Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8

Configuring authentication and authorization in RHEL

Using SSSD, authselect, and sssctl to configure authentication and authorization
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 Configuring authentication and authorization in RHEL

Using SSSD, authselect, and sssct1 to configure authentication and authorization
Abstract

This documentation collection provides instructions on how to configure authentication and authorization on a Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 host.
# Table of Contents

MAKING OPEN SOURCE MORE INCLUSIVE .......................................................... 4

PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON RED HAT DOCUMENTATION .................................. 5

CHAPTER 1. CONFIGURING USER AUTHENTICATION USING AUTHSELECT ............... 6
   1.1. WHAT IS AUTHSELECT USED FOR ................................................................ 6
      1.1.1. Files and directories authselect modifies .............................................. 6
      1.1.2. Data providers in /etc/nsswitch.conf .................................................. 7
   1.2. CHOOSING AN AUTHSELECT PROFILE .................................................... 8
   1.3. MODIFYING A READY-MADE AUTHSELECT PROFILE ............................... 9
   1.4. CREATING AND DEPLOYING YOUR OWN AUTHSELECT PROFILE .............. 10
   1.5. CONVERTING YOUR SCRIPTS FROM AUTHCONFIG TO AUTHSELECT ........... 11

CHAPTER 2. UNDERSTANDING SSSD AND ITS BENEFITS ...................................... 14
   2.1. HOW SSSD WORKS ..................................................................................... 14
   2.2. BENEFITS OF USING SSSD ....................................................................... 14
   2.3. MULTIPLE SSSD CONFIGURATION FILES ON A PER-CLIENT BASIS .......... 15
      How SSSD processes the configuration files .................................................. 15
   2.4. IDENTITY AND AUTHENTICATION PROVIDERS FOR SSSD ................. 15
      Identity and Authentication Providers as SSSD domains ............................... 16
      Proxy Providers ............................................................................................ 16
      Available Combinations of Identity and Authentication Providers .............. 16

CHAPTER 3. CONFIGURING SSSD TO USE LDAP AND REQUIRE TLS AUTHENTICATION ............ 18
   3.1. AN OPENLDAP CLIENT USING SSSD TO RETRIEVE DATA FROM LDAP IN AN ENCRYPTED WAY ................................................. 18
   3.2. CONFIGURING SSSD TO USE LDAP AND REQUIRE TLS AUTHENTICATION 18

CHAPTER 4. ADDITIONAL CONFIGURATION FOR IDENTITY AND AUTHENTICATION PROVIDERS ...... 21
   4.1. ADJUSTING HOW SSSD INTERPRETS FULL USER NAMES ............................ 21
   4.2. ADJUSTING HOW SSSD PRINTS FULL USER NAMES ................................... 22
   4.3. ENABLING OFFLINE AUTHENTICATION ................................................... 23
   4.4. CONFIGURING DNS SERVICE DISCOVERY .............................................. 24
   4.5. CONFIGURING SIMPLE ACCESS PROVIDER RULES ................................ 25
   4.6. CONFIGURING SSSD TO APPLY AN LDAP ACCESS FILTER ..................... 26

CHAPTER 5. SSSD CLIENT-SIDE VIEW ............................................................... 28
   5.1. OVERRIDING THE LDAP USERNAME ATTRIBUTE .................................... 28
   5.2. OVERRIDING THE LDAP UID ATTRIBUTE .............................................. 29
   5.3. OVERRIDING THE LDAP GID ATTRIBUTE .............................................. 31
   5.4. OVERRIDING THE LDAP HOME DIRECTORY ATTRIBUTE ....................... 32
   5.5. OVERRIDING THE LDAP SHELL ATTRIBUTE ......................................... 34
   5.6. LISTING OVERRIDES ON A HOST .......................................................... 35
   5.7. REMOVING A LOCAL OVERRIDE .......................................................... 36
   5.8. EXPORTING AND IMPORTING LOCAL VIEW .......................................... 36

CHAPTER 6. CONFIGURING A RHEL HOST TO USE AD AS AN AUTHENTICATION PROVIDER .......... 37

CHAPTER 7. REPORTING ON USER ACCESS ON HOSTS USING SSSD .......................... 41
   7.1. THE SSSCTL COMMAND ........................................................................... 41
   7.2. GENERATING ACCESS CONTROL REPORTS USING SSSCTL ...................... 41
   7.3. DISPLAYING USER AUTHORIZATION DETAILS USING SSSCTL ................. 42

CHAPTER 8. QUERYING DOMAIN INFORMATION USING SSSD ................................ 43
   8.1. LISTING DOMAINS USING SSSCTL ......................................................... 43
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>VERIFYING THE DOMAIN STATUS USING SSSCTL</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ELIMINATING TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS IN LOCAL SSSD CONFIGURATION</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>DATA FLOW WHEN RETRIEVING IDM USER INFORMATION WITH SSSD</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>DATA FLOW WHEN RETRIEVING AD USER INFORMATION WITH SSSD</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>DATA FLOW WHEN AUTHENTICATING AS A USER WITH SSSD IN IDM</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>NARROWING THE SCOPE OF AUTHENTICATION ISSUES</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>SSSD LOG FILES AND LOGGING LEVELS</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5.1</td>
<td>SSSD log file purposes</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5.2</td>
<td>SSSD logging levels</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>ENABLING DETAILED LOGGING FOR SSSD IN THE SSSD.CONF FILE</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>ENABLING DETAILED LOGGING FOR SSSD WITH THE SSSCTL COMMAND</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>GATHERING DEBUGGING LOGS FROM THE SSSD SERVICE TO TROUBLESHOOT AUTHENTICATION ISSUES WITH AN IDM SERVER</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>GATHERING DEBUGGING LOGS FROM THE SSSD SERVICE TO TROUBLESHOOT AUTHENTICATION ISSUES WITH AN IDM CLIENT</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAKING OPEN SOURCE MORE INCLUSIVE

Red Hat is committed to replacing problematic language in our code, documentation, and web properties. We are beginning with these four terms: master, slave, blacklist, and whitelist. Because of the enormity of this endeavor, these changes will be implemented gradually over several upcoming releases. For more details, see our CTO Chris Wright’s message.

In Identity Management, planned terminology replacements include:

- **block list** replaces **blacklist**
- **allow list** replaces **whitelist**
- **secondary** replaces **slave**

- The word **master** is being replaced with more precise language, depending on the context:
  - **IdM server** replaces **IdM master**
  - **CA renewal server** replaces **CA renewal master**
  - **CRL publisher server** replaces **CRL master**
  - **multi-supplier** replaces **multi-master**
PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON RED HAT DOCUMENTATION

We appreciate your input on our documentation. Please let us know how we could make it better. To do so:

- For simple comments on specific passages:
  1. Make sure you are viewing the documentation in the *Multi-page HTML* format. In addition, ensure you see the Feedback button in the upper right corner of the document.
  2. Use your mouse cursor to highlight the part of text that you want to comment on.
  3. Click the Add Feedback pop-up that appears below the highlighted text.
  4. Follow the displayed instructions.

- For submitting more complex feedback, create a Bugzilla ticket:
  1. Go to the Bugzilla website.
  2. As the Component, use Documentation.
  3. Fill in the Description field with your suggestion for improvement. Include a link to the relevant part(s) of documentation.
  4. Click Submit Bug.
**CHAPTER 1. CONFIGURING USER AUTHENTICATION USING AUTHSELECT**

**authselect** is a utility that allows you to configure system identity and authentication sources by selecting a specific profile. Profile is a set of files that describes how the resulting Pluggable Authentication Modules (PAM) and Network Security Services (NSS) configuration will look like. You can choose the default profile set or create a custom profile.

**1.1. WHAT IS AUTHSELECT USED FOR**

You can use the **authselect** utility to configure user authentication on a Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 host.

You can configure identity information and authentication sources and providers by selecting one of the ready-made profiles:

- The default **sssd** profile enables the System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) for systems that use LDAP authentication.
- The **winbind** profile enables the Winbind utility for systems directly integrated with Microsoft Active Directory.
- The **nis** profile ensures compatibility with legacy Network Information Service (NIS) systems.
- The **minimal** profile serves only local users and groups directly from system files, which allows administrators to remove network authentication services that are no longer needed.

After selecting an **authselect** profile for a given host, the profile is applied to every user logging into the host.

Red Hat recommends using **authselect** in semi-centralized identity management environments, for example if your organization utilizes LDAP, Winbind, or NIS databases to authenticate users to use services in your domain.

---

**WARNING**

Do not use **authselect** if your host is part of Red Hat Enterprise Linux Identity Management (IdM). Joining your host to an IdM domain with the **ipa-client-install** command automatically configures SSSD authentication on your host.

Similarly, do not use **authselect** if your host is part of Active Directory via SSSD. Calling the **realm join** command to join your host to an Active Directory domain automatically configures SSSD authentication on your host.

---

**1.1.1. Files and directories authselect modifies**

The **authconfig** utility, used in previous Red Hat Enterprise Linux versions, created and modified many different configuration files, making troubleshooting more difficult. **Authselect** simplifies testing and troubleshooting because it only modifies the following files and directories:
The GNU C Library and other applications use this Name Service Switch (NSS) configuration file to determine the sources from which to obtain name-service information in a range of categories, and in what order. Each category of information is identified by a database name.

Linux-PAM (Pluggable Authentication Modules) is a system of modules that handle the authentication tasks of applications (services) on the system. The nature of the authentication is dynamically configurable: the system administrator can choose how individual service-providing applications will authenticate users.

The configuration files in the `/etc/pam.d/` directory list the PAMs that will perform authentication tasks required by a service, and the appropriate behavior of the PAM-API in the event that individual PAMs fail.

Among other things, these files contain information about:

- user password lockout conditions
- the ability to authenticate with a smart card
- the ability to authenticate with a fingerprint reader

This directory holds configuration profiles for the `dconf` utility, which you can use to manage settings for the GNOME Desktop Graphical User Interface (GUI).

### 1.1.2. Data providers in `/etc/nsswitch.conf`

The default `sssd` profile establishes SSSD as a source of information by creating `sss` entries in `/etc/nsswitch.conf`:

```plaintext
passwd:   sss files
group:    sss files
netgroup: sss files
automount: sss files
services:  sss files
... 
```

This means that the system first looks to SSSD if information concerning one of those items is requested:

- `passwd` for user information
- `group` for user group information
- `netgroup` for NIS `netgroup` information
- `automount` for NFS automount information
- `services` for information regarding services
Only if the requested information is not found in the sssd cache and on the server providing authentication, or if sssd is not running, the system looks at the local files, that is /etc/*. For example, if information is requested about a user ID, the user ID is first searched in the sssd cache. If it is not found there, the /etc/passwd file is consulted. Analogically, if a user’s group affiliation is requested, it is first searched in the sssd cache and only if not found there, the /etc/group file is consulted.

In practice, the local files database is not normally consulted. The most important exception is the case of the root user, which is never handled by sssd but by files.

