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OPC UA – Access rights & permissions
Application level security

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OPC UA - Security

- Protocol level security is explained multiple times
- Based on username & password, messages crypted with certificates
- Application level security / protection can be done with:
 - Access rights
 - Permissions: role based access
<https://reference.opcfoundation.org/Core/Part2/4.12/>

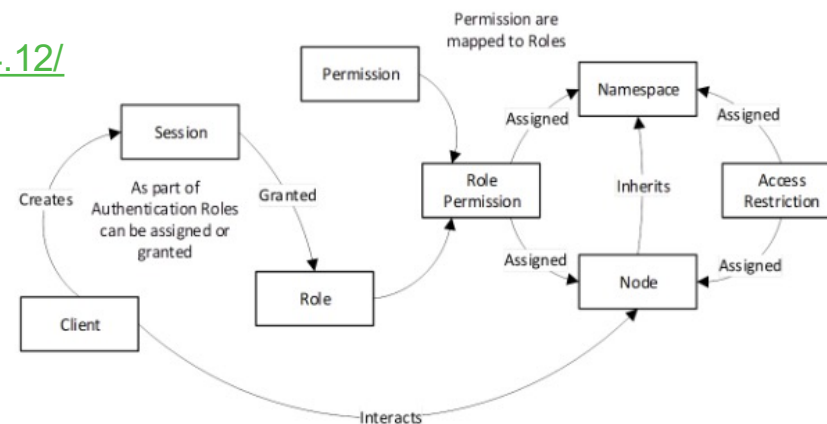


Figure 4 - Role overview

OPC UA – Access rights

- Access rights are "static" variable can have following access rights:
 - CurrentRead
 - CurrentWrite
 - HistoryRead
 - **Special:** NoSubDataTypes, Nonatomicread, Nonatomicwrite, WriteFullArrayOnly
- Normal use cases:
 - Variable can be read / write: "CurrentRead | CurrentWrite"
 - Read only variable: "CurrentRead"

OPC UA – Permissions

Role based access control (RBAC), username & password + role

- User has given role/roles based on username
- Role(s) selected as user "logins" => activates session

- WellKnownRoles:

- Anonymous
- AuthenticatedUser
- Observer
- Operator
- Engineer
- Supervisor
- ConfigureAdmin
- SecurityAdmin

Table 2 – Well-Known Roles

| BrowseName | Suggested Permissions |
|-------------------|--|
| Anonymous | The <i>Role</i> has very limited access for use when a <i>Session</i> has anonymous credentials. |
| AuthenticatedUser | The <i>Role</i> has limited access for use when a <i>Session</i> has valid non-anonymous credentials but has not been explicitly granted access to a <i>Role</i> . |
| Observer | The <i>Role</i> is allowed to browse, read live data, read historical data/events or subscribe to data/events. |
| Operator | The <i>Role</i> is allowed to browse, read live data, read historical data/events or subscribe to data/events. In addition, the <i>Session</i> is allowed to write some live data and call some <i>Methods</i> . |
| Engineer | The <i>Role</i> is allowed to browse, read/write configuration data, read historical data/events, call <i>Methods</i> or subscribe to data/events. |
| Supervisor | The <i>Role</i> is allowed to browse, read live data, read historical data/events, call <i>Methods</i> or subscribe to data/events. |
| ConfigureAdmin | The <i>Role</i> is allowed to change the non-security related configuration settings. |
| SecurityAdmin | The <i>Role</i> is allowed to change security related settings. |

OPC UA – Testing Access rights & permissions

UaExpert

The screenshot displays the UaExpert interface for a server named 'DNA-OPCUA-Server'. The main window is divided into several panes:

- Project Explorer:** Shows the hierarchy of the project, including servers, documents, and data access views.
- Server Information:** Displays various server parameters such as SessionTimeoutCount (14), SessionAbortCount (0), and CurrentSubscriptionCount (2).
- Server Status:** Shows the server is running, with parameters like StartTime, CurrentTime, and State.
- Server Redundancy:** Shows redundancy support is set to 'None'.
- Server Capabilities:** Lists various capabilities and their URIs, such as 'ServerProfileArray[0]' pointing to 'http://opcfoundation.org/UA-Profile/Server/Standard'.
- Attributes:** A detailed view of the 'DNA' node, showing its namespace, identifier, and a list of role permissions. Two arrows point to specific entries: 'Role permissions' points to the 'RolePermissions' array, and 'User Role permissions' points to the 'UserRolePermissions' array.
- References:** Shows relationships between objects, such as 'HasTypeDefinition' pointing to 'FolderType'.
- Log:** A table at the bottom for recording events, with columns for Timestamp, Source, Server, and Message.

Role permissions

User Role permissions

OPC UA – Read-only variable: EURange

UaExpert

The screenshot displays the UaExpert interface with the following sections:

- Project Tree:** Shows the hierarchy from Project to Servers, then to the specific server (DNA-OPCUA-Server) and its address space (TEST-AM/av/EngineeringUnits/ha/harm/hh/hha/hhhd/hhd/hyst/la/lamask/larm).
- Server Diagnostics View:**
 - Endpoints:** Lists session and subscription counts.
 - Server Information:** Shows parameters like StartTime, CurrentTime, State (Running), and BuildInfo.
 - Server Redundancy:** Shows redundancy support and server array details.
 - Server Capabilities:** Lists supported profiles and their URIs.
- Attributes View:** Shows detailed metadata for the EURange variable, including its data type (Range), access level (CurrentRead), and role permissions.
- Log:** Shows a successful read operation for the EURange variable at 04/10/2022 14:31:32.

Access rights: CurrentRead

OPC UA – Anonymous: read-only permissions – no history read!

UaExpert

The screenshot displays the UaExpert interface with the following components:

- Project Tree:** Shows a project named 'DNA-OPCUA-Server' with sub-items for Documents, Data Access View, Devices View, and Server Diagnostics View.
- Address Space:** Shows a tree structure under 'TEST-AM' with various nodes like 'Definition', 'EURange', 'EngineeringUnits', and 'adu'.
- Server Diagnostics View:** A table with columns: #, Server, Node Id, Display Name, Value, Datatype, Source Timestamp. It shows a single entry for Node Id 'ns1:String|TEST-AM/av' with Value '11' and Datatype 'Float'.
- Attributes View:** A detailed view of the selected node. It shows metadata like NamespaceIndex (1), IdentifierType (String), and NodeClass (Variable). The 'Value' section shows SourceTimestamp (04/10/2022 14.43.17) and Value (11). The 'Data Type' section shows Datatype (Float) and ValueRank (-1 [Scalar]). The 'Permissions' section is highlighted, showing 'RolePermissions' as 'RolePermissionType Array[1]' and 'UserRolePermissions' as 'RolePermissionType'. A specific role 'RoleId=15644 [WellKnownRole_Anonymous]' is listed with permissions 'Browse, ReadRolePermissions, Read'.
- References View:** Shows a table with columns Reference and Target DisplayName. It lists 'HasTypeDefiniti...' pointing to 'BaseDataVariableType' and 'HasHistoricalC...' pointing to 'HA Configuration'.
- Log:** A message log at the bottom showing successful operations: 'Browse succeeded.', 'Read attributes of node NS1|String|TEST-AM/av' succeeded [ret = Good], and 'Browse succeeded.'

Permissions:
Browse,
ReadRolePermissions,
Read

OPC UA – Authenticated user: read-only permissions

UaExpert

The screenshot shows the UaExpert interface with the following components:

