
Machine and User Authentication with Bluesocket Transparent 802.1x-PEAP-MSCHAPv2 and Windows clients

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Overview

The Bluesocket Transparent 802.1x authentication offers client PCs the possibility to have a seamless logon to their Windows domain and be automatically authenticated to the BlueSecure Wireless LAN over an encrypted wireless connection.

From a user's perspective, the implications of this approach are that they can move from a wired connection to a wireless connection completely transparently. Also the solution provides a single sign on experience, no additional credentials for the wireless connection are required.

The solution described in this tech note utilizes:

- BlueSecure Access Points (or 3rd party APs)
- BlueSecure Controller
- Microsoft Windows 2003 Enterprise Edition with built-in 802.1x compliant RADIUS server (IAS)
- Standard Windows "wireless zero configuration" supplicant on the client PC, i.e. no additional client software is required over and above the built-in Windows 802.1X supplicant.
- 802.1x authentication with EAP-PEAP-MSCHAPv2

The approach uses a two step 802.1x authentication:

Step 1: Machine Authentication to the domain

Step 2: User Authentication via the standard Windows login prompt

The use of transparent 802.1X authentication method is required in order to provide the initial machine authentication via 802.1X to the Windows domain and IAS. If only user authentication is required, you can also select the Bluesocket's Internal 802.1x authentication method. See our tech notes about *Internal 802.1x Authentication* and *Single Sign On with 802.1x Authentication*.

A separate LDAP query to the AD server can be used to dynamically place the users in a role based on their returned AD attributes.

Required configuration steps:

1. Configure transparent 802.1x on Bluesocket Controller
2. Configure the Microsoft 2003 certificate infrastructure
3. Configure Active Directory for accounts and groups
4. Configure IAS server for 802.1X authentication
5. Configure Windows Wireless clients

1. How to Configure Transparent 802.1X authentication on the BSC

The configuration on the BSC is simple and straight forward:

- an LDAP server for role placement
- Transparent 802.1X server for 802.1X authentication
- BlueSecure Access Points and SSID configuration

1a LDAP Server

On the LDAP configuration, we specify what role to put users into based on their Distinguished Name, but leave the default role as Domain Machines. This provides a simple mechanism for putting machines into a separate machine role when they initially authenticate as machine.

Mapping LDAP/Active Directory attributes to roles
 When a user successfully authenticates against the server the following rules are checked in numerical order.
 If a rule matches then the user is assigned the role, and no further rule is checked.
 If no rules match, the user is assigned the default role.

if	Attribute	logic	Value	then Role is	Row Management...
1	distinguishedname	contains	OU=Staff	BSStaff Role	
2	distinguishedname	contains	OU=Student	Student	
3	distinguishedname	contains	OU=Faculty	Faculty	
4					

Default role
 Domain Machines

Role: Domain Machines

This role would allow access to just the Domain Controller and hence protect a stolen machine that's registered on the domain from being used to attack the network without the user logging on.

In the example below traffic is limited between the domain controller and 802.1x users (VLAN).

Policy	Action	Service	Direction	Destination	during Schedule	with User Location	Row Management...
1	Allow	Any	Both ways	Domain Controller	Any	802.1x	
2							
3							

It may also be useful to only opening ports in the "domain machine" role (or un-registered role) for windows authentication, so that the machine is allowed to talk to the domain controller on various NTLM ports (Kerberos, MS-DS, Loc-srv, netbios and LDAP). The required ports are:

- 135 TCP RPC Distributed File System Dfs
- 138 UDP NetBIOS Datagram Service Distributed File System Dfs
- 139 TCP NetBIOS Session Service Distributed File System Dfs
- 389 TCP LDAP Server Distributed File System Dfs
- 389 UDP LDAP Server Distributed File System Dfs
- 445 TCP SMB Distributed File System Dfs
- 445 TCP SMB Net Logon Dfs

1b: Transparent 802.1x Server

The configuration of Transparent 802.1X server is very simple to configure; first we give it the address of the RADIUS server (in this case 172.16.0.2):

Enable server

Name

Name to identify this server.

Transparent 802.1x server settings

Server address [See hosts...](#) Port
The IP address or DNS name of the Transparent 802.1x server.

Secondly, we specify that the LDAP server should be used for role placement:

Default role or using LDAP/Active Directory server

Summary external authentication servers:

Actions	Enabled	Name	Default role	Type	Address
<input type="checkbox"/>	All		All	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Transparent 802.1X server	[Domain Machines via LDAP]	Transparent 802.1x	172.16.0.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	LDAP	Domain Machines	LDAP/Active Directory	172.16.0.2

1c: BlueSecure Access Points and SSID Configuration

We then configure the APs to act as the Authenticator for 802.1X. In this case, we are using BlueSecure Access Points (BSAPs) and hence via the BSC, we create a new SSID for 802.1X that will be loaded onto the BSAPs:

Actions	Radio Defaults	SSID	VLAN	Authentication	Cipher
<input type="checkbox"/>	All				
<input type="checkbox"/>	a and b/g	BSC1_Trans8021x	100	WPA+WPA2	TKIP or AES-CCM

SSID VLAN
Enter SSID and VLAN tag (2-4094, 0 for no VLAN)

The important setting here is the security settings for which we select WPA (or WPA2) and TKIP (or AES). Note the RADIUS server is configured to be the external Windows 2003 IAS RADIUS server.

Security Types

Authentication Type Cipher Type

RADIUS Settings

Address Port
Enter the IP address or hostname of the RADIUS server.
 If the field is blank, the protected IP address of the BSC is assumed for Internal 802.1x configurations.

