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Web Services Security X.509 Certificate Token Profile 1.1

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Abstract:

This document describes how to use X.509 Certificates with the Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security specification [WS-Security] specification.

Status:

This is an OASIS Standard document produced by the Web Services Security Technical Committee. It was approved by the OASIS membership on 1 February 2006. Check the current location noted above for possible errata to this document.

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75 This section is non-normative.

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101

102 **1 Introduction (Non-Normative)**

103 This specification describes the use of the X.509 authentication framework with the Web Services
104 Security: SOAP Message Security specification [WS-Security].

105

106 An X.509 certificate specifies a binding between a public key and a set of attributes that includes
107 (at least) a subject name, issuer name, serial number and validity interval. This binding may be
108 subject to subsequent revocation advertised by mechanisms that include issuance of CRLs,
109 OCSP tokens or mechanisms that are outside the X.509 framework, such as XKMS.

110

111 An X.509 certificate may be used to validate a public key that may be used to authenticate a
112 SOAP message or to identify the public key with a SOAP message that has been encrypted.

113

114 Note that Sections 2.1, 2.2, all of 3, and indicated parts of 5 are normative. All other sections are
115 non-normative.

116 2 Notations and Terminology (Normative)

117 This section specifies the notations, namespaces and terminology used in this specification.

118 2.1 Notational Conventions

119 The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD",
120 "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be
121 interpreted as described in RFC 2119.

122

123 When describing abstract data models, this specification uses the notational convention used by
124 the XML Infoset. Specifically, abstract property names always appear in square brackets (e.g.,
125 [some property]).

126

127 When describing concrete XML schemas, this specification uses a convention where each
128 member of an element's [children] or [attributes] property is described using an XPath-like
129 notation (e.g., /x:MyHeader/x:SomeProperty/@value1). The use of {any} indicates the presence
130 of an element wildcard (<xs:any/>). The use of @{any} indicates the presence of an attribute
131 wildcard (<xs:anyAttribute/>).

132

133 2.2 Namespaces

134 Namespace URIs (of the general form "some-URI") represents some application-dependent or
135 context-dependent URI as defined in RFC 3986 [URI]. This specification is designed to work with
136 the general SOAP [SOAP11, SOAP12] message structure and message processing model, and
137 should be applicable to any version of SOAP. The current SOAP 1.1 namespace URI is used
138 herein to provide detailed examples, but there is no intention to limit the applicability of this
139 specification to a single version of SOAP.

140

141 The namespaces used in this document are shown in the following table (note that for brevity, the
142 examples use the prefixes listed below but do not include the URIs – those listed below are
143 assumed).

144

145 `http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-secext-`
146 `1.0.xsd`

147 `http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-utility-`
148 `1.0.xsd`

149 `http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.1.xsd`

150 The following namespace prefixes are used in this document:

Prefix	Namespace
S11	<code>http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/</code>

S12	http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope
ds	http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmlsig#
xenc	http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#
wsse	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.0.xsd
wsse11	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.1.xsd
wsu	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-utility-1.0.xsd

151

Table 1- Namespace prefixes

152 URI fragments defined in this specification are relative to the following base URI unless otherwise
153 stated:

154

155 [http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-](http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0)
156 [profile-1.0](http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0)

157

158 The following table lists the full URI for each URI fragment referred to in this specification.

URI Fragment	Full URI
#Base64Binary	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-soap-message-security-1.0#Base64Binary
#STR-Transform	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-soap-message-security-1.0#STR-Transform
#PKCS7	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0#PKCS7
#X509v3	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0#X509v3
#X509PKIPathv1	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0#X509PKIPathv1
#X509SubjectKeyIdentifier	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0#X509SubjectKeyIdentifier

159

160 2.3 Terminology

161 This specification adopts the terminology defined in Web Services Security: SOAP Message
162 Security specification [WS-Security].

163

164 Readers are presumed to be familiar with the definitions of terms in the Internet Security Glossary
165 [Glossary].

166 3 Usage (Normative)

167 This specification describes the syntax and processing rules for the use of the X.509
168 authentication framework with the Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security specification
169 [WS-Security]. For the purposes of determining the order of preference of reference types, the
170 use of IssuerSerial within X509Data should be considered to be a form of Key Identifier

171 3.1 Token types

172 This profile defines the syntax of, and processing rules for, three types of binary security token
173 using the URI values specified in Table 2.

