



OAuth with PeeringDB For Network Operators

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<https://www.inex.ie/>





INEX

- Peering point for the island of Ireland, member owned association, not for profit, founded in 1996
- ~100 members
- Peak of ~400Gbps
- Dual infrastructure, 8 PoPs, own dark fibre
- Opened INEX Cork in 2016
- Home of IXP Manager

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**An open protocol to allow
secure authorization in a
simple and standard method
from web, mobile and
desktop applications.**


– OAuth 2.0 Definition

Why is this relevant for network operators?

OAuth 2.0 Roles

- The **resource owner** is the *end-user* (for us at least).
- The **client** is the *third party application* looking for access to the *user's* account.
- The **authorization server** is that which presents the interface for the *user* to approve / deny access to the *client*.
- The **resource server** is the API server used to access the *user's* information (*often the same as the authorization server*).

OAuth 2.0 - IDs, Secrets and URLs

 **PeeringDB** [Advanced Search](#)

Register a new application

Name

Client id

Client secret

Client type

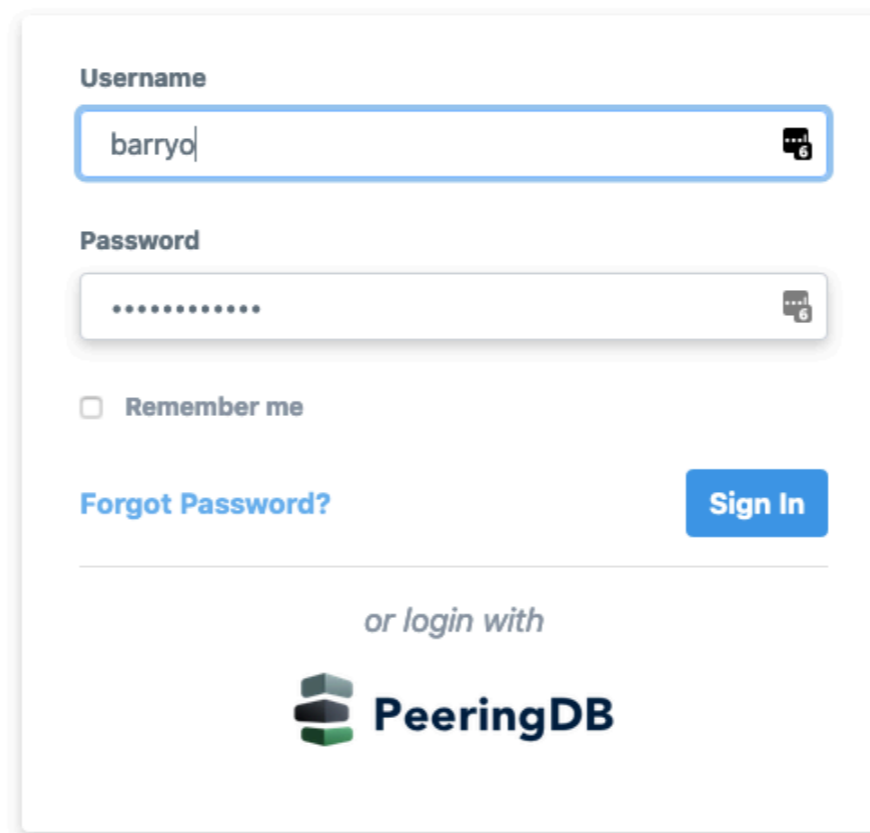
Authorization grant type

Redirect uris


[Go Back](#)

Example OAuth Process

Let's look at IXP Manager with PeeringDB.



