

Cloudflare Access Transparent Authentication for Web Applications

Talk by: David Kitchen dkitchen@cloudflare.com

Paper by: Oliver Yu oli@cloudflare.com and John Graham-Cumming jgc@cloudflare.com

Introduction

- As companies move their applications to the cloud and BYOD increases, traditional VPNs fail
- Companies want their internal web applications to be available over the open internet
- Each internal application implements it's own authentication and access controls
- It is non-trivial to integrate internal applications into company identity infrastructure



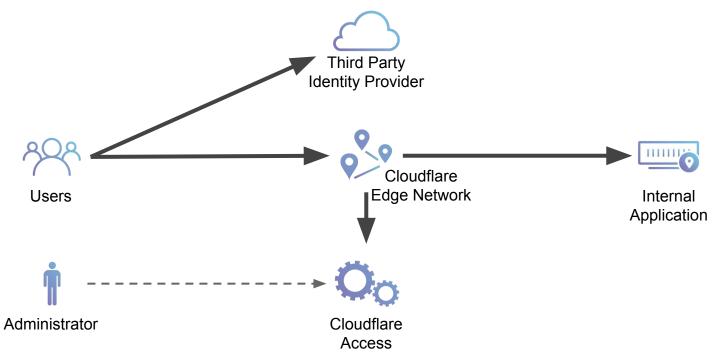
Cloudflare Access

- A secure authenticated gateway in the cloud
- Protects all internal web applications
- Allows employees to use single sign on to access all of their company's resources

Login once via the web and navigate seamlessly across all internal web sites from any device

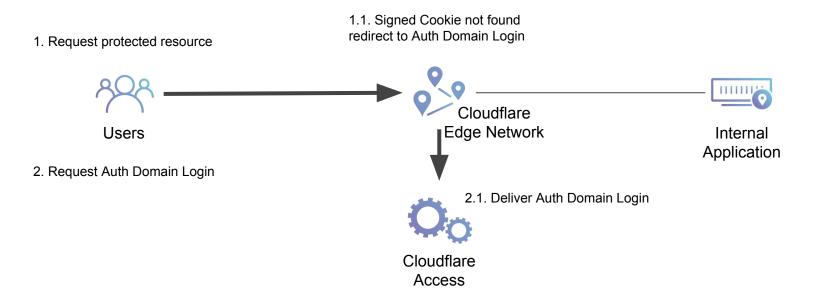


System Architecture



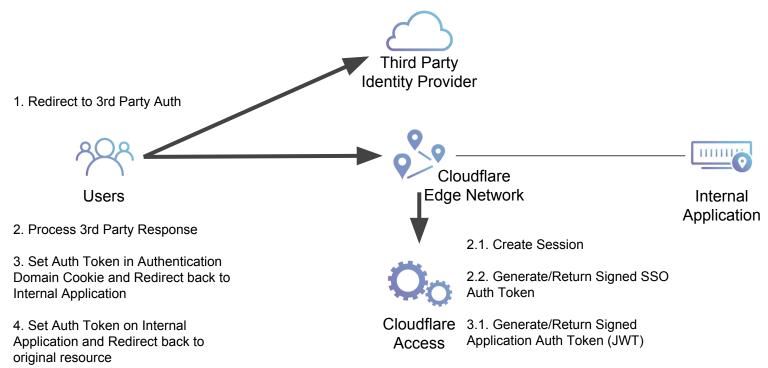


Initial Resource Request





3rd Party Authentication

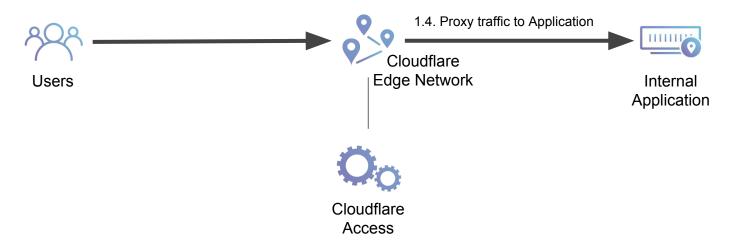




Authorized Resource Access

1. Request Protected Application Resource with Signed Auth Token

- 1.1. Validate Signature
- 1.2. Verify Target Application
- 1.3. Validate Expiration





Conclusion

- Cloudflare Access leverages the work of OAuth and JSON Web Tokens in conjunction with our Edge Network to provide a transparent authentication mechanism for web resources
- By marrying this to a pluggable system for delegating authentication to 3rd party identity providers, the result is a flexible system for integrating authentication across internal web applications



Questions

