



One Identity Safeguard for Privileged  
Sessions 5.7

Okta Multi-Factor Authentication -  
Tutorial

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### Legend

-  **WARNING:** A WARNING icon indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.
-  **CAUTION:** A CAUTION icon indicates potential damage to hardware or loss of data if instructions are not followed.
-  **IMPORTANT, NOTE, TIP, MOBILE, or VIDEO:** An information icon indicates supporting information.

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## Introduction

This document describes how you can use the services of multi-factor authentication provider [Okta](#) to authenticate the sessions of your privileged users with One Identity Safeguard for Privileged Sessions (Safeguard for Privileged Sessions).

### **One Identity Safeguard for Privileged Sessions:**

One Identity Safeguard for Privileged Sessions (Safeguard for Privileged Sessions) controls privileged access to remote IT systems, records activities in searchable, movie-like audit trails, and prevents malicious actions. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions is a quickly deployable enterprise device, completely independent from clients and servers — integrating seamlessly into existing networks. It captures the activity data necessary for user profiling and enables full user session drill down for forensic investigations.

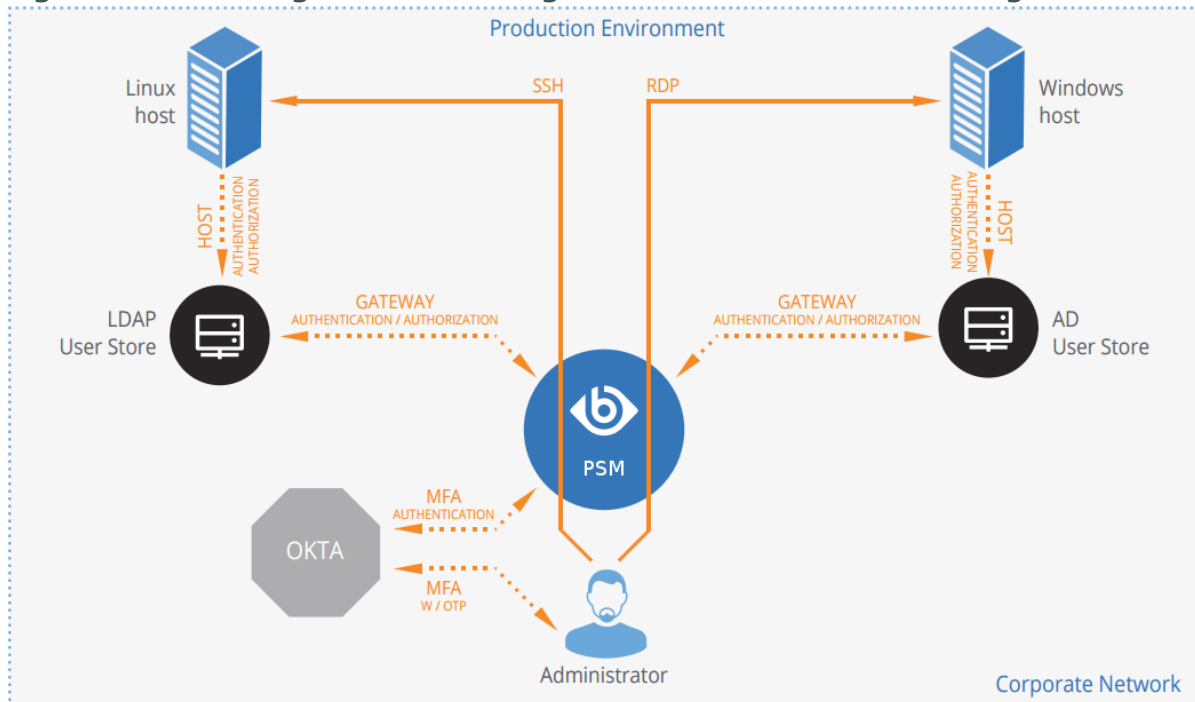
Safeguard for Privileged Sessions acts as a central authentication gateway, enforcing strong authentication before users access sensitive IT assets. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions can integrate with remote user directories to resolve the group memberships of users who access nonpublic information. Credentials for accessing information systems can be retrieved transparently from Safeguard for Privileged Sessions's local credential store or a third-party password management system. This method protects the confidentiality of passwords as users can never access them. When used together with Okta (or another multi-factor authentication provider), Safeguard for Privileged Sessions directs all connections to the authentication tool, and upon successful authentication, it permits the user to access the information system.

### **Okta Adaptive Multi-factor Authentication:**

To support multi-factor authentication, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions integrates with the identity management service Okta. This enables you to leverage an additional out-of-band factor (typically through the user's registered smartphone) when authenticating the user. The additional factor is processed in-line with the connection, so users do not have to switch to an external application to process the additional factor. This results in an efficient user experience that is readily accepted by the users.

The One Identity Safeguard for Privileged Sessions can interact with your Okta account and can automatically request multi-factor authentication for your privileged users who are accessing the servers and services protected by Safeguard for Privileged Sessions.

**Figure 1: How Safeguard for Privileged Sessions and Okta work together**



## Solution benefits

Matt Magleby, Sr. Computer Scientist at Adobe

One Identity Safeguard for Privileged Sessions helps us meet a portion of our compliance and internal security requirements related to access management.

Using Safeguard for Privileged Sessions together with Okta provides the following benefits.

