Web Services ReliableMessaging Policy Assertion (WS-RM Policy)

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Abstract: This specification describes a domain-specific policy assertion for WS-ReliableMessaging [WS-RM] that can be specified within a policy alternative as defined in WS-Policy Framework [WS-Policy]. By using the XML [XML], SOAP [SOAP 1.1], [SOAP 1.2] and WSDL [WSDL 1.1] extensibility models, the WS* specifications are designed to be composed with each other to provide a rich Web services environment. This by itself does not provide a negotiation solution for Web services. This is a building block that is used in conjunction with other Web service and application-specific protocols to accommodate a wide variety of policy exchange models.

Status: This document is a work in progress and will be updated to reflect issues as they are resolved by the Web Services Reliable Exchange (WS-RX) Technical Committee.
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1 Introduction

This specification defines a domain-specific policy assertion for reliable messaging for use with WS-Policy and WS-ReliableMessaging.

1.1 Goals and Requirements

1.1.1 Requirements

1.2 Notational Conventions

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

This specification uses the following syntax to define normative outlines for messages:

- The syntax appears as an XML instance, but values in italics indicate data types instead of values.
- Characters are appended to elements and attributes to indicate cardinality:
  - "?" (0 or 1)
  - "*" (0 or more)
  - "+" (1 or more)
- The character "[]" is used to indicate a choice between alternatives.
- The characters "[" and "]" are used to indicate that contained items are to be treated as a group with respect to cardinality or choice.
- An ellipsis (i.e. "...") indicates a point of extensibility that allows other child, or attribute, content. Additional children and/or attributes MAY be added at the indicated extension points but MUST NOT contradict the semantics of the parent and/or owner, respectively. If an extension is not recognized it SHOULD be ignored.
- XML namespace prefixes (See Section 1.3) are used to indicate the namespace of the element being defined.

1.3 Namespace

The XML namespace [XML-ns] URI that MUST be used by implementations of this specification is:

http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-rx/wsrmp/200602

Dereferencing the above URI will produce the Resource Directory Description Language [RDDL 2.0] document that describes this namespace.

Table 1 lists the XML namespaces that are used in this specification. The choice of any namespace prefix is arbitrary and not semantically significant.
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<th>Namespace</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
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<td>This specification.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.4 Compliance

An implementation is not compliant with this specification if it fails to satisfy one or more of the MUST or REQUIRED level requirements defined herein. A SOAP Node MUST NOT use the XML namespace identifier for this specification (listed in Section 1.3) within SOAP Envelopes unless it is compliant with this specification.

Normative text within this specification takes precedence over normative outlines, which in turn take precedence over the XML Schema [XML-Schema Part1, XML-Schema Part2] descriptions.
2 RM Policy Assertions

WS-Policy Framework and WS-Policy Attachment [WS-PolicyAttachment] collectively define a framework, model and grammar for expressing the requirements, and general characteristics of entities in an XML Web services-based system. To enable an RM Destination and an RM Source to describe their requirements for a given Sequence, this specification defines a single RM policy assertion that leverages the WS-Policy framework.

2.1 Assertion Model

The RM policy assertion indicates that the RM Source and RM Destination MUST use WS-ReliableMessaging to ensure reliable delivery of messages. Specifically, the WS-ReliableMessaging protocol determines invariants maintained by the reliable messaging endpoints and the directives used to track and manage the delivery of a Sequence of messages.

2.2 Normative Outline

The normative outline for the RM assertion is:

```
<wsrmp:RMAssertion [wsp:Optional="true"]? ... >
...
</wsrmp:RMAssertion>
```

The following describes additional, normative constraints on the outline listed above:

```
/wsrmp:RMAssertion
   A policy assertion that specifies that WS-ReliableMessaging protocol MUST be used when sending messages.
/wsrmp:RMAssertion/@wsp:Optional="true"
   Per WS-Policy, this is compact notation for two policy alternatives, one with and one without the assertion. The intuition is that the behavior indicated by the assertion is optional, or in this case, that WS-ReliableMessaging MAY be used.
/wsrmp:RMAssertion/\{any\}
   This is an extensibility mechanism to allow different (extensible) types of information, based on a schema, to be passed.
/wsrmp:RMAssertion/@\{any\}
   This is an extensibility mechanism to allow different (extensible) types of information, based on a schema, to be passed.
```

2.3 Assertion Attachment

The RM policy assertion is allowed to have the following Policy Subjects [WS-PolicyAttachment]:

- Endpoint Policy Subject
- Message Policy Subject

WS-PolicyAttachment defines a set of WSDL/1.1 policy attachment points for each of the above Policy Subjects. Since an RM policy assertion specifies a concrete behavior, it MUST NOT be attached to the abstract WSDL policy attachment points.
The following is the list of WSDL/1.1 elements whose scope contains the Policy Subjects allowed for an RM policy assertion but which **MUST NOT** have RM policy assertions attached:

- `wsdl:message`
- `wsdl:portType/wsdl:operation/wsdl:input`
- `wsdl:portType/wsdl:operation/wsdl:output`
- `wsdl:portType/wsdl:operation/wsdl:fault`
- `wsdl:portType`

