Errata for the OASIS Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) V2.0

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Abstract:
This document lists the reported errata and potential errata against the OASIS SAML 2.0 Committee Specifications and their status.

Status:
This document is work in progress and will be updated to reflect reported errata.

Comments on issues with the SAML specifications are welcome. If you are on the security-services@lists.oasis-open.org list for committee members, send comments there. If you are not on that list, subscribe to the security-services-comment@lists.oasis-open.org list and send comments there. To subscribe, send an email message to security-services-comment-request@lists.oasis-open.org with the word “subscribe” as the body of the message. If you have questions or comments on implementation issues, subscribe to the saml-dev@lists.oasis-open.org list and send comments there.

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1 Introduction

This document lists the reported errata and potential errata against the OASIS SAML 2.0 Committee Specifications and their status.

2 Errata

2.1 E1: Incorrect section reference

First reported by: Rob Philpot, RSA
Document: Core

Description: Line 2660 refers back to section “3.6.3” for Reason codes. This should refer to section “3.7.3”.

Options:

Disposition: During the conference call of March 28 the TC unanimously agreed to make this correction.

3 Potential Errata

3.1 PE1: Relay State for HTTP Redirect

First reported by: Ari Kermaier, Oracle
Document: Bindings and Profiles

Description: Section 3.4.3 (Relay State for HTTP Redirect) lines 551-553 read
“Signing is not realistic given the space limitation, but because the value is exposed to third-party tampering, the entity SHOULD insure that the value has not been tampered with by using a checksum, a pseudo-random value, or similar means.”

This language should probably be deleted or modified, as the RelayState parameter *is* covered by the query string signature described in 3.4.4.1 (DEFLATE Encoding).
The same language is correctly present in 3.5.3 (Relay State for HTTP POST), as no means of signing the POST form control data is defined.

Options: Replace first paragraph of section 3.4.3 at line 545 with: “RelayState data MAY be included with a SAML protocol message transmitted with this binding. The value MUST NOT exceed 80 bytes in length and SHOULD be integrity protected by the entity creating the message, either via a digital signature (see section [3.4.4.1]) or by some independent means.”

Disposition: During the conference call of April 12 the TC accepted this option.

3.2 PE2: Metadata clarifications

First reported by: Scott Cantor, OSU
Document: Bindings and Profiles
Description: Clarify metadata requirements in the various profiles. For example, it’s required by implication that if you support the Artifact binding for some profile that your role descriptor also needs an ArtifactResolutionService element, but this isn’t stated anywhere.
Options: In [SAMLBind] replace paragraph in section 3.6.7 at lines 1188-1191 with: “Support for receiving messages using the HTTP Artifact binding SHOULD be reflected by indicating URL endpoints at which requests and responses for a particular protocol or profile should be sent. Either a single endpoint or distinct request and response endpoints MAY be supplied. Support for sending messages using this binding SHOULD be accompanied by one or more indexed <md:ArtifactResolutionService> endpoints for processing <samlp:ArtifactResolve> messages.”

Disposition: A thorough disposition requires a fairly careful review of Metadata and Profiles so that the requirements can be documented in various places. This work is deferred to SAML 2.x. However, during the conference call of April 12 the TC accepted the above text as clarification for SAML 2.0.

3.3 PE3: Supported URL Encoding

First reported by: Scott Cantor, OSU
Document: Metadata
Description: Specify the URL encoding supported by an HTTP Redirect binding endpoint.
Options: This isn’t actually an erratum, it’s a missing piece that doesn’t currently break anything but could in the future if alternate URL encodings for the Redirect binding emerge (for example a binary XML representation). We need an extension attribute to indicate non-default encoding
support, it can just be added to our new “2.0 metadata extension schema”. This should be moved to the issues list.

Disposition: During the conference call of April 12 the TC agreed to move this to the issues list.

3.4 PE4: SAML 1.1 Artifacts

First reported by: Scott Cantor, OSU


Document: Bindings and Profiles

Description: Clarifying that SAML 1.1 artifacts have no place or use in SAML 2.0

Options: In [SAMLBind] add to line 1067:

"Although the general artifact structure resembles that used in prior versions of SAML and the type code of the single format described below does not conflict with previously defined formats, there is explicitly no correspondence between SAML 2.0 artifacts and those found in any previous specifications, and artifact formats not defined specifically for use with SAML 2.0 MUST NOT be used with this binding."

Disposition: During the conference call of April 12 the TC accepted this option.

3.5 PE5: Rules for NameIDPolicy

First reported by: Brian Campbell, Ping Identity


Document: Binding and Profiles

Description: A transient nameid-format of a <NameIDPolicy> in an <AuthRquest> with allowCreate is meaningless.

