**Using Web Chat with Azure Bot Service’s Authentication**

*Posted on*[*September 1, 2018*](https://blog.botframework.com/2018/09/01/using-webchat-with-azure-bot-services-authentication/)*by*[*The Bot Framework Team*](https://blog.botframework.com/author/botframeworkteam/)

**[Updated on 9/20/2019]**

This blog covers how to use Web Chat with the Azure Bot Service’s built-in authentication capability to authenticate chat users with various identity providers such AAD, GitHub, Facebook, etc, including best practices on how to ensure a secure experience. This tutorial also covers where the built-in authentication features are currently supported and where they are not.

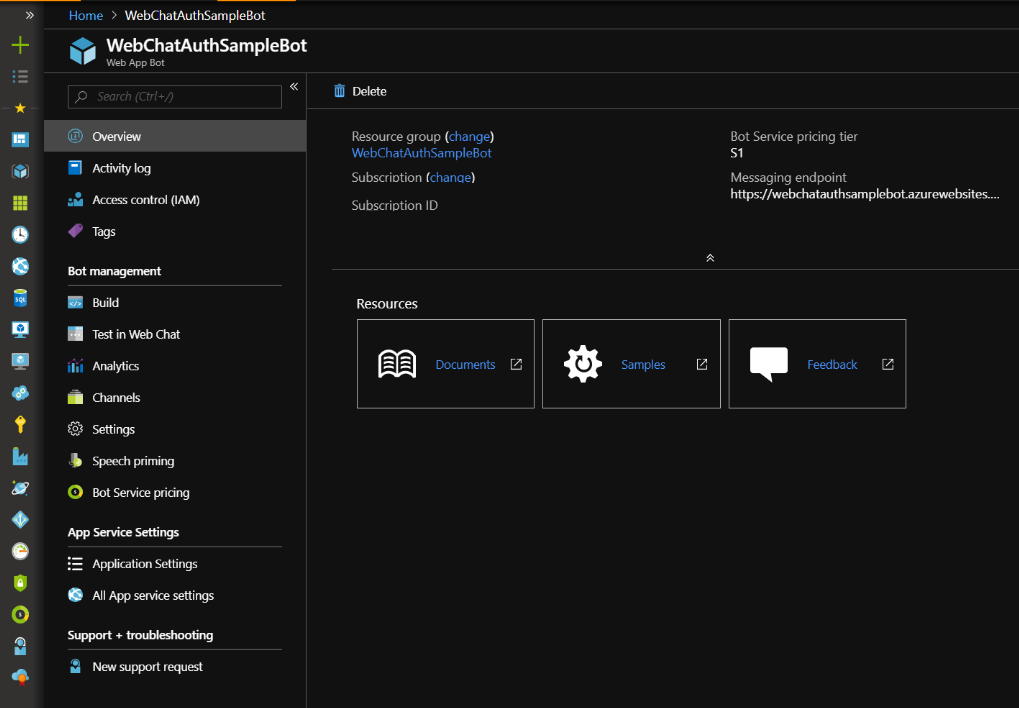
**Step 1: Registering Connections and Making a Bot**

The first step is to register your connections and to create a bot that supports sending OAuthCards and receiving tokens. These steps are documented [here](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/bot-service/bot-builder-tutorial-authentication?view=azure-bot-service-3.0). Once you have a bot registered, a connection set, and are able to run your bot successfully using the Bot Framework Emulator to sign a user in you are ready to build a Web Chat based client.

