

Spring Security

rolf.jufer@letsboot.ch



letsboot.ch
swiss dev training



Welcome & Introduction



Notes

- ▶ The slides and source code for the demos can be found at <https://github.com/rolfjufer/spring-security-jugstalk>.
- ▶ It's worth noting that the demos are deliberately kept simple. Our aim is **to illustrate** the elements discussed, rather than crafting production-ready code.



Spring Boot

Spring Framework

Spring Data >

Spring Cloud >

Spring Cloud Data Flow

Spring Security

Spring Security
Kerberos

Spring Authorization
Server

Spring for GraphQL

Spring Session >

Spring Security 6.2.3



OVERVIEW

LEARN

SUPPORT

SAMPLES

Spring Security is a powerful and highly customizable authentication and access-control framework. It is the de-facto standard for securing Spring-based applications.

Spring Security is a framework that focuses on providing both authentication and authorization to Java applications. Like all Spring projects, the real power of Spring Security is found in how easily it can be extended to meet custom requirements

Features

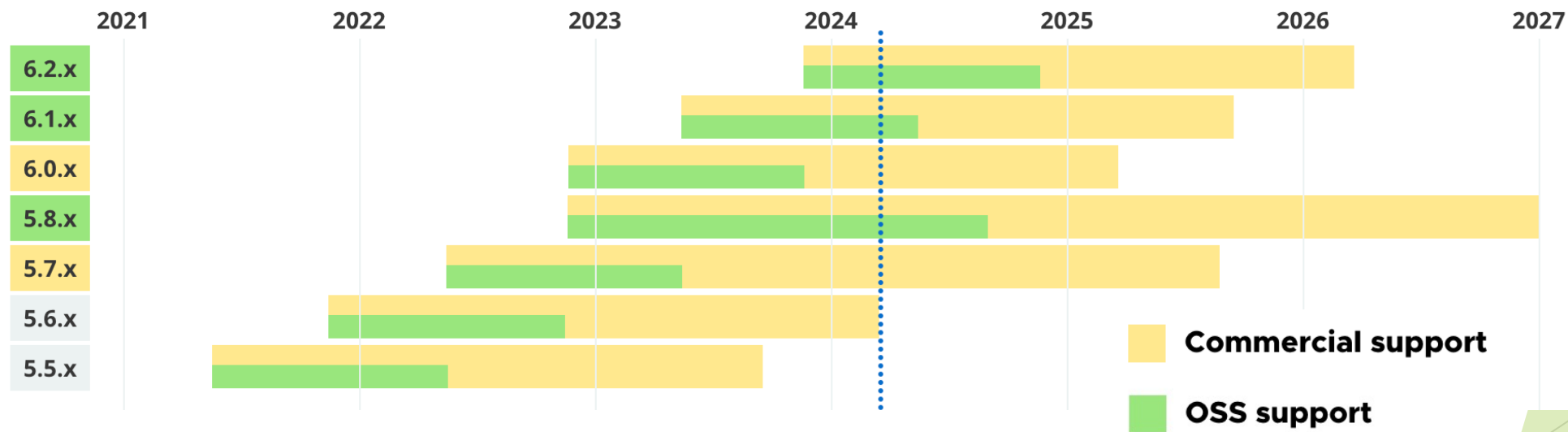
Spring Security

- ▶ Spring Security has become a **key project** in the Spring Ecosystem.
- ▶ It provides comprehensive support for **authentication**, **authorisation** and **protection** against common security vulnerabilities.
- ▶ Spring Security's integration spans multiple frameworks, APIs, and **servlet** and **reactive** stacks.



*Focus of
this talk*

Spring Security Releases and Support



Sources: <https://spring.io/projects/spring-security#support>
<https://tanzu.vmware.com/spring-runtime>

Impact of VMware's sale to Broadcom

- ▶ The Spring Framework/Ecosystem is **open source** and continues to be developed by the **Spring community**.
- ▶ However, the sale of VMware to Broadcom poses potential risks to the future of Spring, particularly with respect to long-term support and strategic direction of the framework.
- ▶ In particular, Broadcom may reduce its financial and human resources support for the development of Spring and Spring Security.



Source: X (formerly Twitter)
22. Nov. 2023

Objective of this Talk

- ▶ Participants will get a pragmatic **introduction** to using **Spring Security** Version 6.2 using a practical example to integrate security features into RESTful services.
- ▶ The seamless integration with **OAuth 2.0** and **OpenID Connect** will also be briefly discussed.

Note: Spring Security Focus

- ▶ This talk specifically covers Spring Security and does **not address general security topics** like the [OWASP Top 10](#).
- ▶ We'll focus on using and configuring Spring Security in Spring-based applications to protect against some important security risks and mitigate them.
- ▶ For broader security principles, consider additional resources.

About me



- ▶ I am a trainer at letsboot.ch, a lecturer at the [Bern University of Applied Sciences](https://www.bfh.ch) and a freelance IT consultant and enthusiastic software developer.
- ▶ Over the past 35 years I have worked in many IT fields and industries (eg. mid-sized IT service provider, Swisscom, SRG SSR).
- ▶ My current areas of activity include process management with BPMN and Camunda, enterprise application integration with Apache Camel, backend development with the Spring Ecosystem, Docker, Kubernetes, etc.

Personal Note

- ▶ Please note that I am wearing hearing aids.
- ▶ I may not always understand you immediately.

Photo by Andrea Piacquadio:

<https://pexels.com>



Use Case: Letsboot Website

- ▶ Letsboot offers a wide range of courses and uses a web-based application that allows interested parties to browse and register for the current courses offered (→ Example).
- ▶ At the same time, only authorised administrators should be able to **manage the courses** on offer.

Software and Systems Engineering Courses











In Zurich, Basel, Remote or on site

Hands-on courses for software and system developers by experienced experts with proven training material in Basel, Zurich, remote and on-site.

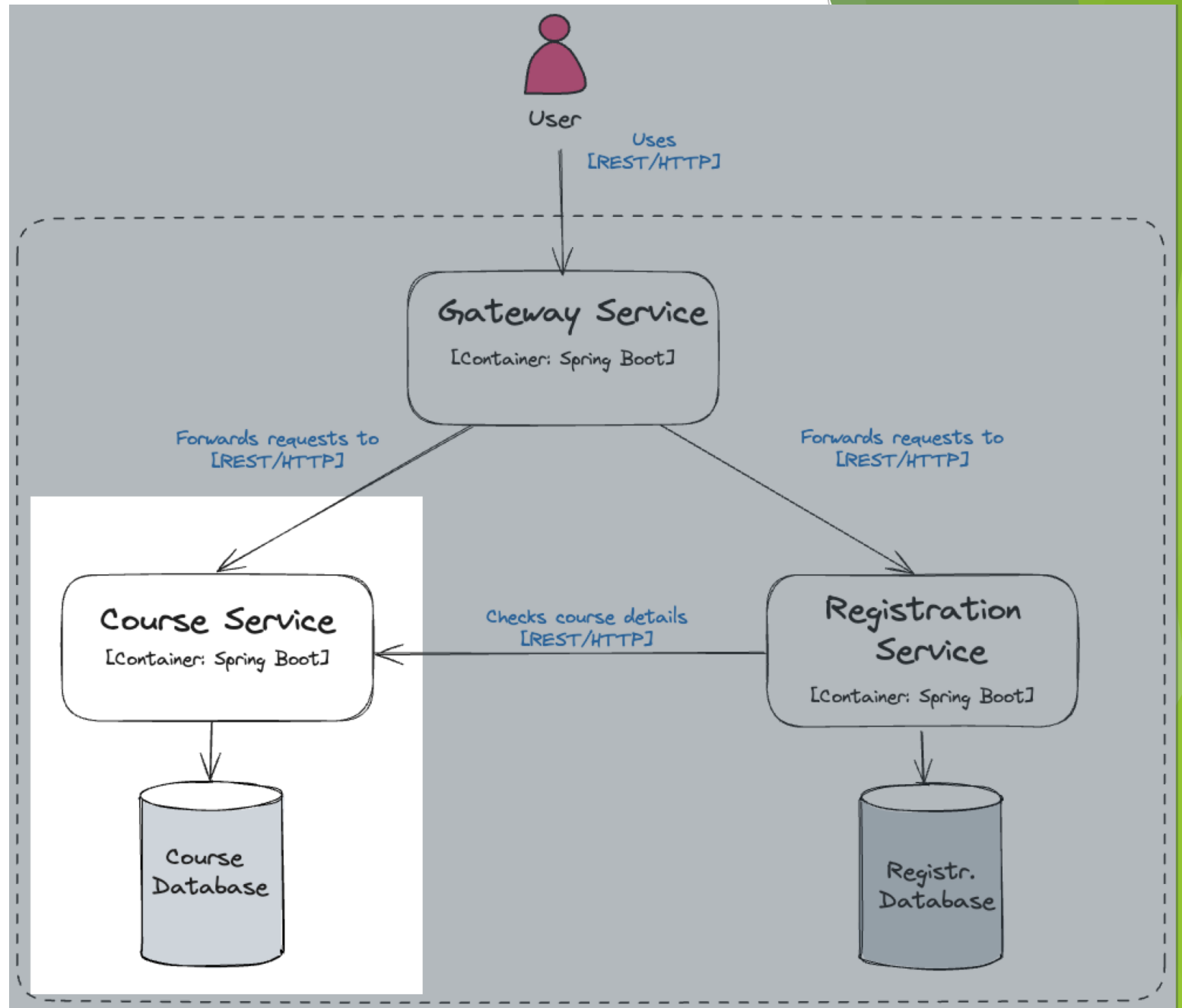
 [Here you get to Letsboot New Zealand!](#)

