



Web Services Security Kerberos Token Profile 1.0

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13 **Abstract:**
14 This document describes how to use Kerberos [Kerb] tickets (specifically the AP-REQ
15 packet) with the WS-Security [WSS] specification.

16 **Status:**
17 This is an interim draft. Please send comments to the editors.

18
19 Committee members should send comments on this specification to the [wss@lists.oasis-](mailto:wss@lists.oasis-open.org)
20 [open.org](mailto:wss-comment@lists.oasis-open.org) list. Others should subscribe to and send comments to the [comment@lists.oasis-open.org](mailto:wss-
21 <a href=) list. To subscribe, visit [open.org/ob/adm.pl](http://lists.oasis-
22 <a href=).

23 For information on whether any patents have been disclosed that may be essential to
24 implementing this specification, and any offers of patent licensing terms, please refer to
25 the Intellectual Property Rights section of the Security Services TC web page
26 (<http://www.oasis-open.org/who/intellectualproperty.shtml>).

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46 1 Introduction

47 This specification describes the use of Kerberos [Kerb] tokens with respect to the WS-Security
48 specification [WSS].

49 Specifically, this document defines how to encode Kerberos tickets and attach them to SOAP
50 messages. As well, it specifies how to add signatures and encryption to the SOAP message, in
51 accordance with WS-Security, which uses and references the Kerberos tokens.

52 For interoperability concerns, and for some security concerns, the specification is limited to using
53 the AP-REQ packet (service ticket and authenticator) defined by Kerberos as the Kerberos token.
54 This allows a service to authenticate the ticket and interoperate with existing Kerberos
55 implementations.

56 It should be noted that how the AP-REQ is obtained is out of scope of this specification as are
57 scenarios involving other ticket types and user-to-user interactions.

58 Note that Sections 2.1, 2.2, all of 3, and indicated parts of 6 are normative. All other sections are
59 non-normative.

2 Notations and Terminology

60

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

2.1 Notational Conventions

62

63 The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD",
64 "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be
65 interpreted as described in RFC2119 [2119].

66 Namespace URIs (of the general form "some-URI") represent some application-dependent or
67 context-dependent URI as defined in RFC2396 [URI].

68 This specification is designed to work with the general SOAP [S11, S12] message structure and
69 message processing model, and should be applicable to any version of SOAP. The current SOAP
70 1.2 namespace URI is used herein to provide detailed examples, but there is no intention to limit
71 the applicability of this specification to a single version of SOAP.

2.2 Namespaces

72

73 The XML namespace [XML-ns] URIs that MUST be used by implementations of this specification
74 are as follows (note that different elements in this specification are from different namespaces):

75 [http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-
76 secext-1.0.xsd](http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.0.xsd)
77 [http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-
78 utility-1.0.xsd](http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-utility-1.0.xsd)

79 Note that this specification does not introduce new schema elements.

80 The following namespaces are used in this document:

Prefix	Namespace
S11	http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/
S12	http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope
wsse	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.0.xsd
wsu	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-utility-1.0.xsd
ds	http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#
xenc	http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#

81 **2.3 Terminology**

82 Readers are presumed to be familiar with the terms in the Internet Security Glossary [ISG].

83 This specification employs the terminology defined in the WS-Security Core Specification [WSS].

84 The following (non-normative) table defines additional acronyms and abbreviations for this
85 document.

Term	Definition
SHA	Secure Hash Algorithm
SOAP	Simple Object Access Protocol
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
UCS	Universal Character Set
UTF8	UCS Transformation Format, 8-bit form
XML	Extensible Markup Language

86

87 3 Usage

88 This section describes the profile (specific mechanisms and procedures) for the
89 Kerberos binding of WS-Security.

90 **Identification:** <http://www.docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/07/oasis-000000-wss-kerberos-token-profile-1.0>

92 **Description:** Given below.

93 **Updates:** None.

94 3.1 Processing Model

95 The processing model for WS-Security with Kerberos tokens is no different from that
96 of WS-Security with other token formats as described in WS-Security.