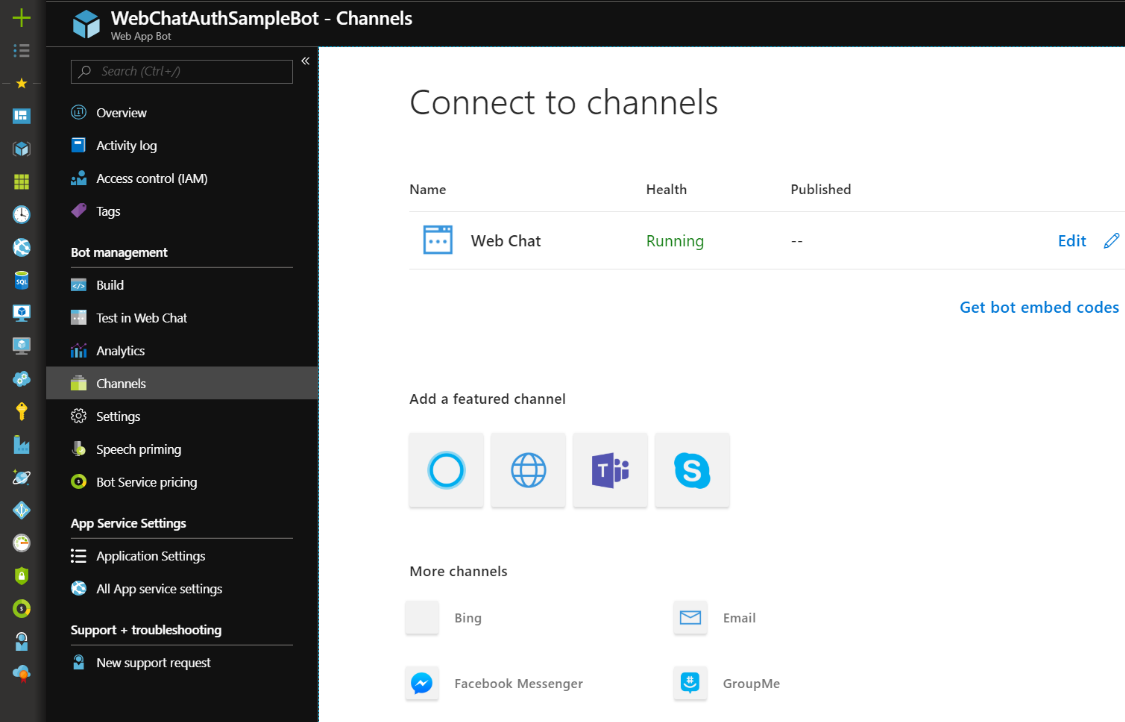
**Step 2: Enabling DirectLine**

The next thing you’ll want to do is to enable DirectLine for your bot. Currently, all bots come “pre-registered” with the Web Chat channel, but the authentication features **currently only work if you have DirectLine enabled and are using a DirectLine secret** (we are working to support Web Chat secrets, but for now, use DirectLine). To register for the DirectLine channel:

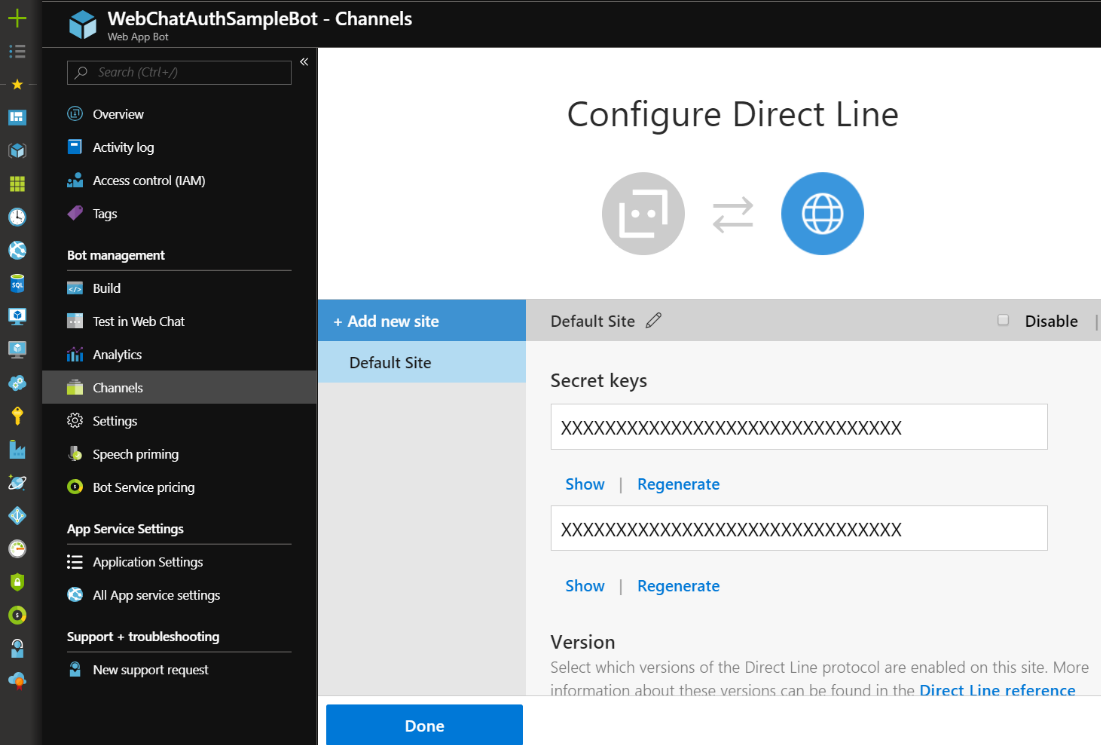
1. Go to <https://portal.azure.com/>
2. Navigate to your bot resource:



