

Hacking the Grails Spring Security Plugins

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CONFIDENTIAL

web.xml

- Spring Security is implemented as a filter chain, so the `<filter-mapping>` elements are the important ones:
 - charEncodingFilter
 - hiddenHttpMethod
 - grailsWebRequest
 - springSecurityFilterChain
 - reloadFilter
 - sitemesh
 - urlMapping



- Spring Security is implemented as a filter chain, so the *<filter-mapping>* elements are the important ones:
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 - hiddenHttpMethod
 - grailsWebRequest
 - **springSecurityFilterChain**
 - reloadFilter
 - sitemesh
 - urlMapping



web.xml - charEncodingFilter

- `org.springframework.web.filter.DelegatingFilterProxy`
- Uses the "characterEncodingFilter" bean
(`org.springframework.web.filter.CharacterEncodingFilter`) defined in `applicationContext.xml` (the "parent" context)
- `request.setCharacterEncoding("utf-8");`
- `response.setCharacterEncoding("utf-8");`

```
    <bean class="org.springframework.web.filter.DelegatingFilterProxy" >
        <property name="targetFilterName">
            <value>org.springframework.web.filter.CharacterEncodingFilter</value>
        </property>
        <property name="setCharacterEncoding">
            <value>true</value>
        </property>
        <property name="setResponseCharacterEncoding">
            <value>true</value>
        </property>
    </bean>
```

web.xml - hiddenHttpMethod

- org.codehaus.groovy.grails.web.filters.HiddenHttpMethodFilter

```
String httpMethod = getHttpMethodOverride(request);
filterChain.doFilter(
    new HttpMethodRequestWrapper(httpMethod, request),
    response);
```

- <g:form controller="book" method="DELETE">
- See section “13.1 REST” in the docs



web.xml - GrailsWebRequest

- org.codehaus.groovy.grails.web.servlet.mvc.GrailsWebRequestFilter

```
LocaleContextHolder.setLocale(request.getLocale());
GrailsWebRequest webRequest = new GrailsWebRequest(
    request, response, getServletContext());
configureParameterCreationListeners(webRequest);

try {
    WebUtils.storeGrailsWebRequest(webRequest);

    // Set the flash scope instance to its next state
    FlashScope fs = webRequest.getAttributes().getFlashScope(request);
    fs.next();

    filterChain.doFilter(request, response);
}
finally {
    webRequest.requestCompleted();
    WebUtils.clearGrailsWebRequest();
    LocaleContextHolder.setLocale(null);
}
```



web.xml - springSecurityFilterChain

- `org.springframework.web.filter.DelegatingFilterProxy`
- Uses the "`springSecurityFilterChain`" bean defined by the plugin
(`org.springframework.security.web.FilterChainProxy`)



web.xml - springSecurityFilterChain

■ Typical filter beans:

- securityContextPersistenceFilter
- logoutFilter
- authenticationProcessingFilter
- securityContextHolderAwareRequestFilter
- rememberMeAuthenticationFilter
- anonymousAuthenticationFilter
- exceptionTranslationFilter
- filterInvocationInterceptor



web.xml - reloadFilter

- org.codehaus.groovy.grails.web.servlet.filter.GrailsReloadServletFilter
- No longer used in 2.0+
- “Copies resources from the source on content change and manages reloading if necessary.”

```
GrailsApplication application = (GrailsApplication) context.getBean(
    GrailsApplication.APPLICATION_ID);
if (!application.isInitialised()) {
    application.rebuild();
    GrailsRuntimeConfigurator config = new GrailsRuntimeConfigurator(
        application, parent);
    config.reconfigure(context, getServletContext(), true);
}
```

