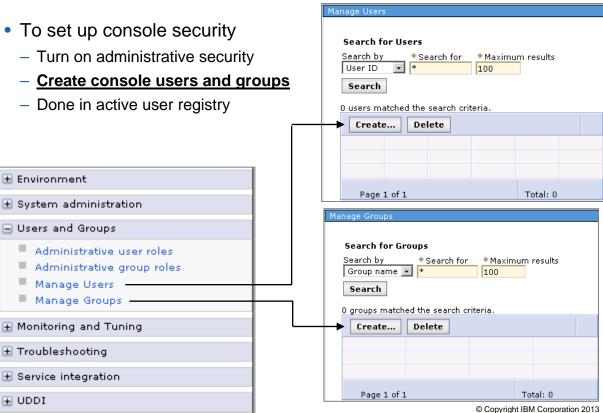




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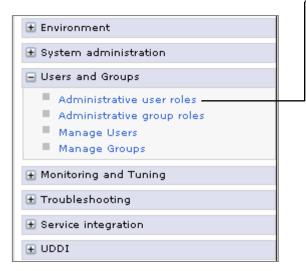
Console security: Creating users and groups

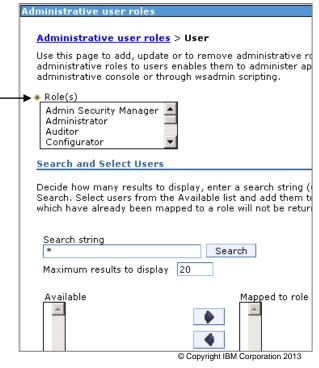




Console security: Mapping users and groups

- To set up console security
 - Turn on administrative security
 - Create console users and groups
 - Map users and groups to administrative roles







Application security



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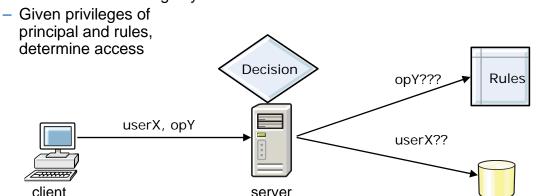


Authorization

Authorization involves granting trusted principals permission to perform actions on resources (web pages, servlets, JSPs, and EJB components)

Control access to resources

- Security lookup (by server)
 - Determine security privileges for principal
 - Access information that is stored in registry
- Rule enforcement (by server)
 - Obtain rules from registry

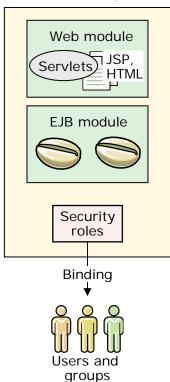




Security roles: Application authorization

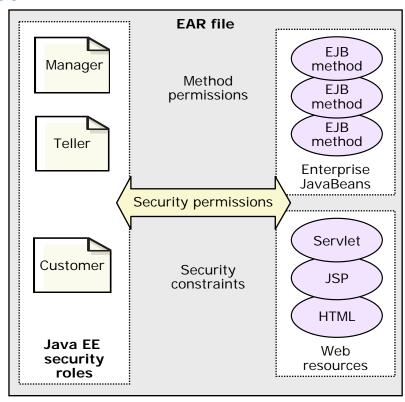
- Use security roles for authorization
 - Specify security at an abstract level without knowledge of actual users and groups
- Security roles are then applied to the web and EJB application components
 - Web URIs or EJB methods
- Binding of the users and groups to the security roles is generally done at the application installation time
 - Can be done post-installation as well

