

Automated User Deletion with SCIM

How to use System for Cross-domain Identity Management for automated user deletion.

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[PDF VERSION](#)

Tags | [SCIM](#) |

ADMIN PRIVILEGES REQUIRED

Applies to: Free Basic Business Enterprise

Enterprise users can access their documentation [here](#). [Find your plan](#).

Overview

With the Stack Overflow for Teams Business System for Cross-domain Identity Management (SCIM) 2.0 implementation, you can perform automated deletion of users from your site. This method removes users permanently, just as if a site admin had deleted them using the [admin user interface](#).

This article details the user deletion process with an external identity provider (IdP) as well as direct API calls. To learn more about other SCIM 2.0 capabilities, such as user deactivation/reactivation and moderator access, read the [Automated User Provisioning \(SCIM\) Overview](#) article.

NOTE: The deletion of a user using this feature **CANNOT BE REVERSED**. Deletion is an irrevocable action that permanently removes the user and changes attribution of their content to a generic user (for example: User1527). Before you proceed, be aware of the differences between deactivation (which is reversible, does not remove the user, and retains their attribution to content) and deletion (which is **IRREVERSIBLE** and removes the user and their attribution).

THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO STACK OVERFLOW FOR TEAMS BASIC AND BUSINESS ONLY.

Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise users should read [this article](#) instead. [Find your plan](#).

Enable SCIM user deletion

To help prevent unintentional user deletion with SCIM 2.0, Stack Overflow enables this functionality only for supported customers on a case-by-case basis. If you'd like to enable or disable this feature, open a [support ticket](#).

Enable and authenticate SCIM on your site

NOTE: This guide assumes you've already enabled and configured SSO authentication on your site. For more information, read the [SSO Overview](#) article.

To configure SCIM support on your site, log into your site as an administrator. Click **Admin settings** in the main menu, then **SCIM integration**.

If this is the first time you're enabling SCIM, click **Generate Token** to create an authorization token. If you've already enabled SCIM support, you'll need to either obtain the SCIM token previously saved at your IdP or you can click **Discard token and regenerate** to remove the old token and create a new one. If you generate a new token, you'll need to copy it and save it to your IdP's SCIM configuration.

NOTE: When you generate a new token, your site will reveal that token just once. Be sure to copy the token to a safe place before you navigate away from that page.

Check **Allow SCIM to manage user roles**, then save the SCIM settings.

Method 1: delete users with an IdP

Most IdPs support user provisioning, deactivation, and deletion with SCIM 2.0. Refer to the "Configure the Identity Provider" section of the [Automated User Provisioning \(SCIM\) Overview](#) article for guidelines and examples of configuring an IdP application.

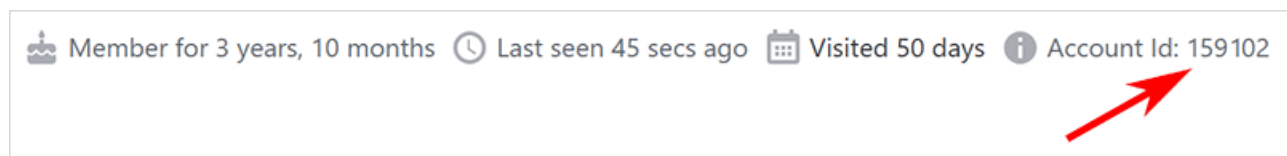
Depending on the IdP you use, you may need to configure the IdP to specify what action should trigger a user deletion rather than deactivation. This could be a change to a user attribute, change to user status, or deletion of the user from the IdP.

If your IdP does not support SCIM 2.0 user deletion, you can configure a separate application to issue the SCIM API calls to your site at [https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/\[your_team_slug\]/scim/v2](https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/[your_team_slug]/scim/v2) (see below).

Method 2: make direct SCIM 2.0 API user delete calls

In addition to using an IdP to delete users, you can also make a direct `delete` call to your site's SCIM endpoint at [https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/\[your_team_slug\]/auth/scim/v2/users/\[account_ID\]](https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/[your_team_slug]/auth/scim/v2/users/[account_ID]).

The `delete` call must include the SCIM authorization bearer token as well as the user's account ID (which is not the same as user ID). Site admins can retrieve a user's account ID by visiting that user's profile page. The user's info line lists their account ID along with membership and visit statistics.



You can also retrieve a user's account ID with a `get` call to the base users SCIM endpoint at [https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/\[your_team_slug\]/auth/scim/v2/users](https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/[your_team_slug]/auth/scim/v2/users). The user's 'id' value will be in the 'Resources' section of the JSON response.

Stack Overflow-provided user deletion script

Stack Overflow created a user deletion script that we make publicly available on Github. You can download and learn more about the script at https://github.com/StackExchange/so4t_scim_user_deletion.

Script usage requirements

- Stack Overflow Enterprise or Business
- Python 3.8 or higher (download)
- Linux, MacOS, or Windows operating system

Set up and install dependencies

1. Download and unpack the contents of the [user deletion script repository](#).
2. Open a terminal window or command prompt.
3. Navigate to the directory where you unpacked the files.
4. Install the dependencies if needed with these commands: `python3 -m pip install -r requirements.txt --trusted-host pypi.org --trusted-host pypi.python.org --trusted-host files.pythonhosted.org`

NOTE: Depending on your installation of Python, you may need to use `python` or `py` instead of `python3` in the command above. If `python3` is not a recognized command, you can check which command to use by running `python --version` or `py --version` to see which responds with the installed Python version.

Usage

If you'd like to delete specific users, create a file named `users.csv` in the same directory as the script. Each line of the file should contain the email address of a user you'd like to delete. You can find a template [here](#).

In a terminal window or command prompt, navigate to the directory where you unpacked the script. Run the script with the `-csv` flag, replacing the URL, token, and CSV file name with the appropriate values. You'll also need to use the correct `py`, `python`, or `python3` command for the version you're using. For example:

```
python3 so4t_scim_user_deletion.py --url "<https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/[your_team_slug]>" --token "[your_token]" --csv "[csv_file_name].csv"
```

You can also use the script to delete all deactivated users. To do this, run the script with the `--deactivated` flag instead of the `--csv` flag. In a terminal window or command prompt, navigate to the directory where you unpacked the script. Run the script, replacing the URL and token with the appropriate values. You'll also need to use the correct `py`, `python`, or `python3` command for the version you're using. For example:

```
python3 so4t_scim_user_deletion.py --url "<https://stackoverflowteams.com/c/[your_team_slug]>" --token "[your_token]" --deactivated
```

Errors

Upon completion, the script will create a JSON file named `failed_deletions_[date].json` in the script directory. This file will contain notes and/or error messages for every user the script could not delete. You can share this file with Stack Overflow support to get help troubleshooting the problem.

Need help? Submit an issue or question through our [support portal](#).