Schedule

Public course dates on sought-after topics and technologies around software development, DevOps and cloud engineering.

 Container & Kubernetes DevOps 09. - 11. April 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 2430.--	 Jimmy Bogard: Modern .NET with Vertical Slice 09. - 10. April 2024, Zürich, EN, CHF 2180.--	 Container & Kubernetes Security 14. & 15. Mai 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 1800.--	 GitLab CI/CD 16. & 17. Mai 2024, Zürich, EN, CHF 1800.--	 Spring Security 05. - 06. Juni 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 1800.--
 Container & Kubernetes DevOps 26. - 28. August 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 2430.--	 Angular & TypeScript 04. - 06. November 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 2250.--	 GitLab CI/CD 06. & 07. November 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 1800.--	 Container & Kubernetes DevOps 19. - 21. November 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 2430.--	 Microservices mit Spring Boot 27. - 29. November 2024, Zürich, DE, CHF 2430.--

Use Case: Course Management of letsboot.ch



Use Case: Course Management API

Courses Course management APIs



GET

`/api/v1/courses/{id}` Retrieve a Course by Id



PUT

`/api/v1/courses/{id}` Update Course with given id



DELETE

`/api/v1/courses/{id}` Delete Course with given id



GET

`/api/v1/courses` Retrieve all Courses



POST

`/api/v1/courses` Create a new Course



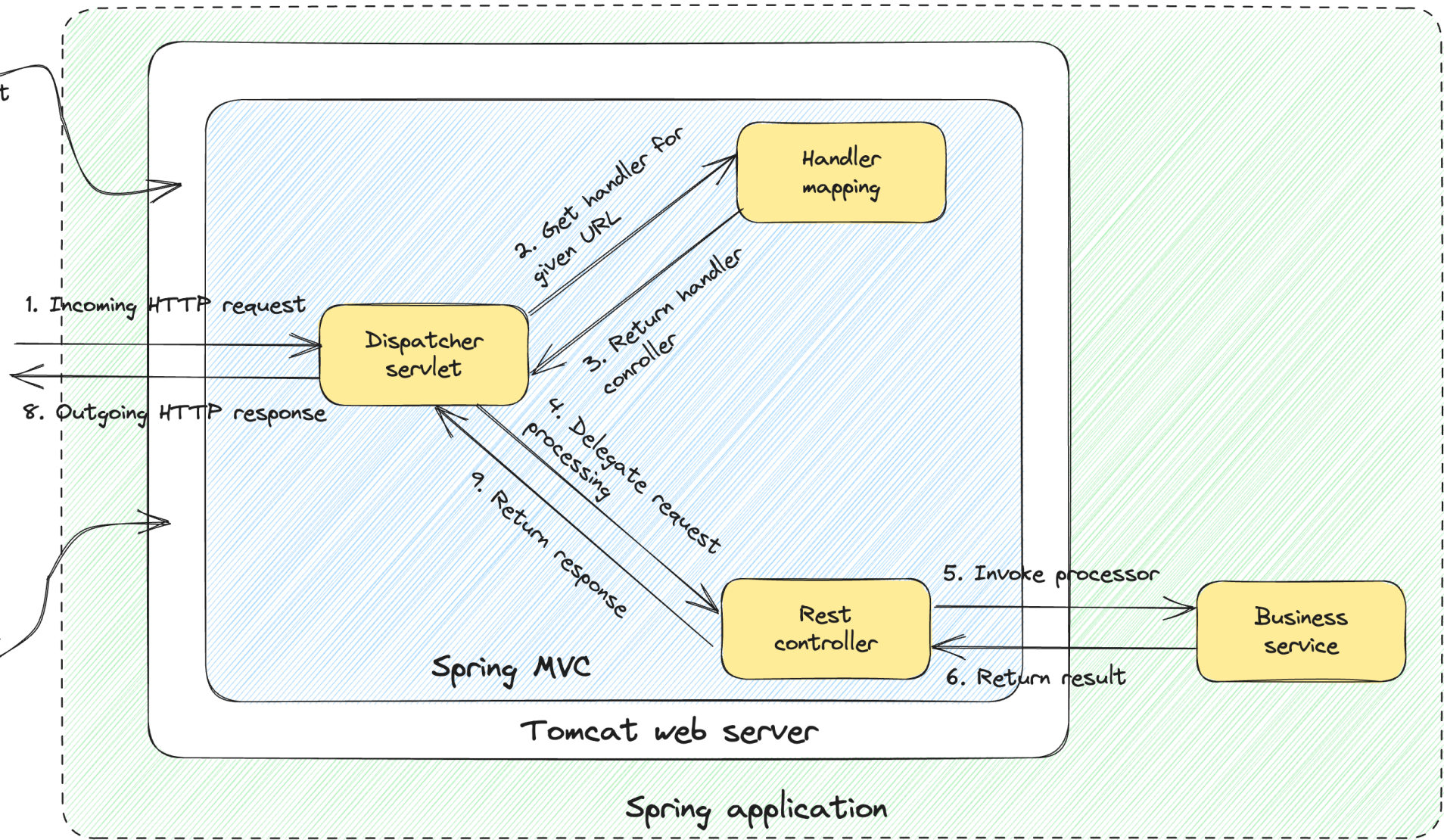


Let's dive in!

Request Flow in Spring MVC

Gets a thread from the pool to handle the request

Returns thread to the pool after request handling is done



Opt-in with Spring Security Starter

```
<dependencies>
  <dependency>
    <groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
    <artifactId>spring-boot-starter-web</artifactId>
  </dependency>
  <!-- ... -->
  <dependency>
    <groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
    <artifactId>spring-boot-starter-security</artifactId>
  </dependency>
</dependencies>
```

Impact of this Dependency

- ▶ Requires **authentication** for all endpoints
- ▶ **Default user** with generated password at startup
- ▶ **Protects password** storage with Bcrypt etc.
- ▶ Supports **form-based login** and **logout**
- ▶ Authenticates **form-based login** and **HTTP-Basic**
- ▶ Mitigates **CSRF** and **Session Fixation** attacks
- ▶ ...