- `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.web.sitemesh.GrailsPageFilter`
- Subclass of `com.opensymphony.sitemesh.webapp.SiteMeshFilter`
- Renders Sitemesh templates/layouts



web.xml - urlMapping

- `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.web.mapping.filter.UrlMappingsFilter`
- Matches requested url to the correct controller/action/view/error code
- Based on mappings in *`grails-app/conf/UrlMappings.groovy`*



springSecurityFilterChain

springSecurityFilterChain - securityContextPersistenceFilter

- org.springframework.security.web.context.SecurityContextPersistenceFilter
- Retrieves the *SecurityContext* from the HTTP session (under the *"SPRING_SECURITY_CONTEXT"* key) or creates a new empty one
- Stores the context in the holder: *SecurityContextHolder.setContext()*
- Removes the context after request

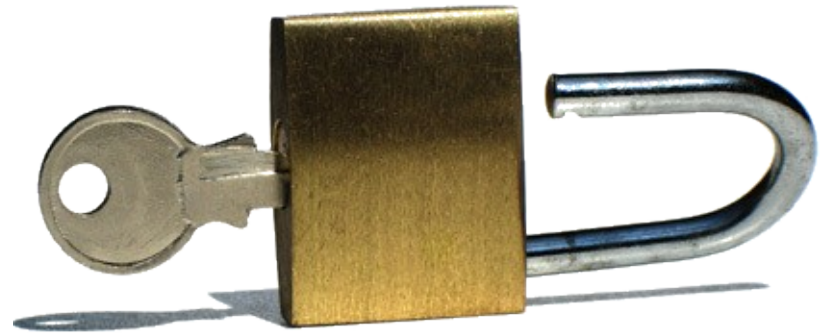
springSecurityFilterChain - logoutFilter

- `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.plugins.springsecurity.MutableLogoutFilter`
- If uri is `"/j_spring_security_logout"` calls `handler.logout(request, response, auth)` for each `o.s.s.web.authentication.logout.LogoutHandler` and redirects to post-logout url (by default `"/"`)



springSecurityFilterChain - authenticationProcessingFilter

- `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.plugins.springsecurity.RequestHolderAuthenticationFilter`
(extends `o.s.s.web.authentication.UsernamePasswordAuthenticationFilter`)
- Sets the request and response in the *SecurityRequestHolder*
ThreadLocal fields (custom plugin functionality)
- If uri is `"/j_spring_security_check"` calls
attemptAuthentication()



springSecurityFilterChain - securityContextHolderAwareRequestFilter

- o.s.s.web.servletapi.SecurityContextHolderAwareRequestFilter
- Configures a request wrapper which implements the servlet API security methods (*getRemoteUser*, *getUserPrincipal*, *isUserInRole*)

```
chain.doFilter(new SecurityContextHolderAwareRequestWrapper(  
    request, rolePrefix),  
    response);
```

springSecurityFilterChain - rememberMeAuthenticationFilter

- `o.s.s.web.authentication.rememberme.RememberMeAuthenticationFilter`
- If not logged in, attempt to login from the remember-me cookie



springSecurityFilterChain - anonymousAuthenticationFilter

- o.s.s.web.authentication.*AnonymousAuthenticationFilter*
- If not logged in creates an *AnonymousAuthenticationToken* and registers it as the *Authentication* in the *SecurityContext*



<https://secure.flickr.com/photos/gaelx/5445598436/>

springSecurityFilterChain - exceptionTranslationFilter

- `o.s.s.web.access.ExceptionTranslationFilter`
- Handles *AccessDeniedException* and *AuthenticationException*
- For *AuthenticationException* will invoke the *authenticationEntryPoint*
- For *AccessDeniedException* invoke the *authenticationEntryPoint* if anonymous, otherwise delegate to `o.s.s.web.access.AccessDeniedHandler`

springSecurityFilterChain - filterInvocationInterceptor

- o.s.s.web.access.intercept.FilterSecurityInterceptor
- Determines the o.s.s.access.SecurityConfig collection for the request from *FilterInvocationSecurityMetadataSource* (*AnnotationFilterInvocationDefinition*, *InterceptUrlMapFilterInvocationDefinition*, or *RequestmapFilterInvocationDefinition*)

springSecurityFilterChain - filterInvocationInterceptor

- Delegates to an *AccessDecisionManager*

`(org.codehaus.groovy.grails.plugins.springsecurity.`

`AuthenticatedVetoableDecisionManager)` to call each registered

`o.s.s.access.AccessDecisionVoter`



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springSecurityFilterChain - filterInvocationInterceptor

