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Abstract

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- A quick look at data breach trends shows that most of the security breaches involved weak, default or stolen passwords. Two-factor authentication (2FA) strengthens access security by requiring two methods (also referred to as factors) to verify your identity. These factors can include something you know - like a username and password, plus something you have - like a smartphone app to approve authentication requests. 2FA protects against phishing, social engineering and password brute-force attacks and secures your logins from attackers exploiting weak or stolen credentials. Single sign-on (SSO) is a session and user authentication service that permits an end user to enter one set of login credentials (such as a name and password) and be able to access multiple applications.

- In this e-poster, we want to share our experience in securing SAS® Viya® access by implementing single sign-on and 2 Factor Authentication with Duo Security, a vendor of cloud-based two-factor authentication services and SSO.

Access Flow:

Image: Duo Security
Intro

• SAS Viya Logon Manager supports authenticating users against an external identity provider via SAML. The Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) 2.0 standard defines a framework for exchanging security information between relying partners in a federation.

Term: Concept

Federation: Two or more security domains with trust established between them.

Assertion: XML document that is created and sent during a federated access request and contains claims about a user.

Claims: Information of a federated member is asserting to be true.

Identity provider: A federation member that creates assertions for its users. Also referred to as the asserting party.

Service provider: A federation member that consumes assertions to make access control decisions for its applications. Also referred to as a relying party.

Metadata: XML document produced by a SAML provider to describe its service endpoint URLs, x.509 certificate and other information in a standard way for consumption by partners in the federation.

Objective

• The objective here is to establish SAML Communication between Identity Provider (Duo Security) which authenticates the users and Service Provider (SAS® Viya® Logon Manager) which provides access to application for successfully authenticated users.

Please use the headings above to navigate through the different sections of the poster.
Pre-Requisites:
Before configuring SAS Viya, we need to obtain Identity Provider Metadata. Configuring Duo Security requires configuring Duo Access Gateway at your site. The SAML Provider should send a link that provides metadata about SAML Provider. Example: https://<hostname>/metadata.php

Steps:
These are the high-level steps to be performed to secure SAS Viya with single sign-on and 2FA:
1. Configure the Service Provider in SAS Environment Manager
2. Configure the Identity Provider properties in SAS Environment Manager
3. Restart Logon manager microservice to generate Service Provider Metadata at SASLogon/saml/metadata
4. Configure the Identity Provider (Third-Party) – Duo Security
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Securing SAS® Viya® Access with Single Sign-on and 2FA

Sandeep Grande, Senior SAS Administrator

CORE COMPETE INC

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Configuring SAML Authentication requires exchanging Metadata information between Identity Provider and Service Provider.

Step 1: Configure the Service Provider in SAS Environment Manager

Go to SAS Environment Manager > Configuration > Definitions > search SAML. Create new configuration for sas.logon.saml. This definition has set of SAML service provider properties that are used to enable sign-ins using an external provider. Modifying one of these property values requires you to restart SAS Logon Manager.
Step 2: Configure the Identity Provider properties in SAS Environment Manager

Go to SAS Environment Manager > Configuration > Definitions > search SAML. Create new configuration for sas.logon.saml.providers.external_saml. This definition has set of SAML identity provider properties that are used to enable sign-in using an external provider.

- **idpMetadata**: The URL to the identity provider metadata. This definition requires SAML Identity Provider Metadata obtained as part of pre-requisites.

Step 3: Restart SAS Viya Logon Manager

We need to restart SAS Viya Logon Manager to generate service provider’s metadata at /SASLogon/saml/metadata. Below is the command to restart SAS Logon manager:

esystemctl restart sas-viya-saslogon-default

Step 4: Configure the Identity Provider (Third-Party) – Duo Security

In this final step, we provide the SAML Identity provider with Service Provider’s metadata generated in step 3 and below are the Duo specific properties that’s are configured.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Provider Name</td>
<td>The name of the service provider.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entity ID</td>
<td>The service provider identifier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assertion Consumer Service</td>
<td>The URL where your service provider receives SAML assertions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Logout URL</td>
<td>Optional: The URL where your service provider receives SAML logout assertions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Provider Login URL</td>
<td>Optional: Enter the URL for IdP-initiated logins if your service provider specifies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default Relay State</td>
<td>Optional: If your service provider requires a specific RelayState parameter, enter it here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Once step 4 is configured they are generally two ways in accessing SAS Viya. One is using the SAS Logon page and is called as Service Provider Initiated login. In this login, user gets to choose to enter his corporate credentials using a link provided on SAS Logon Webpage as shown in below screenshot.

The other is IdP-Initiated SAML Authentication. The Identity Provider Initiated flow starts from the Identity Provider, typically a portal application, and users click a link to SAS Viya. SAML has a solution for the IdP-Initiated flow called the RelayState parameter. The RelayState was designed to be a state that the SP could pass to the IdP with the authentication request and get back in the subsequent response. In the IdP-initiated flow, the SAML RelayState has taken on a de facto use whereby the IdP can specify a URL to redirect the user to after authentication. Duo supports Relaystate parameter.
Thank you ...

By implementing single sign-on and MFA, SAS Admin's can secure their SAS Viya environment against phishing, social engineering and password brute-force attacks and secured our logins from attackers.

Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged. Contact the author at:
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