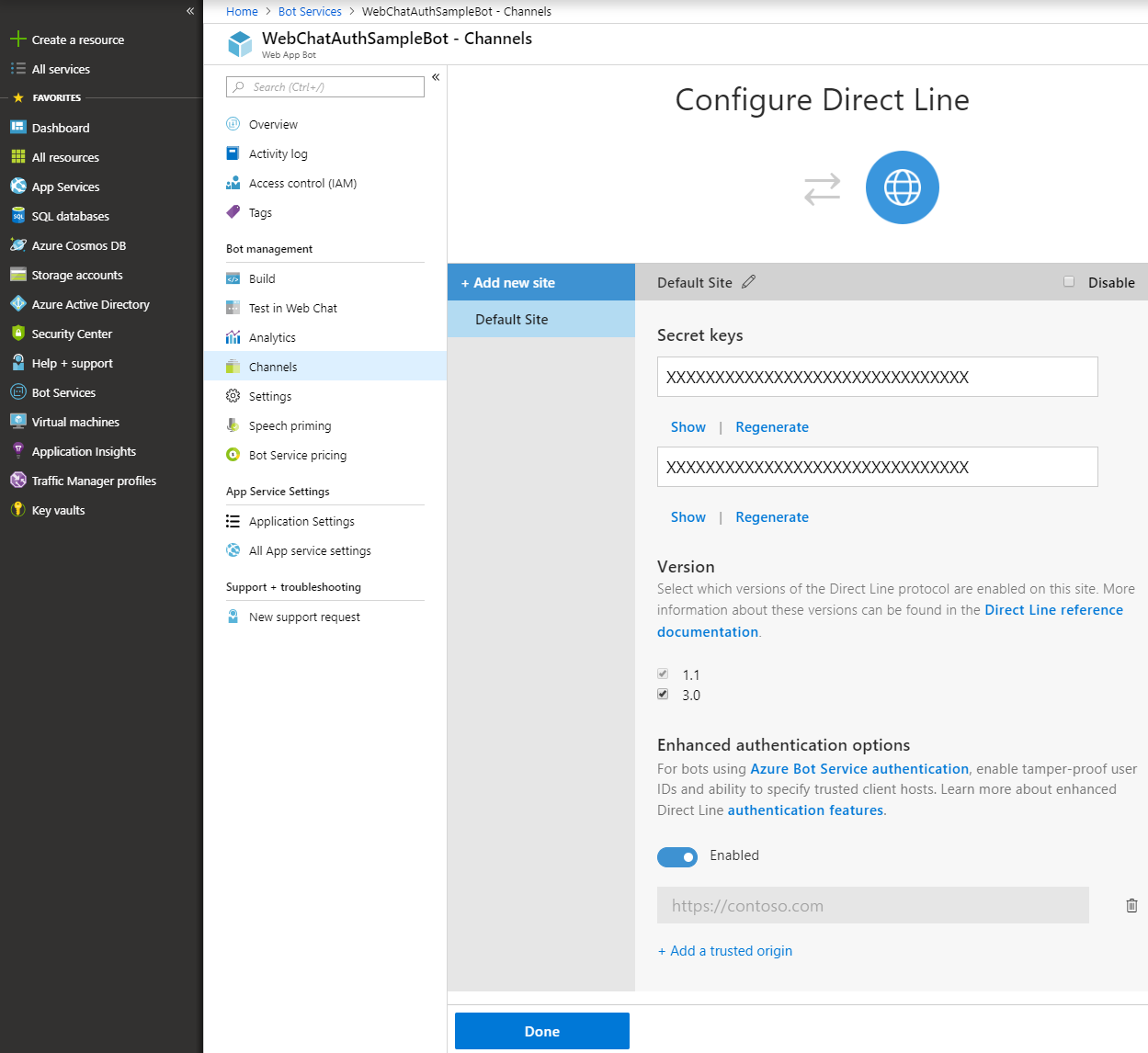
3.      Click on “Channels”, then click on the DirectLine icon (it looks like a globe):



