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

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Abstract:

SAML profiles require agreements between system entities regarding identifiers, binding support and endpoints, certificates and keys, and so forth. A metadata specification is useful for describing this information in a standardized way. The SAML V2.0 Metadata document defines an extensible metadata format for SAML system entities, organized by roles that reflect SAML profiles. Such roles include that of Identity Provider, Service Provider, Affiliation, Attribute Authority, Attribute Consumer, and Policy Decision Point. This document, known as an “errata composite”, combines corrections to reported errata with the original specification text. By design, the corrections are limited to clarifications of ambiguous or conflicting specification text. This document shows deletions from the original specification as struck-through text, and additions as colored underlined text. The “[E*nn*]” designations embedded in the text refer to particular errata and their dispositions.

Status:

This errata composite document is a **working draft** based on the original OASIS Standard document that had been produced by the Security Services Technical Committee and approved by the OASIS membership on 1 March 2005. While the errata corrections appearing here are non-normative, they reflect changes specified by the Approved Errata document (currently at Working Draft revision 02), which is on an OASIS standardization track. In case of any discrepancy between this document and the Approved Errata, the latter has precedence. ~~See also the Errata Working Document (currently at revision 39), which provides background on the changes specified here.~~

This document includes corrections for errata E7, E33, E34, E37, E41, ~~and~~ E62, E66, E68, E69, E74, E76, ~~and~~ E77, E81, E82, E83, E87, E88, E89, E91, and E94.

Committee members should submit comments and potential errata to the security-services@lists.oasis-open.org list. Others should submit them by following the instructions at http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/comments/form.php?wg_abbrev=security.

For information on whether any patents have been disclosed that may be essential to implementing this specification, and any offers of patent licensing terms, please refer to the Intellectual Property Rights web page for the Security Services TC (http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/security/ipr.php).

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1 Introduction

SAML profiles require agreements between system entities regarding identifiers, binding support and endpoints, certificates and keys, and so forth. A metadata specification is useful for describing this information in a standardized way. This specification defines an extensible metadata format for SAML system entities, organized by roles that reflect SAML profiles. Such roles include that of SSO Identity Provider, SSO Service Provider, Affiliation, Attribute Authority, Attribute Requester, and Policy Decision Point.

[E77]A variety of extension points are also included to allow for the use of SAML metadata in non-SAML specifications, profiles, and deployments, and such use is encouraged.

This specification further defines profiles for the dynamic exchange of metadata among system entities, which may be useful in some deployments.

The SAML conformance document [SAMLConform] lists all of the specifications that comprise SAML V2.0.

1.1 Notation

The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this specification are to be interpreted as described in IETF RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

```
Listings of productions or other normative code appear like this.
```

```
Example code listings appear like this.
```

Note: Notes like this are sometimes used to highlight non-normative commentary.

Conventional XML namespace prefixes are used throughout this specification to stand for their respective namespaces as follows, whether or not a namespace declaration is present in the example:

Prefix	XML Namespace	Comments
`saml:`	urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion	This is the SAML V2.0 assertion namespace [SAMLCore]. The prefix is generally elided in mentions of SAML assertion-related elements in text.
`samlp:`	urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:protocol	This is the SAML V2.0 protocol namespace [SAMLCore]. The prefix is generally elided in mentions of XML protocol-related elements in text.
`md:`	urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata	This is the SAML V2.0 metadata namespace, defined in a schema [SAMLMeta-xsd].
`ds:`	http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#	This is the XML Signature namespace [XMLSig].
`xenc:`	http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#	This is the XML Encryption namespace [XMLEnc].
`xs:`	http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema	This namespace is defined in the W3C XML Schema specification [Schema1]. In schema listings, this is the default namespace and no prefix is shown. For clarity, the prefix is generally shown in specification text when XML Schema-related constructs are mentioned.

2 Metadata for SAML V2.0

SAML metadata is organized around an extensible collection of roles representing common combinations of SAML [E77](and potentially non-SAML) protocols and profiles supported by system entities. Each role is described by an element derived from the extensible base type of `RoleDescriptor`. Such descriptors are in turn collected into the `<EntityDescriptor>` container element, the primary unit of SAML metadata. An entity might alternatively represent an affiliation of other entities, such as an affiliation of service providers. The `<AffiliationDescriptor>` is provided for this purpose.

Such descriptors may in turn be aggregated into nested groups using the `<EntitiesDescriptor>` element.

A variety of security mechanisms for establishing the trustworthiness of metadata can be supported, particularly with the ability to individually sign most of the elements defined in this specification.

Note that when elements with a parent/child relationship contain common attributes, such as caching or expiration information, the parent element takes precedence (see also Section 4.3.1).

> **Note**: As a general matter, SAML metadata is not to be taken as an authoritative statement about the capabilities or options of a given system entity. That is, while it should be accurate, it need not be exhaustive. The omission of a particular option does not imply that it is or is not unsupported, merely that it is not claimed. As an example, a SAML attribute authority might support any number of attributes not named in an `<AttributeAuthorityDescriptor>`. Omissions might reflect privacy or any number of other considerations. Conversely, indicating support for a given attribute does not imply that a given requester can or will receive it.

2.1 Namespaces

SAML Metadata uses the following namespace (defined in a schema [SAMLMeta-xsd]):

```
urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata
```

This specification uses the namespace prefix `md:` to refer to the namespace above.

The following schema fragment illustrates the use of namespaces in SAML metadata documents:

```
<schema
    targetNamespace="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata"
    xmlns:md="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata"
    xmlns:ds="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#"
    xmlns:xenc="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#"
    xmlns:saml="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
    xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
    elementFormDefault="unqualified"
    attributeFormDefault="unqualified"
    blockDefault="substitution"
    version="2.0">
    <import namespace="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#"
        schemaLocation="http://www.w3.org/TR/2002/REC-xmldsig-core-
20020212/xmldsig-core-schema.xsd"/>
    <import namespace="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#"
        schemaLocation="http://www.w3.org/TR/2002/REC-xmlenc-core-
20021210/xenc-schema.xsd"/>
    <import namespace="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
        schemaLocation="saml-schema-assertion-2.0.xsd"/>
    <import namespace="http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace"
        schemaLocation="http://www.w3.org/2001/xml.xsd"/>
```

```
    <annotation>
        <documentation>
            Document identifier: saml-schema-metadata-2.0
            Location: http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/v2.0/
            Revision history:
              V2.0 (March, 2005):
                Schema for SAML metadata, first published in SAML 2.0.
        </documentation>
    </annotation>
…
</schema>
```

2.2 Common Types

The SAML V2.0 Metadata specification defines several types as described in the following subsections. These types are used in defining SAML V2.0 Metadata elements and attributes.

2.2.1 Simple Type entityIDType

The simple type **entityIDType** restricts the XML schema data type **anyURI** to a maximum length of 1024 characters. **entityIDType** is used as a unique identifier for SAML entities. See also Section 8.3.6 of [SAMLCore]. An identifier of this type MUST be unique across all entities that interact within a given deployment. The use of a URI and holding to the rule that a single URI MUST NOT refer to different entities satisfies this requirement.

The following schema fragment defines the **entityIDType** simple type:

```
<simpleType name="entityIDType">
   <restriction base="anyURI">
      <maxLength value="1024"/>
   </restriction>
</simpleType>
```

2.2.2 Complex Type EndpointType

The complex type **EndpointType** describes a [E77]~~SAML~~ protocol binding endpoint at which an ~~SAML~~[E77] entity can be sent protocol messages. Various protocol or profile-specific metadata elements are bound to this type. It consists of the following attributes:

`Binding` [Required]

A required attribute that specifies the ~~SAML~~[E77] binding supported by the endpoint. Each binding is assigned a URI to identify it.

`Location` [Required]

A required URI attribute that specifies the location of the endpoint. The allowable syntax of this URI depends on the protocol binding.

`ResponseLocation` [Optional]

Optionally specifies a different location to which response messages sent as part of the protocol or profile should be sent. The allowable syntax of this URI depends on the protocol binding.

The `ResponseLocation` attribute is used to enable different endpoints to be specified for receiving request and response messages associated with a protocol or profile, not as a means of load-balancing or redundancy (multiple elements of this type can be included for this purpose). When a role contains an element of this type pertaining to a protocol or profile for which only a single type of message (request or response) is applicable, then the `ResponseLocation` attribute is unused. [E41]If the `ResponseLocation` attribute is omitted, any response messages associated with a protocol or profile may be assumed to be handled at the URI indicated by the `Location` attribute.

In most contexts, elements of this type appear in unbounded sequences in the schema. This is to permit a protocol or profile to be offered by an entity at multiple endpoints, usually with different protocol bindings, allowing the metadata consumer to choose an appropriate endpoint for its needs. Multiple endpoints might also offer "client-side" load-balancing or failover, particular in the case of a synchronous protocol binding.

This element also permits the use of arbitrary elements and attributes defined in a non-SAML namespace. Any such content MUST be namespace-qualified.