174

175 If the `ValueType` attribute is missing, the receiver may interpret it either based on a prior
176 agreement or by parsing the content.

177

Token	ValueType URI	Description
Single certificate	#X509v3	An X.509 v3 certificate capable of signature-verification at a minimum
Single certificate	#x509v1	An X.509 v1 certificate capable of signature-verification at a minimum.
Certificate Path	#X509PKIPathv1	An ordered list of X.509 certificates packaged in a PKIPath
Set of certificates and CRLs	#PKCS7	A list of X.509 certificates and (optionally) CRLs packaged in a PKCS#7 wrapper

178

Table 2 – Token types

179 3.1.1 X509v3 Token Type

180 The type of the end-entity that is authenticated by a certificate used in this manner is a matter of
181 policy that is outside the scope of this specification.

182 3.1.2 X509PKIPathv1 Token Type

183 The `X509PKIPathv1` token type MAY be used to represent a certificate path.

184 3.1.3 PKCS7 Token Type

185 The `PKCS7` token type MAY be used to represent a certificate path. It is RECOMMENDED that
186 applications use the `PKIPath` object for this purpose instead.

187

188 The order of the certificates in a PKCS#7 data structure is not significant. If an ordered certificate
189 path is converted to PKCS#7 encoded bytes and then converted back, the order of the
190 certificates may not be preserved. Processors SHALL NOT assume any significance to the order
191 of the certificates in the data structure. See [PKCS7] for more information.

192 3.2 Token References

193 In order to ensure a consistent processing model across all the token types supported by WSS:
194 SOAP Message Security, the <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element SHALL be used to
195 specify all references to X.509 token types in signature or encryption elements that comply with
196 this profile.

197

198 A <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element MAY reference an X.509 token type by one of
199 the following means:

200

- 201 • Reference to a Subject Key Identifier
202 The <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element contains a
203 <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element that specifies the token data by means of a
204 X.509 SubjectKeyIdentifier reference. A subject key identifier may only be used to
205 reference an X.509v3 certificate.”
- 206
- 207 • Reference to a Binary Security Token
208 The <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element contains a wsse:Reference>
209 element that references a local <wsse:BinarySecurityToken> element or a
210 remote data source that contains the token data itself.
- 211
- 212 • Reference to an Issuer and Serial Number
213 The <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element contains a <ds:X509Data>
214 element that contains a <ds:X509IssuerSerial> element that uniquely identifies
215 an end entity certificate by its X.509 Issuer and Serial Number.

216 3.2.1 Reference to an X.509 Subject Key Identifier

217 The <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element is used to specify a reference to an X.509v3 certificate
218 by means of a reference to its X.509 SubjectKeyIdentifier attribute. This profile defines the syntax
219 of, and processing rules for referencing a Subject Key Identifier using the URI values specified in
220 Table 3 (note that URI fragments are relative to [http://docs.oasis-
221 open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0](http://docs.oasis-
221 open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-x509-token-profile-1.0)).

222

Subject Key Identifier	ValueType URI	Description
Certificate Key Identifier	#x509SubjectKeyIdentifier	Value of the certificate's X.509 SubjectKeyIdentifier

223

Table 3 – Subject Key Identifier

224 The <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element from which the reference is made contains
225 the <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element. The <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element MUST have a
226 valueType attribute with the value #X509SubjectKeyIdentifier and its contents MUST be
227 the value of the certificate's X.509v3 SubjectKeyIdentifier extension, encoded as per the
228 <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element's EncodingType attribute. For the purposes of this
229 specification, the value of the SubjectKeyIdentifier extension is the contents of the KeyIdentifier
230 octet string, excluding the encoding of the octet string prefix.

231 3.2.2 Reference to a Security Token

232 The <wsse:Reference> element is used to reference an X.509 security token value by means of
233 a URI reference.

234

235 The URI reference MAY be internal in which case the URI reference SHOULD be a bare name
236 XPointer reference to a <wsse:BinarySecurityToken> element contained in a preceding
237 message header that contains the binary X.509 security token data.

238 3.2.3 Reference to an Issuer and Serial Number

239 The <ds:X509IssuerSerial> element is used to specify a reference to an X.509 security
240 token by means of the certificate issuer name and serial number.