4.       Copy one of the Secret Key values and store this for later. This is your ‘DirectLine Secret’ string.



5. Enable “Enhanced authentication options”. Add at least 1 trusted origin. These are where you want to host Web Chat. For example, if you host Web Chat at [https://contoso.com](https://contoso.com/) then enter “https://contoso.com” as a trusted origin. If you test Web Chat on localhost, then add [http://localhost](http://localhost/) as a trusted origin. Learn more about these options [here](https://aka.ms/bots/directline-auth-enhancements).



Your bot is now enabled to use DirectLine and configured for authentication and we can proceed to the next steps.

**Step 3: Creating a Client Controller**

While there are many mechanisms to invoke Web Chat on a client HTML page, one thing that is very important to do is to **ensure you keep your DirectLine Secret a secret**! The DirectLine Secret is as important as a database connection string and these sorts of things should never show up in HTML or even in the JavaScript that is running behind an HTML page.

Instead what you need to do is to keep your DirectLine Secret hidden in a client controller. This client controller should exchange the DirectLine Secret for a DirectLine Token, which CAN be exposed in HTML and JavaScript. You can find lots of details about this [here](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/bot-service/rest-api/bot-framework-rest-direct-line-3-0-authentication?view=azure-bot-service-3.0), but the summary is that a DirectLine Secret can connect to ANY conversation whereas a DirectLine Token is bound to a single conversation.

A good practice for securing the DirectLine Secret is to create a client controller that performs the exchange for a DirectLine Token and then passes this DirectLine Token back to the HTML page.

Here is an example ASP.NET controller that does this and returns a DirectLine Token:

public class HomeController : Controller

{

public async Task<ActionResult> Index()

{

var secret = GetSecret();

HttpClient client = new HttpClient();

HttpRequestMessage request = new HttpRequestMessage(

<b>[Updated on 5/31/2019]</b>

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<ol>

<li>Go to <a href="https://portal.azure.com/">https://portal.azure.com/</a></li>

<li>Navigate to your bot resource:

<div><img class="alignnone size-full wp-image-5314" src="http://msrprod.trafficmanager.net/bot-framework-en-us/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/1.png" alt="" width="933" height="649" /></div></li>

<li>Click on “Channels”, then click on theDirectLineicon (it looks like a globe):

<div><img class="alignnone size-full wp-image-5315" src="http://msrprod.trafficmanager.net/bot-framework-en-us/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/2.png" alt="" width="936" height="602" /></div></li>

<li> Copy one of the Secret Key values and store this for later. This is your ‘DirectLine Secret’ string.

<div><img class="alignnone size-full wp-image-5316" src="http://msrprod.trafficmanager.net/bot-framework-en-us/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/3.png" alt="" width="935" height="637" /></div></li>

<li>Enable “Enhanced authentication options”. Add at least 1 trusted origin. These are where you want to host Web Chat. For example, if you host Web Chat at <a href="https://contoso.com/">https://contoso.com</a> then enter “<https://contoso.com>” as a trusted origin. If you test Web Chat on localhost, then add <a href="http://localhost/">http://localhost</a> as a trusted origin. Learn more about these options <a href="https://aka.ms/bots/directline-auth-enhancements">here</a>.