Options: There are two options. Both involve adding text after line 2147 of [SAMLCore].

2005. Strict option:

"Finally, note that since the urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:transient Format value (see Section 8.3.8) implicitly results in a new identifier being created during the handling of most requests, the AllowCreate attribute MUST be set to true in order for such a value to be returned."

2. Optimized option:

"Finally, note that since them urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:transient Format value (see Section 8.3.8) implicitly results in a new identifier being created during the handling of most requests, the AllowCreate attribute MUST be ignored by the identity provider when such an identifier is requested or issued."

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Disposition: During the conference call of June 21 the TC agreed that PE14 addresses this erratum and approved to dispose of this erratum as such.

3.6 PE6: Encrypted NameID

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA
Message: Communicated during TC conference call of February 1, 2005.
Document: Core
Description: When using the nameid-format:encrypted type of name identifier in SAML assertions and protocol messages, it is not possible to communicate the format of the unencrypted identifier as part of the assertion or message. This concept was derived from Liberty which only used it for persistent identifiers. Since we also support other formats in SAML 2.0, the agreement on the unencrypted form (prior to encryption/after decryption) must be done out of band.
Options: In [SAMLCore] append to paragraph ending on line 2139:
"It is not possible for the service provider to specifically request that a particular kind of identifier be returned if it asks for encryption. The <md:NameIDFormat> metadata element (see [SAMLMeta]) or other out-of-band means MAY be used to determine what kind of identifier to encrypt and return."

Disposition: During the conference call of April 12 the TC accepted this option.

3.7 PE7: Metadata attributes WantAuthnRequestsSigned and AuthnRequestsSigned

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA
Document: Metadata
Description: In Metadata, the IDPSSODescriptor has the setting called "WantAuthnRequestsSigned" and the SPSSODescriptor has the setting called "AuthnRequestsSigned". But it's ambiguous about "how" this signing is to be done.
Note that the SP can also define "WantAssertionsSigned", where it means that the SP wants the IDP to sign the Assertion XML element by including a <ds:Signature> element in the assertion. That is, I do NOT believe it means that the assertion can also be "signed by inclusion" by putting it (unsigned) inside a <samlp:Response> element and signing that element. It is the Assertion XML element itself that is signed. I don't believe the same approach is what folks expect for the AuthnRequest settings however. I think it is ambiguous and needs to be clarified.
At the interop, folks were using a true setting for [Want]AuthnRequestsSigned to mean that the AuthnRequest message is signed only in the context of the HTTP Redirect Binding where the total URL with parameters is signed using the mechanism specified in that binding. The AuthnRequest XML element is NOT expected to contain a <ds:Signature> element. Now I don't think this interpretation would necessarily be the same if the message was carried in the POST or Artifact bindings. I assume that in those cases, the XML element itself would be signed and include the ds:Signature> element.

So the interpretation of the setting appears to be dependent on which binding is being used. This is clearly not the case for the WantAssertionsSigned setting. So we should at least clarify this for folks. That is, unless folks have a different interpretation of what the settings mean.

Options: Combine this with PE9 and in [SAMLMetadata] add text before line 710:

"The WantAuthnRequestsSigned attribute is intended to indicate to service providers whether or not they can expect an unsigned <AuthnRequest> message to be accepted by the identity provider. The identity provider is not obligated to reject unsigned requests nor is a service provider obligated to sign its requests, although it might reasonably expect an unsigned request will be rejected. In some cases, a service provider may not even know which identity provider will ultimately receive and respond to its requests, so the use of this attribute in such a case cannot be strictly defined.

Furthermore, note that the specific method of signing that would be expected is binding dependent. The HTTP Redirect binding (see [SAMLBind] sec XX) requires the signature be applied to the URL-encoded value rather than placed within the XML message, while other bindings generally permit the signature to be within the message in the usual fashion."

Add text to paragraph at lines 741-742:

"A value of false (or omission of this attribute) does not imply that the service provider will never sign its requests or that a signed request should be considered an error. However, an identity provider that receives an unsigned <samlp:AuthnRequest> message from a service provider whose metadata contains this attribute with a value of true MUST return a SAML error response and MUST not fulfill the request."

Add text to paragraph at lines 744-747:

"Note that an enclosing signature at the SAML binding or protocol layer does not suffice to meet this requirement, for example signing a <samlp:Response> containing the assertion(s) or a TLS connection."

Disposition: During the conference call of September 27 the TC accepted this option.

