

Benchmarkchart – php example code – part 4 – limiting access to admin page

Article describe way how to limit access into a admin page using header authentication. Before sending page data, user must by verified by providing username and password. Separate script authorize.php and adding third part into a appvars.php containing username and sha1 has for veriefied password added.

Using headers for authentication

Http headers authentications provide simple way for limiting access for some resources on web. For further reading please wisit

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic_access_authentication.

For access to restricted resources user must provide correct username and pasword. If user enters these correctly, the browser goes ahead and sen page. This dialog between browser and server take place with headers, which are text messages with specific instruction on what is being requested or delivered.

Further reading about heder messages can be obtained from

here, 4.10.2020.

Our authentication script looks like this

```
<!--
*****
**** ->
<!-- PHP simple header authorization code
                                ->
<!--
*****
**** ->
<!-- Vrsion: 1.0           Date: 3-4.10.2020 by CDesigner.eu
                                ->
<!--
*****
**** ->
<?php // leading part of page for simple header securing and
basic variable setup
    require_once(,appvars.php'); // including variables for da
tabase
    $username = USERNAME;
    $password_sha = PASSWORD_SHA1;
    if (!isset($_SERVER[,PHP_AUTH_USER']) ||
        !isset($_SERVER[,PHP_AUTH_PW']) ||
        ($_SERVER[,PHP_AUTH_USER'] != $username )
    || ( sha1($_SERVER[,PHP_AUTH_PW']) != $password_sha) ) {
        header(,HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized');
                                                    header(,WWW-
Authenticate: Basic realm="benchmark_admin",);
        exit(<h2>Becnchmarkchart</h2>
Access denied, you must enter a valid username and password to
access this page!
```

```
<p> <a href = „index.php„> &lt;&lt; Back to benchmarkresults
homepage page. </a></p>,</p>);
}
?>
```

For setting original username and password for reference and validation. Our appvar.php definition script was extended of third part as is shown next.

```
<!--
*****
** -><!--      Part III      |                               authorization
constants                                           -> <!--
*****
*** ->
<?php
define(,USERNAME,, ,administrator,);
define(,PASSWORD_SHA1,, ,02cc4d03794b3624b076e48a6d6d18b1f2af8
dc1,); // SHA value for wery weak demonstration password Passw
ord never use
in production environment!!!
// sha1 has code was generated for example by online app
http://www.sha1-online.com
?>
```

Adding authorize.php script on secured pages

Our authorize.php script must be added to beginning of all restricted pages. Script must be executed as first code before any HTML content transfer because enables or disables ability to access appropriate web resources.

Next segment of code contains example of including code with require_once(); php function.

```
<!--
*****
**** ->
<!-- PHP „self“ code handling administration of removal
        ->
<!--
*****
**** ->
<!-- Vrsion: 1.0           Date: 27-XX.X.2020 by CDesigner.eu
        ->
<!--
*****
**** ->

<?php // leading part of page for simple header securing and
basic variable setup
    require_once(,appvars.php'); // including variables for da
tabase
```

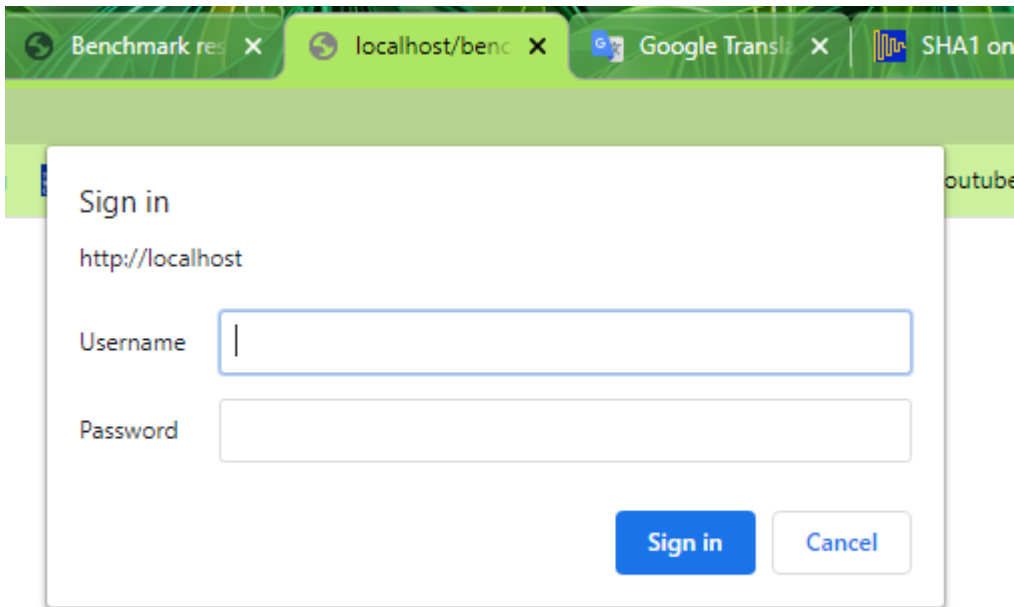
```
    require_once(,authorize.php,); // authorization script for
simple header authorization
    // two variables for message and styling of the message with
bootstrap
    $msg = "";
    $msgClass = "";

    // default values of auxiliary variables
```

?>

For proper work of admin script is crucial to enable access to code on both admin.php and remove.php in same time. This requirement is fulfilled simply adding same code with same header(,WWW-Authenticate: **Basic realm="benchmark_admin,,,"**); .

After altering of our pages described way, our browser will prompt for entering username and password as is shown on next picture.



Authentication request for enabling access to limited resources with HTML headers

Full code for further study

Most current version of application code can be obtained from github here.