- `o.s.s.access.vote.AuthenticatedVoter` works with
“`IS_AUTHENTICATED_FULLY`”, “`IS_AUTHENTICATED_REMEMBERED`”,
and “`IS_AUTHENTICATED_ANONYMOUSLY`”

I
Voted



springSecurityFilterChain - filterInvocationInterceptor

- `o.s.s.access.vote.RoleHierarchyVoter` finds the *GrantedAuthority* instances from the *Authentication*, checks for matches with required roles



springSecurityFilterChain - filterInvocationInterceptor

- `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.plugins.springsecurity.`

WebExpressionVoter looks for a

WebExpressionConfigAttribute and evaluates its expression if
found

springSecurityFilterChain - filterInvocationInterceptor

```
if (denyCount > 0) {  
    throw new AccessDeniedException("Access is denied");  
}
```

- this is caught by the *exceptionTranslationFilter*
- If the *Authentication* is anonymous, stores a *SavedRequest* in the HTTP session and calls *authenticationEntryPoint.commence(request, response, reason)*
- The *authenticationEntryPoint* is an `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.plugins.springsecurity.AjaxAwareAuthenticationEntryPoint`
- This issues a redirect to the login page, by default */login/auth*

Customizing the Plugin

Customizing the Plugin

Traditional Spring Security uses XML with namespaced beans:

```
<beans:beans
  xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/security"
  ...>

  <http auto-config="true">
    <intercept-url pattern="/admin/**" access="ROLE_ADMIN" />
  </http>

  <authentication-manager>
    <authentication-provider>
      <jdbc-user-service data-source-ref="dataSource" />
    </authentication-provider>
  </authentication-manager>

</beans:beans>
```

Customizing the Plugin

- Simple; not always clear how to customize; many options aren't exposed
- In contrast, the plugin explicitly defines every bean
- See *SpringSecurityCoreGrailsPlugin.groovy* for the details

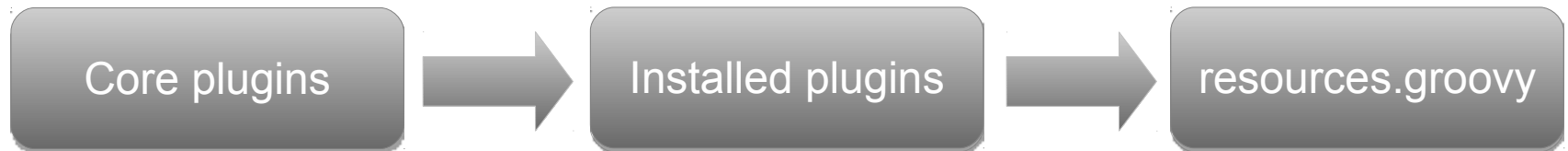
Overriding Beans

Overriding Beans

accessDecisionManager	filterInvocationInterceptor	roleVoter
accessDeniedHandler	logoutFilter	runAsManager
anonymousAuthenticationFilter	logoutHandlers	saltSource
anonymousAuthenticationProvider	logoutSuccessHandler	securityContextHolderAwareRequestFilter
authenticatedVoter	objectDefinitionSource	securityContextLogoutHandler
authenticationDetailsSource	passwordEncoder	securityContextPersistenceFilter
authenticationEntryPoint	portMapper	securityEventListener
authenticationEventPublisher	portResolver	sessionAuthenticationStrategy
authenticationFailureHandler	postAuthenticationChecks	springSecurityFilterChain
authenticationManager	preAuthenticationChecks	tokenRepository
authenticationProcessingFilter	redirectStrategy	userCache
authenticationSuccessHandler	rememberMeAuthenticationFilter	userDetailsService
authenticationTrustResolver	rememberMeAuthenticationProvider	webExpressionHandler
authenticationUserDetailsService	rememberMeServices	webExpressionVoter
daoAuthenticationProvider	requestCache	webInvocationPrivilegeEvaluator
exceptionTranslationFilter	roleHierarchy	

