



# Basic authentication

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Sometimes, to facilitate integration with a third-party tool, it's useful to have an account that uses basic authentication (basic auth). Basic auth uses an email address and a password, similar to [readers](#) set up directly in KnowledgeOwl.

Basic auth can be useful if you have your knowledge base access restricted in one format, but you'd like to give a third-party tool its own reader account to authenticate with. We see this most often used for tools that crawl your knowledge base for various purposes (such as Amazon's [Kendra](#) or other chatbot/search integrators).

To enable Basic Authentication in KnowledgeOwl, you need to enable the overall setting in **Security and access > Security settings** and then configure an individual reader account to use basic auth. Refer to the more detailed instructions below.

## Knowledge base setup

First, enable basic authentication for your knowledge base overall:

1. Go to **Security and access > Security settings**.
2. In the **Authentication settings** section, locate the **Allow basic authentication** heading.
3. Check the box to **Enable designated readers to log in via basic access authentication**:

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4. **Save your changes.**

## Reader setup

Once you have basic auth enabled for the knowledge base as a whole, designate a reader account to use that authentication:

1. Go to **Security and access > Readers (or Account > Readers)**.
2. You can choose to [create a new reader account](#) to use with basic auth or edit an existing reader account to use as your basic auth account. Be sure the reader account is set up with a self-administered password.
3. Once you're in the **Edit Reader** screen viewing the details of the reader account you'd like to use, look for the **Basic Authentication** heading.

4. Check the box to **Allow this reader to log in via basic access authentication**:

Check the box to Allow this reader to log in via basic access authentication.

5. Be sure the reader has access to the appropriate knowledge base(s) and/or [reader group\(s\)](#).

6. **Save your changes.**

You can now use the email address and password you set this account up with as the username/password for your third-party tool.

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