97 3.2 Attaching Security Tokens

98 Kerberos tokens are attached to SOAP messages using WS-Security by using the
99 `<wsse:BinarySecurityToken>` described in WS-Security. When using this element, the
100 *@ValueType* attribute MUST be specified. This specification defines one value for this token as
101 defined in the table below:

URI	Description
http://www.docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/07/oasis-000000-wss-kerberos-token-profile-1.0#Kerberosv5_AP_REQ	Kerberos v5 AP-REQ as defined in the Kerberos specification. This ValueType is used when the ticket is an AP Request (ST + Authenticator).

102 It should be noted that the URI in the table above also serves as the official URI
103 identifying the Kerberos token defined in this specification.

104 The octet sequence of the Kerberos ticket (e.g. AP-REQ) is encoded using the
105 indicated algorithm (e.g. base 64) and the result is placed inside of the
106 `<wsse:BinarySecurityToken>` element.

107 The following example illustrates a SOAP message with a Kerberos token.

```
108 <S11:Envelope xmlns:S11="...">  
109   <S11:Header>  
110     <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">  
111       <wsse:BinarySecurityToken  
112         xmlns:wsse="... "  
113         wsu:Id="myToken"  
114         ValueType="...#Kerberosv5_AP_REQ"  
115         EncodingType="...#Base64Binary">  
116         MII EZzCCA9CgAwIBAgIQEmtJZc0...
```

```

117         </wsse:BinarySecurityToken>
118         ...
119     </wsse:Security>
120 </S11:Header>
121 <S11:Body>
122     ...
123 </S11:Body>
124 </S11:Envelope>
125

```

3.3 Identifying and Referencing Kerberos Tokens

A Kerberos Token is referenced by means of the `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element. This mechanism, defined in WS-Security, provides different referencing mechanisms. The following list identifies the supported and unsupported mechanisms:

- The `wsu:id` MAY be specified on the `<wsse:BinarySecurityToken>` element allowing the token to be directly referenced.
- A `<wsse:KeyIdentifier>` element MAY be used which specifies the identifier for the Kerberos ticket. This value is computed as the SHA1 of the pre-encoded octets that were used to form the contents of the `<wsse:BinarySecurityToken>` element. The `<wsse:KeyIdentifier>` element contains the encoded form of the KeyIdentifier which is defined as the base64 encoding of the SHA1 result.
- Key Name references MAY NOT be used.

When a Kerberos Token is referenced using `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` the `@ValueType` attribute is not required. If specified, the URI listed above as Kerberos token type MUST be specified.

The following example illustrates using ID references to a Kerberos token:

```

142 <S11:Envelope xmlns:S11="...">
143   <S11:Header>
144     <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
145       <wsse:BinarySecurityToken
146         xmlns:wsse="..."
147         wsu:Id="myToken"
148         ValueType="...#Kerberosv5_AP_REQ"
149         EncodingType="...#Base64Binary">
150         MIEZzCCA9CgAwIBAgIQEmtJZc0...
151       </wsse:BinarySecurityToken>
152       ...
153       <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
154         <wsse:Reference URI="#myToken"/>
155       </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
156       ...
157     </wsse:Security>
158   </S11:Header>
159   <S11:Body>
160     ...
161   </S11:Body>
162 </S11:Envelope>
163

```

The AP-REQ packet is included in the initial message to the service, but need not be attached to subsequent messages exchanged between the involved parties. Consequently, the KeyIdentifier

166 reference mechanism SHOULD be used on subsequent exchanges as illustrated in the example
167 below:

```
168 <S11:Envelope xmlns:S11="...">  
169   <S11:Header>  
170     <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">  
171       ...  
172       <wsse:SecurityTokenReference  
173         ValueType="...#Kerberosv5_AP_REQ">  
174         <wsse:KeyIdentifier>  
175           EZzCCA9CgAwIB...  
176         <wsse:KeyIdentifier>  
177       </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>  
178       ...  
179     </wsse:Security>  
180   </S11:Header>  
181   <S11:Body>  
182     ...  
183   </S11:Body>  
184 </S11:Envelope>  
185
```

186 3.4 Authentication

187 When a Kerberos ticket is referenced as a signature key, the signature algorithm [DSIG] MUST
188 be a hashed message authentication code.