The following schema fragment defines the **EndpointType** complex type:

```
<complexType name="EndpointType">
   <sequence>
      <any namespace="##other" processContents="lax" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
   </sequence>
   <attribute name="Binding" type="anyURI" use="required"/>
   <attribute name="Location" type="anyURI" use="required"/>
   <attribute name="ResponseLocation" type="anyURI" use="optional"/>
   <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax"/>
</complexType>
```

2.2.3 Complex Type IndexedEndpointType

The complex type **IndexedEndpointType** extends **EndpointType** with a pair of attributes to permit the indexing of otherwise identical endpoints so that they can be referenced by protocol messages. It consists of the following additional attributes:

`index` [Required]

A required attribute that assigns a unique integer value to the endpoint so that it can be referenced in a protocol message. The index value need only be unique within a collection of like elements contained within the same parent element (i.e., they need not be unique across the entire instance).

`isDefault` [Optional]

An optional boolean attribute used to designate the default endpoint among an indexed set. If omitted, the value is assumed to be `false`.

In any such sequence of [E37]~~like~~indexed endpoints ~~based on this type~~that share a common element name and namespace (i.e. all instances of `<md:AssertionConsumerService>` within a role), the default endpoint is the first such endpoint with the `isDefault` attribute set to `true`. If no such endpoints exist, the default endpoint is the first such endpoint without the `isDefault` attribute set to `false`. If no such endpoints exist, the default endpoint is the first element in the sequence.

The following schema fragment defines the **IndexedEndpointType** complex type:

```
<complexType name="IndexedEndpointType">
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="md:EndpointType">
         <attribute name="index" type="unsignedShort" use="required"/>
         <attribute name="isDefault" type="boolean" use="optional"/>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
```

2.2.4 Complex Type localizedNameType

The **localizedNameType** complex type extends a string-valued element with a standard XML language attribute. The following schema fragment defines the **localizedNameType** complex type:

```
<complexType name="localizedNameType">
```

```
   <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
         <attribute ref="xml:lang" use="required"/>
      </extension>
   </simpleContent>
</complexType>
```

2.2.5 Complex Type localizedURIType

The **localizedURIType** complex type extends a URI-valued element with a standard XML language attribute.

The following schema fragment defines the **localizedURIType** complex type:

```
<complexType name="localizedURIType">
   <simpleContent>
      <extension base="anyURI">
         <attribute ref="xml:lang" use="required"/>
      </extension>
   </simpleContent>
</complexType>
```

2.3 Root Elements

A SAML metadata instance describes either a single entity or multiple entities. In the former case, the root element MUST be `<EntityDescriptor>`. In the latter case, the root element MUST be `<EntitiesDescriptor>`.

2.3.1 Element <EntitiesDescriptor>

The `<EntitiesDescriptor>` element contains the metadata for an optionally named group of ~~SAML~~ [E77] entities. Its **EntitiesDescriptorType** complex type contains a sequence of `<EntityDescriptor>` elements, `<EntitiesDescriptor>` elements, or both:

`ID` [Optional]

A document-unique identifier for the element, typically used as a reference point when signing.

`validUntil` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the expiration time of the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements.

`cacheDuration` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the maximum length of time a consumer should cache the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements [E94] before attempting to refresh it.

`Name` [Optional]

A string name that identifies a group of ~~SAML~~ [E77] entities in the context of some deployment.

`<ds:Signature>` [Optional]

An XML signature that authenticates the containing element and its contents, as described in Section 3.

`<Extensions>` [Optional]

This contains optional metadata extensions that are agreed upon between a metadata publisher and consumer. Extension elements MUST be namespace-qualified by a non-SAML-defined namespace.

`<EntitiesDescriptor>` or `<EntityDescriptor>` [One or More]

Contains the metadata for one or more ~~SAML~~ [E77] entities, or a nested group of additional metadata.

When used as the root element of a metadata instance, this element MUST contain either a `validUntil` or `cacheDuration` attribute. It is RECOMMENDED that only the root element of a metadata instance contain either attribute.

[E76]When not used as the root element of a metadata instance, a `validUntil` or `cacheDuration` attribute MAY be used to impose a shorter expiration or cache duration than that of the parent or root element, but never a longer one; the smaller value takes precedence.

The following schema fragment defines the `<EntitiesDescriptor>` element and its **EntitiesDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="EntitiesDescriptor" type="md:EntitiesDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="EntitiesDescriptorType">
   <sequence>
      <element ref="ds:Signature" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:Extensions" minOccurs="0"/>
      <choice minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded">
         <element ref="md:EntityDescriptor"/>
         <element ref="md:EntitiesDescriptor"/>
      </choice>
   </sequence>
   <attribute name="validUntil" type="dateTime" use="optional"/>
   <attribute name="cacheDuration" type="duration" use="optional"/>
   <attribute name="ID" type="ID" use="optional"/>
   <attribute name="Name" type="string" use="optional"/>
</complexType>
<element name="Extensions" type="md:ExtensionsType"/>
<complexType final="#all" name="ExtensionsType">
   <sequence>
      <any namespace="##other" processContents="lax" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
   </sequence>
</complexType>
```

2.3.2 Element <EntityDescriptor>

The `<EntityDescriptor>` element specifies metadata for a single ~~SAML~~ [E77] entity. A single entity may act in many different roles in the support of multiple profiles. This specification directly supports the following concrete roles as well as the abstract `<RoleDescriptor>` element for extensibility (see subsequent sections for more details):

- SSO Identity Provider
- SSO Service Provider
- Authentication Authority
- Attribute Authority
- Policy Decision Point
- Affiliation

Its **EntityDescriptorType** complex type consists of the following elements and attributes:

`entityID` [Required]

Specifies the unique identifier of the ~~SAML~~ [E77] entity whose metadata is described by the element's contents.

`ID` [Optional]

A document-unique identifier for the element, typically used as a reference point when signing.

`validUntil` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the expiration time of the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements.

`cacheDuration` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the maximum length of time a consumer should cache the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements [E94] before attempting to refresh it.

`<ds:Signature>` [Optional]

An XML signature that authenticates the containing element and its contents, as described in Section 3.

`<Extensions>` [Optional]

This contains optional metadata extensions that are agreed upon between a metadata publisher and consumer. Extension elements MUST be namespace-qualified by a non-SAML-defined namespace.

`<RoleDescriptor>`, `<IDPSSODescriptor>`, `<SPSSODescriptor>`, `<AuthnAuthorityDescriptor>`, `<AttributeAuthorityDescriptor>`, `<PDPDescriptor>` [One or More]

OR

`<AffiliationDescriptor>` [Required]

The primary content of the element is either a sequence of one or more role descriptor elements, or a specialized descriptor that defines an affiliation.

`<Organization>` [Optional]

Optional element identifying the organization responsible for the ~~SAML~~ [E77] entity described by the element.

`<ContactPerson>` [Zero or More]

Optional sequence of elements identifying various kinds of contact personnel.

`<AdditionalMetadataLocation>` [Zero or More]

Optional sequence of namespace-qualified locations where additional metadata exists for the ~~SAML~~ [E77] entity. This may include metadata in alternate formats or describing adherence to other non-SAML specifications.

Arbitrary namespace-qualified attributes from non-SAML-defined namespaces may also be included.

When used as the root element of a metadata instance, this element MUST contain either a `validUntil` or `cacheDuration` attribute. It is RECOMMENDED that only the root element of a metadata instance contain either attribute.

[E76]When not used as the root element of a metadata instance, a `validUntil` or `cacheDuration` attribute MAY be used to impose a shorter expiration or cache duration than that of the parent or root element, but never a longer one; the smaller value takes precedence.

It is RECOMMENDED that if multiple role descriptor elements of the same type appear, that they do not share overlapping `protocolSupportEnumeration` values. Selecting from among multiple role descriptor elements of the same type that do share a `protocolSupportEnumeration` value is undefined within this specification, but MAY be defined by metadata profiles, possibly through the use of other distinguishing extension attributes.

The following schema fragment defines the <EntityDescriptor> element and its **EntityDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="EntityDescriptor" type="md:EntityDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="EntityDescriptorType">
   <sequence>
      <element ref="ds:Signature" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:Extensions" minOccurs="0"/>
      <choice>
         <choice maxOccurs="unbounded">
            <element ref="md:RoleDescriptor"/>
            <element ref="md:IDPSSODescriptor"/>
            <element ref="md:SPSSODescriptor"/>
            <element ref="md:AuthnAuthorityDescriptor"/>
            <element ref="md:AttributeAuthorityDescriptor"/>
            <element ref="md:PDPDescriptor"/>
         </choice>
         <element ref="md:AffiliationDescriptor"/>
      </choice>
      <element ref="md:Organization" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:ContactPerson" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:AdditionalMetadataLocation" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
   </sequence>
   <attribute name="entityID" type="md:entityIDType" use="required"/>
   <attribute name="validUntil" type="dateTime" use="optional"/>
   <attribute name="cacheDuration" type="duration" use="optional"/>
   <attribute name="ID" type="ID" use="optional"/>
   <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax"/>
</complexType>
```

2.3.2.1 Element <Organization>

The <Organization> element specifies basic information about an organization responsible for an ~~SAML~~ [E77] entity or role. The use of this element is always optional. Its content is informative in nature and does not directly map to any core SAML elements or attributes. Its **OrganizationType** complex type consists of the following elements:

<Extensions> [Optional]

This contains optional metadata extensions that are agreed upon between a metadata publisher and consumer. Extensions MUST NOT include global (non-namespace-qualified) elements or elements qualified by a SAML-defined namespace within this element.