The following is the list of WSDL/1.1 elements whose scope contains the Policy Subjects allowed for an RM policy assertion and which **MAY** have RM policy assertions attached:

- `wsdl:port`
- `wsdl:binding`
- `wsdl:binding/wsdl:operation/wsdl:input`
- `wsdl:binding/wsdl:operation/wsdl:output`
- `wsdl:binding/wsdl:operation/wsdl:fault`

If an RM policy assertion is attached to any of:

- `wsdl:binding/wsdl:operation/wsdl:input`
- `wsdl:binding/wsdl:operation/wsdl:output`
- `wsdl:binding/wsdl:operation/wsdl:fault`

then an RM policy assertion, specifying `wsp:Optional=true` **MUST** be attached to the corresponding `wsdl:binding` or `wsdl:port`, indicating that the endpoint supports WS-RM. Any messages, regardless of whether they have an attached Message Policy Subject RM policy assertion, MAY be sent to that endpoint using WS-RM. Additionally, the receiving endpoint **MUST NOT** reject any message belonging to a Sequence, simply because there was no Message Policy Subject RM policy assertion attached to that message. There might be certain RM implementations that are incapable of applying RM QoS semantics on a per-message basis. In order to ensure the broadest interoperability, when an endpoint decorates its WSDL with RM policy assertions using Message Policy Subject, it **MUST** also be prepared to accept that all messages sent to that endpoint might be sent within the context of an RM Sequence, regardless of whether the corresponding `wsdl:input`, `wsdl:output` or `wsdl:fault` had an attached RM policy assertion.

Rather than turn away messages that were unnecessarily sent with RM semantics, the receiving endpoint described by the WSDL **MUST** accept these messages.

By attaching an RM policy assertion that specifies `wsp:Optional="true"` to the corresponding endpoint that has attached RM policy assertions at the Message Policy Subject level, the endpoint is describing the above constraint in policy.

In the case where an optional RM Assertion applies to an output message, there is no requirement on the client to support an RM Destination implementation.

### 2.4 Assertion Example

Table 2 lists an example use of the RM policy assertion.
Table 2: Example policy with RM policy assertion

Line (09) in Table 2 indicates that WS-Policy is in use as a required extension.

Lines (11-14) are a policy expression that includes a RM policy assertion (Line 12) to indicate that WS-ReliableMessaging must be used.

Lines (18-21) are a WSDL binding. Line (19) indicates that the policy in Lines (11-14) applies to this binding, specifically indicating that WS-ReliableMessaging must be used over all the messages in the binding.
3 Security Considerations

It is strongly RECOMMENDED that policies and assertions be signed to prevent tampering.

It is RECOMMENDED that policies SHOULD NOT be accepted unless they are signed and have an associated security token to specify the signer has proper claims for the given policy. That is, a relying party shouldn't rely on a policy unless the policy is signed and presented with sufficient claims to pass the relying parties acceptance criteria.

It should be noted that the mechanisms described in this document could be secured as part of a SOAP message using WS-Security [WSS] or embedded within other objects using object-specific security mechanisms.
4 References

4.1 Normative

[KEYWORDS]
S. Bradner, "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels," RFC 2119, Harvard University, March 1997.

[SOAP 1.1]

[SOAP 1.2]

[URI]

[WS-RM]

[WS-Policy]
W3C Member Submission, "Web Services Policy Framework (WS-Policy)," 2006.

[WS-PolicyAttachment]

[WSDL 1.1]
W3C Note, "Web Services Description Language (WSDL 1.1)," 15 March 2001.

[XML]

[XML-ns]

[XML-Schema Part1]

[XML-Schema Part2]

4.2 Non Normative

[RDDL 2.0]

A. Acknowledgments

This document is based on initial contribution to OASIS WS-RX Technical Committee by the following authors: Stefan Batres, Microsoft (Editor), Ruslan Bilorusets, BEA, Don Box, Microsoft, Luis Felipe Cabrera, Microsoft, Derek Collison, TIBCO Software, Donald Ferguson, IBM, Christopher Ferris, IBM (Editor), Tom Freund, IBM, Mary Ann Hondo, IBM, John Ibbotson, IBM, Lei Jin, BEA, Chris Kaler, Microsoft, David Langworthy, Microsoft, Amelia Lewis, TIBCO Software, Rodney Limprecht, Microsoft, Steve Lucco, Microsoft, Don Mullen, TIBCO Software, Anthony Nadalin, IBM, Mark Nottingham, BEA, David Orchard, BEA, Shivajee Samdarshi, TIBCO Software, John Shewchuk, Microsoft, Tony Storey, IBM.

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The following individuals were members of the committee during the development of this specification:

TBD
B. XML Schema

A normative copy of the XML Schema [XML-Schema Part1, XML-Schema Part2] description for this specification may be retrieved from the following address:

http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-rx/wsrmp/200602/wsrmp-1.1-schema-200602.xsd

The following copy is provided for reference.
## C. Revision History

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