Web Authentication Redirection to Original URL

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Web Authentication Redirection to Original URL Overview

The Web Authentication Redirection to Original URL feature enables networks to redirect guest users to the URL that they had originally requested. This feature is enabled by default and requires no configuration.

Guest networks are network connections provided by an enterprise to allow their guests to gain access to the Internet and to their own enterprise networks without compromising the security of the host enterprise. Guest users of an enterprise network can connect to the guest access network through either a wired Ethernet connection or a wireless connection.

Guest access uses a captive portal to gather all web requests made by guests and redirect these requests to one of the guest on-boarding web pages. When guests successfully complete the guest workflow, they are redirected to the page that they had originally requested.

The originally requested URL is passed as metadata along with the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) guest access redirect URL. The Cisco ISE is a security policy management and control platform. It automates and simplifies access control and security compliance for wired, wireless, and VPN connectivity. The requested URL is added at the end of the Cisco ISE guest URL so that the device can send the redirect URL to the guest client. The Cisco ISE parses the URL and redirects the guest to the original URL after completing the on-boarding.

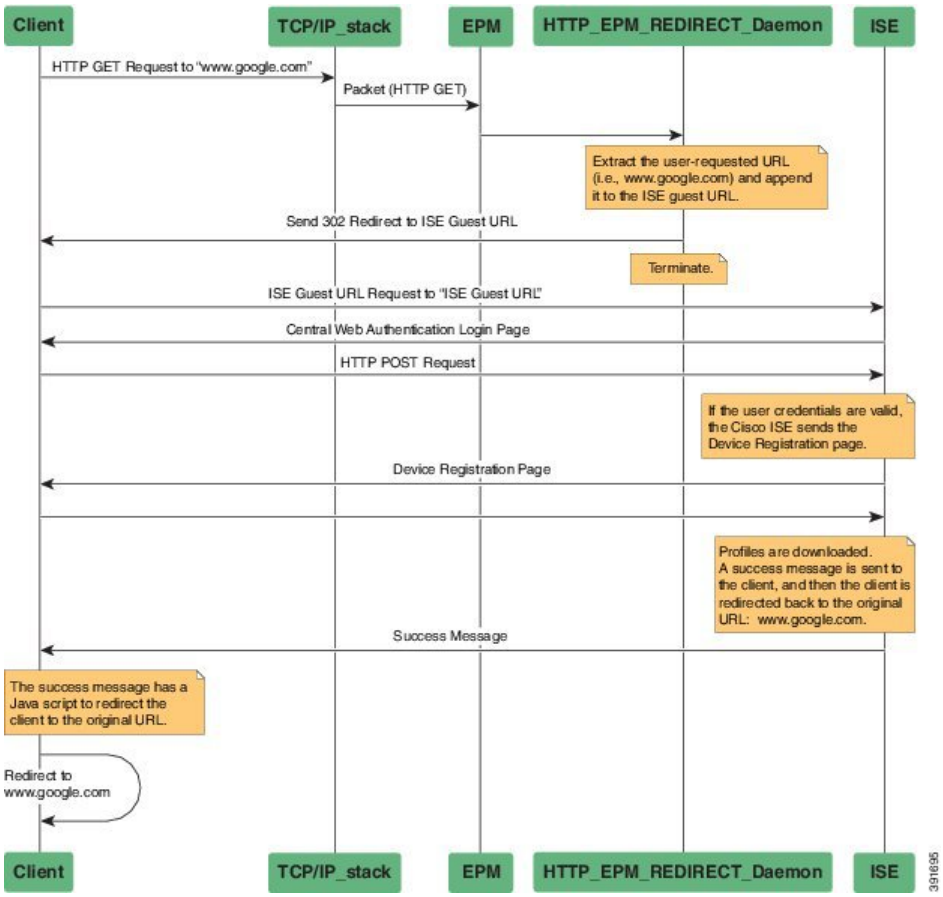
The following is an example of a redirect URL along with the original requested URL:

```
https://10.64.67.92:8443/guestportal/gateway?sessionId=0920269E0000000B0002426B&action=cwa&redirect_
url=http://www.cisco.com/
```

In this example, the URL, https://10.64.67.92:8443/guestportal/gateway?sessionId=0920269E0000000B0002426B&action=cwa is the URL for the guest portal, “&” tells the browser that what follows is a list of name value pairs, and redirect_url=http://www.cisco.com identifies the URL that the user originally requested and to which the user is redirected after completing the guest workflow.

This illustration displays the packet flow that redirects a user to the originally requested URL:

Figure 1: Original URL Redirection Packet Flow



1. A user accesses a network for the first time and sends an HTTP request to access www.google.com. When the user first accesses the network, a MAC authentication bypass (MAB) is triggered and the MAC address is sent to the Cisco ISE.
2. The Cisco ISE returns a RADIUS access-accept message (even if the MAC address is not received) along with the redirect access control list (ACL), the ACL-WEBAUTH-REDIRECT message, and the guest web portal URL to the device.

   The RADIUS message instructs the device to open a port that is restricted based on the configured port and the redirect ACLs, for regular network traffic.
3. When the user launches a web browser, the device intercepts the HTTP traffic and redirects the browser to the Cisco ISE central web authentication (CWA) guest web portal URL; the user-requested URL is extracted and appended to the Cisco ISE guest URL.
4. When the user is authenticated, the Cisco ISE sends the Device Registration page to the user. The user enters the required information, and the page is returned to the Cisco ISE. The Cisco ISE downloads user profiles and redirects the user to the originally requested URL <www.google.com>.

Feature History for Web Authentication Redirection to Originial URL

This table provides release and related information for the features explained in this module.

These features are available in all the releases subsequent to the one they were introduced in, unless noted otherwise.

Table 1: Feature History for Web Authentication Redirection to Originial URL

Release	Feature Name	Feature Information
Cisco IOS XE Everest 16.6.1	Web Authentication Redirection to Original URL	The Web Authentication Redirection to Original URL feature enables networks to redirect guest users to the original URL that they had request. This feature is enabled by default and requires no configuration.

Use the Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform and software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to https://cfnng.cisco.com.