EAR file



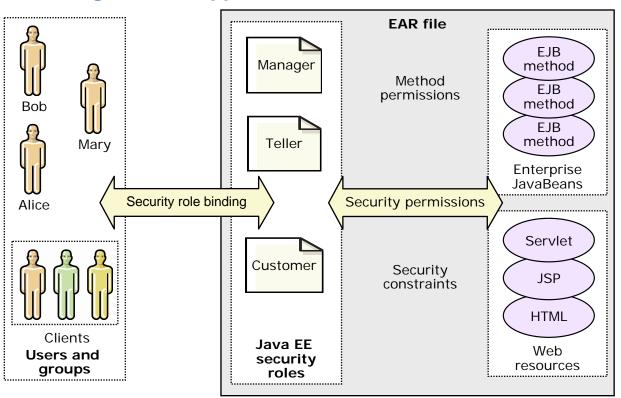


Securing Java EE application artifacts: Part 1





Securing Java EE application artifacts: Part 2





Applying application security

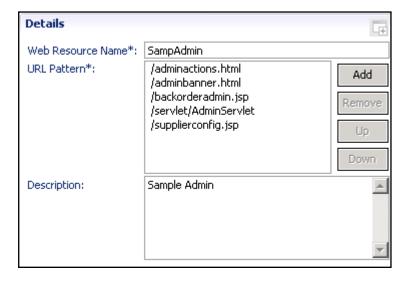
- Application security can be applied to resources within an EAR
 - Security roles are defined in the application deployment descriptor
 - Servlets and JSPs are protected with security constraints, which are mapped to the security roles
 - EJBs are protected with method permissions, which are mapped to the security roles
- The security roles are then mapped to actual users and groups during installation of the application





Creating security constraints

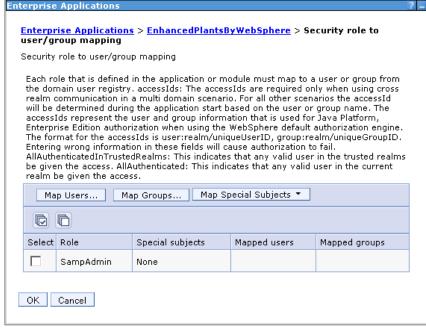
 After the security role is created, it can be mapped in a security constraint to protect web application artifacts





Using the console to map security roles

- The mapping of users and groups to security roles can take place during or after application installation
 - After installation. use the administrative console to go to the application and under Detailed Properties, select Security role to user/group mapping





Security domains



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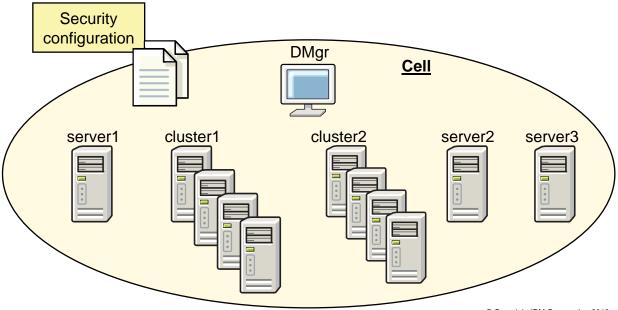
Security domains

- Multiple security domains are supported as of WebSphere Application Server version 7
 - Can create different security configurations and assign them to different applications
 - Can configure different security attributes for both administrative and user applications within a cell environment
 - Can configure different applications to use different security configurations by assigning the servers, clusters, or service integration buses to the security domains
- Only users that are assigned to the administrator role can configure multiple security domains
- For example, with security domains, it is possible to have different user registries that are configured for distinct parts of the cell



Security configurations

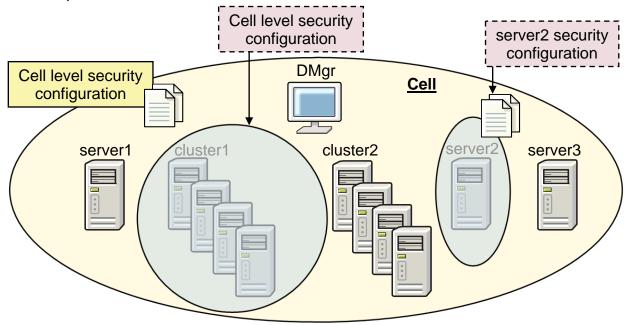
- Traditionally, the security configuration was defined at a cell level
 - A side effect was all elements of the cell shared the exact same security configuration





Security domains

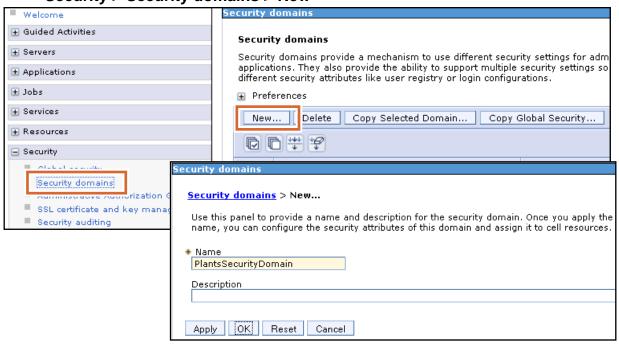
 With security domains, it is possible to have a cell level security configuration, and multiple other security configurations at different scopes