3.8 PE8: SLO and NameID termination

First reported by: Thomas Wisniewski, Entrust
**Document: Core**

**Description:** Combining SLO with NameID termination, we should clarify whether it's explicitly not required for the SP to continue to expect or process SLO messages for an active session following NameID termination. The spec implies pretty strongly that you don’t because you can terminate your local session.

**Options:** Replace the last sentence in 2479-2480 (section 3.6.3) with:

“In general it SHOULD NOT invalidate any active session(s) of the principal for whom the relationship has been terminated. If the receiving provider is an identity provider, it SHOULD NOT invalidate any active session(s) of the principal established with other service providers. A requesting provider MAY send a <LogoutRequest> message prior to initiating a name identifier termination by sending a <ManageNameIDRequest> message if that is the requesting provider’s intent (e.g., the name identifier termination is initiated via an administrator who wished to terminate all user activity). The requesting provider MUST NOT send a <LogoutRequest> message after the <ManageNameIDRequest> message is sent.”.

**Disposition:** During the conference call of April 12 the TC accepted this option.

**3.9 PE9: Clarification on SP AuthnRequestsSigned and the IdP WantAuthnRequestsSigned SP metadata flags**

**First reported by:** Greg Whitehead, Trustgenix


**Document: Metadata**

**Description:** The lack of a flag at an SP was not intended to imply that an SP would never sign if it had a reason to, and the IdP flag was not intended to somehow create a conflict. One can’t resolve the situation policy-wise if an SP and IdP disagree about whether to sign, the metadata simply might reflect this.

**Options:** See PE 7

**Disposition:** During the conference call of April 12 the TC accepted the option of combining this with PE7 and disposing of it accordingly.

**3.10 PE10: Logout Request reason Mismatch with Schema**

**First reported by:** Rob Philpott, RSA


**Document: Core**

**Description:** In core line 2540 it says that “Reason” on the LogoutRequest is “in the form of a URI reference”. However, in the schema, the Reason attribute is type=”string”, not
type="anyURI". All of the reason codes that we define (in section 3.7.3 and 3.7.3.2) are actually URI's. But, since the schema defines it as a string, the text should be changed to match the schema.

**Options:**

1. Make correction in Core
2. Keep Core as is, make the errata note that the schema was in error and that implementations should treat the attribute as a URI

**Disposition:** During the March 28th conference call the TC chose option 2. Jahan agreed to propose text based on discussion recorded in the meeting’s minutes.

### 3.11 PE11: Improperly Labeled Feature

**First reported by:** Rob Philpott, RSA

**Document:** Conformance

**Description:** In table 2 of the conformance spec, the feature in the 8th row is improperly labeled. It currently says "Name Identifier Management, HTTP Redirect". It should say "Name Identifier Management, HTTP Redirect (SP-initiated)".

There are also minor inconsistencies in the labels since the parenthetical (xP-initiated) are listed with the binding in some, but with the profile in others. I suggest always listing it with the profile name.

**Options:** Correct the label as suggested in the description of the erratum above.

**Disposition:** During the conference call of June 7 the TC accepted this option.

### 3.12 PE12: Clarification on ManageNameIDRequest

**First reported by:** Scott Cantor, OSU/Brian Campbell, Ping Identity

**Document:** Bindings and Profiles

**Description:** The schema defines the <NewID> element of a <ManageNameIDRequest> as a string. The implication of that is that a NIM request message from IDP to SP can only be used to
inform the SP of a change in identifier value (not format – format is immutable once established).
There are a few places in the spec where the text implies that the format can be changed.
Additionally, the text about <NewEncryptedID> should be expanded to clarify that the encrypted
element is just the encrypted <NewID> element and not a full <NameID> as in the more typical
<EncryptedID> element used elsewhere

Options:

Change the schema to allow format and potentially qualifiers to be changed and make all
necessary cascading changes to the spec.

Update the wording in the spec to bring it inline with the schema as is and clarify that only the
value of the identifier can be managed with the Name Identifier Management profile.

Given the complexity and scope of change involved in option 1 and the consensus that option 2 is
sufficient and not too limiting, text changes consistent with option 2 are proposed below.

In Profiles change the text on lines 1320-21 from "Subsequently, the identity provider may wish to
notify the service provider of a change in the format and/or value that it will use to identify the
same principal in the future" to "Subsequently, the identity provider may wish to notify the service
provider of a change in the value that it will use to identify the same principal in the future"

In Core change the text on lines 2412-13 from "After establishing a name identifier for a principal, an
identity provider wishing to change the value and/or format of the identifier that it will use when
referring to the principal,..." to "After establishing a name identifier for a principal, an identity
provider wishing to change the value of the identifier that it will use when referring to the
principal,..."

