



Named Credentials

Securing and Simplifying API Callouts

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Agenda

- Background
- Common Options for Credential Storage
- Why Named Credentials?
- Examples
- Advanced Use Cases
- What's New in Named Credentials
- Recap and Resources



What are Callouts?

HTTP Callouts

Apex to integrate Salesforce with external systems via API

- Legacy or 3rd party back office applications - REST, SOAP APIs or even scraping web pages
- Online services such as Stripe.com for payment processing, Twilio.com for SMS/telephony, JIRA for Bug Tracking

```
HttpRequest req = new HttpRequest();  
req.setEndpoint('https://example.com/path/to/my/fancy/api');  
req.setMethod('GET');  
Http h = new Http();  
HttpResponse res = h.send(req);
```



Authenticating Callouts

Securing Your Integrations

Many APIs will require authentication

- Can't let just anyone access the API (think: confidential data, sensitive commercial secrets)

Different credentials for different environments

- Production, test, dev ... and others?

Different authentication mechanisms

- Password based
- OAuth 2.0
- JWT Tokens
- AWS Signatures
- Secret keys
- Custom Authentication Schemes

Named Principal or Per-User

- System/integration user, or different credentials per user



Hardcoding Credentials



“Why can’t I just put usernames and passwords in my Apex code?”

Maintenance Nightmare™

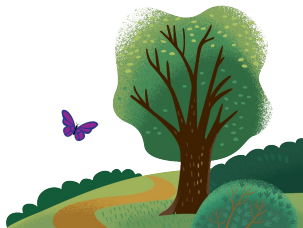
- What if the password has to be changed (e.g. password expires every 90 days)? Deploy code changes every time

Difficult to maintain changes in different environments

- How do you maintain different credentials between Development, QA, Staging, and Production orgs?

Not very secure!

- Code committed to Git; credentials visible to everyone
- Sandbox refresh, important production credentials become visible in plaintext to developers and others



Custom Settings, Objects, or Labels



“But what if I put it in a protected custom setting to keep it safe?”

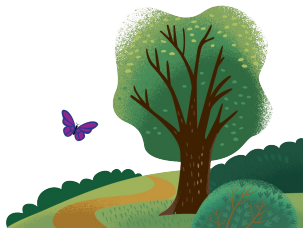
“But what if I use Custom Labels to store my credentials?”

Store credentials inside a Custom Setting/Metadata Type/Object

- Can avoid hard-coding this way
- Have to implement your own utility classes

Not really intended to store secrets

- Custom Labels are intended for localization, not for credentials
- Some unexpected ways to get access to custom settings





“Named credentials ... offloads the storage of credentials and authentication to a declaratively controlled process.”

Kevin Poorman

Salesforce MVP | [@codefriar](https://twitter.com/codefriar) | codefriar.com



Basic Auth Example


The Traditional Way

```
HttpRequest req = new HttpRequest();  
req.setEndpoint('https://example.com/path/to/my/fancy/api');  
req.setMethod('GET');  
  
String username = 'myusername';  
String password = 'mypassword'; // Or retrieve from Custom Setting  
  
Blob headerValue = Blob.valueOf(username + ':' + password);  
String authorizationHeader = 'BASIC ' +  
EncodingUtil.base64Encode(headerValue);  
  
req.setHeader('Authorization', authorizationHeader);  
  
Http h = new Http();  
HttpResponse res = h.send(req);
```




Basic Auth Example

Create a Named Credential

 **SETUP**
Named Credentials

New Named Credential


Specify the callout endpoint's URL and the authentication settings that are required for Salesforce to make callouts to the remote system.