241

242 The <ds:X509IssuerSerial> element is a direct child of the <ds:X509Data> element that is
243 in turn a direct child of the <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element in which the
244 reference is made

245 3.3 Signature

246 Signed data MAY specify the certificate associated with the signature using any of the X.509
247 security token types and references defined in this specification.

248

249 An X.509 certificate specifies a binding between a public key and a set of attributes that includes
250 (at least) a subject name, issuer name, serial number and validity interval. Other attributes may
251 specify constraints on the use of the certificate or affect the recourse that may be open to a
252 relying party that depends on the certificate. A given public key may be specified in more than
253 one X.509 certificate; consequently a given public key may be bound to two or more distinct sets
254 of attributes.

255

256 It is therefore necessary to ensure that a signature created under an X.509 certificate token
257 uniquely and irrefutably specifies the certificate under which the signature was created.

258

259 Implementations SHOULD protect against a certificate substitution attack by including either the
260 certificate itself or an immutable and unambiguous reference to the certificate within the scope of
261 the signature according to the method used to reference the certificate as described in the
262 following sections.

263

3.3.1 Key Identifier

264 The <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element does not guarantee an immutable and unambiguous
265 reference to the certificate referenced. Consequently implementations that use this form of
266 reference within a signature SHOULD employ the STR Dereferencing Transform within a
267 reference to the signature key information in order to ensure that the referenced certificate is
268 signed, and not just the ambiguous reference. The form of the reference is a bare name
269 reference as defined by the XPointer specification [XPointer].

270

271 The following example shows a certificate referenced by means of a KeyIdentifier. The scope of
272 the signature is the <ds:SignedInfo> element which includes both the message body (#body)
273 and the signing certificate by means of a reference to the <ds:KeyInfo> element which
274 references it (#keyinfo). Since the <ds:KeyInfo> element only contains a mutable reference to
275 the certificate rather than the certificate itself, a transformation is specified which replaces the
276 reference to the certificate with the certificate. The <ds:KeyInfo> element specifies the signing
277 key by means of a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element which contains a
278 <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element which specifies the X.509 subject key identifier of the signing
279 certificate.

280

```
281 <S11:Envelope xmlns:S11="...">
282   <S11:Header>
283     <wsse:Security
284       xmlns:wsse="..."
285       xmlns:wsu="...">
286       <ds:Signature
287         xmlns:ds="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#">
288         <ds:SignedInfo>...
289         <ds:Reference URI="#body">...</ds:Reference>
290         <ds:Reference URI="#keyinfo">
291           <ds:Transforms>
292             <ds:Transform Algorithm="...#STR-Transform">
293               <wsse:TransformationParameters>
294                 <ds:CanonicalizationMethod Algorithm="..." />
295               </wsse:TransformationParameters>
296             </ds:Transform>
297           </ds:Transforms>...
298         </ds:Reference>
299       </ds:SignedInfo>
300       <ds:SignatureValue>HFLP...</ds:SignatureValue>
301       <ds:KeyInfo Id="keyinfo">
302         <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
303           <wsse:KeyIdentifier EncodingType="...#Base64Binary"
304             ValueType="...#X509SubjectKeyIdentifier">
305             MIGfMa0GCSq...
306           </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
307         </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
308       </ds:KeyInfo>
309     </ds:Signature>
310   </wsse:Security>
311 </S11:Header>
312 <S11:Body wsu:Id="body"
313   xmlns:wsu=".../">
314   ...
```

```
315     </S11:Body>
316 </S11:Envelope>
```

317 3.3.2 Reference to a Binary Security Token

318 The signed data SHOULD contain a core bare name reference (as defined by the XPointer
319 specification [XPointer]) to the <wsse:BinarySecurityToken> element that contains the
320 security token referenced, or a core reference to the external data source containing the security
321 token.

322

323 The following example shows a certificate embedded in a <wsse:BinarySecurityToken>
324 element and referenced by URI within a signature. The certificate is included in the
325 <wsse:Security> header as a <wsse:BinarySecurityToken> element with identifier
326 binarytoken. The scope of the signature defined by a <ds:Reference> element within the
327 <ds:SignedInfo> element includes the signing certificate which is referenced by means of the
328 URI bare name pointer #binarytoken. The <ds:KeyInfo> element specifies the signing key
329 by means of a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element which contains a
330 <wsse:Reference> element which references the certificate by means of the URI bare name
331 pointer #binarytoken.