<OrganizationName> [One or More]

One or more language-qualified names that may or may not be suitable for human consumption.

<OrganizationDisplayName> [One or More]

One or more language-qualified names that are suitable for human consumption.

<OrganizationURL> [One or More]

One or more language-qualified URIs that specify a location to which to direct a user for additional information. Note that the language qualifier refers to the content of the material at the specified location.

Arbitrary namespace-qualified attributes from non-SAML-defined namespaces may also be included.

The following schema fragment defines the <Organization> element and its **OrganizationType** complex type:

```
<element name="Organization" type="md:OrganizationType"/>
```

```
<complexType name="OrganizationType">
   <sequence>
      <element ref="md:Extensions" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:OrganizationName" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:OrganizationDisplayName" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:OrganizationURL" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
   </sequence>
   <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax"/>
</complexType>
<element name="OrganizationName" type="md:localizedNameType"/>
<element name="OrganizationDisplayName" type="md:localizedNameType"/>
<element name="OrganizationURL" type="md:localizedURIType"/>
```

2.3.2.2 Element <ContactPerson>

The `<ContactPerson>` element specifies basic contact information about a person responsible in some capacity for an ~~SAML~~[E77] entity or role. The use of this element is always optional. Its content is informative in nature and does not directly map to any core SAML elements or attributes. Its **ContactType** complex type consists of the following elements and attributes:

`contactType` [Required]

Specifies the type of contact using the **ContactTypeType** enumeration. The possible values are `technical`, `support`, `administrative`, `billing`, and `other`.

`<Extensions>` [Optional]

This contains optional metadata extensions that are agreed upon between a metadata publisher and consumer. Extension elements MUST be namespace-qualified by a non-SAML-defined namespace.

`<Company>` [Optional]

Optional string element that specifies the name of the company for the contact person.

`<GivenName>` [Optional]

Optional string element that specifies the given (first) name of the contact person.

`<SurName>` [Optional]

Optional string element that specifies the surname of the contact person.

`<EmailAddress>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements containing mailto: URIs representing e-mail addresses belonging to the contact person.

`<TelephoneNumber>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more string elements specifying a telephone number of the contact person.

Arbitrary namespace-qualified attributes from non-SAML-defined namespaces may also be included.

[E82] At least one child element SHOULD be present in a `<ContactPerson>` element..

The following schema fragment defines the `<ContactPerson>` element and its **ContactType** complex type:

```
<element name="ContactPerson" type="md:ContactType"/>
<complexType name="ContactType">
   <sequence>
      <element ref="md:Extensions" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:Company" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:GivenName" minOccurs="0"/>
```

```
      <element ref="md:SurName" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:EmailAddress" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:TelephoneNumber" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
   </sequence>
   <attribute name="contactType" type="md:ContactTypeType" use="required"/>
   <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax"/>
</complexType>
<element name="Company" type="string"/>
<element name="GivenName" type="string"/>
<element name="SurName" type="string"/>
<element name="EmailAddress" type="anyURI"/>
<element name="TelephoneNumber" type="string"/>
<simpleType name="ContactTypeType">
   <restriction base="string">
      <enumeration value="technical"/>
      <enumeration value="support"/>
      <enumeration value="administrative"/>
      <enumeration value="billing"/>
      <enumeration value="other"/>
   </restriction>
</simpleType>
```

2.3.2.3 Element <AdditionalMetadataLocation>

The `<AdditionalMetadataLocation>` element is a namespace-qualified URI that specifies where additional XML-based metadata may exist for an ~~SAML~~[E77] entity. Its **AdditionalMetadataLocationType** complex type extends the **anyURI** type with a `namespace` attribute (also of type **anyURI**). This required attribute MUST contain the XML namespace of the root element of the instance document found at the specified location.

The following schema fragment defines the `<AdditionalMetadataLocation>` element and its **AdditionalMetadataLocationType** complex type:

```
<element name="AdditionalMetadataLocation"
type="md:AdditionalMetadataLocationType"/>
<complexType name="AdditionalMetadataLocationType">
   <simpleContent>
      <extension base="anyURI">
         <attribute name="namespace" type="anyURI" use="required"/>
      </extension>
   </simpleContent>
</complexType>
```

2.4 Role Descriptor Elements

The elements in this section make up the bulk of the operational support component of the metadata. Each element (save for the abstract one) defines a specific collection of operational behaviors in support of SAML profiles defined in [SAMLProf].

2.4.1 Element <RoleDescriptor>

The `<RoleDescriptor>` element is an abstract extension point that contains common descriptive information intended to provide processing commonality across different roles. New roles can be defined by extending its abstract **RoleDescriptorType** complex type, which contains the following elements and attributes:

`ID` [Optional]

A document-unique identifier for the element, typically used as a reference point when signing.

`validUntil` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the expiration time of the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements.

`cacheDuration` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the maximum length of time a consumer should cache the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements [E94] before attempting to refresh it.

`protocolSupportEnumeration` [Required]

A whitespace-delimited set of URIs that identify the set of protocol specifications supported by the role element. For SAML V2.0 entities, this set MUST include the SAML protocol namespace URI, `urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:protocol`. Note that future SAML specifications might share the same namespace URI, but SHOULD provide alternate "protocol support" identifiers to ensure discrimination when necessary.

`errorURL` [Optional]

Optional URI attribute that specifies a location to direct a user for problem resolution and additional support related to this role.

`<ds:Signature>` [Optional]

An XML signature that authenticates the containing element and its contents, as described in Section 3.

`<Extensions>` [Optional]

This contains optional metadata extensions that are agreed upon between a metadata publisher and consumer. Extension elements MUST be namespace-qualified by a non-SAML-defined namespace.

`<KeyDescriptor>` [Zero or More]

Optional sequence of elements that provides information about the cryptographic keys that the entity uses when acting in this role.

`<Organization>` [Optional]

Optional element specifies the organization associated with this role. Identical to the element used within the `<EntityDescriptor>` element.

`<ContactPerson>` [Zero or More]

Optional sequence of elements specifying contacts associated with this role. Identical to the element used within the `<EntityDescriptor>` element.

Arbitrary namespace-qualified attributes from non-SAML-defined namespaces may also be included.

[E76]A `validUntil` or `cacheDuration` attribute MAY be used to impose a shorter expiration or cache duration than that of the parent or root element, but never a longer one; the smaller value takes precedence.

The following schema fragment defines the `<RoleDescriptor>` element and its **RoleDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="RoleDescriptor" type="md:RoleDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="RoleDescriptorType" abstract="true">
   <sequence>
      <element ref="ds:Signature" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:Extensions" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:KeyDescriptor" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:Organization" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:ContactPerson" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
```

```
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="ID" type="ID" use="optional"/>
    <attribute name="validUntil" type="dateTime" use="optional"/>
    <attribute name="cacheDuration" type="duration" use="optional"/>
    <attribute name="protocolSupportEnumeration" type="md:anyURIListType"
use="required"/>
    <attribute name="errorURL" type="anyURI" use="optional"/>
    <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax"/>
</complexType>
<simpleType name="anyURIListType">
    <list itemType="anyURI"/>
</simpleType>
```

2.4.1.1 Element <KeyDescriptor>

The `<KeyDescriptor>` element provides information about the cryptographic key(s) that an entity uses to sign data or receive encrypted keys, along with additional cryptographic details. Its **KeyDescriptorType** complex type consists of the following elements and attributes:

`use` [Optional]

Optional attribute specifying the purpose of the key being described. Values are drawn from the **KeyTypes** enumeration, and consist of the values `encryption` and `signing`.

`<ds:KeyInfo>` [Required]

Optional element that directly or indirectly identifies a key. See [XMLSig] for additional details on the use of this element.

`<EncryptionMethod>` [Zero or More]

Optional element specifying an algorithm and algorithm-specific settings supported by the entity. The exact content varies based on the algorithm supported. See [XMLEnc] for the definition of this element's **xenc:EncryptionMethodType** complex type.

[E62]A `use` value of `"signing"` means that the contained key information is applicable to both signing and TLS/SSL operations performed by the entity when acting in the enclosing role.

A `use` value of `"encryption"` means that the contained key information is suitable for use in wrapping encryption keys for use by the entity when acting in the enclosing role.

If the `use` attribute is omitted, then the contained key information is applicable to both of the above uses.

[E68]The inclusion of multiple `<KeyDescriptor>` elements with the same `use` attribute (or no such attribute) indicates that any of the included keys may be used by the containing role or affiliation. A relying party SHOULD allow for the use of any of the included keys. When possible the signing or encrypting party SHOULD indicate as specifically as possible which key it used to enable more efficient processing.

[E69]The `<ds:KeyInfo>` element is a highly generic and extensible means of communicating key material. This specification takes no position on the allowable or suggested content of this element, nor on its meaning to a relying party. As a concrete example, no implications of including an X.509 certificate by value or reference are to be assumed. Its validity period, extensions, revocation status, and other relevant content may or may not be enforced, at the discretion of the relying party. The details of such processing, and their security implications, are out of scope; they may, however, be addressed by other SAML profiles.

The following schema fragment defines the `<KeyDescriptor>` element and its **KeyDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="KeyDescriptor" type="md:KeyDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="KeyDescriptorType">
    <sequence>
        <element ref="ds:KeyInfo"/>
```

```
        <element ref="md:EncryptionMethod" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="use" type="md:KeyTypes" use="optional"/>
</complexType>
<simpleType name="KeyTypes">
    <restriction base="string">
        <enumeration value="encryption"/>
        <enumeration value="signing"/>
    </restriction>
</simpleType>
<element name="EncryptionMethod" type="xenc:EncryptionMethodType"/>
```

2.4.2 Complex Type SSODescriptorType

The **SSODescriptorType** abstract type is a common base type for the concrete types **SPSSODescriptorType** and **IDPSSODescriptorType**, described in subsequent sections. It extends **RoleDescriptorType** with elements reflecting profiles common to both identity providers and service providers that support SSO, and contains the following additional elements:

`<ArtifactResolutionService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **IndexedEndpointType** that describe indexed endpoints that support the Artifact Resolution profile defined in [SAMLProf]. The `ResponseLocation` attribute MUST be omitted.