189 The value of the signature key is the value of the Kerberos session key or a key derived from this
190 session key using a mechanism agreed to by the communicating parties.

191 3.5 Encryption

192 When a Kerberos ticket is referenced as an encryption key, the encryption algorithm MUST be a
193 symmetric encryption algorithm.

194 The value of the encryption key is the value of the Kerberos session key or a key derived from
195 this session key using a mechanism agreed to by the communicating parties.

196 3.6 Error Codes

197 When using Kerberos tokens, it is RECOMMENDED to use the error codes defined in the WS-
198 Security specification. However, implementations MAY use custom errors, defined in private
199 namespaces if they desire. Care should be taken not to introduce security vulnerabilities in the
200 errors returned.

201

4 Threat Model and Countermeasures

202 The use of Kerberos assertion tokens with WS-Security introduces no new message-level threats
203 beyond those identified for Kerberos itself or by WS-Security with other types of security tokens.

204 One potential threat is that of key re-use. The mechanisms described in WS-Security can be
205 used to prevent replay of the message; however, it is possible that for some service scopes, there
206 are host security concerns of key hijacking within a Kerberos infrastructure. The use of the AP-
207 REQ and its associated authenticator and sequencer mitigate this threat.

208 Message alteration and eavesdropping can be addressed by using the integrity and confidentiality
209 mechanisms described in WS-Security. Replay attacks can be addressed by using message
210 timestamps and caching, as well as other application-specific tracking mechanisms. For
211 Kerberos tokens ownership is verified by use of keys, so man-in-the-middle attacks are generally
212 mitigated.

213 It is strongly recommended that all relevant and immutable message data be signed.

214 It should be noted that transport-level security MAY be used to protect the message and the
215 security token.

216 **5 Acknowledgements**

217 This specification was developed as a result of joint work of many individuals from the WSS TC.

218 The input specifications for this document were developed as a result of joint work with many
219 individuals and teams, including: Keith Ballinger, Microsoft, Bob Blakley, IBM, Allen Brown,
220 Microsoft, Joel Farrell, IBM, Mark Hayes, VeriSign, Kelvin Lawrence, IBM, Scott Konersmann,
221 Microsoft, David Melgar, IBM, Dan Simon, Microsoft, Wayne Vicknair, IBM.

222 6 References

223 The following are normative references

224 **[2119]** S. Bradner, "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels,"
225 [RFC 2119](#), Harvard University, March 1997

226 **[Kerb]** J. Kohl and C. Neuman, "The Kerberos Network Authentication Service
227 (V5)," [RFC 1510](#), September 1993, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1510.txt> .

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

230 **[S11]** W3C Note, "[SOAP: Simple Object Access Protocol 1.1](#)," 08 May 2000.

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237 (WS-Security 2004), OASIS Standard 200401, March 2004,
238 [http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-soap-
239 message-security-1.0.pdf](http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-soap-
239 message-security-1.0.pdf).

240 **[XML-ns]** W3C Recommendation, "[Namespaces in XML](#)," 14 January 1999.

241 **[DSIG]** W3C Recommendation, "[XML Signature Syntax and Processing](#)," 12
242 February 2002.

243 The following are non-normative references

244 **[ISG]** Informational RFC 2828, "[Internet Security Glossary](#)," May 2000.

245

Appendix A: Revision History

Rev	Date	What
01	18-Sep-02	Initial draft based on input documents and editorial review
03	30-Jan-03	Changes in title
04	Jan-04	Revise based on comments, switch to new URLs and formats and recent decisions in TC
05	27-Jul-04	Revise based on comments and recent decisions in TC

246

247

Appendix B: Notices

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