Label 

Name

URL


Authentication

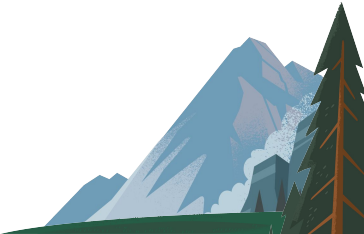
Certificate 

Identity Type

Authentication Protocol

Username

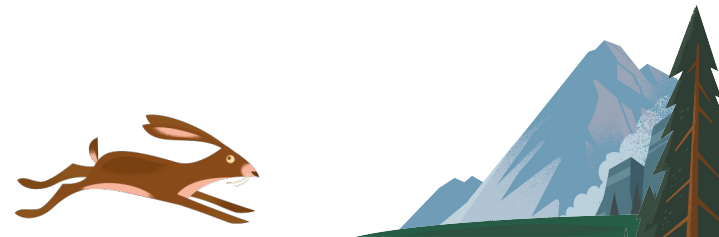
Password 



Basic Auth Example

With Named Credentials

```
HttpRequest req = new HttpRequest();  
req.setEndpoint('callout:My_Fancy_API/something');  
req.setMethod('GET');  
  
// No need to manually set any headers here. Salesforce will add this for  
us automatically  
  
Http h = new Http();  
HttpResponse res = h.send(req);
```



Complexity of OAuth 2.0

A Secure Industry Standard

Multiple steps with consumer keys/client IDs, client secrets, callbacks, scopes, access tokens, refresh tokens....

