



1

2

Web Services Security: SAML Token Profile

3

4

OASIS STANDARD, 01 Dec. 2004

5

Document identifier:

6

oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.0(PDF)(Word)

7

Location:

8

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.0.pdf>

9

Errata Location:

10

<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/wss>

11

Editors:

12

Phillip Hallam-Baker VeriSign

13

Chris Kaler Microsoft

14

Ronald Monzillo Sun

15

Anthony Nadalin IBM

16

Contributors (voting members of the WSS TC as of Sept 8, 2004)

17

Gene Thurston AmberPoint

18

Frank Siebenlist Argonne National Laboratory

19

Hal Lockhart BEA Systems, Inc.

20

Corinna Witt BEA Systems, Inc.

21

Merlin Hughes Betrusted (Baltimore Technologies)

22

Davanum Srinivas Computer Associates

23

Thomas DeMartini ContentGuard

24

Guillermo Lao ContentGuard

25

Sam Wei Documentum

26

Tim Moses Entrust

27

Dana Kaufman Forum Systems, Inc.

28

Toshihiro Nishimura Fujitsu

29

Kefeng Chen GeoTrust

30

Irving Reid Hewlett-Packard

31

Kojiro Nakayama Hitachi

32

Paula Austel IBM

33

Derek Fu IBM

34

Maryann Hondo IBM

35	Kelvin Lawrence	IBM (TC Chair)
36	Michael McIntosh	IBM
37	Anthony Nadalin	IBM
38	Nataraj Nagaratnam	IBM
39	Ron Williams	IBM
40	Don Flinn	Individual
41	Bob Morgan	Internet2
42	Kate Cherry	Lockheed Martin
43	Paul Cotton	Microsoft Corporation
44	Vijay Gajjala	Microsoft Corporation
45	Alan Geller	Microsoft Corporation
46	Chris Kaler	Microsoft Corporation (TC Chair)
47	Rich Levinson	Netegrity, Inc.
48	Prateek Mishra	Netegrity, Inc.
49	Frederick Hirsch	Nokia
50	Senthil Sengodan	Nokia
51	Abbie Barbir	Nortel Networks
52	Lloyd Burch	Novell
53	Charles Knouse	Oblix
54	Steve Anderson	OpenNetwork (Secretary)
55	Vamsi Motukuru	Oracle
56	Ramana Turlapati	Oracle
57	Ben Hammond	RSA Security
58	Andrew Nash	RSA Security
59	Rob Philpott	RSA Security
60	Martijn de Boer	SAP
61	Blake Dournaee	Sarvega
62	Coumara Radja	Sarvega
63	Pete Wenzel	SeeBeyond Technology Corporation
64	Jeff Hodges	Sun Microsystems
65	Ronald Monzillo	Sun Microsystems
66	Jan Alexander	Systinet
67	Symon Chang	Tibco
68	J Weiland	US Dept of the Navy
69	Phillip Hallam-Baker	Verisign
70	Maneesh Sahu	Westbridge Technology
71	Contributors of input Documents (if not already listed above):	
72	Hiroshi Maruyama	IBM
73	Chris McLaren	Netegrity
74	Jerry Schwarz	Oracle
75	Eve Maler	Sun Microsystems
76	Hemma Prafullchandra	VeriSign

77 **Abstract:**

78 This document describes how to use Security Assertion Markup Language
79 (SAML) V1.1 assertions with the [Web Services Security \(WSS\): SOAP](#)
80 [Message Security](#) specification.

81 **Status:**

82 This is an OASIS Standard. Please send comments to the editors.

83

84 Committee members should send comments on this specification to
85 wss@lists.oasis-open.org list. Others should subscribe to and send comments
86 to the wss-comment@lists.oasis-open.org list. To subscribe, visit
87 <http://lists.oasis-open.org/ob/adm.pl>.

88 For information on the disclosure of Intellectual Property Rights or licensing terms
89 related to the work of the Web Services Security TC please refer to the Intellectual
90 Property Rights section of the TC web page at [http://www.oasis-](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/wss/)
91 [open.org/committees/wss/](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/wss/). The OASIS policy on Intellectual Property Rights is
92 described at <http://www.oasis-open.org/who/intellectualproperty.shtml>.

93	Table of Contents	
94	1 Introduction.....	5
95	1.1 Goals.....	5
96	1.1.1 Non-Goals.....	5
97	2 Notations and Terminology.....	6
98	2.1 Notational Conventions.....	6
99	2.2 Namespaces.....	6
100	2.3 Terminology.....	7
101	3 Usage.....	8
102	3.1 Processing Model.....	8
103	3.2 Attaching Security Tokens.....	8
104	3.3 Identifying and Referencing Security Tokens.....	9
105	3.3.1 SAML Assertion Referenced from Header or Element.....	11
106	3.3.2 SAML Assertion Referenced from KeyInfo.....	12
107	3.3.3 SAML Assertion Referenced from SignedInfo.....	13
108	3.3.4 SAML Assertion Referenced from Encrypted Data Reference.....	14
109	3.4 Subject Confirmation of SAML Assertions.....	14
110	3.4.1 Holder-of-key Subject Confirmation Method.....	15
111	3.4.2 Sender-vouches Subject Confirmation Method.....	18
112	3.5 Error Codes.....	21
113	4 Threat Model and Countermeasures (Non-Normative).....	23
114	4.1 Eavesdropping.....	23
115	4.2 Replay.....	23
116	4.3 Message Insertion.....	24
117	4.4 Message Deletion.....	24
118	4.5 Message Modification.....	24
119	4.6 Man-in-the-Middle.....	24
120	5 References.....	25
121	Appendix A: Revision History.....	26
122	Appendix B: Notices.....	31
123		

