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White Paper

The Printer Working Group

IPP Authentication Methods
(IPPAUTH)

Status: Interim

Abstract: This document is a whitepaper that describes the interaction between IPP and various authentication mechanisms used byIPP's HTTP and HTTPS transports, and how they might affect the authentication user experience on systems running an IPP Client.

This document is a White Paper. For a definition of a "White Paper", see: http://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/general/pwg-process30.pdf

This document is available electronically at:

http://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/ipp/whitepaper/tb-ippauth-20180123.odt
http://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/ipp/whitepaper/tb-ippauth-20180123.pdf

Title: IPP Authentication Methods *(IPPAUTH)*

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1 Introduction

The Internet Printing Protocol (hereafter, IPP) uses HTTP as its underlying transport [RFC8010]. When an IPP Printer is configured to limit access to its services to only those Clients operated by an authorized User, IPP employs various different HTTP authentication methods. But since an IPP Client isn't usually a typical HTTP User Agent (e.g. it isn't a commonly used Web browser), some limits, constraints and conventions ought to be considered when implementing support for one of these different HTTP authentication methods.

2 Terminology

2.1 Protocol Roles Terminology

This document defines the following protocol roles in order to specify unambiguous conformance requirements:

Client: Initiator of outgoing IPP session requests and sender of outgoing IPP operation requests (Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1 [RFC7230] User Agent).

Printer: Listener for incoming IPP session requests and receiver of incoming IPP operation requests (Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1 [RFC7230] Server) that represents one or more Physical Devices or a Logical Device.

2.2 Other Terms Used in This Document

User: A person or automata using a Client to communicate with a Printer.

2.3 Acronyms and Organizations

IANA: Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, http://www.iana.org/

IETF: Internet Engineering Task Force, http://www.ietf.org/

ISO: International Organization for Standardization, http://www.iso.org/

PWG: Printer Working Group, http://www.pwg.org/

3 Overview of IPP Authentication Methods

This white paper describes how various HTTP based authentication systems integrate into IPP communications between a Client and a Printer. Although the authentication protocols themselves do not need to change to be integrated into IPP communications, the IPP Client is not a Web browser, so some considerations must be made by IPP Client implementors. The “uri-authentication-supported” attribute [RFC8011] Printer Description attribute indicates the authentication systems supported by the Printer.

3.1 Client Authentication Methods

An IPP Printer specifies its supported authentication methods via several IPP attributes. The “uri-authentication-supported” attribute [RFC8011] indicates the authentication method used for a corresponding URI in “printer-uri-supported” [RFC8011]. The “xri-authentication” member attribute of “printer-xri-supported” [RFC3380] specifies the same corresponding values, if the Printer implements the “printer-xri-supported” attribute.

A Printer uses the “authenticated identity” or the “most authenticated user” [RFC8011] to authorize access to capabilities such as operations, resources, and attributes. As in most other contexts, authentication is the process of establishing some level of trust that an entity is who or what they are claiming to be.

Each of the authentication method keywords currently registered for “uri-authentication-supported” is described below, with an accompanying sequence diagram for illustration purposes, as well as a discussion of each method's advantages and shortcomings.

3.1.1 The 'none' IPP Authentication Method

The 'none' IPP Authentication Method [RFC8011] very simply indicates that the receiving Printer is provided no method whatsoever to determine the identity of the User who is operating the Client that is making IPP operation requests. The user name for the operation is assumed to be 'anonymous'.

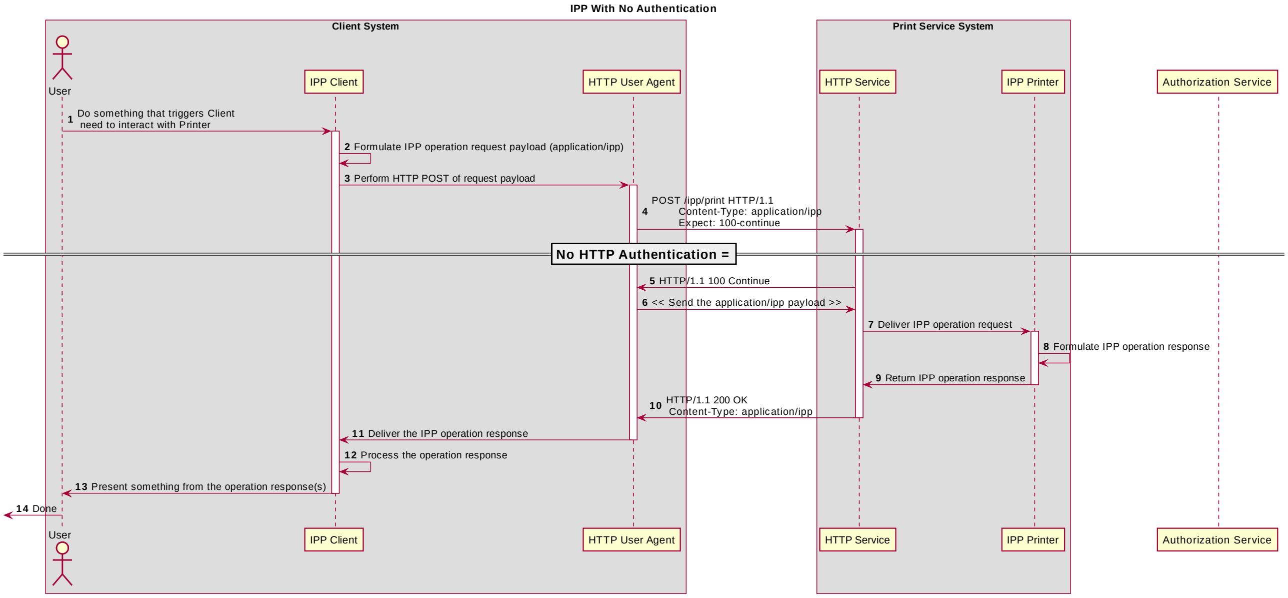
IPP With No Authentication
Client System
Print Service System
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service
1 Do something that triggers Client need to interact with Printer
2 Formulate IPP operation request payload (application/ipp)
3 Perform HTTP POST of request payload
4 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1
Content-Type: application/ipp
Expect: 100-continue
No HTTP Authentication =
5 HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
6 << Send the application/ipp payload >>
7 Deliver IPP operation request
8 Formulate IPP operation response
9 Return IPP operation response
10 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/ipp
11 Deliver the IPP operation response
12 Process the operation response
13 Present something from the operation response(s)
14 Done
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service

