Advances in Oasis SAML and XACML

Standardized Federated Identity
## Standardized Access Control

Anil Saldhana (Red Hat),
*Oasis SAML TC Secretary and Oasis XACML TC Member*

What is SAML?

- *Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) is a Oasis XML based standard for communicating user authentication, entitlements and attributes.*

- *SAML v2.0 is the latest ratified version.*

- *Widespread adoption in commercial products and open source products.*

- *Deployed in commercial, government, educational and non-profit environments.*

Benefits of SAML

- *Platform Independence.*
- *Loose coupling of directories.*
- *Seamless User Experience for users.*
- *Reduced administrative costs for Service Providers.*
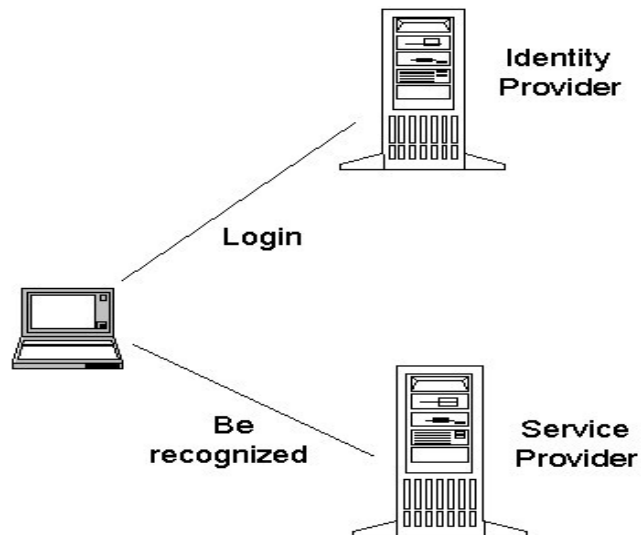
SAML Core Structure
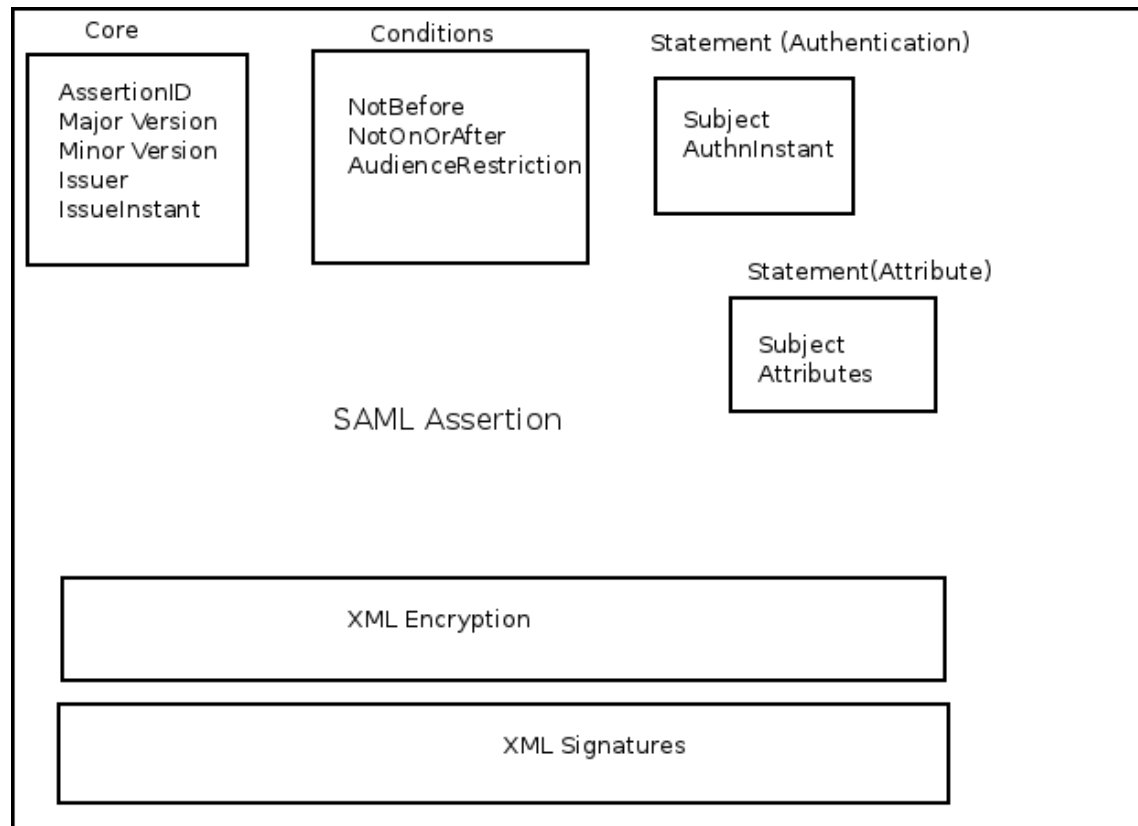
Latest with SAML

The Technical Committee since the publication of v2.0 has been working on erratas as well as the creation of multiple profiles.