332

```
333 <S11:Envelope xmlns:S11="...">
334   <S11:Header>
335     <wsse:Security
336       xmlns:wsse="..."
337       xmlns:wsu="...">
338       <wsse:BinarySecurityToken
339         wsu:Id="binarytoken"
340         ValueType="...#X509v3"
341         EncodingType="...#Base64Binary">
342         MIEZzCCA9CgAwIBAgIQEmtJZc0...
343       </wsse:BinarySecurityToken>
344       <ds:Signature
345         xmlns:ds="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#">
346         <ds:SignedInfo>...
347           <ds:Reference URI="#body">...</ds:Reference>
348           <ds:Reference URI="#binarytoken">...</ds:Reference>
349         </ds:SignedInfo>
350         <ds:SignatureValue>HFLP...</ds:SignatureValue>
351         <ds:KeyInfo>
352           <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
353             <wsse:Reference URI="#binarytoken" />
354           </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
355         </ds:KeyInfo>
356       </ds:Signature>
357     </wsse:Security>
358   </S11:Header>
359   <S11:Body wsu:Id="body"
360     xmlns:wsu="...">
361     ...
362   </S11:Body>
363 </S11:Envelope>
```

364 3.3.3 Reference to an Issuer and Serial Number

365 The signed data SHOULD contain a core bare name reference (as defined by the XPointer
366 specification [XPointer]) to the <ds:KeyInfo> element that contains the security token
367 reference.

368

369 The following example shows a certificate referenced by means of its issuer name and serial
370 number. In this example the certificate is not included in the message. The scope of the signature
371 defined by the <ds:SignedInfo> element includes both the message body (#body) and the key
372 information element (#keyInfo). The <ds:KeyInfo> element contains a
373 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element which specifies the issuer and serial number of
374 the specified certificate by means of the <ds:X509IssuerSerial> element.

375

```
376 <S11:Envelope xmlns:S11="...">
377   <S11:Header>
378     <wsse:Security
379       xmlns:wsse="..."
380       xmlns:wsmu="...">
381       <ds:Signature
382         xmlns:ds="...">
383         <ds:SignedInfo>...
384         <ds:Reference URI="#body"></ds:Reference>
385         <ds:Reference URI="#keyinfo"></ds:Reference>
386       </ds:SignedInfo>
387       <ds:SignatureValue>HFLP...</ds:SignatureValue>
388       <ds:KeyInfo Id="keyinfo">
389         <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
390           <ds:X509Data>
391             <ds:X509IssuerSerial>
392               <ds:X509IssuerName>
393                 DC=ACMECorp, DC=com
394               </ds:X509IssuerName>
395               <ds:X509SerialNumber>12345678</ds:X509SerialNumber>
396             </ds:X509IssuerSerial>
397           </ds:X509Data>
398         </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
399       </ds:KeyInfo>
400     </ds:Signature>
401   </wsse:Security>
402 </S11:Header>
403 <S11:Body wsu:Id="body"
404   xmlns:wsmu="...">
405   ...
406 </S11:Body>
407 </S11:Envelope>
```

408 3.4 Encryption

409 Encrypted keys or data MAY identify a key required for decryption by identifying the
410 corresponding key used for encryption by means of any of the X.509 security token types or
411 references specified herein.

412

413 Since the sole purpose is to identify the decryption key it is not necessary to specify either a trust
414 path or the specific contents of the certificate itself.

415

416 The following example shows a decryption key referenced by means of the issuer name and
417 serial number of an associated certificate. In this example the certificate is not included in the
418 message. The <ds:KeyInfo> element contains a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
419 element which specifies the issuer and serial number of the specified certificate by means of the
420 <ds:X509IssuerSerial> element.