124 **1 Introduction**

125 The [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) specification defines a standard set of [SOAP](#)
126 extensions that implement message level integrity and confidentiality. This
127 specification defines the use of Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML)
128 assertions as security tokens from the `<wsse:Security>` header block defined by the
129 [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) specification.

130 **1.1 Goals**

131 The goal of this specification is to define the use of SAML V1.1 assertions in the
132 context of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) including for the purpose of securing [SOAP](#)
133 messages and [SOAP](#) message exchanges. To achieve this goal, this profile describes
134 how:

- 135 1. SAML assertions are carried in and referenced from `<wsse:security>` Headers.
- 136 2. SAML assertions are used with XML signature to bind the statements of the
137 assertions (i.e. the claims) to a SOAP message.

138 **1.1.1 Non-Goals**

139 The following topics are outside the scope of this document:

- 140 3. Defining SAML statement syntax or semantics.
- 141 4. Describing the use of SAML assertions other than for SOAP Message Security.
- 142 5. Describing the use of SAML V1.0 assertions with the [Web Services Security](#)
143 ([WSS](#)): [SOAP Message Security](#) specification.

144 2 Notations and Terminology

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

147 2.1 Notational Conventions

148 The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT",
149 "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this
150 document are to be interpreted as described in RFC2119.

151 This document uses the notational conventions defined in the WS-Security SOAP
152 Message Security document.

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

155 This specification is designed to work with the general [SOAP](#) message structure and
156 message processing model, and should be applicable to any version of [SOAP](#). The
157 current SOAP 1.2 namespace URI is used herein to provide detailed examples, but
158 there is no intention to limit the applicability of this specification to a single version
159 of [SOAP](#).

160 Readers are presumed to be familiar with the terms in the [Internet Security](#)
161 [Glossary](#).

162 2.2 Namespaces

163 The appearance of the following [\[XML-ns\]](#) namespace prefixes in the examples within
164 this specification should be understood to refer to the corresponding namespaces
165 (from the following table) whether or not an XML namespace declaration appears in
166 the example:

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

saml	Urn: oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:assertion
samlp	Urn: oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:protocol

167 **Table-1 Namespace Prefixes**

168 **2.3 Terminology**

169 This specification employs the terminology defined in the [WSS: SOAP Message](#)
 170 [Security](#) specification. Defined below are the definitions for additional terminology
 171 used in this specification.

172

173 Attesting Entity – the entity that provides the confirmation evidence that will be used
 174 to establish the correspondence between the subject of SAML subject statements (in
 175 SAML assertions) and SOAP message content.

176

177 Confirmation Method Identifier – the value within the `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>`
 178 element of a SAML subject statement that identifies the confirmation method to be
 179 used with the statement.

180

181 Subject Confirmation – the method used to establish the correspondence between
 182 the subject of SAML subject statements (in SAML assertions) and SOAP message
 183 content by verifying the confirmation evidence provided by an attesting entity.

184

185 SAML Assertion Authority - An abstract *system entity* that issues *assertions*.

186

187 Subject – A representation of the entity to which the claims in a SAML subject
 188 statement apply.

189 3 Usage

190 This section defines the specific mechanisms and procedures for using SAML
191 assertions as security tokens.

192 3.1 Processing Model

193 This specification extends the token-independent processing model defined by the
194 [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) specification.

195 When a receiver processes a `<wsse:Security>` header containing or referencing
196 SAML assertions, it selects, based on its policy, the signatures and assertions that it
197 will process. It is assumed that a receiver's signature selection policy MAY rely on
198 semantic labeling¹ of `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` elements occurring in the
199 `<ds:KeyInfo>` elements within the signatures. It is also assumed that the assertions
200 selected for validation and processing will include those referenced from the
201 `<ds:KeyInfo>` and `<ds:SignedInfo>` elements of the selected signatures.

202 As part of its validation and processing of the selected assertions, the receiver MUST
203 establish the relationship between the subject of each SAML subject statement (of
204 the referenced SAML assertions) and the entity providing the evidence to satisfy the
205 confirmation method defined for the statements (i.e. the attesting entity). Two
206 methods for establishing this correspondence, `holder-of-key` and `sender-vouches`
207 are described below. Systems implementing this specification MUST implement the
208 processing necessary to support both of these subject confirmation methods.

