

## Website Input - Feature #758

### Handle forms authentication

07/07/2014 09:03 PM - Luke Murphey

<b>Status:</b>	Closed	<b>Start date:</b>	07/30/2017
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>	Luke Murphey	<b>% Done:</b>	100%
<b>Category:</b>	Input: Web Spider	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	4.4		
<b>Description</b>			
Add support for forms authentication.			
<b>Subtasks:</b>			
Task # 1949: Use a wrapper around the http client			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1950: Include mechanize in the app			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1951: Create a web client wrapper around mechanize			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1952: Add options for forms authentication (backend)			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1953: Use form authentication in web client			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1954: Add ability to define form authentication on front-end			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1955: Update controller to work with web-client wrapper			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1956: Implement proxy support for mechanize			<b>Closed</b>
Feature # 1961: Update controller to support previews with forms authentication			<b>Closed</b>
Bug # 1962: Deal with unit test that responds with a 401			<b>Closed</b>
Task # 1966: Update documentation and text regarding HTTP basic authentication and form...			<b>Closed</b>
Feature # 1967: Improve handling for form fields			<b>Closed</b>
<b>Related issues:</b>			
Related to Website Input - Feature #1963: Auto-discover form fields		<b>Closed</b>	<b>08/02/2017</b>
Related to Website Input - Feature #1968: Add browser support for forms authentication		<b>Closed</b>	<b>08/07/2017</b>

### History

#### #1 - 07/07/2014 09:03 PM - Luke Murphey

"Sometimes you might need to create an account and login to access the information you need. If you have a good HTTP library that handles logins and automatically sending session cookies (did I mention how awesome Requests is?), then you just need your scraper login before it gets to work."

<http://blog.hartleybrody.com/web-scraping/>

#### #2 - 08/26/2014 04:14 PM - Luke Murphey

<http://wwwsearch.sourceforge.net/mechanize/>  
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/11685235/login-using-python-in-basic-html-form>

#### #3 - 09/03/2015 10:16 PM - Luke Murphey

Might be able to support with this: <https://github.com/lorien/grab>

#### #4 - 09/03/2015 11:18 PM - Luke Murphey

<http://answers.splunk.com/answers/301772/website-input-how-do-i-monitor-a-forum-that-requir.html#answer-305006>

#### #5 - 01/15/2016 06:07 PM - Luke Murphey

<https://answers.splunk.com/answers/339200/website-input-how-far-off-is-support-for-forms-bas.html>

**#6 - 01/15/2016 06:08 PM - Luke Murphey**

Might be able to make this work using mechanize (<http://wwwsearch.sourceforge.net/mechanize/>)

See <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/4847226/form-based-authentication-with-python>

**#7 - 01/15/2016 06:22 PM - Luke Murphey**

- Priority changed from Normal to High

**#8 - 05/04/2016 06:56 PM - Luke Murphey**

<http://wwwsearch.sourceforge.net/mechanize/>

**#9 - 07/26/2017 05:18 PM - Luke Murphey**

httplib2 doesn't seem to persist sessions very well, see:

- <https://github.com/jcgregorio/httplib2/wiki/Examples>
- <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/923296/keeping-a-session-in-python-while-making-http-requests>

Request is likely a better option: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/19566645/python-httplib2-https-login-fails>

**#10 - 07/26/2017 05:27 PM - Luke Murphey**

The user is going to need to define several things:

1. Authentication URL
2. Username
3. Password
4. Username field name
5. Password field name

Concerns:

1. How do I get the built-in client and the browser to both support this?
  1. Can the cookies be transferred?
2. What about CSRF protection?

**#11 - 07/26/2017 05:33 PM - Luke Murphey**

A conf file might look like this:

```
authentication_url=https://domain.com/auth
username_field=username
password_field=password
authentication_action=POST
```

## #12 - 07/29/2017 06:32 AM - Luke Murphey

Tried mechanize. It actually works. Here is a Redmine login:

```
import mechanize

url = "http://Lukemurphey.net/login"
br = mechanize.Browser()
br.set_handle_robots(False) # ignore robots
br.open(url)

br.select_form(nr=2)

br.form['username'] = 'Luke'
br.form['password'] = 'OPENSESAME'

res = br.submit()
content = res.read()
```

To use it, you will need:

- mechanize: <https://github.com/python-mechanize/mechanize>
- html5lib 0.999999999: <https://pypi.python.org/pypi/html5lib>
- six 1.10: <https://pypi.python.org/pypi/six>
- webencodings 0.5.1: <https://pypi.python.org/pypi/webencodings>

## #13 - 07/29/2017 06:43 AM - Luke Murphey

To convert this over, I would need:

1. The ability to obtain the raw HTML in `get_result_built_in_client()`
  1. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/9552773/raw-html-vs-dom-scraping-in-python-using-mechanize-and-beautiful-soup>
2. The ability to obtain the response code in `get_result_built_in_client()`
  1. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/11809696/python-mechanize-browser-openurl-status-code>
3. The ability to assign a proxy server in `get_http_client()`
  1. Note that `get_http_client()` is not currently used by scrape page
  2. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1997894/python-mechanize-proxy-support>
4. The ability to assign HTTP credentials
  1. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/5291576/basic-and-form-authentication-with-mechanize-ruby>
  2. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/40919543/python-mechanize-implementation-of-http-basic-auth>
  3. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1097380/can-python-mechanize-handle-http-auth>
5. The ability to set the user-agent
  1. <http://stockrt.github.io/p/emulating-a-browser-in-python-with-mechanize/>

I think I should also:

- Break out authentication from `scrape_page()` into a `setAuthentication()` call
- Put the HTTP client under an abstraction layer so that I can switch it out as I see fit

**#14 - 07/29/2017 06:44 AM - Luke Murphey**

- *Category set to Input: Web Spider*

- *Target version set to 4.4*

**#15 - 07/31/2017 04:21 PM - Luke Murphey**

[http://mechanize.readthedocs.io/en/latest/browser\\_api.html](http://mechanize.readthedocs.io/en/latest/browser_api.html)

**#16 - 08/02/2017 07:44 AM - Luke Murphey**

- *Related to Feature #1963: Auto-discover form fields added*

**#17 - 08/03/2017 08:00 AM - Luke Murphey**

Need to have some logging if the fields cannot be determined.

**#18 - 08/04/2017 04:45 AM - Luke Murphey**

- *Related to Feature #1968: Add browser support for forms authentication added*

**#19 - 08/04/2017 08:22 AM - Luke Murphey**

- *Status changed from New to Closed*