1.2. CHOOSING AN AUTHSELECT PROFILE

As a system administrator, you can select a profile for the authselect utility for a specific host. The profile will be applied to every user logging into the host.

Prerequisites

- You need root credentials to run authselect commands

Procedure

- Select the authselect profile that is appropriate for your authentication provider. For example, for logging into the network of a company that uses LDAP, choose sssd.

  ```
  # authselect select sssd
  ```

  (Optional) You can modify the default profile settings by adding the following options to the authselect select sssd or authselect select winbind command, for example:

  - with-faillock
  - with-smartcard
  - with-fingerprint

  To see the full list of available options, see Converting your scripts from authconfig to authselect or the authselect-migration(7) man page.

  **NOTE**

  Make sure that the configuration files that are relevant for your profile are configured properly before finishing the authselect select procedure. For example, if the sssd daemon is not configured correctly and active, running authselect select results in only local users being able to authenticate, using pam_unix.

  Verification Steps

  1. Verify sss entries for SSSD are present in /etc/nsswitch.conf:

     ```
     passwd:      sss files
     group:       sss files
     netgroup:    sss files
     ```
2. Review the contents of the `/etc/pam.d/system-auth` file for `pam_sss.so` entries:

```bash
# Generated by authselect on Tue Sep 11 22:59:06 2018
# Do not modify this file manually.
auth        required        pam_env.so
auth        required        pam_faildelay.so delay=2000000
auth        [default=1 ignore=ignore success=ok]    pam_succeed_if.so uid >= 1000 quiet
auth        [default=1 ignore=ignore success=ok]    pam_localuser.so
auth        sufficient      pam_unix.so nullok try_first_pass
auth        requisite       pam_succeed_if.so uid >= 1000 quiet_success
auth        sufficient      pam_sss.so forward_pass
auth        required        pam_deny.so
account     required        pam_unix.so
account     sufficient      pam_localuser.so
```

Additional Resources

- What is authselect used for
- Modifying a ready-made authselect profile
- Creating and deploying your own authselect profile

### 1.3. MODIFYING A READY-MADE AUTHSELECT PROFILE

As a system administrator, you can modify one of the default profiles to suit your needs.

You can modify any of the items in the `/etc/authselect/user-nsswitch.conf` file with the exception of:

- passwd
- group
- netgroup
- automount
- services

Running `authselect select profile_name` afterwards will result in transferring permissible changes from `/etc/authselect/user-nsswitch.conf` to the `/etc/nsswitch.conf` file. Unacceptable changes are overwritten by the default profile configuration.

**IMPORTANT**

Do not modify the `/etc/nsswitch.conf` file directly.
Procedure

1. Select an authselect profile, for example:
   
   ```bash
   # authselect select sssd
   ```

2. Edit the `/etc/authselect/user-nsswitch.conf` file with your desired changes.

3. Apply the changes from the `/etc/authselect/user-nsswitch.conf` file:
   
   ```bash
   # authselect apply-changes
   ```

Verification steps

- Review the `/etc/nsswitch.conf` file to verify that the changes from `/etc/authselect/user-nsswitch.conf` have been propagated there.

Additional Resources

- What is authselect used for

1.4. CREATING AND DEPLOYING YOUR OWN AUTHSELECT PROFILE

As a system administrator, you can create and deploy a custom profile by making a customized copy of one of the default profiles.

This is particularly useful if Modifying a ready-made authselect profile is not enough for your needs. When you deploy a custom profile, the profile is applied to every user logging into the given host.

Procedure

1. Create your custom profile by using the `authselect create-profile` command. For example, to create a custom profile called `user-profile` based on the ready-made `sssd` profile but one in which you can configure the items in the `/etc/nsswitch.conf` file yourself:

   ```bash
   # authselect create-profile user-profile -b sssd --symlink-meta --symlink-pam
   New profile was created at /etc/authselect/custom/user-profile
   ```

   Including the `--symlink-pam` option in the command means that PAM templates will be symbolic links to the origin profile files instead of their copy; including the `--symlink-meta` option means that meta files, such as README and REQUIREMENTS will be symbolic links to the origin profile files instead of their copy. This ensures that all future updates to the PAM templates and meta files in the original profile will be reflected in your custom profile, too.

   The command creates a copy of the `/etc/nsswitch.conf` file in the `/etc/authselect/custom/user-profile/` directory.

2. Configure the `/etc/authselect/custom/user-profile/nsswitch.conf` file.

3. Select the custom profile by running the `authselect select` command, and adding `custom/name_of_the_profile` as a parameter. For example, to select the `user-profile` profile:

   ```bash
   # authselect select custom/user-profile
   ```
Selecting the user-profile profile for your machine means that if the sssd profile is subsequently updated by Red Hat, you will benefit from all the updates with the exception of updates made to the /etc/nsswitch.conf file.

Example 1.1. Creating a profile

The following procedure shows how to create a profile based on the sssd profile which only consults the local static table lookup for hostnames in the /etc/hosts file, not in the dns or myhostname databases.

1. Edit the /etc/nsswitch.conf file by editing the following line:
   
   hosts: files

2. Create a custom profile based on sssd that excludes changes to /etc/nsswitch.conf:

   # authselect create-profile user-profile -b sssd --symlink-meta --symlink-pam

3. Select the profile:

   # authselect select custom/user-profile

4. Optionally, check that selecting the custom profile has

   - created the /etc/pam.d/system-auth file according to the chosen sssd profile
   - left the configuration in the /etc/nsswitch.conf unchanged:

   hosts: files

   NOTE

   Running authselect select sssd would, in contrast, result in hosts:
   files dns myhostname

Additional Resources

- What is authselect used for

1.5. CONVERTING YOUR SCRIPTS FROM AUTHCONFIG TO AUTHSELECT

If you use ipa-client-install or realm join to join a domain, you can safely remove any authconfig call in your scripts. If this is not possible, replace each authconfig call with its equivalent authselect call. In doing that, select the correct profile and the appropriate options. In addition, edit the necessary configuration files:

   - /etc/krb5.conf
   - /etc/sssd/sssd.conf (for the sssd profile) or /etc/samba/smb.conf (for the winbind profile)

Relation of authconfig options to authselect profiles and Authselect profile option equivalents of authconfig options show the authselect equivalents of authconfig options.
Table 1.1. Relation of authconfig options to authselect profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authconfig options</th>
<th>Authselect profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--enableldap --enableldapauth</td>
<td>sssd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablesssd --enablesssdauth</td>
<td>sssd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablekrb5</td>
<td>sssd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablewinbind --enablewinbindauth</td>
<td>winbind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablenis</td>
<td>nis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.2. Authselect profile option equivalents of authconfig options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authconfig option</th>
<th>Authselect profile feature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--enablesmartcard</td>
<td>with-smartcard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablefingerprint</td>
<td>with-fingerprint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enableecryptfs</td>
<td>with-ecryptfs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablemkhomedir</td>
<td>with-mkhomedir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablefaillock</td>
<td>with-faillock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablepamaccess</td>
<td>with-pamaccess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--enablewinbindkrb5</td>
<td>with-krb5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of authselect command equivalents to authconfig commands shows example transformations of Kickstart calls to authconfig into Kickstart calls to authselect.

Table 1.3. Examples of authselect command equivalents to authconfig commands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>authconfig command</th>
<th>authselect equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>authconfig --enableldap --enableldapauth --enablefaillock --updateall</td>
<td>authselect select sssd with-faillock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>authconfig --enablesssd --enablesssdauth --enablesmartcard --smartcardmodule=sssd --updateall</td>
<td>authselect select sssd with-smartcard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>authconfig --enableecryptfs --enablepamaccess --updateall</td>
<td>authselect select sssd with-ecryptfs with-pamaccess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>authconfig command</td>
<td>authselect equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>authconfig --enablewinbind --</td>
<td>realm join -U Administrator --client-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enablewinbindauth --</td>
<td>software=winbind WINBINDDOMAIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>winbindjoin=Administrator --updateall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 2. UNDERSTANDING SSSD AND ITS BENEFITS

The System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) is a system service to access remote directories and authentication mechanisms. The following chapters outline how SSSD works, what are the benefits of using it, how the configuration files are processed, as well as what identity and authentication providers you can configure.

2.1. HOW SSSD WORKS

The System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) is a system service that allows you to access remote directories and authentication mechanisms. You can connect a local system, an SSSD client, to an external back-end system, a provider.

For example:

- An LDAP directory
- An Identity Management (IdM) domain
- An Active Directory (AD) domain
- A Kerberos realm

SSSD works in two stages:

1. It connects the client to a remote provider to retrieve identity and authentication information.
2. It uses the obtained authentication information to create a local cache of users and credentials on the client.

Users on the local system are then able to authenticate using the user accounts stored in the remote provider.

SSSD does not create user accounts on the local system. However, SSSD can be configured to create home directories for IdM users. Once created, an IdM user home directory and its contents on the client are not deleted when the user logs out.

2.2. BENEFITS OF USING SSSD

SSSD can also provide caches for several system services, such as Name Service Switch (NSS) or Pluggable Authentication Modules (PAM).
Using the System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) provides multiple benefits regarding user identity retrieval and user authentication.

**Offline authentication**

SSSD optionally keeps a cache of user identities and credentials retrieved from remote providers. In this setup, a user - provided they have already authenticated once against the remote provider at the start of the session - can successfully authenticate to resources even if the remote provider or the client are offline.

**A single user account: improved consistency of the authentication process**

With SSSD, it is not necessary to maintain both a central account and a local user account for offline authentication. The conditions are:

- In a particular session, the user must have logged in at least once: the client must be connected to the remote provider when the user logs in for the first time.

- Caching must be enabled in SSSD.

Without SSSD, remote users often have multiple user accounts. For example, to connect to a virtual private network (VPN), remote users have one account for the local system and another account for the VPN system. In this scenario, you must first authenticate on the private network to fetch the user from the remote server and cache the user credentials locally.

With SSSD, thanks to caching and offline authentication, remote users can connect to network resources simply by authenticating to their local machine. SSSD then maintains their network credentials.

**Reduced load on identity and authentication providers**

When requesting information, the clients first check the local SSSD cache. SSSD contacts the remote providers only if the information is not available in the cache.

### 2.3. MULTIPLE SSSD CONFIGURATION FILES ON A PER-CLIENT BASIS

The default configuration file for SSSD is `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`. Apart from this file, SSSD can read its configuration from all `*.conf` files in the `/etc/sssd/conf.d/` directory.

This combination allows you to use the default `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file on all clients and add additional settings in further configuration files to extend the functionality individually on a per-client basis.

**How SSSD processes the configuration files**

SSSD reads the configuration files in this order:

1. The primary `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file

2. Other `*.conf` files in `/etc/sssd/conf.d/`, in alphabetical order

If the same parameter appears in multiple configuration files, SSSD uses the last read parameter.