<div><img class="alignnone size-full wp-image-5317" src="http://msrprod.trafficmanager.net/bot-framework-en-us/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/4.png" alt="" width="786" height="719" /></div></li>

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public async Task<ActionResult> Index()

{

var secret = GetSecret();

HttpClient client = new HttpClient();

HttpRequestMessage request = new HttpRequestMessage(

HttpMethod.Post,

$" <https://directline.botframework.com/v3/directline/tokens/generate>");

request.Headers.Authorization = new AuthenticationHeaderValue("Bearer", secret);

var response = await client.SendAsync(request);

string token = String.Empty;

if (response.IsSuccessStatusCode)

{

var body = await response.Content.ReadAsStringAsync();

token = JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<DirectLineToken>(body).token;

}

var config = new ChatConfig()

{

Token = token,

};

return View(config);

}

}

public class DirectLineToken

{

public string conversationId { get; set; }

public string token { get; set; }

public int expires\_in { get; set; }

}

public class ChatConfig

{

public string Token { get; set; }

}

And here is a node.js controller that does the same:

<pre class="EnlighterJSRAW" data-enlighter-language="js" data-enlighter-linenumbers="false">const path = require('path');

const restify = require('restify');

const bodyParser = require('body-parser');

const request = require('request');

const corsMiddleware = require('restify-cors-middleware');

const ENV\_FILE = path.join(\_\_dirname, '.env');

require('dotenv').config({

path: ENV\_FILE || process.env.directLineSecret

});

const cors = corsMiddleware({

origins: ['\*']

});

let server = restify.createServer(); // Get an instance of the restify server

server.pre(cors.preflight);

server.use(cors.actual);

server.use(bodyParser.json({

extended: false

}));

server.listen(process.env.port || process.env.PORT || 3000, function() {

console.log(`Listening to ${ server.url }.`);

});

// Generates a Direct Line token

server.post('/directline/token', (req, res) =&gt; {

const options = {

method: 'POST',

uri: '<https://directline.botframework.com/v3/directline/tokens/generate>',

headers: {

'Authorization': `Bearer ${process.env.directLineSecret}`

};

request.post(options, (error, response, body) =&gt; {

if (!error &amp;&amp; response.statusCode &lt; 300) {

res.send({

token: body.token

});

} else {

res.status(500).send('Call to retrieve token from DirectLine failed');

}

});

});</pre>

<b>Step 3: Trusted Origins and Tamper-proof user IDs</b>

<b>Trusted origins</b>

When an OAuthCard shows up in a client as a sign-in link or button, the sign-in link needs to be protected from attackers who try to steal other people’s tokens. The gist of the attack is that an attacker starts a conversation with a bot to get a sign-in link. The attacker sends the sign-in link to someone else and tells him or her to click on the link. When that person does, he or she will be asked to sign-in and the result of that flow will present the bot with a token to use for that conversation; but that conversation is the attacker’s conversation. To prevent this, we want to guarantee that the sign in link can only be used in the same browser session as the OAuthCard.

One approach is to present a final factor code at the end of sign-in that the user must type into the chat window before the bot can retrieve the user’s token. This is often referred to as the “magic code”. This however doesn’t guarantee that the sign-in link can only be used in the same browser session. The attacker can still send the sign-in link and use phishing techniques to try to get another user’s magic code.

With Web Chat, we added a mechanism that’s both more secure and users do not need to deal with any “magic code”. This mechanism ensures that a user can only sign-in through the sign-in link in the same browser session as the OAuthCard. There are two parts of this mechanism:

<ol>

<li>Using a list of ‘trusted origin’ hostnames that can request a Web Chat session id</li>

</ol>

<ol>

<li>Associate a unique signed session id cookie with the OAuthCard.</li>

</ol>

<b>The browser that is viewing Web Chat must have 3rd party cookies enabled for this to work</b>

<b>Tamper-proof user IDs</b>

The authentication capabilities in Azure Bot Service acquire user tokens for a given user using a connection on a particular bot. The way Azure Bot Service distinguishes which user it’s acquiring a token for is using the User.Id that comes through on Activities. In the case of Web Chat, this User.Id is modifiable by the client. If an attacker knows another user’s user ID, they can modify the Web Chat control in their browser to pretend to be that user. There are a couple of ways to mitigate against this.

