

EZproxy for authenticated access to your library's e-content



OCLC® EZproxy® authentication and access software allows your library to deliver secure user Web access to e-content simply and effectively. Available in a hosted or client version, EZproxy can perform single sign-on to e-content using existing library-issued credentials, such as a library card/PIN or username/password.

What is EZproxy?

EZproxy helps provide users with remote access to Web-based licensed content offered by libraries. It is middleware that authenticates library users against local authentication systems and provides remote access to licensed content based on the user's authorization. More than 2,500 libraries and institutions in 60 countries already use it.

Connects to a number of content providers and authentication services

EZproxy connects to a large number of content providers, including Britannica, ebrary, EBSCO, OCLC FirstSearch®, Gale, LexisNexis, Newsbank, Ovid, ProQuest and most others.

It also connects to a wide variety of authentication services (including LDAP, SIP, Athens and Shibboleth), which reduces the number of authorizations/passwords and provides a better end-user experience.

Hosted or client—your choice

Available as a hosted service or a stand-alone client, EZproxy helps your users gain access to content. With the hosted version, OCLC maintains the configuration files and manages the network infrastructure, bandwidth and security on your behalf—freeing your IT staff to focus on other tasks.

Authentication made easy

When publishers license e-content to libraries, they want to make certain that it is accessible only to authorized library users and not to the public at large. The key challenge lies in implementing a secure authentication system that ensures e-content is available only to authorized library users.

EZproxy is easy to set up and maintain. Your users connect to EZproxy, then it connects on their behalf to your library's licensed databases to obtain Web pages, and sends them back to your users. Once you register the EZproxy server address with your database vendor, the vendor sees the requests as coming from an authorized IP address and therefore permits access.

Enhanced features of EZproxy 5.6

- Beta EZproxy implementations now no longer require a license—the betas will simply “expire” which makes it easier for libraries to try things out
- A new way to detect and resolve crashes, down to identifying the actual machine instruction that caused it
- Detailed information about the “Option Cookie” directives for each database definition now available on the “Extended Information” display.

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Integration with library delivery systems

EZproxy works by dynamically altering the URLs within the Web pages provided by your library's database vendor. The server names within the URLs of these Web pages are changed to reflect the EZproxy server instead, causing your users to return to the EZproxy server as they access links on library websites. The result is a seamless access environment for your users without the need for automatic proxy configuration files.

The program alters only references to database vendors' Web pages, so if your database vendor provides additional links to other free Web pages on the Internet, these pages remain untouched. In this manner, if a user elects to follow one of these links, the EZproxy server is automatically taken out of the communications loop.

With simple modifications, EZproxy can be integrated into a number of different library systems in order to point users toward your library's electronic resources, creating seamless access for users.

Technical requirements

The EZproxy hosted version is available to libraries of any size. In addition to technical configuration assistance of up to ten (10) hours, OCLC also supplies the security certificate for hosted institutions.

The EZproxy client version is available for servers running:

- Linux (x86 and x86-84)
- Solaris (SPARC and x86)
- Windows

Details of the supported versions of these operating systems, along with their minimum hardware requirements, are available at www.oclc.org/ezproxy/support/; click on "initial evaluation" in the left-hand column.

More information and ordering

The EZproxy hosted service is available as an annual subscription, based on FTE or population served.

To begin the ordering process or to request a price quote for your institution or for your group, please visit www.oclc.org/ezproxy/ordering/.

Support and documentation, including more information on the hosted service, how to get started with the client and how to upgrade to the latest release, are available at www.oclc.org/ezproxy/support/.