Creating a security domain

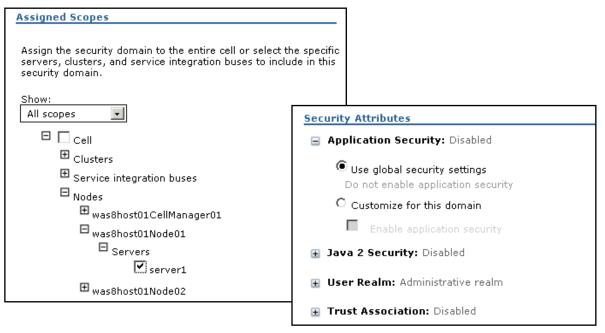
- Use the console to create a security domain
 - Security > Security domains > New





Configuring a security domain

- Define a scope and configure the attributes
 - It is possible to enable application security for only the PlantsByWebSphere





Java 2 security



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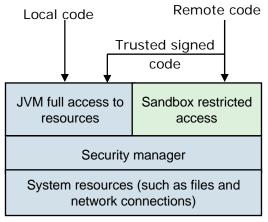
Java security model

- Java 1.0 (sandbox model):
 - Downloaded code (untrusted) runs in a sandbox (restricted environment)
 - Application code (local Java classes) has full access to resources (trusted and no protection)
 - JVM full access to resources

 Security manager

 System resources (such as files and network connections)

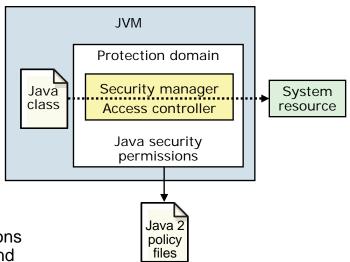
- Java 1.1 (signed code):
- Extends 1.0 sandbox model.
 Introduces signed code. Digitally signed remote code is treated like local code if the public key used to verify that the signature is trusted





Java security overview

- Protects the system from the applications
- Provides an access control mechanism to manage the application access to system level resources
 - File I/O, network connections (sockets), property files
 - Policy-based
- Policies define a set of permissions available from various signers and code locations
 - Stored in policy files
- All Java code runs under a security policy
 - Grants access to certain resources
- Can be turned on or off independently of administrative security

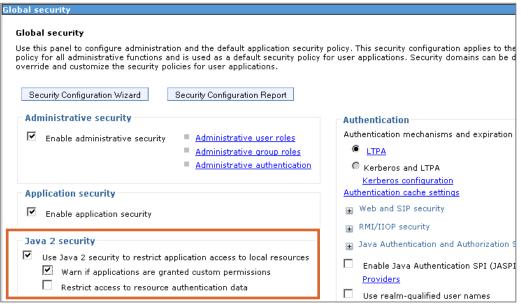


- Java code needs access to certain system resources
- Java code must get the permission from Java 2 access control
- Access control looks at the Java 2
 policy files to determine whether the
 requesting Java code has the
 appropriate permission



Enabling Java 2 security

- Can be enabled and disabled independently of administrative and application security
- Java 2 security provides a policy-based, fine-grain access control mechanism that increases overall system integrity.
- Java 2 security checks for permissions before allowing access to certain protected system resources





SSL basics



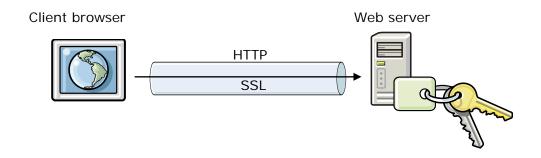
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What is SSL?

