Exercise (Instructions): Basic Authentication

Objectives and Outcomes

In this exercise you will use basic authentication approach to authenticate users. At the end of this exercise, you will be able to:

- Set up an Express server to handle basic authentication
- Use the basic access authentication approach to do basic authentication.

Setting up the Express Server

- Create a folder named *basic-auth* and then copy the *server-2.js* file in the *node-express* folder that you did as part of the *node-express* exercise. Also copy the *public* folder and the *package.json* file from there also to *basic-auth* folder. Rename *server-2.js* as *server.js*.

- Then go to the basic-auth folder and install all the node modules by typing the following at the prompt:

```
npm install
```

- Open the *server.js* file and update its contents as follows:

```
var express = require('express');
var morgan = require('morgan');


var hostname = 'localhost';
var port = 3000;


var app = express();


app.use(morgan('dev'));


function auth (req, res, next) {
    console.log(req.headers);
    var authHeader = req.headers.authorization;
    if (!authHeader) {
        var err = new Error('You are not authenticated!');
        err.status = 401;
        next(err);
```

```
        return;
    }

    var auth = new Buffer(authHeader.split(' ')[1], 'base64').toString().split(':');
    var user = auth[0];
    var pass = auth[1];
    if (user == 'admin' && pass == 'password') {
        next(); // authorized
    } else {
        var err = new Error('You are not authenticated!');
        err.status = 401;
        next(err);
    }
}

app.use(auth);

app.use(express.static(__dirname + '/public'));
app.use(function(err,req,res,next) {
        res.writeHead(err.status || 500, {
        'WWW-Authenticate': 'Basic',
        'Content-Type': 'text/plain'
    });
        res.end(err.message);
});

app.listen(port, hostname, function(){
  console.log(`Server running at http://${hostname}:${port}/`);
});
```

- Save the changes and start the server. Access the server from a browser and see the result.

Conclusions

In this exercise you learnt about performing basic authentication with username and password in a browser.