



Managing SAML authentication settings

Active IQ Unified Manager 9.8

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Managing SAML authentication settings

After you have configured remote authentication settings, you can enable Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) authentication so that remote users are authenticated by a secure identity provider (IdP) before they can access the Unified Manager web UI.

Note that only remote users will have access to the Unified Manager graphical user interface after SAML authentication has been enabled. Local users and Maintenance users will not be able to access the UI. This configuration does not impact users who access the maintenance console.

Identity provider requirements

When configuring Unified Manager to use an identity provider (IdP) to perform SAML authentication for all remote users, you need to be aware of some required configuration settings so that the connection to Unified Manager is successful.

You must enter the Unified Manager URI and metadata into the IdP server. You can copy this information from the Unified Manager SAML Authentication page. Unified Manager is considered the service provider (SP) in the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) standard.

Supported encryption standards

- Advanced Encryption Standard (AES): AES-128 and AES-256
- Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA): SHA-1 and SHA-256

Validated identity providers

- Shibboleth
- Active Directory Federation Services (ADFS)

ADFS configuration requirements

- You must define three claim rules in the following order that are required for Unified Manager to parse ADFS SAML responses for this relying party trust entry.

Claim rule	Value
SAM-account-name	Name ID
SAM-account-name	urn:oid:0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1
Token groups — Unqualified Name	urn:oid:1.3.6.1.4.1.5923.1.5.1.1

- You must set the authentication method to “Forms Authentication” or users may receive an error when logging out of Unified Manager . Follow these steps:
 - a. Open the ADFS Management Console.

- b. Click on the Authentication Policies folder on the left tree view.
 - c. Under Actions on the right, click Edit Global Primary Authentication Policy.
 - d. Set the Intranet Authentication Method to “Forms Authentication” instead of the default “Windows Authentication”.
- In some cases login through the IdP is rejected when the Unified Manager security certificate is CA-signed. There are two workarounds to resolve this issue:
 - Follow the instructions identified in the link to disable the revocation check on the ADFS server for chained CA cert associated relying party:
[Disable Revocation Check per Relying Party Trust](#)
 - Have the CA server reside within the ADFS server to sign the Unified Manager server cert request.

Other configuration requirements

- The Unified Manager clock skew is set to 5 minutes, so the time difference between the IdP server and the Unified Manager server cannot be more than 5 minutes or authentication will fail.

Enabling SAML authentication

You can enable Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) authentication so that remote users are authenticated by a secure identity provider (IdP) before they can access the Unified Manager web UI.

Before you begin

- You must have configured remote authentication and verified that it is successful.
- You must have created at least one Remote User, or a Remote Group, with the Application Administrator role.
- The Identity provider (IdP) must be supported by Unified Manager and it must be configured.
- You must have the IdP URL and metadata.
- You must have access to the IdP server.

About this task

After you have enabled SAML authentication from Unified Manager, users cannot access the graphical user interface until the IdP has been configured with the Unified Manager server host information. So you must be prepared to complete both parts of the connection before starting the configuration process. The IdP can be configured before or after configuring Unified Manager.

Only remote users will have access to the Unified Manager graphical user interface after SAML authentication has been enabled. Local users and Maintenance users will not be able to access the UI. This configuration does not impact users who access the maintenance console, the Unified Manager commands, or ZAPIs.



Unified Manager is restarted automatically after you complete the SAML configuration on this page.

Steps

1. In the left navigation pane, click **General > SAML Authentication**.
2. Select the **Enable SAML authentication** checkbox.

The fields required to configure the IdP connection are displayed.

3. Enter the IdP URI and the IdP metadata required to connect the Unified Manager server to the IdP server.

If the IdP server is accessible directly from the Unified Manager server, you can click the **Fetch IdP Metadata** button after entering the IdP URI to populate the IdP Metadata field automatically.

4. Copy the Unified Manager host metadata URI, or save the host metadata to an XML text file.

You can configure the IdP server with this information at this time.

5. Click **Save**.

A message box displays to confirm that you want to complete the configuration and restart Unified Manager.

6. Click **Confirm and Logout** and Unified Manager is restarted.

Results

The next time authorized remote users attempt to access the Unified Manager graphical interface they will enter their credentials in the IdP login page instead of the Unified Manager login page.

After you finish

If not already completed, access your IdP and enter the Unified Manager server URI and metadata to complete the configuration.



When using ADFS as your identity provider, the Unified Manager GUI does not honor the ADFS timeout and will continue to work until the Unified Manager session timeout is reached. You can change the GUI session timeout by clicking **General > Feature Settings > Inactivity Timeout**.

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