

## WebMCQ Operation Specifications

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This document is provided to explain the operation of ShWAA. There are two other companion documents, one describing **WebMCQ Interactive Question Server** software, and another describing **WebMCQ Administration Tools**.

### 1. ShWAA (Shadow Web Authentication Architecture)

*ShWAA* is a software architecture designed to manage multiple versions of Web sites and/or manage secure authentication of users with differential access privileges to Web sites, and is provided with a Web based administration interface. *ShWAA* is a separate system to *WebMCQ Interactive Question Server* and *WebMCQ Administration Tools*, although it is integrated with that software.

#### 1.1 Operation

*ShWAA* provides an organisational file structure for placing Web pages on a Web server in a manner that allows restricted access using non-standard user authentication techniques. The details of this structure are available only to licensees of *ShWAA*. *ShWAA* does not manage the Web server file structure directly, but is configured to work with the existing file structure. *ShWAA* configuration settings allow the following functions to be performed:

- a. Creating user profiles containing ShWAA configuration settings that apply to an individual user
- b. Creating group profiles containing ShWAA configuration settings that apply to groups of users
- c. Authenticating users by requesting a login name and password
- d. Providing access to restricted content based on an authenticated user's profile
- e. Optionally providing access to one of multiple versions of content based on an authenticated user's profile.

After a user is authenticated by *ShWAA*, the software in conjunction with the host Web server will:

- f. Log the request of the authenticated user
- g. Ensure that the user has not violated any access restrictions (such as time restrictions, multiple login attempts, access to forbidden content) according to *ShWAA*'s configuration

- h. Determine which, if any, version of a Web page should be presented to the user
- i. Present appropriate content to the user via the Web browser, along with session tracking information.

*ShWAA* provides the following functions to administrators via a Web interface:

- j. Managing user and group profiles, including access restrictions
- k. Viewing information about user and group logs
- l. Viewing information about user access to particular areas of a Web site.

### **1.2 Client Software Requirements for Administrators**

To access Web pages residing in a *ShWAA*-based Web server, any Web browser compatible with Netscape 1.1 or above is required. This includes Internet Explorer version 2.0 or above. Content within the Web pages residing in a *ShWAA*-based Web server may have more restrictive requirements.

### **1.3 Client Software Requirements for Administrators**

To access the *ShWAA* Administration Web interface, a Web browser compatible with Netscape Navigator version 3.0 is required. This includes all versions of Netscape Navigator and Netscape Communicator released after version 3.0 [See Note 1], and all versions of Internet Explorer released with or after version 4.0. No client-side "plug-ins" are required. It is necessary for users to have JavaScript enabled on the Web browser to use *WebMCQ Administration Tools*.

### Notes:

1. Netscape Navigator users should set their Web browser to check for the most recent version of Web pages upon every request, otherwise changes made in the administration interface may not be reflected in pages displayed by Netscape. This setting is generally made by selecting Preferences from the Edit menu, then under Advanced->Cache, select 'Document in cache is compared to document on network **Every Time**'.

2. Internet Explorer version 3.0 is **not** compatible with Netscape 3.0 and may cause *WebMCQ Administration Tools* to function incorrectly.

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