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encrypt and decrypt nginx variable values

[59 commits](#)[1 branch](#)[3 releases](#)[3 contributors](#)branch: **master****encrypted-session-nginx-module** / +Merge pull request [#6](#) from bloodyKnuckles/patch-1**agentzh** authored on Jul 12, 2014latest commit [387f23a837](#)**src**

fixed more warnings from the Microsoft C compiler. thanks Edwin Cleto...

a year ago

**t**

added (passing) tests for using "encrypted\_session\_expires" with "if".

2 years ago

**util**

feature: added debugging logs for expiration times during encryption ...

2 years ago

**.gitignore**

updated .gitignore a bit.

2 years ago

**README**

Typography tweaks.

7 months ago

**config**

bugfix: the -lssl option broke nginx linking when --with-openssl=DIR ...

3 years ago

**valgrind.suppress**

suppressed a valgrind false positive in libdl.

11 months ago

**README****Name**

encrypted-session-nginx-module - encrypt and decrypt nginx variable values

\*This module is not distributed with the Nginx source.\* See the installation instructions.

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This module is production ready.

## Synopsis

```
# key must be of 32 bytes long
encrypted_session_key "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456";

# iv must not be longer than 16 bytes
# default: "deadbeefdeadbeef" (w/o quotes)
encrypted_session_iv "1234567812345678";

# default: 1d (1 day)
encrypted_session_expires 2; # in sec

location /encrypt {
    set $raw 'text to encrypted'; # from the ngx_rewrite module
    set_encrypt_session $session $raw;
    set_encode_base32 $session; # from the ngx_set_misc module

    add_header Set-Cookie 'my_login=$session'; # from the ngx_headers module

    # your content handler goes here...
}

location /decrypt {
    set_decode_base32 $session $cookie_my_login; # from the ngx_set_misc module
    set_decrypt_session $raw $session;

    if ($raw = '') {
        # bad session
    }

    # your content handler goes here...
}
```

## Description

This module provides encryption and decryption support for nginx variables based on AES-256 with Mac.

This module is usually used with the ngx\_set\_misc module (<http://github.com/agentzh/set-misc-nginx-module>) and the standard rewrite module's directives.

This module can be used to implement simple user login and ACL.

Usually, you just decrypt data in nginx level, and pass the unencrypted data to your FastCGI/HTTP backend, as in

```
location /blah {
    set_decrypt_session $raw_text $encrypted;

    # this directive is from the ngx_set_misc module
    set_escape_uri $escaped_raw_text $raw_text;

    fastcgi_param QUERY_STRING "uid=$uid";
    fastcgi_pass unix:/path/to/my/php/or/python/fastcgi.sock;
}
```

Lua web apps running directly on ngx\_lua can call this module's directives directly from within Lua code:

```
local raw_text = ndk.set_var.set_decrypt_session(encrypted_text)
```

#### Directives

`encrypted_session_key`

set the key for the cipher (must be 32 bytes long)

`encrypted_session_iv`

set the init vector used for the cipher (must be no longer than 16 bytes)

`encrypted_session_expires`

set expiration time difference (in seconds)

For example, consider the config

```
encrypted_session_expires 1d;
```

When your session is being generated, `ngx_encrypted_session` will plant an expiration time (1 day in the future in this example) into the the encrypted session string, such that when the session is being decrypted later, the server can pull the expiration time out of the session and compare it with the server's current system time. No matter how you transfer and store your session, like using cookies, or uri args, or whatever.

People may confuse this setting with the expiration date of http cookies. This directive simply controls when the session gets expired; it knows nothing about http cookies. Even if the end user intercepted this session from cookie by himself and uses it later manually, the server will still reject it when the expiration time gets passed.

```
set_encrypt_session
```

```
set_decrypt_session
```

## Installation

This module is bundled and enabled by default in the ngx\_openresty bundle:

<http://openresty.org>

Alternatively, you can install this module with the official Nginx source code distribution like this:

1. Grab the nginx source code from nginx.org (<<http://nginx.org/>>), for example, the version 1.2.7 (see nginx compatibility),
2. Grab the NDK module from GitHub:  
[http://github.com/simpl/ngx\\_devel\\_kit](http://github.com/simpl/ngx_devel_kit)
3. and then build the source with this module:

```
wget 'http://nginx.org/download/nginx-1.2.7.tar.gz'  
tar -xzvf nginx-1.2.7.tar.gz  
cd nginx-1.2.7/
```

```
# Here we assume you would install you nginx under /opt/nginx/.  
./configure --prefix=/opt/nginx \  
  --add-module=/path/to/ngx_devel_kit \  
  --add-module=/path/to/encrypted-session-nginx-module
```

```
make  
make install
```

Download the latest version of the release tarball of this module from encrypted-session-nginx-module file list (<<http://github.com/agentzh/encrypted-session-nginx-module/tags>>).

OpenSSL should not be disabled in your Nginx build.

### Compatibility

The following versions of Nginx should work with this module:

- \* 1.2.x (last tested: 1.2.7)
- \* 1.1.x (last tested: 1.1.5)
- \* 1.0.x (last tested: 1.0.11)
- \* 0.9.x (last tested: 0.9.4)
- \* 0.8.x (last tested: 0.8.54)
- \* 0.7.x >= 0.7.46 (last tested: 0.7.68)

Earlier versions of Nginx like 0.6.x and 0.5.x will *\*not\** work.

If you find that any particular version of Nginx above 0.7.44 does not work with this module, please consider reporting a bug.

### Report Bugs

Although a lot of effort has been put into testing and code tuning, there must be some serious bugs lurking somewhere in this module. So whenever you are bitten by any quirks, please don't hesitate to

1. send a bug report or even patches to <agentzh@gmail.com>,
2. or create a ticket on the issue tracking interface (<http://github.com/agentzh/encrypted-session-nginx-module/issues> >) provided by GitHub.

### Source Repository

Available on github at agentzh/encrypted-session-nginx-module (<http://github.com/agentzh/encrypted-session-nginx-module> >).

### ChangeLog

### Test Suite

This module comes with a Perl-driven test suite. The test cases

```
(http://github.com/agentzh/encrypted-session-nginx-module/tree/master/test/t/ >
) are declarative
(http://github.com/agentzh/encrypted-session-nginx-module/blob/master/test/t/sanity.t >)
```

too. Thanks to the `Test::Base` (<http://search.cpan.org/perldoc?Test::Base> >) module in the Perl world.

To run it on your side:

```
$ cd test
$ PATH=/path/to/your/nginx-with-encrypted-session-module:$PATH prove -r t
```

`Test::Nginx` (<http://search.cpan.org/perldoc?Test::Nginx> >) is used by the test scaffold.

You need to terminate any Nginx processes before running the test suite if you have changed the Nginx server binary.

Because a single nginx server (by default, "localhost:1984") is used across all the test scripts (".t" files), it's meaningless to run the test suite in parallel by specifying "-jN" when invoking the "prove" utility.

Some parts of the test suite requires modules `rewrite`, and `echo` to be enabled as well when building Nginx.

TODO

Getting involved

You'll be very welcomed to submit patches to the author or just ask for a commit bit to the source repository on GitHub.

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#### See Also

- \* NDK: [http://github.com/simpl-it/nginx\\_devel\\_kit](http://github.com/simpl-it/nginx_devel_kit)
- \* ngx\_set\_misc module: <http://github.com/agentzh/set-misc-nginx-module>

