Qlik Sense 3.2: Header Authentication

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Introduction: This document is part of a series I am working on which explains in detail how to set up and deploy a Qlik Sense Server installation in an Azure cloud environment and configure it so external users and ASP.NET applications can interact with it easily. In this tutorial, we will set up a virtual proxy in Qlik Sense and test it using a free version of the Postman Chrome app.

When to Use Header Authentication: Header authentication should only be used in development environments or for applications that are contained within a network (non-public) as there are some security and data visibility concerns which I believe should be addressed by Qlik. More on that in another document.

What's in This Document:

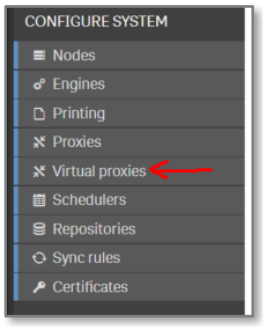
Setting Up a Virtual Proxy

1. Launch Qlik Management Console

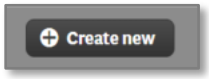
As an admin by go to http(s)://[path to server]/qmc and log in.

2. Navigate to the *Virtual proxies* page under *Configure System*

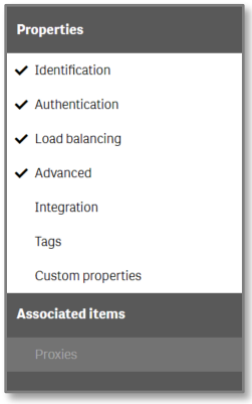
Can also be accessed from http(s)://[path to server]/qmc/virualproxies.



3. Click the *Create new* button at the bottom of the page



4. **On the right side of the screen under *Properties*, check the *Identification*, *Authentication*, *Load balancing*, and *Advanced* sections.**



5. **Complete the *Identification* section**

- ***Description:*** Whatever you want
- ***Prefix:*** Short and sweet
- ***Session inactivity timeout:*** Leave as the default (30)
- ***Session cookie header name:*** <u>You should change it from the default</u> (X-Qlik-Session-Header)

6. **Complete the *Authentication* section**

- ***Anonymous access mode:*** Choose no anonymous user
- ***Authentication method:*** I use active directory so I chose the option with the dynamic directory
- ***Header authentication header name:*** You'll use this later, make it memorable
- ***Header authentication dynamic user directory:*** Options for this field are in the blue text beneath the text field

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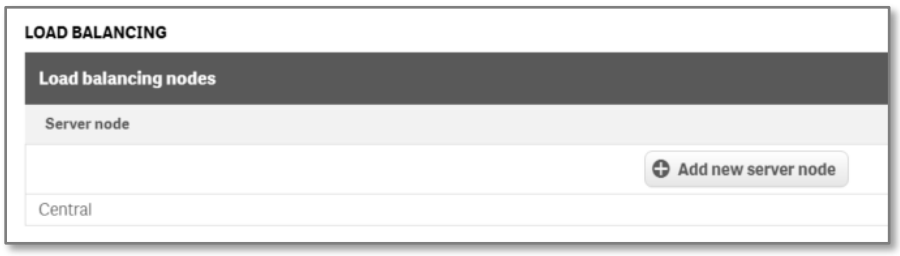
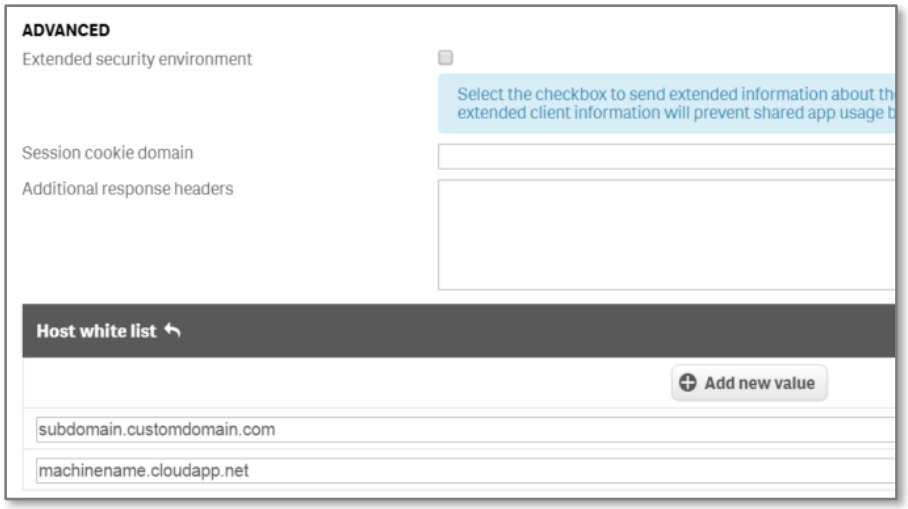
7. Complete the *Load Balancing* section