**NOTE**

SSSD does not read hidden files (files starting with `.`) in the `conf.d` directory.

### 2.4. IDENTITY AND AUTHENTICATION PROVIDERS FOR SSSD
You can connect an SSSD client to the external identity and authentication providers, for example an LDAP directory, an Identity Management (IdM), Active Directory (AD) domain, or a Kerberos realm. The SSSD client then get access to identity and authentication remote services using the SSSD provider. You can configure SSSD to use different identity and authentication providers or a combination of them.

**Identity and Authentication Providers as SSSD domains**

Identity and authentication providers are configured as domains in the SSSD configuration file, `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`. The providers are listed in the `[domain/ name of the domain]` or `[domain/default]` section of the file.

A single domain can be configured as one of the following providers:

- An **identity provider**, which supplies user information such as UID and GID.
  - Specify a domain as the **identity provider** by using the `id_provider` option in the `[domain/ name of the domain]` section of the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.

- An **authentication provider**, which handles authentication requests.
  - Specify a domain as the **authentication provider** by using the `auth_provider` option in the `[domain/ name of the domain]` section of `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`.

- An **access control provider**, which handles authorization requests.
  - Specify a domain as the **access control provider** using the `access_provider` option in the `[domain/ name of the domain]` section of `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`. By default, the option is set to `permit`, which always allows all access. See the `sssd.conf(5)` man page for details.

- A combination of these providers, for example if all the corresponding operations are performed within a single server.
  - In this case, the `id_provider`, `auth_provider`, and `access_provider` options are all listed in the same `[domain/ name of the domain]` or `[domain/default]` section of `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`.

**NOTE**

You can configure multiple domains for SSSD. You must configure at least one domain, otherwise SSSD will not start.

**Proxy Providers**

A proxy provider works as an intermediary relay between SSSD and resources that SSSD would otherwise not be able to use. When using a proxy provider, SSSD connects to the proxy service, and the proxy loads the specified libraries.

You can configure SSSD to use a proxy provider in order to enable:

- Alternative authentication methods, such as a fingerprint scanner
- Legacy systems, such as NIS
- A local system account defined in the `/etc/passwd` file as an identity provider and a remote authentication provider, for example Kerberos

**Available Combinations of Identity and Authentication Providers**

You can configure SSSD to use the following combinations of identity and authentication providers.
### Table 2.1. Available Combinations of Identity and Authentication Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identity Provider</th>
<th>Authentication Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity Management [a]</td>
<td>Identity Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Directory</td>
<td>Active Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDAP</td>
<td>LDAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDAP</td>
<td>Kerberos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proxy</td>
<td>Proxy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proxy</td>
<td>LDAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proxy</td>
<td>Kerberos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[a] An extension of the LDAP provider type.

### Additional resources

- Configuring user authentication using authselect
- Querying domain information using SSSD [1]
- Reporting on user access on hosts using SSSD

---

[1] To list and verify the status of the domains using the `sssctll` utility, your host should be enrolled in Identity Management (IdM) that is in a trust agreement with an Active Directory (AD) forest.
CHAPTER 3. CONFIGURING SSSD TO USE LDAP AND REQUIRE TLS AUTHENTICATION

The System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) is a daemon that manages identity data retrieval and authentication on a RHEL 8 host. A system administrator can configure the host to use a standalone LDAP server as the user account database. The administrator can also specify the requirement that the connection with the LDAP server must be encrypted with a TLS certificate.

3.1. AN OPENLDAP CLIENT USING SSSD TO RETRIEVE DATA FROM LDAP IN AN ENCRYPTED WAY

The authentication method of the LDAP objects can be either a Kerberos password or an LDAP password. Note that the questions of authentication and authorization of the LDAP objects are not addressed in this chapter.

IMPORTANT
Configuring SSSD with LDAP is a complex procedure requiring a high level of expertise in SSSD and LDAP. Consider using an integrated and automated solution such as Active Directory or Red Hat Identity Management (IdM) instead. For details about IdM, see Planning Identity Management.

3.2. CONFIGURING SSSD TO USE LDAP AND REQUIRE TLS AUTHENTICATION

Complete this procedure to configure your Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) system as an OpenLDAP client.

Use the following client configuration:

- The RHEL system authenticates users stored in an OpenLDAP user account database.
- The RHEL system uses the System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) service to retrieve user data.
- The RHEL system communicates with the OpenLDAP server over a TLS-encrypted connection.

NOTE
You can alternatively use this procedure to configure your RHEL system as a client of a Red Hat Directory Server.

Prerequisites
- The OpenLDAP server is installed and configured with user information.
- You have root permissions on the host you are configuring as the LDAP client.
- On the host you are configuring as the LDAP client, the /etc/sssd/sssd.conf file has been created and configured to specify ldap as the autofs_provider and the id_provider.
- You have a PEM-formatted copy of the root CA signing certificate chain from the Certificate Authority that issued the OpenLDAP server certificate, stored in a local file named `core-dirsrv.ca.pem`.

**Procedure**

1. Install the requisite packages:
   ```
   # dnf -y install openldap-clients sssd sssd-ldap oddjob-mkhomedir
   ```

2. Switch the authentication provider to `sssd`:
   ```
   # authselect select sssd with-mkhomedir
   ```

3. Copy the `core-dirsrv.ca.pem` file containing the root CA signing certificate chain from the Certificate Authority that issued the OpenLDAP server’s SSL/TLS certificate into the `/etc/openldap/certs` folder.
   ```
   # cp core-dirsrv.ca.pem /etc/openldap/certs
   ```

4. Add the URL and suffix of your LDAP server to the `/etc/openldap/ldap.conf` file:
   ```
   URI ldap://ldap-server.example.com/
   BASE dc=example,dc=com
   ```

5. In the `/etc/openldap/ldap.conf` file, add a line pointing the `TLS_CACERT` parameter to `/etc/openldap/certs/core-dirsrv.ca.pem`:
   ```
   # When no CA certificates are specified the Shared System Certificates
   # are in use. In order to have these available along with the ones specified
   # by TLS_CACERTDIR one has to include them explicitly:
   TLS_CACERT /etc/openldap/certs/core-dirsrv.ca.pem
   ```

6. In the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file, add your environment values to the `ldap_uri` and `ldap_search_base` parameters:
   ```
   [domain/default]
   id_provider = ldap
   autofs_provider = ldap
   auth_provider = ldap
   chpass_provider = ldap
   ldap_uri = ldap://ldap-server.example.com/
   ldap_search_base = dc=example,dc=com
   ldap_id_use_start_tls = True
   cache_credentials = True
   ldap_tls_cacertdir = /etc/openldap/certs
   ldap_tls_reqcert = allow
   
   [sssd]
   services = nss, pam, autofs
   domains = default
   ```
In `/etc/sssdsd/sssd.conf`, specify the TLS authentication requirement by modifying the `ldap_tls_cacert` and `ldap_tls_reqcert` values in the `[domain]` section:

```bash
... cache_credentials = True
ldap_tls_cacert = /etc/openldap/certs/core-dirsrv.ca.pem
ldap_tls_reqcert = hard
...
```

8. Change the permissions on the `/etc/sssdsd/sssd.conf` file:

```bash
# chmod 600 /etc/sssdsd/sssd.conf
```

9. Restart and enable the SSSD service and the `oddjobd` daemon:

```bash
# systemctl restart sssd oddjobd
# systemctl enable sssd oddjobd
```

10. (Optional) If your LDAP server uses the deprecated TLS 1.0 or TLS 1.1 protocols, switch the system-wide cryptographic policy on the client system to the LEGACY level to allow RHEL 8 to communicate using these protocols:

```bash
# update-crypto-policies --set LEGACY
```


**Verification steps**

- Verify you can retrieve user data from your LDAP server by using the `id` command and specifying an LDAP user:

```bash
# id ldap_user
uid=17388(ldap_user) gid=45367(sysadmins) groups=45367(sysadmins),25395(engineers),10(wheel),1202200000(admins)
```

The system administrator can now query users from LDAP using the `id` command. The command returns a correct user ID and group membership.
CHAPTER 4. ADDITIONAL CONFIGURATION FOR IDENTITY AND AUTHENTICATION PROVIDERS

The System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) is a system service to access remote directories and authentication mechanisms. The main configuration file for SSSD is `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`. The following chapters outline how you can configure SSSD services and domains by modifying the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file to:

- Adjust how SSSD interprets and prints full user names to enable offline authentication.
- Configure DNS Service Discovery, simple Access Provider Rules, and SSSD to apply an LDAP Access Filter.

4.1. ADJUSTING HOW SSSD INTERPRETS FULL USER NAMES

SSSD parses full user name strings into the user name and domain components. By default, SSSD interprets full user names in the format `username@domain_name` based on the following regular expression in Python syntax:

```
(?P<name>[^@]+)@?(?P<domain>[^@]*$)
```

NOTE

For Identity Management and Active Directory providers, the default user name format is `user_name@domain_name` or `NetBIOS_name\user_name`.

You can adjust how SSSD interprets full user names by adding the `re_expression` option to the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file and defining a custom regular expression.

- To define the regular expression globally, add the regular expression to the `[sssd]` section of the `sssd.conf` file as shown in the Defining regular expressions globally example.

- To define the regular expression for a particular domain, add the regular expression to the corresponding domain section (for example, `[domain/LDAP]`) of the `sssd.conf` file as shown in the Defining regular expressions a particular domain example.

Prerequisites

- root access

Procedure

1. Open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.

2. Use the `re_expression` option to define a custom regular expression.

   **Example 4.1. Defining regular expressions globally**

   To define the regular expressions globally for all domains, add `re_expression` to the `[sssd]` section of the `sssd.conf` file.

   You can use the following global expression to define the username in the format of `domain\username` or `domain@username`:
Example 4.2. Defining regular expressions a particular domain

To define the regular expressions individually for a particular domain, add `re_expression` to the corresponding domain section of the `sssd.conf` file.

You can use the following global expression to define the username in the format of `domain\username` or `domain@username` for the LDAP domain:

```
re_expression = (?P<domain>[^\]*?)\?(?P<name>[^\]+$)
```

For more details, see the descriptions for `re_expression` in the SPECIAL SECTIONS and DOMAIN SECTIONS parts of the `sssd.conf(5)` man page.

4.2. ADJUSTING HOW SSSD PRINTS FULL USER NAMES

If the `use_fully_qualified_names` option is enabled in the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file, SSSD prints full user names in the format `name@domain` based on the following expansion by default:

```
%1$s@%2$s
```

NOTE

If `use_fully_qualified_names` is not set or is explicitly set to `false` for trusted domains, it only prints the user name without the domain component.

You can adjust the format in which SSSD prints full user names by adding the `full_name_format` option to the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file and defining a custom expansion.