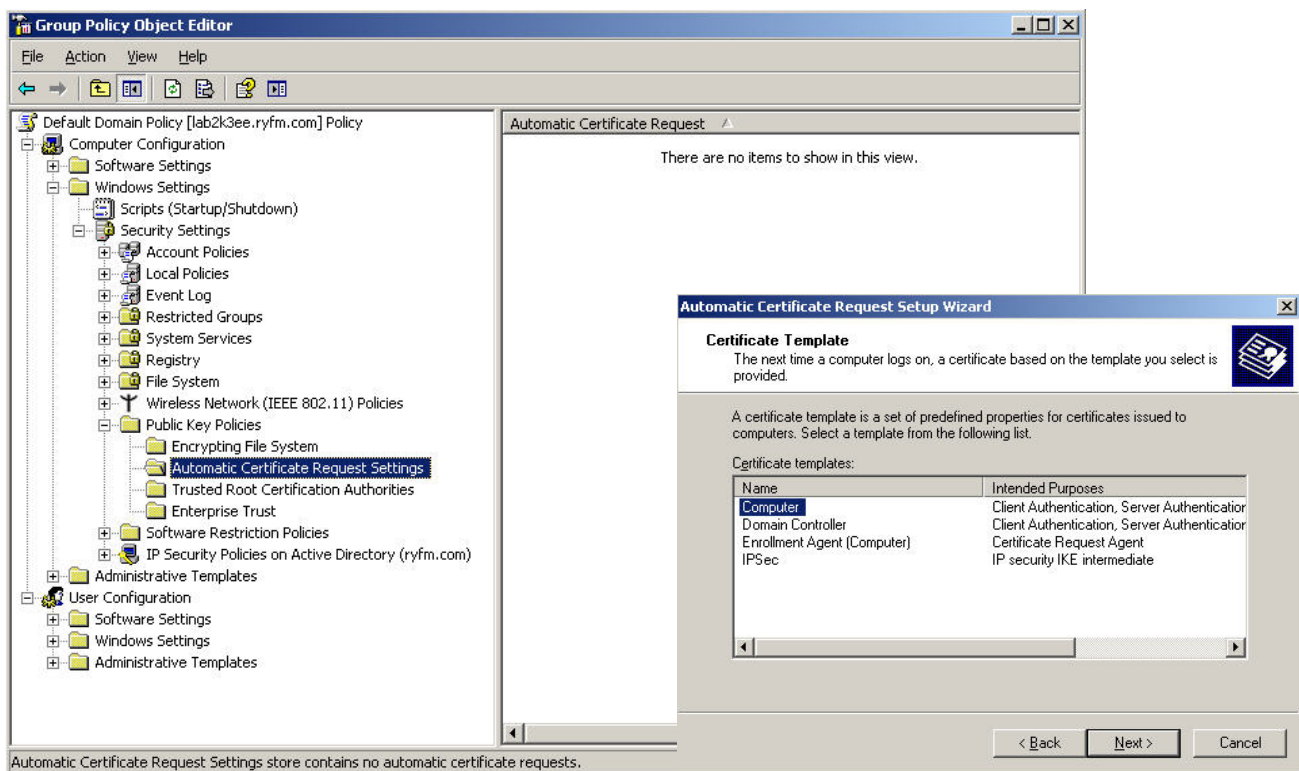
2. Configure the Microsoft 2003 certificate infrastructure

We assume a server certificate is already issued by a Certificate Authority and installed on the IAS server (see Appendix A for an example of doing this using the Windows CA).

If you would like to validate the server certificate on the client PCs (see also paragraph 5 ‘Configure Wireless clients’), you can configure a group policy for automatic distribution of the computer certificate to any computers in an Active Directory container (a domain, site, or organizational unit). Or you choose to copy manually the certificate.

To configure computer certificate auto enrollment for an enterprise CA:

1. Open the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in.
2. In the console tree, double-click Active Directory Users and Computers, right-click the domain name to which your CA belongs, and then click Properties.
3. On the Group Policy tab, click the appropriate Group Policy object (the default object is Default Domain Policy), and then click Edit.
4. In the console tree, open Computer Configuration, then Windows Settings, then Security Settings, then Public Key Policies, then Automatic Certificate Request Settings.



5. Right-click Automatic Certificate Request Settings, point to New, and then click Automatic Certificate Request.
6. The Automatic Certificate Request wizard appears. Click next.
7. In Certificate templates, click Computer, and then click next.
8. Your enterprise CA appears on the list.
9. Click the enterprise CA, click next, and then click Finish.
10. Force a refresh of Computer Configuration Group Policy by typing **gpupdate /target:computer** from a command prompt.

3. Configure Active Directory for Accounts and Groups

We assume that Active Directory is already configured in order that user and computer accounts and groups have wireless access through 802.1x.