Overriding Beans

- Building the Spring *ApplicationContext*



Overriding Beans

- Gross oversimplifications:
 - The `ApplicationContext` is like a `Map`; the keys are bean names and the values are bean instances
 - Defining a bean with the same name as an earlier bean replaces the previous, just like `Map.put(key, value)` does



Overriding Beans

- To change how a bean works:
 - Subclass the current class
 - Or subclass a similar class that's closer to what you need
 - Or implement the interface directly
 - Then register yours in *grails-app/conf/spring/resources.groovy*



Overriding Beans - resources.groovy

```
beans = {  
  
    saltSource(com.foo.bar.MySaltSource) {  
        // bean properties  
    }  
  
    userDetailsService(com.foo.bar.MyUserDetailsService) {  
        // bean properties  
    }  
  
    passwordEncoder(com.foo.bar.MyPasswordEncoder) {  
        // bean properties  
    }  
  
}
```

Customizing Bean Properties

Customizing Bean Properties

- In addition to declaring every bean, nearly all properties are configured from default values in the plugin's

grails-app/conf/DefaultSecurityConfig.groovy

- DO NOT EDIT *DefaultSecurityConfig.groovy*



Customizing Bean Properties

- All properties can be overridden in app's *Config.groovy*
 - Be sure to add the *grails.plugins.springsecurity* prefix
- Don't replace a bean if all you need to change is one or more properties



Customizing Bean Properties

active	dao.hideUserNotFoundExceptions	registerLoggerListener	successHandler.useReferer
adh.ajaxErrorPage	dao.reflectionSaltSourceProperty	rejectIfNoRule	switchUser.exitUserUrl
adh.errorPage	digest.createAuthenticatedToken	rememberMe.alwaysRemember	switchUser.switchFailureUrl
ajaxHeader	digest.key	rememberMe.cookieName	switchUser.switchUserUrl
anon.key	digest.nonceValiditySeconds	rememberMe.key	switchUser.targetUrl
anon.userAttribute	digest.passwordAlreadyEncoded	rememberMe.parameter	useBasicAuth
apf.allowSessionCreation	digest.realmName	rememberMe.persistent	useDigestAuth
apf.continueChainBeforeSuccessfulAuthentication	digest.useCleartextPasswords	rememberMe.persistentToken.domainClassName	useHttpSessionEventPublisher
apf.filterProcessesUrl	failureHandler.ajaxAuthFailUrl	rememberMe.persistentToken.seriesLength	userLookup.accountExpiredPropertyName
apf.passwordParameter	failureHandler.defaultFailureUrl	rememberMe.persistentToken.tokenLength	userLookup.accountLockedPropertyName
apf.postOnly	failureHandler.exceptionMappings	rememberMe.tokenValiditySeconds	userLookup.authoritiesPropertyName
apf.usernameParameter	failureHandler.useForward	rememberMe.useSecureCookie	userLookup.authorityJoinClassName
atr.anonymousClass	filterChain.stripQueryStringFromUrls	requestCache.createSession	userLookup.enabledPropertyName
atr.rememberMeClass	interceptUrlMap	requestCache.onlyOnGet	userLookup.passwordExpiredPropertyName
auth.ajaxLoginFormUrl	ipRestrictions	requestMap.className	userLookup.passwordPropertyName
auth.forceHttps	logout.afterLogoutUrl	requestMap.configAttributeField	userLookup.userDomainClassName
auth.loginFormUrl	logout.filterProcessesUrl	requestMap.urlField	userLookup.usernamePropertyName
auth.useForward	logout.handlerNames	roleHierarchy	useSecurityEventListener
authenticationDetails.authClass	password.algorithm	secureChannel.definition	useSessionFixationPrevention
authority.className	password.bcrypt.logrounds	securityConfigType	useSwitchUserFilter
authority.nameField	password.encodeHashAsBase64	sessionFixationPrevention.alwaysCreateSession	useX509
basic.realmName	portMapper.httpPort	sessionFixationPrevention.migrate	voterNames
cacheUsers	portMapper.httpsPort	successHandler.ajaxSuccessUrl	x509.checkForPrincipalChanges
controllerAnnotations.lowercase	providerManager.eraseCredentialsAfterAuthentication	successHandler.alwaysUseDefault	x509.continueFilterChainOnUnsuccessfulAuthentication
controllerAnnotations.matcher	providerNames	successHandler.defaultTargetUrl	x509.invalidateSessionOnPrincipalChange
controllerAnnotations.staticRules	redirectStrategy.contextRelative	successHandler.targetUrlParameter	x509.subjectDnRegex
			x509.throwExceptionWhenTokenRejected