Prerequisites

- root access

Procedure

1. As root, open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.

2. Use the `full_name_format` option to define the custom expansion for the full user name format.

Example 4.3. Define the user name printing format globally

To define the expansion globally for all domains, add `full_name_format` to the `[sssd]` section of `sssd.conf`.
**Example 4.4. Define the user name printing format for a particular domain**

To define the expansion individually for a particular domain, add `full_name_format` to the corresponding domain section of `sssd.conf`.

For example, to configure the expansion for the Active Directory (AD) domain, use:

```
[domain/AD]
full_name_format = %3$s
```

For more details, see the descriptions for `full_name_format` in the *SPECIAL SECTIONS* and *DOMAIN SECTIONS* parts of the `sssd.conf(5)` man page.

**NOTE**

SSSD can strip the domain component of the name in some name configurations, which can cause authentication errors. If you set `full_name_format` to a non-standard value, you will get a warning prompting you to change it to a standard format.

### 4.3. ENABLING OFFLINE AUTHENTICATION

SSSD does not cache user credentials by default. When processing authentication requests, SSSD always contacts the identity provider. If the provider is unavailable, user authentication fails.

**IMPORTANT**

SSSD never caches passwords in plain text. It stores only a hash of the password.

To ensure that users can authenticate even when the identity provider is unavailable, you can enable credential caching by setting `cache_credentials` to `true` in the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.

**Prerequisites**

- **root** access

**Procedure**

1. Open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.
2. In a domain section, add the `cache_credentials = true` setting:

```
[domain/your-domain-name]
cache_credentials = true
```
3. **Optional, but recommended:** Configure a time limit for how long SSSD allows offline authentication if the identity provider is unavailable:

   a. Configure the PAM service to work with SSSD.  
      See Configuring user authentication using authselect for more details.

   b. Use the `offline_credentials_expiration` option to specify the time limit.  
      Note that the limit is set in days.

      For example, to specify that users are able to authenticate offline for 3 days since the last successful login, use:

      ```
      [pam]
      offline_credentials_expiration = 3
      ```

**Additional resources**

- The `sssd.conf(5)` man page

### 4.4. Configuring DNS Service Discovery

DNS service discovery enables applications to check the SRV records in a given domain for certain services of a certain type, and then returns any servers that match the required type. If the identity or authentication server is not explicitly defined in the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file, SSSD can discover the server dynamically using DNS service discovery.

For example, if `sssd.conf` includes the `id_provider = ldap` setting, but the `ldap_uri` option does not specify any host name or IP address, SSSD uses DNS service discovery to discover the server dynamically.

**NOTE**

SSSD cannot dynamically discover backup servers, only the primary server.

**Prerequisites**

- root access

**Procedure**

1. Open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.

2. Set the primary server value to `_srv_`.  
   For an LDAP provider, the primary server is set using the `ldap_uri` option:

   ```
   [domain/your-domain-name]
   id_provider = ldap
   ldap_uri = _srv_
   ```

3. Enable service discovery in the password change provider by setting a service type:

   ```
   [domain/your-domain-name]
   id_provider = ldap
   ldap_uri = _srv_
   ```
chpass_provider = ldap
ldap_chpass_dns_service_name = ldap

4. Optional: By default, the service discovery uses the domain portion of the system host name as the domain name. To use a different DNS domain, specify the domain name by using the `dns_discovery_domain` option.

5. Optional: By default, the service discovery scans for the LDAP service type. To use a different service type, specify the type by using the `ldap_dns_service_name` option.

6. Optional: By default, SSSD attempts to look up an IPv4 address. If the attempt fails, SSSD attempts to look up an IPv6 address. To customize this behavior, use the `lookup_family_order` option.

7. For every service with which you want to use service discovery, add a DNS record to the DNS server:

   _service._protocol._domain TTL priority weight port host_name

Additional resources

- RFC 2782 on DNS service discovery
- The `sssd.conf(5)` man page

4.5. CONFIGURING SIMPLE ACCESS PROVIDER RULES

The `simple` access provider allows or denies access based on a list of user names or groups. It enables you to restrict access to specific machines.

For example, you can use the `simple` access provider to restrict access to a specific user or group. Other users or groups will not be allowed to log in even if they authenticate successfully against the configured authentication provider.

Prerequisites

- root access

Procedure

1. Open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.

2. Set the `access_provider` option to `simple`:

   
   [domain/your-domain-name]
   access_provider = simple

3. Define the access control rules for users.
   
   a. To allow access to users, use the `simple_allow_users` option.
   
   b. To deny access to users, use the `simple_deny_users` option.
4. Define the access control rules for groups. Choose one of the following:
   a. To allow access to groups, use the `simple_allow_groups` option.
   b. To deny access to groups, use the `simple_deny_groups` option.

Example 4.5. Allowing access to specific users and groups

The following example allows access to user1, user2, and members of group1, while denying access to all other users:

```
[domain/your-domain-name]
access_provider = simple
simple_allow_users = user1, user2
simple_allow_groups = group1
```

Additional resources

- The `sssd-simple5` man page

4.6. CONFIGURING SSSD TO APPLY AN LDAP ACCESS FILTER

When the `access_provider` option is set in `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`, SSSD uses the specified access provider to evaluate which users are granted access to the system. If the access provider you are using is an extension of the LDAP provider type, you can also specify an LDAP access control filter that a user must match in order to be allowed access to the system.

For example, when using the Active Directory (AD) server as the access provider, you can restrict access to the Linux system only to specified AD users. All other users that do not match the specified filter have access denied.

**NOTE**

The access filter is applied on the LDAP user entry only. Therefore, using this type of access control on nested groups might not work. To apply access control on nested groups, see Configuring `simple` Access Provider Rules.
IMPORTANT

When using offline caching, SSSD checks if the user’s most recent online login attempt was successful. Users who logged in successfully during the most recent online login will still be able to log in offline, even if they do not match the access filter.

Prerequisites

- root access

Procedure

1. Open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file.

2. In the `[domain]` section, specify the LDAP access control filter.
   - For an LDAP access provider, use the `ldap_access_filter` option. See the `sssd-ldap(5)` man page for details.
   - For an AD access provider, use the `ad_access_filter` option. See the `sssd-ad(5)` man page for details.

Example 4.6. Allowing access to specific AD users

For example, to allow access only to AD users who belong to the `admins` user group and have a `unixHomeDirectory` attribute set, use:

```
[domain/your-AD-domain-name]
access provider = ad
[... file truncated ...]
ad_access_filter = (&(memberOf=cn=admins,ou=groups,dc=example,dc=com)
               (unixHomeDirectory=*))
```

SSSD can also check results by the `authorizedService` or `host` attribute in an entry. In fact, all options MDASH LDAP filter, `authorizedService`, and `host` MDASH can be evaluated, depending on the user entry and the configuration. The `ldap_access_order` parameter lists all access control methods to use, ordered as how they should be evaluated.

```
[domain/example.com]
access_provider = ldap
ldap_access_filter = memberOf=cn=allowedusers,ou=Groups,dc=example,dc=com
ldap_access_order = filter, host, authorized_service
```

Additional resources

- The `sssd-ldap(5)` man page
CHAPTER 5. SSSD CLIENT-SIDE VIEW

SSSD provides the `sss_override` utility, which allows you to create a local view that displays values for POSIX user or group attributes that are specific to your local machine. You can configure overrides for all `id_provider` values, except `ipa`.

If you are using the `ipa` provider, define ID views centrally in IPA. For more information, see ID Views section.

For information about a potential negative impact on the SSSD performance, see Potential Negative Impact on SSSD Performance section.

5.1. OVERRIDING THE LDAP USERNAME ATTRIBUTE

As an administrator, you can configure an existing host to use accounts from LDAP. However, the values for a user (name, UID, GID, home directory, shell) in LDAP are different from the values on the local system. You can override the LDAP `username` attribute by defining a secondary `username` with the following procedure.

Prerequisites

- `root` access
- Installed `sssd-tools`

Procedure

1. Display the current information for the user:

   ```
   # id username
   ```

   Replace `username` with the name of the user.

2. Add the secondary `username`:

   ```
   # sss_override user-add username -n secondary-username
   ```

   Replace `username` with the name of the user and replace `secondary-username` with the new `username`.

3. After creating the first override using the `sss_override user-add` command, restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:

   ```
   # systemctl restart sssd
   ```

Verification steps

- Verify that the new `username` is added:

  ```
  # id secondary-username
  ```

- Optional. Display the overrides for the user:
Example 5.1. Defining a secondary username

To add a secondary *username* *sarah* for the user *sjones*:

1. Display the current information for the user *sjones*:

   ```
   # id sjones
   uid=1001(sjones) gid=6003 groups=6003,10(wheel)
   ```

2. Add the secondary *username*:

   ```
   # sss_override user-add sjones -n sarah
   ```

3. Verify that the new *username* has been added and overrides for the user display correctly:

   ```
   # id sarah
   uid=1001(sjones) gid=6003(sjones) groups=6003(sjones),10(wheel)
   
   # sss_override user-show sjones
   user@ldap.example.com:sarah:....
   ```

Additional resources

- [sss_override man page](#)

5.2. OVERRIDING THE LDAP UID ATTRIBUTE

As an administrator, you can configure an existing host to use accounts from LDAP. However, the values for a user (name, UID, GID, home directory, shell) in LDAP are different from the values on the local system. You can override the LDAP UID attribute by defining a different UID with the following procedure.

**Prerequisites**

- **root** access
- Installed **sssd-tools**

**Procedure**

1. Display the current UID of the user:

   ```
   # id -u user-name
   ```

   Replace *user-name* with the name of the user.

2. Override the UID of the user’s account:
# sss_override user-add user-name -u new-UID

Replace user-name with the name of the user and replace new-UID with the new UID number.

3. Expire the in-memory cache:

   # sss_cache --users

4. After creating the first override using the sss_override user-add command, restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:

   # systemctl restart sssd

Verification steps

- Verify that the new UID has been applied:

  # id -u user-name

- Optional. Display the overrides for the user:

  # sss_override user-show user-name

  user@ldap.example.com::new-UID:::

Example 5.2. Overriding the UID of the user

To override the UID of the user sarah with UID 6666:

1. Display the current UID of the user sarah:

   # id -u sarah

   1001

2. Override the UID of the user sarah's account with UID 6666:

   # sss_override user-add sarah -u 6666

3. Manually expire the in-memory cache:

   # sss_cache --users

4. Restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:

   # systemctl restart sssd

5. Verify that the new UID is applied and overrides for the user display correctly:

   # id sarah

   6666

   # sss_override user-show sarah

   user@ldap.example.com::6666:::
5.3. OVERRIDING THE LDAP GID ATTRIBUTE

As an administrator, you can configure an existing host to use accounts from LDAP. However, the values for a user (name, UID, GID, home directory, shell) in LDAP are different from the values on the local system. You can override the LDAP GID attribute by defining a different GID with the following procedure.

Prerequisites

- **root** access
- Installed **sssd-tools**

Procedure

1. Display the current GID of the user:
   ```bash
   # id -g user-name
   ```
   Replace `user-name` with the name of the user.