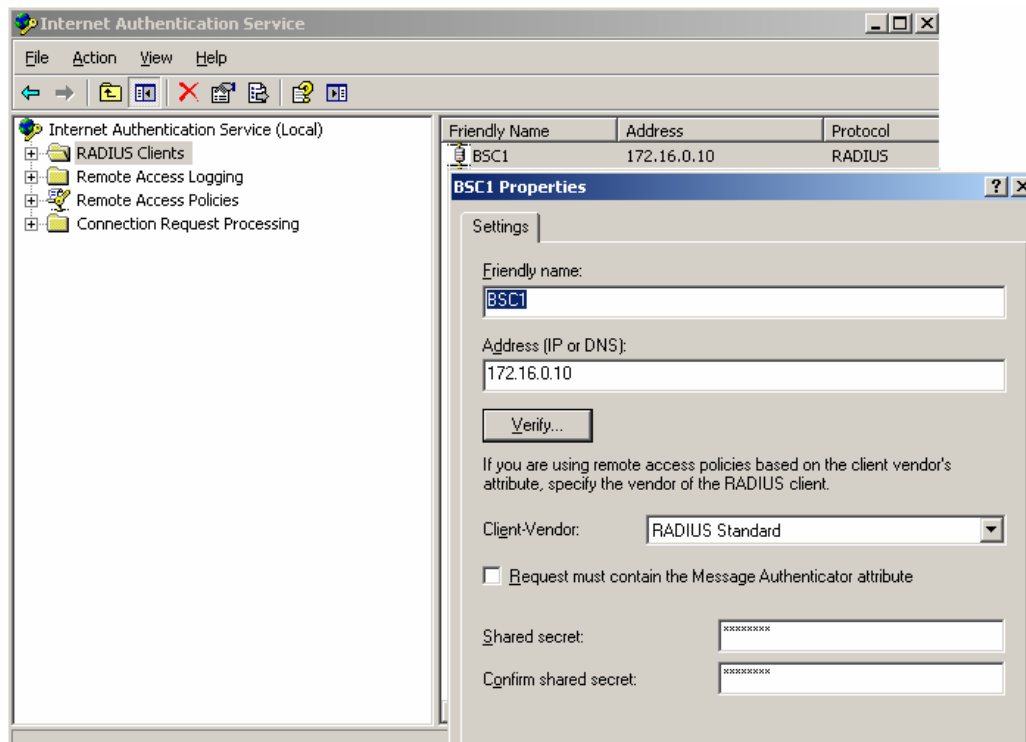
Some steps to ensure:

1. All users that are making wireless connections have a corresponding user account.
2. All computers that are making wireless connections have a corresponding computer account.
3. The remote access permission on user and computer accounts to the appropriate setting (either Allow access or Control access through Remote Access Policy).

To simplify the configuration of a wireless remote access policy on the IAS servers, organize your wireless access user and computer accounts into the appropriate groups. For a nativemode domain, you can use universal and nested global groups. For example, create a universal group named 'WirelessUsers' that contains global groups of wireless user and computer accounts for intranet access.

4. Configuring IAS for 802.1X authentication

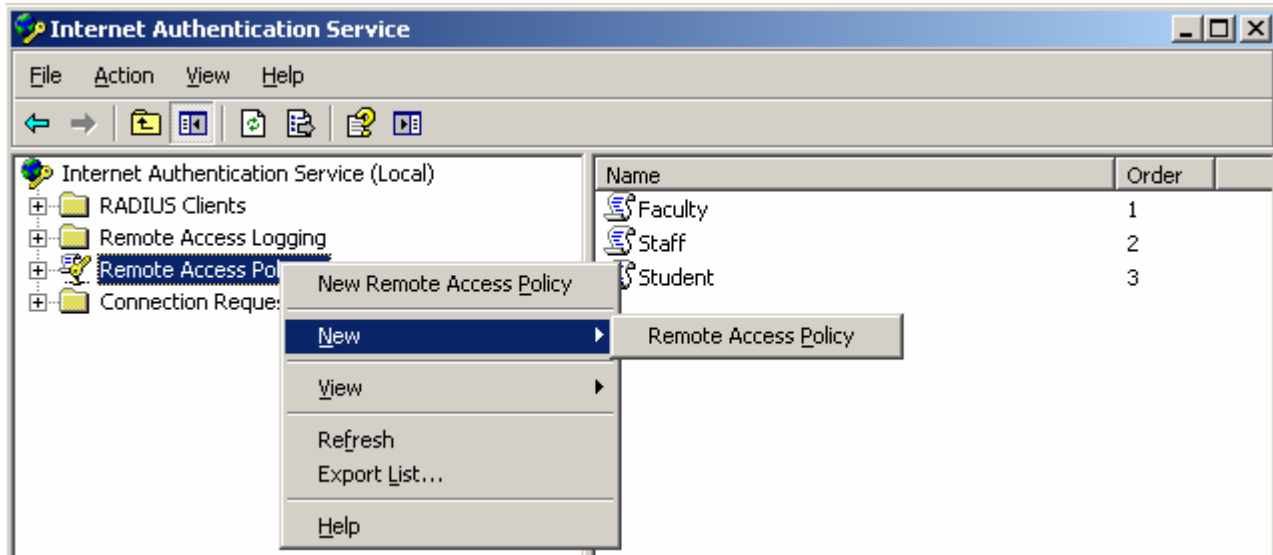
4a: Creating radius client representing the BSC



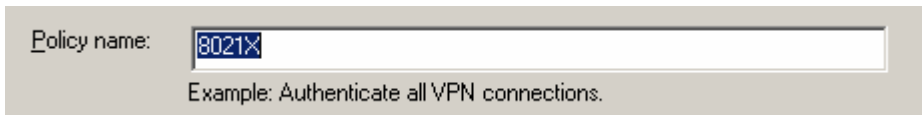
First, we create a Radius client representing the BSC. Please note you don't need to create clients representing the individual BSAPs because the 802.1X authentication traffic that reaches the IAS server is actually sourced from the BSC rather than the BSAPs. This is due to the fact that traffic is tunneled from the BSAPs to the BSC and from there, to the IAS server. This is in contrast to using 3rd party APs where each AP would have to be added as a Radius client to the IAS server. This means we don't need to worry about amending the IAS server each time we wish to add a new BSAP.

4b: Creating a new 802.1x Remote Access Policy

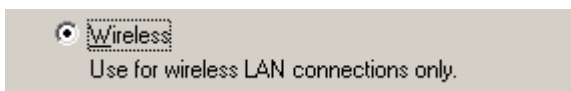
The shared secret you specify here will match the secret you configured on the BSAP when creating the 802.1X SSID. We now create a new Remote Access Policy associated with all users attempting to connect to the domain via 802.1X.



