
1 A. Registration of MIME media type 2 application/samlassertion+xml

3 <@@NOTE: This document supersedes draft-hodges-saml-mediatype-02.txt. It is intended to be included
4 in sstc-saml-bindings-2.0-cd-02 (ie the next time [SAMLv2Bind] is rev'd) as an appendix.

5 Please see <http://www.w3.org/2002/06/registering-mediatype.html> for an overview of the intricities involved
6 when a non-IETF organization registers a MIME media type in the "standards tree" (aka "IETF tree").

7 The below registration material is intended to satisfy the requirements stated in [draft-freed-media-type-](#)
8 [reg-01.txt](#) (which superseded [draft-freed-mime-p4-04.txt](#)).

9 This "NOTE" is intended to be removed upon copying this document's content into [SAMLv2Bind].

10 sstc-saml-2.0-application-samlassertion-registration-00
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13 Acknowledgments: Thanks to Ned Freed and Larry Masinter for their comments on a prior draft of this
14 registration. The security considerations section leverages that of <http://www.iana.org/assignments/media->
15 [types/application/vnd.paos+xml](#), by John Kemp.
16 >

17 To: ietf-types@iana.org
18 Subject: Registration of MIME media type application/samlassertion+xml

19 Introduction

20 This document defines a MIME media type -- application/samlassertion+xml -- for use with the
21 XML serialization of SAML (Security Assertion Markup Language) assertions.

22 The SAML specification sets -- [SAMLv1.0], [SAMLv1.1], [SAMLv2.0] -- are work products of the
23 OASIS Security Services Technical Committee [SSTC]. The SAML specifications define XML-
24 based constructs with which one may make, and convey, security assertions. Using SAML, one
25 can assert that an authentication event pertaining to some subject has occurred and convey said
26 assertion to a relying party, for example.

27 SAML assertions, which are explicitly versioned, are defined by [SAMLv1Core], [SAMLv11Core],
28 and [SAMLv2Core].

29 MIME media type name: application

30 MIME subtype name: saml+xml

31 Required parameters: none

32 Optional parameters: charset
33 Same as charset parameter of application/xml [RFC3023].

34 Encoding considerations:
35 Same as for application/xml [RFC3023].

36 Security considerations:
37 Per their specification, samlassertion+xml typed objects do not contain executable content.
38 However, SAML assertions are XML-based objects [XML]. As such, they have all of the general

39 security considerations presented in section 10 of [RFC3023], as well as additional ones, since
40 they are explicit security objects. For example, samlassertion+xml typed objects will often contain
41 data that may identify or pertain to a natural person, and may be used as a basis for sessions and
42 access control decisions.

43 To counter potential issues, samlassertion+xml typed objects contain data that should be signed
44 appropriately by the sender. Any such signature must be verified by the recipient of the data - both
45 as a valid signature, and as being the signature of the sender. Issuers of samlassertion+xml
46 objects containing SAMLv2 assertions may also encrypt all, or portions of, the assertions
47 [SAMLv2Core].

48 In addition, SAML profiles and protocol bindings specify use of secure channels as appropriate.

49 [SAMLv2.0] incorporates various privacy-protection techniques in its design. For example: opaque
50 handles, specific to interactions between specific system entities, are assigned to subjects. The
51 handles are mappable to wider-context identifiers (e.g. email addresses, account identifiers, etc)
52 by only the specific parties.

53 For a more detailed discussion of SAML security considerations and specific security-related
54 design techniques, please refer to the SAML specifications listed in the below bibliography. The
55 specifications containing security-specific information have been explicitly listed for each version
56 of SAML.

57 Interoperability considerations:

58 SAML assertions are explicitly versioned. Relying parties should ensure that they observe
59 assertion version information and behave accordingly. See "Chapter 4 SAML Versioning" in
60 [SAMLv1Core], [SAMLv11Core], or [SAMLv2Core], as appropriate.

61 Published specification:

62 [SAMLv2Bind] explicitly specifies use of the application/samlassertion+xml MIME media type.
63 However, it is conceivable that non-SAMLv2 assertions (i.e. SAMLv1 and/or SAMLv1.1) might in
64 practice be conveyed using SAMLv2 bindings.

65 Applications which use this media type:

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

68 Additional information:

69 Magic number(s):

70 In general, the same as for application/xml [RFC3023]. In particular, the XML root
71 element of the returned object will be <saml:Assertion>, where "saml" maps to a
72 version-specific SAML assertion namespace, as defined by the appropriate SAML "core"
73 specification (see bibliography). In the case of SAMLv2.0, the root element of the returned
74 object may be either <saml:Assertion> or <saml:EncryptedAssertion>, where
75 "saml" maps to the SAMLv2.0 assertion namespace:
76 urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion

77 File extension(s): none

78 Macintosh File Type Code(s): none

79 Person & email address to contact for further information:

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

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

92 Intended usage: COMMON

93 Author/Change controller:

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

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