

Chaining Plugin Manual

Provided by XPA Systems, <http://www.xpasystems.com>
for pGina, <http://pgina.xpasystems.com>



What is the Chaining Plugin?

The chain plugin allows for 'stacking' pGina plugins. In doing this, it is possible to have pGina utilize more than one plugin at a time for authentication. This allows for authentication by any number of existing or custom plugins. For instance, if an organization was to create a custom plugin that simply logged individual user accesses to a database, they would not have to also include logic for authenticating users. The organization could stack their plugin under an existing plugin (such as the PAM plugin). By doing this, their plugin gets called after a user is authenticated with the first plugin.

Requirements

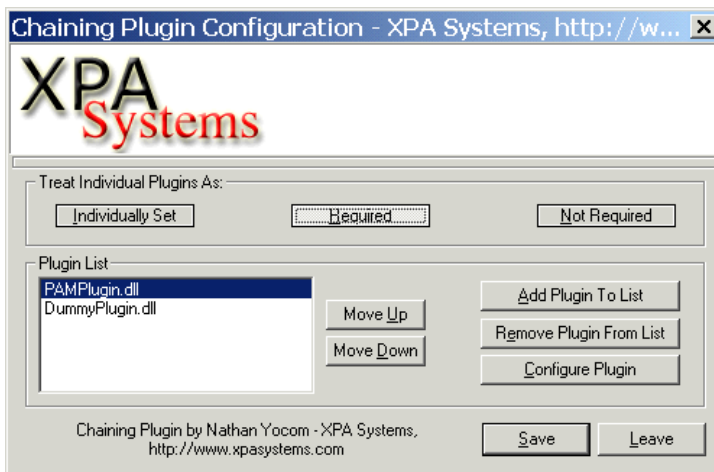
The plugin portion requires only 1 MB of disk space and pGina 1.6.2 or higher.

Installing the Plugin

After downloading the installer provided on the pGina website (<http://pgina.xpasystems.com>) simply run it. This will install the plugin and set it as the default pGina plugin. Note that it does not configure the plugin itself – you MUST do this prior to rebooting!

Configuring the Plugin

Configuration of the plugin is performed just as any other plugin – run the configuration utility that was provided with pGina 1.6.2 or higher, select “Load Plugin” and choose the pGinaChain.dll from the location to which you installed in the previous step. This will invoke the configuration dialog shown in Figure 1.



The first choice to be made is what rules you want to require the plugins under. The first option “Individually Set” indicates that each plugin is to indicate whether it is required or not. When a plugin that is required fails during authentication, processing stops and plugins below it in the stack are not reached. Failure of a non-required plugin results in continuation of authentication (but not necessarily in a successful authentication).

Setting this option to “Required” causes pGina to ignore the required status of individual plugins, and results in all plugins being treated as required. In this case, should any plugin in the stack fail, processing of the stack stops and the authentication attempt fails.

The last option, “Not Required” causes pGina to ignore the required status of individual plugins, and results in all plugins being treated as non-required. This indicates that should all plugins in the stack fail, pGina may attempt to authenticate users against the

local system. Note that regardless of choice for this option, existing local administrator accounts will always be allowed access, despite required plugins failure status.

The last thing that the configuration dialog provides, is a list of the plugins that will be used – displayed in order from top to bottom as they will be processed in the ‘stack’ by pGina. Plugins may be added, removed, or shifted in the list accordingly. You may also configure the individual plugins by adding them to the list, then selecting them and pressing the “Configure Plugin” button.