Figure 3.1: Sequence diagram for the 'none' IPP Authentication Method

This method is not recommended unless the Printer's operator has the objective of providing an anonymous print service. In most cases, the Client SHOULD provide the “requesting-user-name” operation attribute, as described in section 3.1.2.

3.1.2 The 'requesting-user-name' IPP Authentication Method

In the 'requesting-user-name' IPP Authentication Method [RFC8011], the Client MUST provides the “requesting-user-name” operation attribute [RFC8011] in its IPP operation request. The Printer uses this unauthenticated name as the identity of the actor operating the Client.

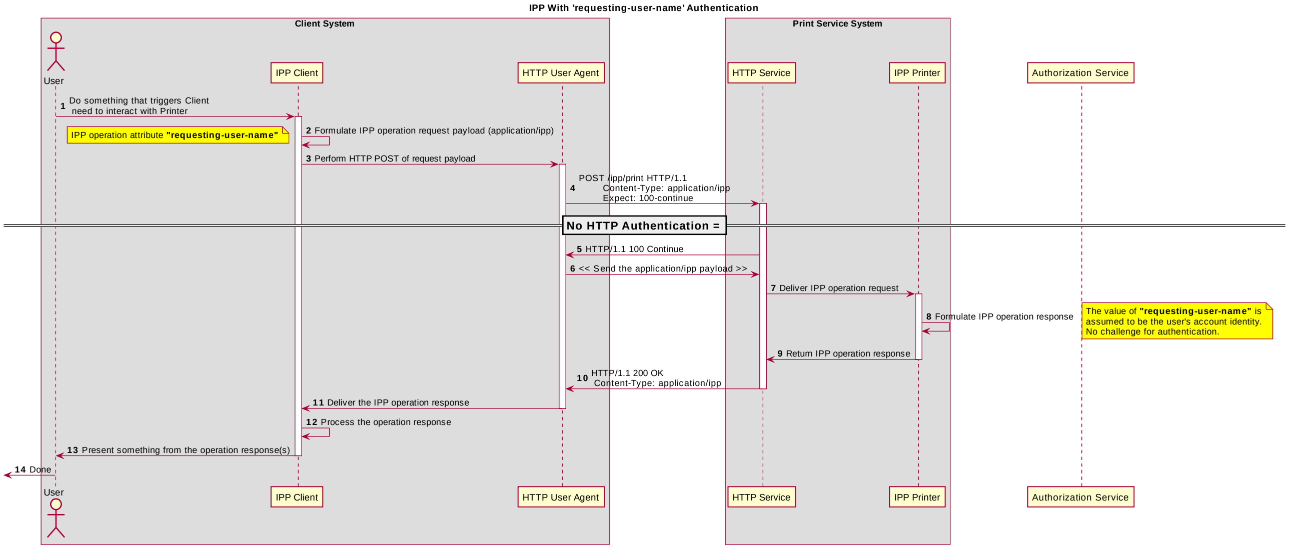
IPP With 'requesting-user-name' Authentication
Client System
Print Service System
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service
1 Do something that triggers Client need to interact with Printer
IPP operation attribute "requesting-user-name"
2 Formulate IPP operation request payload (application/ipp)
3 Perform HTTP POST of request payload
4 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue
No HTTP Authentication =
5 HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
6 << Send the application/ipp payload >>
7 Deliver IPP operation request
8 Formulate IPP operation response
The value of "requesting-user-name" is assumed to be the user's account identity. No challenge for authentication.
9 Return IPP operation response
10 HTTP/1.1 200 OK Content-Type: application/ipp
11 Deliver the IPP operation response
12 Process the operation response
13 Present something from the operation response(s)
14 Done
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service

Figure 3.2: Sequence diagram for the 'requesting-user-name' IPP Authentication Method

This method is not recommended since there is no actual authentication performed as there is no credential provided to prove the identity claimed in the “requesting-user-name”.