<ol>

<li>Ensure the user IDs are not guessable.</li>

</ol>

<ol>

<li>Detect that a client has changed the user ID and reject the change.</li>

</ol>

The first mitigation is up to you. A good way is to generate these within your controller method. If your website is anonymous, then you should generate a unique value within the controller and return this to your client. If your website already is using some sort of authentication, then using a bearer token (or its hash for shorter IDs) would suffice. Do not use email addresses or regular names as these are easily guessed.

We’ve implemented platform support for #2.

With the “Enhanced authentication options” that you enabled earlier, all you need to do to leverage both the no magic code safe sign in and the tamper-proof user ID is to specify a user ID when you exchange the Direct Line Secret for a Direct Line token. Note that the user ID must begin with “dl\_”. To learn more about these options, go <a href="https://aka.ms/bots/directline-auth-enhancements">here</a>.

Here is a look at the final controller method in ASP.NET that does the Direct Line Secret exchange with a unique generated user id:

<pre class="EnlighterJSRAW" data-enlighter-language="csharp" data-enlighter-theme="minimal" data-enlighter-linenumbers="false">public class HomeController : Controller

{

public async Task&lt;ActionResult&gt; Index()

{

var secret = GetSecret();

HttpClient client = new HttpClient();

HttpRequestMessage request = new HttpRequestMessage(

HttpMethod.Post,

$" <https://directline.botframework.com/v3/directline/tokens/generate>");

request.Headers.Authorization = new AuthenticationHeaderValue("Bearer", secret);

var userId = $"dl\_{Guid.NewGuid()}";

request.Content = new StringContent(

JsonConvert.SerializeObject(

new { User = new { Id = userId } }),

Encoding.UTF8,

"application/json");

var response = await client.SendAsync(request);

string token = String.Empty;

if (response.IsSuccessStatusCode)

{

var body = await response.Content.ReadAsStringAsync();

token = JsonConvert.DeserializeObject&lt;DirectLineToken&gt;(body).token;

}

var config = new ChatConfig()

{

Token = token,

UserId = userId Guid. NewGuid(). ToString()

};

return View(config);

}

}

public class DirectLineToken

{

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public int expires\_in { get; set; }

}

public class ChatConfig

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public string Token { get; set; }

public string UserId { get; set; }

}</pre>

<span class="TextRun SCXW233595731 BCX0" lang="EN-US" xml:lang="EN-US"><span class="NormalTextRun SCXW233595731 BCX0">And here is a node.js controller that does the same:</span></span>

<pre class="EnlighterJSRAW" data-enlighter-language="js" data-enlighter-theme="minimal" data-enlighter-linenumbers="false">// userID must start with `dl\_`

const userId = createUniqueId();

// Generates a Direct Line token

server.post('/directline/token', (req, res) =&gt; {

const options = {

method: 'POST',

uri: '<https://directline.botframework.com/v3/directline/tokens/generate>',

headers: {

'Authorization': `Bearer ${process.env.directLineSecret}`

},

json: {

User: {

Id: userId

}

}

};

request.post(options, (error, response, body) =&gt; {

if (!error &amp;&amp; response.statusCode &lt; 300) {

res.send({

token: body.token

});

} else {

res.status(500).send('Call to retrieve token from DirectLine failed');

}

});

});</pre>

<b>Step 4: Creating the Web Chat HTML page</b>

There are several ways of including Web Chat within an HTML page and these are all outlined <a href="https://github.com/Microsoft/BotFramework-WebChat">here</a>. Not all of these are appropriate for use when building a website that performs secure logins:

<ul>

<li>Using an IFRAME is not a supported way of driving the authentication flow using OAuthCards because you cannot set a trusted origin and you cannot set user ids</li>

</ul>

<ul>

<li>Running Web Chat inline from the CDN or your own copy of Web Chat is supported.</li>