- Many moving parts

Token expiry and refresh

- Handing of refresh_token when sessions expire requires an extra step



OAuth Example

Create Auth. Provider



SETUP

Auth. Providers

Auth. Provider

Auth. Provider Edit

Save

Save & New

Cancel

Auth. Provider ID OSOIY00000000dD

Provider Type Google

Name

URL Suffix

Consumer Key

Consumer Secret

Authorize Endpoint URL

Token Endpoint URL

User Info Endpoint URL

Default Scopes



OAuth Example

Create Named Credential



SETUP
Named Credentials

Save Cancel

Label

Name

URL

▼ Authentication

Certificate

Identity Type

Authentication Protocol ←

Authentication Provider ←

Scope

Authentication Status Pending

Start Authentication Flow on Save



OAuth Example

Authenticate Named Credential



SETUP
Named Credentials

Save Cancel

Label

Name

URL

Authentication

Certificate

Identity Type

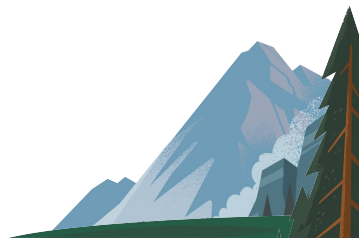
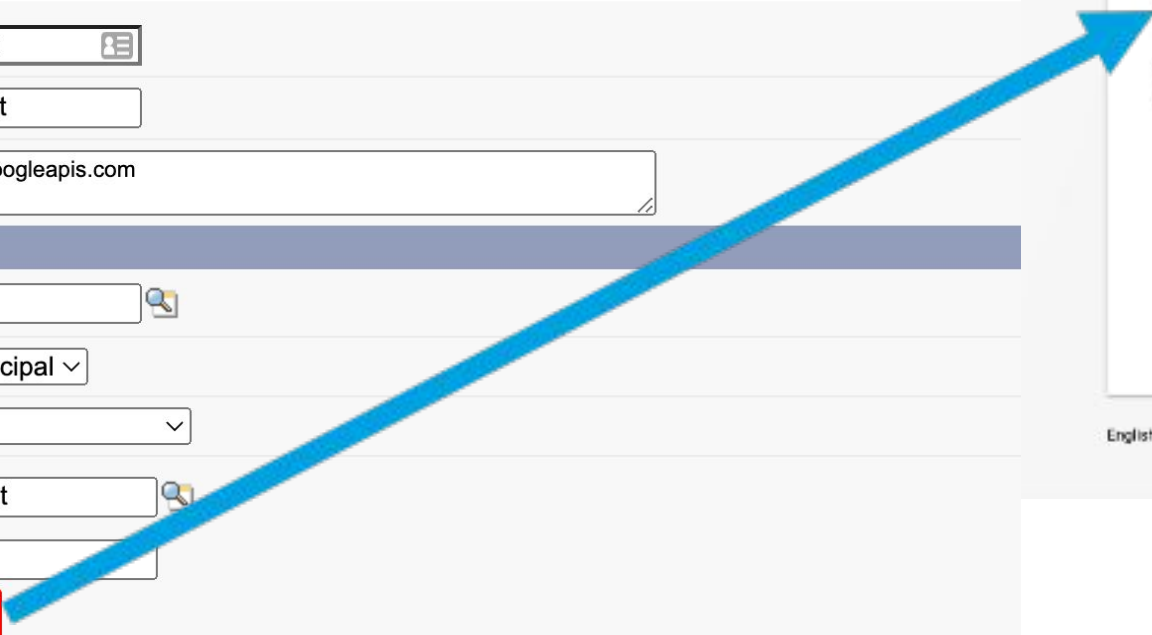
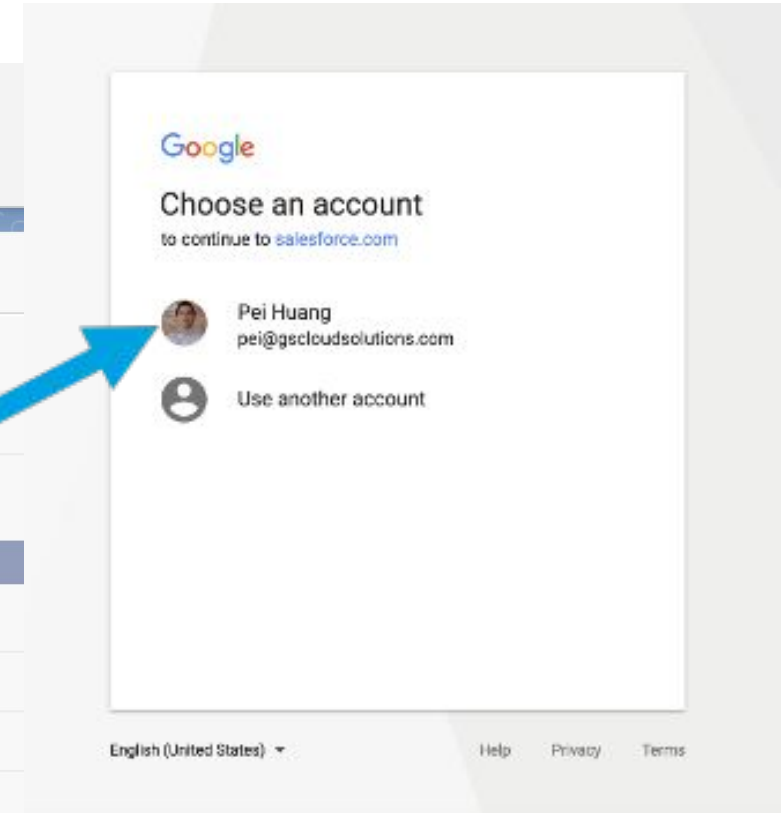
Authentication Protocol

Authentication Provider

Scope

Authentication Status

Start Authentication Flow on Save



OAuth Example

Named Credential Is Ready To Go!



SETUP

Named Credentials

Named Credential: Google Test

Specify the callout endpoint's URL and the authentication settings that are required for Salesforce to make callouts to the remote system.

[« Back to Named Credentials](#)

Edit Delete

Label Google Test

Name Google_Test

URL <https://www.googleapis.com>

Authentication

Certificate

Identity Type [Named Principal](#)

Authentication Protocol [OAuth 2.0](#)

Authentication Provider [GoogleTest](#)

Scope openid



OAuth Example – With Named Credentials

Simple Code

```
HttpRequest req = new HttpRequest();  
req.setEndpoint('callout:Google_Test/oauth2/v3/userinfo');  
req.setMethod('GET');  
  
// No need to manually set any headers here.  
// Notice how similar this code looks to the Username/Password Example?  
  
Http h = new Http();  
HttpResponse res = h.send(req);
```





OAuth 2.0 with Named Credentials

What Salesforce Does for You

Handles Web-Server Flow Via Declarative Setup Screens

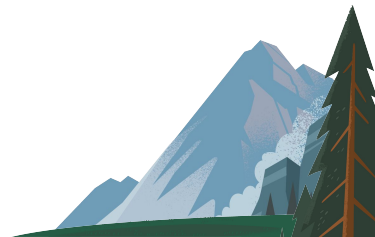
- 100% declarative setup process.- no code required

Generates and Appends the Authorization Header

- Authorization Bearer header is automatically added to your HTTP request

Refresh OAuth Access Token

- Salesforce will handle the refresh flow for you



Merge Fields

What About APIs That Don't Use The Authorization Header?

