

SAP Knowledge Base Article

**1748508 - What is Single Sign-On (SSO)**

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Language English

Symptom

- SSO (Single Sign-On, or silent login, automatic logon) typically describes the process where a user authenticates once and that authentication is used to access other systems and applications.
- BusinessObjects Enterprise can accomplish **front end SSO via 2 methods** and pass credentials to **back end databases SSO via 4 methods**

Environment

- SAP Business Objects Enterprise 3.1 (XI 3.1)
- SAP BusinessObjects Business Intelligence Platform 4.0 (BI4)

Resolution

Front End SSO

1. **Challenge Response** (AD SSO, vintela SSO, Kerberos SSO, java SSO) is accomplished by securing a web site/portal and forcing a 401 (not authorized) when a browser attempts to access. The browser then (based on its configuration) will attempt to authenticate by passing the operating system credentials to the application (this process is called spnego) using NTLM logon token or Kerberos ticket
2. **Trusted Authentication** (TA SSO, Siteminder SSO and Enterprise Portal SSO) Trusted auth is accomplished by having authentication take place external to Business Objects, then passing a username via several supported methods to the application. The application “trusts” the username because it has been sent from a trusted source. Available sources include SAP Enterprise Portal (MYSAPSSO2), Siteminder shared secret, remote user (AD spnego), query string (URL), http header, web session, user principal, or cookie

Back End SSO aka Database SSO or SSO2DB

1. **Challenge Response** (AD SSO, Kerberos SSO) requires that the client has been logged into the system with Active Directory either manual Kerberos AD or with Kerberos AD SSO will pass the Kerberos ticket to the DB (supported for MS SQL, MS SSAS, Oracle integrated with AD, and hana integrated with AD)
2. **SAP secondary credentials (SAP SSO)** SAP user logs into front end application, username and password are stored in CMS DB to be later sent to SAP BW when accessing reports. Only supported for SAP database products (BW, ECC)
3. **SAP Certificate based SSO (SNC, STS)** Similar to trusted auth in that only an

SAP username is used to authenticate once a certificate trust is setup between Business objects and the SAP server. It allows non SAP users to impersonate SAP users to access data without requiring the SAP username and password. Only available for SAP products (BW, ECC)

4. **Stored DB credentials (DBuser/DBpass, BOuserBOpass)** DB credentials are stored in variables associated with user accounts (enterprise, AD, LDAP) and later sent to most supported DB when refreshing reports

When combining front end SSO and back End SSO the term **End to End SSO** can be used (typically accomplished with AD Kerberos and/or SAP datasources only)

See Also

Front End SSO KBA's

1. **Challenge Response** BI 4.x How to [KBA 1631734](#) XI 3.x SP3 and later how to [KBA 1483762](#) XI 3.1 prior to SP3 how to [KBA 1261835](#) Troubleshooting AD [KBA 1476374](#)
2. **Trusted Authentication** BI 4.x how to [KBA 1593628](#) & [KBA 1603002](#) XI 3.x how to [KBA 1422248](#) **EP SSO** how to BI 4.x [KBA 1701240](#) XI 3.x [KBA 1377802](#)

Back End SSO aka Database SSO or SSO2DB KBA's

1. **Challenge Response** XI 3.1 how to KBA 1554384
2. **SAP secondary credentials (SAP SSO)** Secondary credentials do not require setup they are enabled by default upon login to BI with SAP username and password
3. **SAP Certificate based SSO (SNC, STS)** SNC BI 3.x / BI 4.x troubleshooting guide & SNC/STS how to [KBA 1500150](#) STS troubleshooting Guide To be released
4. **Stored DB credentials (DBuser/DBpass, BOuserBOpass)** XI 3.1 DBuser DBpass webi how too [KBA 1387622](#) Crystal Reports [KBA 1393046](#) SDK how to [KBA 1661131](#)

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Category How To

Product

This document is not restricted to a product or product version

References

This document refers to:

SAP Knowledge Base Articles

- 1261835 [Configuring java SSO \(aka vintela, kerberos\) in Distributed Environments - XI 3.1](#)
- 1387622 [How to use secondary credentials for database connections and how to auto populate the secondary credentials in AD/LDAP/NT/Enterprise](#)
- 1393046 [Using DBuser and DBpass \(aka datasource credentials \)for crystal reports](#)
- 1422248 [Setting up Trusted Authentication in XI 3.x for Infoview and Opendocument using QUERY_STRING](#)
- 1476374 [***Best Practices*** including Basic and Advanced AD Troubleshooting Steps for Manual Logon, NTLM, Kerberos and Vintela Single Sign On](#)
- 1483762 [Configuring Manual Kerberos Authentication and/or SSO in Distributed Environments with XI 3.1 SP3 ***Best Practice***](#)
- 1500150 [Troubleshooting SNC server trust connectivity in business Objects XI 3.x](#)
- 1593628 [Setting up Trusted Authentication in BI4 for BIIlaunchPad and Opendocument using QUERY_STRING](#)
- 1603002 [Setting up Trusted Authentication in BI4 for BIIlaunchPad and Opendocument using HTTP_HEADER](#)
- 1631734 [Configuring Active Directory Manual Authentication and SSO for BI4](#)
- 1661131 [How to set database credentials for the Enterprise user using Enterprise Java SDK.](#)