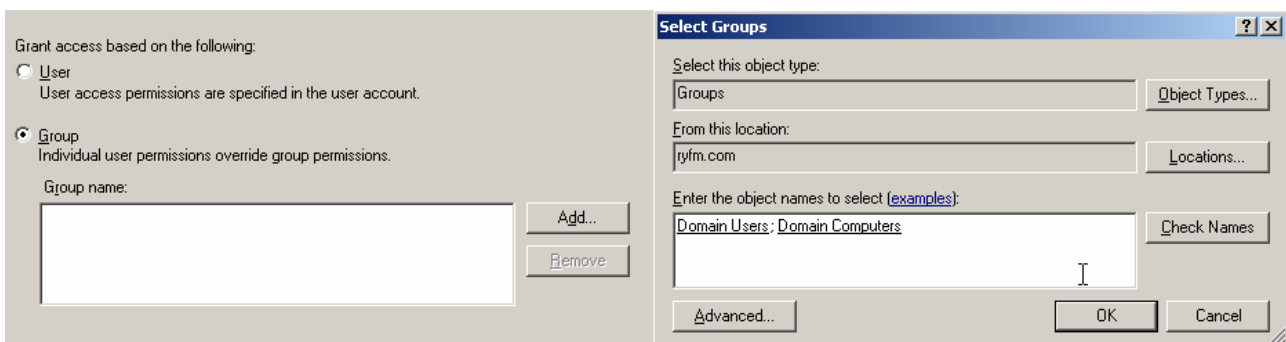
We'll create a new policy called "8021X":



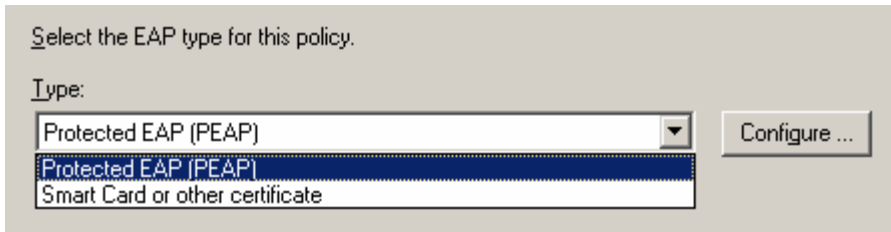
The access method for this policy will be "Wireless":



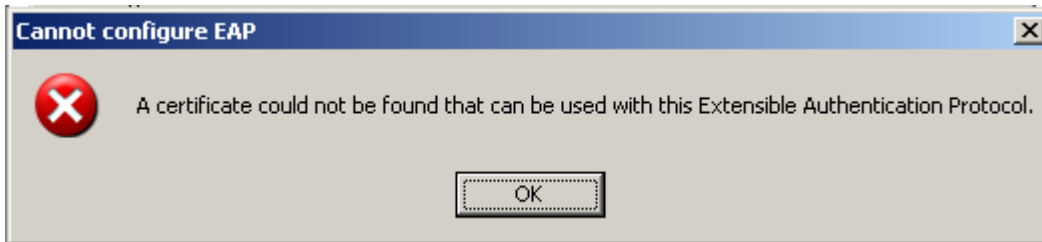
We want the policy to grant access to Domain Users and Domain Computers:



Now we can select the EAP type for the policy which in this case will be PEAP:

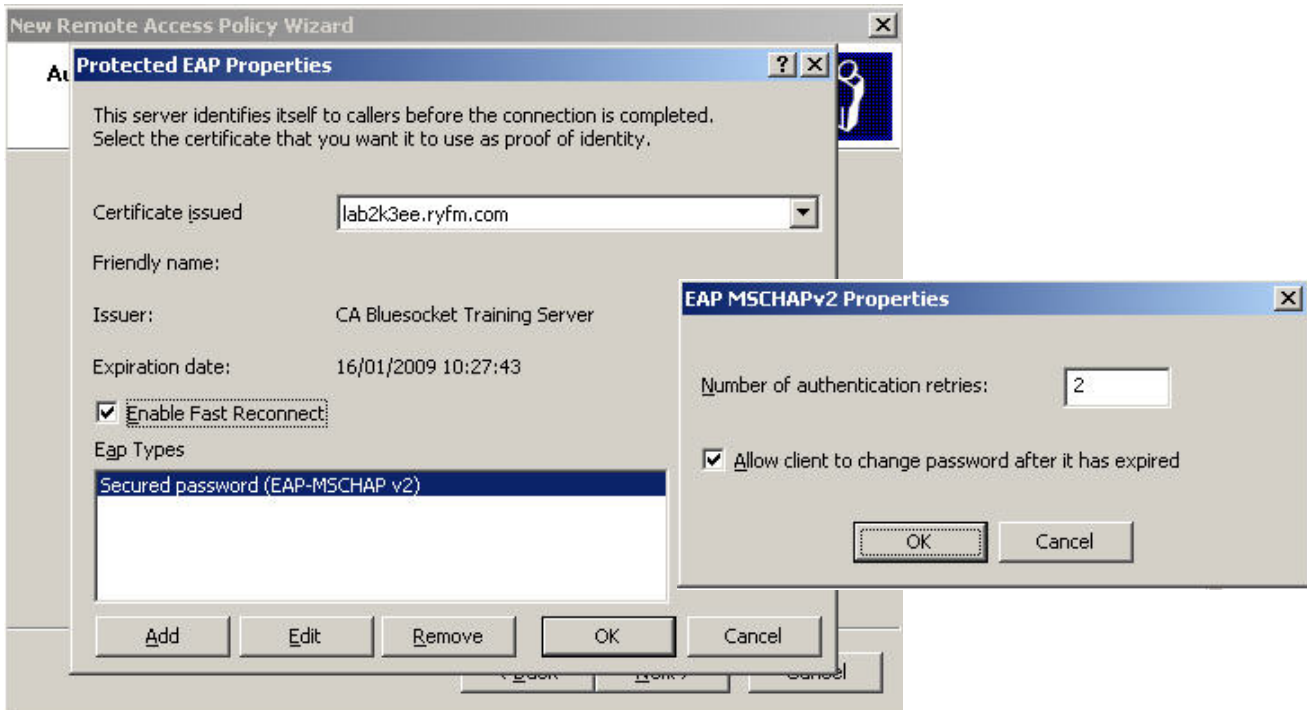


If the IAS server has not been issued with a certificate, the following error message will be given:



A server certificate will have to be issued by a Certificate Authority and installed on the IAS server (see Appendix A for an example of doing this using the Windows CA).

If a server certificate is already installed on this machine, you'll get the EAP properties for the 8021X remote access policy. Select "Enable Fast Reconnect" because we'll be using that on the 802.1X supplicant.

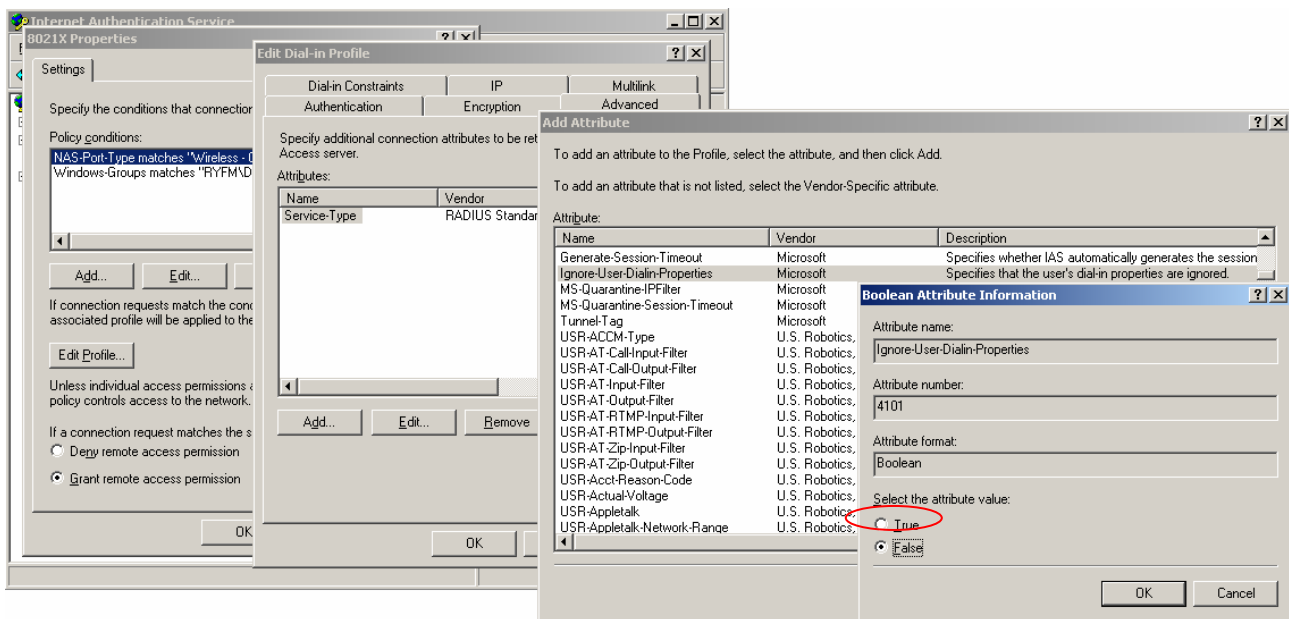


4c: Edit Remote Access Policy in order to ignore User Dial-in Properties

Edit the new 8021X remote access policy by right mouse click and click on properties.

- Click on edit profile to add an attribute to the dial-in profile of the policy
- Select advanced tab
- Add attribute
- Select *'Ignore User Dial-in Properties'*
- Set the attribute to True
- Click on ok

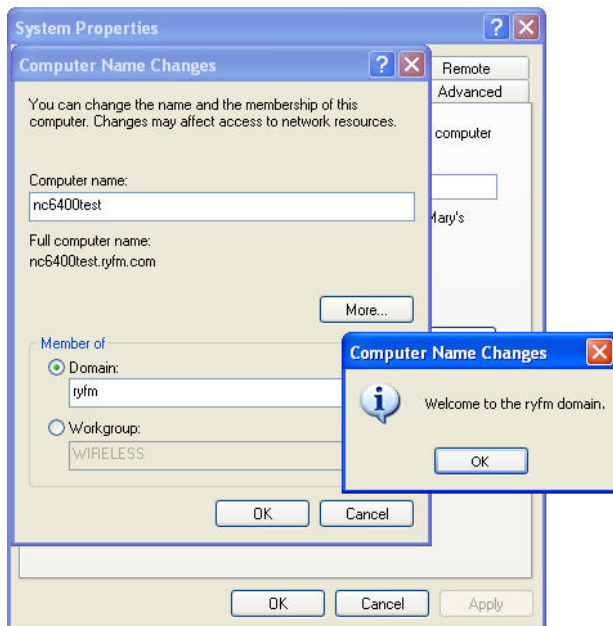
This attribute in the remote policy just avoids the need to change all the user's accounts to "Allow access" – however, this is done mainly to circumvent the default settings of new user accounts – in a real deployment, this may not be desirable or necessary.