3.1.3 The 'basic' IPP Authentication Method

The 'basic' IPP Authentication Method uses HTTP Basic authentication scheme [RFC7617]. It is employed in IPP in much the same way that it is employed in conventional HTTP workflows using a Web browser. When the IPP Client encounters an HTTP 401 Unauthorized response, it evaluates whether it supports the authentication method identified by the value of the “WWW-Authenticated” header in the response. In this case, if it supports 'basic', it will present UI asking the User to provide username and password credentials that may be used to authenticate with the HTTP Server providing access to the IPP Printer. If the HTTP Server successfully authenticates that set of credentials, then the IPP operation request is passed on to the IPP Printer, which responds as usual.

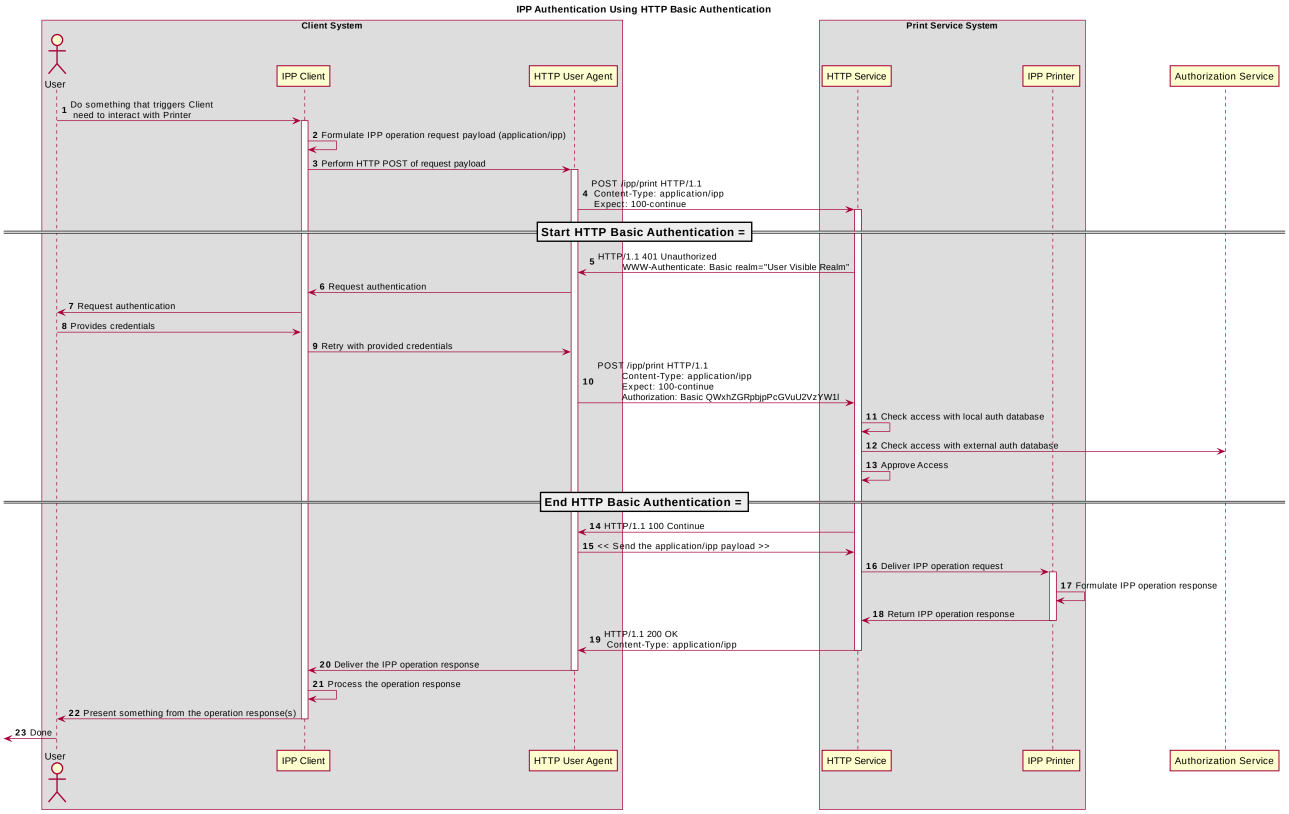
IPP Authentication Using HTTP Basic Authentication
Client System
Print Service System
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service
1 Do something that triggers Client need to interact with Printer
2 Formulate IPP operation request payload (application/ipp)
3 Perform HTTP POST of request payload
4 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue
Start HTTP Basic Authentication =
5 HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized WWW-Authenticate: Basic realm="User Visible Realm"
6 Request authentication
7 Request authentication
8 Provides credentials
9 Retry with provided credentials
10 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue Authorization: Basic QWxhZGRpbjpPcGVuU2VzYW1l
11 Check access with local auth database
12 Check access with external auth database
13 Approve Access
End HTTP Basic Authentication =
14 HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
15 << Send the application/ipp payload >>
16 Deliver IPP operation request
17 Formulate IPP operation response
18 Return IPP operation response
19 HTTP/1.1 200 OK Content-Type: application/ipp
20 Deliver the IPP operation response
21 Process the operation response
22 Present something from the operation response(s)
23 Done
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service

