



Tech Info Library

AppleShare: AFP User Authentication Methods

Revised: 10/4/89
Security: Everyone

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This article last reviewed: 17 August 1989

TOPIC -----

In a test I did using Peek over the AppleShare network, I was able to identify both my name and password. Why?

DISCUSSION -----

There are three defined user authentication methods available to AFP servers and workstations. The workstation indicates its choice of user authentication method (UAM) by giving the server a UAM string.

- 1) No user authentication: This method needs no specification. No user name or password information is required in the FPLogin call. The corresponding UAM string is 'No User Authent'. An example of this would be to log on as a guest.
- 2) Cleartext password: This method uses the UAM string of 'Cleartxt Passwrđ'. The password is transmitted as clear text and is not encoded in any way. The User Info part of the FPLogin call consists of the user name followed by the user's password.
- 3) Random number exchange: This method is best used when a network is not secure from eavesdropping. This method uses the UAM string of 'Randnum Exchange'. If this method is not supported by the AFP server, the workstation will use the Cleartext password UAM. This is the method used by Apple workstation software when accessing an AppleShare file server.

The Apple workstation software uses the FPGetSrvrInfo call to find out what UAMs the server supports. This is done to determine what password UAM should be used. A way to find out what password UAM is supported is to use the AppleShare Chooser item and select a server. Next to the password field you will see either '(Scrambled)' or '(Clear text)'. If you see

'(Clear text)', it means that the AFP server does not support the Random number exchange UAM.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:4242