Make sure to add at least the Central node.



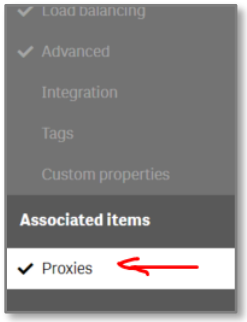
8. Complete the *Advanced* section

The entries in your white list should correspond with the machine name of the server running your Qlik Sense Server instance as well as the domain names of any SSL certificates you may have applied.



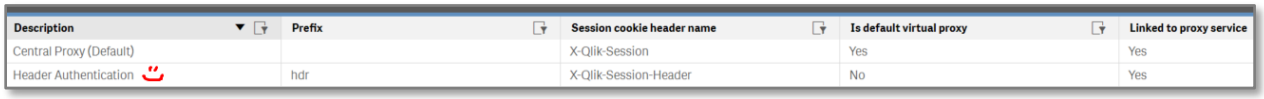
9. Link your virtual proxy

Click *Proxies* on the right side of the screen under *Associated Items*.



Click the *Link* button at the bottom of the page and select central proxy you would like to link to.

10. You did it!



Description	Prefix	Session cookie header name	Is default virtual proxy	Linked to proxy service
Central Proxy (Default)		X-Qlik-Session	Yes	Yes
Header Authentication	hdr	X-Qlik-Session-Header	No	Yes

Testing Using Postman

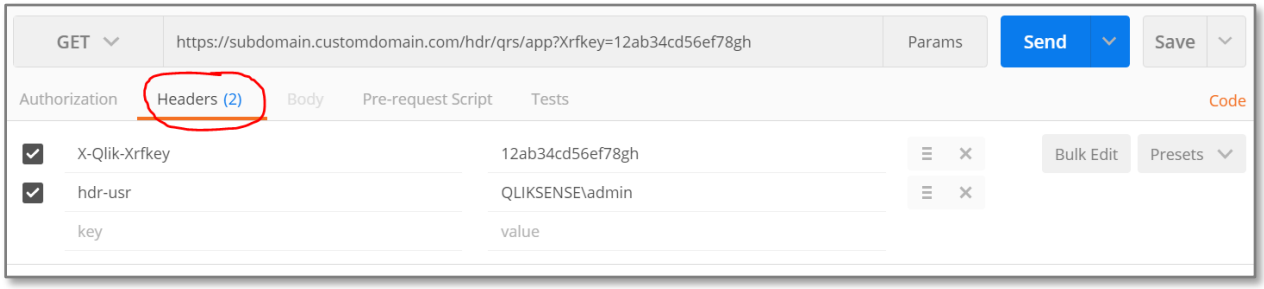
1. Download Postman

You can get the free version of Postman at the following link: https://www.getpostman.com/

The screenshots shown in this tutorial are from the Windows application which integrates with Google Chrome.

2. Set up the GET request and headers

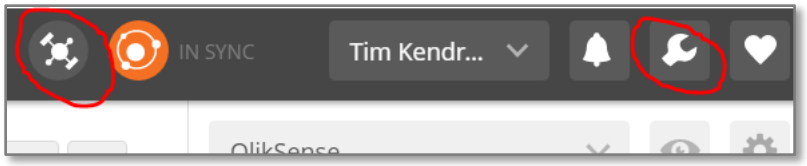
This example shows a request for app data from the Qlik Repository Service (QRS) using the credentials of the user "admin" in the domain "QLIKSENSE". Other examples of the QRS API endpoints can be found in this documentation.