<https://docs.spring.io/spring-security/reference/servlet/getting-started.htm>

Demo 1

<http://localhost:8080/api/v1/courses>

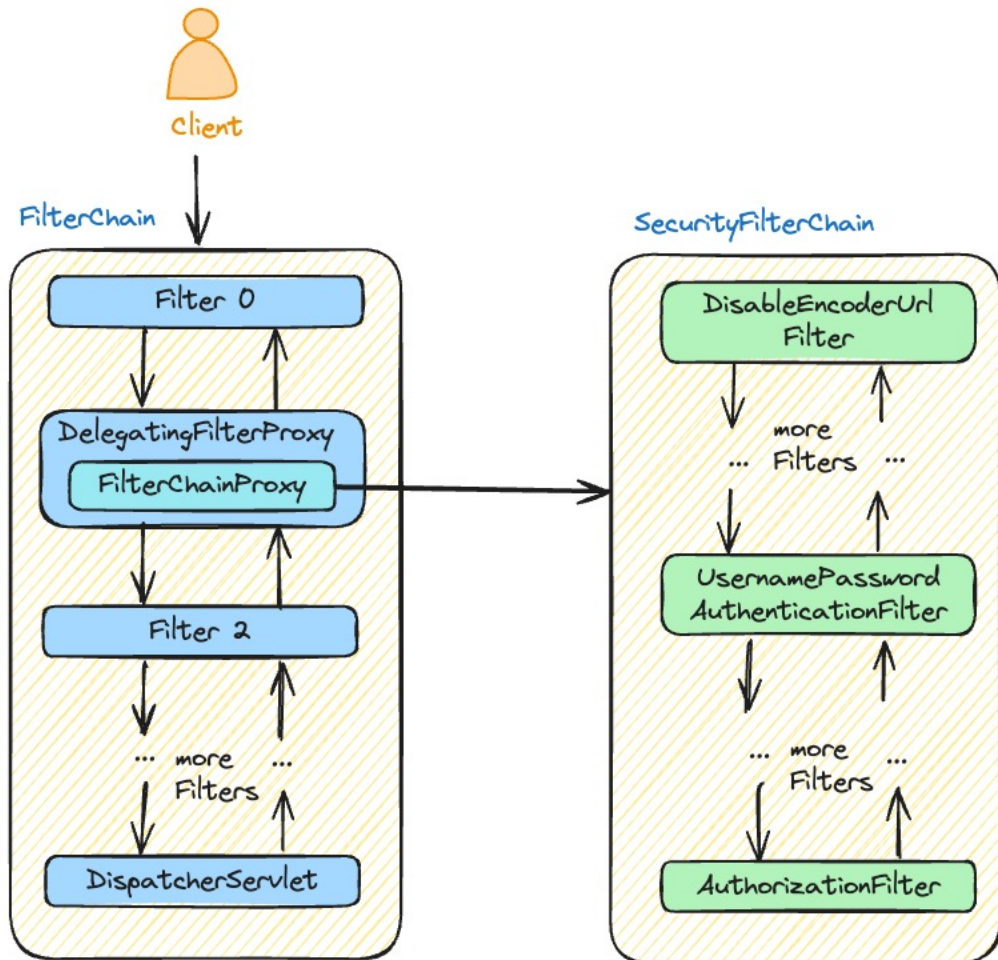
Please sign in


```
localhost:8080/api/v1/course: x
localhost:8080/api/v1/courses?continue
1 // 20240409050439
2 // http://localhost:8080/api/v1/courses?continue
3
4 [
5   {↔},
18   {
19     "id": 2,
20     "title": "Spring Security",
21     "description": "Spring Security is a powerful and highly customisable authentication and
    authorisation module from the Spring ecosystem. It is the de facto standard for securing Spring-
    based applications, but can also be used in non-Spring Java applications. As with all Spring
    projects, the real strength of Spring Security is that it can be easily extended to meet
    individual requirements. This 2-day course provides a step-by-step introduction to using Spring
    Security in the context of Spring or Spring Boot applications. You will not only learn the basics
    of Spring Security, but also get a deep insight into the features of the new versions 6 to 6.1.",
22     "city": "Zurich",
23     "startDate": "05.06.2024",
24     "endDate": "06.06.2024",
25     "durationInDays": 2,
26     "price": "CHF 1'800.00",
27     "trainerId": 1,
28     "trainerName": "Rolf Jufer",
29     "trainerEmail": "rolf.jufer@letsboot.ch"
30   },
31   {↔}
44 ]
```

Using generated security password: **9cff30f3-8795-4eea-8d39-47389e9e3319**

This generated password is for development use only.

Behind the Scenes: SecurityFilterChain



`logging.level.org.springframework.security.web.FilterChainProxy=TRACE`

```
Invoking DisableEncoderUrlFilter (1/14)
Invoking WebAsyncManagerIntegrationFilter (2/14)
Invoking SecurityContextHolderFilter (3/14)
Invoking HeaderWriterFilter (4/14)
Invoking CsrfFilter (5/14)
Invoking LogoutFilter (6/14)
Invoking UsernamePasswordAuthenticationFilter (7/14)
Invoking DefaultLoginPageGeneratingFilter (8/14)
Invoking DefaultLogoutPageGeneratingFilter (9/14)
Invoking RequestCacheAwareFilter (10/14)
Invoking SecurityContextHolderAwareRequestFilter (11/14)
Invoking AnonymousAuthenticationFilter (12/14)
Invoking ExceptionTranslationFilter (13/14)
Invoking AuthorizationFilter (14/14)
```

<https://docs.spring.io/spring-security/reference/servlet/architecture.html>

Cross-Site-Request-Forgery (CSRF) Protection

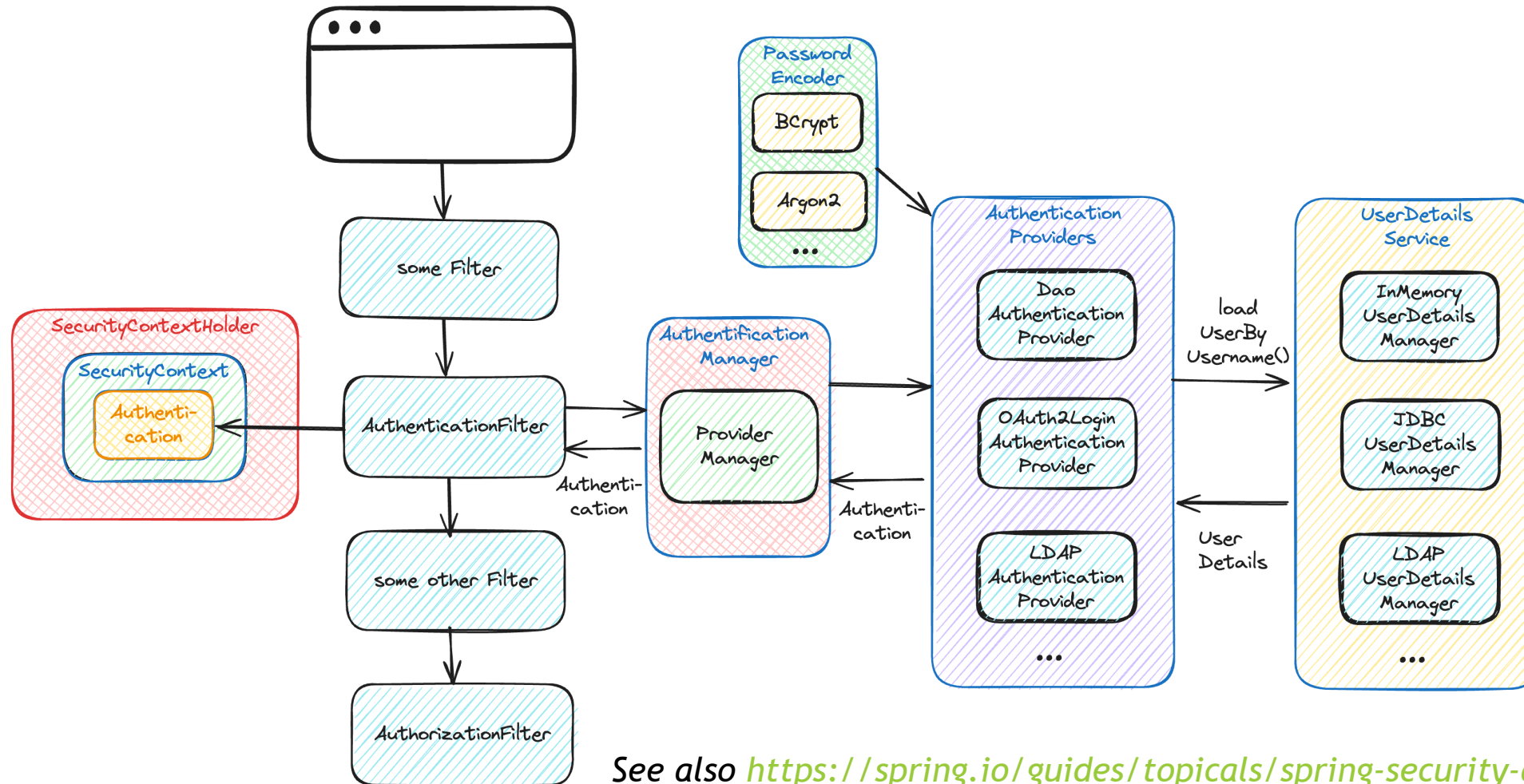
- ▶ Adding the `spring-boot-starter-security` dependency also enables CSRF protection by default.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head> [8 lines]
  <body>
    <div class="container">
      <form class="form-signin" method="post" action="/login">
        <h2 class="form-signin-heading">Please sign in</h2>
        <p>
          <label for="username" class="sr-only">Username</label>
          <input type="text" id="username" name="username" class="form-control" placeholder="Username" required autofocus>
        </p>
        <p>
          <label for="password" class="sr-only">Password</label>
          <input type="password" id="password" name="password" class="form-control" placeholder="Password" required>
        </p>
        <input name="_csrf" type="hidden" value="RFrllJqXEZqEpTQBNZ45PSkB58btwzxew4fQqtX5QwLEpK-cmvRoajxd_0MIaziPftM1s2VKaciHW3cGT4vI2o2qz48JfGH" />
        <button class="btn btn-lg btn-primary btn-block" type="submit">Sign in</button>
      </form>
    </div>
  </body></html>
```



Spring Security Architecture

Spring Security Components (a small extract)



See also <https://spring.io/guides/topicals/spring-security-architecture>

SecurityFilterChain Bean

- ▶ The SecurityFilterChain can hold an arbitrary number of security filters.
- ▶ Typically you only need to specify your **authentication and authorization rules**. Example :