`<SingleLogoutService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the Single Logout profiles defined in [SAMLProf].

`<ManageNameIDService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the Name Identifier Management profiles defined in [SAMLProf].

`<NameIDFormat>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **anyURI** that enumerate the name identifier formats supported by this system entity acting in this role. See Section 8.3 of [SAMLCore] for some possible values for this element.

The following schema fragment defines the **SSODescriptorType** complex type:

```
<complexType name="SSODescriptorType" abstract="true">
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="md:RoleDescriptorType">
         <sequence>
            <element ref="md:ArtifactResolutionService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:SingleLogoutService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:ManageNameIDService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:NameIDFormat" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
         </sequence>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
<element name="ArtifactResolutionService" type="md:IndexedEndpointType"/>
<element name="SingleLogoutService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
<element name="ManageNameIDService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
<element name="NameIDFormat" type="anyURI"/>
```

2.4.3 Element <IDPSSODescriptor>

The `<IDPSSODescriptor>` element extends **SSODescriptorType** with content reflecting profiles specific to identity providers supporting SSO. Its **IDPSSODescriptorType** complex type contains the following additional elements and attributes:

`WantAuthnRequestsSigned` [Optional]

Optional attribute that indicates a requirement for the `<samlp:AuthnRequest>` messages received by this identity provider to be signed. If omitted, the value is assumed to be `false`.

`<SingleSignOnService>` [One or More]

One or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profiles of the Authentication Request protocol defined in [SAMLProf]. All identity providers support at least one such endpoint, by definition. The `ResponseLocation` attribute MUST be omitted.

`<NameIDMappingService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the Name Identifier Mapping profile defined in [SAMLProf]. The `ResponseLocation` attribute MUST be omitted.

`<AssertionIDRequestService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profile of the Assertion [E33]Query/Request protocol defined in [SAMLProf] or the special URI binding for assertion requests defined in [SAMLBind].

`<AttributeProfile>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **anyURI** that enumerate the attribute profiles supported by this identity provider. See [SAMLProf] for some possible values for this element.

`<saml:Attribute>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements that identify the SAML attributes supported by the identity provider. Specific values MAY optionally be included, indicating that only certain values permitted by the attribute's definition are supported. In this context, "support" for an attribute means that the identity provider has the capability to include it when delivering assertions during single sign-on.

[E7]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]) requires that 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.

The following schema fragment defines the `<IDPSSODescriptor>` element and its **IDPSSODescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="IDPSSODescriptor" type="md:IDPSSODescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="IDPSSODescriptorType">
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="md:SSODescriptorType">
         <sequence>
            <element ref="md:SingleSignOnService" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
```

```
            <element ref="md:NameIDMappingService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:AssertionIDRequestService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:AttributeProfile" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="saml:Attribute" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
         </sequence>
         <attribute name="WantAuthnRequestsSigned" type="boolean"
use="optional"/>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
<element name="SingleSignOnService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
<element name="NameIDMappingService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
<element name="AssertionIDRequestService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
<element name="AttributeProfile" type="anyURI"/>
```

2.4.4 Element <SPSSODescriptor>

The `<SPSSODescriptor>` element extends **SSODescriptorType** with content reflecting profiles specific to service providers. Its **SPSSODescriptorType** complex type contains the following additional elements and attributes:

`AuthnRequestsSigned` [Optional]

Optional attribute that indicates whether the `<samlp:AuthnRequest>` messages sent by this service provider will be signed. If omitted, the value is assumed to be `false`. [E7]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.

`WantAssertionsSigned` [Optional]

Optional attribute that indicates a requirement for the `<saml:Assertion>` elements received by this service provider to be signed. If omitted, the value is assumed to be `false`. This requirement is in addition to any requirement for signing derived from the use of a particular profile/binding combination. [E7]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.

`<AssertionConsumerService>` [One or More]

One or more elements that describe indexed endpoints that support the profiles of the Authentication Request protocol defined in [SAMLProf]. All service providers support at least one such endpoint, by definition.

`<AttributeConsumingService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements that describe an application or service provided by the service provider that requires or desires the use of SAML attributes.

At most one `<AttributeConsumingService>` element can have the attribute `isDefault` set to `true`. [E87] The default element is the first element with the `isDefault` attribute set to true. If no such elements exist, the default element is the first element without the `isDefault` attribute set to false. If no such elements exist, the default element is the first element in the sequence. ~~It is permissible for none of the included elements to contain an `isDefault` attribute set to `true`.~~

The following schema fragment defines the <SPSSODescriptor> element and its **SPSSODescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="SPSSODescriptor" type="md:SPSSODescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="SPSSODescriptorType">
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="md:SSODescriptorType">
         <sequence>
            <element ref="md:AssertionConsumerService"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:AttributeConsumingService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
         </sequence>
         <attribute name="AuthnRequestsSigned" type="boolean"
use="optional"/>
         <attribute name="WantAssertionsSigned" type="boolean"
use="optional"/>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
<element name="AssertionConsumerService" type="md:IndexedEndpointType"/>
```

2.4.4.1 Element <AttributeConsumingService>

The <AttributeConsumingService> element defines a particular service offered by the service provider in terms of the attributes the service requires or desires. Its **AttributeConsumingServiceType** complex type contains the following elements and attributes:

index [Required]

A required attribute that assigns a unique integer value to the element so that it can be referenced in a protocol message.

isDefault [Optional]

Identifies the default service supported by the service provider. Useful if the specific service is not otherwise indicated by application context. If omitted, the value is assumed to be false.

<ServiceName> [One or More]

One or more language-qualified names for the service [E88] that are suitable for human consumption.

<ServiceDescription> [Zero or More]

Zero or more language-qualified strings that describe the service.

<RequestedAttribute> [One or More]

One or more elements specifying attributes required or desired by this service.

The following schema fragment defines the <AttributeRequestingService> element and its **AttributeRequestingServiceType** complex type:

```
<element name="AttributeConsumingService"
type="md:AttributeConsumingServiceType"/>
<complexType name="AttributeConsumingServiceType">
   <sequence>
      <element ref="md:ServiceName" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:ServiceDescription" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:RequestedAttribute" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
   </sequence>
   <attribute name="index" type="unsignedShort" use="required"/>
   <attribute name="isDefault" type="boolean" use="optional"/>
```

```
</complexType>
<element name="ServiceName" type="md:localizedNameType"/>
<element name="ServiceDescription" type="md:localizedNameType"/>
```

2.4.4.1.1 [E34]Element <RequestedAttribute>

The `<RequestedAttribute>` element specifies a service provider's interest in a specific SAML attribute, optionally including specific values. Its **RequestedAttributeType** complex type extends the **saml:AttributeType** with the following attribute:

`isRequired` [Optional]

Optional XML attribute indicates if the service requires the corresponding SAML attribute in order to function at all (as opposed to merely finding an attribute useful or desirable).

[E89] If no `NameFormat` value is provided, the identifier `urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:attrname-format:unspecified` (see Section 8.2.1 of [SAMLv2Core]) is in effect

If specific `<saml:AttributeValue>` elements are included, then only matching values are relevant to the service. See [SAMLCore] for more information on attribute value matching.

The following schema fragment defines the `<RequestedAttribute>` element and its **RequestedAttributeType** complex type:

```
<element name="RequestedAttribute" type="md:RequestedAttributeType"/>
<complexType name="RequestedAttributeType">
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="saml:AttributeType">
         <attribute name="isRequired" type="boolean" use="optional"/>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
```

2.4.5 Element <AuthnAuthorityDescriptor>

The `<AuthnAuthorityDescriptor>` element extends **RoleDescriptorType** with content reflecting profiles specific to authentication authorities, SAML authorities that respond to `<samlp:AuthnQuery>` messages. Its **AuthnAuthorityDescriptorType** complex type contains the following additional element:

`<AuthnQueryService>` [One or More]

One or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profile of the Authentication Query protocol defined in [SAMLProf]. All authentication authorities support at least one such endpoint, by definition.