5. Configuring the Windows Wireless Clients

5a: Adding new client to the domain

If the client PC is not added to the domain, please add the client to the domain with the right computer name, domain, and user credentials. After restarting the client will receive the appropriate policies, including computer certificates and Trusted Root Certification Authority, if the domain is configured for autoenrollment of computer certificates.



5b: Installing Computer Certificates on Wireless Clients

This step is not necessary for EAP-PEAP-MSCHAPv2, because this EAP doesn't require validation of the server certificate (Trusted Root Certification Authority). Of course you can select it optionally. For computer authentication with EAP-TLS or PEAP-TLS, you must install a computer certificate on the wireless client computer. See also tech note: Machine and User Authentication with PEAP-TLS/EAP-TLS.

To install a computer certificate on a wireless client computer running Windows Vista, Windows XP, or Windows Server 2003, connect to the organization intranet using an Ethernet port and do the following:

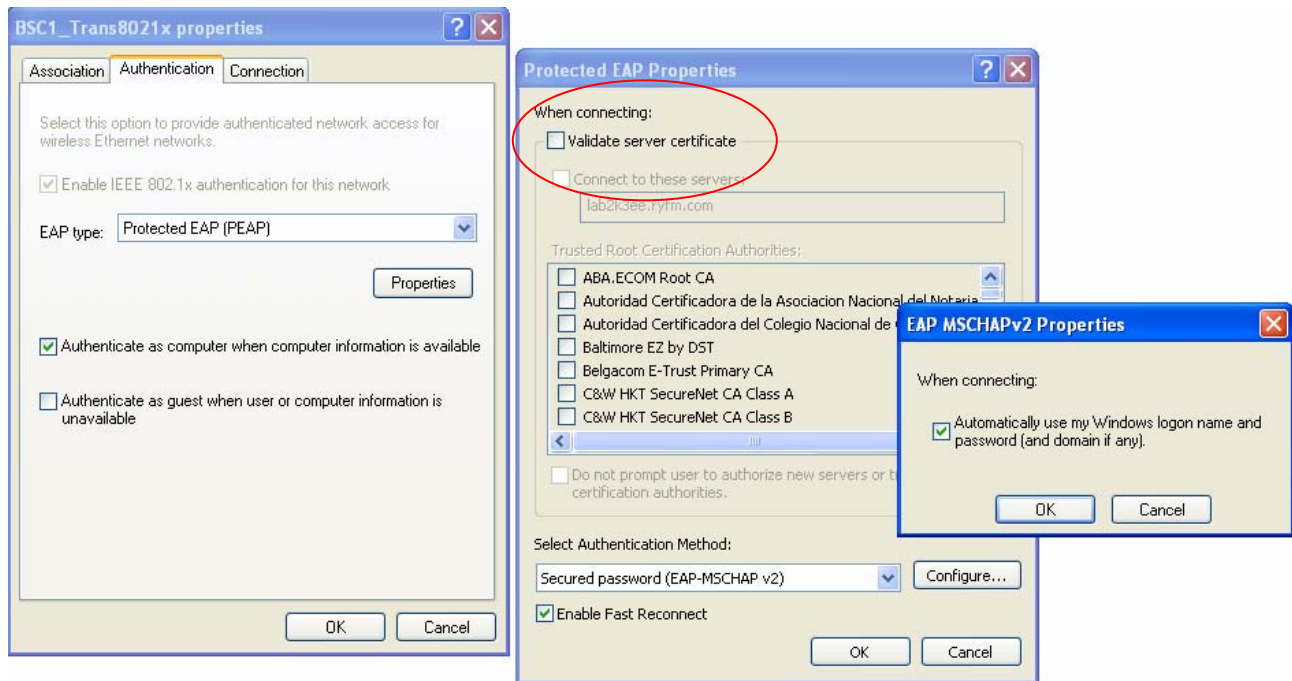
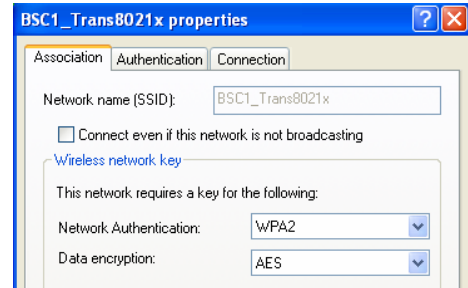
- If the domain is configured for autoenrollment of computer certificates, each computer that is a member of the domain requests a computer certificate when Computer Configuration Group Policy is refreshed. To force a refresh of Computer Configuration Group Policy for a computer running Windows Vista, Windows XP, or Windows Server 2003, restart the computer or type **gpupdate /target:computer** at a command prompt.
- If the domain is not configured for autoenrollment, you can request a "Computer" certificate using the Certificates snap-in or you can execute a CAPICOM script to install a computer certificate. For information about CAPICOM, search for "CAPICOM" at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/>.

Additionally, a large organization's information technology (IT) group can install a computer certificate before the computer, typically a laptop, is delivered to its user.