Figure 3.3 : Sequence diagram for the 'basic' IPP Authentication Method

3.1.4 The 'digest' IPP Authentication Method

The 'digest' IPP Authentication method uses the HTTP Digest authentication scheme [RFC7616]. It is employed in IPP in much the same way that it is employed in conventional HTTP workflows using a Web browser; when the IPP Client encounters an HTTP 401 Unauthorized response, it evaluates whether it supports the authentication method identified by the value of the “WWW-Authenticated” header in the response. In this case, if it supports 'digest', it will present UI asking the User to provide username and password credentials that may be used to authenticate with the HTTP Server providing access to the IPP Printer. If the HTTP Server successfully authenticates that set of credentials, then the IPP operation request is passed on to the IPP Printer, which responds as usual.

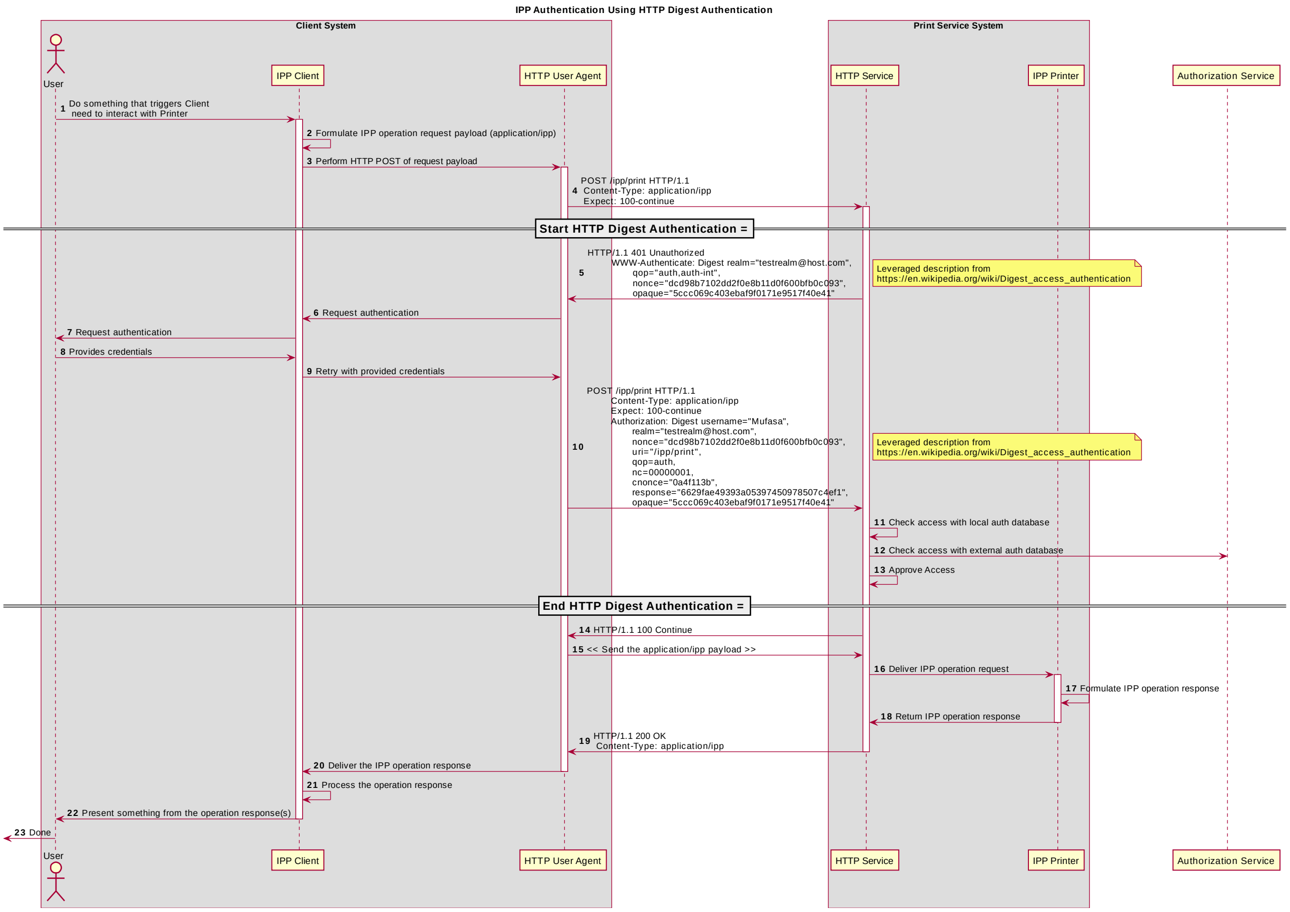
IPP Authentication Using HTTP Digest Authentication
Client System
Print Service System
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service
1 Do something that triggers Client need to interact with Printer
2 Formulate IPP operation request payload (application/ipp)
3 Perform HTTP POST of request payload
4 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue
Start HTTP Digest Authentication =
5 HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized WWW-Authenticate: Digest realm="testrealm@host.com", qop="auth,auth-int", nonce="dcd98b7102dd2f0e8b11d0f600bfb0c093", opaque="5ccc069c403ebaf9f0171e9517f40e41"
Leveraged description from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digest_access_authentication
6 Request authentication
7 Request authentication
8 Provides credentials
9 Retry with provided credentials
10 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue Authorization: Digest username="Mufasa", realm="testrealm@host.com", nonce="dcd98b7102dd2f0e8b11d0f600bfb0c093", uri="/ipp/print", qop=auth, nc=00000001, cnonce="0a4f113b", response="6629fae49393a05397450978507c4ef1", opaque="5ccc069c403ebaf9f0171e9517f40e41"
Leveraged description from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digest_access_authentication
11 Check access with local auth database
12 Check access with external auth database
13 Approve Access
End HTTP Digest Authentication =
14 HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
15 << Send the application/ipp payload >>
16 Deliver IPP operation request
17 Formulate IPP operation response
18 Return IPP operation response
19 HTTP/1.1 200 OK Content-Type: application/ipp
20 Deliver the IPP operation response
21 Process the operation response
22 Present something from the operation response(s)
23 Done
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service