421

```
422 <S11:Envelope  
423   xmlns:S11="..."  
424   xmlns:ds="..."  
425   xmlns:wsse="..."  
426   xmlns:xenc="...">  
427   <S11:Header>  
428     <wsse:Security>  
429       <xenc:EncryptedKey>  
430         <xenc:EncryptionMethod Algorithm="..." />  
431         <ds:KeyInfo>  
432           <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>  
433             <ds:X509Data>  
434               <ds:X509IssuerSerial>  
435                 <ds:X509IssuerName>  
436                   DC=ACMECorp, DC=com  
437                 </ds:X509IssuerName>  
438                 <ds:X509SerialNumber>12345678</ds:X509SerialNumber>  
439               </ds:X509IssuerSerial>  
440             </ds:X509Data>  
441           </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>  
442         </ds:KeyInfo>  
443         <xenc:CipherData>  
444           <xenc:CipherValue>...</xenc:CipherValue>  
445         </xenc:CipherData>  
446         <xenc:ReferenceList>  
447           <xenc:DataReference URI="#encrypted" />  
448         </xenc:ReferenceList>  
449       </xenc:EncryptedKey>  
450     </wsse:Security>  
451   </S11:Header>  
452   <S11:Body>  
453     <xenc:EncryptedData Id="encrypted" Type="...">  
454       <xenc:CipherData>  
455         <xenc:CipherValue>...</xenc:CipherValue>  
456       </xenc:CipherData>  
457     </xenc:EncryptedData>  
458   </S11:Body>  
459 </S11:Envelope>
```

460

461 The following example shows a decryption key referenced by means of the Thumbprint of an
462 associated certificate. In this example the certificate is not included in the message. The
463 <ds:KeyInfo> element contains a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element which
464 specifies the Thumbprint of the specified certificate by means of the <http://docs.oasis->

465 open.org/wss/oasis-wss-soap-message-security-1.1#ThumbprintSHA1 attribute of
466 the <wsse:KeyIdentifier> element.

```
467 <S11:Envelope
468   xmlns:S11="..."
469   xmlns:ds="..."
470   xmlns:wsse="..."
471   xmlns:xenc="...">
472   <S11:Header>
473     <wsse:Security>
474       <xenc:EncryptedKey>
475         <xenc:EncryptionMethod Algorithm="..." />
476         <ds:KeyInfo>
477           <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
478             <wsse:KeyIdentifier
479               ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-
480 soap-message-security-1.1#ThumbPrintSHA1" >LKiQ/CmFrJDJqCLFcjIhIsmZ/+0=
481             </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
482           </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
483         </ds:KeyInfo>
484       <xenc:CipherData>
485         <xenc:CipherValue>...</xenc:CipherValue>
486       </xenc:CipherData>
487       <xenc:ReferenceList>
488         <xenc:DataReference URI="#encrypted" />
489       </xenc:ReferenceList>
490     </xenc:EncryptedKey>
491   </wsse:Security>
492 </S11:Header>
493 <S11:Body>
494   <xenc:EncryptedData Id="encrypted" Type="...">
495     <xenc:CipherData>
496       <xenc:CipherValue>...</xenc:CipherValue>
497     </xenc:CipherData>
498   </xenc:EncryptedData>
499 </S11:Body>
500 </S11:Envelope>
```

501

502 3.5 Error Codes

503 When using X.509 certificates, the error codes defined in the WSS: SOAP Message Security
504 specification [WS-Security] MUST be used.

505

506 If an implementation requires the use of a custom error it is recommended that a sub-code be
507 defined as an extension of one of the codes defined in the WSS: SOAP Message Security
508 specification [WS-Security].

509

510 **4 Threat Model and Countermeasures (Non-**
511 **Normative)**

512 The use of X.509 certificate token introduces no new threats beyond those identified in WSS:
513 SOAP Message Security specification [WS-Security].

514

515 Message alteration and eavesdropping can be addressed by using the integrity and confidentiality
516 mechanisms described in WSS: SOAP Message Security [WS-Security]. Replay attacks can be
517 addressed by using message timestamps and caching, as well as other application-specific
518 tracking mechanisms. For X.509 certificates, identity is authenticated by use of keys, man-in-the-
519 middle attacks are generally mitigated.

520

521 It is strongly RECOMMENDED that all relevant and immutable message data be signed.

522

523 It should be noted that a transport-level security protocol such as SSL or TLS [RFC2246] MAY be
524 used to protect the message and the security token as an alternative to or in conjunction with
525 WSS: SOAP Message Security specification [WS-Security].

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526

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563

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Appendix B: Revision History

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Rev	Date	By Whom	What
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