Building a Secure PI Web API Environment

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User Conference 2017 Themes

What do we mean by secure?

- Basic summary of security concepts:
  - Minimizing the "Attack Vector"
  - Preventing various attacks
    - Man in the Middle
    - DDoS
    - Etc.
  - *Staying inside your firewall does not make you immune*
- What we are doing to help secure PI Web API

What is PI Web API? (briefly…)

- RESTful Service
- Any client platform, language, etc.
- Modern method of supporting any device
- Away from your site using mobile

Methods of Securing PI Web API

- PI System Security
- Certificates
- Authentication
- Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)
- Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
- (Distributed) Denial of Service
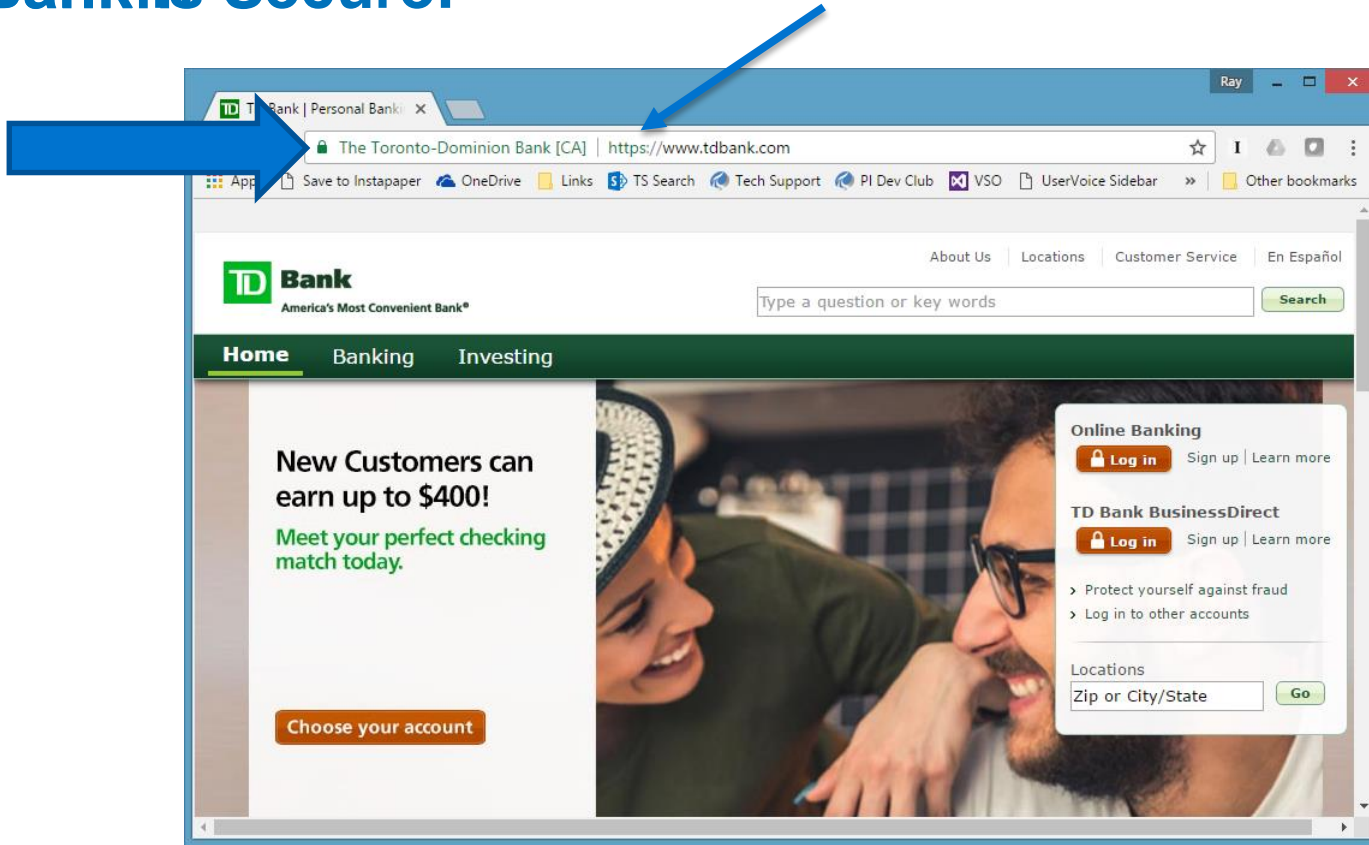- IT Resources

What is a Certificate?

