

Guess what I found under my assistant's keyboard

How to share login information with your assistant securely

Would you like to write yourself a check from our corporate bank account? All you need to do is: (1) find the URL for our online bank, and (2) look under my assistant's keyboard. In that list of logins and passwords you'll find our bank account. Please leave some money in the account for payroll.

While this scenario seems a bit unbelievable, it is all too common. As we move our corporate assets and operations into "The Cloud" we haven't appropriately kept up with security and control like we should. Fortunately, among its many talents, IronStratus provides a method for dealing with the assistant login problem.

The Problem

For example, my travel is done mostly through American Airlines, and as is the case with most airlines today, the most efficient way to book tickets is through their web site. I have my own American Airlines Advantage number and password I use to book my travel. The site has my credit card number stored, so booking tickets is easy...that is, if I have time to get it done. But that's where my assistant comes in.

Cynthia is good, trustworthy, and all-in-all a great assistant. I expect that she'll be around for quite some time...not like Heidi, my previous assistant, which is another story entirely

IronStratus provides solutions to the two big concerns I have with my assistant, or I should say any assistant:

1. How do I ensure that my assistant doesn't walk out the door with the logins to all of my (and corporate) web sites?
2. How do I maintain good security and control over my web logins, even when my assistant is using them?

The first question is experience talking, and the second is corporate responsibility.

The Solution

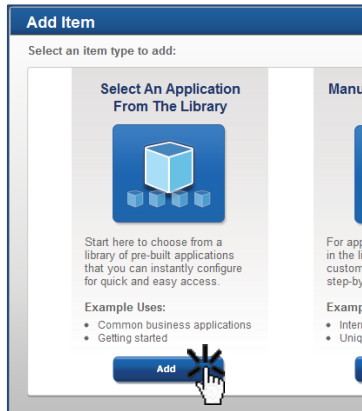
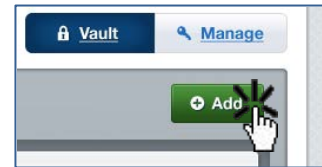
I can use IronStratus to:

- Provide Cynthia with the ability to log in to my web-based accounts when she needs to, but without knowing my passwords.
- To revoke that capability whenever I want.
- Track each time she uses my web logins...just in case.

¹ I'm just using this scenario as AN EXAMPLE. Please DO NOT take money out of our bank account! 😊

IronStratus uses the term “sharing” for this capability. For example, if I wanted Cynthia to be able to book my American Airlines travel, I would share my American Airlines login with her. Here’s how I did it.

I’ll start this example with the assumption that I already have Cynthia entered as a user in IronStratus. The first thing I did was to create a login item for American Airlines by clicking **Add** from my Vault.

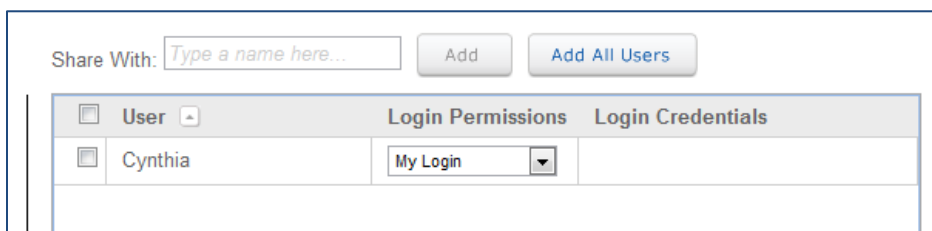
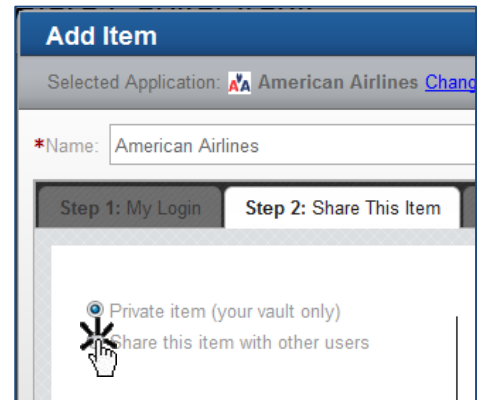


American Airlines is one of the thousands of web logins that are pre-programmed into IronStratus. So I just clicked the **Add** for “Select An Application From the Library” and started typing “american” in the selection box. Then I clicked the Select button by American Airlines. This brings up the configuration windows for the American Airlines item. In the first tab you can enter your username and password. Really, though, you don’t have to enter them now, IronStratus will prompt you for them when you first use the American Airlines login item. So I didn’t enter them, and just clicked on the next button to get to the “sharing” configuration.

Items in your Vault can be either **Private**, only seen by you, or you can **Share the item with other users**. Click on the selector in front of “Share this item...” to see the options for sharing.

There are quite a few options that you can choose for sharing items with others. But for this example I wanted to share my American Airlines login item with Cynthia, but I don’t want her to see the login information.

So I entered Cynthia as a person I wanted to share with and set the “**Login Permissions**” to “**My Login**.” This means that when Cynthia clicks on the American Airlines item in HER Vault, it will login to American Airlines with my login information.



But does Cynthia see the login information when she logs in? By default she does not. But you can turn on the ability for her to see it by checking the “Allow users to see login” box on the left half of the window.

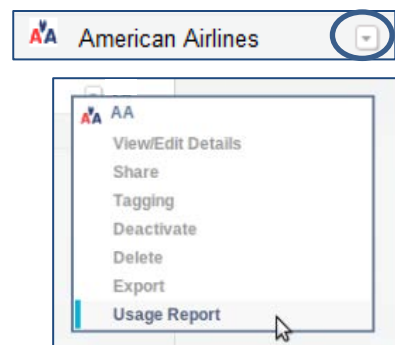
This is only the tip of the iceberg for sharing things within IronStratus. There are actually three different values you can specify for “Login Permissions” on a per user basis:

- **Allow User to Set Login** – the shared login item doesn’t use your login credentials, instead it allows the user to set their own. This is very useful when you simply want to track your user’s use of the login, but not really control it.

- **Set Login for User** – specify the login credentials for each user in the list separately. This is useful for doling out logins for some web resource that you need to control. The users won't see the login credentials being used unless "Allow users to see login" is checked.
- **My Login** – as above, this specifies that "my" credentials are to be used for login. The important point here is that ALL users in the list with this option set use these same credentials. In addition to sharing my American Airlines credentials with Cynthia, this option is very useful for sharing access to web resources where you only have one login.

Monitoring

The final step in sharing is reporting on the use of the shared login. To do this, click on the arrow to the right of the American Airlines login item. The actions menu will pop-up where you can select "Usage Report" to see who has been using the American Airlines login – you included. IronStratus will keep track of the last 90 days of usage.



The Wrap up

Sharing is one of the coolest things about IronStratus. In one fell swoop it allows you to control and monitor web-based resources in a secure fashion, while providing convenience for all of your users.

Look for other IronStratus Playbook articles that describe more intense sharing, as well as examples of the other ways to take advantage of IronStratus Capabilities.

For more IronStratus use cases, please check-out the IronStratus web site at www.ironstratus.com/what-we-do