`<AssertionIDRequestService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profile of the Assertion [E33]Query/Request protocol defined in [SAMLProf] or the special URI binding for assertion requests defined in [SAMLBind].

`<NameIDFormat>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **anyURI** that enumerate the name identifier formats supported by this authority. See Section 8.3 of [SAMLCore] for some possible values for this element.

The following schema fragment defines the `<AuthnAuthorityDescriptor>` element and its **AuthnAuthorityDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="AuthnAuthorityDescriptor"
type="md:AuthnAuthorityDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="AuthnAuthorityDescriptorType">
```

```
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="md:RoleDescriptorType">
         <sequence>
            <element ref="md:AuthnQueryService" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:AssertionIDRequestService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:NameIDFormat" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
         </sequence>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
<element name="AuthnQueryService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
```

2.4.6 Element <PDPDescriptor>

The `<PDPDescriptor>` element extends **RoleDescriptorType** with content reflecting profiles specific to policy decision points, SAML authorities that respond to `<samlp:AuthzDecisionQuery>` messages. Its **PDPDescriptorType** complex type contains the following additional element:

`<AuthzService>` [One or More]

One or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profile of the Authorization Decision Query protocol defined in [SAMLProf]. All policy decision points support at least one such endpoint, by definition.

`<AssertionIDRequestService>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profile of the Assertion [E33]Query/Request protocol defined in [SAMLProf] or the special URI binding for assertion requests defined in [SAMLBind].

`<NameIDFormat>` [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **anyURI** that enumerate the name identifier formats supported by this authority. See Section 8.3 of [SAMLCore] for some possible values for this element.

The following schema fragment defines the `<PDPDescriptor>` element and its **PDPDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="PDPDescriptor" type="md:PDPDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="PDPDescriptorType">
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="md:RoleDescriptorType">
         <sequence>
            <element ref="md:AuthzService" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:AssertionIDRequestService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:NameIDFormat" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
         </sequence>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
<element name="AuthzService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
```

2.4.7 Element <AttributeAuthorityDescriptor>

The `<AttributeAuthorityDescriptor>` element extends **RoleDescriptorType** with content reflecting profiles specific to attribute authorities, SAML authorities that respond to `<samlp:AttributeQuery>` messages. Its **AttributeAuthorityDescriptorType** complex type contains the following additional elements:

<AttributeService> [One or More]

One or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profile of the Attribute Query protocol defined in [SAMLProf]. All attribute authorities support at least one such endpoint, by definition.

<AssertionIDRequestService> [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **EndpointType** that describe endpoints that support the profile of the Assertion [E33]Query/Request protocol defined in [SAMLProf] or the special URI binding for assertion requests defined in [SAMLBind].

<NameIDFormat> [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **anyURI** that enumerate the name identifier formats supported by this authority. See Section 8.3 of [SAMLCore] for some possible values for this element.

<AttributeProfile> [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements of type **anyURI** that enumerate the attribute profiles supported by this authority. See [SAMLProf] for some possible values for this element.

<saml:Attribute> [Zero or More]

Zero or more elements that identify the SAML attributes supported by the authority. Specific values MAY optionally be included, indicating that only certain values permitted by the attribute's definition are supported.

The following schema fragment defines the <AttributeAuthorityDescriptor> element and its **AttributeAuthorityDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="AttributeAuthorityDescriptor"
type="md:AttributeAuthorityDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="AttributeAuthorityDescriptorType">
   <complexContent>
      <extension base="md:RoleDescriptorType">
         <sequence>
            <element ref="md:AttributeService" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:AssertionIDRequestService" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:NameIDFormat" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="md:AttributeProfile" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <element ref="saml:Attribute" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
         </sequence>
      </extension>
   </complexContent>
</complexType>
<element name="AttributeService" type="md:EndpointType"/>
```

2.5 Element <AffiliationDescriptor>

The <AffiliationDescriptor> element is an alternative to the sequence of role descriptors described in Section 2.4 that is used when an <EntityDescriptor> describes an affiliation of SAML[E77] entities (typically service providers) rather than a single entity. The <AffiliationDescriptor> element provides a summary of the individual entities that make up the affiliation along with general information about the affiliation itself. Its **AffiliationDescriptorType** complex type contains the following elements and attributes:

affiliationOwnerID [Required]

Specifies the unique identifier of the entity responsible for the affiliation. The owner is NOT

presumed to be a member of the affiliation; if it is a member, its identifier MUST also appear in an `<AffiliateMember>` element.

`ID` [Optional]

A document-unique identifier for the element, typically used as a reference point when signing.

`validUntil` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the expiration time of the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements.

`cacheDuration` [Optional]

Optional attribute indicates the maximum length of time a consumer should cache the metadata contained in the element and any contained elements [E94] before attempting to refresh it.

`<ds:Signature>` [Optional]

An XML signature that authenticates the containing element and its contents, as described in Section 3.

`<Extensions>` [Optional]

This contains optional metadata extensions that are agreed upon between a metadata publisher and consumer. Extension elements MUST be namespace-qualified by a non-SAML-defined namespace.

`<AffiliateMember>` [One or More]

One or more elements enumerating the members of the affiliation by specifying each member's unique identifier. See also Section 8.3.6 of [SAMLCore].

`<KeyDescriptor>` [Zero or More]

Optional sequence of elements that provides information about the cryptographic keys that the affiliation uses as a whole, as distinct from keys used by individual members of the affiliation, which are published in the metadata for those entities.

Arbitrary namespace-qualified attributes from non-SAML-defined namespaces may also be included.

[E76]A `validUntil` or `cacheDuration` attribute MAY be used to impose a shorter expiration or cache duration than that of the parent or root element, but never a longer one; the smaller value takes precedence.

The following schema fragment defines the `<AffiliationDescriptor>` element and its **AffiliationDescriptorType** complex type:

```
<element name="AffiliationDescriptor" type="md:AffiliationDescriptorType"/>
<complexType name="AffiliationDescriptorType">
   <sequence>
      <element ref="ds:Signature" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:Extensions" minOccurs="0"/>
      <element ref="md:AffiliateMember" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="md:KeyDescriptor" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
   </sequence>
   <attribute name="affiliationOwnerID" type="md:entityIDType"
use="required"/>
   <attribute name="validUntil" type="dateTime" use="optional"/>
   <attribute name="cacheDuration" type="duration" use="optional"/>
   <attribute name="ID" type="ID" use="optional"/>
   <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax"/>
</complexType>
<element name="AffiliateMember" type="md:entityIDType"/>
```

2.6 Examples

The following is an example of metadata for a SAML system entity acting as an identity provider and an attribute authority. A signature is shown as a placeholder, without the actual content.

```
<EntityDescriptor xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata"
   xmlns:saml="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
   xmlns:ds="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#"
   entityID="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML">
   <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
    <IDPSSODescriptor WantAuthnRequestsSigned="true"
      protocolSupportEnumeration="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:protocol">
       <KeyDescriptor use="signing">
           <ds:KeyInfo>
               <ds:KeyName>IdentityProvider.com SSO Key</ds:KeyName>
           </ds:KeyInfo>
       </KeyDescriptor>
       <ArtifactResolutionService isDefault="true" index="0"
         Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:SOAP"
         Location="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/Artifact"/>
       <SingleLogoutService
         Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:SOAP"
         Location="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/SLO/SOAP"/>
       <SingleLogoutService
         Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:HTTP-Redirect"
         Location="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/SLO/Browser"
         ResponseLocation="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/SLO/Response"/>
       <NameIDFormat>
         urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.1:nameid-format:X509SubjectName
       </NameIDFormat>
       <NameIDFormat>
         urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:persistent
       </NameIDFormat>
       <NameIDFormat>
         urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:transient
       </NameIDFormat>
       <SingleSignOnService
         Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:HTTP-Redirect"
         Location="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/SSO/Browser"/>
       <SingleSignOnService
         Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:HTTP-POST"
         Location="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/SSO/Browser"/>
       <saml:Attribute
         NameFormat="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:attrname-format:uri"
         Name="urn:oid:1.3.6.1.4.1.5923.1.1.1.6"
         FriendlyName="eduPersonPrincipalName">
       </saml:Attribute>
       <saml:Attribute
         NameFormat="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:attrname-format:uri"
         Name="urn:oid:1.3.6.1.4.1.5923.1.1.1.1"
         FriendlyName="eduPersonAffiliation">
           <saml:AttributeValue>member</saml:AttributeValue>
           <saml:AttributeValue>student</saml:AttributeValue>
           <saml:AttributeValue>faculty</saml:AttributeValue>
           <saml:AttributeValue>employee</saml:AttributeValue>
           <saml:AttributeValue>staff</saml:AttributeValue>
       </saml:Attribute>
    </IDPSSODescriptor>
    <AttributeAuthorityDescriptor
      protocolSupportEnumeration="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:protocol">
       <KeyDescriptor use="signing">
           <ds:KeyInfo>
               <ds:KeyName>IdentityProvider.com AA Key</ds:KeyName>
           </ds:KeyInfo>
```