The screenshot shows a login form with the following elements:

- Username:** A text input field containing the text "barryo".
- Password:** A password input field with masked characters (dots).
- Remember me**
- [Forgot Password?](#)
- Sign In** button
- or login with*
-  **PeeringDB**

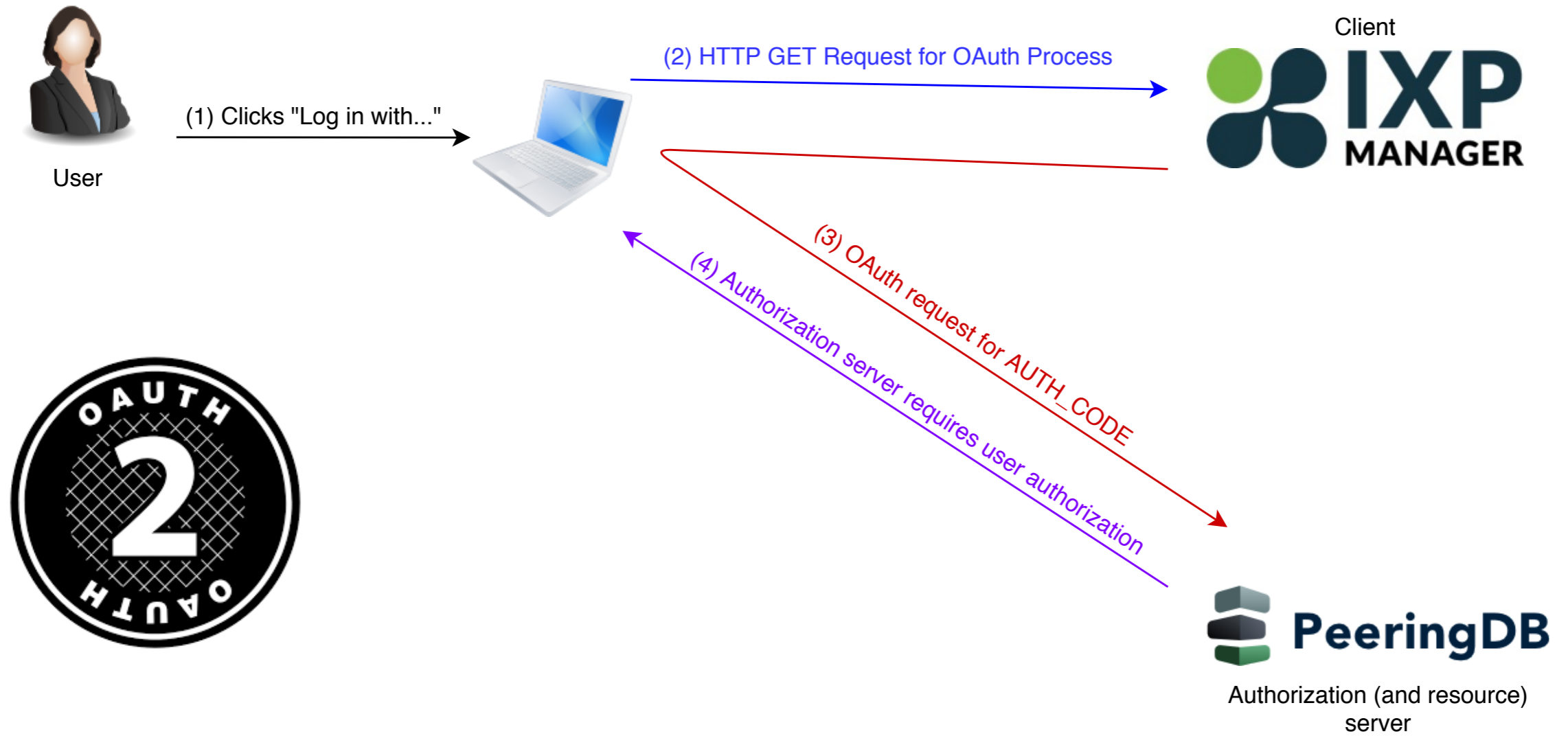
What happens if we click on *Login with PeeringDB*?