- Easy-to-use multi-factor authentication to secure your privileged users who access your business-critical servers. The enforcement of a second-factor authentication and the availability of session recordings make the access of high-risk users more secure.
- Out-of-band authentication to protect against privileged identity theft
- Logs and audits administrative network traffic
- Integrates with existing LDAP user directory
- Easy and fast deployment and implementation: a network-level solution that does not require installing agents on clients or servers
- Can forward user logs into Splunk for long-term storage and analysis
- Supports SSH and RDP protocols to access both Linux and Windows servers, without disrupting the daily workflow of your system administrators and other privileged users
- Supports strong authentication methods, including SSH keys and certificates

## Meet compliance requirements

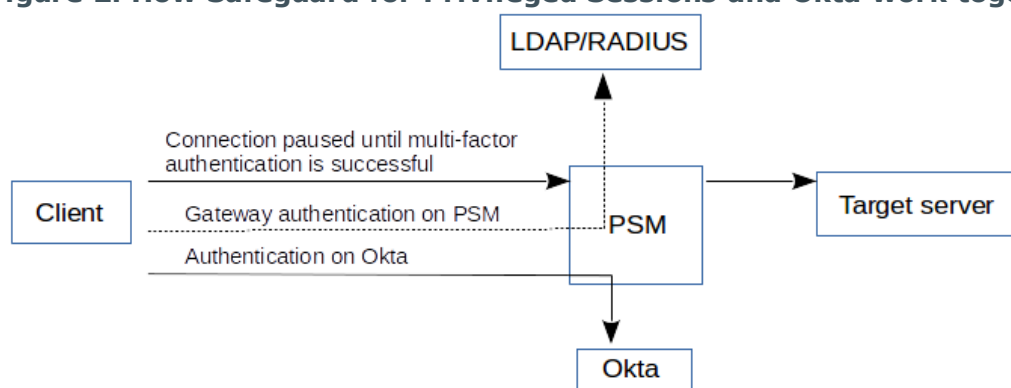
ISO 27001, ISO 27018, SOC 2, and other regulations and industry standards include authentication-related requirements, for example, multi-factor authentication (MFA) for accessing production systems, and the logging of all administrative sessions. In addition to other requirements, using Safeguard for Privileged Sessions and Okta helps you comply with the following requirements:

- PCI DSS 8.3: Secure all individual non-console administrative access and all access to the cardholder data environment (CDE) using multi-factor authentication.
- PART 500.12 Multi-Factor Authentication: Covered entities are required to apply multi-factor authentication for:
  - Each individual accessing the covered entity's internal systems.
  - Authorized access to database servers that allow access to nonpublic information.
  - Third parties accessing nonpublic information.
- NIST 800-53 IA-2, Identification and Authentication, network access to privileged accounts: The information system implements multi-factor authentication for network access to privileged accounts

To read about the experiences of Adobe Experience Cloud business unit using Safeguard for Privileged Sessions and Okta, [download our case study](#).

## How Safeguard for Privileged Sessions and Okta MFA work together

Figure 2: How Safeguard for Privileged Sessions and Okta work together



1. A user attempts to log in to a protected server.
2. **Gateway authentication on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions**

Safeguard for Privileged Sessions receives the connection request and authenticates the user. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions can authenticate the user to a number of external user directories, for example, LDAP, Microsoft Active Directory, or RADIUS. This authentication is the first factor.

3. **Outband authentication on Okta**

If gateway authentication is successful, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions connects the Okta server to check which authentication factors are available for the user. Then Safeguard for Privileged Sessions requests the second authentication factor from the user.

- For OTP-like authentication factors, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions requests the one-time password (OTP) from the user, and sends it to the Okta server for

verification.

- For the Okta push notification factor, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions asks the Okta server to check if the user successfully authenticated on the Okta server.
4. If multi-factor authentication is successful, the user can start working, while Safeguard for Privileged Sessions records the user's activities. (Optionally, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions can retrieve credentials from a local or external credential store or password vault, and perform authentication on the server with credentials that are not known to the user.)



## Technical requirements

In order to successfully connect Safeguard for Privileged Sessions with Okta, you need the following components.

### In Okta:

- A valid Okta subscription that permits multi-factor authentication.
- An Okta API key. You will need it to configure the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin.
- Your users must be available in Okta.
- The users must activate their Okta accounts, and be able to perform the authentication required for the factor (for example, install the Okta mobile app, possess the required hardware token, and so on).
- A factor that the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin supports must be enabled in Okta. Note that this is a global setting, you cannot selectively enable factors. For a list of factors that Safeguard for Privileged Sessions supports, see [Supported factors and scenarios](#).

### In Safeguard for Privileged Sessions:

- A One Identity Safeguard for Privileged Sessions appliance (virtual or physical), at least version 5 F1.
- A copy of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin. This plugin is an Authentication and Authorization (AA) plugin customized to work with the Okta multi-factor authentication service.
- Safeguard for Privileged Sessions must be able to access the Internet (at least the services on <https://www.okta.com>). Since Okta is a cloud-based service provider, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions must be able to access its web services to authorize the user.
- Depending on the factor you use to authenticate your users, your users might need Internet access as well, for example, to use the Okta Verify Push Notification factor. Note that the Okta app generates one-time passwords (OTPs) offline.

- Safeguard for Privileged Sessions supports Authentication and Authorization plugins in the RDP, SSH, and Telnet protocols.
- In RDP, using an **AA plugin** together with Network Level Authentication in a Connection Policy has the same limitations as using Network Level Authentication without domain membership. For details, see "[Network Level Authentication without domain membership](#)" in the *Administration Guide*.
- In RDP, using an **AA plugin** requires TLS-encrypted RDP connections. For details, see "[Enabling TLS-encryption for RDP connections](#)" in the *Administration Guide*.

## Availability and support of the plugin

The Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin is available as-is, free of charge to every Safeguard for Privileged Sessions customer from the [Plugin Page](#). In case you need any customizations or additional features, [contact professionalservices@balabit.com](mailto:professionalservices@balabit.com).

