

Access Control

To remain competitive in today's business environment, companies are streamlining and automating more of their business processes by moving them onto the Internet—as extranets, business-to-consumer and business-to-business portals, customer service portals, and software download sites. Because many of these sites and their associated content are confidential, a critical requirement for the infrastructure that supports them is security—the ability to protect content and control access.

In addition to using SSL for encryption, protection is achieved by implementing access control (“secure login”) systems which authenticate users and enforce authorization policies. In the case of streaming content, access control technology is used to support the Pay-Per-View or subscription business models.

But security alone is not enough to capture the advantages of e-business. To result in cost reduction, revenue generation, or overall ROI, secure sites must also provide a positive experience—through performance and availability—to ensure a high user adoption rate. They must minimize or eliminate downtime, and scale to handle the increased traffic that comes with success.

Akamai application and content delivery services provide the highest levels of performance, availability, and scalability to ensure your site's success. Security is provided by the Akamai Access Control feature. Access Control provide the additional functionality required to integrate Akamai services with your origin server's access control schemes, ensuring that protected content is cached and served by Akamai edge servers according to authorization policies defined on your origin server.

Akamai's focus on customer service is clearly demonstrated in its state-of-the-art Network Operations Command Center (NOCC). The Akamai NOCC enables proactive monitoring and troubleshooting of the world's largest distributed computing platform, creating the industry's most comprehensive view of the real-time condition of the Internet.

Benefits to Your Business

Improves Adoption Rates Through Performance

The performance and availability benefits provided by Akamai Access Control for protected content ensure a better site experience for end users. Satisfied users translate into a high adoption rate for the site, a key indicator of site success.

Builds Brand Equity With Always-On Availability

To deliver value to your business, your content and processes must be not only secure, but also accessible and available to users wherever and whenever they are needed. Access Control brings the benefit of high availability to your most valuable content, enabling non-stop operation of your e-business.

Scales Cost-Effectively To Support E-Business Growth

With success, your site will experience traffic spikes and increased growth in overall traffic. Extending your site to the globally-distributed Akamai computing platform ensures that it will always be able to serve worldwide users. And through Access Control, as your site is extended, your content and secure applications are fully protected.



How Access Control Works

With Akamai Access Control, protected content becomes cacheable because Akamai edge servers work together with your origin server to perform the necessary authentication and authorization checks before serving content to end users. You can choose from several access control methods to best accommodate your requirements.

Request-Based Blocking

Akamai edge servers deny access based on an attribute of the request—e.g., the source IP address or referrer header.

Centralized Authorization

Akamai edge servers check with your origin server prior to serving content to any end user or denying access. This method supports HTTP Basic Authentication and form-based login, as well as other access methods provided by third party solutions.

Edge Authorization

Security decisions are delegated to Akamai edge servers via encrypted cookies. Security policy information is communicated to the edge server by your origin site via the encrypted cookie, and the Akamai edge server uses this information to grant or deny access. Access or denial is determined

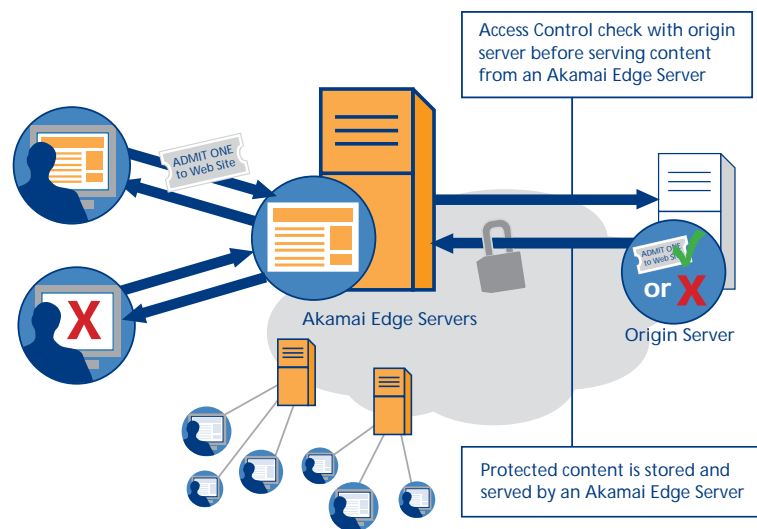
by the IP address of the requesting user, presence or absence of a valid cookie, URL of content being requested, or an expiration time set in the cookie.

For both Centralized Authorization and Edge Authorization, custom error pages can be served upon authorization or authentication failures.

Streaming Authentication

Operating similarly to Edge Authorization, Streaming Authentication relies on your origin site to perform the initial authentication of the end user (such as the credit

card transaction in a Pay-Per-View system), and then to pass authorization information to the streaming Akamai edge servers via an encrypted token contained in the stream's URL. All subsequent access control checks are performed by the edge server, based on the policy information in the token. Access to streaming content can be denied or granted based on the IP address of the requesting user, presence or absence of a valid token, URL of content being requested, or an expiration time set in the token.



About Akamai

Akamai provides products and services that enable the world's leading enterprises and government agencies to extend and control their e-business infrastructure. Having deployed the world's largest, globally-distributed computing platform, Akamai ensures the highest levels of availability, reliability, security, and performance of networked information and applications delivery between the origin and the destination of any e-business process. Headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with research and development centers around the world, Akamai's industry-leading products and services, matched with world-class customer care, are used by hundreds of successful enterprises, government entities, and Web businesses around the globe. For more information, visit www.akamai.com.



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