

Recommendation for a good user flow for a Desktop App with custom integration

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Please note: There are two ways for a user to enter the Desktop App. By clicking on a link and by clicking through the customer website. So, to get both ways to work, some cooperation between Visiolink and the customer is needed.

Prerequisites

1. The actual user login must take place at the customer website, on a known URL (the Desktop App can only redirect to external URLs). The Desktop App will (as standard) add a redirection URL parameter to the external login URL¹.
2. The login URL at the customer website need to be able to catch the value of a redirection URL value from the query parameters. And use that redirection URL value to redirect the user to the Desktop App after a successful login.
3. The user-login-session at the customer login website need to persist, so a user that is logged in, will be redirected directly to the Desktop App using the redirection URL value².

¹ Actual logic for building the external login-URL incl. redirection URL value, will depend on the actual code in the customer specific integration logic.

² The precise URL will depend of the login code logic at the customer login website – might need some added parameter (e.g. one-time-token or similar)

User Flow

Please note that all the following URLs are dummy URLs

- 1) The user arrives at a Desktop App URL e.g. <https://epaper.example.com/titles/example/9999/publications/9999>³ - either directly from a link or from the customer website.
- 2) The Desktop App will check if it knows if the user already is logged in⁴.
 - a) If the user is not logged in, the Desktop App will redirect the user to the external user login-URL e.g. https://login.example.com/example/auth/?redirect_url=https%3A%2F%2Fepaper.example.com%2Ftitles%2Fexample%2F9999%2Fpublications%2F9999
 - b) If the user is logged in, the Desktop App will try to check if the user has access to open the wanted publication⁵.
 - i) If the user doesn't have access to open the publication, the Desktop App will redirect the user to a default URL (most likely the Login-URL) or a custom URL that can be delivered in the response from the customer callback service.⁶
 - ii) If the user has access to open the publication, the Desktop App will open the publication.

Recommendations for a login solution to securely handle the user-sessions connection between customer system and the Desktop App – requires custom integration code at Visiolink, so it's not applicable for a simple token exchange solution.

- Use an OAuth or similar login system to authorize the user. And have a second server-to-server service handle entitlement request⁷.
- Or send a one-time-token⁸ after login and have a second service that can deliver user-session-info server-to-server using the one-time-token. A third service will handle the entitlement requests.

³ The pattern of the actual URL will depend on which titles that are available in the Desktop App

⁴ Precisely how is established by the custom developed code for the integration

⁵ Precisely how is established by the custom developed code for the integration

⁶ Currently the initial request can only redirect to a default URL, but subsequent requests will use the delivered URL as an action in a popup internally in the Desktop App.

⁷ Precisely how is established by the custom developed code for the integration

⁸ A one-time-token is a token that is generated at login-time and represent the user session at the login website. The token is to be invalidated once the request to the second service (user-session-info service) has completed first time.