Figure 3.4 : Sequence diagram for the 'digest' IPP Authentication Method

139 3.1.5 The 'negotiate' IPP Authentication Method

140 The 'negotiate' IPP Authentication method uses the HTTP Negotiate authentication
141 scheme [RFC4559].

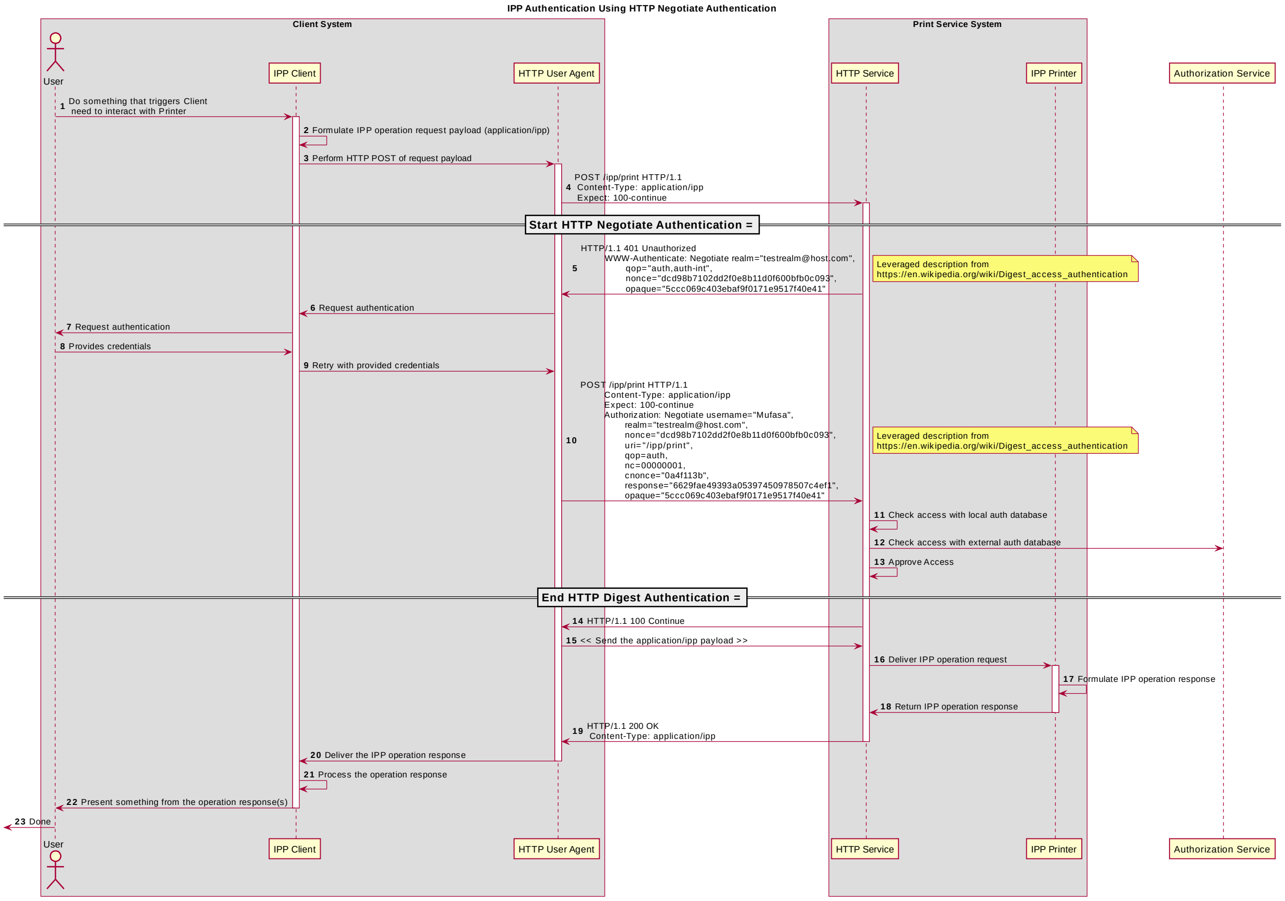
IPP Authentication Using HTTP Negotiate Authentication
Client System
Print Service System
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service
1 Do something that triggers Client need to interact with Printer
2 Formulate IPP operation request payload (application/ipp)
3 Perform HTTP POST of request payload
4 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue
Start HTTP Negotiate Authentication =
5 HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized WWW-Authenticate: Negotiate realm="testrealm@host.com", qop="auth,auth-int", nonce="dcd98b7102dd2f0e8b11d0f600bfb0c093", opaque="5ccc069c403ebaf9f0171e9517f40e41"
Leveraged description from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digest_access_authentication
6 Request authentication
7 Request authentication
8 Provides credentials
9 Retry with provided credentials
10 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue Authorization: Negotiate username="Mufasa", realm="testrealm@host.com", nonce="dcd98b7102dd2f0e8b11d0f600bfb0c093", uri="/ipp/print", qop=auth, nc=00000001, cnonce="0a4f113b", response="6629fae49393a05397450978507c4ef1", opaque="5ccc069c403ebaf9f0171e9517f40e41"
Leveraged description from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digest_access_authentication
11 Check access with local auth database
12 Check access with external auth database
13 Approve Access
End HTTP Digest Authentication =
14 HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
15 << Send the application/ipp payload >>
16 Deliver IPP operation request
17 Formulate IPP operation response
18 Return IPP operation response
19 HTTP/1.1 200 OK Content-Type: application/ipp
20 Deliver the IPP operation response
21 Process the operation response
22 Present something from the operation response(s)
23 Done
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service

