

REST API Authentication

Source: Java Brains
(javaBrains.io)



Classic session-based authentication



REST APIs are stateless!

Basic Auth

(Basic Access Authentication)

Basic auth



Header



username
+
password



Basic auth - client side

username:password



Base64 encoding

dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ=

Authorization: Basic dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ=

Basic auth - server side

Authorization: Basic dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ=

dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ=



Base64 decoding

username:password

Base64 Encoding

dXNIcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ=

This is **not** secure!

Always over HTTPS

Then why encode?

Security is not the intent of the encoding step. Rather, the intent of the encoding is **to encode non-HTTP-compatible characters** that may be in the user name or password into those that are HTTP-compatible.

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Basic_access_authentication&oldid=339510542

Advantages

- Simple
- Stateless server
- Supported by all browsers

Disadvantages

- Requires HTTPS
- Subject to replay attacks
- “Logout” is tricky (Browser caching)

Better Solutions

- Digest access authentication

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digest_access_authentication)

- Asymmetric cryptography

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public-key_cryptography)

- OAuth

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OAuth>)

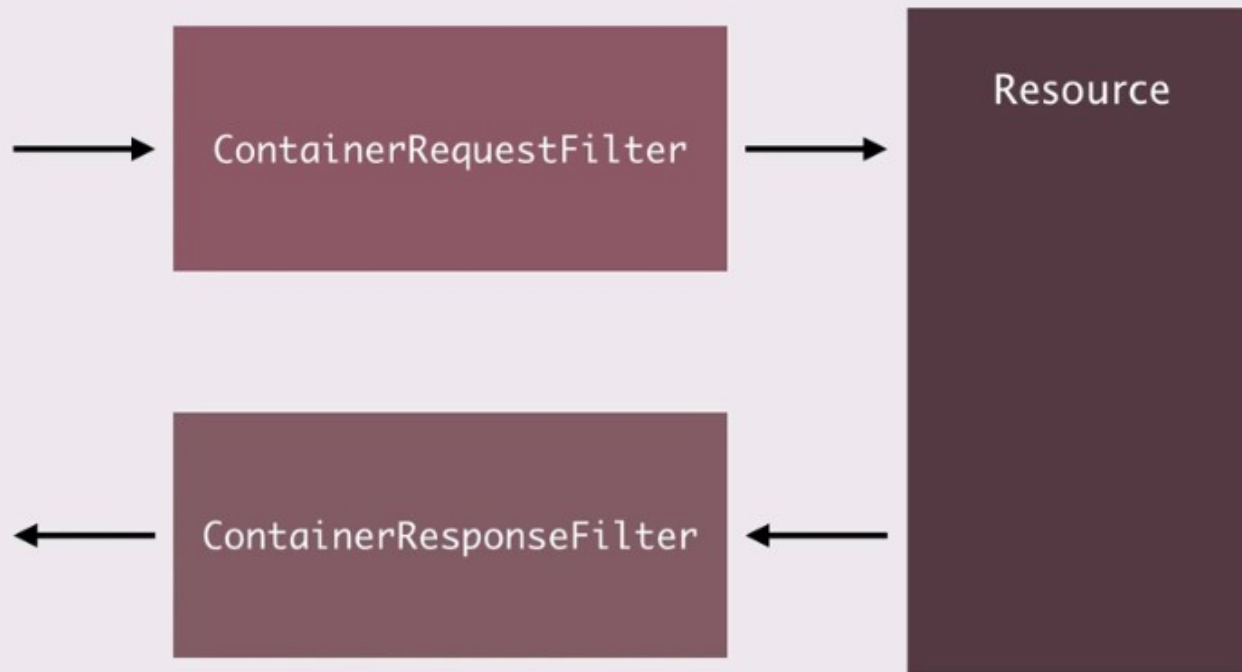
- JSON Web Tokens

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSON_Web_Token)

Filters and Interceptors

Source: Java Brains
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ContainerRequestFilter

```
filter( ContainerRequestContext )
```

ContainerResponseFilter

```
filter( ContainerRequestContext,  
        ContainerResponseContext )
```

Interceptors

- Model similar to filters
- Used to manipulate entities (input and output streams)
- Two kinds:
 1. ReaderInterceptor
 2. WriterInterceptor

Interceptor Example

```
public class GZIPWriterInterceptor implements WriterInterceptor {  
  
    @Override  
    public void aroundWriteTo(WriterInterceptorContext context)  
        throws IOException, WebApplicationException {  
        final OutputStream outputStream = context.getOutputStream();  
        context.setOutputStream(new GZIPOutputStream(outputStream));  
        context.proceed();  
    }  
}
```

Interceptors

- Used to manipulate entities (input and output streams)
- Two kinds:
 1. ReaderInterceptor
 2. WriterInterceptor
- Example: Encoding an entity response

vs

Filters

- Used to manipulate request and response params (headers, URIs etc)
- Two kinds:
 1. ContainerRequestFilter
 2. ContainerResponseFilter
- Example: Logging, security

Filters and Interceptors work on a client too!

Client side

Filters

- ClientRequestFilter
- ClientResponseFilter

Interceptors

- ReaderInterceptor
- WriterInterceptor

MessageBody

- MessageBodyReader
- MessageBodyWriter