209 3.2 Attaching Security Tokens

210 SAML assertions are attached to SOAP messages using [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#)
211 by placing assertion elements or references to assertions inside a `<wsse:Security>`
212 header. The following example illustrates a SOAP message containing a SAML
213 assertion in a `<wsse:Security>` header.

```
214 <S12:Envelope>  
215   <S12:Header>  
216     <wsse:Security>  
217       <saml:Assertion  
218         AssertionID="_a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc"  
219         IssueInstant="2003-04-17T00:46:02Z"  
220         Issuer="www.opensaml.org"  
221         MajorVersion="1"  
222         MinorVersion="1"  
223         . . .
```

¹ The optional `Usage` attribute of the `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element MAY be used to associate one of more semantic usage labels (as URIs) with a reference and thus use of a Security Token. Please refer to [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) for the details of this attribute.

224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231

```
</saml:Assertion>
. . .
</wsse:Security>
</S12:Header>
<S12:Body>
. . .
</S12:Body>
</S12:Envelope>
```

232

3.3 Identifying and Referencing Security Tokens

233

The [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) specification defines the

234

`<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element for referencing security tokens. Three

235

forms of token references are defined by this element and the element schema

236

includes provision for defining additional reference forms should they be necessary.

237

The three forms of token references defined by the

238

`<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element are defined as follows:

239

- A key identifier reference – a generic element (i.e. `<wsse:KeyIdentifier>`) that conveys a security token identifier as an `<wsse:EncodedString>` and indicates in its attributes (as necessary) the key identifier type (i.e. the `ValueType`), the identifier encoding type (i.e. the `EncodingType`), and perhaps other parameters used to reference the security token.

240

241

242

243

244

When a key identifier is used to reference a SAML assertion, it MUST contain as its element value the corresponding SAML assertion identifier. The key identifier MUST also contain a `ValueType` attribute and the value of this attribute MUST be the `wsse:KeyIdentifier/@ValueType` from Table 2. The key identifier MUST NOT include an `EncodingType`² attribute and the element content of the key identifier MUST be encoded as `xsi:string`.

245

246

247

248

249

250

When a key identifier is used to reference a V1.1 SAML Assertion that is not contained in the same message as the key identifier, a

251

252

`<saml:AuthorityBinding>` element MUST be contained in the

253

`<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element containing the key identifier. The

254

contents of the `<saml:AuthorityBinding>` element MUST contain values

255

sufficient for the intended recipients of the `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` to

256

acquire the identified assertion from the intended Authority. To this end, the

257

value of the `AuthorityKind` attribute of the `<saml:AuthorityBinding>` element

258

MUST be "samlp:AssertionIdReference". When a key Identifier is used to

259

reference a V1.1 SAML Assertion contained in the same message as the key

260

identifier, a `<saml:AuthorityBinding>` element MUST NOT be included in the

261

`<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` containing the key identifier.

² "The Errata for Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security Version 1.0" (at <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/wss>) removed the default designation from the #Base64Binary value for the `EncodingType` attribute of the `KeyIdentifier` element. Therefore, omitting a value for `EncodingType` and requiring that Base64 encoding not be performed, as specified by this profile, is consistent with the errata.

262 • A Direct or URI reference – a generic element (i.e. `<wsse:Reference>`) that
263 identifies a security token by URI. If only a fragment identifier is specified, then
264 the reference is to the security token within the document whose local identifier
265 (e.g. `<wsu:Id>` attribute) matches the fragment identifier. Otherwise, the
266 reference is to the (potentially external) security token identified by the URI.

267 This profile does not describe the use of Direct or URI references to reference
268 V1.1 SAML Assertions.

269 • An Embedded reference – a reference that encapsulates a security token.
270 When an Embedded reference is used to encapsulate a SAML assertion, the SAML
271 assertion MUST be included as a contained element within a `<wsse:Embedded>`
272 element within a `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>`.

273 This specification describes how SAML assertions may be referenced in four contexts:

274 • A SAML assertion may be referenced directly from a `<wsse:Security>` header
275 element. In this case, the assertion is being conveyed by reference in the
276 message.

277 • A SAML assertion may be referenced from a `<ds:KeyInfo>` element of a
278 `<ds:Signature>` element in a `<wsse:Security>` header. In this case, the
279 assertion contains a subject statement with a `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>`
280 element that identifies the key used in the signature calculation.

281 • A SAML assertion reference may be referenced from a `<ds:Reference>` element
282 within the `<ds:SignedInfo>` element of a `<ds:Signature>` element in a
283 `<wsse:Security>` header. In this case, the doubly-referenced assertion is signed
284 by the containing signature.

285 • A SAML assertion reference may occur as encrypted content within an
286 `<xenc:EncryptedData>` element referenced from a `<xenc:DataReference>`
287 element within an `<xenc:ReferenceList>` element. In this case, the assertion
288 reference (which may contain an embedded assertion) is encrypted.

289 In each of these contexts, the referenced assertion may be:

290 • local – in which case, it is included in the `<wsse:Security>` header containing
291 the reference.

292 • remote – in which case it is not included in the `<wsse:Security>` header
293 containing the reference, but may occur in another part of the SOAP message or
294 may be available at the location identified by the reference which may be an
295 assertion authority.

