

hexadimensional

The Hexadimensional

Login API

Developer's Guide and Reference

Revision History

Summary

Revision	Revision History Summary	Release Date
1.1	Documentation fixes	21-Nov-2011
1.0	-	18-Oct-2011

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Introduction

This API allows a reseller to implement a customized login functionality onto his own website for logging into the SMS Service System, for example, providing a username and password box on his own website's home page. This API is also useful if resellers wish to provide logged-in access to the sms site within an iframe embedded on the reseller's own site.

The reseller's login-page would accept the login credentials (i.e. Username & Password) for the SMS System and upon successful authentication would be directly navigated to the Home Page of the SMS Website. The login page of the SMS site will thus not be visible.

GET & POST

The server allows the functionality to be called using either GET or POST HTTP requests. While GET and POST each have their own limitations, the server does not differentiate based on the type, thereby allowing developers to test the service using the simpler GET, and later switching to POST to allow for longer URLs.

Encoding

URLs can only be sent over the Internet using the ASCII Character-set. Since GET presents the parameters to the server within the URL, the URL may end up containing characters outside the ASCII set such as Arabic characters, or characters such as '&' which have a different meaning to the URL. The URL thus has to be converted into a valid ASCII format. URL encoding replaces unsafe ASCII characters with a "%" followed by two hexadecimal digits. URLs also cannot contain spaces; thus URL encoding normally replaces a space with a %20.

For more information about URL encoding, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percent-encoding>

The API requires that these special characters when used within parameter values should be encoded. There is no need to encode parameter names, since they have been designed to not have any disallowed characters.

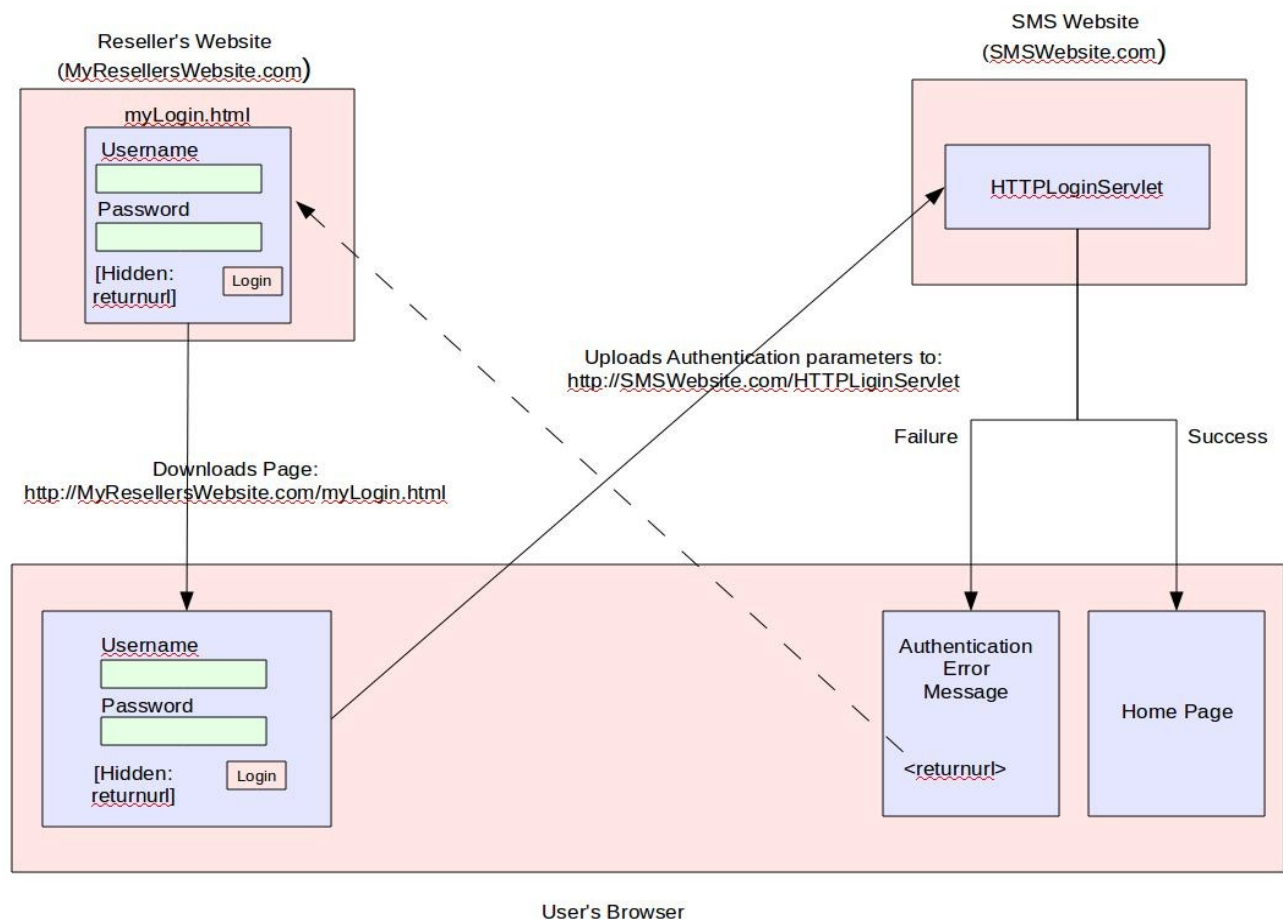
How it Works

To implement this login functionality onto his customized web-page, the reseller will be required to pass the necessary parameters from the login-page to the URL of the SMS Website's Login Servlet. If the authentication is a success the user would be directed to the SMS System's Home Page. While if the authentication fails a web-page would be displayed for the user describing the authentication failure message and provides a link back to the reseller's customized login page.

Note:

Do note however, that functionalities such as password recovery & Sign-up cannot be integrated in the user's customized web-page. For these options the user would have to visit the SMS Website's Login Page.

Graphical Representation



Parameters

After entering the username and password on the user's customized login page, the user clicks on the Login button after which the user is required to direct the parameters mentioned below to the URL of the SMS Website's Login Servlet:

Title	Description
username	The login name used to access the account on the SMS System
password	The login password used to access the account on the SMS System
returnurl	The URL of the user's customized login page. In the even of an unsuccessful authentication the value of this parameter is utilized to redirect the user back to the reseller's login page. This parameter should also include the protocol type, for example, 'http://'.

Example

The following code (within the FORM tags) demonstrates the passing of parameters to the URL of the SMS Website's Login Servlet.

Note:

Note that the FORM tags should not be enclosed within any other form tags but only enclosed within the BODY tags of the page.

```
<html>
<head>
<title> Login Page </title>
</head>

<body>
<form method="POST" action="http://SMSWebsite.com/HTTPLoginServlet">
  Username:
  <input type="text" id="username" name="username"/>
  <br>

  Password:
  <input type="password" id="password" name="password"/>
  <br>
  <input type="hidden" id="returnurl" name="returnurl"
  value="http://MyResellerswebsite.com/myLogin.html" />
  <input type="submit" value="Login"/>
</form>
</body>
</html>
```