- Project Tree:** Shows a project named 'DNA-OPCUA-Server' with sub-items for 'Data Access View', 'Devices View', and 'Server Diagnostics View'.
- Address Space:** A tree view showing the hierarchy of nodes, including 'TEST-AM' and its sub-nodes like 'adu', 'av', 'fa', 'fmask', etc.
- Data Access View:** A table with columns: #, Server, Node Id, Display Name, Value, Datatype, Source Timestamp. It shows a single entry for Node Id 'TEST-AM/av' with Value '0' and Datatype 'Float'.
- Attributes:** A detailed view of the selected node's properties, including:
 - NodeId: ns=1; i= TEST-AM/av
 - IdentifierType: String
 - Identifier: TEST-AM/av
 - NodeClass: Variable
 - Value: SourceTimestamp: 04/10/2022 7:43:57, Value: 0
 - RolePermissions: Browse, ReadRolePermissions, Read, ReadHistory
- Log:** A bottom panel showing system messages, including 'CreateMonitoredItems succeeded' and 'Item [NS1]String[TEST-AM/av] succeeded'.

Permissions:
Browse,
ReadRolePermissions,
Read,
ReadHistory

OPC UA – Operator: Write permission to modify values

UaExpert

The screenshot displays the UaExpert interface with the following components:

- Project Tree:** Shows a project named 'DNA-OPCUA-Server' with a 'Documents' folder containing 'Data Access View', 'Devices View', and 'Server Diagnostics View'.
- Data Access View:** A table with columns: #, Server, Node Id, Display Name, Value, Datatype, Source Timestamp. It shows a single entry for node 'av' with value '11' and datatype 'Float'.
- Address Space:** A tree view showing the hierarchy: TEST-AM > TEST-AM/av > av.
- Attributes:** A detailed view of the 'av' node's properties, including:
 - IdentifierType: String
 - Identifier: TEST-AM/av
 - NodeClass: Variable
 - BrowseName: 0, "av"
 - DisplayName: "", "av"
 - Description: "", ""
 - Value: 0
 - DataType: Float
 - AccessLevel: CurrentRead, CurrentWrite, HistoryRead
 - UserAccessLevel: CurrentRead, CurrentWrite, HistoryRead
 - RolePermissions: RolePermissionType Array[6]
 - UserRolePermissions: RolePermissionType Array[2]
 - Permissions: Browse, ReadRolePermissions, Read, Write, ReadHistory
- Log:** Shows three entries:
 - 04/10/2022 14.42.51: Attribute Plugin UNA-OPCUA-Server: Read attributes of node 'NS1|String|TEST-AM/av' succeeded [ret = Good].
 - 04/10/2022 14.42.51: Reference Plugin DNA-OPCUA-Server: Browse succeeded.
 - 04/10/2022 14.43.17: DA Plugin DNA-OPCUA-Server: Write to node 'NS1|String|TEST-AM/av' succeeded [ret = Good].

Permissions:
Browse,
ReadRolePermissions,
Read,
Write,
ReadHistory

OPC UA – Administrator: All permissions also to call methods UaExpert

The screenshot shows the UaExpert interface with the following components:

- Project Tree:** Shows the server structure under 'DNA-OPCUA-Server', including 'ServerCommands' and 'Reload'.
- Data Access View:** A table with columns: #, Server, Node Id, Display Name, Value, Datatype.
- Attributes:** A list of properties for the selected node, including 'Identifier', 'NodeClass', and 'Permissions'.
- Edit Value Dialog:** A dialog box for editing the 'Permissions' attribute, showing a list of permissions (Browse, Read, Write, Call, etc.) with checkboxes.
- Log:** A window at the bottom showing system messages, including 'Browse on node ... succeeded'.

Permissions:
Browse, ReadRolePermissions, Read,
Write,
ReadHistory
Call,
...

NOTE:
Only admin can browse ServerCommands

SUMMARY – OPC UA contains a lot of features that are not yet used

- Access rights and permissions are not yet widely supported
- This leads to applications with protocol only security
- Future will need more dynamic & variable specific permissions
- Example cases:
 - Hide folder and variables under it (business case sensitive production data)
 - Special methods for server administration (only for ConfigureAdmin role)
 - Multiple device vendors, allow access/visibility to devices based on different roles
- New Business Finland project (KONE, Valmet & Wärtsilä):
Cybersecurity Assurance for IEC62443 Based Environments CTAC
 - Target to build audit & reporting tool for security settings, access rights and permissions for OPC UA environments
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