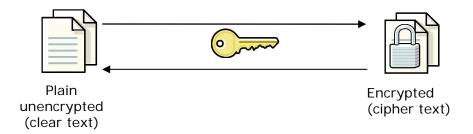
- SSL stands for Secure Sockets Layer
- SSL provides connection security through:
 - Communication privacy: the data on the connection can be encrypted
 - Communication integrity: the protocol includes a built-in integrity check
 - Authentication: the client knows who the server is
- Creates a VPN
 - Uses both symmetric and asymmetric key encryption





Symmetric key encryption

- Symmetric or secret key technology is a model in which two parties have a shared secret
- The same key is used for both encryption and decryption

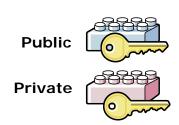


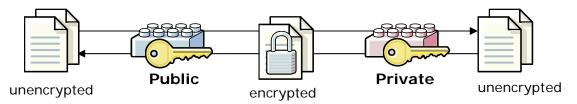


Asymmetric key encryption

Public key cryptography

- Two keys that are cryptographically related:
 - Public key (can share with everyone)
 - Private key (must never be shared; possession is proof)
- Keys are asymmetric:
 - Given message is encrypted with one key and decrypted with another
 - Symmetric, secret key technology uses the same key for encryption and decryption







How does SSL work?

SSL uses a combination of asymmetric and symmetric encryption to create a session between the client and server

- Asymmetric encryption is used to negotiate a session key (shared secret)
 - Asymmetric encryption is slow but does not require a shared secret
- Symmetric encryption is used to transfer data between the client and server
 - Symmetric encryption is fast but requires a shared secret

1. Client requests SSL connection 2. Server presents certificate 4. Client generates a session key, encrypts it with the public key for the server certificate 5. Using the session key, client and server switch to symmetric key encryption 6. HTTPS communications



Certificates and certificate authorities





What is a certificate?

Simple answer:

- It is an electronic document that identifies you, and a third-party vouches for both you and the certificate itself
- Examples:
 - Employee badge (vouched for by your employer)
 - Drivers license (vouched for by your state)
 - Passport (vouched for by your country)

More information:

- Includes information about you
- Includes public key
- A certificate authority digitally signs it





Types of certificates

There are different types of certificates:

Certificate

- Contains a public key that is signed
- Contains information about the owner of the certificate
- Contains certificate expiration date

Personal certificate:

Typically meant as the certificate along with private key data

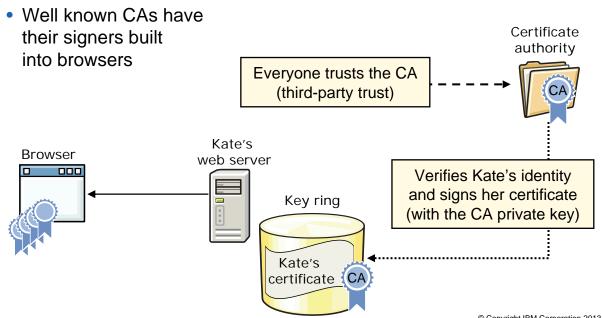
Signer certificate:

 The certificate that corresponds to the private key used to digitally sign another certificate



What is a certificate authority (CA)?

- An entity that signs public keys, thus creating certificates
 - A CA validates Kate's identity before vouching for her (signing her certificate)
 - A special type of signer (a trusted signer)

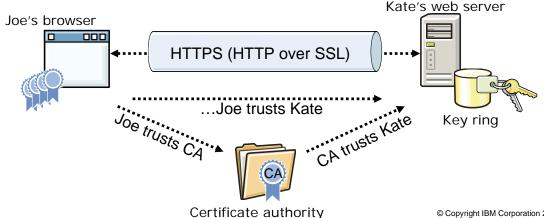




SSL: Putting it all together

The SSL handshake establishes:

- The identity of the server (based on trusting the CA)
 - The server provides a CA signed certificate
 - The server proves that it has the corresponding private key
 - Therefore, Joe trusts that Kate really is Kate
- Encrypted (with symmetric key) channel between the browser and server





SSL within a WebSphere cell





SSL within WebSphere Application Server

- SSL can be used to secure network traffic for a number of links
 - From the client to the web server.

1 Client to HTTPd

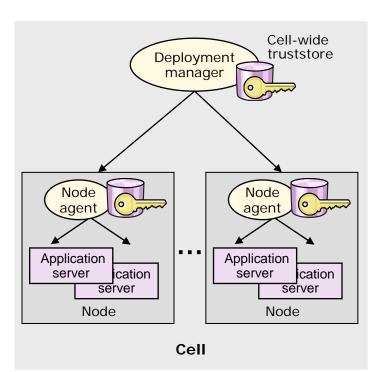
- From the plug-in to the application server
- Other network links can also be secured (LDAP and others)
- The administrative console (or iKeyman) can be used to create and manage the necessary keys and keystores
 - Keystores contain digital certificates that are needed for SSL to establish secure communication between two points

