

Attribute Authority: (Conf) A system entity that produces Attribute assertions, based upon TBD inputs.

Attribute Assertion: An assertion about attributes of a principal.

Authentication – (from glossary with principal added) (Conf) Authentication is the process of confirming an [entity's](#) asserted principal [identity](#) with a specified, or understood, level of confidence. [7]

The process of verifying a principal identity claimed by or for a system entity. [12]

Authentication Assertion: Data vouching for the occurrence of an authentication of a principal at a particular time using a particular method of authentication. Synonym(s): name assertion.

Authentication Authority: (Conf) A system entity that verifies credentials and produces authentication assertions

Authorization Attributes: (Conf) Attributes about a principal which may be useful in an authorization decision (group, role, title, contract code,...).

Authorization Assertions: (from glossary)In concept an authorization [assertion](#) is a statement of [policy](#) about a [resource](#), such as:

the user "noodles" is granted "execute" privileges on the resource "/usr/bin/guitar.”

Issue: Should this be Authorization Decision

Authorization Data: A data structure that contains Authentication Assertions and Authorization attributes.

Credential: (Conf) Data that is transferred or presented to establish a claimed principal identity.

Log-on: The process of presenting credentials to an authentication authority for requesting access to a resource

Log-off: The process of informing an authentication authority that previous credentials are no longer valid for a User Session

Policy Decision Point: (from glossary, access control decision)The place where a decision is arrived at as a result of evaluating the [requester's identity](#), the requested operation, and the requested [resource](#) in light of applicable [security policy](#). (surprisingly enough, not explicitly defined in [10])

Policy Enforcement Point: (from glossary, access enforcement function) The place that is part of the access path between an [initiator](#) and a [target](#) on each access control request and enforces the decision made by the Access Decision Function [10].

Principal, or Principle Identity: (Conf) An instantiation of a system entity within the security domain.

Resource: (from glossary) Data contained in an information system (e.g. in the form of files, info in memory, etc); or a [service](#) provided by a system; or a system capability, such as processing power or communication bandwidth; or an item of system equipment (i.e., a system component--hardware, firmware, software, or documentation); or a facility that houses system operations and equipment. (definition from [\[1\]](#))

Security Domain: TBD

Security Policies: (from glossary) A set of rules and practices specifying the “who, what, when, why, where, and how” of [access](#) to [system resources](#) by [entities](#) (often, but not always, people).

System Entity: (from glossary) (Conf) An active element of a system--e.g., an automated process, a subsystem, a person or group of persons--that incorporates a specific set of capabilities. (definition from [\[1\]](#))

Time Out: A step where an authorization assertion is deemed no longer viable. Subsequent resource requests from a user must proceed with log on.

User: (Conf) A human individual that makes use of resources for application purposes

User Session: A container for the authentication and attribute assertions that apply to a given system entity through the principals incarnated by that entity. The purpose is to maintain the relationship of the assertions to the initiating entity.