```
@Configuration
public class AuthorizationConfig {

    @Bean
    public SecurityFilterChain configure(HttpSecurity http) throws Exception {
        http.formLogin(Customizer.withDefaults()); // log in with username and pw
        http.authorizeHttpRequests((authorize) -> authorize
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.GET, "/api/v1/courses/**").permitAll()
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.POST, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")
            .anyRequest().authenticated()
        );
        return http.build();
    }
}
```

Security

Configures the authorization of HTTP requests.

- ▶ The Security filters.
- ▶ Typically authorize

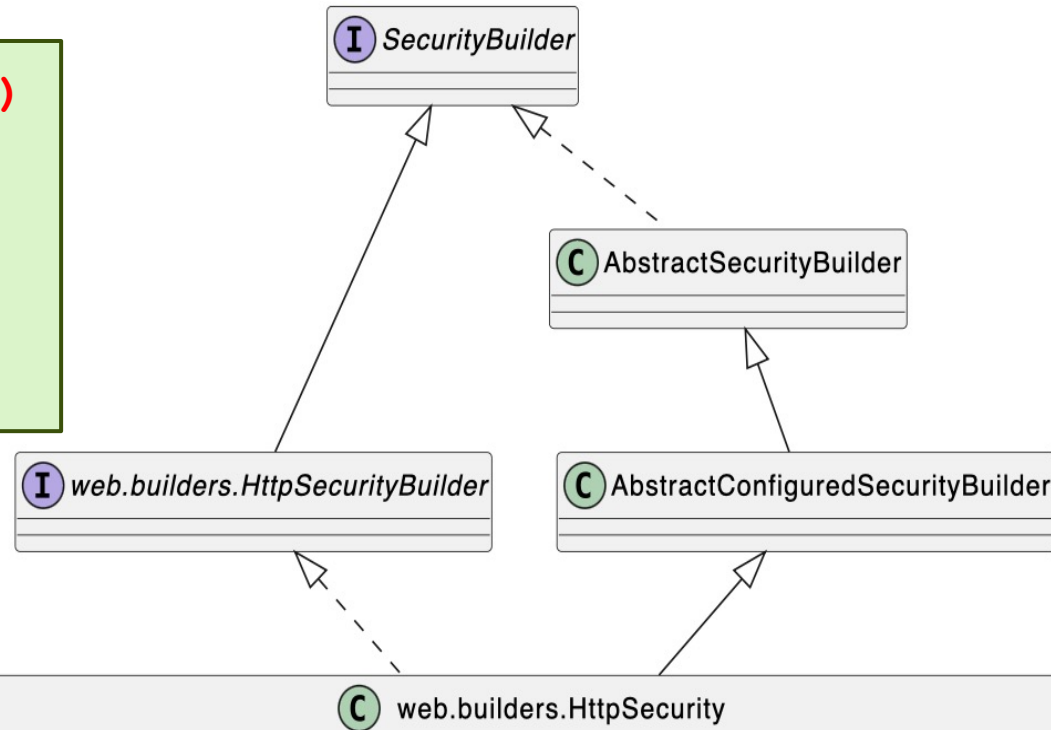
- Allows all GET requests to paths starting with "/api/v1/courses/" for any user.
- However, POST requests to the same paths are only permitted for users with the "ADMIN" role. All other requests require authentication.

```
@Configuration
public class AuthorizationConfig {

    @Bean
    public SecurityFilterChain configure(HttpSecurity http) throws Exception {
        http.formLogin(Customizer.withDefaults()); // log in with username and pw
        http.authorizeHttpRequests((authorize) -> authorize
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.GET, "/api/v1/courses/**").permitAll()
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.POST, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")
            .anyRequest().authenticated()
        );
        return http.build();
    }
}
```

HttpSecurity: Security Rules for Endpoints