Example OAuth Process

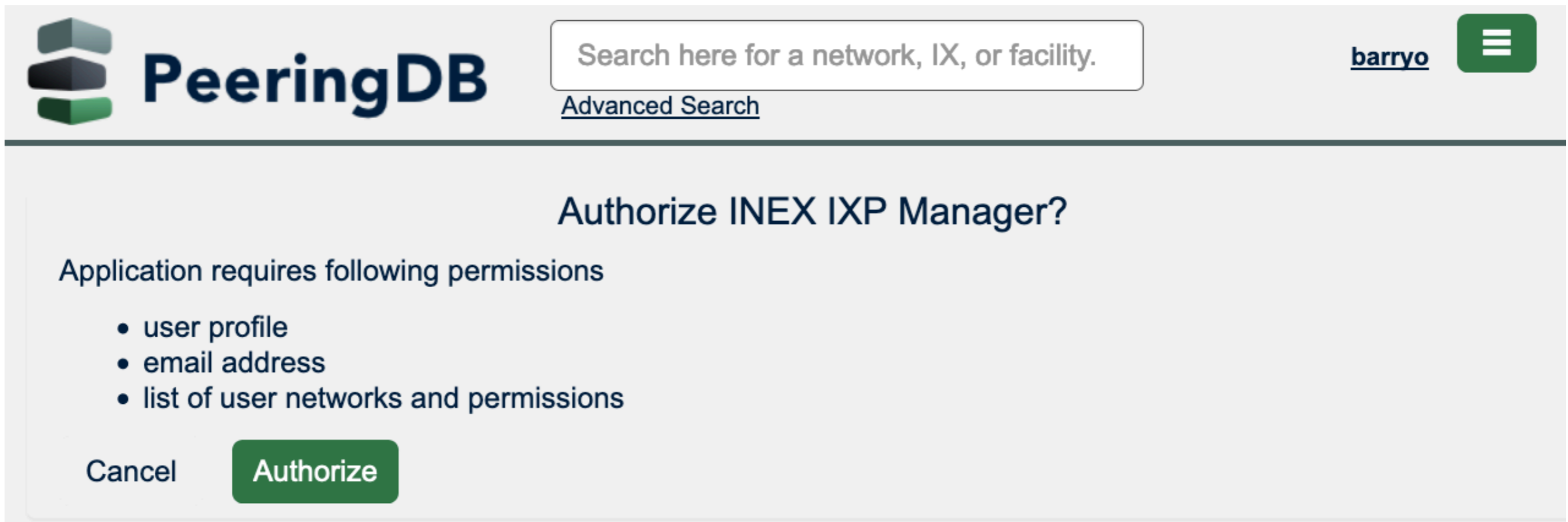
User clicks on Login with PeeringDB [1]:

1. HTTP GET request to *client* [2]: `/auth/login/peeringdb`
2. Returns a HTTP redirect response to send the *user* to [3]:

```
https://auth.peeringdb.com/oauth2/authorize/  
  ?response_type=code  
  &client_id=CLIENT_ID  
  &redirect_uri=REDIRECT_URI  
  &scope=profile+email+networks  
  &state=1234zyx
```



Example OAuth Process



The screenshot shows the PeeringDB website interface. At the top left is the PeeringDB logo. To its right is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search here for a network, IX, or facility." and a link for "Advanced Search". On the top right, the user's name "barryo" is displayed next to a green menu icon. The main content area is titled "Authorize INEX IXP Manager?". Below the title, it states "Application requires following permissions" and lists three permissions: "user profile", "email address", and "list of user networks and permissions". At the bottom of the authorization box, there are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Authorize".