Figure 3.5 : Sequence diagram for the 'negotiate' IPP Authentication Method

3.1.6 The 'oauth' IPP Authentication Method

The 'oauth' IPP Authentication method uses the OAuth2 authentication scheme [RFC6749] [RFC6749] and the OAuth2 Bearer Token [RFC6750].

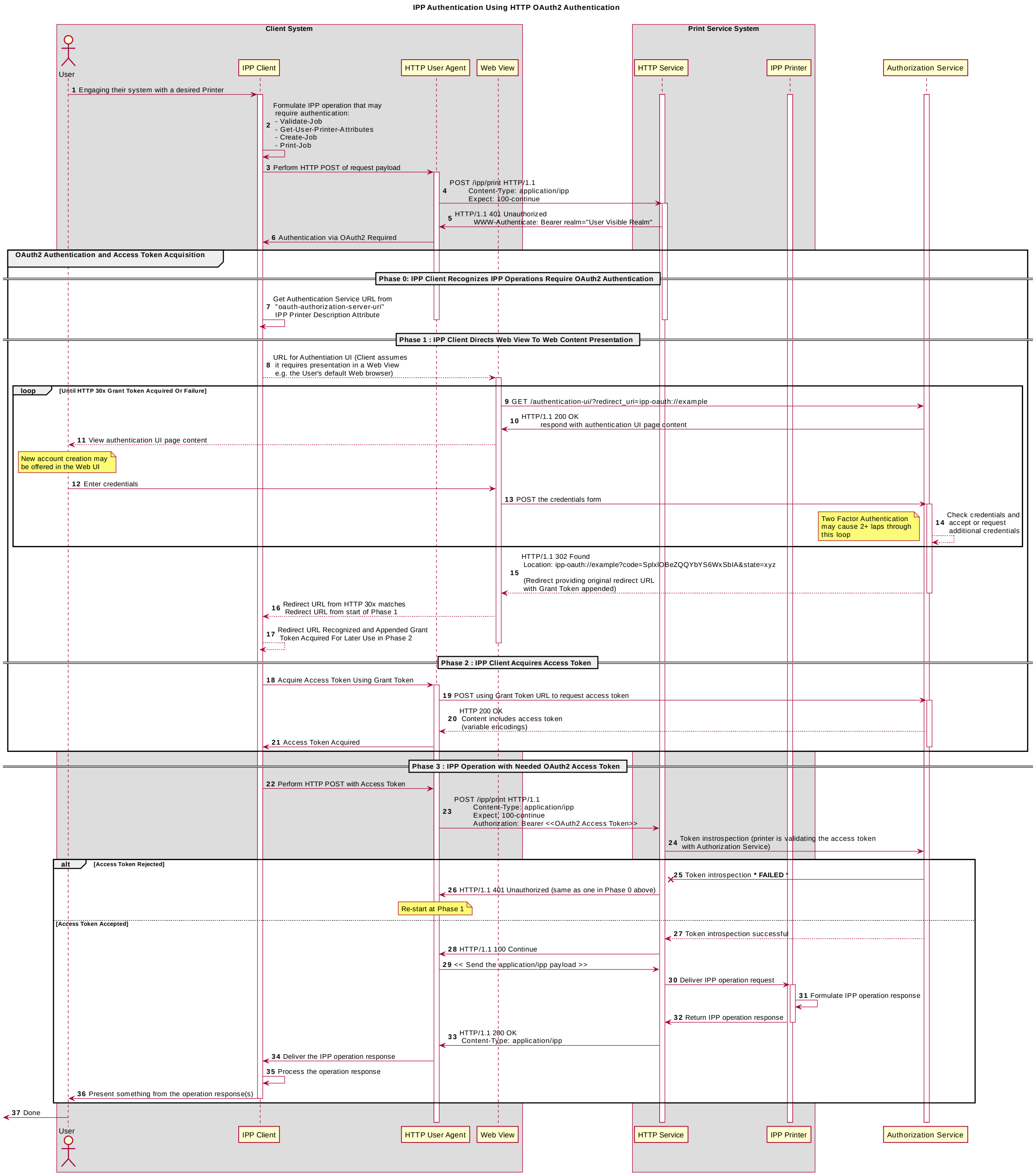
IPP Authentication Using HTTP OAuth2 Authentication
Client System
Print Service System
User
IPP Client
HTTP User Agent
Web View
HTTP Service
IPP Printer
Authorization Service
1 Engaging their system with a desired Printer
2 Formulate IPP operation that may require authentication: - Validate-Job - Get-User-Printer-Attributes - Create-Job - Print-Job
3 Perform HTTP POST of request payload
4 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue
5 HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized WWW-Authenticate: Bearer realm="User Visible Realm"
6 Authentication via OAuth2 Required
OAuth2 Authentication and Access Token Acquisition
Phase 0: IPP Client Recognizes IPP Operations Require OAuth2 Authentication
7 Get Authentication Service URL from "oauth-authorization-server-uri" IPP Printer Description Attribute
Phase 1 : IPP Client Directs Web View To Web Content Presentation
8 URL for Authentiation UI (Client assumes it requires presentation in a Web View e.g. the User's default Web browser)
loop [Until HTTP 30x Grant Token Acquired Or Failure]
9 GET /authentication-ui/?redirect_uri=ipp-oauth://example
10 HTTP/1.1 200 OK respond with authentication UI page content
11 View authentication UI page content
New account creation may be offered in the Web UI
12 Enter credentials
13 POST the credentials form
Two Factor Authentication may cause 2+ laps through this loop
14 Check credentials and accept or request additional credentials
15 HTTP/1.1 302 Found Location: ipp-oauth://example?code=SplxlOBeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA&state=xyz (Redirect providing original redirect URL with Grant Token appended)
16 Redirect URL from HTTP 30x matches Redirect URL from start of Phase 1
17 Redirect URL Recognized and Appended Grant Token Acquired For Later Use in Phase 2
Phase 2 : IPP Client Acquires Access Token
18 Acquire Access Token Using Grant Token
19 POST using Grant Token URL to request access token
20 HTTP 200 OK Content includes access token (variable encodings)
21 Access Token Acquired