In Core add the following text after line 2438, "In either case, if the <NewEncryptedID> is used, its
encrypted content is just a <NewID> element containing only the new value for the identifier
(format and qualifiers cannot be changed once established)."

Disposition: During the conference call of June 7 the TC approved option 2.

3.13 PE13: Inaccurate description of Authorization Decision

First reported by: Jahan Moreh, Sigaba


Document: Core

Description: Core 357-358 currently reads:

Authorization Decision: A request to allow the assertion subject to access the specified resource
has been granted or denied.
It should say:
Authorization Decision: A request to allow the assertion subject to access the specified resource has been granted, denied, or is indeterminate.

Options: Make correction as described above.
Disposition: During the conference call of June 7 the TC approved the change as proposed here.

3.14 PE14: AllowCreate

First reported by: Brian Campbell, Ping Identity
Document: Core and Profiles

Description: AllowCreate needs more clear definition.
Author's note: this may be the same as/related to PE5

Options: Make the following corrections

In Profiles replace the current text there about AllowCreate with a statement that “this profile does not provide additional guidelines for the use of AllowCreate” and reference this text in core as governing.

In Core, replace definition of AllowCreate, lines 2123-2129:
“A Boolean value used to indicate whether the requester grants to the identity provider, in the course of fulfilling the request, permission to create a new identifier or to associate an existing identifier representing the principal with the relying party. Defaults to “false” if not present or the entire element is omitted.”

In Core, replace lines 2143-2147 and insert new text at line 2130 (beginning of the explanatory text):

“The AllowCreate attribute may be used by some deployments to influence the creation of state maintained by the identity provider pertaining to the use of a name identifier (or any other
persistent, uniquely identifying attributes) by a particular relying party, for purposes such as
dynamic identifier or attribute creation, tracking of consent, subsequent use of the Name Identifier
Management protocol (see section XX), or other related purposes.

When “false”, the requester tries to constrain the identity provider to issue an assertion only if
such state has already been established or is not deemed applicable by the identity provider to
the use of an identifier. Thus, this does not prevent the identity provider from assuming such
information exists outside the context of this specific request (for example, establishing it in
advance for a large number of principals).

A value of “true” permits the identity provider to take any related actions it wishes to fulfill the
request, subject to any other constraints imposed by the request and policy (the IsPassive
attribute, for example).

Generally, requesters cannot assume specific behavior from identity providers regarding the initial
creation or association of identifiers on their behalf, as these are details left to implementations or
deployments. Absent specific profiles governing the use of this attribute, it might be used as a hint
to identity providers about the requester’s intention to store the identifier or link it to a local value.
A value of “false” might be used to indicate that the requester is not prepared or able to do so and
save the identity provider wasted effort.

Requesters that do not make specific use of this attribute SHOULD generally set it to “true” to
maximize interoperability.

The use of the AllowCreate attribute MUST NOT be used and SHOULD be ignored in conjunction
with requests for or assertions issued with name identifiers
with a Format of urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:transient (they preclude any such
state in and of themselves)."

In Core, change lines 2419-2420 to:

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“This protocol MUST NOT be used in conjunction with the urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameidformat:transient <NameID> Format.”

In Core, replace lines 2475-2479 with:

“If the <Terminate> element is included in the request, the requesting provider is indicating that (in the case of a service provider) it will no longer accept assertions from the identity provider or (in the case of an identity provider) it will no longer issue assertions to the service provider about the principal.

If the receiving provider is maintaining state associated with the name identifier, such as the value of the identifier itself (in the case of a pair-wise identifier), an SPProvidedID value, the sender’s consent to the identifier’s creation/use, etc., then the receiver can perform any maintenance with the knowledge that the relationship represented by the name identifier has been terminated.

Any subsequent operations performed by the receiver on behalf of the sender regarding the principal (for example, a subsequent <AuthnRequest>) SHOULD be carried out in a manner consistent with the absence of any previous state.

Termination is potentially the cleanup step for any state management behavior triggered by the use of the AllowCreate attribute in the Authentication Request protocol (see section XX). Deployments that do not make use of that attribute are likely to avoid the use of the <Terminate> element or would treat it as a purely advisory matter.

Note that in most cases (a notable exception being the rules surrounding the SPProvidedID attribute), there are no requirements on either identity providers or service providers regarding the creation or use of persistent state. Therefore, no explicit behavior is mandated when the <Terminate> element is received. However, if persistent state is present pertaining to the use of an identifier (such as if an SPProvidedID attribute was attached), the <Terminate> element
provides a clear indication that this state SHOULD be deleted (or marked as obsolete in some fashion)."

Disposition: During the conference call of June 21 the TC approved the change as proposed here.