296 SAML key identifier references, with (in the case of remote references) a supporting
297 `<saml:AuthorityBinding>` element are currently the best suited, of the
298 `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` forms, for expressing references to SAML
299 assertions. A future version of [SAMLCore] is expected to facilitate remote references
300 by Direct reference URI. The practice of referencing local SAML Assertions by Direct
301 `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` reference is not included in this profile because
302 doing so would require recognition of the `<saml:AssertionID>` attribute as an
303 identifier which would impose token dependent processing on the interpretation of
304 local Direct references.

Attribute	Value
wsse:KeyIdentifier/@ValueType	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID

305 Table-2 ValueType Attribute Values

306 **3.3.1 SAML Assertion Referenced from Header or Element**

307 All conformant implementations MUST be able to process SAML assertion references
308 occurring in a <wsse:Security> header or in a header element other than a
309 signature to acquire the corresponding assertion. A conformant implementation
310 MUST be able to process any such reference independent of the confirmation method
311 of the referenced assertion.

312 A SAML assertion may be referenced from a <wsse:Security> header or from an
313 element (other than a signature) in the header. The following example demonstrates
314 the use of a key identifier in a <wsse:Security> header to reference a local SAML
315 assertion.

```

316 <S12:Envelope>
317   <S12:Header>
318     <wsse:Security>
319       <saml:Assertion
320         AssertionID="_a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc"
321         IssueInstant="2003-04-17T00:46:02Z"
322         Issuer="www.opensaml.org"
323         MajorVersion="1"
324         MinorVersion="1"
325         . . .
326       </saml:Assertion>
327       <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">
328         <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."
329           ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
330 token-profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
331           _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
332         </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
333       </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
334     </wsse:Security>
335   </S12:Header>
336   <S12:Body>
337     . . .
338   </S12:Body>
339 </S12:Envelope>

```

340 A SAML assertion that exists outside of a <wsse:Security> header may be
341 referenced from the <wsse:Security> header element by including (in the
342 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>) a <saml:AuthorityBinding> element that
343 defines the location, binding, and query that may be used to acquire the identified
344 assertion at a SAML assertion authority or responder.

```

345 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">
346   <saml:AuthorityBinding
347     Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-binding"
348     Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"
349     AuthorityKind="samlp:AssertionIdReference"

```

```

350 </saml:AuthorityBinding>
351 <wsse:KeyIdentifier
352   wsu:Id="..."
353   ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
354 profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
355   _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
356 </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
357 </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>

```

358 3.3.2 SAML Assertion Referenced from KeyInfo

359 All conformant implementations MUST be able to process SAML assertion references
360 occurring in the <ds:KeyInfo> element of a <ds:Signature> element in a
361 <wsse:Security> header as defined by the holder-of-key confirmation method.

362 The following example depicts the use of a key identifier to reference a local
363 assertion from <ds:KeyInfo>.

```

364 <ds:KeyInfo>
365   <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">>
366     <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."
367       ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
368 profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
369       _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
370     </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
371   </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
372 </ds:KeyInfo>

```

373 The following example demonstrates the use of a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
374 containing a key identifier and a <saml:AuthorityBinding> to communicate
375 information (location, binding, and query) sufficient to acquire the identified
376 assertion at an identified SAML assertion authority or responder.

```

377 <ds:KeyInfo>
378   <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">
379     <saml:AuthorityBinding>
380       Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-binding"
381       Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"
382       AuthorityKind="samlp:AssertionIdReference"
383     </saml:AuthorityBinding>
384     <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."
385       ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
386 profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
387       _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
388     </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
389   </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
390 </ds:KeyInfo>

```

391 <ds:KeyInfo> elements may also occur in <xenc:EncryptedData> and
392 <xenc:EncryptedKey> elements where they serve to identify the encryption key.
393 <ds:KeyInfo> elements may also occur in <saml:SubjectConfirmation> elements
394 where they identify a key that MUST be demonstrated to confirm the subject of the
395 corresponding subject statement(s). Conformant implementations of this profile are
396 not required to process SAML assertion references occurring within the

397 <ds:keyInfo> elements within <xenc:EncryptedData>, <xenc:EncryptedKey>, or
398 <saml:SubjectConfirmation>³ elements.

399 **3.3.3 SAML Assertion Referenced from SignedInfo**

400 Independent of the confirmation method of the referenced assertion, all conformant
401 implementations MUST be able to process SAML assertions referenced by
402 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> from <ds:Reference> elements within the
403 <ds:SignedInfo> element of a <ds:Signature> element in a <wsse:Security>
404 header. Embedded references may be digested directly, thus effectively digesting the
405 encapsulated assertion. Other <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> forms must be
406 dereferenced for the referenced assertion to be digested.

407 The core specification, [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#), defines the STR Dereference
408 transform to cause the replacement (in the digest stream) of a
409 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> with the contents of the referenced token. The
410 STR Dereference transform MUST be specified and applied to digest any SAML
411 assertion that is referenced by a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> that is not an
412 embedded reference. The STR Dereference transform SHOULD NOT be applied to an
413 embedded reference.