Generate Authorization Header

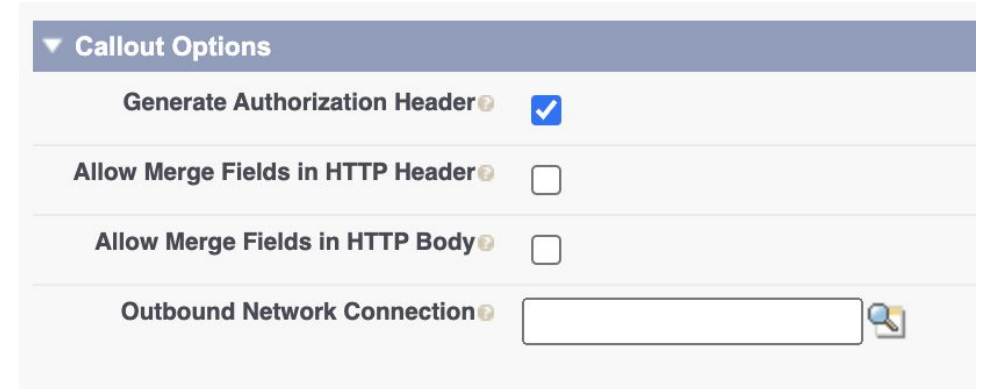
- Default – generates the Authorization header added to the HTTP request for you

Allow Merge Fields in HTTP Header

- Set your own custom header using values from the Named Credential – e.g. custom X-Auth headers or similar

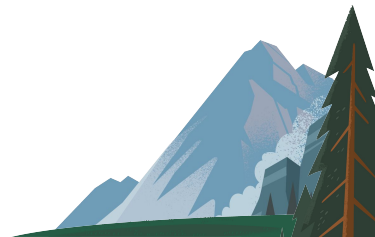
Allow Merge Fields in HTTP Body

- Set your own custom values in an HTTP body – e.g. SOAP API with Salesforce's Metadata API



The screenshot shows a configuration panel titled "Callout Options" with the following settings:

Callout Options	
Generate Authorization Header ⓘ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Allow Merge Fields in HTTP Header ⓘ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow Merge Fields in HTTP Body ⓘ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outbound Network Connection ⓘ	<input type="text"/> ⓘ



Merge Fields

Most Useful Merge Fields



Merge Fields	Description	Example
<code>{!\$Credential.Username}</code> <code>{!\$Credential.Password}</code>	Username and password of the running user. Available only if the named credential uses password authentication.	<pre>// non-standard authentication req.setHeader('X-Username', ' {!\$Credential.UserName} '); req.setHeader('X-Password', ' {!\$Credential.Password} ');</pre>
<code>{!\$Credential.OAuthToken}</code>	OAuth token of the running user. Available only if the named credential uses OAuth authentication.	

For full list, refer to

https://developer.salesforce.com/docs/atlas.en-us.apexcode.meta/apexcode/apex_callouts_named_credentials_merge_fields.htm





SOAP Example

Using Apex Wrapper for Metadata API

```
MetadataService.MetadataPort service = new
    MetadataService.MetadataPort();

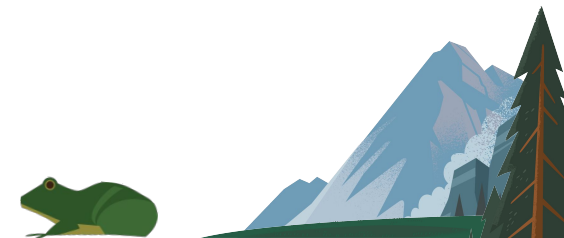
service.SessionHeader = new MetadataService.SessionHeader_element();

service.endpoint_x = 'callout:ApexMDAPI/services/Soap/m/41.0';

service.SessionHeader.sessionId = '{!$Credential.OAuthToken}';

// By using Named Credentials, we can now call Salesforce SOAP APIs
from batch classes and other contexts easily where a first-class
session ID is not readily available
```

Ref: My blog post at
<https://gscloudsolutions.com/tips-tricks/using-named-credentials-with-the-apex-wrapper-salesforce-metadata-api/>