An electronic document used to prove the ownership of a public key

– Information about the key

– Information about its owner's identity

– Digital Signature of a verifying entity

Does this all check out?

YAY!!!!

My Bank.is Secure!

Certificates

- How encryption works
- PI Web API has no HTTP option
  - Why we insist on certificates
  - *"But I'm just doing development!"*
- Getting a certificate is not difficult

How Certificates are used

- Client and Server negotiate:
  - SSL/TLS version
  - Ciphersuite
  - Compression (if any)
- Client confirms that the Server's certificate is valid
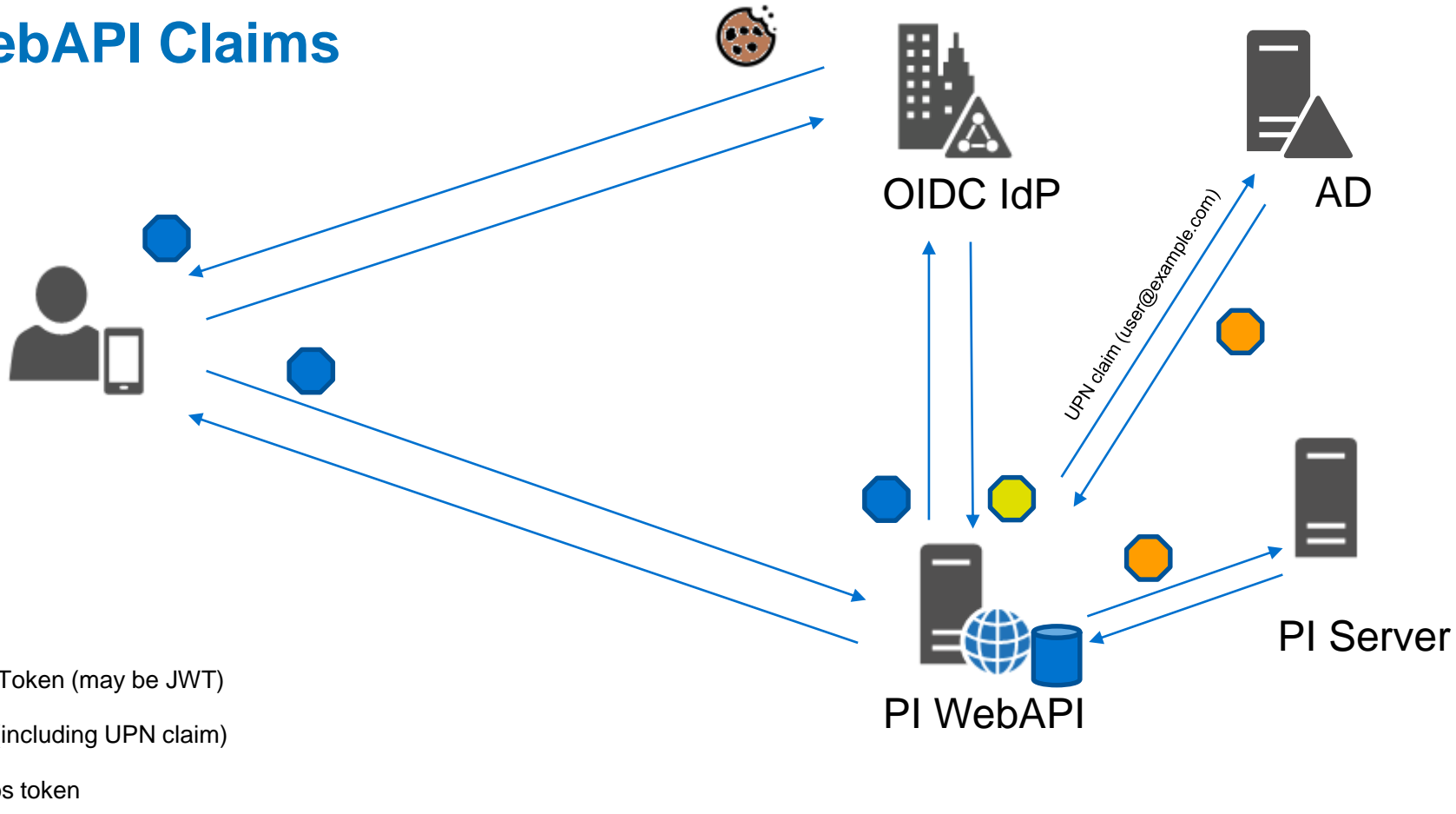- Client and Server exchange keys to use for encryption

