Arvados - Story #3897

[SDKs] Clients can specify which auth config file to load.

09/17/2014 02:54 PM - Tim Pierce

Status:	New		**Start date:**	
Priority:	Normal		**Due date:**	
Assigned To:			**% Done:**	0%
Category:			**Estimated time:**	0.00 hour
Target version:	Arvados Future Sprints			

Description

The usual methods by which a client authenticates to Arvados are

- ARVADOS_API_HOST, ARVADOS_API_TOKEN and ARVADOS_API_HOST_INSECURE environment variables
- $HOME/.config/arvados/settings.conf

Both methods stop being convenient when a given UNIX shell account is used to authenticate to more than a single Arvados account at a single Arvados instance with a single API token. Both methods are just plain useless when a single process uses multiple Arvados accounts/instances/tokens (e.g., arv-copy).

The Python SDK has a concept of a connection profile (API version, host, token, insecure flag). This concept should be extended to configuration files: the choice of which credentials/endpoint to use can be indicated by a path to a configuration file.

For example, these could be equivalent:

```
arv --auth-file ~/.config/arvados/foo.conf user current
arv --auth foo user current
```

Notes:

- Avoid the obvious command line parameter name --config for choosing a connection profile, despite the tempting ~/.config path convention. This causes confusion between configuration and authentication. (When the arv tool gets real configuration options, like default output format, visual editor, and auth profile, we'll want those configs to be orthogonal to authentication profiles.)
- Avoid assuming there is only one auth profile per Arvados instance. In documentation, avoid directing users to make qr1hi.conf. Something like tom@qr1hi.conf makes it more clear what's happening.
- Leave room for supporting a file format like yaml, and multiple auth profiles per config file. But for now, ~/.config/arvados/{string}.conf provides a decent amount of flexibility.

Related issues:

Has duplicate Arvados - Feature #9070: arv-put to another cluster	**Duplicate**	**04/27/2016**
Has duplicate Arvados - Feature #3805: [SDKs] CLI supports ARVADOS_CONFIG var...	**Duplicate**	**09/03/2014**

History

#1 - 09/17/2014 02:59 PM - Tim Pierce

- Description updated

#2 - 09/19/2014 06:21 PM - Tom Clegg

- Subject changed from Clients can authenticate to multiple Arvados instances consistently to [SDKs] Clients can specify which auth config file to load.

- Story points set to 0.5

#3 - 09/22/2014 09:46 PM - Tom Clegg

- Description updated

#4 - 05/05/2016 02:01 PM - Brett Smith

#3805 suggests an implementation based on an ARVADOS_CONFIG environment variable.