

Connecting with Frontend Applications

This guide explains how to establish a connection between a frontend single-page application (SPA) — such as those built with React, Vue, or Angular and a Keycloak identity provider using the official Keycloak JavaScript adapter. It walks through the necessary setup, configuration, and execution of a protected login flow.

Variables

Certain parameters must be provided to integrate a frontend application with Keycloak. Below is a breakdown of each required variable, its purpose, and where to find it. Here's what each variable represents:

Variable	Description	Purpose
<code>URL</code>	Full Keycloak realm URL (e.g., <code>https://your-domain/realms/your-realm</code>)	The base endpoint for authentication, token requests, and user info
<code>CLIENT_ID</code>	Client ID from the Keycloak Admin Console	Identifies the SPA in Keycloak
<code>REALM</code>	The realm name where the client is defined	Defines the identity space
<code>REDIRECT_URI</code>	The URL where the frontend app should return after login	Must be registered in Keycloak as a Valid Redirect URI

These values can be found under **Clients > [Your Client] > Settings** in the Keycloak Admin Console.

Prerequisites

Install Node.js and NPM

Check if Node.js is installed:

```
node -v
```

If not, download and install from <https://nodejs.org>.

Set Up Frontend Project

Create a frontend project using your framework of choice. For example:

- **React:**

```
npx create-react-app keycloak-app  
cd keycloak-app
```

- **Vue:**

```
npm init vue@latest  
cd keycloak-app
```

- **Angular:**

```
ng new keycloak-app  
cd keycloak-app
```

Then install the Keycloak JS adapter:

```
npm install keycloak-js
```

Code

Create a file named `keycloak.js` inside your `src/` directory with the following content:

```
import Keycloak from "keycloak-js";  
  
const keycloak = new Keycloak({  
  url: "https://your-keycloak-domain",  
  realm: "your-realm",  
  clientId: "your-client-id",  
});  
  
export default keycloak;
```

Then update your app's entry point (`App.js`, `main.js`, or `main.ts`) to initialize Keycloak:

Example (React - App.js):

```
import React, { useEffect, useState } from "react";
import keycloak from "../keycloak";

function App() {
  const [authenticated, setAuthenticated] = useState(false);

  useEffect(() => {
    keycloak.init({ onLoad: "login-required" }).then((auth) => {
      setAuthenticated(auth);
    });
  }, []);

  if (!authenticated) return <div>Loading...</div>;

  return (
    <div>
      <h1>Welcome, {keycloak.tokenParsed?.preferred_username}</h1>
      <p>You have accessed a protected frontend app using Keycloak.</p>
    </div>
  );
}

export default App;
```

Notes for Vue and Angular

- In Vue, you can wrap `keycloak.init()` inside a plugin and gate your app rendering using the `onReady()` hook.
- In Angular, use route guards (`CanActivate`) to protect routes based on Keycloak session state.

Execution

1. Replace all placeholders in the config with actual values from your Keycloak setup.
2. Start your frontend application:

```
npm start
```

3. Open your browser and navigate to:

http://localhost:3000

4. The Keycloak login page will appear. After authentication:
 - You'll be redirected back to your SPA
 - The user info will be displayed, indicating successful integration

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