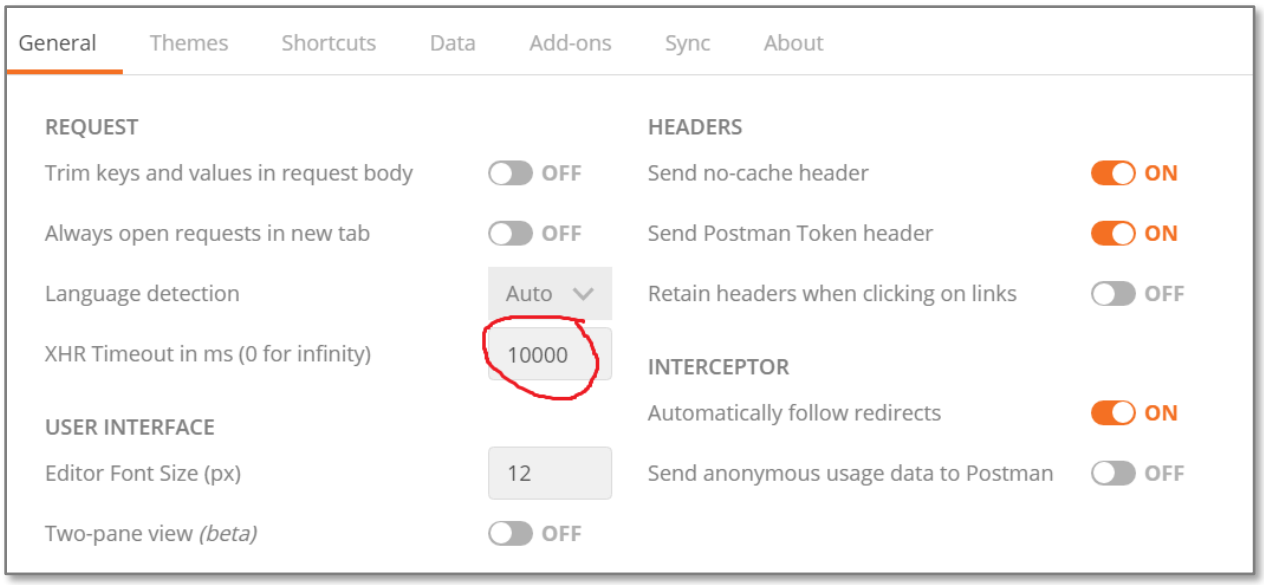
The X-Qlik-Xrfkey is a cross-site scripting prevention measure in the form of a 16 character alphanumeric string which must appear as a URL parameter and a header. The header "hdr-usr" is the what we specified when creating the vitual proxy's Authentication settings and the value of this header follows the pattern we specified: $ud\\$id.

3. Configure Postman for testing

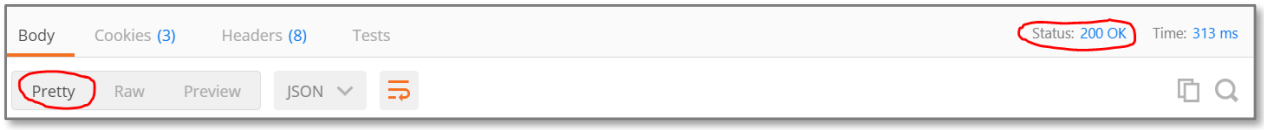
For better error reporting, turn on the Interceptor feature in Postman (the grey satellite icon). You will need to have Chrome for this feature to work.



Then click the wrench icon and go to the Settings menu. I like to turn down the "XHR Timeout in ms" setting to 10,000 (10 seconds), which is more than enough time to process a request and send a response.



4. Send the request and make sure everything is okay



Select Pretty to view a nicely formatted JSON response. Your status should be "200 OK". If your status is anything other than this, your response may be in the form of an HTML error page, or nothing at all and you will have to check your configurations.

5. Start exploring!

I had a lot of fun just looking around and seeing what information was available.

Link to the full documentation can be found here: full documentation.