Phase 3 : IPP Operation with Needed OAuth2 Access Token
22 Perform HTTP POST with Access Token
23 POST /ipp/print HTTP/1.1 Content-Type: application/ipp Expect: 100-continue Authorization: Bearer <<OAuth2 Access Token>>
24 Token instrospection (printer is validating the access token with Authorization Service)
alt [Access Token Rejected]
25 Token introspection * FAILED *
26 HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized (same as one in Phase 0 above)
Re-start at Phase 1
[Access Token Accepted]
27 Token introspection successful
28 HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
29 << Send the application/ipp payload >>
30 Deliver IPP operation request
31 Formulate IPP operation response
32 Return IPP operation response
33 HTTP/1.1 200 OK Content-Type: application/ipp
34 Deliver the IPP operation response
35 Process the operation response
36 Present something from the operation response(s)
37 Done

Figure 3.6 : Sequence diagram for the 'oauth' IPP Authentication Method

3.1.7 Transport Layer Security (TLS) Authentication

While Transport Layer Security (TLS) [RFC5246] is the commonly used protocol for encrypting an IPP connection [RFC8010][RFC8011], the authentication facilities of TLS are commonly employed in scenarios where client authentication is provided via a client certificate.

4 Implementation Recommendations

4.1 Client Implementation Recommendations

4.1.1 General Recommendations

A Client SHOULD as a general principle limit the number of additional windows presented to the user during the course of an authentication workflow, to avoid causing a fragmented, disruptive user experience.

4.1.2 Handling Authentication Failure

If a Printer rejects authentication credentials provided by a Client in response to an authentication challenge following an IPP operation request, the Printer MAY return an IPP operation response. If it does not, and the connection is left open, it SHOULD treat the connection the same way it handles a stalled connection, and close it after a reasonably brief amount of time.

4.1.3 OAuth2 Recommendations

A Client that supports OAuth2 authentication SHOULD incorporate the following considerations into their implementation:

User experience considerations

The OAuth2 authorization service may have a complicated user presentation. If possible, select a presentation alternative that is the least complicated.