2. Override the GID of the user’s account:
   ```bash
   # sss_override user-add user-name -u new-GID
   ```
   Replace `user-name` with the name of the user and replace `new-GID` with the new GID number.

3. Expire the in-memory cache:
   ```bash
   # sss_cache --users
   ```

4. After creating the first override using the **sss_override user-add** command, restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:
   ```bash
   # systemctl restart sssd
   ```

Verification steps

- Verify that the new GID is applied:
  ```bash
  # id -g user-name
  ```

- **Optional.** Display the overrides for the user:
  ```bash
  # sss_override user-show user-name
  user@ldap.example.com:::6666:::
  ```
Example 5.3. Overriding the GID of the user

To override the GID of the user sarah with GID 6666:

1. Display the current GID of the user sarah:
   
   ```
   # id -g sarah
   6003
   ```

2. Override the GID of the user sarah's account with GID 6666:
   
   ```
   # sss_override user-add sarah -g 6666
   ```

3. Manually expire the in-memory cache:
   
   ```
   # sss_cache --users
   ```

4. If this is your first override, restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:
   
   ```
   # systemctl restart sssd
   ```

5. Verify that the new GID is applied and overrides for the user display correctly:
   
   ```
   # id -g sarah
   6666
   # sss_override user-show sarah
   user@ldap.example.com::6666:::::
   ```

Additional resources

- [sssd_override man page](#)

5.4. OVERRIDING THE LDAP HOME DIRECTORY ATTRIBUTE

As an administrator, you can configure an existing host to use accounts from LDAP. However, the values for a user (name, UID, GID, home directory, shell) in LDAP are different from the values on the local system. You can override the LDAP home directory attribute by defining a different home directory with the following procedure.

Prerequisites

- **root** access

- Installed **sssd-tools**

Procedure

1. Display the current home directory of the user:
# getent passwd user-name
user-name:x:XXXX:XXXX::/home/home-directory:/bin/bash

Replace user-name with the name of the user.

2. Override the home directory of the user:

   # sss_override user-add user-name -h new-home-directory

Replace user-name with the name of the user and replace new-home-directory with the new home directory.

3. Restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:

   # systemctl restart sssd

Verification steps

- Verify that the new home directory is defined:

   # getent passwd user-name
user-name:x:XXXX:XXXX::new-home-directory:/bin/bash

- Optional. Display the overrides for the user:

   # sss_override user-show user-name
user@ldap.example.com:::::::new-home-directory::

Example 5.4. Overriding the home directory of the user

To override the home directory of the user sarah with admin:

1. Display the current home directory of the user sarah:

   # getent passwd sarah
sarah:x:1001:6003::sarah:/bin/bash

2. Override the home directory of the user sarah with new home directory admin:

   # sss_override user-add sarah -h admin

3. Restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:

   # systemctl restart sssd

4. Verify that the new home directory is defined and overrides for the user display correctly:

   # getent passwd sarah
sarah:x:1001:6003::admin:/bin/bash

   # sss_override user-show user-name
user@ldap.example.com:::::::admin::
5.5. OVERRIDING THE LDAP SHELL ATTRIBUTE

As an administrator, you can configure an existing host to use accounts from LDAP. However, the values for a user (name, UID, GID, home directory, shell) in LDAP are different from the values on the local system. You can override the LDAP shell attribute by defining a different shell with the following procedure.

Prerequisites

- root access
- Installed sssd-tools

Procedure

1. Display the current shell of the user:

   ```bash
   # getent passwd user-name
   user-name:x:XXXX:XXXX::/home/home-directory:/bin/bash
   ```

   Replace user-name with the name of the user.

2. Override the shell of the user:

   ```bash
   # sss_override user-add user-name -s new-shell
   ```

   Replace user-name with the name of the user and replace new-shell with the new shell.

3. Restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:

   ```bash
   # systemctl restart sssd
   ```

Verification steps

- Verify that the new shell is defined:

  ```bash
  # getent passwd user-name
  user-name:x:XXXX:XXXX::/home/home-directory:new-shell
  ```

- Optional. Display the overrides for the user:

  ```bash
  # sss_override user-show user-name
  user@ldap.example.com::::::new-shell:
  ```

Example 5.5. Overriding the shell of the user

To change the shell of the user sarah from /bin/bash to sbin/nologin:
1. Display the current shell of the user sarah:

```
# getent passwd sarah
sarah:x:1001:6003::sarah:/bin/bash
```

2. Override the shell of the user sarah with new `/sbin/nologin` shell:

```
# sss_override user-add sarah -s /sbin/nologin
```

3. Restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:

```
# systemctl restart sssd
```

4. Verify that the new shell is defined and overrides for the user display correctly:

```
# getent passwd sarah
sarah:x:1001:6003::sarah:/sbin/nologin

# sss_override user-show user-name
user@ldap.example.com::::::/sbin/nologin:
```

Additional resources

- `sss_override` man page

5.6. LISTING OVERRIDES ON A HOST

As an administrator, you can list all user and group overrides on a host to verify that the correct attributes have been overridden.

Prerequisites

- `root` access
- Installed `sssd-tools`

Procedure

- List all user overrides:

```
# sss_override user-find
user1@ldap.example.com::8000:::/:bin/zsh:
user2@ldap.example.com::8001:::/:bin/bash:
...
```

- List all group overrides:

```
# sss_override group-find
group1@ldap.example.com::7000
group2@ldap.example.com::7001
...
```
5.7. REMOVING A LOCAL OVERRIDE

If you want to remove local override that is defined in the global LDAP directory, use the following procedure.

Prerequisites

- **root** access
- Installed **sssd-tools**

Procedure

- To remove the override for a user account, use:
  
  ```
  # sss_override user-del user-name
  ```

  Replace `user-name` with the name of the user. The changes take effect immediately.

- To remove an override for a group, use:
  
  ```
  # sss_override group-del group-name
  ```

- After removing the first override using the `sss_override user-del` or `sss_override group-del` command, restart SSSD for the changes to take effect:
  
  ```
  # systemctl restart sssd
  ```

When you remove overrides for a user or group, all overrides for this object are removed.

5.8. EXPORTING AND IMPORTING LOCAL VIEW

Your local overrides are stored in the local SSSD cache. You can export user and group overrides from this cache to a file to create a backup. This ensures that even if the cache is cleared, you can restore the configurations later.

Prerequisites

- **root** access
- Installed **sssd-tools**

Procedure

- To back up user and group view, use:
  
  ```
  # sss_override user-export /var/lib/sss/backup/sssd_user_overrides.bak
  # sss_override group-export /var/lib/sss/backup/sssd_group_overrides.bak
  ```

- To restore user and group view, use:
  
  ```
  # sss_override user-import /var/lib/sss/backup/sssd_user_overrides.bak
  # sss_override group-import /var/lib/sss/backup/sssd_group_overrides.bak
  ```
CHAPTER 6. CONFIGURING A RHEL HOST TO USE AD AS AN AUTHENTICATION PROVIDER

As a system administrator, you can use Active Directory (AD) as the authentication provider for a Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) host without joining the host to AD.

This can be done if, for example:

- You do not want to grant AD administrators the control over enabling and disabling the host.
- The host, which can be a corporate PC, is only meant to be used by one user in your company.

**IMPORTANT**

Implement this procedure only in the rare cases where this approach is preferred.

Consider fully joining the system to AD or Red Hat Identity Management (IdM) instead. Joining the RHEL host to a domain makes the setup easier to manage. If you are concerned about client access licences related to joining clients into AD directly, consider leveraging an IdM server that is in a trust agreement with AD. For more information on an IdM-AD trust, see [Planning a cross-forest trust between IdM and AD](#) and [Installing a trust between IdM and AD](#).

This procedure enables the user named `AD_user` to log in to the `rhel8_host` system using the password set in the Active Directory (AD) user database in the `example.com` domain. In this example, the `EXAMPLE.COM` Kerberos realm corresponds to the `example.com` domain.

**Prerequisites**

- You have root access to `rhel8_host`.
- The `AD_user` user account exists in the `example.com` domain.
- The Kerberos realm is `EXAMPLE.COM`.
- `rhel8_host` has not been joined to AD using the `realm join` command.

**Procedure**

1. Create the `AD_user` user account locally without assigning a password to it:

   ```bash
   # useradd AD_user
   ```

2. Open the `/etc/nsswitch.conf` file for editing, and make sure that it contains the following lines:

   ```conf
   passwd:     sss files systemd
   group:      sss files systemd
   shadow:     files sss
   ```

3. Open the `/etc/krb5.conf` file for editing, and make sure that it contains the following sections and items:

   ```conf
   # To opt out of the system crypto-policies configuration of krb5, remove the
   ```
# symlink at /etc/krb5.conf.d/crypto-policies which will not be recreated.
#include <etc/krb5.conf.d/>

[logging]
default = FILE:/var/log/krb5libs.log
dc = FILE:/var/log/krb5kdc.log
admin_server = FILE:/var/log/kadmind.log

[libdefaults]
dns_lookup_realm = false
ticket_lifetime = 24h
renew_lifetime = 7d
forwardable = true
rdns = false
pkinit_anchors = /etc/pki/tls/certs/ca-bundle.crt
spake_preauth_groups = edwards25519
default_realm = EXAMPLE.COM
default_ccache_name = KEYRING:persistent:%{uid}

[realms]
EXAMPLE.COM = {
dc = ad.example.com
admin_server = ad.example.com
}

[domain_realm]
.example.com = EXAMPLE.COM
example.com = EXAMPLE.COM

4. Create the /etc/sssd/sssd.conf file and insert the following sections and lines into it:

```
[sssd]
services = nss, pam
domains = EXAMPLE.COM

[domain/EXAMPLE.COM]
id_provider = files
auth_provider = krb5
krb5_realm = EXAMPLE.COM
krb5_server = ad.example.com
```

5. Change the permissions on the /etc/sssd/sssd.conf file:

```
# chmod 600 /etc/sssd/sssd.conf
```

6. Start the Security System Services Daemon (SSSD):

```
# systemctl start sssd
```

7. Enable SSSD:

```
# systemctl enable sssd
```
8. Open the `/etc/pam.d/system-auth` file, and modify it so that it contains the following sections and lines:

```
# Generated by authselect on Wed May  8 08:55:04 2019
# Do not modify this file manually.

auth        required                                     pam_env.so
auth        required                                     pam_faildelay.so delay=2000000
auth        [default=1 ignore=ignore success=ok]         pam_succeed_if.so uid >= 1000 quiet
auth        [default=1 ignore=ignore success=ok]         pam_localuser.so
auth        sufficient                                   pam_unix.so nullok try_first_pass
auth        requisite                                    pam_succeed_if.so uid >= 1000 quiet_success
auth        sufficient                                   pam_sss.so forward_pass
auth        required                                     pam_deny.so

account     required                                     pam_unix.so
account     sufficient                                   pam_localuser.so
account     sufficient                                   pam_succeed_if.so uid < 1000 quiet
account     [default=bad success=ok user_unknown=ignore] pam_sss.so
account     required                                     pam_permit.so

password    requisite                                    pam_pwquality.so try_first_pass local_users_only
password    sufficient                                   pam_unix.so sha512 shadow nullok try_first_pass
use_authtok  password    sufficient                       pam_sss.so use_authtok
password    required                                     pam_deny.so

session     optional                                     pam_keyinit.so revoke
session     required                                     pam_limits.so
   -session optional                                     pam_systemd.so
session     [success=1 default=ignore]                   pam_succeed_if.so service in crond quiet
use_uid     session     required                                     pam_unix.so
session     optional                                     pam_sss.so
```