You can use the plugin on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions 5 F3 and later. If you need to use the plugin on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions 5 LTS, [contact professionalservices@balabit.com](mailto:professionalservices@balabit.com).

## Supported factors and scenarios

The Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin can provide multi-factor authentication in the Remote Desktop (RDP), Secure Shell (SSH), and TELNET protocols. In RDP, using push notifications (when the user authenticates using the Okta mobil app) is the most convenient method. You can use another factor, but in this case the user must encode the OTP password into the username used in the connection, before trying to connect to the server.

Okta supports several different authentication backends ("factor types" in Okta terminology). When using one-time passwords (OTP-like factors), your users can specify which factor they use (from the ones available for them in Okta).

You can also set a default factor in the Okta configuration, it defaults to Okta Verify (One-Time Password).

The Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin supports the following authentication factors:

- Google Authenticator (One-Time Password)
- Okta Push Authentication
- Okta Verify (One-Time Password)
- RSA token
- Symantec token (One-Time Password)
- YubiKey token (One-Time Password)

You can also configure Safeguard for Privileged Sessions to require multi-factor authentication only from selected users or usergroups. You can also specify exceptions, that is, require multi-factor authentication from everyone except the specified users. This allows you to have emergency or break-glass users who can access your servers even if the Okta services are not available. For details, see [Okta Multi-Factor Authentication - Tutorial](#).

# How Safeguard for Privileged Sessions and Okta work together in detail

1. A user attempts to log in to a protected server.

## 2. Gateway authentication on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions

Safeguard for Privileged Sessions receives the connection request and authenticates the user. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions can authenticate the user to a number of external user directories, for example, LDAP, Microsoft Active Directory, or RADIUS. This authentication is the first factor.

## 3. Check if the user is exempt from multi-factor authentication

You can configure Safeguard for Privileged Sessions using whitelists and blacklists to selectively require multi-factor authentication for your users, for example, to create break-glass access for specific users.

- If multi-factor authentication is not required, the user can start working, while Safeguard for Privileged Sessions records the user's activities. The procedure ends here.
- If multi-factor authentication is required, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions continues the procedure with the next step.

For details on creating exemption lists, see [Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference](#).

## 4. Determining the Okta username

If the gateway usernames are different from the Okta usernames, you must configure the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin to map the gateway usernames to the Okta usernames. The mapping can be as simple as appending a domain name to the gateway username, or you can query an LDAP or Microsoft Active Directory server. For details, see [Mapping Safeguard for Privileged Sessions usernames to Okta identities](#).

## 5. Outband authentication on Okta

If gateway authentication is successful, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions connects the Okta server to check which authentication factors are available for the user. Then Safeguard for Privileged Sessions requests the second authentication factor from the user.

- For OTP-like authentication factors, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions requests the OTP from the user, and sends it to the Okta server for verification.
  - For the Okta push notification factor, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions asks the Okta server to check if the user successfully authenticated on the Okta server.
6. If multi-factor authentication is successful, the user can start working, while Safeguard for Privileged Sessions records the user's activities. (Optionally, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions can retrieve credentials from a local or external credential store or password vault, and perform authentication on the server with credentials that are not known to the user.)
  7. If the user opens a new session within a short period, they can do so without having to perform multi-factor authentication again. After this configurable grace period expires, the user must perform multi-factor authentication to open the next session. For details, see [Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference](#).

## Mapping Safeguard for Privileged Sessions usernames to Okta identities

By default, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions assumes that the Okta username of the user is the same as the gateway username (that is, the username the user used to authenticate on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions during the gateway authentication). To identify the users, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions uses the username (login) field in Okta, which is an email address.

If the gateway usernames are different from the Okta usernames, you must configure the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin to map the gateway usernames to the Okta usernames. You can use the following methods:

- To simply append a string to the gateway username, configure the [append\\_domain parameter](#). In this case, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions automatically appends the @ character and the value of this option to the username from the session, and uses the resulting username on the Okta server to authenticate the user. For example, if the domain is set as `append_domain: example.com` and the username is `Example.User`, the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin will look for the user `Example.User@example.com` on the Okta server.
- To look up the Okta username of the user from an LDAP/Active Directory database, configure the `[ldap]` section of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin. Typically, the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin queries the email address corresponding to the username from your LDAP or Active Directory database. For details on LDAP parameters, see [Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference](#).
- If you configure both the [append\\_domain parameter](#) and the `[ldap]` section of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions appends the @ character and the value of the `append_domain` parameter to the value retrieved from the LDAP database.
- If you have configured neither the `Domain` parameter nor the `[ldap]` section, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions assumes that the Okta username of the user is the same as the gateway username.

## Bypassing Okta authentication

Having to perform multi-factor authentication to a remote server every time the user opens a session can be tedious and inconvenient for the users, and can impact their productivity. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions offers the following methods to solve this problem:

- In Safeguard for Privileged Sessions, the Connection policy determines the type of authentication required to access a server. If you do not need multi-factor authentication for accessing specific servers, configure your Connection policies accordingly.
- If the user opens a new session within a short period, they can do so without having to perform multi-factor authentication. After this configurable grace period expires, the user must perform multi-factor authentication to open the next session. For details, see [Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference](#).
- You can configure Safeguard for Privileged Sessions using whitelists and blacklists to selectively require multi-factor authentication for your users, for example, to create break-glass access for specific users. For details on creating exemption lists, see [Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference](#).

# Configure your Okta account for Safeguard for Privileged Sessions

## Prerequisites:

- Administrator access to your Okta account.
- Make sure that you have all the required components listed in [Technical requirements](#).

