

Authentication Challenge Control - A Thought Experiment

Fedora's SOAP API has historically been split into two: API-A and API-M. The REST API, being resource-oriented, naturally isn't. And the control over which endpoints can be set to require authentication is inconsistent across the two. The old "Authenticate for API-A? Authenticate for API-M?" options no longer make sense when you look at Fedora's APIs as a whole.

Here's one way the situation could be improved.

1. For the SOAP API (all read-oriented and write-oriented methods), always require authentication.
2. For the REST API, on a per-verb basis (POST/PUT/DELETE/GET), offer the following options at install time:
 - a. Proactive Challenge: Always require authentication.
 - b. Reactive Challenge: Only require authentication if an un-authenticated request failed due to AuthZ rules.

NOTE: This is being tracked as [FCREPO-668](#)