414 The following example demonstrates the use of the STR Dereference transform to
415 dereference a reference to a SAML Assertion (i.e. Security Token) such that the
416 digest operation is performed on the security token not its reference.

```
417 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">  
418 <saml:AuthorityBinding>  
419 Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-binding"  
420 Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"  
421 AuthorityKind= "sampl:AssertionIdReference"  
422 </saml:AuthorityBinding>  
423 <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="...">  
424 ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-  
425 profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">  
426 _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc  
427 </wsse:KeyIdentifier>  
428 </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>  
429 . . .  
430 <ds:SignedInfo>  
431 <ds:CanonicalizationMethod>  
432 Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>  
433 <ds:SignatureMethod>  
434 Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>  
435 <ds:Reference URI="#STR1">  
436 <Transforms>  
437 <ds:Transform>  
438 Algorithm="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-  
439 wss-soap-message-security-1.0#STR-Transform"/>  
440 <wsse:TransformationParameters>
```

³ A SAML Assertion referenced from the <ds:KeyInfo> element within a <saml:SubjectConfirmation> element MUST contain one or more holder-of-key confirmed subject statements each of which identifies a key that MAY be used to confirm the subject and any other claims of the referencing statement.

```

441     <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
442         Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#" />
443     </wsse:TransformationParameters>
444 </ds:Transform>
445 </Transforms>
446 <ds:DigestMethod
447     Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1" />
448 <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
449 </ds:Reference>
450 </ds:SignedInfo>

```

451 Note that the URI appearing in the `<ds:Reference>` element identifies the
452 `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element by its `wsu:Id` value. Also note that the
453 STR Dereference transform MUST contain (in `<wsse:TransformationParameters>`) a
454 `<ds:CanonicalizationMethod>` that defines the algorithm to be used to serialize the
455 input node set (of the referenced assertion).

456 3.3.4 SAML Assertion Referenced from Encrypted Data 457 Reference

458 Independent of the confirmation method of the referenced assertion, all conformant
459 implementations MUST be able to process SAML assertion references occurring as
460 encrypted content within the `<xenc:EncryptedData>` elements referenced by Id
461 from the `<xenc:DataReference>` elements of `<xenc:ReferenceList>` elements. An
462 `<xenc:ReferenceList>` element may occur either as a top-level element in a
463 Security header, or embedded within an `<xenc:EncryptedKey>` element. In either
464 case, the `<xenc:ReferenceList>` identifies the encrypted content.

465 Such references are similar in format to the references that MAY appear in the
466 `<ds:Reference>` element within `<ds:SignedInfo>`, except the STR Dereference
467 transform does not apply. As shown in the following example, an encrypted
468 `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` (which may contain an embedded assertion) is
469 referenced from an `<xenc:DataReference>` by including the identifier of the
470 `<xenc:EncryptedData>` element that contains the encrypted
471 `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` in the `<xenc:DataReference>`.

```

472 <xenc:EncryptedData Id="EncryptedSTR1">
473   <ds:keyInfo>
474     . . .
475   </ds:KeyInfo>
476   <xenc:CipherData>
477     <xenc:CipherValue>...</xenc:CipherValue>
478   </xenc:CipherData>
479 </xenc:EncryptedData>
480 <xenc:ReferenceList>
481   <xenc:DataReference URI="#EncryptedSTR1" />
482 </xenc:ReferenceList>

```

483 3.4 Subject Confirmation of SAML Assertions

484 The SAML profile of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) requires that systems support the
485 holder-of-key and sender-vouches methods of subject confirmation. It is strongly
486 RECOMMENDED that an XML signature be used to establish the relationship between
487 the message and the subject statements of the attached assertions. This is especially
488 important for the `oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.0` profile.

01 Dec 2004

488 RECOMMENDED whenever the SOAP message exchange is conducted over an
489 unprotected transport.

490 Any processor of SAML assertions MUST conform to the required validation and
491 processing rules defined in the SAML specification [SAMLCore] including the
492 validation of assertion signatures, and the processing of <saml:Condition> elements
493 within Assertions.

494 The following table enumerates the mandatory subject confirmation methods and
495 summarizes their associated processing models:

Mechanism	RECOMMENDED Processing Rules
urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder-of-key	The attesting entity includes an XML Signature that can be verified with the key information in the <saml:ConfirmationMethod> of the subject statements of the SAML assertion referenced for keyInfo by the Signature.
urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:sender-vouches	The attesting entity, (presumed to be) different from the subject, vouches for the verification of the subject. The receiver MUST have an existing trust relationship with the attesting entity. The attesting entity MUST protect the Assertion (containing the subject statements) in combination with the message content against modification by another party. See also section 4.

496 Note that the high level processing model described in the following sections does
497 not differentiate between the attesting entity and the message sender as would be
498 necessary to guard against replay attacks. The high-level processing model also does
499 not take into account requirements for authentication of receiver by sender, or for
500 message or assertion confidentiality. These concerns must be addressed by means
501 other than those described in the high-level processing model (i.e. section 3.1).

502 **3.4.1 Holder-of-key Subject Confirmation Method**

503 The following sections describe the holder-of-key method of establishing the
504 correspondence between a SOAP message and the subject of SAML assertions added
505 to the SOAP message according to this specification.