### 1. Add people to your Okta account.

The users you want to authenticate with Safeguard for Privileged Sessions must have an activated account in Okta. Navigate to *Directory > People*, and add or import your users. For details, see [A Quick Look at Adding People](#) in the Okta documentation.

### 2. Enable Multifactor Authentication (MFA) for your organization.

Optionally, you can create a Multifactor Policy in Okta to enable MFA only for the group of users who you want to authenticate with Safeguard for Privileged Sessions.

When selecting the accepted factor types for your users, make sure to [select at least one factor that Safeguard for Privileged Sessions supports](#).

For details, see [Multifactor Authentication](#) in the Okta documentation.

### 3. Create an API token.

Navigate to *Admin > API > Tokens*, click *Create Token*, and save it.



# Configure Safeguard for Privileged Sessions to use Okta multi-factor authentication

## Prerequisites:

- Your Okta API token.

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Table Cell Outside Table: **CAUTION:**

According to the current Okta policies, your API token expires if it is not used for 30 days. Make sure that you use it regularly, because Safeguard for Privileged Sessions will reject your sessions if the API token is expired.

- Administrator access to Safeguard for Privileged Sessions.
- Make sure that you have all the required components listed in [Technical requirements](#).

**Steps:**

**1. Download the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin**

Safeguard for Privileged Sessions customers can download the plugin from [Plugin Page](#).

## 2. Upload the plugin to Safeguard for Privileged Sessions

Upload the plugin to Safeguard for Privileged Sessions. For details, see [Administration Guide](#).

## 3. Configure the plugin on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions

The plugin includes a default configuration file, which is an ini-style configuration file with sections and name=value pairs. You can edit it on the **Policies > AA Plugin Configurations** page of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions web interface.

- a. Copy your Okta API token and the name of your Okta site in the [OKTA] section of the configuration file, for example:

```
[OKTA]
APIKey=YOUR-OKTA-API-KEY
SiteName=yoursite.okta.com
```

- b. Configure the usermapping settings if needed. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions must find out which Okta user belongs to the username of the authenticated connection. For that, it can query your LDAP/Microsoft Active Directory server. For details, see [Mapping Safeguard for Privileged Sessions usernames to Okta identities](#).
- c. Configure other parameters of your plugin as needed for your environment. For details, see [Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference](#).

## 4. Configure a Connection policy and test it

Configure a Connection policy on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions. In the **AA plugin** field of the Connection policy, select the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin you configured in the previous step, then start a session to test it. For details on how a user can perform multi-factor authentication, see [Perform multi-factor authentication with the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin in terminal connections](#) and [Perform multi-factor authentication with the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin in Remote Desktop connections](#).

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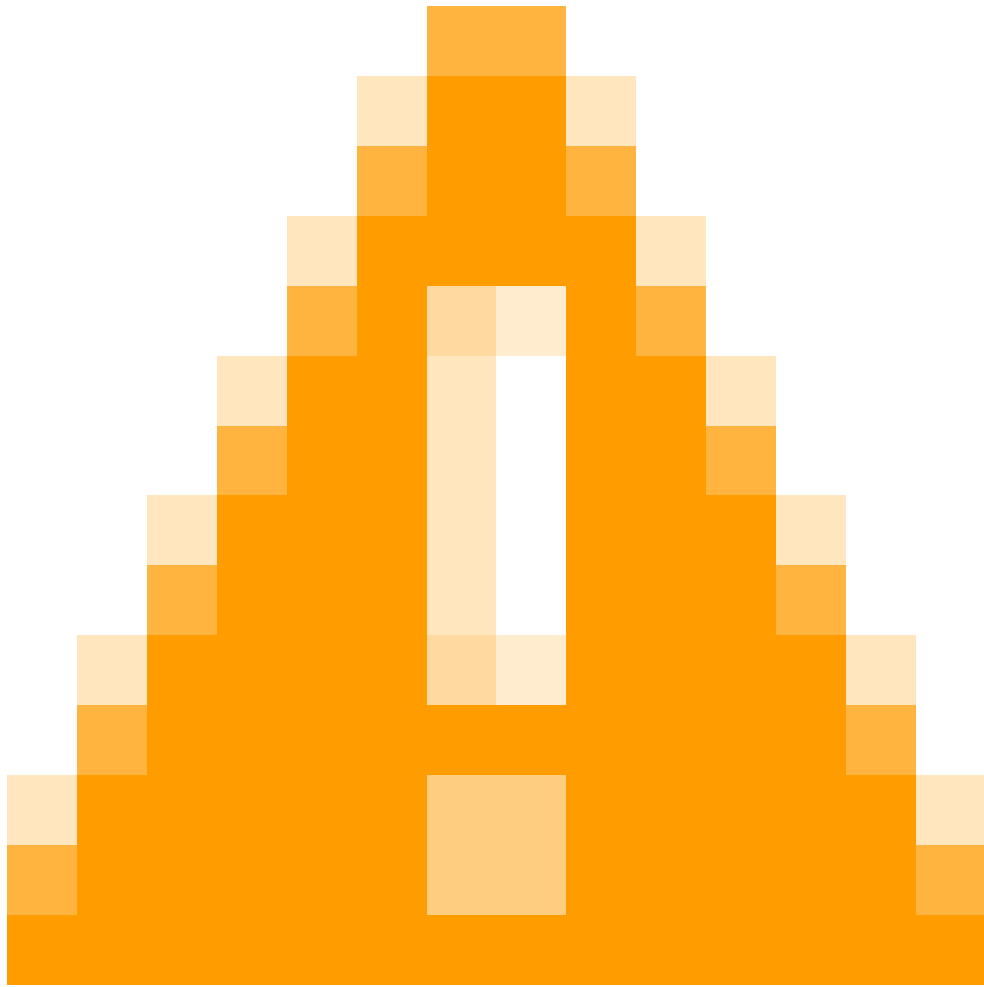


Table Cell Outside Table: **CAUTION:**

According to the current Okta policies, your API token expires if it is not used for 30 days. Make sure that you use it regularly, because Safeguard for Privileged Sessions will reject your sessions if the API token is expired.

## Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference

This section describes the available options of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin.

The plugin uses an ini-style configuration file with sections and name=value pairs. This format consists of sections, led by a [section] header and followed by name=value entries. Note that the leading whitespace is removed from values. The values can contain format strings, which refer to other values in the same section. For example, the following section would resolve the %(dir)s value to the value of the dir entry (/var in this case).

```
[section name]
dirname=%(dir)s/mydirectory
dir=/var
```

All reference expansions are done on demand. Lines beginning with # or ; are ignored and may be used to provide comments.

You can edit the configuration file from the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions web interface. The following code snippet is a sample configuration file.

```
[okta]
# Do NOT use api_key in production
; api_key=YOUR-OKTA-API-KEY
application_id=PSMOktaAAPPlugin/%(VERSION)s
api_url=https://example.okta.com/api/v1/
default_prefix=o
timeout=60
http_socket_timeout=10
rest_poll_interval=1
ignore_conn_err=no
```

```
[plugin]
config_version=1
log_level=info
cred_store=<name-of-credstore-storing-sensitive-data>
```

```
[auth]
```

```
prompt=Hit Enter to send Okta Verify push notification or provide the OTP:
whitelist=name-of-a-userlist
```

```
[username_transform]
append_domain=""
```

```
[ldap]
ldap_server_config=<Safeguard for Privileged Sessions-LDAP-server-policy-name>
filter=(&(cn={})(objectClass=inetOrgPerson))
user_attribute=cn
```

```
[cache]
soft_timeout=15
hard_timeout=90
conn_limit=5
```

```
[question_1]
key=<name-of-name-value-pair>
prompt=<the-question-itself-in-text>
disable_echo=No
```

```
[question_2]...
```

## [okta]

This section contains the options related to your Okta account.

```
[okta]
# Do NOT use api_key in production
; api_key=YOUR-OKTA-API-KEY
application_id=PSMOktaAAPPlugin/%(VERSION)s
site_name=example.okta.com
api_url=https://%(site_name)s/api/v1/
default_prefix=o
http_socket_timeout=10
ignore_conn_err=Yes
rest_poll_interval=1
timeout=55
```

### api\_key

Type:	string
Required:	yes
Default:	N/A

**⚠ CAUTION:**

**This parameter contains sensitive data. Make sure to store this data in your local credential store. Never use it in production.**

**For details, see "Store sensitive plugin data securely".**

**Only use this parameter in the configuration for testing purposes in a secure, non-production environment.**

*Description:* Your Okta API key. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions uses this to communicate with the Okta server. For details on using a local Credential Store to host this data, read [Store sensitive plugin data securely](#).

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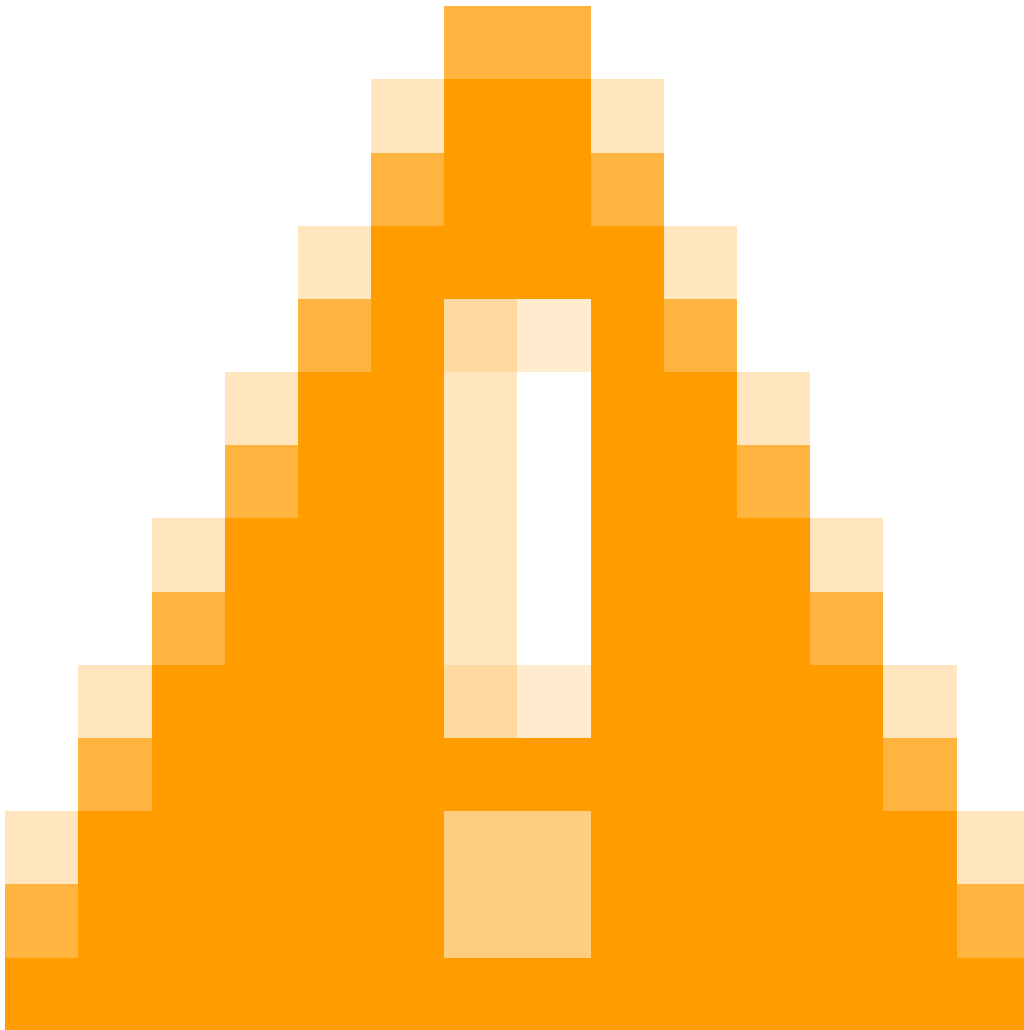
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**Table Cell Outside Table: CAUTION:**