9. Copy the contents of the `/etc/pam.d/system-auth` file into the `/etc/pam.d/password-auth` file. Enter `yes` to confirm the overwriting of the current contents of the file:

```
# cp /etc/pam.d/system-auth /etc/pam.d/password-auth
cp: overwrite `/etc/pam.d/password-auth'? yes
```

**Verification steps**

1. Request a Kerberos ticket-granting ticket (TGT) for `AD_user`. Enter the password of `AD_user` as requested:

```
# kinit AD_user
Password for AD_user@EXAMPLE.COM:
```

2. Display the obtained TGT:

```
# klist
Ticket cache: KEYRING:persistent:0:0
Default principal: AD_user@EXAMPLE.COM
```
Valid starting  Expires    Service principal
11/02/20 04:16:38  11/02/20 14:16:38  krbtgt/EXAMPLE.COM@EXAMPLE.COM
renew until 18/02/20 04:16:34

AD_user has successfully logged in to  rhel8_host using the credentials from the EXAMPLE.COM Kerberos domain.
CHAPTER 7. REPORTING ON USER ACCESS ON HOSTS USING SSSD

The Security System Services Daemon (SSSD) tracks which users can or cannot access clients. This chapter describes creating access control reports and displaying user data using the `sssctl` tool.

Prerequisites

- SSSD packages are installed in your network environment

7.1. THE SSSCTL COMMAND

`sssctl` is a command-line tool that provides a unified way to obtain information about the Security System Services Daemon (SSSD) status.

You can use the `sssctl` utility to gather information about:

- domain state
- client user authentication
- user access on clients of a particular domain
- information about cached content

With the `sssctl` tool, you can:

- manage the SSSD cache
- manage logs
- check configuration files

**NOTE**

The `sssctl` tool replaces `sss_cache` and `sss_debuglevel` tools.

Additional resources

- `sssctl --help`

7.2. GENERATING ACCESS CONTROL REPORTS USING SSSCTL

You can list the access control rules applied to the machine on which you are running the report because SSSD controls which users can log in to the client.

**NOTE**

The access report is not accurate because the tool does not track users locked out by the Key Distribution Center (KDC).

Prerequisites
You must be logged in with administrator privileges

The sssctl tool is available on RHEL 7 and RHEL 8 systems

Procedure

- To generate a report for the idm.example.com domain, enter:

```
[root@client1 ~]# sssctl access-report idm.example.com
1 rule cached
Rule name: example.user
Member users: example.user
Member services: sshd
```

7.3. DISPLAYING USER AUTHORIZATION DETAILS USING SSSCTL

The sssctl user-checks command helps debug problems in applications that use the System Security Services Daemon (SSSD) for user lookup, authentication, and authorization.

The sssctl user-checks [USER_NAME] command displays user data available through Name Service Switch (NSS) and the InfoPipe responder for the D-Bus interface. The displayed data shows whether the user is authorized to log in using the system-auth Pluggable Authentication Module (PAM) service.

The command has two options:

- `-a` for a PAM action
- `-s` for a PAM service

If you do not define `-a` and `-s` options, the sssctl tool uses default options: `-a acct -s system-auth`.

Prerequisites

- You must be logged in with administrator privileges
- The sssctl tool is available on RHEL 7 and RHEL 8 systems

Procedure

- To display user data for a particular user, enter:

```
[root@client1 ~]# sssctl user-checks -a acct -s sshd example.user
user: example.user
action: acct
service: sshd
....
```

Additional resources

- sssctl user-checks --help
CHAPTER 8. QUERYING DOMAIN INFORMATION USING SSSD

Security System Services Daemon (SSSD) can list domains in Identity Management (IdM) as well as the domains in Active Directory that is connected to IdM by a cross-forest trust.

8.1. LISTING DOMAINS USING SSSCTL

You can use the `sssctl domain-list` command to debug problems with the domain topology.

NOTE

The status might not be available immediately. If the domain is not visible, repeat the command.

Prerequisites

- You must be logged in with administrator privileges
- The `sssctl` is available on RHEL 7 and RHEL 8 systems

Procedure

1. To display help for the `sssctl` command, enter:

   ```bash
   [root@client1 ~]# sssctl --help
   ....
   ```

2. To display a list of available domains, enter:

   ```bash
   [root@client1 ~]# sssctl domain-list
   implicit_files
   idm.example.com
   ad.example.com
   sub1.ad.example.com
   ```

The list includes domains in the cross-forest trust between Active Directory and Identity Management.

8.2. VERIFYING THE DOMAIN STATUS USING SSSCTL

You can use the `sssctl domain-status` command to debug problems with the domain topology.

NOTE

The status might not be available immediately. If the domain is not visible, repeat the command.

Prerequisites

- You must be logged in with administrator privileges
- The `sssctl` is available on RHEL 7 and RHEL 8 systems
Procedure

1. To display help for the sssctl command, enter:

   [root@client1 ~]# sssctl --help

2. To display user data for a particular domain, enter:

   [root@client1 ~]# sssctl domain-status idm.example.com
   Online status: Online
   Active servers:
   IPA: server.idm.example.com
   Discovered IPA servers:
   - server.idm.example.com

The domain idm.example.com is online and visible from the client where you applied the command.

If the domain is not available, the result is:

   [root@client1 ~]# sssctl domain-status ad.example.com
   Unable to get online status
CHAPTER 9. ELIMINATING TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS IN LOCAL SSSD CONFIGURATION

You can test if the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file on your host contains any typographical errors using the `sssctl config-check` command.

**Prerequisites**

- You are logged in as root.
- The `sssd-tools` package is installed.

**Procedure**

1. Enter the `sssctl config-check` command:

```
# sssctl config-check

Issues identified by validators: 1
rule/allowed_domain_options: Attribute 'ldap_search' is not allowed in section 'domain/example1'. Check for typos.
Messages generated during configuration merging: 0
Used configuration snippet files: 0
```

2. Open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file and correct the typo. If you, for example, received the error message in the previous step, replace `ldap_search` with `ldap_search_base`:

```
[...]
[domain/example1]
ldap_search_base = dc=example,dc=com
[...]
```

3. Save the file.

4. Restart SSSD:

```
# systemctl restart sssd
```

**Verification steps**

- Enter the `sssctl config-check` command:

```
# sssctl config-check

Issues identified by validators: 0
Messages generated during configuration merging: 0
Used configuration snippet files: 0
```

The `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file now has no typographical errors.
CHAPTER 10. TROUBLESHOOTING AUTHENTICATION WITH SSSD IN IDM

Authentication in an Identity Management (IdM) environment involves many components:

On the IdM client:
- The SSSD service.
- The Name Services Switch (NSS).
- Pluggable Authentication Modules (PAM).

On the IdM server:
- The SSSD service.
- The IdM Directory Server.
- The IdM Kerberos Key Distribution Center (KDC).

If you are authenticating as an Active Directory (AD) user:
- The Directory Server on an AD Domain Controller.
- The Kerberos server on an AD Domain Controller.

To authenticate users, you must be able to perform the following functions with the SSSD service:
- Retrieve user information from the authentication server.
- Prompt the user for their credentials, pass those credentials to the authentication server, and process the outcome.

The following sections discuss how information flows between the SSSD service and servers that store user information, so you can troubleshoot failing authentication attempts in your environment:

1. Data flow when retrieving IdM user information with SSSD
2. Data flow when retrieving AD user information with SSSD
3. Data flow when authenticating as a user with SSSD in IdM
4. Narrowing the scope of authentication issues
5. SSSD log files and logging levels
6. Enabling detailed logging for SSSD in the sssd.conf file
7. Enabling detailed logging for SSSD with the sssctl command
8. Gathering debugging logs from the SSSD service to troubleshoot authentication issues with an IdM server
9. Gathering debugging logs from the SSSD service to troubleshoot authentication issues with an IdM client
10.1. DATA FLOW WHEN RETRIEVING IDM USER INFORMATION WITH SSSD

The following diagram is a simplification of the information flow between an IdM client and an IdM server during a request for IdM user information with the command `getent passwd <idm_user_name>`.

1. The `getent` command triggers the `getpwnam` call from the `libc` library.

2. The `libc` library references the `/etc/nsswitch.conf` configuration file to check which service is responsible for providing user information, and discovers the entry `sss` for the SSSD service.

3. The `libc` library opens the `nss_sss` module.

4. The `nss_sss` module checks the memory-mapped cache for the user information. If the data is present in the cache, the `nss_sss` module returns it.

5. If the user information is not in the memory-mapped cache, the request is passed to the SSSD `sssd_nss` responder process.

6. The SSSD service checks its cache. If the data is present in the cache and valid, the `sssd_nss` responder reads the data from the cache and returns it to the application.

7. If the data is not present in the cache or it is expired, the `sssd_nss` responder queries the appropriate back-end process and waits for a reply. The SSSD service uses the IPA backend in an IdM environment, enabled by the setting `id_provider=ipa` in the `sssd.conf` configuration file.

8. The `sssd_be` back-end process connects to the IdM server and requests the information from the IdM LDAP Directory Server.
9. The SSSD back-end on the IdM server responds to the SSSD back-end process on the IdM client.

10. The SSSD back-end on the client stores the resulting data in the SSSD cache and alerts the responder process that the cache has been updated.

11. The sssd_nss front-end responder process retrieves the information from the SSSD cache.

12. The sssd_nss responder sends the user information to the nss_sss responder, completing the request.

13. The libc library returns the user information to the application that requested it.

10.2. DATA FLOW WHEN RETRIEVING AD USER INFORMATION WITH SSSD

If you have established a cross-forest trust between your IdM environment and an Active Directory (AD) domain, the information flow when retrieving AD user information on an IdM client is very similar to the information flow when retrieving IdM user information, with the additional step of contacting the AD user database.

The following diagram is a simplification of the information flow when a user requests information about an AD user with the command `getent passwd <ad_user_name@ad.example.com>`. This diagram does not include the internal details discussed in the Data flow when retrieving IdM user information with SSSD section. It focuses on the communication between the SSSD service on an IdM client, the SSSD service on an IdM server, and the LDAP database on an AD Domain Controller.