2. Plug-in to application server Web server Client browser WebSphere Plug **Application** SSI SSL Server



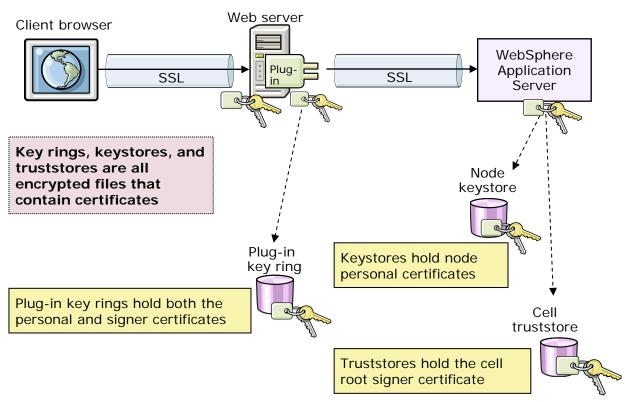
WebSphere SSL management

- WebSphere automatically creates node certificates
 - The cell root certificate (called a "chained certificate") signs the node certificates
 - Node certificates are stored in a node-specific keystore
- Cell-wide truststore includes cell root signer certificate
 - Each node can therefore validate certificates that other nodes present
- An expiration manager automatically renews expiring keys (default behavior)
- The keystores and truststores are stored within the cell configuration and therefore distributed to the nodes through file synchronization





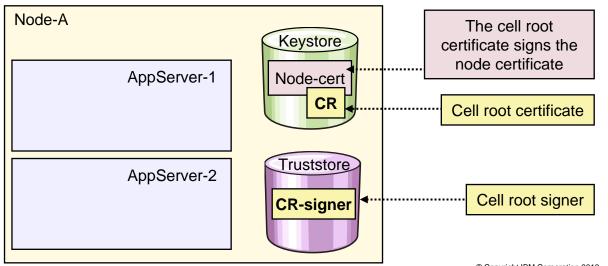
What are key rings, keystores, and truststores?





Node certificates

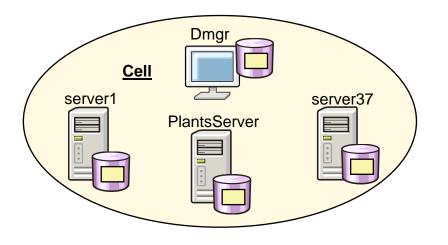
- Each node has a node certificate
 - The cell root certificate (a chained certificate) signs the node certificate
 - The cell root signer is therefore needed to validate the node certificate
 - The application servers, by default, all use the local node certificate

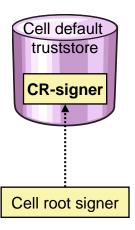




Cell default truststore

- The cell default truststore contains signers, include the cell root signer
 - It is synchronized to all the members of the cell
 - All the nodes use the common cell default truststore
 - Although there are node truststore files, they are not used by default







Managing WebSphere keystores

- Keystores and certificates for the cell, nodes, and plug-ins can be managed directly from the console
- Expiration management
- Keystores
- Trust files
- Certificates

SSL certificate and key management

SSL configurations

The Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol provides secure communications between remote server processes or endpoints. SSL security can be used for establishing communications inbound to and outbound from an endpoint. To establish secure communications, a certificate and an SSL configuration must be specified for the endpoint.

In previous versions of this product, it was necessary to manually configure each endpoint for Secure Sockets Layer (SSL). In this version, you can define a single configuration for the entire application-serving environment. This capability enables you to centrally manage secure communications. In addition, trust zones can be established in multiple node environments by overriding the default, cell-level SSL configuration.

If you have migrated a secured environment to this version using the migration utilities, the old Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) configurations are restored for the various endpoints. However, it is necessary for you to re-configure SSL to take advantage of the centralized management capability.

Configuration settings

Manage endpoint security configurations

Manage certificate expiration

☐ Use the United States Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) algorithms. Note: This option requires the TLS handshake protocol, which some browsers do not enable by default.

▼ Dynamically update the run time when SSL configuration changes occur

Apply

Reset

Fingerprint (SHA digest)

97:A6:3A:19:68:F8:13:13:7E:3E:C3:8D:D5:83:1D:A



Renew

Expiration

Valid from

2011 to Oct

19, 2012.