According to the current Okta policies, your API token expires if it is not used for 30 days. Make sure that you use it regularly, because Safeguard for Privileged Sessions will reject your sessions if the API token is expired.

**application\_id**

Type:	string
Required:	no
Default:	PSMOktaMFA/1.0



*Description:* The application ID used in the communication with the Okta server. This ID is visible in the Okta logs.

## **api\_url**

Type:	string
Required:	yes
Default:	N/A

*Description:* The URL where the Okta server can be accessed. Usually you can use the default value:

`api_url=https://example.okta.com/api/v1/`

To override the access URL for the Okta API, change the value.

## **default\_prefix**

Type:	string
Required:	no
Default:	o

*Description:* If the user uses an OTP-like factor, and does not specify the type of factor in the OTP string, the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin assumes that the OTP is for the default factor. The possible values are as follows:

- Google Authenticator: g
- inWebo Authenticator: o
- Symantec token: s
- YubiKey: y
- RSA token: r

If you do not set this option and the user does not specify an OTP type, the plugin assumes that the OTP received from the user is an Okta OTP.

## **timeout**

Type:	integer [seconds]
Required:	no
Default:	60

*Description:* How long the authentication process can take during the communication with the Okta server (potentially consisting of multiple HTTP requests).

### http\_socket\_timeout

Type:	integer [seconds]
Required:	no
Default:	10

*Description:* How long the plugin waits for an approval when using the Okta push notification factor. This option sets the timeframe (measured from the user initiating the connection to Safeguard for Privileged Sessions) within which Safeguard for Privileged Sessions must receive the approval from the Okta server. Safeguard for Privileged Sessions [periodically asks the Okta server](#) to check if the user successfully authenticated on the Okta server.

### rest\_poll\_interval

Type:	integer [seconds]
Required:	no
Default:	1

*Description:* How often the plugin checks the Okta server to see if the push notification was successful. Note that Safeguard for Privileged Sessions rejects the connection of the user if it does not receive an approval for the push notification within the period set in [http\\_socket\\_timeout](#).

### ignore\_conn\_err

Type:	yes   no
Required:	no
Default:	no

*Description:* Determines how to handle the sessions if the Okta service is not available. If set to *yes*, the plugin assumes that the user successfully authenticated even if the plugin cannot access Okta to verify this.

**⚠ CAUTION:**

**Enabling this option allows the users to bypass multi-factor authentication if Safeguard for Privileged Sessions cannot access the Okta service for any reason, for example, a network configuration error in your environment.**

# [plugin]

This section contains general plugin-related settings.

```
[plugin]
config_version=1
log_level=20
cred_store=<name-of-credstore-hosting-sensitive-data>
```

## config\_version

Type:	integer
Required:	yes
Default:	1

*Description:* The version number of the configuration format. This is used to enable potentially incompatible changes in the future. If provided, the configuration will not be upgraded automatically. If not provided, the configuration will be upgraded automatically.

## cred\_store

Type:	string
Required:	no
Default:	N/A

*Description:* The name of a local credential store policy configured on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions (**AAA > Credential Stores > <name-of-credential-store>**). You can use this credential store to store sensitive information of the plugin in a secure way, for example, the Okta API key. For details, see [Store sensitive plugin data securely](#).

## log\_level

Type:	integer or string
Required:	no
Default:	info

*Description:* The logging verbosity of the plugin. The plugin sends the generated log messages to the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions syslog system. You can check the log messages in the **Basic settings > Troubleshooting > View log files** section of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions web interface. Filter on the plugin: string to show only the messages generated by the plugins.

The possible values are:

- debug or 10
- info or 20
- warning or 30
- error or 40
- critical or 50

For details, see Python logging API's log levels: [Logging Levels](#).

## [auth]

This section contains the options related to authentication.

[auth]

prompt=Hit Enter to send Okta Verify push notification or provide the OTP:

whitelist=name-of-a-userlist

### prompt

Type: string

Required: no

Default: Hit Enter to send push notification or provide the OTP:

*Description:* Safeguard for Privileged Sessions displays this text to the user in a terminal connection to request an OTP interactively. The text is displayed only if the user uses an OTP-like factor, and does not send the OTP in the connection request.

prompt=Hit Enter to send Okta Verify push notification or provide the OTP:

### whitelist

Type: string

Required: no

Default: N/A

*Description:* The name of a user list configured on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions (**Policies > User Lists**). You can use this option to selectively require multi-factor authentication for your users, for example, to create break-glass access for specific users.

- If you set the **Default Policy** of the user list to Reject, then the list is a whitelist, so the plugin will not request Okta authentication from the users on the list.
- If you set the **Default Policy** of the user list to Accept, then the list is a blacklist, so the plugin will request Okta authentication only from the users on the list.