How to Get a Certificate

- Self-signed
- Buy one from a certificate vendor
    - Verisign
    - Geotrust
    - Comodo
    - Digicert
    - *Lots of others…Look it up, we did…*
- Letsencrypt.com
    - Free certificates! Becoming more popular
- Windows Domain Certificate

Authentication

- Anonymous
- Basic
- Kerberos
- *And introducing…*

PI WebAPI Claims

OIDC IdP

AD

UPN claim (user@example.com)

PI Server

PI WebAPI

- Access Token (may be JWT)
- Claims (including UPN claim)
- Kerberos token

How we did it

- OpenID Connect
  - An Authentication layer on top of OAuth 2.0
  - Controlled by the OpenID Foundation
  - RESTful HTTP API using JSON format
  - Wide acceptance in the industry
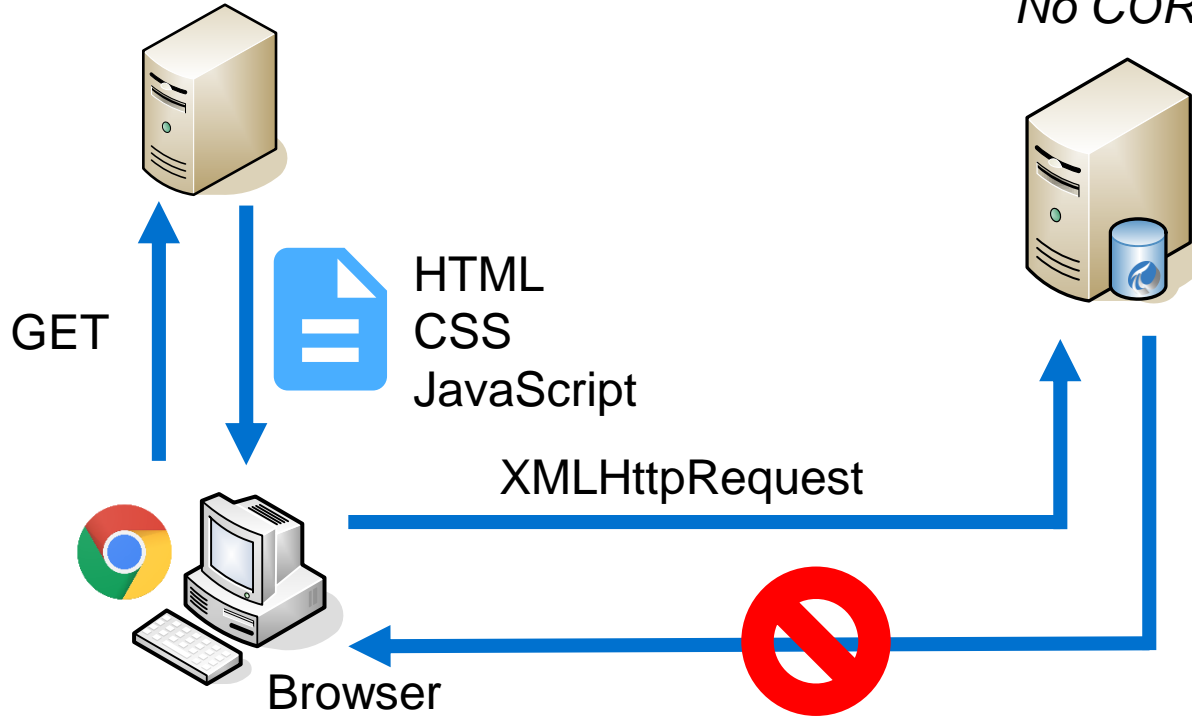
Response from `/.well-known/openid-configuration`

- {
  - "**authorization_endpoint**":"https://login.windows.net/59edc9e0-ed80-436b-b179-554c9b5eff79/oauth2/authorize",
  - "**token_endpoint**":"https://login.windows.net/59edc9e0-ed80-436b-b179-554c9b5eff79/oauth2/token",
  - "token_endpoint_auth_methods_supported":[
    - "client_secret_post",
    - "private_key_jwt"
  -],
  - "**jwks_uri**":"https://login.windows.net/common/discovery/keys",
  - "id_token_signing_alg_values_supported":[
    - "RS256"
  -],
  - "http_logout_supported":true,
  - "frontchannel_logout_supported":true,
  - "end_session_endpoint":"https://login.windows.net/59edc9e0-ed80-436b-b179-554c9b5eff79/oauth2/logout",
  - "response_types_supported":[
    - "code",
    - "id_token",
    - "code id_token",
    - "token id_token",
    - "token"
  -],
  - "scopes_supported":[
    - "openid"
  -],
  - "issuer":"https://sts.windows.net/59edc9e0-ed80-436b-b179-554c9b5eff79/",
  - "claims_supported":[
    - "sub",
    - "iss",
    - "cloud_instance_name",
    - "aud",
    - "exp",
    - "iat",
    - "auth_time",
    - "acr",
    - "amr",
    - "nonce",
    - "email",
    - "given_name",
    - "family_name",
    - "nickname"
  -],
- }

Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)

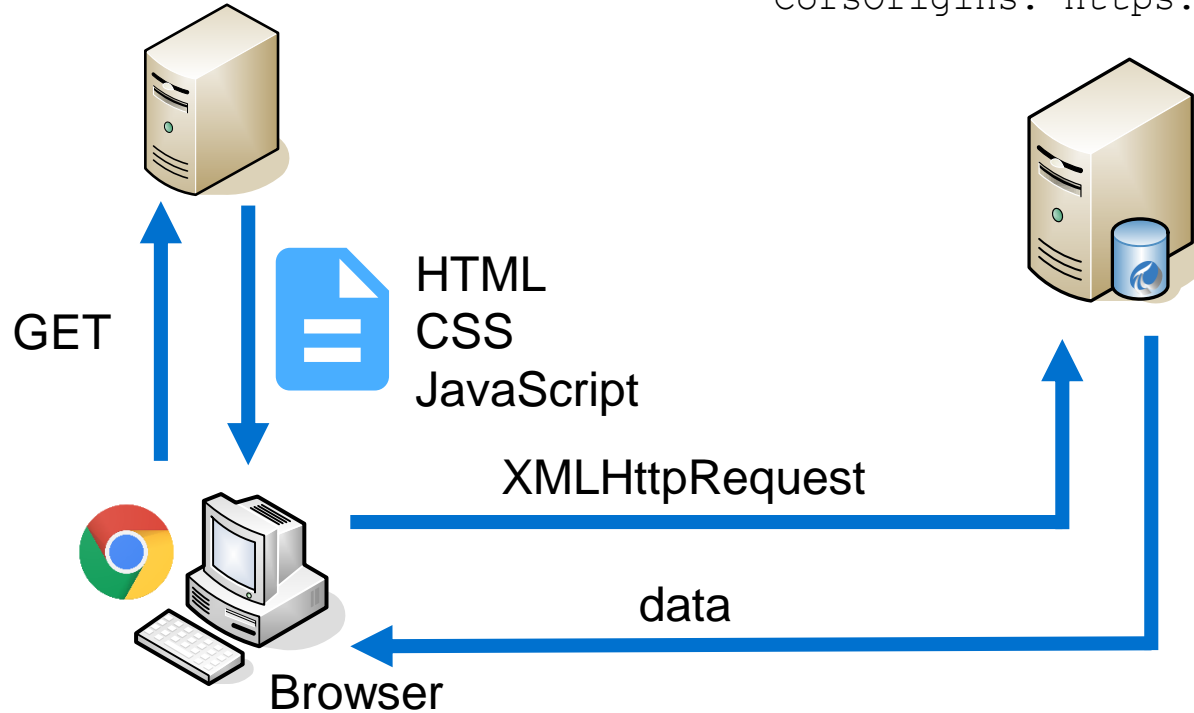**https://fire.web.net**

https://rain.web.net/piwebapi
No CORS

GET

HTML
CSS
JavaScript

XMLHttpRequest

Browser

Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)