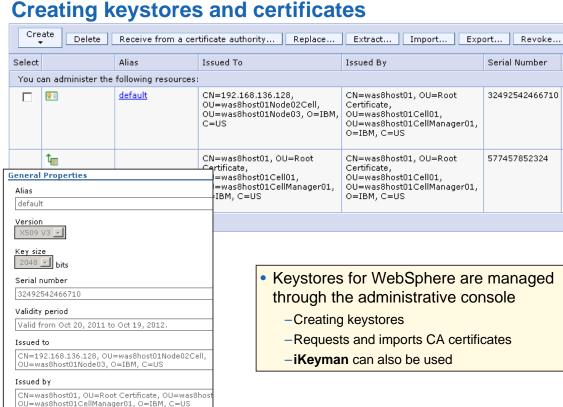
Valid from

2011 to Aua

Aug 14.

10, 2026.

Oct 20.



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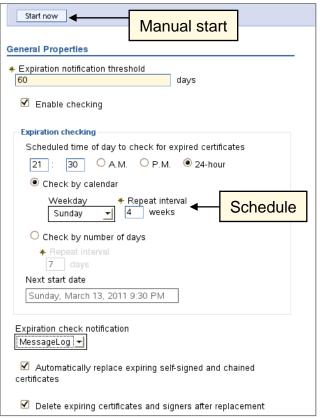
What is a chained certificate?

- A chained certificate is merely a certificate that another certificate signs
- The cell root certificate (sometimes called a mini-CA) signs the node certificate





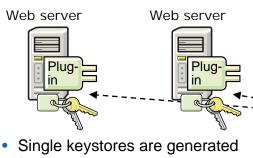
Expiration manager scheduling



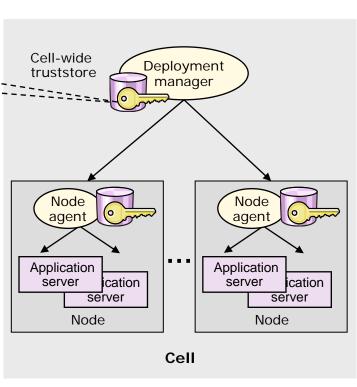
- The expiration manager can be run manually or through a schedule
- Running manually can be useful since you actively monitor the log file and thus generate a list of certificates that are going to expire soon



Keys for web servers

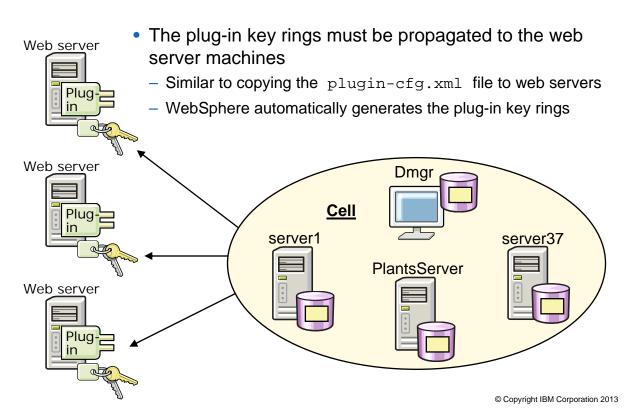


- Single keystores are generated for each unmanaged web server node:
 - Contains signed personal certificate for the unmanaged node (which the cell root certificate signs)
 - Includes the cell root signer certificate, allowing the plug-ins to communicate with the nodes securely
- Important: These key rings must be distributed to the web servers



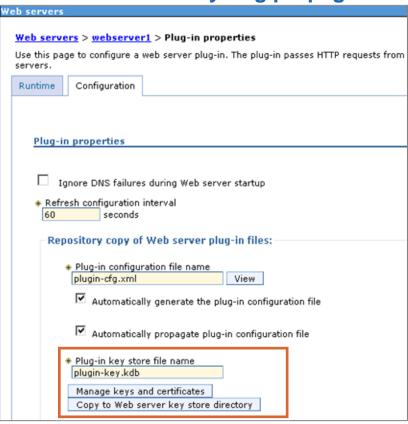


Web server plug-in keystores propagation





IBM HTTP Server key ring propagation



- Web server keystores are automatically generated
 - Can be managed from the administrative console
- The keystore for IBM HTTP Server servers can be remotely propagated



