AKAMAI SOLUTIONS BRIEF

ENTERPRISE APPLICATION ACCESS AND OKTA SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO)

Akamai
FASTER FORWARD

Overview

Okta is a powerful tool for Single Sign-On (SSO), enabling corporate users to easily access all of their applications from a uniform, single-access launch pad. End users like using Okta because they only need to remember and use a single password. IT administrators like deploying Okta because they can manage all of their apps in one place, reduce the time and effort spent supporting the organization, and offer a better user experience to their employees and third-party contractors.

While many applications work seamlessly with Okta, there are several critical applications that do not, which means the organization is unable to get the full benefit of their Okta deployment. Applications from Oracle, SAP, Atlassian, and Microsoft do not work with Okta. In addition, internally developed corporate applications for supply-chain, finance, manufacturing, dev-ops, and collaboration may not be designed to work with Okta (a SAML-based identity provider).

There are typically two ways to solve this problem, neither of which is a good solution.

- Engage a systems integrator to build, or internally develop, a custom solution to make applications work with Okta, or
- Ask end users (e.g., employees and contractors) to sign in twice – once to Okta and then to the application

Enterprise Application Access (EAA) enables SSO for internal applications, providing Okta users with:

- The ability to extend the Okta service
- No more double entry of passwords for applications
- Availability of internal apps from the Okta applications launchpad
- Eliminate support and end-user friction for applications that don't integrate with Okta
- Ability for users to access applications from any device
- No plugins or other software needed

The EAA Difference

EAA provides a unique access service that bridges the Single Sign-On (SSO) gap between many corporate applications that do not support SAML and Okta. This critical functionality enables IT to leverage the full utility of Okta an provide a frictionless, comprehensive SSO experience across the enterprise.

The Problem

Both end users and IT would prefer to leverage Okta as their launchpad for SaaS applications as well as corporate applications deployed in the data center or in a public cloud. So long as the application is designed to understand the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) protocol for authentication and authorization, apps can work with Okta. However, many applications continue to rely on one of the following options to implement SSO:

- Kerberos
- NTLM
- Custom HTTP headers (e.g. X-Forwarded-For-Remote-User)

To be able to support these options, it is critical for an in-path solution to convert authentication/authorization information provided by Okta (by way of a SAML assertion) to a format that the application will understand.

Companies have previously attempted to address this gap by leveraging complex appliances that can provide a patchwork of bridging functionality. Not only have traditional solutions proven to be complex to deploy and manage, they tend to be quite expensive. High initial and ongoing costs, along with massive complexity, have resulted in many companies previously choosing to not integrate their business-critical apps with Okta.

The EAA Advantage: An Easy, Secure, and Cost-effective Service

EAA delivers the critical functionality needed to extend the Okta SSO scope to corporate applications delivered by vendors such as Atlassian, Microsoft, SAP, and Oracle. By addressing this need in a secure and easy-to-consume model, EAA enables companies to extend the value delivered by Okta to all of their applications in an IT-and user-friendly model. Crucially, EAA extends the SSO scope to these applications completely and transparently. EAA requires zero changes to the application(s) and does not require customers to deploy complex appliances in their network, resulting in low to zero ongoing operational costs.

EAA enables SSO for applications, providing Okta users with the ability to realize:

- No more double entry of passwords for said applications
- Make apps available from the Okta applications launchpad
- Eliminate support and end-user friction for applications that don’t integrate with Okta
- Users can access from any device
- No plugins or other software needed

THE EAA SOLUTION

EAA has turned remote access on its head, using a secure cloud to provide a new and better way to solve the pain for applications hosted in data centers and hybrid cloud environments. Approaching the problem in a fundamentally different way, EAA is a service that delivers access to applications without providing users access to your entire network. With EAA, you get a centralized managed solution that does not require external hardware or software. Managing and controlling third-party access become simple and uncluttered — and with the elimination of complexity comes fundamentally better security.

With EAA, no one can get to applications directly, because they are hidden from the Internet and public exposure. EAA's dual-cloud architecture closes all inbound firewall ports while providing authenticated end users access to only their specific applications. EAA integrates data path protection, identity access, application security, and management visibility and control into a single service.

Simple for IT, Simple for Business

Delivered as a centrally managed service, EAA does not require complex network integration by the end user. It pre-integrates all core functionality and provides simple connection to third-party directories, SIEM tools, and security devices.

Enabling Business

EAA removes the chronic pain suffered by IT teams associated with managing third-party access. It is easy to deploy, provision, change, and monitor. EAA removes complexity: no device software, no software upgrades or updates, and no additional hardware. User management – from on boarding to off boarding – is a breeze. As a central point of entry and control, EAA provides a single management pane for detailed audit, visibility, control, and compliance reporting. The result is painless, secure remote access.

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As the global leader in Content Delivery Network (CDN) services, Akamai makes the Internet fast, reliable, and secure for its customers. The company's advanced web performance, mobile performance, cloud security, and media delivery solutions are revolutionizing how businesses optimize consumer, enterprise, and entertainment experiences for any device, anywhere. To learn how Akamai solutions and its team of Internet experts are helping businesses move faster forward, please visit www.akamai.com or blogs.akamai.com, and follow @Akamai on Twitter.

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