Other Benefits

Why you should always use Named Credentials

No need to add Remote Site Settings

- Skip Remote Site Settings if you are using Named Credentials

Can reference the same Named Credential name in code across environments

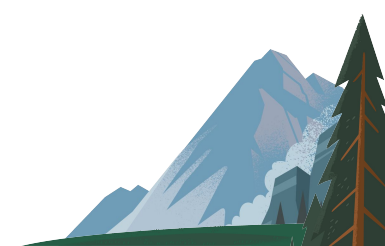
- No need to change anything in your code when moving between environments
 - simply update the Named Credential in Setup

Easy for admins to maintain

- Developers can remain at arms-length of production credentials at all time

Secure storage of credentials in Salesforce

- Secrets are stored securely by Salesforce – no need to reinvent the wheel



Per User Credentials



SETUP
Named Credentials

New Named Credential

Specify the callout endpoint's URL and the authentication settings that are required.

Save Cancel

Label

Name

URL

Authentication

Certificate

Identity Type

Authentication Protocol

Setup Home Object

Quick Find

- My Personal Information
 - Advanced User Details
 - Approver Settings
 - Authentication Settings for External Systems**
 - Change My Password
 - Connections
 - Grant Account Login Access

Authentication Settings for External Systems

Authentication Settings for External Systems

Set up user authentication for third-party systems or other Salesforce orgs.

Save Cancel

Authentication

External System Definition

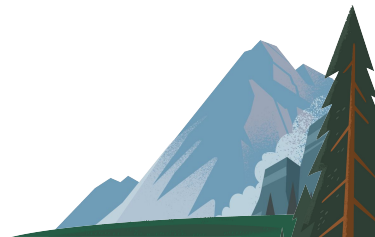
Named Credential

User

Authentication Protocol

Username

Password



Recap

Named Credentials Are Awesome!

Named Credentials solve the common problem of storing and maintaining credentials used for API integrations in Salesforce

- Simplifies and streamlines your code

Don't hard code your credentials in Apex!

- Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance

Empower admins to maintain and manage credentials

Secure storage of credentials in Salesforce

- Basic
- OAuth 2.0
- Custom schemes via merge fields

salesforce



Did You Know?

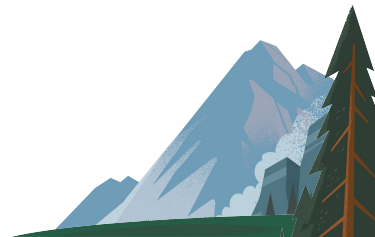
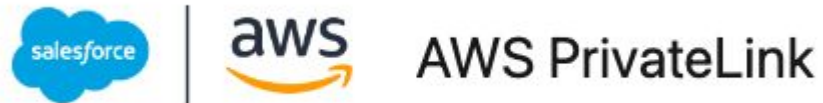
A lot has changed in Named Credentials in last couple of years

New Authentication Protocols (Summer '19):

- AWS Signature V4
- JWT
- JWT Token Exchange

Outbound Connections via Private Connect (Summer '20)