Security auditing



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Security auditing

- The security auditing subsystem was introduced in WebSphere Application Server Version 7 and has two primary goals:
 - Confirm the effectiveness and integrity of the existing security configuration
 - Identify areas where improvement to the security configuration might be needed
- The security auditing subsystem can capture the following types of auditable events:
 - Authentication
 - Authorization
 - Principal and credential mapping
 - Audit policy management
 - User registry and identity management
 - Delegation
 - Administrative configuration management



Enabling security auditing

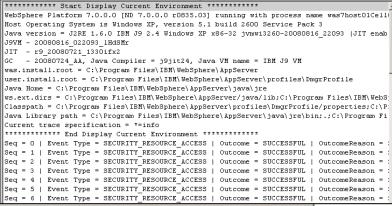
- Configuration is necessary before auditing can be enabled
 - Create an audit-specific set of console users or groups and map to Auditor role
 - Define notification mechanism (log file, email)
 - Enable monitoring
- Enabling auditing

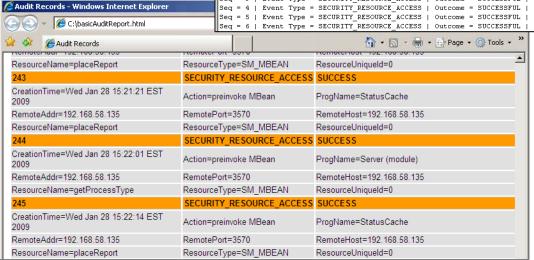




Viewing audit data

- Audit data can be viewed as:
 - Text
 - An HTML report (through wsadmin)



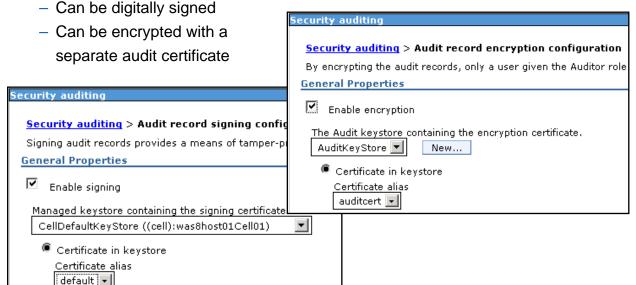




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Securing audit records

- Access to audit configurations is restricted
 - To change audit settings, Auditor access is required (Administrator access is not sufficient)
- Audit data can be digitally protected





Unit summary

Having completed this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain basic security concepts
- Describe the WebSphere Application Security architecture
- Describe enhancements to certificate management
- Configure fine-grained administrative security
- Configure application security
- Describe SSL concepts and configuration
- Describe support for multiple security domains
- Describe auditing features and functions
- Describe support for Java Platform, Enterprise Edition 6 (Java EE 6) security annotations



Checkpoint questions

- 1. Which type of security restricts access to the application?
 - A. Administrative security
 - B. Application security
 - C. Java 2 security
 - D. File system security
- 2. Which type of security restricts access to the operating system?
 - A. Administrative security
 - B. Application security
 - C. Java 2 security
 - D. File system security
- 3. Which type of security restricts access to the console?
 - A. Administrative security
 - B. Application security
 - C. Java 2 security
 - D. File system security



Checkpoint answers

- 1. Which type of security restricts access to the application?
 - B. Application security
- 2. Which type of security restricts access to the operating system?
 - C. Java 2 security
- 3. Which type of security restricts access to the console?
 - A. Administrative security



Exercise 12



Configuring WebSphere security

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Exercise objectives

After completing this exercise, you should be able to:

- Enable WebSphere security
- Configure administrative security by configuring access to administrative functions
- Configure fine-grained administrative security



Exercise 13



Configuring application security

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Exercise objectives

After completing this exercise, you should be able to:

- Define Java EE security roles
- Define access for resources in an application
- Enable and verify application security



Exercise 14



Configuring SSL for WebSphere

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Exercise objectives

After completing this exercise, you should be able to:

- Define the certificate life span of a profile
- Use the administrative console to find and view certificates within the cell
- Configure and run the certificate expiration service
- Propagate the generated plug-in keystore out to the plug-in
- Create a keystore for a web server
- Generate a self-signed key
- Configure IBM HTTP Server to load and use HTTPS