5b: Configuring Windows “wireless zero configuration” supplicant without certificate validation

On the Windows built-in supplicant, add a new wireless network with:

- The SSID name, for example ‘BSC1_Trans8021x’
- Specifying WPA/WPA2 as the network encryption (also known as 802.11i Enterprise mode)
- EAP authentication mechanism
 - o PEAP as the Outer EAP type
 - o MS-MSCHAPv2 as the Inner EAP type (Secured Password)
- Uncheck box “**validate server certificate**”



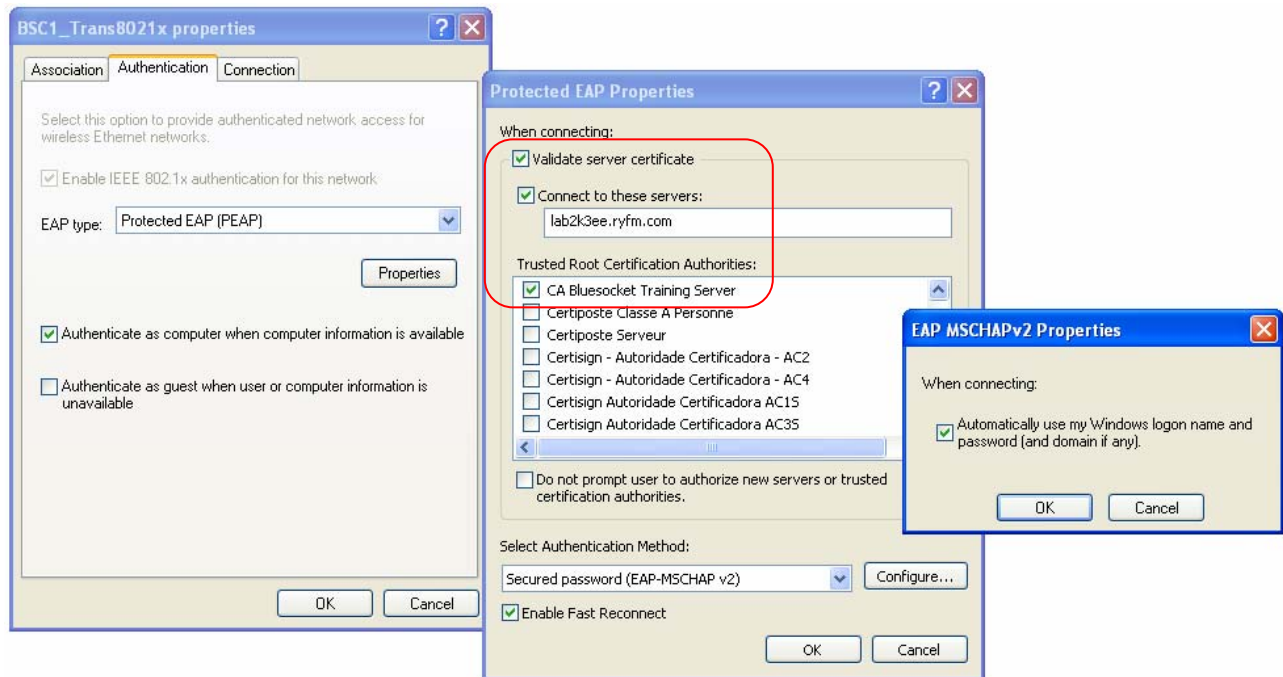
Note the following:

- a) We enable machine authentication via 802.1X via the “Authenticate as computer when computer information is available”
- b) Select “Enable Fast Reconnect” to match the setting on the IAS RADIUS server
- c) Within the MSCHAPv2 properties, we need to tell the client to pass the Windows logon name and password which makes the authentication process transparent to the user.

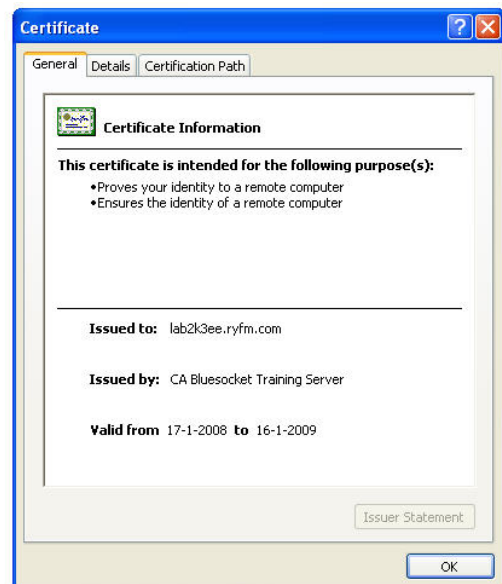
5c: Configuring Windows “wireless zero configuration” supplicant with certificate validation

The settings are the same as in paragraph 5b. In addition select checkbox “validate server certificate”.

- Select Trusted Root Certification Authority
- Select checkbox “connect to these servers” and enter name of trusted server



If you didn't enter the name of the trusted server and you selected “connect to these servers”, Windows will prompt you with the message below to enable you to confirm the right server.



6. User experience

6a: User experience and connection table on the controller

When a user powers up their machine that has already registered on the domain, it will authenticate to the domain via 802.1X and the IAS server, and appear in the BSC connection table with the name “host/machine_name.domain_name” and in the default “Domain Machines” role.

Actions	Name	Address	MAC address	Role	Authentication
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>		192.168.160.249	00:12:cf:43:b4:d8	Un-registered	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	host/thindell.ryfm.com	192.168.160.247	00:02:2d:b0:13:9c	Domain Machines	Transparent 802.1X server

The user logs on (Ctrl-Alt-Del) and authenticates via 802.1X and appears in the BSC connection table as the appropriate user.

Actions	Name	Address	MAC address	Role	Authentication
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>		192.168.160.249	00:12:cf:43:b4:d8	Un-registered	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RYFM\bsmith	192.168.160.247	00:02:2d:b0:13:9c	BSStaff Role	Transparent 802.1X server

If the user logs off, the connection reverts to the host in the “Domain Machines” role. When a new user logs on to the same machine, they will authenticate to the domain, and be transparently authenticated on the BSC into their appropriate role based on the AD attributes.

If a user has an authenticated (i.e. logged on to the domain) wired connection to their network and then disconnects from the wired connection and enables their wireless connection, they will be transparently authenticated via 802.1X into the appropriate role without having to log in again.

6b: Seamless Single Sign On

Machine & User authentication with transparent 802.1x offers seamless logon to the Windows domain, including login scripts and network drives.