- *The TC has decided to update the v2.0 specifications this year to yield either SAML v2.1 or v2.0.1*
  - *Approved errata to be integrated into core spec*
  - *Some extensions/profiles will be merged into core spec*
  - *HTML5 features into message bindings, logout.*
  - *XML Signature v2.0*

What is XACML?

- *Oasis standard for representing and evaluating access control policies.*

- *Alternatives would be proprietary access control lists (ACL)*

- *XACML v2.0 is the current ratified version.*

Widespread adoption in commercial and open source products

What is XACML?
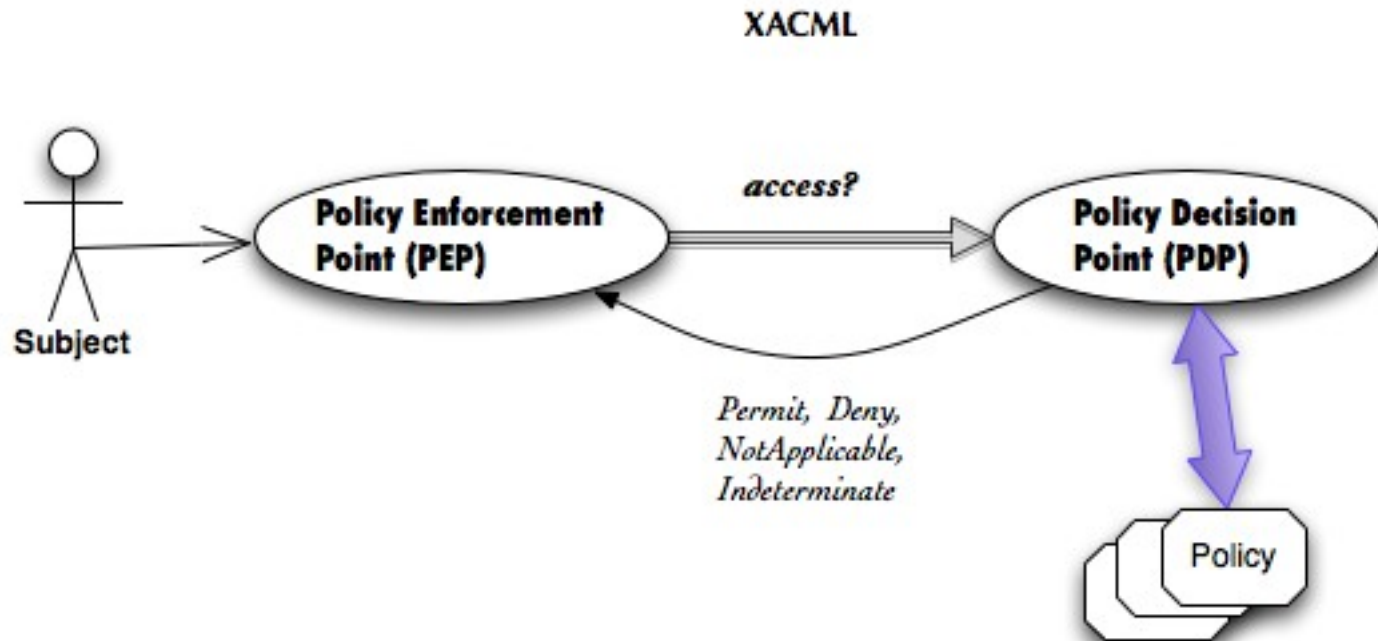
Latest with XACML

- *The Technical Committee is in the final phase of XACML v3.0 specification.*
- *Aim is to ratify the specification toward the end of this summer.*
- *XACML REST Profile (Work In Progress)*

  - More load on the authorization server compared to authentication

  - ATOM or JSON Format
- *XACML JSON Bindings (Brainstorm)*

XACML 3.0

- *"Advice" has been introduced to broaden "Obligations"*

  - PEP may interpret advice and shall interpret obligation.

- *Obligations can be part of rules now. Previously policies.*

- *New Profile: Administration and Delegation Profile.*

- *New Profile: Export Control US Profile.*

Resources

- **OASIS SAML Technical Committee Homepage**
  http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/security/

- **OASIS XACML Technical Committee Homepage**
  http://wiki.oasis-open.org/committees/xacml/

Anil.Saldhana@redhat.com