1. The IdM client looks to its local SSSD cache for AD user information.
2. If the IdM client does not have the user information, or the information is stale, the SSSD service on the client contacts the `extdom_extop` plugin on the IdM server to perform an LDAP extended operation and requests the information.

3. The SSSD service on the IdM server looks for the AD user information in its local cache.

4. If the IdM server does not have the user information in its SSSD cache, or its information is stale, it performs an LDAP search to request the user information from an AD Domain Controller.

5. The SSSD service on the IdM server receives the AD user information from the AD domain controller and stores it in its cache.

6. The `extdom_extop` plugin receives the information from the SSSD service on the IdM server, which completes the LDAP extended operation.

7. The SSSD service on the IdM client receives the AD user information from the LDAP extended operation.

8. The IdM client stores the AD user information in its SSSD cache and returns the information to the application that requested it.

10.3. DATA FLOW WHEN AUTHENTICATING AS A USER WITH SSSD IN IDM

Authenticating as a user on an IdM server or client involves the following components:

- The service that initiates the authentication request, such as the sshd service.
- The Pluggable Authentication Module (PAM) library and its modules.
- The SSSD service, its responders, and back-ends.
- A smart card reader, if smart card authentication is configured.
- The authentication server:
  - IdM users are authenticated against an IdM Kerberos Key Distribution Center (KDC).
  - Active Directory (AD) users are authenticated against an AD Domain Controller (DC).

The following diagram is a simplification of the information flow when a user needs to authenticate during an attempt to log in locally to a host via the SSH service on the command line.
1. The authentication attempt with the `ssh` command triggers the `libpam` library.

2. The `libpam` library references the PAM file in the `/etc/pam.d/` directory that corresponds to the service requesting the authentication attempt. In this example involving authenticating via the SSH service on the local host, the `libpam` library checks the `/etc/pam.d/system-auth` configuration file and discovers the `pam_sss.so` entry for the SSSD PAM:

   ```
   auth  sufficient  pam_sss.so
   ```

3. To determine which authentication methods are available, the `libpam` library opens the `pam_sss` module and sends an `SSS_PAM_PREAUTH` request to the `sssd_pam` PAM responder of the SSSD service.

4. If smart card authentication is configured, the SSSD service spawns a temporary `p11_child` process to check for a smart card and retrieve certificates from it.

5. If smart card authentication is configured for the user, the `sssd_pam` responder attempts to match the certificate from the smart card with the user. The `sssd_pam` responder also performs a search for the groups that the user belongs to, since group membership might affect access control.
6. The `sssd_pam` responder sends an `SSS_PAM_PREAUTH` request to the `sssd_be` back-end responder to see which authentication methods the server supports, such as passwords or 2-factor authentication. In an IdM environment, where the SSSD service uses the IPA responder, the default authentication method is Kerberos. For this example, the user authenticates with a simple Kerberos password.

7. The `sssd_be` responder spawns a temporary `krb5_child` process.

8. The `krb5_child` process contacts the KDC on the IdM server and checks for available authentication methods.

9. The KDC responds to the request:
   a. The `krb5_child` process evaluates the reply and sends the results back to the `sssd_be` backend process.
   b. The `sssd_be` backend process receives the result.
   c. The `sssd_pam` responder receives the result.
   d. The `pam_sss` module receives the result.

10. If password authentication is configured for the user, the `pam_sss` module prompts the user for their password. If smart card authentication is configured, the `pam_sss` module prompts the user for their smart card PIN.

11. The module sends an `SSS_PAM_AUTHENTICATE` request with the user name and password, which travels to:
    a. The `sssd_pam` responder.
    b. The `sssd_be` back-end process.

12. The `sssd_be` process spawns a temporary `krb5_child` process to contact the KDC.

13. The `krb5_child` process attempts to retrieve a Kerberos Ticket Granting Ticket (TGT) from the KDC with the user name and password the user provided.

14. The `krb5_child` process receives the result of the authentication attempt.

15. The `krb5_child` process:
    a. Stores the TGT in a credential cache.
    b. Returns the authentication result to the `sssd_be` back-end process.

16. The authentication result travels from the `sssd_be` process to:
    a. The `sssd_pam` responder.
    b. The `pam_sss` module.

17. The `pam_sss` module sets an environment variable with the location of the user’s TGT so other applications can reference it.

### 10.4. Narrowing the Scope of Authentication Issues

To successfully authenticate a user, you must be able to retrieve user information with the SSSD service.
from the database that stores user information. The following procedure describes steps to test different components of the authentication process so you can narrow the scope of authentication issues when a user is unable to log in.

**Procedure**

1. Verify that the SSSD service and its processes are running.

   ```
   [root@client ~]# pstree -a | grep sssd
   /usr/sbin/sssd -i --logger=files
     | /usr/sbin/sssd_be --domain implicit_files --uid 0 --gid 0 --logger=files
     | /usr/sbin/sssd_be --domain example.com --uid 0 --gid 0 --logger=files
     | /usr/sbin/sssd_ip --uid 0 --gid 0 --logger=files
     | /usr/sbin/sssd_nss --uid 0 --gid 0 --logger=files
     | /usr/sbin/sssd_pac --uid 0 --gid 0 --logger=files
     | /usr/sbin/sssd_pam --uid 0 --gid 0 --logger=files
     | /usr/sbin/sssd_ssh --uid 0 --gid 0 --logger=files
   ```

2. Verify that the client can contact the user database server via the IP address.

   ```
   [user@client ~]$ ping <IP_address_of_the_database_server>
   ```

   If this step fails, check that your network and firewall settings allow direct communication between IdM clients and servers. See Using and configuring firewalld.

3. Verify that the client can discover and contact the IdM LDAP server (for IdM users) or AD domain controller (for AD users) via the fully qualified host name.

   ```
   [user@client ~]$ dig -t SRV _ldap._tcp.example.com @<name_server>
   [user@client ~]$ ping <fully_qualified_host_name_of_the_server>
   ```

   If this step fails, check your Dynamic Name Service (DNS) settings, including the `/etc/resolv.conf` file. See Configuring the order of DNS servers.

4. Verify that the client can authenticate to the LDAP server and retrieve user information with `ldapsearch` commands.

   ```
   [user@client ~]$ ldapsearch -h <fully_qualified_host_name_of_the_server>
   ```

   **NOTE**

   By default, the SSSD service attempts to automatically discover LDAP servers and AD DCs through DNS service (SRV) records. Alternatively, you can restrict the SSSD service to use specific servers by setting the following options in the `sssd.conf` configuration file:

   ```
   ipa_server = <fully_qualified_host_name_of_the_server>
   ad_server = <fully_qualified_host_name_of_the_server>
   ldap_uri = <fully_qualified_host_name_of_the_server>
   ```

   If you use these options, verify you can contact the servers listed in them.
a. If your LDAP server is an IdM server, like `server.example.com`, retrieve a Kerberos ticket for the host and perform the database search authenticating with the host Kerberos principal:

```
[user@client ~]$ kinit -t 'host/client.example.com@EXAMPLE.COM'
[user@client ~]$ ldapsearch -LLL -Y GSSAPI -h server.example.com -b
  "dc=example,dc=com" uid=<user_name>
```

b. If your LDAP server is an Active Directory (AD) Domain Controller (DC), like `server.ad.example.com`, retrieve a Kerberos ticket for the host and perform the database search authenticating with the host Kerberos principal:

```
[user@client ~]$ kinit -t 'CLIENT$@AD.EXAMPLE.COM'
[user@client ~]$ ldapsearch -LLL -Y GSSAPI -h server.ad.example.com -b
  "dc=example,dc=com" sAMAccountname=<user_name>
```

c. If your LDAP server is a plain LDAP server, and you have set the `ldap_default_bind_dn` and `ldap_default_authtok` options in the `sssd.conf` file, authenticate as the same `ldap_default_bind_dn` account:

```
[user@client ~]$ ldapsearch -xLLL -D "cn=ldap_default_bind_dn_value" -W -h
  ldapserver.example.com -b  "dc=example,dc=com" uid=<user_name>
```

If this step fails, verify that your database settings allow your host to search the LDAP server.

5. Since the SSSD service uses Kerberos encryption, verify you can obtain a Kerberos ticket as the user that is unable to log in.

a. If your LDAP server is an IdM server:

```
[user@client ~]$ kinit <user_name>
```

b. If LDAP server database is an AD server:

```
[user@client ~]$ kinit <user_name@AD.EXAMPLE.COM>
```

If this step fails, verify that your Kerberos server is operating properly, all servers have their times synchronized, and that the user account is not locked.

6. Verify you can retrieve user information on the command line.

```
[user@client ~]$ getent passwd <user_name>
[user@client ~]$ id <user_name>
```

If this step fails, verify that the SSSD service on the client can receive information from the user database. Review errors in the `/var/log/messages` log file. Enable detailed logging in the SSSD service, collect debugging logs, and review the logs for indications to the source of the issue. (Optional) Open a Red Hat Technical Support case and provide the troubleshooting information you have gathered.

7. Use the `ssscctl` utility to verify the user is allowed to log in.

```
[user@client ~]$ sssct1 user-checks -a auth -s ssh <user_name>
```

If this step fails, verify your authorization settings, such as your PAM configuration, IdM HBAC
rules, and IdM RBAC rules. .. Review authorization errors in the /var/log/secure and /var/log/messages log files. .. Enable detailed logging in the SSSD service, collect debugging logs, and review the logs for indications to the source of the issue. .. (Optional) Open a Red Hat Technical Support case and provide the troubleshooting information you have gathered.

Additional resources

- Enabling detailed logging for SSSD in the sssd.conf file
- Enabling detailed logging for SSSD with the sssct1 command
- Gathering debugging logs from the SSSD service to troubleshoot authentication issues with an IdM server
- Gathering debugging logs from the SSSD service to troubleshoot authentication issues with an IdM client

10.5. SSSD LOG FILES AND LOGGING LEVELS

Each SSSD service logs into its own log file in the /var/log/sssd/ directory. For an IdM server in the example.com IdM domain, its log files might look like this:

```
[root@server ~]# ls -l /var/log/sssd/
total 620
-rw-------. 1 root root 0 Mar 29 09:21 krb5_child.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 14324 Mar 29 09:50 ldap_child.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 212870 Mar 29 09:50 sssd_example.com.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 0 Mar 29 09:21 sssd_ifp.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 0 Mar 29 09:21 sssd_implicit_files.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 0 Mar 29 09:21 sssd.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 219873 Mar 29 10:03 sssd_nss.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 0 Mar 29 09:21 sssd_pac.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 13105 Mar 29 09:21 sssd_pam.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 9390 Mar 29 09:21 sssd_ssh.log
-rw-------. 1 root root 0 Mar 29 09:21 sssd_sudo.log
```

10.5.1. SSSD log file purposes

**krb5_child.log**

Log file for the short-lived helper process involved in Kerberos authentication.

**ldap_child.log**

Log file for the short-lived helper process involved in getting a Kerberos ticket for the communication with the LDAP server.