```
        </KeyDescriptor>
        <AttributeService
          Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:SOAP"
          Location="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/AA/SOAP"/>
        <AssertionIDRequestService
          Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:URI"
          Location="https://IdentityProvider.com/SAML/AA/URI"/>
        <NameIDFormat>
          urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.1:nameid-format:X509SubjectName
        </NameIDFormat>
        <NameIDFormat>
          urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:persistent
        </NameIDFormat>
        <NameIDFormat>
          urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:transient
        </NameIDFormat>
        <saml:Attribute
          NameFormat="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:attrname-format:uri"
          Name="urn:oid:1.3.6.1.4.1.5923.1.1.1.6"
          FriendlyName="eduPersonPrincipalName">
        </saml:Attribute>
        <saml:Attribute
          NameFormat="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:attrname-format:uri"
          Name="urn:oid:1.3.6.1.4.1.5923.1.1.1.1"
          FriendlyName="eduPersonAffiliation">
            <saml:AttributeValue>member</saml:AttributeValue>
            <saml:AttributeValue>student</saml:AttributeValue>
            <saml:AttributeValue>faculty</saml:AttributeValue>
            <saml:AttributeValue>employee</saml:AttributeValue>
            <saml:AttributeValue>staff</saml:AttributeValue>
        </saml:Attribute>
    </AttributeAuthorityDescriptor>
    <Organization>
        <OrganizationName xml:lang="en">Identity Providers R
US</OrganizationName>
        <OrganizationDisplayName xml:lang="en">
          Identity Providers R US, a Division of Lerxst Corp.
        </OrganizationDisplayName>
        <OrganizationURL
xml:lang="en">https://IdentityProvider.com</OrganizationURL>
    </Organization>
</EntityDescriptor>
```

The following is an example of metadata for a SAML system entity acting as a service provider. A signature is shown as a placeholder, without the actual content. For illustrative purposes, the service is one that does not require users to uniquely identify themselves, but rather authorizes access on the basis of a role-like attribute.

```
<EntityDescriptor xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata"
   xmlns:saml="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
   xmlns:ds="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#"
   entityID="https://ServiceProvider.com/SAML">
   <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
    <SPSSODescriptor AuthnRequestsSigned="true"
      protocolSupportEnumeration="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:protocol">
       <KeyDescriptor use="signing">
           <ds:KeyInfo>
               <ds:KeyName>ServiceProvider.com SSO Key</ds:KeyName>
           </ds:KeyInfo>
       </KeyDescriptor>
       <KeyDescriptor use="encryption">
           <ds:KeyInfo>
               <ds:KeyName>ServiceProvider.com Encrypt Key</ds:KeyName>
           </ds:KeyInfo>
```

```
            <EncryptionMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#rsa-
1_5"/>
        </KeyDescriptor>
        <SingleLogoutService
          Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:SOAP"
          Location="https://ServiceProvider.com/SAML/SLO/SOAP"/>
        <SingleLogoutService
          Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:HTTP-Redirect"
          Location="https://ServiceProvider.com/SAML/SLO/Browser"
          ResponseLocation="https://ServiceProvider.com/SAML/SLO/Response"/>
        <NameIDFormat>
          urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:transient
        </NameIDFormat>
        <AssertionConsumerService isDefault="true" index="0"
          Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:HTTP-Artifact"
          Location="https://ServiceProvider.com/SAML/SSO/Artifact"/>
        <AssertionConsumerService index="1"
          Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:HTTP-POST"
          Location="https://ServiceProvider.com/SAML/SSO/POST"/>
        <AttributeConsumingService index="0">
            <ServiceName xml:lang="en">Academic Journals R US</ServiceName>
            <RequestedAttribute
             NameFormat="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:attrname-format:uri"
             Name="urn:oid:1.3.6.1.4.1.5923.1.1.1.7"
             FriendlyName="eduPersonEntitlement">
                <saml:AttributeValue>
                 https://ServiceProvider.com/entitlements/123456789
                </saml:AttributeValue>
            </RequestedAttribute>
        </AttributeConsumingService>
    </SPSSODescriptor>
    <Organization>
        <OrganizationName xml:lang="en">Academic Journals R
US</OrganizationName>
        <OrganizationDisplayName xml:lang="en">
           Academic Journals R US, a Division of Dirk Corp.
        </OrganizationDisplayName>
        <OrganizationURL
xml:lang="en">https://ServiceProvider.com</OrganizationURL>
    </Organization>
</EntityDescriptor>
```

3 Signature Processing

Various elements in a metadata instance can be digitally signed (as indicated by the element's inclusion of a <ds:Signature> element), with the following benefits:

- Metadata integrity
- Authentication of the metadata by a trusted signer

A digital signature is not always required, for example if the relying party obtains the information directly from the publishing entity directly (with no intermediaries) through a secure channel, with the entity having authenticated to the relying party by some means other than a digital signature.

Many different techniques are available for "direct" authentication and secure channel establishment between two parties. The list includes TLS/SSL, HMAC, password-based mechanisms, etc. In addition, the applicable security requirements depend on the communicating applications.

Additionally, elements can inherit signatures on enclosing parent elements that are themselves signed.

In the absence of such context, it is RECOMMENDED that at least the root element of a metadata instance be signed.

3.1 XML Signature Profile

The XML Signature specification [XMLSig] calls out a general XML syntax for signing data with flexibility and many choices. This section details the constraints on these facilities so that metadata processors do not have to deal with the full generality of XML Signature processing. This usage makes specific use of the **xs:ID**-typed attributes optionally present on the elements to which signatures can apply. These attributes are collectively referred to in this section as the identifier attributes.

3.1.1 Signing Formats and Algorithms

XML Signature has three ways of relating a signature to a document: enveloping, enveloped, and detached.

SAML metadata MUST use enveloped signatures when signing the elements defined in this specification. ~~SAML processors SHOULD support the use of RSA signing and verification for public key operations in accordance with the algorithm identified by http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1.~~[E81] Any algorithm defined for use with the XML Signature specification MAY be used.

3.1.2 References

Signed metadata elements MUST supply a value for the identifier attribute on the signed element. The element may or may not be the root element of the actual XML document containing the signed metadata element.

Signatures MUST contain a single <ds:Reference> containing a URI reference to the identifier attribute value of the metadata element being signed. For example, if the identifier attribute value is "foo", then the URI attribute in the <ds:Reference> element MUST be "#foo".

As a consequence, a metadata element's signature MUST apply to the content of the signed element and any child elements it contains.

3.1.3 Canonicalization Method

SAML implementations SHOULD use Exclusive Canonicalization, with or without comments, both in the `<ds:CanonicalizationMethod>` element of `<ds:SignedInfo>`, and as a `<ds:Transform>` algorithm. [E83] Use of Exclusive Canonicalization facilitates the verification of signatures created over SAML messages when placed into a different XML context than present during signing.

Note that use of this algorithm alone does not guarantee that a particular signed object can be moved from one context to another safely, nor is that a requirement of signed SAML objects in general, though it MAY be required by particular profiles. ~~Use of Exclusive Canonicalization ensures that signatures created over SAML metadata embedded in an XML context can be verified independent of that context.~~

3.1.4 Transforms

Signatures in SAML metadata SHOULD NOT contain transforms other than the enveloped signature transform (with the identifier http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature) or the exclusive canonicalization transforms (with the identifier http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n# or http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#WithComments).

Verifiers of signatures MAY reject signatures that contain other transform algorithms as invalid. If they do not, verifiers MUST ensure that no content of the signed metadata element is excluded from the signature. This can be accomplished by establishing out-of-band agreement as to what transforms are acceptable, or by applying the transforms manually to the content and reverifying the result as consisting of the same SAML metadata.

3.1.5 [E91] Object

The `<ds:Object>` element is not defined for use with SAML metadata signatures, and SHOULD NOT be present. Since it can be used in service of an attacker by carrying unsigned data, verifiers SHOULD reject signatures that contain a `<ds:Object>` element.

3.1.6 KeyInfo

XML Signature [XMLSig] defines usage of the `<ds:KeyInfo> element.` SAML does not require the use of `<ds:KeyInfo>` nor does it impose any restrictions on its use. Therefore, `<ds:KeyInfo>` MAY be absent.

4 Metadata Publication and Resolution

Two mechanisms are provided for an entity to publish (and for a consumer to resolve the location of) metadata documents: via a "well-known-location" by directly dereferencing the entity's unique identifier (a URI variously referred to as an *entityID* or *providerID*), or indirectly by publishing the location of metadata in the DNS. Other out-of-band mechanisms are of course also permitted. A consumer that supports both approaches defined in this document MUST attempt resolution via DNS before using the "well-known-location" mechanism.

When retrieval requires network transport of the document, the transport SHOULD be protected with mechanisms providing server authentication and integrity protection. For example, HTTP-based resolution SHOULD be protected with TLS/SSL [RFC2246] as amended by [RFC3546].

Various mechanisms are described in this section to aid in establishing trust in the accuracy and legitimacy of metadata, including use of XML signatures, SSL/TLS server authentication, and DNS signatures. Regardless of the mechanism(s) used, relying parties SHOULD have some means by which to establish trust in metadata information before relying on it.

4.1 Publication and Resolution via Well-Known Location

The following sections describe publication and resolution of metadata by means of a well-known location.

4.1.1 Publication

Entities MAY publish their metadata documents at a well known location by placing the document at the location denoted by its unique identifier, which MUST be in the form of a URL (rather than a URN). See Section 8.3.6 of [SAMLCore] for more information about such identifiers. It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that `https` URLs be used for this purpose. An indirection mechanism supported by the URL scheme (such as an HTTP 1.1 302 redirect) MAY be used if the document is not placed directly at the location. If the publishing protocol permits MIME-based identification of content types, the content type of the metadata instance MUST be `application/samlmetadata+xml`.

The XML document provided at the well-known location MUST describe the metadata only for the entity represented by the unique identifier (that is, the root element MUST be an `<EntityDescriptor>` with an `entityID` matching the location). If other entities need to be described, the `<AdditionalMetadataLocation>` element MUST be used. Thus the `<EntitiesDescriptor>` element MUST NOT be used in documents published using this mechanism, since a group of entities are not defined by such an identifier.

4.1.2 Resolution

If an entity's unique identifier is a URL, metadata consumers MAY attempt to resolve an entity's unique identifier directly, in a scheme-specific manner, by dereferencing the identifier.

4.2 Publishing and Resolution via DNS

To improve the accessibility of metadata documents and provide additional indirection between an entity's unique identifier and the location of metadata, entities MAY publish their metadata document locations in a zone of their corresponding DNS [RFC1034]. The entity's unique identifier (a URI) is used as the input to the process. Since URIs are flexible identifiers, location publication methods and the resolution process are determined by the URI's scheme and fully-qualified name. URI locations for metadata are

subsequently be derived through queries of the NAPTR Resource Record (RR) as defined in [RFC2915] and [RFC3403].

It is RECOMMENDED that entities publish their resource records in signed zone files using ~~Error: Reference source not found~~[E66][RFC4035] such that relying parties may establish the validity of the published location and authority of the zone, and integrity of the DNS response. If DNS zone signatures are present, relying parties MUST properly validate the signature.

4.2.1 Publication

This specification makes use of the NAPTR resource record described in [RFC2915] and [RFC3403]. Familiarity with these documents is encouraged.

Dynamic Delegation Discovery System (DDDS) [RFC3401]is a general purpose system for the retrieval of information based on an application-specific input string and the application of well known rules to transform that string until a terminal condition is reached requiring a look-up into an application-specific defined database or resolution of a URL based on the rules defined by the application. DDDS defines a specific type of DNS Resource Record, NAPTR records, for the storage of information in the DNS necessary to apply DDDS rules.

Entities MAY publish separate URLs when multiple metadata documents need to be distributed, or when different metadata documents are required due to multiple trust relationships that require separate keying material, or when service interfaces require separate metadata declarations. This may be accomplished through the use of the optional `<AdditionalMetadataLocation>` element, or through the regexp facility and multiple service definition fields in the NAPTR resource record itself.

If the publishing protocol permits MIME-based identification of content types, the content type of the metadata instance MUST be `application/samlmetadata+xml`.

If the entity's unique identifier is a URN, publication of the corresponding metadata location proceeds as specified in [RFC3404]. Otherwise, the resolution of the metadata location proceeds as specified below.

The following is the application-specific profile of DDDS for SAML metadata resolution.

4.2.1.1 First Well Known Rule

The "first well-known-rule" for processing SAML metadata resolution is to parse the entity's unique identifier and extract the fully-qualified domain name (subexpression 3) as described in Section 4.2.3.1.

4.2.1.2 The Order Field

The order field indicates the order for processing each NAPTR resource record returned. Publishers MAY provide multiple NAPTR resource records which MUST be processed by the resolver application in the order indicated by this field.

4.2.1.3 The Preference Field

For terminal NAPTR resource records, the publisher expresses the preferred order of use to the resolving application. The resolving application MAY ignore this order, in cases where the service field value does not meet the resolver's requirements (e.g.: the resource record returns a protocol the application does not support).

4.2.1.4 The Flag Field

SAML metadata resolution twice makes use of the "U" flag, which is terminal, and the null value (implying additional resource records are to be processed). The "U" flag indicates that the output of the rule is a URI.

4.2.1.5 The Service Field

The SAML-specific service field, as described in the following BNF, declares the modes by which instance document(s) shall be made available:

```
servicefield = 1("PID2U" / "NID2U") "+" proto [*(":" class) *(":" servicetype)]
proto = 1("https" / "uddi")
class = 1[ "entity" / "entitygroup" )
servicetype = 1(si / "spsso" / "idpsso" / "authn" / "authnauth" / "pdp" / "attrauth" /
alphanum )
si = "si" [":" alphanum] [":endpoint"]
alphanum = 1*32(ALPHA / DIGIT)
```

where:

- `servicefield` PID2U resolves an entity's unique identifier to metadata URL.
- `servicefield` NID2U resolves a principal's `<NameID>` into a metadata URL.
- `proto` describes the retrieval protocol (`https` or `uddi`). In the case of UDDI, the URL will be an http(s) URL referencing a WSDL document.
- `class` identifies whether the referenced metadata document describes a single entity, or multiple. In the latter case, the referenced document MUST contain the entity defined by the original unique identifier as a member of a group of entities within the document itself such as an `<AffiliationDescriptor>` or `<EntitiesDescriptor>`.
- `servicetype` allows an entity to publish metadata for distinct roles and services as separate documents. Resolvers who encounter multiple `servicetype` declarations will dereference the appropriate URI, depending on which service is required for an operation (e.g.: an entity operating both as an identity provider and a service provider can publish metadata for each role at different locations). The `authn` service type represents a `<SingleSignOnService>` endpoint.
- `si` (with optional endpoint component) allows the publisher to either directly publish the metadata for a service instance, or by articulating a SOAP endpoint (using `endpoint`).

For example:

- `PID2U+https:entity` - represents the entity's complete metadata document available via the https protocol
- `PID2U+uddi:entity:si:foo` - represents the WSDL document location that describes a service instance "foo"
- `PID2U+https:entitygroup:idpsso` - represents the metadata for a group of entities acting as SSO identity providers, of which the original entity is a member.
- `NID2U+https:idp` - represents the metadata for the SSO identity provider of a principal

4.2.1.6 The Regex and Replacement Fields

The expected output after processing the input string through the regex MUST be a valid `https` URL or UDDI node (WSDL document) address.

4.2.2 NAPTR Examples

4.2.2.1 Entity Metadata NAPTR Examples

Entities publish metadata URLs in the following manner:

```
$ORIGIN provider.biz

;; order pref f service regexp or replacement

IN NAPTR 100 10 "U" PID2U+https:entity
   "!^.*$!https://host.provider.biz/some/directory/trust.xml!" ""
IN NAPTR 110 10 "U" PID2U+https: entity:trust
   "!^.*!https://foo.provider.biz:1443/mdtrust.xml!" ""
IN NAPTR 125 10 "U" PID2U+https:"
IN NAPTR 110 10 "U" PID2U+uddi:entity
   "!^.*$!https://this.uddi.node.provider.biz/libmd.wsdl" ""
```

4.2.2.2 Name Identifier Examples

A principal's employer `example.int` operates an identity provider which may be used by an office supply company to authenticate authorized buyers. The supplier takes a users' email address `buyer@example.int` as input to the resolution process, and parses the email address to extract the FQDN (example.int). The employer publishes the following NAPTR record in the `example.int` DNS:

```
$ORIGIN example.int

IN NAPTR 100 10 "U" NID2U+https:authn
   "!^([^@]+)@(.*)$!https://serv.example.int:8000/cgi-bin/getmd?\1!" ""
IN NAPTR 100 10 "U" NID2U+https:idp
   "!^([^@]+)@(.*)$!https://auth.example.int/app/auth?\1" ""
```

4.2.3 Resolution

When resolving metadata for an entity via the DNS, the unique identifier of the entity is used as the initial input into the resolution process, rather than as an actual location Proceed as follows:

- If the unique identifier is a URN, proceed with the resolution steps as defined in [RFC3404].
- Otherwise, parse the identifier to obtain the fully-qualified domain name.
- Query the DNS for NAPTR resource records of the domain iteratively until a terminal resource record is returned.
- Identify which resource record to use based on the service fields, then order fields, then preference fields of the result set.
- Obtain the document(s) at the provided location(s) as required by the application.

4.2.3.1 Parsing the Unique Identifier

To initiate the resolution of the location of the metadata information, it will be necessary in some cases to decompose the entity's unique identifier (expressed as a URI) into one or more atomic elements.

The following regular expression should be used when initiating the decomposition process:

