For Immediate Release

IIJ Offers Free LDAP Authentication Module for NGINX, the World's No. 1 Web Server Software

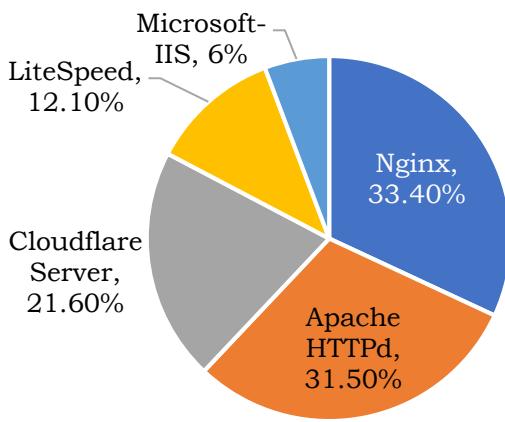## -- Accounts and passwords for Windows can be used as-is for Web access control --

TOKYO - June 14, 2022 - Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ, TSE Prime: 3774) one of Japan's leading Internet access and comprehensive network solutions providers, today announced that it has developed an access control function (module) called "ngx_auth_mod" for use with the NGINX web server software necessary for building websites, and will begin offering the module free of charge on the software sharing service GitHub.

About NGINX

NGINX is a web server software developed and released by Igor Sysoev in 2004. It is widely used in large-scale websites and CDNs because of its high speed and suitability for processing large numbers of accesses, and currently has the largest market share in the world (*1). Currently, NGINX, Inc. manages the development of the software, which is offered free of charge under an open source license and as a paid product, NGINX Plus.

NGINX also provides a number of modules to extend functionality, some of which are distributed as part of NGINX and some of which are distributed by third parties. IIJ will provide the newly developed ngx_auth_mod as an open source module distributed by a third party.

(*1) Survey by W3Techs (as of May 2022): https://w3techs.com/technologies/overview/web_server

About the IIJ-developed module ngx_auth_mod

When NGINX is used on a website that requires access restrictions, such as an in-house portal site, an authentication module must be added to check users and determine whether they can access the site or not. The ngx_auth_mod developed by IIJ is a function that links the authentication function of NGINX with in-house Windows accounts (Active Directory) using the LDAP (*2) method. By using ngx_auth_mod, accounts and passwords normally used for Windows can be directly used for web access control, making it possible to achieve both security and convenience.

LDAP authentication modules for NGINX have been provided by other developers, but ngx_auth_mod is designed to be more security-conscious than other modules and is also easier to configure.

(*2) LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol): A procedure for querying a database via a network. It is often used to query a server that collectively manages accounts and passwords (authentication server).

Overview of provision of ngx_auth_mod

Form of provision: Provision based on open source license (MIT license) (free of charge)

Method of provision: Publication on GitHub

GitHub URL: https://github.com/iij/ngx_auth_mod

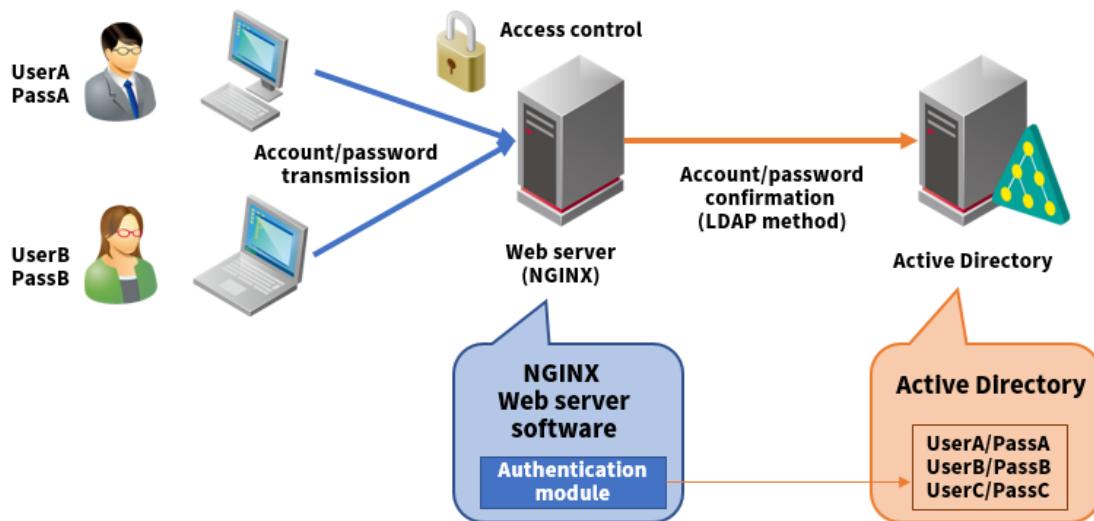Provision timing: Release from June 14, 2022

For more information on the plugin, please see the manual posted on GitHub.

Manual URL: https://github.com/iij/ngx_auth_mod/blob/master/docs/README.md

In addition, a background explanation by the developer is posted on the IIJ engineer blog.

Engineer blog URL: https://eng-blog.iij.ad.jp/archives/13747 (Japanese only)

Image

IIJ hopes to contribute to safer Internet usage by providing ngx_auth_mod.

About IIJ

Founded in 1992, IIJ is one of Japan's leading Internet-access and comprehensive network solutions providers. IIJ and its group companies provide total network solutions that mainly cater to high-end corporate customers. IIJ's services include high-quality Internet connectivity services, systems integration, cloud computing services, security services and mobile services. Moreover, IIJ has built one of the largest Internet backbone networks in Japan that is connected to the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia. IIJ was listed on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in 2006. For more information about IIJ, visit the IIJ Web site at https://www.iij.ad.jp/en/.

The statements within this release contain forward-looking statements about our future plans that involve risk and uncertainty. These statements may differ materially from actual future events or results.

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