Customizing Bean Properties

grails-app/conf/Config.groovy:

```
grails.plugins.springsecurity.userLookup.userDomainClassName = '...'
grails.plugins.springsecurity.userLookup.authorityJoinClassName = '...'
grails.plugins.springsecurity.authority.className = '...'
grails.plugins.springsecurity.auth.loginFormUrl = '/log-in'
grails.plugins.springsecurity.apf.filterProcessesUrl = '/authenticate'
grails.plugins.springsecurity.logout.afterLogoutUrl = '/home'
grails.plugins.springsecurity.userLookup.usernamePropertyName = 'email'
```

Customizing Bean Properties

- Can also configure beans in *BootStrap.groovy*, e.g. to avoid redefining a whole bean in *resources.groovy* just to change one dependency:

```
class BootStrap {  
  
    def authenticationProcessingFilter  
    def myAuthenticationFailureHandler  
  
    def init = { servletContext ->  
        authenticationProcessingFilter.authenticationFailureHandler =  
            myAuthenticationFailureHandler  
    }  
  
}
```

Custom UserDetailsService

Custom UserDetailsService

- Very common customization
- Documented in the [plugin docs](#) in section “11 Custom UserDetailsService”



Custom UserDetailsService

- General workflow:
 - Create a custom `o.s.s.core.userdetails.UserDetailsService` (`o.c.g.g.p.s.GrailsUserDetailsService`) implementation
 - Directly implement the interface (best)
 - or extend `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.plugins.springsecurity.GormUserDetailsService` (ok, but usually cleaner to implement the interface)

Custom UserDetailsService

- General workflow (cont.):
 - Create a custom implementation of `o.s.s.core.userdetails.UserDetails`
 - Extend `org.codehaus.groovy.grails.plugins.springsecurity.GrailsUser`
 - or extend `o.s.s.core.userdetails.User`
 - or directly implement the interface

Custom UserDetailsService

- General workflow (cont.):
 - Register the bean override in *grails-app/conf/spring/resources.groovy*:

```
import com.mycompany.myapp.MyUserDetailsService

beans = {
    userDetailsService(MyUserDetailsService)
}
```

Custom AuthenticationProvider

Custom AuthenticationProvider

- General workflow:
 - Create a custom `o.s.s.authentication.AuthenticationProvider` implementation
 - Extend one that's similar, e.g.
`o.s.s.authentication.dao.DaoAuthenticationProvider`
 - or directly implement the interface

Custom AuthenticationProvider

- General workflow (cont.):

- You'll probably want a custom `o.s.s.core.Authentication`

- Extend an existing implementation, e.g.

`o.s.s.authentication.UsernamePasswordAuthenticationToken`

- or directly implement the interface

Custom AuthenticationProvider

- General workflow (cont.):

- If you're using a custom *Authentication*, you'll need a filter to create it

- Create a custom `javax.servlet.Filter` implementation

- Best to extend `org.springframework.web.filter.GenericFilterBean`

- or one that's similar, e.g.

