

Arvados - Bug #7141

[API] Advertise anonymous token in discovery document

08/26/2015 08:45 PM - Tom Clegg

Status:	New	Start date:	08/26/2015
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assigned To:		% Done:	0%
Category:	API	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	Arvados Future Sprints		

Description

This will make it possible to access public data anonymously directly through the API, without going through Workbench.

Ideally Workbench (and the download service, when that happens) will also learn this from the discovery doc instead of its own config file.

Background

Even when reading publicly accessible objects, clients must provide a valid API token. We *could* accept "no token provided" as being equivalent to "anonymous token", but we have decided not to:

- it's bad enough that 404 means "the object you are requesting does not exist *or* is not visible with these credentials", without adding another possibility "... *or* ((your credentials were not received at all for some reason) and (the object you are requesting is not public))".
- it's good to have fewer special cases in the authentication path

Aside: it wouldn't be unreasonable to use something like "*" or "-" (instead of the usual long string of random characters) as the anonymous token -- assuming there aren't any assumptions in the code base about length or allowed characters.

History

#1 - 08/27/2015 02:15 AM - Tom Clegg

- Description updated