https://fire.web.net

https://rain.web.net/piwebapi
`CorsOrigins: https://fire.web.net`

GET

HTML
CSS
JavaScript

XMLHttpRequest

data

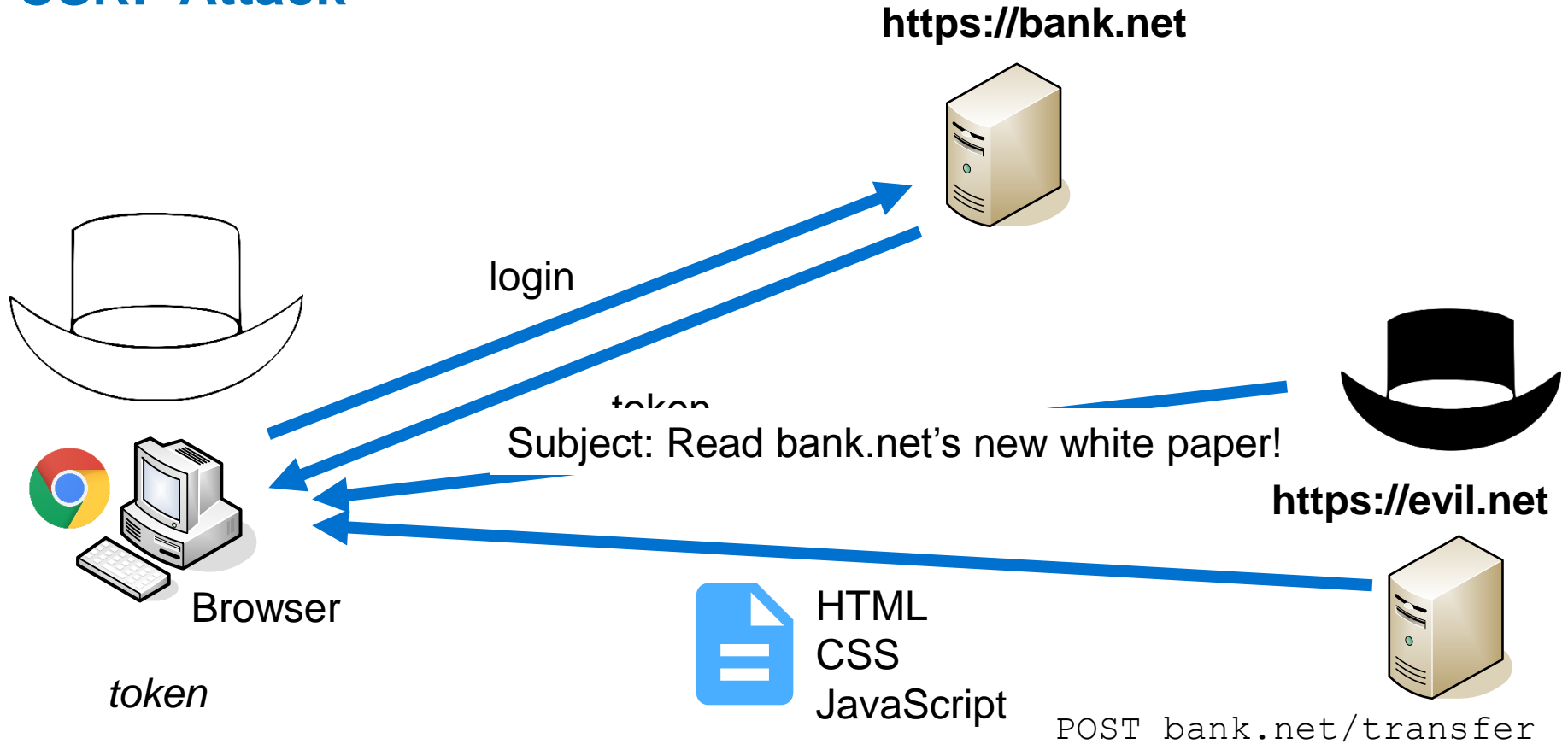Browser

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- You log into a legitimate website
  - *Your browser keeps the authentication token*
- You are tricked into visiting a bad website
  - *JavaScript containing evil code downloaded*
- JavaScript executes
  - *Your authentication token is used*
  - ***Evil code does damage to your legitimate website!***

CSRF Attack

https://bank.net

login

token

Subject: Read bank.net's new white paper!

https://evil.net

Browser

token

HTML
CSS
JavaScript

`POST bank.net/transfer`

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- Existing applications may need to be updated!
  - Good News: GET is fine
  - Bad News: POST, PATCH, DELETE need attention
    - Add Header:

      ```
      X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
      ```

    - Good News (after the Bad)
      - Modern browsers do this for you

(Distributed) Denial of Service

- Throughput limits implemented in PI Web API configuration:
  - `RateLimitMaxRequests`
  - `RateLimitDuration`
  - `MaxReturnedItemsPerCall`
- Set PI Web API to read-only:
  - `DisableWrites` configuration item

YOUR IT Department (not ours…)

- VPN
- Secure Communications
- Disable Writes
  - POST restriction in PI Web API configuration
- Use Load Balancers/Routers/Switches to limit connectivity

Which method should I use?

- Unfortunately, a discussion…

Checklist

- Intranet
  - ☑ Certificate
  - ☑ CORS
  - ☑ CSRF
  - ☑ Authentication Model
  - ☑ Target Platforms
  - ☑ Denial of Service defenses

Checklist

- Extranet
  - Everything in the Intranet Checklist, plus:
  - Authenticate: Basic or Claims-Based
    - Either way: a *local* Windows Domain Controller is needed to support your user community

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