3.15 PE15: NameID Policy

First reported by: Thomas Wisniewski, Entrust
Document: Core

Description: The returned assertion subject's NameID format and/or SPNameQualifier may be different from the ones suggested in the authentication request's NameIDPolicy. I.e., the spec does not explicitly forbid these from being different (which it should).

Options: Insert the following text between lines 2139 and 2140 in core

When a Format defined in Section 8.3.7 is used other than
urn:oasis:names:TC:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:unspecified or
urn:oasis:names:TC:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:encrypted, then if the identity provider returns any assertions:

- the Format value of the <NameID> within the <Subject> of any <Assertion> MUST be identical to the Format value supplied in the <NameIDPolicy>, and
- if SPNameQualifier is not omitted in <NameIDPolicy>, the SPNameQualifier value of the <NameID> within the <Subject> of any <Assertion> MUST be identical to the SPNameQualifier value supplied in the <NameIDPolicy>.

Disposition: During the conference call of June 7 the TC approved to make the addition as stated here.

3.16 PE16: Inaccurate data in Feature Matrix

First reported by: Eric Tiffany, Liberty Alliance
Document: Conformance

Description: The Feature Matrix (Table 2), last row, lists Identity Provider Discovery as N/A in the ECP column. However, the Profiles spec (line 725) notes that “The ECP MAY use the SAML identity provider discovery profile” to determine the IdP.

Options: Change the cell to say OPTIONAL instead of N/A

Disposition: During the conference call of June 21 the TC approved to make no changes to the conformance document. A new erratum will be proposed to correct the Profile document to address this issue (see PE 18).

3.17 PE17: Authentication Response IssuerName vs. Assertion IssuerName

First reported by: Thomas Wisniewski, Entrust


Document: Profiles

Description: Profiles document says issuer (for an AuthnRequest Response) MAY be omitted. "the <Issuer> element MUST be present and MUST contain the unique identifier of the" The main reason is that Issuer should be a MUST in the SSO Response protocol.

Options: Change lines 541-543 of profiles to:

If the <Response> message is signed or if an enclosed assertion is encrypted, then the <Issuer> element MUST be present. Otherwise it MAY be omitted. If present it MUST contain the unique identifier of the issuing identity provider; the Format attribute MUST be omitted or have a value of urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:entity.”

Disposition: During the conference call of July 5 the TC approved to make the changes as stated here.

3.18 PE18: reference to identity provider discovery service in ECP Profile

First reported by: Prateek Mishra, Principal Identity

Document: Profiles

Description: The ECP does not directly interact with the identity provider discovery service, it may act as an intermediary for an IdP or SP that plan to utilize the service. Current text gives the impression that it is a direct participant in the identity provider discovery service. Instead, the main issue is that it should not impede service interactions with an SP or IdP.

Options: Delete lines 725 and 726 from saml-profiles-2.0-os, starting at “The ECP MAY use…”.

Disposition: During the conference call of July 19 the TC approved to make the changes as stated here.

3.19 PE19: Clarification on Error Processing

First reported by: Connor P. Cahill, AOL


Document: Bindings

Description: Clarification on error processing

Options: The section numbers and line numbers are all from "saml-bindings-2.0-os.pdf"

Section 3.2.2.1, lines 310-317:

- Change the first sentence to read:
  - The SAML responder SHOULD return a SOAP message containing either a SAML response element in the body or a SOAP fault.
- Delete the 3rd sentence (If a SAML responder cannot, for some reason, process.....). SOAP defines when a SOAP fault is required and SAML goes into detail about what we should return when in section 3.2.3.3 “Error Reporting”.
- Change the 4th sentence to soften the “MUST NOT” and make it a “SHOULD NOT” as there can be sufficient security through obscurity reasons to do so in some cases.
- Add a new sentence at the end of the paragraph noting that details about error handling are covered in section 3.2.3.3 “Error Reporting” or something to that effect.

Section 3.2.3.3, lines 370-383: Change the MUST on line 378 to a SHOULD.
Disposition: During the conference call of August 2 the TC approved the changes as stated here.

3.20 PE 20: ECP SSO Profile and Metadata

First reported by: Thomas Wisniewski, Entrust
Document: Profiles

Description: There is no metadata consideration in ECP profile

Options: In SAML Profiles specification add new section 4.2.6 as follows:

The rules specified in the browser SSO profile in Section 4.1.6 apply here as well. Specifically, the indexed endpoint element `<md:AssertionConsumerService>` with a binding of urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:PAOS, MAY be used to describe the supported binding and location(s) to which an identity provider may send responses to a service provider using this profile. And, the endpoint `<md:SingleSignOnService>` with a binding of urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:SOAP, MAY be used to describe the supported binding and location(s) to which an service provider may send requests to an identity provider using this profile.