<li>Running Web Chat as a React component is supported.</li>

</ul>

Here is an example of a “Home” view for the ASP.NET controller defined earlier:

<pre class="EnlighterJSRAW" data-enlighter-language="csharp" data-enlighter-theme="minimal" data-enlighter-linenumbers="false">@model ChatConfig

@{

ViewData["Title"] = "Home Page";

}

&lt;div id="webchat" role="main" /&gt;

&lt;script src="https://cdn.botframework.com/botframework-webchat/latest/webchat.js

"&gt;&lt;/script&gt;

&lt;script&gt;

window.WebChat.renderWebChat({

directLine: window.WebChat.createDirectLine({ token: 'YOUR\_DIRECT\_LINE\_TOKEN' }),

userID: 'YOUR\_USER\_ID'

}, document.getElementById('webchat'));

&lt;/script&gt;</pre>

Here is an example of a React instantiation of Web Chat that uses the token and userId:

<pre class="EnlighterJSRAW" data-enlighter-theme="minimal" data-enlighter-linenumbers="false">import { DirectLine } from 'botframework-directlinejs';

import React from 'react';

import ReactWebChat from 'botframework-webchat';

export default class extends React.Component {

constructor(props) {

super(props);

this.directLine = new DirectLine({ token: 'YOUR\_DIRECT\_LINE\_TOKEN' });

}

render() {

return (

&lt;ReactWebChat directLine={ this.directLine } userID="YOUR\_USER\_ID" /&gt;

element

);

}

}</pre>

<b>Summary</b>

While there are a number of steps in this tutorial to create a secure Web Chat client that allows user login, the basic steps involve:

<ul>

<li>Performing DirectLine Secret to Token exchange on a client controller</li>

<li>Passing in TrustedOrigin values when performing secret to token exchange</li>

<li>Ensuring that each user has a unique, non-guessable user id value that is used with Web Chat</li>

<li>Choosing the proper way to place Web Chat into your HTML page: by inlining it or using a React component but NOT using an IFRAME</li>

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request.Headers.Authorization = new AuthenticationHeaderValue("Bearer", secret);

var response = await client.SendAsync(request);

string token = String.Empty;

if (response.IsSuccessStatusCode)

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token: body.token

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HttpMethod.Post,

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var userId = $"dl\_{Guid.NewGuid()}";

request.Content = new StringContent(

JsonConvert.SerializeObject(

new { User = new { Id = userId } }),

Encoding.UTF8,

"application/json");

var response = await client.SendAsync(request);

string token = String.Empty;

if (response.IsSuccessStatusCode)

{

var body = await response.Content.ReadAsStringAsync();

token = JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<DirectLineToken>(body).token;

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Token = token,

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And here is a node.js controller that does the same:

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method: 'POST',

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headers: {

'Authorization': `Bearer ${process.env.directLineSecret}`

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json: {

User: {

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request.post(options, (error, response, body) => {

if (!error && response.statusCode < 300) {

res.send({

token: body.token

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} else {

res.status(500).send('Call to retrieve token from DirectLine failed');

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ViewData["Title"] = "Home Page";

}

<div id="webchat" role="main" />

<script src="https://cdn.botframework.com/botframework-webchat/latest/webchat.js

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<script>

window.WebChat.renderWebChat({

directLine: window.WebChat.createDirectLine({ token: 'YOUR\_DIRECT\_LINE\_TOKEN' }),

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render() {

return (

<ReactWebChat directLine={ this.directLine } userID="YOUR\_USER\_ID" />

element

);

}

}

**Summary**

While there are a number of steps in this tutorial to create a secure Web Chat client that allows user login, the basic steps involve:

* Performing DirectLine Secret to Token exchange on a client controller
* Passing in TrustedOrigin values when performing secret to token exchange
* Ensuring that each user has a unique, non-guessable user id value that is used with Web Chat
* Choosing the proper way to place Web Chat into your HTML page: by inlining it or using a React component but NOT using an IFRAME

Posted in [Bot Framework](https://blog.botframework.com/category/bot-framework/)