4.2 Printer Implementation Recommendations

4.2.1 Handling Authentication Failure

If a Printer receives an IPP operation request, challenges the Client for authentication, and the authentication process fails, the Printer SHOULD send an appropriate IPP operation response indicating the cause of the failure.

4.2.2 OAuth2 Recommendations

A Printer that incorporates OAuth2 authentication into its solution SHOULD direct a Client to an authentication page that facilitates an appropriate presentation on even limited Client systems such as smart phones.

5 Internationalization Considerations

For interoperability and basic support for multiple languages, conforming implementations MUST support the Universal Character Set (UCS) Transformation Format -- 8 bit (UTF-8) [RFC3629] encoding of Unicode [UNICODE] [ISO10646] and the Unicode Format for Network Interchange [RFC5198].

Implementations of this specification SHOULD conform to the following standards on processing of human-readable Unicode text strings, see:

- Unicode Bidirectional Algorithm [UAX9] – left-to-right, right-to-left, and vertical
- Unicode Line Breaking Algorithm [UAX14] – character classes and wrapping
- Unicode Normalization Forms [UAX15] – especially NFC for [RFC5198]
- Unicode Text Segmentation [UAX29] – grapheme clusters, words, sentences
- Unicode Identifier and Pattern Syntax [UAX31] – identifier use and normalization
- Unicode Collation Algorithm [UTS10] – sorting
- Unicode Locale Data Markup Language [UTS35] – locale databases

Implementations of this specification are advised to also review the following informational documents on processing of human-readable Unicode text strings:

- Unicode Character Encoding Model [UTR17] – multi-layer character model
- Unicode in XML and other Markup Languages [UTR20] – XML usage
- Unicode Character Property Model [UTR23] – character properties
- Unicode Conformance Model [UTR33] – Unicode conformance basis

6 Security Considerations

6.1 Human-readable Strings

Implementations of this specification SHOULD conform to the following standard on processing of human-readable Unicode text strings, see:

- Unicode Security Mechanisms [UTS39] – detecting and avoiding security attacks

Implementations of this specification are advised to also review the following informational document on processing of human-readable Unicode text strings:

- Unicode Security FAQ [UNISECFAQ] – common Unicode security issues

6.2 Client Security Considerations

An IPP Client SHOULD follow the recommendations below

1. A Client SHOULD securely store at rest any personally identifiable information (PII) and authentication credentials such as passwords.

2. A Client SHOULD only respond to an authentication challenge over a secure connection (TLS) [RFC8010][RFC8011] unless TLS is not supported over that transport (e.g. IPP USB).

3. A Client SHOULD validate the identity of the Printer by whatever means are available for that connection type. If the connection is secured via TLS [RFC8010], the server certificate SHOULD be validated and matched to the originating host and against the host name or IP addresses from the IPP URI for the target Printer. If the connection is not secured via TLS, other means may be needed.

4. A Client SHOULD provide a means to allow the User to examine a Printer's provided identity.

5. A Client SHOULD provide one or more means of notification when it is engaging with a previously encountered Printer whose identity has changed.

6. OAuth2 Considerations

    1. The recommendations in “Proof Key for Code Exchange by OAuth Public Clients” [RFC7636] SHOULD be followed, since the threats described therein has been observed in practice.

    2. The recommendations in “OAuth 2 for Native Apps” [RFC8252] should be followed if the print system provides its own user interface presentation and controls for handling the OAuth2 authentication steps, to mitigate the risks described therein.

6.3 Printer Security Considerations

An IPP Printer SHOULD follow the recommendations below.

1. A Printer SHOULD securely store at rest any personally identifiable information (PII) and authentication credentials such as passwords that are local to the Printer.

2. A Printer SHOULD only challenge a Client for authentication over a secure connection (TLS) [RFC8010][RFC8011] unless TLS is not supported over that transport (e.g. IPP USB).

3. Certificates

    1. What is an acceptable certificate?

    2. How long is a self-signed certificate expected to last?

    3. How long should a CA issued certificate last? (e.g. recent work on short lives CA certificates...)

    4. Let's Encrypt and IPP (and OAuth2 or in general?)

4. Point to best practice documents

7 References

7.1 Normative References

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9 Change History

9.1 January 23, 2018

Updated as per email feedback and discussion:

- Fixed some editorial issues with naming HTTP Basic, HTTP Digest, and HTTP Negotiate, and some names of sections.
- Added mention of “printer-xri-supported”.
- Added additional references.
- Added additional sub-sections to capture Client and Printer recommendations for appropriate behavior when authentication is unsuccessful since the negative cases can vary widely.

9.2 December 5, 2017

Updated as per feedback from the November 2017 PWG vF2F and subsequent work with IPP WG members on specific details:

- Corrected OAuth2 sequence diagram to more correctly describe the sequence of operations and actors involved in an OAuth2 authenticated IPP Printer scenario.
- Added Implementation Recommendations that were revealed during the course of correcting the OAuth2 sequence diagram.

9.3 August 3, 2017

Initial revision.