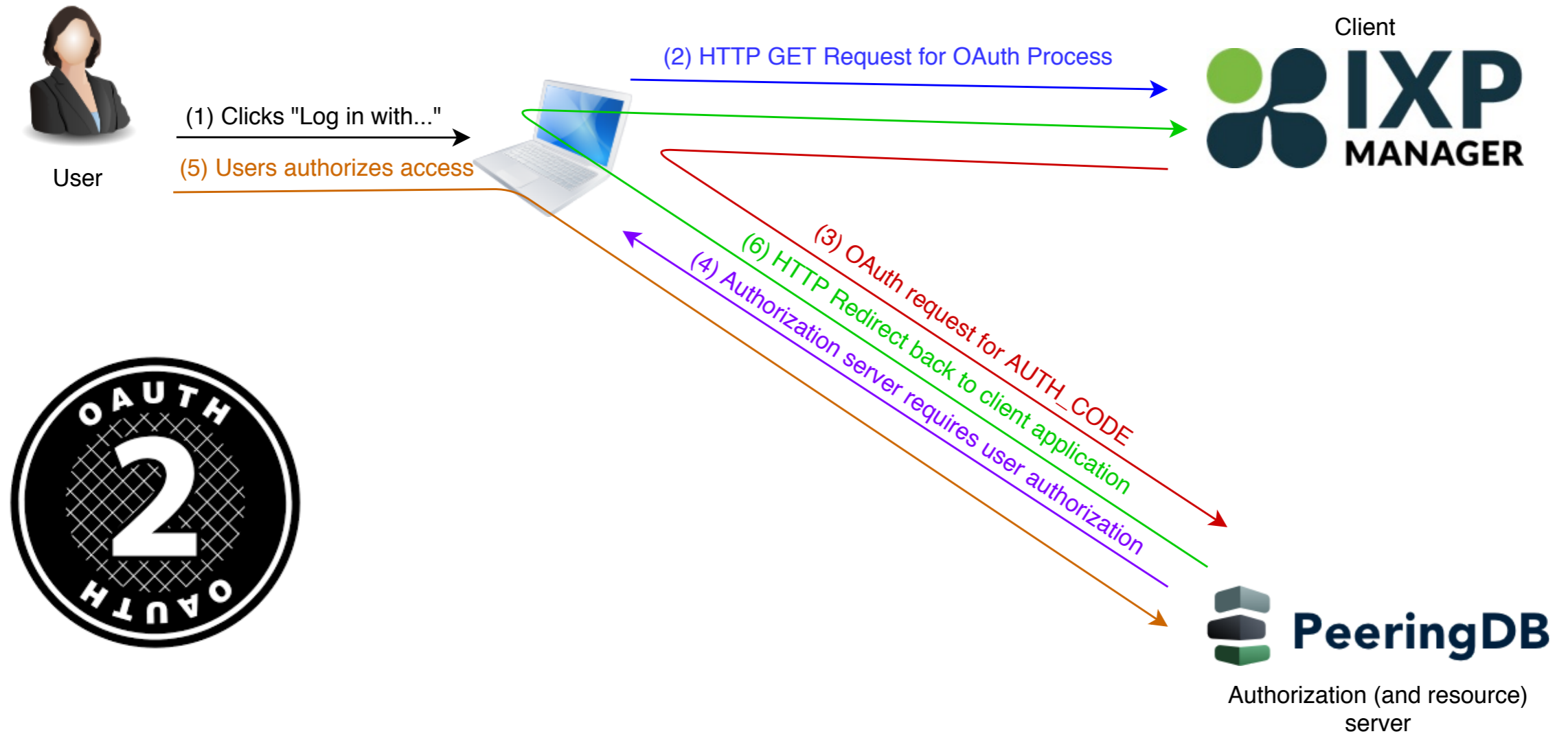
Asked to authorize **INEX's** IXP Manager [4].
(And note the requested scopes)

Example OAuth Process

If the *user* clicks authorize [5], the authorization service redirects back via the (verified) redirect URL [6] with an authorization code:

```
https://www.someix-ixpmanager/auth/login/peeringdb/callback  
?code=AUTH_CODE  
&state=1234zyx
```