- Secure private access to your AWS environments

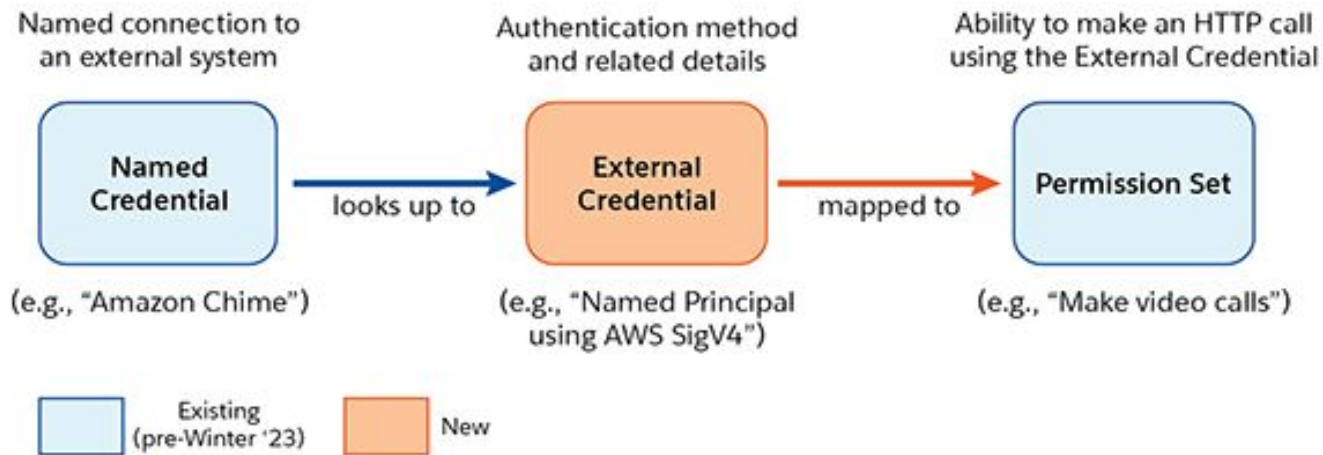


Coming in Winter '23 (SAFE HARBOR)



New architecture that supports:

- Custom name/value pairs for auth headers
- Per Permission Set assigned Credentials
- A new Lightning-native Setup UI



Resources

Check Out Trailhead To Learn More!

- **Secure Secret Storage:**
<https://trailhead.salesforce.com/content/learn/modules/secure-secrets-storage>
- **Apex REST Callouts:**
https://trailhead.salesforce.com/modules/apex_integration_services/units/apex_integration_rest_callouts
- **APEX SOAP Callouts:**
https://trailhead.salesforce.com/modules/apex_integration_services/units/apex_integration_soap_callouts
- **Data Integration Superbadge:**
https://trailhead.salesforce.com/en/super_badges/superbadge_integration
- **Develop Secure Web Apps:**
https://trailhead.salesforce.com/trails/security_developer



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Product Practice Manager

Presented: [Best Practices for Data Security in Experience Cloud](#)



Cameron Reid

Emerging Technologies Lead

Presented: [Diagramming for the Admin](#)



Leonardo Berardino

Principal Developer

Presented: [Open-Source Mocking Framework Based on Apex Stub API](#)



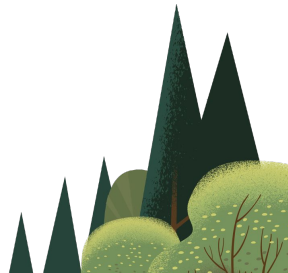
Gerauld Rivera

Marketing Cloud Product Lead



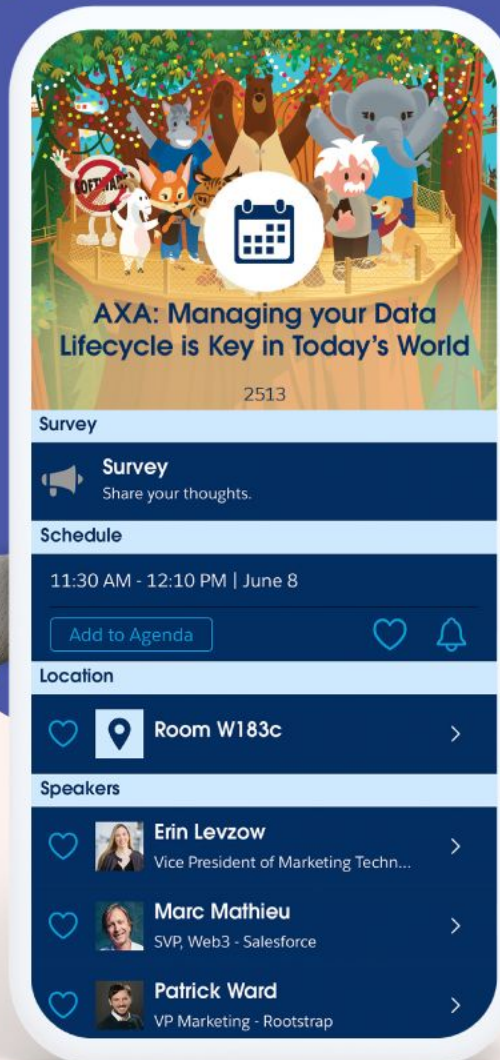
Colin Hamilton

Field Service Product Lead



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Q&A





Thank you