506 **3.4.1.1 Attesting Entity**

507 An attesting entity uses the holder-of-key confirmation method to demonstrate that
508 it is authorized to act as the subject of the SAML subject statements containing the
509 holder-of-key `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` element. The subject statements that
510 will be confirmed by the holder-of-key method MUST include the following
511 `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` element:

```
512 <saml:SubjectConfirmation>  
513   <saml:ConfirmationMethod>  
514     urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder-of-key  
515   </saml:ConfirmationMethod>  
516   <ds:KeyInfo>...</ds:KeyInfo>  
517 </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
```

518 The `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` element MUST include a `<ds:KeyInfo>` element
519 that identifies the public or secret key⁴ to be used to confirm the identity of the
520 subject.

521 To satisfy the associated confirmation method processing to be performed by the
522 message receiver, the attesting entity MUST demonstrate knowledge of the
523 confirmation key. The attesting entity MAY accomplish this by using the confirmation
524 key to sign content within the message and by including the resulting
525 `<ds:Signature>` element in the `<wsse:Security>` header. `<ds:Signature>`
526 elements produced for this purpose MUST conform to the canonicalization and
527 token pre-pending rules defined in the [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) specification.

528 SAML assertions that contain a holder-of-key `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` element
529 SHOULD contain a `<ds:Signature>` element that protects the integrity of the
530 confirmation `<ds:KeyInfo>` established by the assertion authority.

531 The canonicalization method used to produce the `<ds:Signature>` elements used
532 to protect the integrity of SAML assertions MUST support the validation of these
533 `<ds:Signature>` elements in contexts (such as `<wsse:Security>` header elements)
534 other than those in which the signatures were calculated.

535 **3.4.1.2 Receiver**

536 Of the SAML assertions it selects for processing, a message receiver MUST NOT
537 accept assertions containing a holder-of-key `<saml:ConfirmationMethod>`, unless
538 the receiver has validated the integrity of the assertions and the attesting entity has
539 demonstrated knowledge of the key identified by the `<ds:keyInfo>` element of the
540 `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` element.

⁴[\[SAMLCore\]](#) defines KeyInfo of SubjectConfirmation as containing a "cryptographic key held by the subject". Demonstration of this key is sufficient to establish who is (or may act as the) subject. Moreover, since it cannot be proven that a confirmation key is known (or known only) by the subject whose identity it establishes, requiring that the key be held by the subject is an untestable requirement that adds nothing to the strength of the confirmation mechanism. The OASIS Security Services Technical Committee has resolved to remove the phrase "held by the subject" from the definition of KeyInfo of SubjectConfirmation.

541 If the receiver determines that the attesting entity has demonstrated knowledge of a
542 subject confirmation key, then the SAML assertions containing the confirmation key
543 MAY be attributed to the attesting entity and any elements of the message whose
544 integrity is protected by the subject confirmation key MAY be considered to have
545 been provided by the subject.

546 3.4.1.3 Example

547 The following example illustrates the use of the holder-of-key subject confirmation
548 method to establish the correspondence between the SOAP message and the subject
549 of the SAML assertions in the <wsse:Security> header:

```
550 <?xml:version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
551 <S12:Envelope>
552   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
553   xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
554   <S12:Header>
555
556     <wsse:Security>
557       <saml:Assertion
558         AssertionID="_a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc"
559         IssueInstant="2003-04-17T00:46:02Z"
560         Issuer="www.opensaml.org"
561         MajorVersion="1"
562         MinorVersion="1"
563         xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:assertion">
564         <saml:Conditions>
565           NotBefore="2002-06-19T16:53:33.173Z"
566           NotOnOrAfter="2002-06-19T17:08:33.173Z"/>
567         <saml:AttributeStatement>
568           <saml:Subject>
569             <saml:NameIdentifier
570               NameQualifier="www.example.com"
571               Format="...">
572               uid=joe,ou=people,ou=saml-demo,o=baltimore.com
573             </saml:NameIdentifier>
574             <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
575               <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
576                 urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder-of-key
577               </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
578               <ds:KeyInfo>
579                 <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
580               </ds:KeyInfo>
581             </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
582           </saml:Subject>
583           <saml:Attribute
584             AttributeName="MemberLevel"
585             AttributeNamespace="http://www.oasis.open.
586               org/Catalyst2002/attributes">
587             <saml:AttributeValue>gold</saml:AttributeValue>
588           </saml:Attribute>
589           <saml:Attribute
590             AttributeName="E-mail"
591             AttributeNamespace="http://www.oasis.open.
592               org/Catalyst2002/attributes">
593             <saml:AttributeValue>joe@yahoo.com</saml:AttributeValue>
594           </saml:Attribute>
595         </saml:AttributeStatement>
596         <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
```

```

597     </saml:Assertion>
598
599     <ds:Signature>
600       <ds:SignedInfo>
601         <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
602           Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#" />
603         <ds:SignatureMethod
604           Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1" />
605         <ds:Reference
606           URI="#MsgBody">
607           <ds:DigestMethod
608             Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1" />
609           <ds:DigestValue>GyGsF0Pi4xPU...</ds:DigestValue>
610         </ds:Reference>
611       </ds:SignedInfo>
612       <ds:SignatureValue>HJJWbvqW9E84vJVQk...</ds:SignatureValue>
613       <ds:KeyInfo>
614         <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">
615           <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."
616             ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
617 token-profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
618             _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
619           </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
620         </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
621       </ds:KeyInfo>
622     </ds:Signature>
623   </wsse:Security>
624 </S12:Header>
625
626   <S12:Body wsu:Id="MsgBody">
627     <ReportRequest>
628       <TickerSymbol>SUNW</TickerSymbol>
629     </ReportRequest>
630   </S12:Body>
631 </S12:Envelope>

