

Configuring HP Web Delivery 1.5.1 to Use an Alternate Method for Passing the User Name and Password in a URL

This technical note describes how to configure HP Web Delivery 1.5.1 to use an alternate method for accepting and passing an HP Web Delivery user name and password in a URL.

Background

With the installation of Microsoft security patch Q832894 for Internet Explorer 5.x and 6.x, Internet Explorer does not support the following method of authenticating HP Web Delivery access by passing the user name and password in the URL:

```
http://<username>:<password>@<host>:<port>/<script>/<infobox>
```

For more information about this security patch, see Microsoft's Security Bulletin MS04-004, Cumulative Security Update for Internet Explorer (832894).

Service Pack 04.4 and later versions contain an enhancement that enable you to configure HP Web Delivery 1.5.1 to use an alternate method for passing and accepting the HP Web Delivery user name and password in the URL. This enhancement is available for all operating systems on which HP Web Delivery is supported.

Using the MWAUTOAUTH configuration parameter

Service Pack 04.4 and later versions include the configuration attribute MWAUTOAUTH for HP Web Delivery 1.5.1. By default, this attribute is not included in the configuration file and is not set. To configure HP Web Delivery to use an alternate method for passing the user name and password in a URL, add and configure the MWAUTOAUTH attribute to the configuration file by using the `mwcfgput` command.

Valid values for MWAUTOAUTH are `yes`, `on`, `true`, and `1` (to enable HP Web Delivery to use the alternate method) and `no`, `off`, `false`, and `0`. When the attribute is set to `off`, HP Web Delivery will not accept any user credentials in the URL. If user credentials are present, the user credentials will not be removed from the URL when HP Web Delivery sends the response. You must restart the HP Web Delivery servers after setting this attribute for the change to take effect.

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This enhancement requires that you have a separate application that can encode the HP Web Delivery user name and password using base64 encoding and that the application can pass the encoded user name and password to HP Web Delivery in a URL with the following syntax:

```
http://<hpwdhost:port>/<script>/ibname/channel?eup=encoded-value
```

where

`hpwdhost:port` is the hostname and port number where HP Web Delivery is installed,

`script` is the HP Web Delivery script name,

`ibname/channel` is the parameter for the InfoBox/InfoChannel that needs to be loaded,

`eup` is the name of the attribute for passing the encoded user name and password, and

`encoded-value` is the base64-encrypted value of the string `username:password`.

If the base64-encoded value for the string `username:password` contains a URL-reserved character, such as "+", "/", or "=", then these characters must be URL-encoded. For example, a "+" should be replaced by %2B in the encoded string. For more information about encoding URL-reserved characters, refer to RFC 2396.

<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt?number=2396>

In the following example, "admin" is the user name and "abc" is the password for the user admin. The encoded value for the string `admin:abc` is `YWRtaW46YWJj`.

```
http://<hpwdhost:port>/<script>/ibname/channel?eup=YWRtaW46YWJj
```

With this enhancement, HP Web Delivery 1.5.1 can accept the user name and password in the URL as a name-value pair. The HP Web Delivery server sets a temporary cookie at the Web browser to store the encoded user name and password sent in the URL. This cookie expires when the user closes the Web browser.

NOTE: Only the first occurrence of the name-value pair (for example, `eup=YWRtaW46YWJj`) will be considered for authorization and will be removed from the URL, so that the user credentials are not visible to the end user.

HP Web Delivery does not control the display of the URL in the Web browser status bar.

If the user name and password sent in the URL are incorrect, the Web browser will prompt the user for the user name and password.