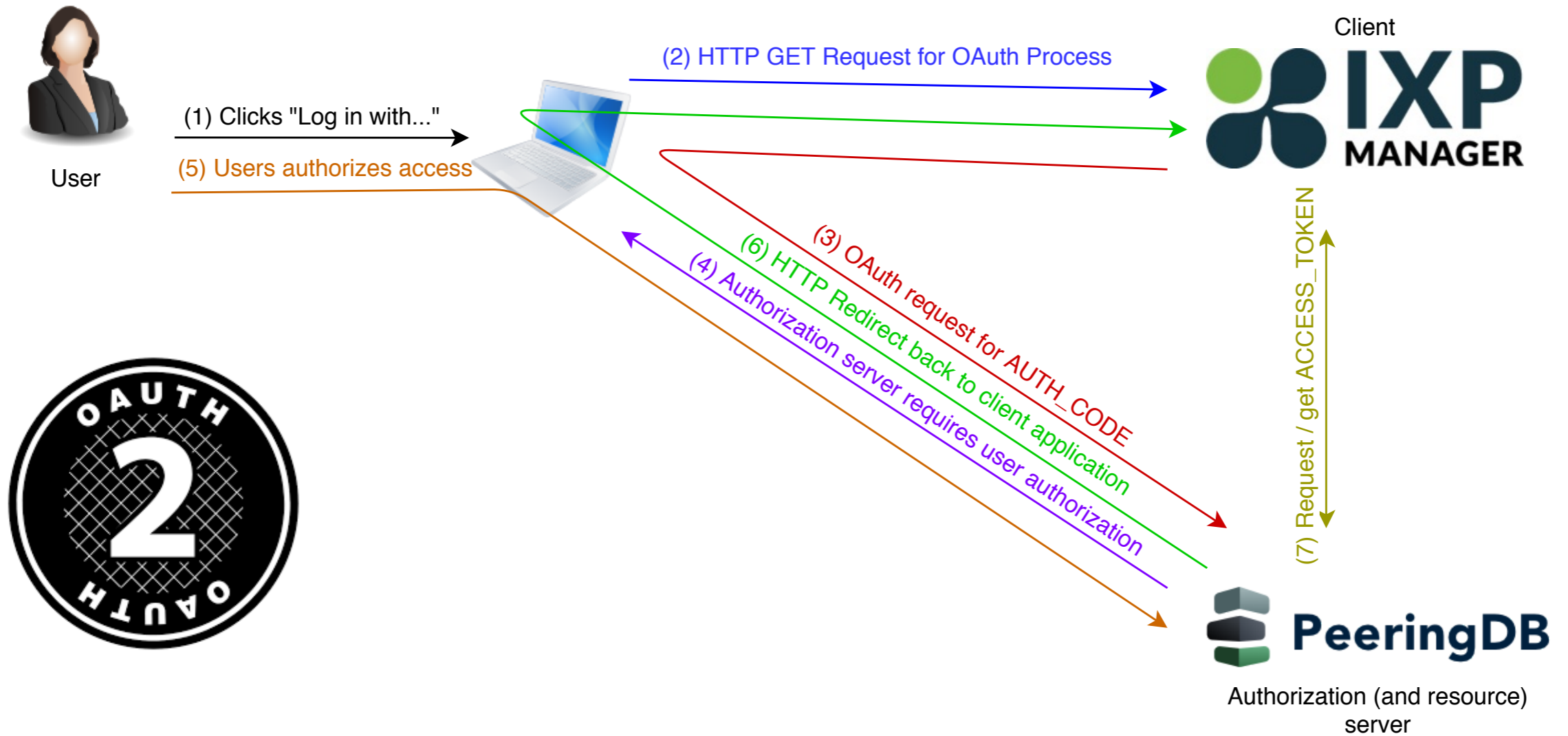
Note that (a) use of TLS mandatory; (b) redirect URL must match what was registered for the *client*; and (c) client must compare received state to what was sent.