```
authorizeHttpRequests ()  
exceptionHandling ()  
csrf ()  
cors ()  
formLogin ()  
logout ()
```

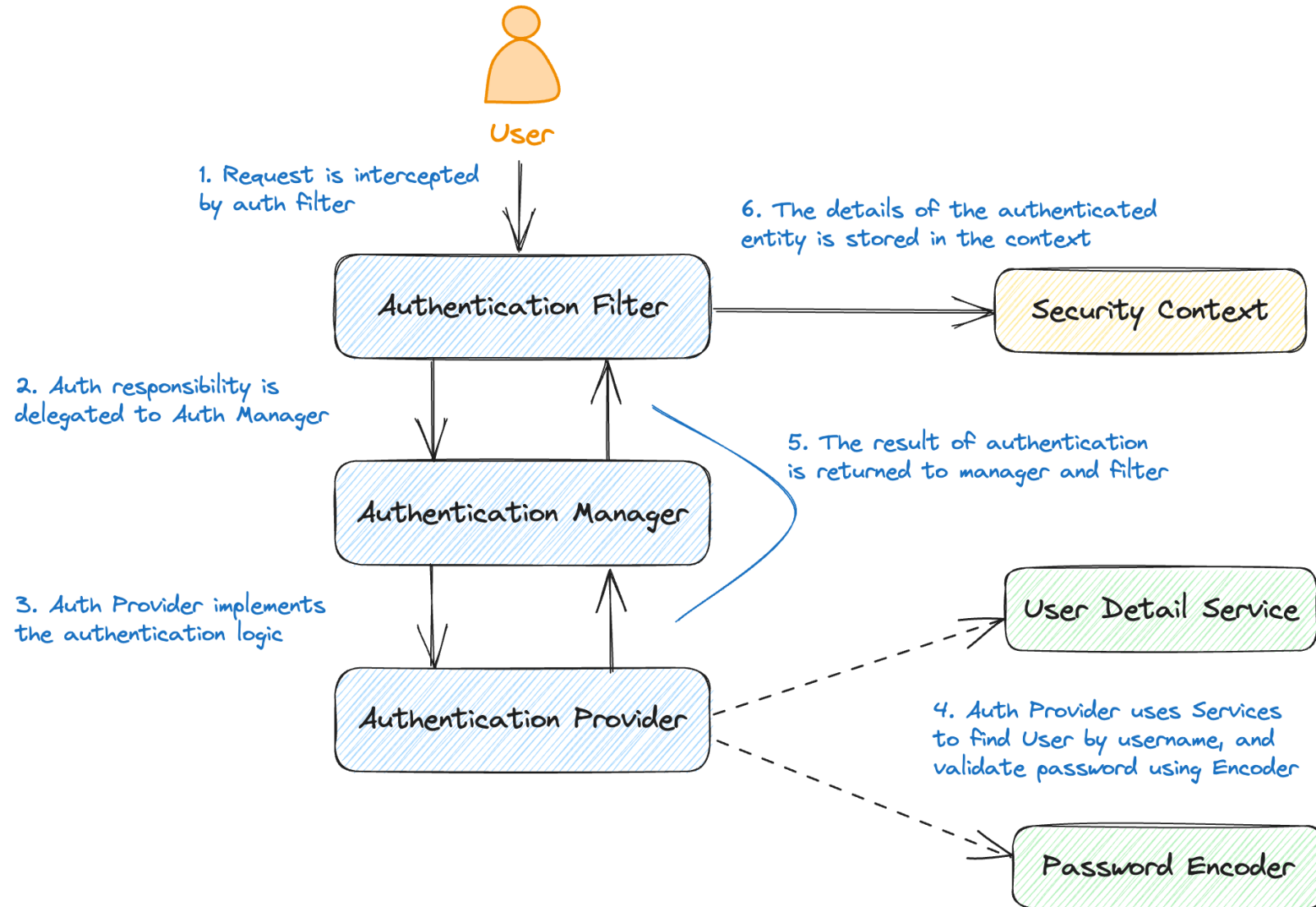


- `HttpSecurity authorizeHttpRequests(Customizer<AuthorizeHttpRequestsConfigurer<HttpSecurity>.AuthorizationManagerRequestMatcherRegistry> authorizeHttpRequestsCustomizer)`
- `HttpSecurity exceptionHandling(Customizer<ExceptionHandlerConfigurer<HttpSecurity>> exceptionHandlingCustomizer)`
- `HttpSecurity csrf(Customizer<CsrfConfigurer<HttpSecurity>> csrfCustomizer)`
- `HttpSecurity cors(Customizer<CorsConfigurer<HttpSecurity>> corsCustomizer)`
- `HttpSecurity formLogin(Customizer<FormLoginConfigurer<HttpSecurity>> formLoginCustomizer)`
- `HttpSecurity logout(Customizer<LogoutConfigurer<HttpSecurity>> logoutCustomizer)`

Note: Request- vs. Method-Level Authorization

- ▶ The previous example models authorisation at the **request level**.
- ▶ There is also the option of modelling authorisation at the **method level**, with annotations such as:
 - ▶ `@PreAuthorize("hasAuthority('ADMIN')")`
- ▶ Due to time constraints, we will not discuss this option further.

Authentication Process



Authentication Mechanisms

- ▶ Spring Security provides comprehensive support for Authentication. Example:

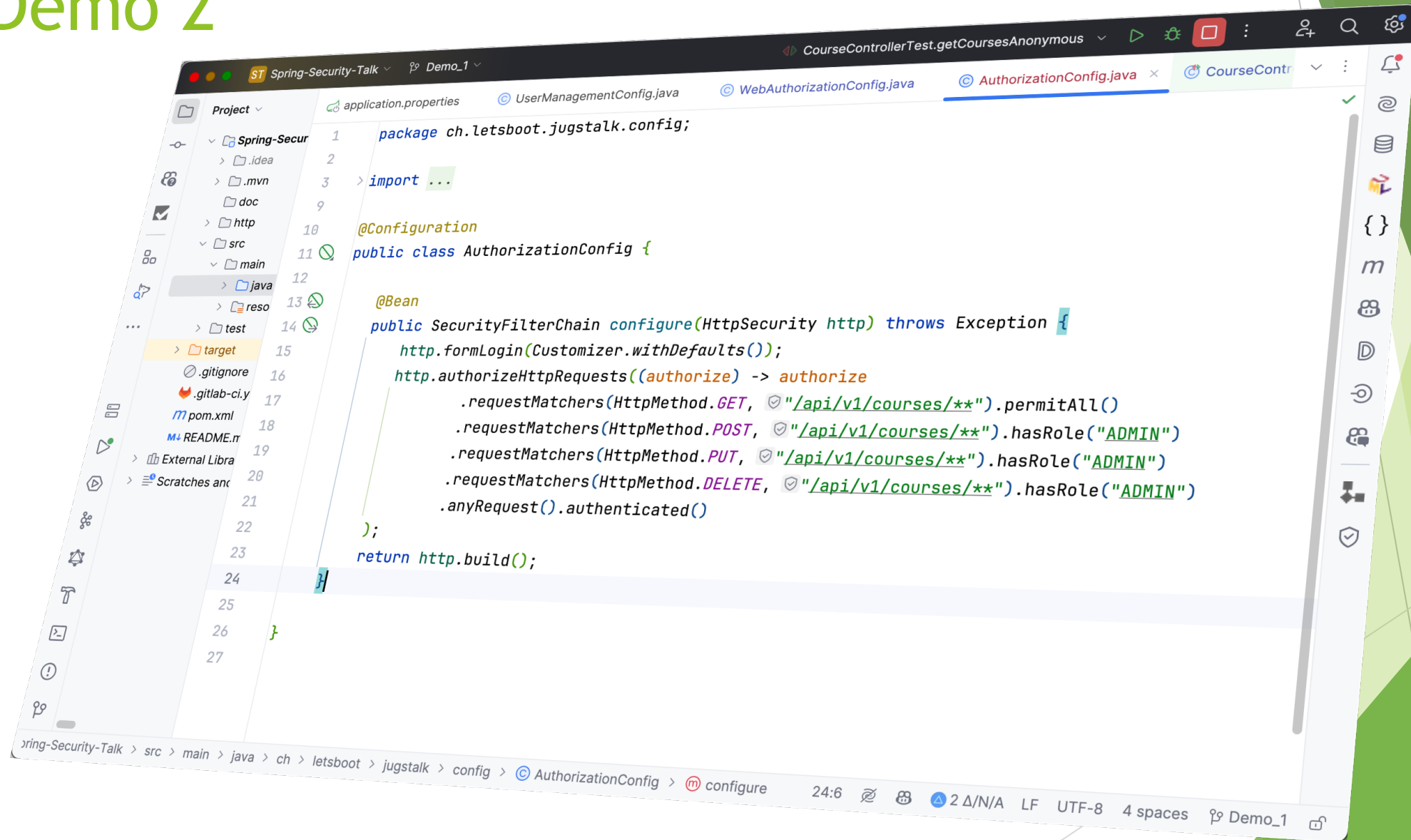
```
@Configuration
public class UserManagementConfig {

    @Bean
    public UserDetailsService users(PasswordEncoder passwordEncoder) {

        UserDetails admin = User.builder()
            .username("admin").password(passwordEncoder.encode("password"))
            .roles("ADMIN").build();

        // InMemoryUserDetailsManager implements UserDetailsService to provide support
        // for username/password based authentication that is stored in memory.
        return new InMemoryUserDetailsManager(admin);
    }
}
```

Demo 2



The screenshot shows an IDE window titled "Spring-Security-Talk" with a "Demo_1" project. The file "AuthorizationConfig.java" is open, showing the following code:

```
1 package ch.letsboot.jugstalk.config;
2
3 > import ...
4
5
6
7
8
9
10 @Configuration
11 public class AuthorizationConfig {
12
13     @Bean
14     public SecurityFilterChain configure(HttpSecurity http) throws Exception {
15         http.formLogin(Customizer.withDefaults());
16         http.authorizeHttpRequests((authorize) -> authorize
17             .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.GET, "/api/v1/courses/**").permitAll()
18             .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.POST, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")
19             .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.PUT, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")
20             .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.DELETE, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")
21             .anyRequest().authenticated()
22         );
23         return http.build();
24     }
25
26 }
27
```

The IDE interface includes a project explorer on the left showing the file structure, a toolbar on the right with various icons, and a status bar at the bottom indicating the current file path and settings.

Who provides UserManagement?

- ▶ The demo suffers from the fact that it must provide its own **user management**.
- ▶ This has significant **drawbacks** such as
 - ▶ lack of single sign-on (SSO)
 - ▶ fragmented user data
 - ▶ security risks
 - ▶ lack of standardisation
 - ▶ and scalability issues



OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect

Motivation

- ▶ **Balancing security and user convenience** is key in authentication. Managing multiple credentials for various apps can be cumbersome and disrupt user experience.
- ▶ **OAuth 2.0** and **OpenID Connect** offer a robust framework for authentication and authorization, promoting both security and user convenience across diverse applications.

Spring Security with OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect

- ▶ Integrating [Spring Security with OAuth 2.0](#) and **OpenID Connect** (OIDC) allows you to secure your Spring-based applications by leveraging **industry-standard protocols** for authentication and authorization.
- ▶ **In a nutshell:**
 - ▶ **OAuth 2.0** is the foundation for controlled access to resources.
 - ▶ **OpenID Connect** builds upon OAuth 2.0 to add user authentication and information sharing.

Spring Security OAuth2 Dependencies

(see [Spring Initializr](#))

OAuth2 Client SECURITY