```
   ^([^:/?#]+:)?/*([^:/?#]*@)?(([^/?:#]*\.)*(([^/?#:\.]+)\.([^/?#:\.]+)))
(:\d+)?([^?#]*)(\?[^#]*)?(#.*)?$
     1            2           34            56             7             8
9       10        11
```

Subexpression 3 MUST result in a Fully-Qualified Domain Name (FQDN), which will be the basis for retrieving metadata locations from this zone.

4.2.3.2 Obtaining Metadata via the DNS

Upon completion of the parsing of the identifier, the application then performs a DNS query for the resulting domain (subexpression 5) for NAPTR resource records; it should expect 1 or more responses. Applications MAY exclude from the result set any service definitions that do not concern the present request operations.

Resolving applications MUST subsequently order the result set according to the order field, and MAY order the result set based on the preference set. Resolvers are NOT REQUIRED to follow the ordering of the preferences field. The resulting NAPTR resource record(s) are operated on iteratively (based on the order flag) until a terminal NAPTR resource record is reached.

The result will be a well-formed, absolute URL, which is then used to retrieve the metadata document.

4.2.4 Metadata Location Caching

Location caching MUST NOT exceed the TTL of the DNS zone from which the location was derived. Resolvers MUST obtain a fresh copy of the metadata location upon reaching the expiration of the TTL of the zone.

Publishers of metadata documents should carefully consider the TTL of the zone when making changes to metadata document locations. Should such a location change occur, a publisher MUST either keep the document at both the old and new location until all conforming resolvers are certain to have the updated location (e.g.: time of zone change + TTL), or provide an HTTP Redirect [RFC2616] response at the old location specifying the new location.

4.3 Post-Processing of Metadata

The following sections describe the post-processing of metadata.

4.3.1 Metadata Instance Caching

[E94] Document caching MUST be based on the duration indicated by the `cacheDuration` attribute of the subject element(s). If metadata elements have parent elements which contain caching policies, the parent element takes precedence. To properly process the `cacheDuration` attribute, consumers must retain the date and time when an instance was obtained.

Note that cache expiration does not imply a lack of validity in the absence of a `validUntil` attribute or other information; failure to update a cached instance (e.g., due to network failure) need not render metadata invalid, although implementations may offer such controls to deployers.~~Document caching MUST NOT exceed the `validUntil` or `cacheDuration` attribute of the subject element(s). If metadata elements have parent elements which contain caching policies, the parent element takes precedence.~~

~~To properly process the `cacheDuration` attribute, consumers MUST retain the date and time when the document was retrieved.~~

When a document or element has expired, the consumer MUST retrieve a fresh copy, which may require a refresh of the document location(s). Consumers SHOULD process document cache processing according to [RFC2616] Section 13, and MAY request the Last-Modified date and time from the HTTP server. Publishers SHOULD ensure acceptable cache processing as described in [RFC2616] (Section 10.3.5 304 Not Modified).

4.3.2 [E94] Metadata Instance Validity

Metadata MUST be considered invalid upon reaching the time specified in a `validUntil` attribute of the subject element(s). The effective expiration may be adjusted downward by parent element(s) with earlier expirations. Invalid metadata MUST NOT be used. This contrasts with "stale" metadata that may be

beyond its optimum cache duration but is not explicitly invalid. Such metadata remains valid and MAY be used at the discretion of the implementation.

4.3.3 Handling of HTTPS Redirects

Publishers MAY issue an HTTP Redirect (301 Moved Permanently, 302 or 307 Temporary Redirect) [RFC2616], and user agents MUST follow the specified URL in the Redirect response. Redirects SHOULD be of the same protocol as the initial request.

4.3.4 Processing of XML Signatures and General Trust Processing

Metadata processing provides several mechanisms for trust negotiation for both the metadata itself and for the trust ascribed to the entity described by such metadata:

- Trust derived from the signature of the DNS zone from which the metadata location URL was resolved, ensuring accuracy of the metadata document location(s)
- Trust derived from signature processing of the metadata document itself, ensuring the integrity of the XML document
- Trust derived from the SSL/TLS server authentication of the metadata location URL, ensuring the identity of the publisher of the metadata

Post-processing of the metadata document MUST include signature processing at the XML-document level and MAY include one of the other two processes. Specifically, the relying party MAY choose to trust any of the cited authorities in the resolution and parsing process. Publishers of metadata MUST employ a document-integrity mechanism and MAY employ any of the other two processing profiles to establish trust in the metadata document, governed by implementation policies.

4.3.4.1 Processing Signed DNS Zones

Verification of DNS zone signature SHOULD be processed, if present, as described in [E66]~~Error: Reference source not found~~[RFC4035].

4.3.4.2 Processing Signed Documents and Fragments

Published metadata documents SHOULD be signed, as described in Section 3, either by a certificate issued to the subject of the document, or by another trusted party. Publishers MAY consider signatures of other parties as a means of trust conveyance.

Metadata consumers MUST validate signatures, when present, on the metadata document as described by Section 3.

4.3.4.3 Processing Server Authentication during Metadata Retrieval via TLS/SSL

It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that publishers implement TLS/SSL URLs; therefore, consumers SHOULD consider the trust inherited from the issuer of the TLS/SSL certificate. Publication URLs may not always be located in the domain of the subject of the metadata document; therefore, consumers SHOULD NOT presume certificates whose subject is the entity in question, as it may be hosted by another trusted party.

As the basis of this trust may not be available against a cached document, other mechanisms SHOULD be used under such circumstances.

5 References

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Appendix A.Registration of MIME media type application/samlmetadata+xml

Introduction

This document defines a MIME media type -- `application/samlmetadata+xml` -- for use with the XML serialization of Security Assertion Markup Language metadata.

SAML is a work product of the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee [SSTC]. The SAML specifications define XML-based constructs with which one may make, and convey, security assertions. Using SAML, one can assert that an authentication event pertaining to some subject has occurred and convey said assertion to a relying party, for example.

SAML profiles require agreements between system entities regarding identifiers, binding support, endpoints, certificates, keys, and so forth. Such information is treated as metadata by SAML v2.0. [SAMLv2Meta] specifies this metadata, as well as specifying metadata publication and resolution mechanisms. If the publishing protocol permits MIME-based identification of content types, then use of the `application/samlmetadata+xml` MIME media type is required.

MIME media type name

`application`

MIME subtype name

`samlmetadata+xml`

Required parameters

None

Optional parameters

`charset`
Same as `charset` parameter of `application/xml` [RFC3023].

Encoding considerations

Same as for `application/xml` [RFC3023].

Security considerations

Per their specification, `samlmetadata+xml` typed objects do not contain executable content. However, these objects are XML-based [XML], and thus they have all of the general security considerations presented in Section10 of [RFC3023].

SAML metadata [SAMLv2Meta] contains information whose integrity and authenticity is important – identity provider and service provider public keys and endpoint addresses, for example.

To counter potential issues, the publisher may sign `samlmetadata+xml` typed objects. Any such signature should be verified by the recipient of the data - both as a valid signature, and as being the signature of the publisher.

Additionally, various of the publication protocols, e.g. HTTP-over-TLS/SSL, offer means for ensuring the authenticity of the publishing party and for protecting the metadata in transit.

[SAMLv2Meta] also defines prescriptive metadata caching directives, as well as guidance on handling HTTPS redirects, trust processing, server authentication, and related items.

For a more detailed discussion of SAML v2.0 metadata and its security considerations, please see [SAMLv2Meta]. For a discussion of overall SAML v2.0 security considerations and specific security-related design features, please refer to the SAML v2.0 specifications listed in the below bibliography. The specifications containing security-specific information are explicitly listed.

Interoperability considerations

SAML v2.0 metadata explicitly supports identifying the protocols and versions supported by the identified entities. For example, an identity provider entity can be denoted as supporting SAML v2.0 [SAMLv2.0], SAML v1.1 [SAMLv1.1], Liberty ID-FF 1.2 [LAPFF], or even other protocols if they are unambiguously identifiable via URI [RFC2396]. This protocol support information is conveyed via the `protocolSupportEnumeration` attribute of metadata objects of the **RoleDescriptorType**.

Published specification

[SAMLv2Meta] explicitly specifies use of the `application/samlmetadata+xml` MIME media type.

Applications which use this media type

Potentially any application implementing SAML v2.0, as well as those applications implementing specifications based on SAML, e.g. those available from the Liberty Alliance [LAP].

Additional information

Magic number(s)

In general, the same as for `application/xml` [RFC3023]. In particular, the XML root element of the returned object will have a namespace-qualified name with:

- a local name of: `EntityDescriptor`, or `AffiliationDescriptor`, or `EntitiesDescriptor`
- a namespace URI of: `urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata` (the SAMLv2.0 metadata namespace)

File extension(s)

None

Macintosh File Type Code(s)

None

Person & email address to contact for further information

This registration is made on behalf of the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee (SSTC) Please refer to the SSTC website for current information on committee chairperson(s) and their contact addresses: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/security/. Committee members should submit comments and potential errata to the securityservices@lists.oasis-open.org list. Others should submit them by filling out the web form located at http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/comments/form.php?wg_abbrev=security.

Additionally, the SAML developer community email distribution list, saml-dev@lists.oasis-open.org, may be employed to discuss usage of the `application/samlmetadata+xml` MIME media type. The "saml-dev" mailing list is publicly archived here: http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/saml-dev/. To post to the "saml-dev" mailing list, one must subscribe to it. To subscribe, send a message with the single word "subscribe" in the message body, to: saml-dev-request@lists.oasis-open.org.

Intended usage

COMMON

Author/Change controller

The SAML specification sets are a work product of the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee (SSTC). OASIS and the SSTC have change control over the SAML specification sets.

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