```

632 3.4.2 Sender-vouches Subject Confirmation Method

633 The following sections describe the sender-vouches method of establishing the
634 correspondence between a SOAP message and the SAML assertions added to the
635 SOAP message according to the SAML profile of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#).

636 3.4.2.1 Attesting Entity

637 An attesting entity uses the sender-vouches confirmation method to assert that it is
638 acting on behalf of the subject of SAML subject statements containing a sender-
639 vouches `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` element. The subject statements that the
640 attesting entity will confirm by the sender-vouches method MUST include the
641 following `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` element:

```

642 <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
643   <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
644     urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:sender-vouches
645   </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
646 </saml:SubjectConfirmation>

```

647 To satisfy the associated confirmation method processing of the receiver, the
648 attesting entity MUST protect the vouched for SOAP message content such that the

649 receiver can determine when it has been altered by another party. The attesting
650 entity MUST also cause the vouched for subject statements (as necessary) and their
651 binding to the message contents to be protected such that unauthorized modification
652 can be detected. The attesting entity MAY satisfy these requirements by including in
653 the corresponding `<wsse:Security>` header a `<ds:Signature>` element that it
654 prepares by using its key to sign the relevant message content and assertions. As
655 defined by the [XML Signature](#) specification, the attesting entity MAY identify its key
656 by including a `<ds:KeyInfo>` element within the `<ds:Signature>` element.

657 A `<ds:Signature>` element produced for this purpose MUST conform to the
658 canonicalization and token prepending rules defined in the [WSS: SOAP Message
659 Security](#) specification.

660 **3.4.2.2 Receiver**

661 Of the SAML assertions it selects for processing, a message receiver MUST NOT
662 accept assertions containing a sender-vouches `<saml:ConfirmationMethod>` unless
663 the assertions and SOAP message content being vouched for are protected (as
664 described above) by an attesting entity who is trusted by the receiver to act on
665 behalf of the subject of the assertions.

666 **3.4.2.3 Example**

667 The following example illustrates an attesting entity's use of the sender-vouches
668 subject confirmation method with an associated `<ds:Signature>` element to
669 establish its identity and to assert that it has sent the message body on behalf of the
670 subject(s) of the assertion referenced by "STR1".

671 The assertion referenced by "STR1" is not included in the message. "STR1" is
672 referenced by `<ds:reference>` from `<ds:SignedInfo>`. The `ds:reference>`
673 includes the STR-transform to cause the assertion, not the
674 `<SecurityTokenReference>` to be included in the digest calculation. "STR1" includes
675 an `<AuthorityBinding>` element that utilizes the remote assertion referencing
676 technique depicted in the example of section 3.3.3.

677 The SAML assertion embedded in the header and referenced by "STR2" from
678 `<ds:KeyInfo>` corresponds to the attesting entity. The private key corresponding to
679 the public confirmation key occurring in the assertion is used to sign together the
680 message body and assertion referenced by "STR1".

```
681 <?xml:version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
682 <S12:Envelope>
683   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
684   xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
685   <S12:Header>
686     <wsse:Security>
687
688       <saml:Assertion
689         AssertionID="_a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc"
690         IssueInstant="2003-04-17T00:46:02Z"
691         Issuer="www.opensaml.org"
692         MajorVersion="1"
693         MinorVersion="1"
694         xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:assertion">
695         <saml:Conditions>
```

```

696     NotBefore="2002-06-19T16:53:33.173Z"
697     NotOnOrAfter="2002-06-19T17:08:33.173Z"/>
698   <saml:AttributeStatement>
699     <saml:Subject>
700       <saml:NameIdentifier
701         NameQualifier="www.example.com"
702         Format="...">
703         uid=proxy,ou=system,ou=saml-demo,o=baltimore.com
704       </saml:NameIdentifier>
705       <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
706         <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
707           urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder-of-key
708         </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
709         <ds:KeyInfo>
710           <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
711         </ds:KeyInfo>
712       </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
713     </saml:Subject>
714     <saml:Attribute
715       . . .
716     </saml:Attribute>
717     . . .
718   </saml:AttributeStatement>
719 </saml:Assertion>
720
721   <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">
722     <saml:AuthorityBinding>
723       saml:Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-
724 binding"
725       saml:Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"
726       saml:AuthorityKind="samlp:AssertionIdReference"
727     </saml:AuthorityBinding>
728     <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."
729       ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
730 token-profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
731       _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdbe
732     </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
733   </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
734
735   <ds:Signature>
736     <ds:SignedInfo>
737       <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
738         Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
739       <ds:SignatureMethod
740         Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
741       <ds:Reference URI="#STR1">
742         <Transforms>
743           <ds:Transform
744             Algorithm="http://docs.oasis-
745 open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-soap-message-security-1.0#STR-
746 Transform"/>
747             <wsse:TransformationParameters>
748               <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
749                 Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-
750 c14n#"/>
751             </wsse:TransformationParameters>
752           </ds:Transform>
753         </Transforms>
754         <ds:DigestMethod
755           Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
756         <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>