Example OAuth Process

In the background, the *client* now uses the `code=AUTH_CODE` received to get an access token via a POST request to the *authorization server* [7].

```
https://auth.peeringdb.com/oauth2/token/  
?grant_type=authorization_code  
&code=AUTH_CODE  
&redirect_uri=REDIRECT_URI  
&client_id=CLIENT_ID  
&client_secret=CLIENT_SECRET
```



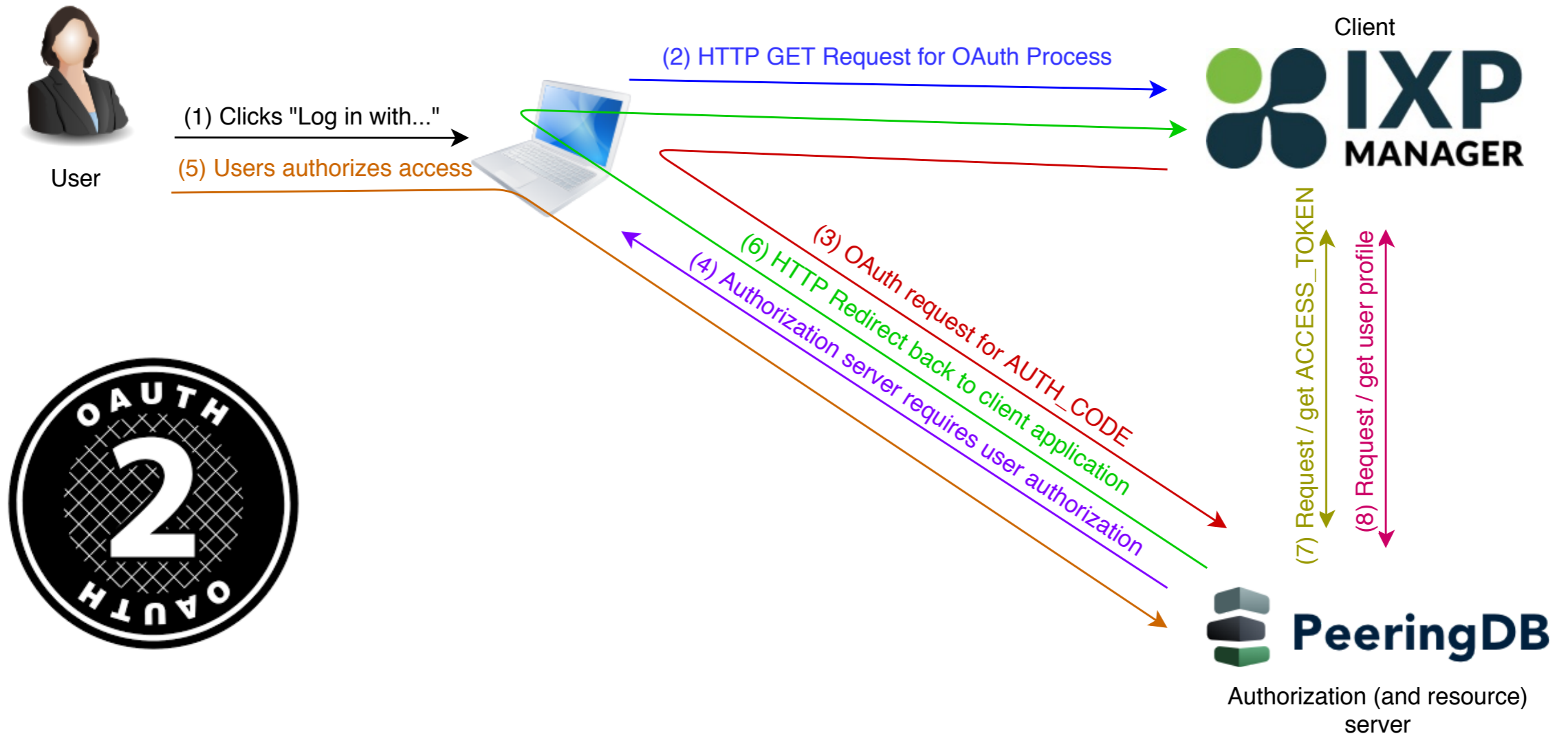