**sssd_<example.com>.log**

For each domain section in the sssd.conf file, the SSSD service logs information about communication with the LDAP server to a separate log file. For example, in an environment with an IdM domain named example.com, the SSSD service logs its information in a file named sssd_example.com.log. If a host is directly integrated with an AD domain named ad.example.com, information is logged to a file named sssd_ad.example.com.log.
NOTE

If you have an IdM environment and a cross-forest trust with an AD domain, information about the AD domain is still logged to the log file for the IdM domain.

Similarly, if a host is directly integrated to an AD domain, information about any child domains is written in the log file for the primary domain.

**selinux_child.log**
Log file for the short-lived helper process that retrieves and sets SELinux information.

**sssd.log**
Log file for SSSD monitoring and communicating with its responder and backend processes.

**sssd_ifp.log**
Log file for the InfoPipe responder, which provides a public D-Bus interface accessible over the system bus.

**sssd_nss.log**
Log file for the Name Services Switch (NSS) responder that retrieves user and group information.

**sssd_pac.log**
Log file for the Microsoft Privilege Attribute Certificate (PAC) responder, which collects the PAC from AD Kerberos tickets and derives information about AD users from the PAC, which avoids requesting it directly from AD.

**sssd_pam.log**
Log file for the Pluggable Authentication Module (PAM) responder.

**sssd_ssh.log**
Log file for the SSH responder process.

### 10.5.2. SSSD logging levels

Setting a debug level also enables all debug levels below it. For example, setting the debug level at 6 also enables debug levels 0 through 5.

**Table 10.1. SSSD logging levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>Fatal failures.</strong> Errors that prevent the SSSD service from starting up or cause it to terminate. This is the default debug log level for RHEL 8.3 and earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Critical failures.</strong> Errors that do not terminate the SSSD service, but at least one major feature is not working properly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Serious failures.</strong> Errors announcing that a particular request or operation has failed. This is the default debug log level for RHEL 8.4 and later.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Level Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor failures. Errors that cause the operation failures captured at level 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Configuration settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Function data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Trace messages for operation functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Trace messages for internal control functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Contents of function-internal variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Extremely low-level tracing information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 10.6. ENABLING DETAILED LOGGING FOR SSSD IN THE SSSD.CONF FILE

By default, the SSSD service in RHEL 8.4 and later only logs serious failures (debug level 2), but it does not log at the level of detail necessary to troubleshoot authentication issues.

To enable detailed logging persistently across SSSD service restarts, add the option `debug_level=<integer>` in each section of the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` configuration file, where the `<integer>` value is a number between 0 and 9. Debug levels up to 3 log larger failures, and levels 8 and higher provide a large number of detailed log messages. **Level 6** is a good starting point for debugging authentication issues.

#### Prerequisites

- You need the root password to edit the `sssd.conf` configuration file and restart the SSSD service.

#### Procedure

1. Open the `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf` file in a text editor.

2. Add the `debug_level` option to every section of the file, and set the debug level to the verbosity of your choice.

```
[domain/example.com]
debug_level = 6
id_provider = ipa
...

[sssd]
debug_level = 6
services = nss, pam, ifp, ssh, sudo
domains = example.com
```
3. Save and close the `sssd.conf` file.

4. Restart the SSSD service to load the new configuration settings.

   ```
   [root@server ~]# systemctl restart sssd
   ```

**Additional resources**

- [SSSD log files and logging levels](#)

### 10.7. ENABLING DETAILED LOGGING FOR SSSD WITH THE SSSCTL COMMAND

By default, the SSSD service in RHEL 8.4 and later only logs serious failures (debug level 2), but it does not log at the level of detail necessary to troubleshoot authentication issues.

You can change the debug level of the SSSD service on the command line with the `sssctl debug-level <integer>` command, where the `<integer>` value is a number between 0 and 9. Debug levels up to 3 log larger failures, and levels 8 and higher provide a large number of detailed log messages. Level 6 is a good starting point for debugging authentication issues.

**Prerequisites**

- You need the root password to run the `sssctl` command.

**Procedure**

- Use the `sssctl debug-level` command to set the debug level of your choice to your desired verbosity.

  ```
  [root@server ~]# sssctl debug-level 6
  ```

**Additional resources**

- [SSSD log files and logging levels](#)
10.8. GATHERING DEBUGGING LOGS FROM THE SSSD SERVICE TO TROUBLESHOOT AUTHENTICATION ISSUES WITH AN IDM SERVER

If you experience issues when attempting to authenticate as an IdM user to an IdM server, enable detailed debug logging in the SSSD service on the server and gather logs of an attempt to retrieve information about the user.

Prerequisites

- You need the root password to run the `sssctl` command and restart the SSSD service.

Procedure

1. Enable detailed SSSD debug logging on the IdM server.

   `[root@server ~]# sssctl debug-level 6`

2. Invalidate objects in the SSSD cache for the user that is experiencing authentication issues, so you do not bypass the LDAP server and retrieve information SSSD has already cached.

   `[root@server ~]# sssctl cache-expire -u idmuser`

3. Minimize the troubleshooting dataset by removing older SSSD logs.

   `[root@server ~]# sssctl logs-remove`

4. Attempt to switch to the user experiencing authentication problems, while gathering timestamps before and after the attempt. These timestamps further narrow the scope of the dataset.

   `[root@server sssd]# date; su idmuser; date`

   Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 EDT 2021
   su: user idmuser does not exist
   Mon Mar 29 15:33:49 EDT 2021

5. *(Optional)* Lower the debug level if you do not wish to continue gathering detailed SSSD logs.

   `[root@server ~]# sssctl debug-level 2`

6. Review SSSD logs for information about the failed request. For example, reviewing the `/var/log/sssd/sssd_example.com.log` file shows that the SSSD service did not find the user in the `cn=accounts,dc=example,dc=com` LDAP subtree. This might indicate that the user does not exist, or exists in another location.

   (Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]] [dp_get_account_info_send] (0x0200): Got request for [0x1][BE_REQ_USER][name=idmuser@example.com]...

   (Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]] [sdap_get_generic_ext_step] (0x0400): calling ldap_search_ext with [(&uid=idmuser)(objectclass=posixAccount)(uid=)(uidNumber=)][cn=accounts,dc=example,dc=com].

   (Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]] [sdap_search_user_process] (0x0400): Search result: Success(0), no errmsg set

   (Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]] [sdap_get_generic_op_finished] (0x0400):
Search for users, returned 0 results.
(Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]] [sysdb_search_by_name] (0x0400): No such entry
(Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]] [sysdb_delete_user] (0x0400): Error: 2
(No such file or directory)
(Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]] [sysdb_search_by_name] (0x0400): No such entry
(Mon Mar 29 15:33:49 2021) [sssd[be[example.com]]]
[ipa_id_get_account_info_orig_done] (0x0080): Object not found, ending request

7. If you are unable to determine the cause of the authentication issue:
   a. Collect the SSSD logs you recently generated.
      
      [root@server ~]# sssctl logs-fetch sssd-logs-Mar29.tar
   b. Open a Red Hat Technical Support case and provide:
      i. The SSSD logs: sssd-logs-Mar29.tar
      ii. The console output, including the time stamps and user name, of the request that corresponds to the logs:

      [root@server sssd]# date; id idmuser; date
      Mon Mar 29 15:33:48 EDT 2021
      id: 'idmuser': no such user
      Mon Mar 29 15:33:49 EDT 2021

10.9. GATHERING DEBUGGING LOGS FROM THE SSSD SERVICE TO TROUBLESHOOT AUTHENTICATION ISSUES WITH AN IDM CLIENT

If you experience issues when attempting to authenticate as an IdM user to an IdM client, verify that you can retrieve user information on the IdM server. If you cannot retrieve the user information on an IdM server, you will not be able to retrieve it on an IdM client (which retrieves information from the IdM server).

After you have confirmed that authentication issues do not originate from the IdM server, gather SSSD debugging logs from both the IdM server and IdM client.

Prerequisites

- The user only has authentication issues on IdM clients, not IdM servers.
- You need the root password to run the sssctl command and restart the SSSD service.

Procedure

1. **On the client:** Open the /etc/sssds/sssdc.conf file in a text editor.

2. **On the client:** Add the ipa_server option to the [domain] section of the file and set it to an IdM server. This avoids the IdM client autodiscovering other IdM servers, thus limiting this test to just one client and one server.
3. **On the client:** Save and close the `sssd.conf` file.

4. **On the client:** Restart the SSSD service to load the configuration changes.

   ```shell
   [root@client ~]# systemctl restart sssd
   ```

5. **On the server and client:** Enable detailed SSSD debug logging.

   ```shell
   [root@server ~]# sssctl debug-level 6
   [root@client ~]# sssctl debug-level 6
   ```

6. **On the server and client:** Invalidate objects in the SSSD cache for the user experiencing authentication issues, so you do not bypass the LDAP database and retrieve information SSSD has already cached.

   ```shell
   [root@server ~]# sssctl cache-expire -u idmuser
   [root@client ~]# sssctl cache-expire -u idmuser
   ```

7. **On the server and client:** Minimize the troubleshooting dataset by removing older SSSD logs.

   ```shell
   [root@server ~]# sssctl logs-remove
   [root@server ~]# sssctl logs-remove
   ```

8. **On the client:** Attempt to switch to the user experiencing authentication problems while gathering timestamps before and after the attempt. These timestamps further narrow the scope of the dataset.

   ```shell
   [root@client sssd]# date; su idmuser; date
   Mon Mar 29 16:20:13 EDT 2021
   su: user idmuser does not exist
   Mon Mar 29 16:20:14 EDT 2021
   ```

9. *(Optional) On the server and client:* Lower the debug level if you do not wish to continue gathering detailed SSSD logs.

   ```shell
   [root@server ~]# sssctl debug-level 0
   [root@client ~]# sssctl debug-level 0
   ```

10. **On the server and client:** Review SSSD logs for information about the failed request.

    a. Review the request from the client in the client logs.

    b. Review the request from the client in the server logs.
c. Review the result of the request in the server logs.

  d. Review the outcome of the client receiving the results of the request from the server.

11. If you are unable to determine the cause of the authentication issue:

  a. Collect the SSSD logs you recently generated on the IdM server and IdM client. Label them according to their hostname or role.

     [root@server ~]# sssctl logs-fetch sssd-logs-server-Mar29.tar

     [root@client ~]# sssctl logs-fetch sssd-logs-client-Mar29.tar

  b. Open a Red Hat Technical Support case and provide:
     i. The SSSD debug logs:

        A. sssd-logs-server-Mar29.tar from the server

        B. sssd-logs-client-Mar29.tar from the client

     ii. The console output, including the time stamps and user name, of the request that corresponds to the logs:

     [root@client sssd]# date; su idmuser; date
     Mon Mar 29 16:20:13 EDT 2021
     su: user idmuser does not exist
     Mon Mar 29 16:20:14 EDT 2021