Spring Boot integration for Spring Security's OAuth2/OpenID Connect client features.

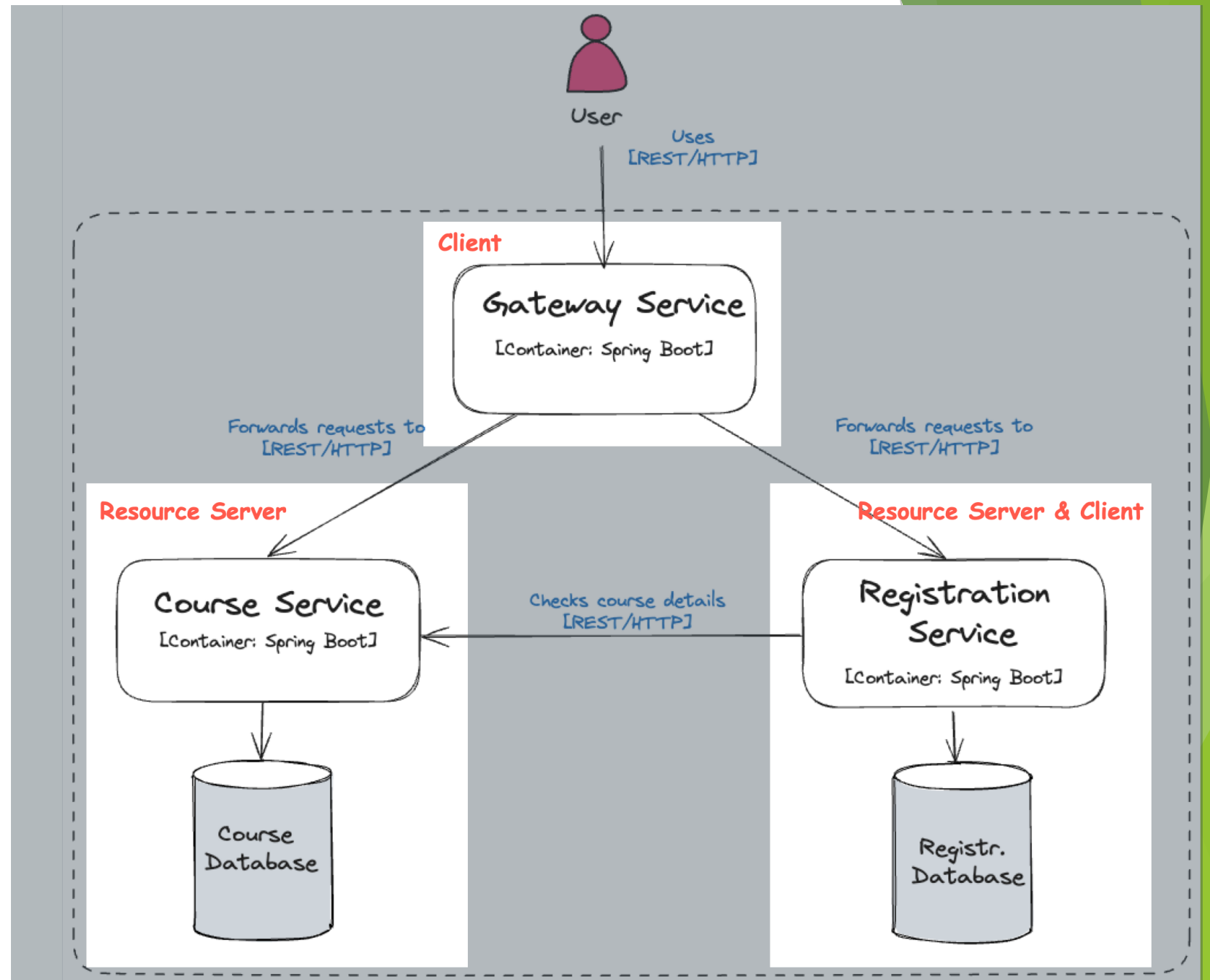
OAuth2 Resource Server SECURITY

Spring Boot integration for Spring Security's OAuth2 resource server features.

OAuth2 Authorization Server SECURITY

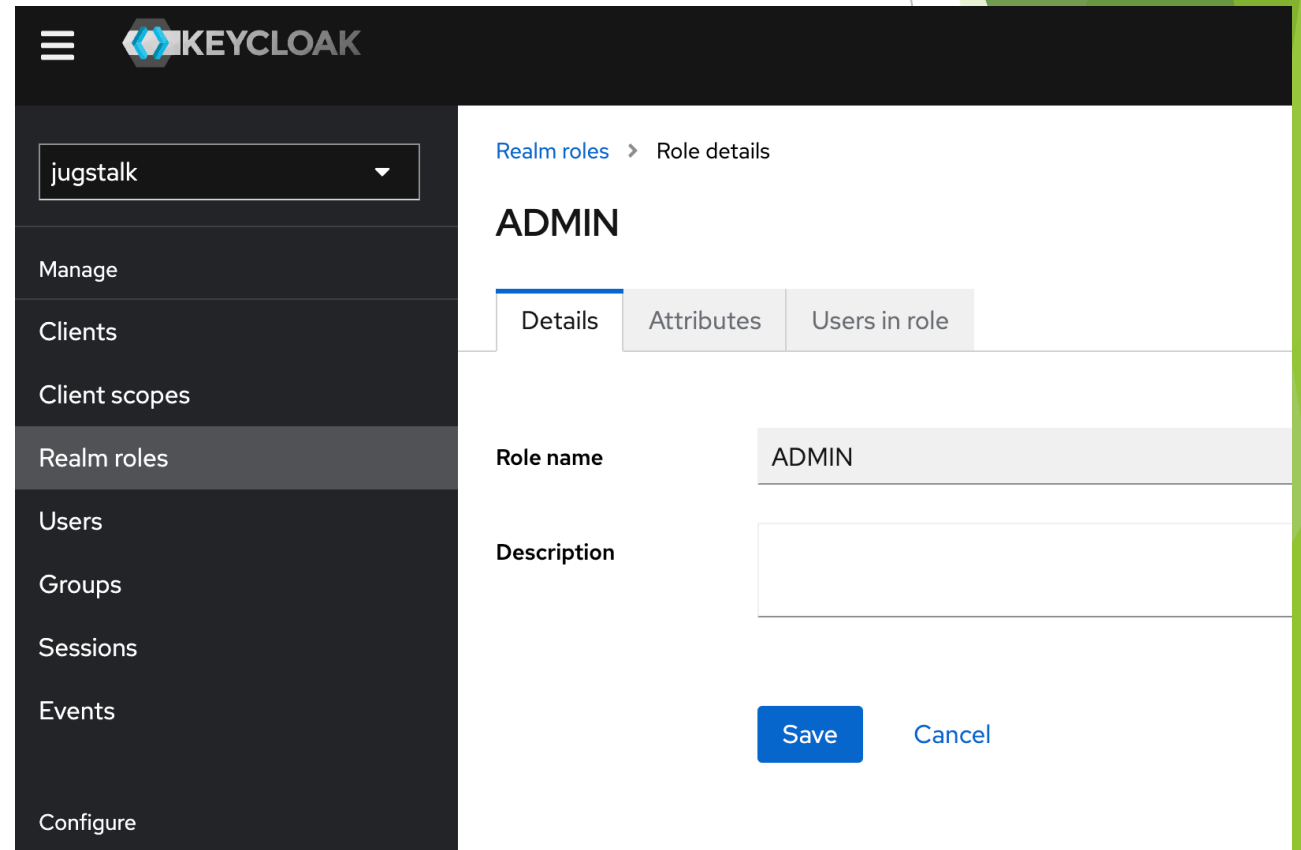
Spring Boot integration for Spring Authorization Server.

Example OAuth2 Roles



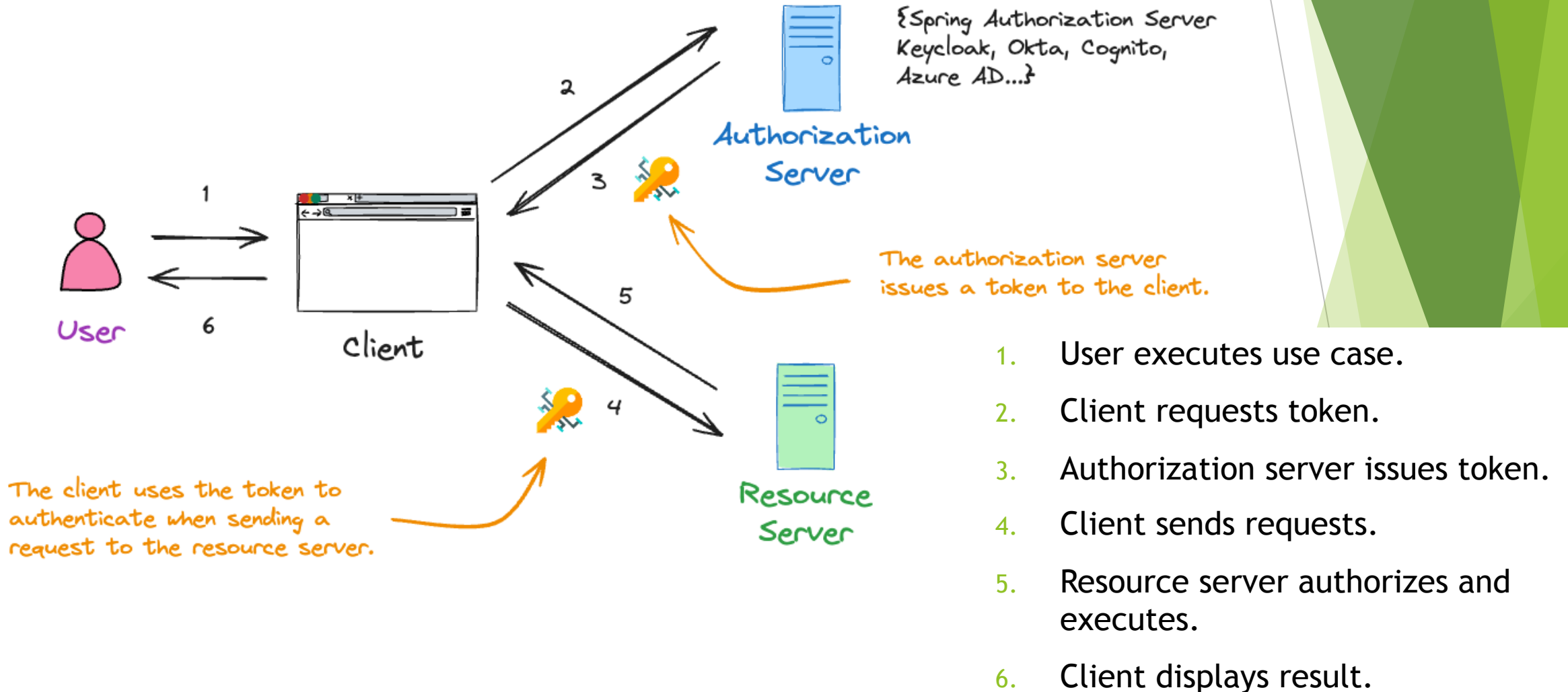
OAuth2 Authorization Server

- ▶ Instead of Spring Security's native Authorization Server, we may use Keycloak (as it is widely used in practice).



The screenshot displays the Keycloak administration interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with a menu containing: Manage, Clients, Client scopes, Realm roles (highlighted), Users, Groups, Sessions, Events, and Configure. The main content area shows the 'jugstalk' realm selected in a dropdown. The breadcrumb path is 'Realm roles > Role details'. The role name 'ADMIN' is displayed prominently. Below it are three tabs: 'Details' (active), 'Attributes', and 'Users in role'. The 'Details' tab shows a form with 'Role name' set to 'ADMIN' and an empty 'Description' field. At the bottom right of the form are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Authorization Server - Resource Server: Token Exchange (Bird's eye view)

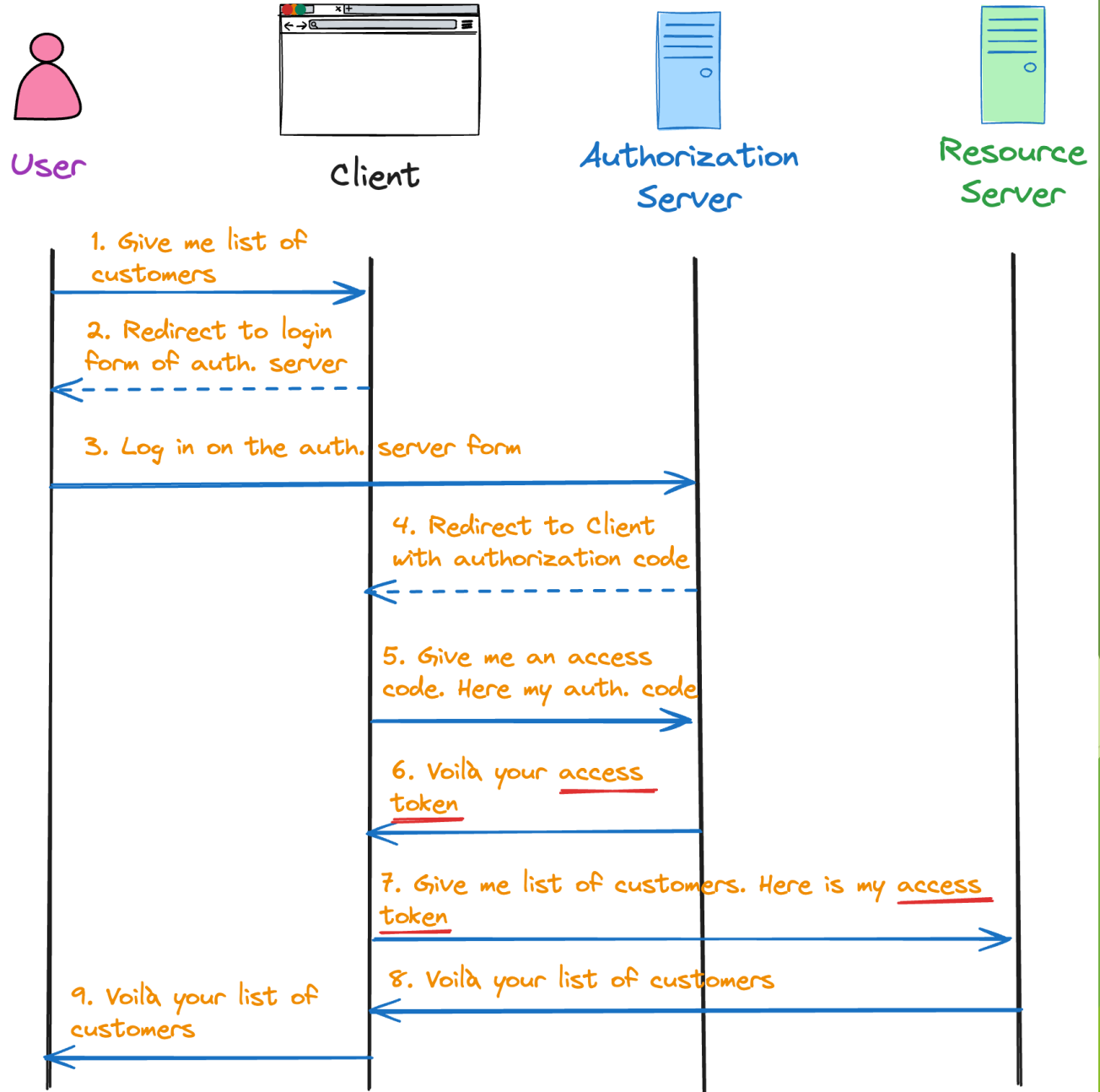


Getting a Token from Authorization Server with OAuth2

- ▶ An OAuth2 **grant type** is the method by which a client obtains a token. There is a whole range of approaches to how clients obtain their token from the authentication server.
- ▶ The most **common grant types** are
 - ▶ authorization code grant type (--> *access token, see next slide*)
 - ▶ authorization code grant type with **PKCE** (“pixy”, proof key for code exchange)
 - ▶ client credentials grant type

Also see: <https://oauth.net/2/grant-types/>

Example Authorization Code Grant Type



Access Tokens

	Access Tokens (OAuth 2.0)
Purpose	Access tokens are used for authorization purposes in OAuth 2.0.
Contents	Access tokens carry information about the permissions granted to the client application, such as the scope of access and possibly additional user attributes.
Usage	Access tokens are presented by the client application to the resource server to gain access to protected resources.

OAuth2 Resource Server Dependency

- ▶ By adding `spring-boot-starter-oauth2-resource-server` to a Spring Boot application, it can act as a protected API and validate **access tokens** from clients.