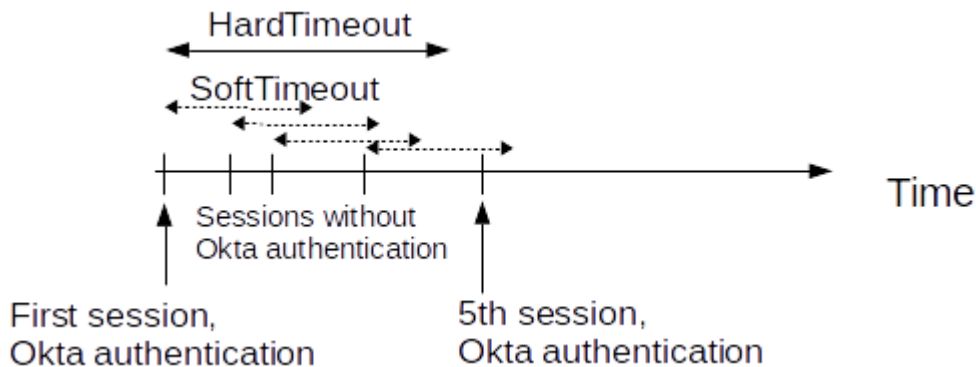
For details on creating user lists, see ["Creating and editing user lists" in the Administration Guide](#).

## [cache]

This section contains the settings that determine how soon after performing an Okta authentication must the user repeat the authentication when opening a new session.

After the first Okta authentication of the user, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions will not request a new Okta authentication from the user as long as the new authentications would happen within `soft_timeout` seconds from each other. After the `hard_timeout` expires (measured from the first Okta login of the user), Safeguard for Privileged Sessions will request a new Okta authentication.

In other words, after opening the first session and authenticating on Okta, the user can keep opening other sessions without having to authenticate again on Okta as long as the time between opening any two sessions is less than `soft_timeout`, but must authenticate on Okta if `hard_timeout` expires.



```
[cache]
soft_timeout=15
hard_timeout=90
```

### soft\_timeout

Type:	integer [seconds]
Required:	yes, if you want caching
Default:	N/A

*Description:* The time in seconds after which the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin requires a new Okta authentication for the next new session of the user, unless the user successfully authenticates another session within this period. Recommended value: 900.

If you want caching, both values are required, and the value of `soft_timeout` has to be smaller than the value of `hard_timeout`.

## hard\_timeout

Type:	integer [seconds]
Required:	yes, if you want caching
Default:	N/A

*Description:* The time in seconds after which the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin requires a new Okta authentication for the next new session of the user. The time is measured from the last Okta authentication of the user. Recommended value: 3600.

If you want caching, both values are required, and the value of `soft_timeout` has to be smaller than the value of `hard_timeout`.

## [ldap]

This section contains the settings you configure when you need to use an LDAP query to map the usernames from your audited sessions to the usernames in Okta.

To look up the Okta username of the user from an LDAP/Active Directory database, configure the `[ldap]` section of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin. Typically, the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin queries the email address corresponding to the username from your LDAP or Active Directory database. For details on LDAP parameters, see [Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin parameter reference](#).

If you configure both the [append\\_domain parameter](#) and the `[ldap]` section of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions appends the `@` character and the value of the `append_domain` parameter to the value retrieved from the LDAP database.

For other methods of mapping gateway usernames to Okta usernames, see [Mapping Safeguard for Privileged Sessions usernames to Okta identities](#).

[ldap]

```
ldap_server_config=<Safeguard for Privileged Sessions-LDAP-server-policy-name>  
filter=(&(cn={})(objectClass=inetOrgPerson))  
user_attribute=CN
```

## ldap\_server\_config

Type:	string
Required:	no
Default:	N/A

*Description:* The name of a configured LDAP server policy in Safeguard for Privileged Sessions. For details on configuring LDAP policies, see ["Authenticating users to an LDAP server" in the Administration Guide](#).

## filter

Type:	string
Required:	no
Default:	(&(cn={})(objectClass=inetOrgPerson))

*Description:* The LDAP filter query that locates the user based on the gateway username. The plugin automatically replaces the {} characters with the gateway username from the session.

```
filter=&(cn={})(objectClass=inetOrgPerson)
```

## user\_attribute

Type:	string
Required:	no
Default:	cn

*Description:* The name of the LDAP attribute that contains the Okta username.

# [username\_transform]

This section contains username transformation-related settings.

```
[username_transform]  
append_domain=""
```

## append\_domain

Type:	string (nonrequired, no default)
Required:	no
Default:	N/A

*Description:* If the gateway usernames are different from the Okta usernames, you must configure the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin to map the gateway usernames to the Okta usernames.

To simply append a string to the gateway username, configure the [append\\_domain parameter](#). In this case, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions automatically appends the @ character and the value of this option to the username from the session, and uses the resulting username on the Okta server to authenticate the user. For example, if the domain is set as `append_domain: example.com` and the username is `Example.User`, the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions plugin will look for the user `Example.User@example.com` on the Okta server.

If you configure both the [append\\_domain parameter](#) and the [\[ldap\] section](#) of the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin, Safeguard for Privileged Sessions appends the @ character and the value of the `append_domain` parameter to the value retrieved from the LDAP database.

For other methods of mapping gateway usernames to Okta usernames, see [Mapping Safeguard for Privileged Sessions usernames to Okta identities](#).

## [question\_1]

Type:	integer [seconds]
-------	-------------------

*Description:* Used for communication between plugins. This is an interactive request/response right after authentication in order to supply data to credential store plugins. The question is transferred to the session cookie and all hooks of all plugins receive it.

For example, if you have an external authenticator app, you do not have to wait for the question to be prompted but can authenticate with a one-time password:

```
ssh otp=123456@root@scb
```

Name subsequent questions with the appropriate number, for example, `[question_1]`, `[question_2]`, and so on.

