Janis Gonzalez

WEB 420 RESTful APIs

Discussion 6.1 OAuth and OpenID Connect

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Bellevue University

OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect are protocols that are used to authenticate applications. OAuth, also known as Open Authorization, is known to use the approach of delegated authorization. Delegated authorization is an approach where a third-party application is allowed to access a user’s data (Anwar, 2023). There are two ways to use delegated authorization. The first way is to allow the third-party application access to the password so that the third-party application can login into the account for the person and then be able to access the data of the user (Anwar, 2023). The second one is to allow the application access to the data by using OAuth without having to give the password (Anwar, 2023). OpenID Connect is another layer to the OAuth 2.0 protocol. OpenID Connect is an extension to OAuth 2.0. OAuth does not provide user identity, but instead provides an access token for authorization (Barak, 2022). OpenID Connect allows the client to identify who the user is based on the type of authentication used by the authorization server. To do this, a defining scope named openid is used when requesting the authorization server for user login and consent (Barak, 2022). The openid scope allows the authorization server know that OpenID Connect is required (Barak, 2022).

OAuth 2.0 is for authorization while OpenID Connect is for authentication. Authentication is used to verify that the communicating entity is the one claimed, and authorization is the process of being able to verify whether the communicating entity has access to the resource (Anwar, 2023). So, authentication is to verify who the person accessing the information is while authorization is to verify what kind of permissions this person has access to. In short, OAuth and OpenID Connect are different types of tools used for different tasks. But OpenID Connect is an extension of OAuth 2.0 for added security.

References:

Anwar, H. (2023, April 5). *The Complete Guide to oauth 2.0 and openid connect protocols*. Medium. Retrieved from <https://betterprogramming.pub/the-complete-guide-to-oauth-2-0-and-openid-connect-protocols-35ebc1cbc11a>

Barak, S. (2022, January 14). *OAuth 2.0 and openid connect for dummies*. Medium. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/everything-full-stack/oauth-2-0-and-openid-connect-for-dummies-6fa6e995d6d5>