Authentication Server

Comtrade Authentication Server verifies the identity of users, before granting access to online services such as web-banking. It allows different open-standard and/or proprietary mechanisms, such as passwords, one-time passwords, and certificates, for users to prove their identity, depending on the configuration and business needs. The advantage of Comtrade Authentication Server is to centrally manage the authentication process for multiple online services, and to easily choose the appropriate login mechanism for each service and user based on business requirements (and not on technical limitations).

Identification and Authentication

Before granting users access to any security sensitive service, the service must identify and authenticate the user.

**Identification**: user declares his/her identity without proving it (e.g. username).

**Authentication**: user proves his/her identity using secret data that he/she knows (e.g. password) or possesses (e.g. secret key on smartcard), or are integral part of user him/her-self (biometric authentication data such as fingerprint).

Deployment Scenarios

Comtrade Authentication Server can be deployed in number of different scenarios:

- Consolidation layer to multiple authentication servers or services
- Price-competitive replacement for other authentication server
- Supplementing the internally supported authentication mechanisms of applications or present authentication servers
- Single sign-on for multiple applications
Authentication Mechanisms

Out of the box, authentication methods supported by Comtrade Authentication Server, are:

- Username and static password
- PKI / X.509 Certificate
- NTLM / Active Directory
- SMS OTP - One Time Password sent over SMS text message to the user’s mobile phone
- OTP / TAN lists - pre-distributed lists of pseudo-random OTPs - One Time Pass words

(sometimes also referred to as TANs - Transaction Authentication Numbers - based on context of their use: login or transaction confirmation)

Comtrade Mobile Token Library (One Time Passwords generated on the user’s mobile device, without the need for SMS texting or mobile connectivity)
Third Party Authentication Mechanisms

These are third party authentication mechanisms supported out of the box, which relay authentication requests to the third party authentication server:

- HID / Actividentity 4TRESS
- VASCO

Flexible and Extendible Design

Custom native or third party authentication mechanisms can be added, as well as enrollment support for additional credential types.

Key features

- Basic functionality is responding to authentication requests (over WCF interface)
- Activation of credentials (enrollment)
- Web administrator / operator GUI (function also available via WCF API):
  - Management of identities through their entire lifecycle
  - Management of credentials for supported authentication mechanism through their entire lifecycle (create, assign to identity, dispose / invalidate)
  - Management of relations between identities and credentials
- Security Audit Trail
- Integration with Out-Of-Band communication channels (SMS texting, e-mail)
- High Availability / Load balancing via platform capabilities (Windows / IIS / .NET NLB, MS SQL Server options, etc.)

Technical requirements

- Windows Server
- Database MS SQL 2008 R2 or higher
- MS .NET 4 or higher

Interfaces

- Web based admin / operator GUI
- Microsoft WCF API, client side .NET libraries
Creating value through partnership

Comtrade is a leading IT organization in South East Europe specializing in the fields of IT solutions, system integration and hardware distribution. With more than 900 satisfied customers and offices across Europe and the USA, Comtrade has become a recognized name on the global stage. Founded in 1990, Comtrade now employs over 1,500 business and IT experts, including 1,000+ software engineers. With a proven track record of delivering IT solutions and services that help reduce business complexities and costs, we are a trusted technology partner to medium and enterprise businesses.

1500+ Total employees
30 Strategic partnerships
1000+ Software engineers
10 Development campuses
900+ Loyal customers
03 Technology centers

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