Example OAuth Process

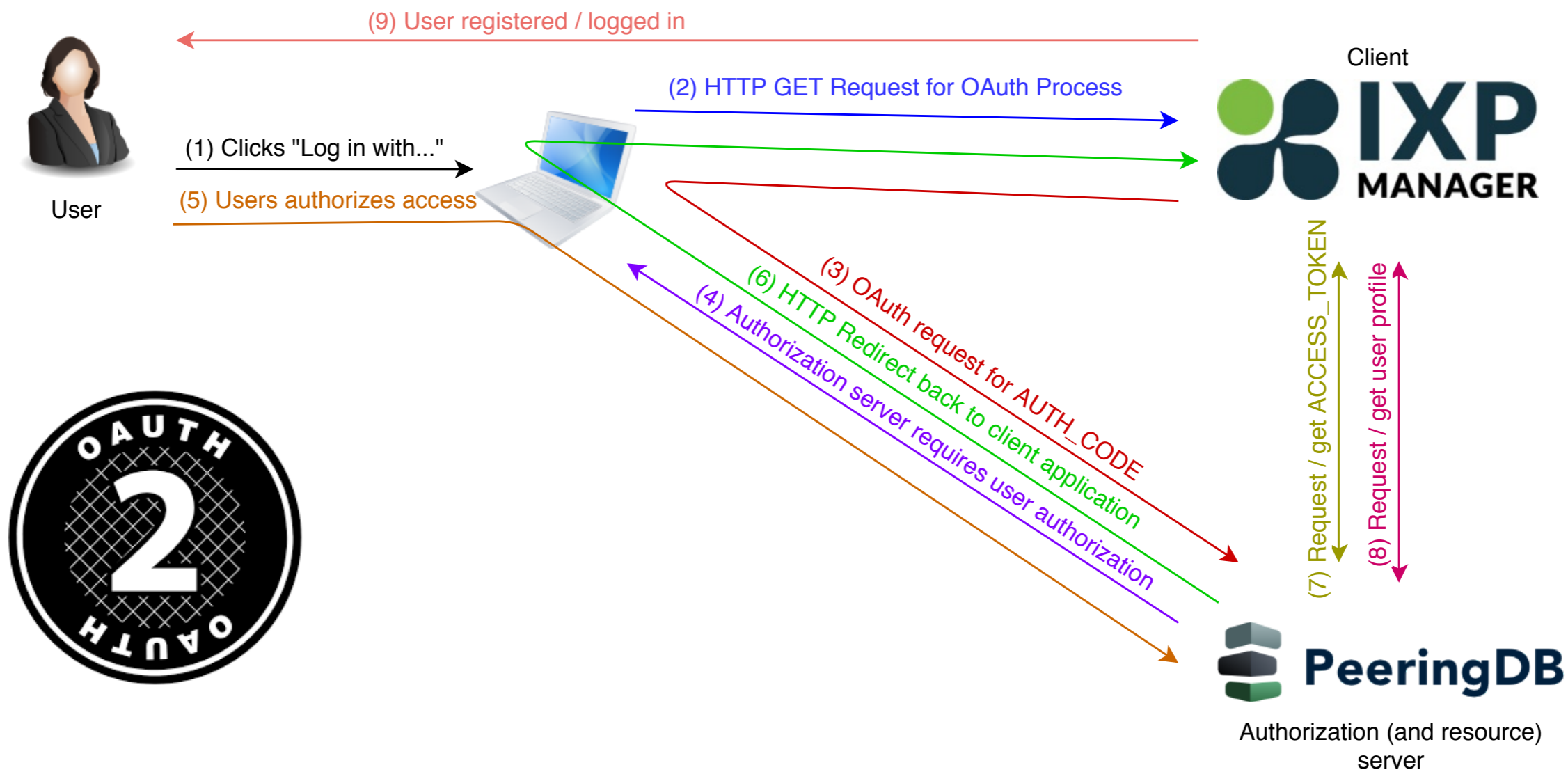
Once the *client* has an *access token*, it can request *user* information with the *scope(s)* that it has been authorized for via HTTP GET [8].

```
https://auth.peeringdb.com/profile/v1
```

HTTP Headers:

```
Authorization: Bearer ACCESS_TOKEN
```



Example OAuth Process

Remember, from a *user* perspective, this is usually two clicks.