Windows XP defaults to allowing the user to login before network services are established to help reduce login time (known as Fast Logon Optimization) whereas Windows 2000 defaults to forcing the user to wait to login until all the network services are up and running.

Windows XP can be configured to behave like Windows 2000, if needed.

See also Tech Note: Ensuring network services are loaded prior to logging in

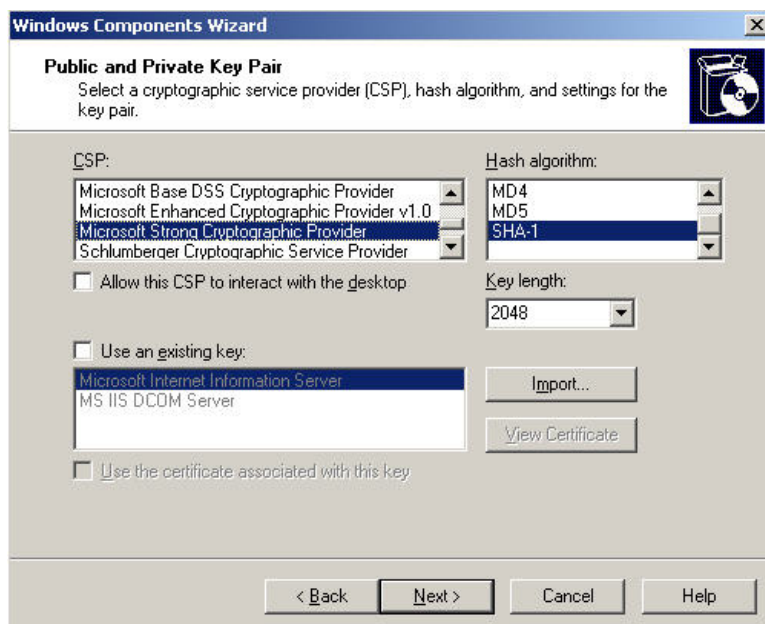
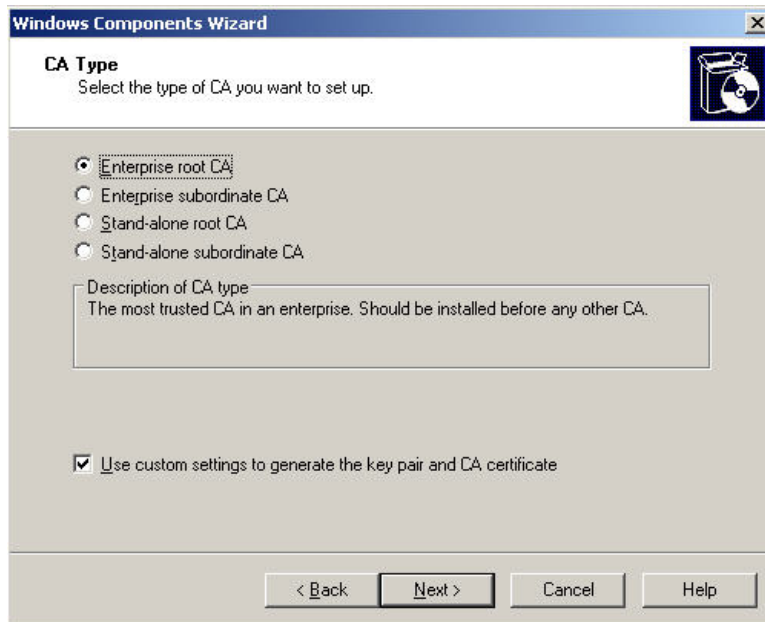
Appendix A : Configure Microsoft 2003 CA Certificate Infrastructure and creating a server certificate for IAS

Go to add or remove programs and add/removes Windows Components

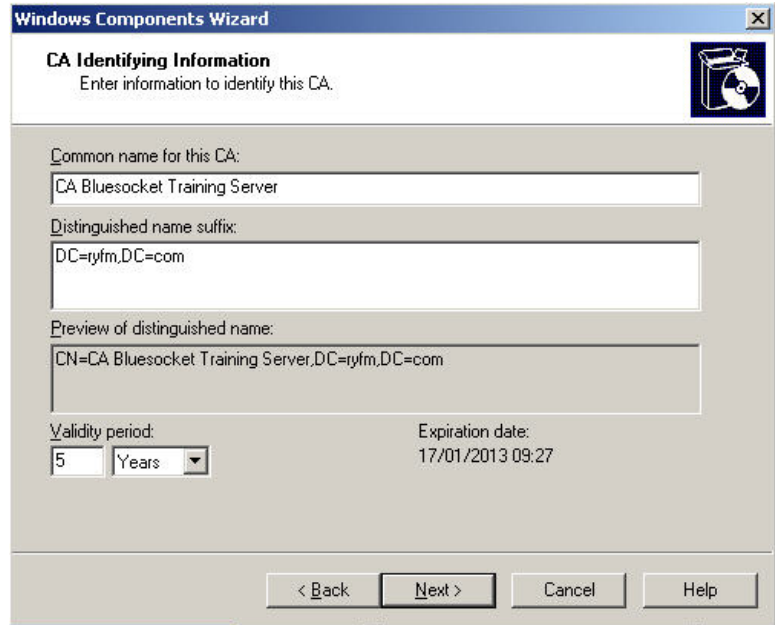
Step 1: Install Internet Information Services,

Required for downloading (user) certificates from the server to the client.
Only needed for EAP-TLS or EAP-PEAP-TLS.

Step 2: Install Certificate Services



Enter the common name for the CA and the validity period.



Certification Authority

Shows the issued & revoked certificates and pending/failed requests