- `o.s.s.web.authentication.UsernamePasswordAuthenticationFilter`

- Or directly implement the interface

Custom AuthenticationProvider

- Registering the custom classes
 - If you're replacing functionality, register bean overrides in *resources.groovy*
 - If you're adding an alternate authentication option (e.g. for only some URLs)
 - Register the beans in *resources.groovy*
 - Register the provider as described in section “10 Authentication Providers” of [the docs](#)
 - Register the filter in its position as described in section “16 Filters” of [the docs](#)

Custom Post-logout Behavior

Custom Post-logout Behavior

- Recall that logout is processed by `MutableLogoutFilter` after request for `/j_spring_security_logout`
- `handler.logout(request, response, auth)` is called for each `LogoutHandler`
- then redirect to post-logout url (by default `"/"`)

Custom Post-logout Behavior

- The default `LogoutHandler` implementations are
 - `o.s.s.web.authentication.rememberme.TokenBasedRememberMeServices`
 - Deletes the remember-me cookie
 - `o.s.s.web.authentication.logout.SecurityContextLogoutHandler`
 - Invalidates the *HttpSession*
 - Removes the *SecurityContext* from the *SecurityContextHolder*

Custom Post-logout Behavior

- Redirect is triggered by
 - *logoutSuccessHandler.onLogoutSuccess(request, response, auth)*
 - *LogoutSuccessHandler* is an instance of
 - `o.s.s.web.authentication.logout.SimpleUrlLogoutSuccessHandler`

Custom Post-logout Behavior

- To add logic to dynamically determine redirect url:
 - Subclass *SimpleUrlLogoutSuccessHandler*
 - Since the *Authentication* isn't available in *determineTargetUrl*, override *onLogoutSuccess* and set it in a *ThreadLocal*

Custom Post-logout Behavior

- To add logic to dynamically determine redirect url (cont.):

```
private static final ThreadLocal<Authentication> AUTH_HOLDER =
    new ThreadLocal<Authentication>()
...
void onLogoutSuccess(...) throws ... {
    AUTH_HOLDER.set authentication
    try {
        super.handle(request, response, authentication)
    }
    finally {
        AUTH_HOLDER.remove()
    }
}
```

Custom Post-logout Behavior

- To add logic to dynamically determine redirect url (cont.):
 - Override *determineTargetUrl*

```
protected String determineTargetUrl(...) {
    Authentication auth = AUTH_HOLDER.get()

    String url = super.determineTargetUrl(request, response)

    if (auth instanceof OrganizationAuthentication) {
        OrganizationAuthentication authentication = auth
        url = ...
    }

    url
}
```

Custom Post-logout Behavior

- To add logic to dynamically determine redirect url (cont.):
 - Redefine the *logoutSuccessHandler* bean in *resources.groovy*

```
import com.mycompany.myapp.CustomLogoutSuccessHandler
import o.c.g.g.plugins.springsecurity.SpringSecurityUtils

beans = {

    def conf = SpringSecurityUtils.securityConfig

    logoutSuccessHandler(CustomLogoutSuccessHandler) {
        redirectStrategy = ref('redirectStrategy')
        defaultTargetUrl = conf.logout.afterLogoutUrl
    }
}
```

Customization Overview

Customization Overview

- Subclass or replace filters in the chain:
 - *SecurityContextPersistenceFilter*
 - *MutableLogoutFilter*
 - *RequestHolderAuthenticationFilter*
(*UsernamePasswordAuthenticationFilter*)
 - *SecurityContextHolderAwareRequestFilter*
 - *RememberMeAuthenticationFilter*
 - *AnonymousAuthenticationFilter*
 - *ExceptionTranslationFilter*
 - *FilterSecurityInterceptor*

Customization Overview (cont)

- Remove filter(s) from the chain
 - *Not recommended*
- Add filter(s) to the chain
- Add/remove/replace *LogoutHandler(s)*
- Add/remove/replace *AccessDecisionVoter(s)*
- Add/remove/replace *AuthenticationProvider(s)*

Customization Overview (cont)

- Customize a filter or *AuthenticationProvider*'s dependency
 - e.g. custom *UserDetailsService*
- Don't write code if you can customize properties or *BootStrap.groovy*
- Read the Spring Security documentation
 - Print the PDF and read it on your commute
- Ask for help on the Grails User mailing list

Thank you