Disposition: During the conference call of July 19 the TC approved to make the changes as stated here.

3.21 PE 21: PAOS Version

First reported by: Thomas Wisniewski, Entrust
Document: Bindings

Description: It's unclear what the word minimum implies in the line '... PAOS version with "urn:liberty:paos:2003-08" at a minimum.'

Options: Strike the words "at a minimum"

Disposition: During the conference call of July 19 the TC approved to make the changes as stated here.
3.22 PE 22: Error in Profile/ECP

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA Security


Document: Profiles

Description: Line 907 of Profiles says the responseConsumerURL must be the same as the "AssertionServiceConsumerURL" in an <AuthnRequest> message. The attribute’s name should be "AssertionConsumerServiceURL".

Options: Make changes as specified.

Disposition: During the conference call of August 2 the TC approved the changes as stated here.

3.23 PE 23: Metadata for <ArtifactResolutionService>

First reported by: Nick Ragouzis, Enosis Group


Document: Profiles

Description: The text is not as clear as it should be. In Section 4.1.6 (Web Browser SSO Profile), at Line 639 change “MUST” to “SHOULD”. Also, add the following text:

If the request or response message is delivered using the HTTP Artifact binding, the artifact issuer SHOULD provide at least one <md:ArtifactResolutionService> endpoint element in its metadata.

Options: Accept changes as suggested here.

Disposition: 9/27: Nick will resubmit.

3.24 PE 24: HTTPS in URI Binding

First reported by: Nick Ragouzis, Enosis Group


Document: Bindings

Description: Section 3.7, starting at line 1349 the text states:

“Like SOAP, URI resolution can occur over multiple underlying transports. This binding has transport-independent aspects, but also calls out the use of HTTP with SSL3.0 [SSL3] or TLS 1.0 [RFC2246] as REQUIRED (mandatory to implement)”
Options: Replace the current text with the following:

"Like SOAP, URI resolution can occur over multiple underlying transports. This binding has
protocol-independent aspects, but also calls out as mandatory the implementation of HTTP
URIs."

Disposition: During the conference call of August 2 the TC approved the changes as stated
here.

3.25 PE 25: Metadata Structures Feature in Conformance

First reported by: Nick Ragouzis, Enosis Group


Document: Conformance

Description: Conformance document does not specify any requirements with respect to
metadata.

Change to Table 2: Feature Matrix

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Change to Table 4: SAML Authority and Requester Matrix

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</table>

New sub-sections to Section 3 (Conformance):
3.6 Metadata Structures

Implementations claiming conformance to SAMLv2.0 may declare each operational mode's conformance to SAMLv2.0 Metadata [SAMLMeta] through election of the Metadata Structures option.

With respect to each operational mode, such conformance entails the following:

* Implementing SAML metadata according to the extensible SAMLv2.0 Metadata format in all cases where an interoperating peer has the option, as stated in SAMLv2.0 specifications, of depending on the existence of SAMLv2.0 Metadata. Electing the Metadata Structures option has the effect of requiring such metadata be available to the interoperating peer. The Metadata Interoperation feature, described below, provides a means of satisfying this requirement.

* Referencing, consuming, and adherence to the SAML metadata, according to [SAMLMeta], of an interoperating peer when the known metadata relevant to that peer and the particular operation, and the current exchange, has expired or is no longer valid in cache, provided the metadata is available and is not prohibited by policy or the particular operation and that specific exchange.

3.7 Metadata Interoperation

Election of the Metadata Interoperation option requires the implementation offer, in addition to any other mechanism, the well-known location publication and resolution mechanism described in SAML metadata [SAMLMeta].

Options: Make changes as suggested here
Disposition: During the TC conference call on 9/27 the TC accepted the changes as suggested here.
3.26 PE 26: Ambiguities around Multiple Assertions and Statements in the SSO Profile

First reported by: Scott Cantor, OSU


Document: Profiles

Description: SSO Profile need clarifications.

Section 4.1.4.2, <Response> Usage, replace the list at lines 541-572, with the following list:

- If the response is unsigned, the <Issuer> element MAY be omitted, but if present (or if the response is signed) it MUST contain the unique identifier of the issuing identity provider; the Format attribute MUST be omitted or have a value of urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:entity

- It MUST contain at least one <Assertion>. Each assertion's <Issuer> element MUST contain the unique identifier of the responding identity provider; the Format attribute MUST be omitted or have a value of urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:entity.

- Note that this profile assumes a single responding identity provider, and all assertions in a response MUST be issued by the same entity.

