Installing a PHP Proxy for Digital Media Designer RSS Feeds

This document is a guide for deploying a PHP proxy server to allow RSS feeds to be served across domains.

Cisco Product Security Incident Response Team (PSIRT) has been actively monitoring Cisco products, including the Digital Media Suite, for any security vulnerability. We made some changes to secure our product in version 5.2.

Using Digital Media Designer (DMD) RSS in 5.2

DMD has changed from using HTML to using Flash to display RSS. The Adobe Flash player has built-in security; it does not allow content to be displayed from a different domain than 1st domain contained in the original URL, by default. When you play a DMD presentation, the original URL is the URL of Digital Media Manager (DMM) and the domain that DMM belongs to. Then you add an RSS URL from another domain. The Adobe Flash player checks the permission of the content and chooses to display it (or not) based on the permission from the content source.

Cross-domain policy file specification

A cross-domain policy file is an XML document that grants a web client, such as Adobe Flash player or Adobe Acrobat (though not necessarily limited to these), permission to handle data across domains. When a client hosts content from a particular source domain and that content makes requests directed towards a domain other than its own, the remote domain needs to host a cross-domain policy file that grants access to the source domain; this allows the client to continue the transaction.

Use the following procedures and files to help build a proxy server to enable a cross-domain feed to reach the Digital Media Player.

Installing a PHP Proxy

Pre-requisites

Before you can setup a PHP proxy server, you must have the following installed:

- Apache HTTP server or Microsoft IIS server
- PHP 5
- PHP Curl library

The DMM **cannot** be used as a proxy server. We recommend using the streaming/storage server for this purpose.

Note: These prerequisites are the responsibility of the customer. Cisco is not responsible for the installation, management or support of the proxy server.

Examples of Apache download sites:
- Apache server Instructions below for Windows XP:
  http://www.thesitewizard.com/apache/install-apache-2-windows.shtml

- If you are using Windows Vista or Windows 7, then use this page:
  http://www.thesitewizard.com/apache/install-apache-on-vista.shtml

After Apache or IIS is up and running, install PHP 5.x:
http://www.thesitewizard.com/php/install-php-5-apache-windows.shtml

Download the .zip file **php_proxy_setup_for_dmd.zip** which contains the following files:

- "proxy.php"
- "crossdomain.xml"

1. Place the "crossdomain.xml" in the web root of the server so that you can access it by going to the server's hostname. For example, http://www.mysite.com/crossdomain.xml.

2. Place the "proxy.php" anywhere on the server so that it is accessible. The proxy is easy to use, just make sure to escape the URL after the "url=" so that a ":" becomes **%3A**. Here are some examples:

   Example 1: To load XML/Text
   http://yourserver.com/proxy.php?url=http%3A//www.mysite.com/index.xml
   http://yourserver.com/proxy.php?url=http%3A//www.mysite.com/index.html

   Example 2: To load a SWF (binary-data)
   http://yourserver.com/proxy.php?url=http%3A//www.mysite.com/myswf.swf&mimeType=
   application/x-shockwave-flash

   Example 3: Using the Proxy in DMD
   Instead of using the URL from an RSS feed directly, you would use the link with the proxy URL.

   For example, **http://news.google.com/?output=rss** becomes
   http://www.mysite.com/proxy.php?url=http%3A//news.google.com/?output=rss.

Troubleshooting
- If the RSS ticker still displays an error after deploying or preview, then navigate to the RSS URL containing the proxy link in a web browser. If everything is set up correctly, then content should load inside the browser.

- If you see an error regarding "Curl" not found or something similar, then please install the PHP Curl library.

- If the content loads correctly in a browser, but you are still getting an error after deploying or previewing a presentation, then make sure that the "crossdomain.xml" is accessible and is placed in the web root.

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