1. **Click *Login with PeeringDB*** [1]

- browser gets redirected to PeeringDB asking for *user* permission [2,3,4].

2. **Grant permission** [5]

- browser gets redirected back to client from authorization server [6]
- client receives AUTH_CODE which is exchanged for an ACCESS_TOKEN [6,7]
- client uses ACCESS_TOKEN to get user information [8]
- client creates and/or logs user in

3. User logged into client application. [9]

Sample User Profile from PeeringDB

```
{
  "id": 9999,
  "name": "Barry O'Donovan",
  "given_name": "Barry",
  "family_name": "O'Donovan",
  "email": "barry.odonovan@inex.ie",
  "verified_user": true,
  "verified_email": true,
  "networks": [
    {
      "perms": 15, "asn": 65500, "name": "Acme Net", "id": 9999
    }, {
      "perms": 15, "asn": 65501, "name": "Example Net", "id": 9998
    }
  ]
}
```

IXP Manager Verification (1/2)

How does IXP Manager validate & use user detail from PeeringDB?

- data structure okay (user details present, network(s) present)?
- user has `verified_user` and `verified_email` with PeeringDB?
- at least one of the networks are IX members?
- load (by PeeringDB ID) or create user object in IXP Manager
- created user is a read-only user by default

IXP Manager Verification (2/2)

- remove any user/network associations in IXP Manager that previously came from PeeringDB but are no longer present in the new PeeringDB network list
- add any new user/network associations (only if a *normal peering network* that is current, connected and hasn't requested PeeringDB OAuth be disabled for them)

Then either:

- if no user/network associations at end of process, delete user;
- otherwise log user in.

Do We Trust PeeringDB?

So Do We Trust PeeringDB?

This is a reasonably small industry where the significant human actors are well known to many of us.

So yes, we trust PeeringDB 😊

(evaluate your own security/threat model!)

What Are the Risks?

1. OAuth protocol is well understood, widely used and proven.
2. IXP Manager and PeeringDB use well established libraries for OAuth server / client.
3. Implementation issues?

What's the Exposure

To my mind, not a lot:

- Port details, IP addressing, NOC details (available via IX-F Export, PeeringDB, IX website)
- Traffic graphs, peer to peer graphs
- Again, read-only access by default
- Again, absolutely no superadmin access via OAuth

INEX's Experience with PeeringDB OAuth

- Launched August 29th, 2019
- 26 new users created in first two months:
 - 19 via PeeringDB, 2 by member admins, 5 by ops team
 - i.e. 73% of new users required no other actor
- Feedback has been 100% positive
 - no member has requested an opt-out
- Found issue with mailing list subscriptions.

IXP Manager Support

- Released in IXP Manager v5.2.0 on September 20th
- Enabling PeeringDB OAuth is really easy¹:
 1. Register your IXP Manager instance as an [OAuth application on PeeringDB](#).
 2. Add configuration elements to `.env`:

```
AUTH_PEERINGDB_ENABLED=true  
PEERINGDB_OAUTH_CLIENT_ID="xxx"  
PEERINGDB_OAUTH_CLIENT_SECRET="xxx"
```

¹ <https://docs.ixpmanager.org/features/peeringdb-oauth/>

References

- [IXP Manager PeeringDB OAuth Documentation](#)
- [PeeringDB OAuth 2.0 Documentation](#)
- [OAuth 2.0 Community Site](#)
- [rfc6749](#), [rfc6750](#), [rfc6819](#)
- [OAuth 2 Simplified](#) - excellent blog post.
- [Laravel Socialite](#) and [Laravel Passport](#) (via [oauth2-server](#))
- [Python Django Oauth Toolkit](#) (via [OAuthLib](#))

Thank You!

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