- If multiple assertions are included, then each assertion's <Subject> element MUST refer to the same principal. It is allowable for the content of the <Subject> elements to differ (e.g. using different <NameID> or alternative <SubjectConfirmation> elements).

- Any assertion issued for consumption using this profile MUST contain a <Subject> element with at least one <SubjectConfirmation> element containing a Method of urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:bearer. Such an assertion is termed a bearer assertion. Bearer assertions MAY contain additional <SubjectConfirmation> elements.

- Assertions without a bearer <SubjectConfirmation> MAY also be included; processing of additional assertions or <SubjectConfirmation> elements is outside the scope of this profile.

- At least one bearer <SubjectConfirmation> element MUST contain a <SubjectConfirmationData> element that itself MUST contain a Recipient attribute containing the service provider's assertion consumer service URL and a NotOnOrAfter attribute that limits the window during which the assertion can be delivered. It MAY also contain an Address attribute limiting the client address from which the assertion can be delivered. It MUST NOT contain a NotBefore attribute. If the containing message is in response to an <AuthnRequest>, then the InResponseTo attribute MUST match the request's ID.

- The set of one or more bearer assertions MUST contain at least one <AuthnStatement> that reflects the authentication of the principal to the identity provider. Multiple <AuthnStatement> elements MAY be included, but the semantics of multiple statements is not defined by this profile.
If the identity provider supports the Single Logout profile, defined in Section 4.4, any authentication statements MUST include a SessionIndex attribute to enable per-session logout requests by the service provider.

Other statements MAY be included in the bearer assertion(s) at the discretion of the identity provider. In particular, <AttributeStatement> elements MAY be included. The <AuthnRequest> MAY contain an AttributeConsumingServiceIndex XML attribute referencing information about desired or required attributes in [SAMLMeta]. The identity provider MAY ignore this, or send other attributes at its discretion.

Each bearer assertion MUST contain an <AudienceRestriction> including the service provider's unique identifier as an <Audience>.

Other conditions (and other <Audience> elements) MAY be included as requested by the service provider or at the discretion of the identity provider. (Of course, all such conditions MUST be understood by and accepted by the service provider in order for the assertion to be considered valid.

The identity provider is NOT obligated to honor the requested set of <Conditions> in the <AuthnRequest>, if any.

In Section 4.1.4.3, <Response> Message Processing Rules:

- Line 576, change "any bearer" to "the bearer"
- Line 578, change "any bearer" to "the bearer"
- Line 583, change to: "Verify that any assertions relied upon are valid in other respects. Note that while multiple bearer <SubjectConfirmation> elements may be present, the successful evaluation of a single such element in accordance with this profile is sufficient to confirm an assertion. However, each assertion, if more than one is present, MUST be evaluated independently."
- Line 584, change "any bearer" to "the bearer"
- Append to paragraph ending on line 591: "Note that if multiple <AuthnStatement> elements are present, the SessionNotOnOrAfter value closest to the present time SHOULD be honored."

Section 4.1.4.5, POST-Specific Processing Rules:

- Replace lines 600-601 with: "If the HTTP POST binding is used to deliver the <Response>, each assertion MUST be protected by a digital signature. This can be accomplished by signing each individual <Assertion> element or by signing the <Response> element."

Options:
Disposition: During the conference call of August 30 the TC approved the changes as stated here.

3.27 PE27: Error in ECP Profile

First reported by: Scott Cantor, OSU


Document: Profiles

Description: Profiles, line 947, the ECP RelayState header definition refers to step 5 as the one in which the response is issued to the SP. It should be step 7.

Options:

Disposition: During the conference call of September 13 the TC approved the changes as stated here

3.28 PE28: Conformance Table 1

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA Security


Document: Conformance

Description: The first column is labeled “Profile”, yet several of the entries are technically not “profiles”. The same applies to the section title and the paragraph above the table.

Options: Column 1

Combine Artifact Resolution, Authentication Query, Attribute Query, Authorization Decision Query entries into a single entry labeled:

Assertion Query/Request

Column 2

Label each set of message flows with relevant protocol description:

Artifact Resolution, Authentication Query, Attribute Query, Authorization Decision Query

Column 3
No change

(2) Remove the following rows from the table:

SAML URI binding
Metadata

Disposition: During the conference call of September 27 the TC approved the changes as stated here

3.29 PE29: Conformance Table 2

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA Security
Document: Conformance

Description: The table is missing feature rows for performing a “Request for Assertion by Identifier” over SOAP and for “SAML URI Binding”. These features are clearly permissible for IDP’s, since the IDPSSODescriptor includes an element for zero or more <AssertionIDRequestService> elements.