```
<dependency>
```

```
  <groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
```

```
  <artifactId>spring-boot-starter-oauth2-resource-server</artifactId>
```

```
</dependency>
```


Revised SecurityFilterChain Bean

```
@Configuration
public class AuthorizationConfig {

    @Bean
    public SecurityFilterChain configure(HttpSecurity http) throws Exception {
        // http.formLogin(Customizer.withDefaults());
        // Configures OAuth 2.0 resource server support for the application.
        // This enables the application to act as a resource server, capable of
        // accepting and responding to protected resource requests using access tokens.
        http.oauth2ResourceServer(oauth2 -> oauth2.jwt(jwt ->
            jwt.jwtAuthenticationConverter(jwtConverter)));
        // Converter is responsible for extracting relevant information from the JWT
        // token (like roles, expiry date etc.)
        // ...
    };
    return http.build();
}

}
```

See also <https://docs.spring.io/spring-security/reference/servlet/oauth2/index.html>

Demo 3

```
public class WebAuthorizationConfig {  
    public WebAuthorizationConfig(JwtConverter jwtConverter) { new *  
        this.jwtConverter = jwtConverter;  
    }  
  
    @Bean = jfr1 *  
    public SecurityFilterChain configure(HttpSecurity http)  
        throws Exception {  
  
        http.sessionManagement(s -> s.sessionCreationPolicy(  
            SessionCreationPolicy.STATELESS));  
  
        http.oauth2ResourceServer(oauth2 -> oauth2.jwt(  
            jwt -> jwt.jwtAuthenticationConverter(jwtConverter)));  
  
        http.authorizeHttpRequests((authorize) -> authorize  
            .requestMatchers("/v3/api-docs/**", "/swagger-ui/**", "/swagger-ui.html").hasAnyRole("ADMIN",  
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.GET, "/api/v1/courses/**").permitAll()  
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.POST, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")  
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.PUT, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")  
            .requestMatchers(HttpMethod.DELETE, "/api/v1/courses/**").hasRole("ADMIN")  
            .anyRequest().authenticated()  
        );  
        return http.build();  
    }  
}
```

Spring-Security-Talk > src > main > java > ch > letsboot > jugtalk > security > WebAuthorizationConfig

40:1 5 Δ/no remote LF UTF-8 4 spaces Demo_3

OAuth2 Client Dependency

- ▶ By adding the `spring-boot-starter-oauth2-client` dependency to a Spring Boot application, it can seamlessly act as an **OAuth 2.0 client**. This simplifies the process of integrating with OAuth authorization servers and accessing protected resources from resource servers

```
<dependency>
```

```
  <groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
```

```
  <artifactId>spring-boot-starter-oauth2-  
  client</artifactId>
```

```
</dependency>
```

SecurityWebFilterChain Bean

(as applied in Spring Cloud API Gateway)

- ▶ **SecurityWebFilterChain** is specifically designed for reactive applications using Spring WebFlux.
- ▶ Note: Spring Cloud Api Gateway is reactive.

```
@Configuration
@EnableWebFluxSecurity // Enables Spring Security for reactive applications
public class SecurityConfig {

    @Bean
    public SecurityWebFilterChain springSecurityFilterChain(ServerHttpSecurity http) {
        http.authorizeExchange(auth -> auth.anyExchange().authenticated())
            .oauth2Login(withDefaults())
            .oauth2ResourceServer((oauth2) -> oauth2.jwt(Customizer.withDefaults()));
        return http.build();
    }
}
```

Demos and more Details about Oauth2 Client

- ▶ Due to time constraints, I am not able to do another demo on this topic.
- ▶ However, there are many demos and additional explanations on youtube or on various tech blogs (e.g. Piotr's TechBlog, Dan Vegas Blog, Baeldungs Blog...).
- ▶ I would also like to point out that I offer a 2-day course on Spring Security. More information on the website of letsboot.ch. I offer free CHF 300 vouchers.



Comparison of Alternatives to Spring Security *(randomly chosen)*

Feature	Spring Security	Apache Shiro	JAAS*	Apache Fortress	PicketLink
Authentication	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Authorization	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Session Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Encryption	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Integrability	Spring, JEE, Servlet, etc.	Spring, JEE, Servlet, etc.	Java EE	Java EE, Spring, etc.	Java EE, Spring, etc.
Flexibility	High	High	Medium to High	High	High
Community Support	Active Community	Active Community	JDK Support	Active Community	Active Community
Complexity	Medium to High	Medium to High	High	High	High
Identity Management	Partial (depends on integrations)	Partial (depends on integrations)	No	Yes	Yes
SSO (Single Sign-On)	Yes	Partial (depends on integrations)	Partial (depends on configuration)	Yes	Yes
Social Login	Yes	Partial (depends on integrations)	No	Yes	Yes

JAAS = Java Authentication and Authorization Service



Conclusion



Spring Security at a Glance

- ▶ Spring Security is the cornerstone **security solution** for Java applications, seamlessly integrated into the Spring ecosystem.
- ▶ Its **flexibility**, combined with effortless **integration** and **continuous evolution**, enables developers to secure their applications with confidence.
- ▶ *From authentication to authorisation, Spring Security is the essential choice for secure Java development within the Spring framework.*

Additional Sources

- ▶ **Spring Security Website:** <https://docs.spring.io/spring-security/reference/index.html>
- ▶ **Spring Security in Action, Second Edition, Manning, 2024, ISBN 978-1633437975**
- ▶ **Authentifizierung und Autorisierung in der IT, Grundlagen und Konzepte, Hanser 2024, ISBN 978-3-446-47949-4**
- ▶ **Marcobehler-guide:** <https://github.com/marcobehler/marcobehler-guides/blob/main/spring-security.adoc>

Thank you!