For details, see "[Performing authentication with AA plugin in terminal connections](#)" in the [Administration Guide](#) and "[Performing authentication with AA plugin in Remote Desktop connections](#)" in the [Administration Guide](#).



## key

Type:	string
Required:	yes
Default:	N/A

*Description:* The name of the name-value pair.

## prompt

Type:	string
Required:	yes
Default:	N/A

*Description:* The question itself in text format.

## disable\_echo

Type:	boolean yes no
Required:	no
Default:	no

*Description:* Whether the answer to the question is visible (yes), or replaced with asterisks (no).

## Store sensitive plugin data securely

### Purpose:

By default, the configuration of the plugin is stored on Safeguard for Privileged Sessions in the configuration of Safeguard for Privileged Sessions. Make sure that you store the sensitive parameters (for example, `api_key`) of the plugin in an encrypted way. To do this, complete the following procedure.

### Steps:

1. Log in to Safeguard for Privileged Sessions and create a local Credential Store. For details, see ["Configuring password-protected Credential Stores" in the Administration Guide](#).  
Instead of usernames and passwords, you will store the configuration parameters of the plugin in this Credential Store.
2. Add the plugin parameters you want to store in an encrypted way to the Credential Store. You can store any configuration parameter of the plugin in the Credential Store, but note that if an option appears in the Credential Store, the plugin will use it. If the same parameter appears in the configuration of the plugin, it will be ignored.
  - Enter the name of the configuration section without the brackets in the **HOST** field (for example, `okta`).
  - Enter the name of the plugin parameter in the **USERNAME** field (for example, `api_key`).
  - Enter the value of the plugin parameter in the **PASSWORD** field.
3. Commit your changes, and navigate to the configuration of the plugin on the **Policies > AA Plugin Configurations** page.
4. In the plugin configuration file, enter the name of the local Credential Store under the `[plugin]` section, in the `cred_store` parameter.

# Perform multi-factor authentication with the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin in terminal connections

## Purpose:

To establish a terminal connection (SSH, TELNET, or TN3270) to a server, complete the following steps.

## Steps:

### 1. Connect to the server.

- If you can authenticate using an OTP or token, encode the OTP as part of the username. You can use the @ as a field separator. For example:

```
ssh otp=YOUR-ONE-TIME-PASSWORD@user@server
```

Replace YOUR-ONE-TIME-PASSWORD with your actual OTP. If needed, you can specify the type of OTP as a prefix to the OTP. For example, to specify the OTP of a YubiKey token:

```
ssh otp=y_YOUR-ONE-TIME-PASSWORD@user@server
```

- Google Authenticator: g
  - inWebo Authenticator: o
  - Symantec token: s
  - YubiKey: y
  - RSA token: r
- If you need to authenticate using the Okta Verify push notification, approve the connection in your mobile app.
- ### 2. If Safeguard for Privileged Sessions prompts you for further information, enter the requested information. If you need to authenticate with an OTP, but you have not supplied the OTP in your username, you will be prompted to enter the OTP.

3. Authenticate on the server.
4. If authentication is successful, you can access the server.

# Perform multi-factor authentication with the Safeguard for Privileged Sessions Okta plugin in Remote Desktop connections

## Purpose:

To establish a Remote Desktop (RDP) connection to a server when the **AA plugin** is configured, complete the following steps.

## Steps:

1. Open your Remote Desktop client application.
2. If you have to provide additional information to authenticate on the server, you must enter this information in your Remote Desktop client application in the *User name* field, before the regular content (for example, your username) of the field.

If you can authenticate using an OTP or token, encode the OTP as part of the username. To encode additional data, you can use the following special characters:

- % as a field separator
- ~ as the equal sign
- ^ as a colon (for example, to specify the port number or an IPv6 IP address)

For example, use the following format:

```
domain\otp~YOUR-ONE-TIME-PASSWORD%Administrator
```

Replace YOUR-ONE-TIME-PASSWORD with your actual OTP. If needed, you can specify the type of OTP as a prefix to the OTP. For example, to specify the OTP of a YubiKey token: `domain\otp~y_YOUR-ONE-TIME-PASSWORD%Administrator`

- Google Authenticator: g
- inWebo Authenticator: o
- Symantec token: s

- YubiKey: y
  - RSA token: r
3. Connect to the server.  
If you need to authenticate using the Okta Verify push notification, approve the connection in your mobile app.
  4. Authenticate on the server.
  5. If authentication is successful, you can access the server.

## Learn more

To find out more about Safeguard for Privileged Sessions, visit the [One Identity page](#).

If you need help in connecting your Okta account with One Identity Safeguard for Privileged Sessions, [contact our Sales Team](#) or [contact professionalservices@balabit.com](mailto:professionalservices@balabit.com).

One Identity solutions eliminate the complexities and time-consuming processes often required to govern identities, manage privileged accounts and control access. Our solutions enhance business agility while addressing your IAM challenges with on-premises, cloud and hybrid environments.

## Contacting us

For sales or other inquiries, visit <https://www.oneidentity.com/company/contact-us.aspx> or call +1-800-306-9329.

## Technical support resources

Technical support is available to One Identity customers with a valid maintenance contract and customers who have trial versions. You can access the Support Portal at <https://support.oneidentity.com/>.

The Support Portal provides self-help tools you can use to solve problems quickly and independently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Support Portal enables you to:

- Submit and manage a Service Request
- View Knowledge Base articles
- Sign up for product notifications
- Download software and technical documentation
- View how-to-videos at [www.YouTube.com/OneIdentity](http://www.YouTube.com/OneIdentity)
- Engage in community discussions
- Chat with support engineers online
- View services to assist you with your product