Options: Add two rows table 2: row #1 is labeled Request for Assertion Identifier; row #2 is labeled SAML URI binding; both are optional for IdP row and N/A for all the rest.

Disposition: During the conference call of September 27 the TC as stated here.

3.30 PE30: Considerations for key replacement

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA Security
Document: Core

Description: Line 3110 states: “optionally one or more encrypted keys…”

Options: Replace “optionally one or more” with “zero or more”.

Disposition: During the conference call of September 13 the TC approved the changes as stated here
3.31 PE31: Various minor errors in Binding

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA Security


Document: Bindings

Description:

1. Line 511: “security at the SOAP message layer is recommended.” It should be capitalized as in “RECOMMENDED”.

2. Line 785: “If no such value is included with a SAML request message” – “value” is ambiguous. It’s referring to the RelayState parameter, which itself is a name/value pair. This should be changed to “If no RelayState parameter is included…”

3. Line 1136: “using a direct SAML binding”. There is no definition for what a “direct” SAML binding is. Other documents have referred to the SOAP binding as a “synchronous” binding.

4. Line 1397: “Note that use of wildcards is not allowed on such ID queries”. This should be changed to: “Note that the URI syntax does not support the use of wildcards in such queries.”

Options:

Disposition: During the conference call of September 13 the TC approved the changes for items 2 and 3. During the conference call of September 27 the TC approved the changes for items 1 and 4.

3.32 PE32: Missing section in Profiles

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA Security


Document: Profiles

Description: Section 4.3. This profile is missing a subsection for “Required Information”, which is present in all other profiles.

Options:

Disposition: Open pending text proposal by Rob.

3.33 PE33: References to Assertion Request Protocol

First reported by: Rob Philpott, RSA Security


Document: Metadata
**Description**: Lines 700, 871, and 904 state: “profile of the Assertion Request protocol defined in [SAMLProf]”. References to “Assertion Request” should be changed to “Assertion Query/Request”.

**Options**: 

**Disposition**: During the conference call of September 13 the TC approved the changes.

### 3.34 PE34: Section Heading

**First reported by**: Rob Philpott, RSA Security


**Document**: Metadata

**Description**: Line 809: the section 2.4.4.2 should be indented so that it is 2.4.4.1.1 since <RequestedAttribute> is part of the <AttributeConsumingService> defined in section 2.4.4.1.

**Options**: 

**Disposition**: During the conference call of September 13 the TC approved the change.

### 3.35 PE35: Example in Profiles

**First reported by**: Rob Philpott, RSA Security


**Document**: Profiles

**Description**: The example on page 29 line 964 uses a ResponseConsumerURL of http://identity-service.example.com/abc. Since this value must be an AssertionConsumerService at the SP, it is recommended to change it to https://ServiceProvider.example.com/AssertionConsumerService (for consistency with other examples in the section).

**Options**: 

**Disposition**: During the conference call of September 27 the TC approved the change.
3.36 PE36: Clarification on Action Element

First reported by: Emily Xu, Sun Microsystems


Document: Core

Description:
In section 2.7.4.2 of core spec, Namespace is marked as "Optional". It says: "If this element is absent, the namespace urn:oasis:names:tx:SAML:1.0:action:rwedc-negation specified in Section 8.1.2 is in effect." But in the following schema definition, attribute Namespace is marked as required:

<attribute name="Namespace" type="anyURI" use="required"/>

A clarification is needed to resolve this apparent conflict.

Options:

Disposition:
### Appendix A. Revision History

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<th>What</th>
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<td>2005-01-31</td>
<td>Jahan Moreh</td>
<td>Initial version based on emails to the list</td>
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<td>Draft-01</td>
<td>2005-02-14</td>
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<td>Removed E5 as it is related to the Technical Overview document, which is work in progress. Relabeled all items as Potential Errata (PE). Added PE 4 and PE5. Added E1.</td>
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<td>Draft-02</td>
<td>2005-03-27</td>
<td>Jahan Moreh</td>
<td>Moved E1 to PE section. Added E2, E3 and E4. Added PE7</td>
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<td>Draft-03</td>
<td>2005-03-29</td>
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<td>Rearranged E and PE items. The E items now are those which have been resolved and have proposed text, where required. PE items will be moved to E as they meet these requirements.</td>
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<td>Draft-05</td>
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<td>Minor corrections to PE5 and PE8. Accepted disposition of all items except PE5, PE7 and PE10. Decided to keep disposed Pes in the PE section (and not move them to the E section)</td>
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<td>Draft-06</td>
<td>2005-04-25</td>
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### Appendix B. Summary of Disposition

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