```

```

757     </ds:Reference>
758     <ds:Reference URI="#MsgBody">
759         <ds:DigestMethod
760             Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
761         <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
762     </ds:Reference>
763 </ds:SignedInfo>
764 <ds:SignatureValue>HJJWbvqW9E84vJVQk...</ds:SignatureValue>
765 <ds:KeyInfo>
766     <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR2">
767         <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."
768             ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
769 token-profile-1.0#SAMLAssertion-1.1">
770             _a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
771         </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
772     </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
773 </ds:KeyInfo>
774 </ds:Signature>
775 </wsse:Security>
776 </S12:Header>
777
778 <S12:Body wsu:Id="MsgBody">
779     <ReportRequest>
780         <TickerSymbol>SUNW</TickerSymbol>
781     </ReportRequest>
782 </S12:Body>
783 </S12:Envelope>

```

784 3.5 Error Codes

785 When a system that implements the SAML token profile of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) does not perform its normal processing because of an error detected during
786 the processing of a security header, it MAY choose to report the cause of the error
787 using the SOAP fault mechanism. The SAML token profile of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#)
788 does not require that SOAP faults be returned for such errors, and systems
789 that choose to return faults SHOULD take care not to introduce any security
790 vulnerabilities as a result of the information returned in error responses.
791

792 Systems that choose to return faults SHOULD respond with the error codes defined
793 in the [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) specification. The RECOMMENDED
794 correspondence between the common assertion processing failures and the error
795 codes defined in [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) are defined in the following table:

Assertion Processing Error (faultString)	RECOMMENDED Error(Faultcode)
A referenced SAML assertion could not be retrieved.	wsse:SecurityTokenUnavailable
An assertion contains a <saml:Condition> element that the receiver does not understand.	wsse:UnsupportedSecurityToken
A signature within an assertion or referencing an assertion is invalid.	wsse:FailedCheck

The issuer of an assertion is not acceptable to the receiver.	wsse:InvalidSecurityToken
The receiver does not understand the extension schema used in an assertion.	wsse:UnsupportedSecurityToken

796 The preceding table defines fault strings and codes in a form suitable to be used with
797 SOAP 1.1. The [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) specification describes how to map
798 SOAP 1.1 fault constructs to the SOAP 1.2 fault constructs.

799 **4 Threat Model and Countermeasures** 800 **(Non-Normative)**

801 This document defines the mechanisms and procedures for securely attaching SAML
802 assertions to SOAP messages. SOAP messages are used in multiple contexts,
803 specifically including cases where the message is transported without an active
804 session, the message is persisted, or the message is routed through a number of
805 intermediaries. Such a general context of use suggests that users of this profile must
806 be concerned with a variety of threats.

807 In general, the use of SAML assertions with [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) introduces
808 no new threats beyond those identified for SAML or by the [WSS: SOAP Message](#)
809 [Security](#) specification. The following sections provide an overview of the
810 characteristics of the threat model, and the countermeasures that SHOULD be
811 adopted for each perceived threat.

812 **4.1 Eavesdropping**

813 Eavesdropping is a threat to the SAML token profile of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#)
814 in the same manner as it is a threat to any network protocol. The routing of SOAP
815 messages through intermediaries increases the potential incidences of
816 eavesdropping. Additional opportunities for eavesdropping exist when SOAP
817 messages are persisted.

818 To provide maximum protection from eavesdropping, assertions, assertion
819 references, and sensitive message content SHOULD be encrypted such that only the
820 intended audiences can view their content. This approach removes threats of
821 eavesdropping in transit, but MAY not remove risks associated with storage or poor
822 handling by the receiver.

823 Transport-layer security MAY be used to protect the message and contained SAML
824 assertions and/or references from eavesdropping while in transport, but message
825 content MUST be encrypted above the transport if it is to be protected from
826 eavesdropping by intermediaries.

827 **4.2 Replay**

828 Reliance on authority protected (e.g. signed) assertions with a holder-of-key subject
829 confirmation mechanism precludes all but a holder of the key from binding the
830 assertions to a SOAP message. Although this mechanism effectively restricts data
831 origin to a holder of the confirmation key, it does not, by itself, provide the means to
832 detect the capture and resubmission of the message by other parties.

833 Assertions that contain a sender-vouches confirmation mechanism introduce another
834 dimension to replay vulnerability if the assertions impose no restriction on the
835 entities that may use or reuse the assertions.

836 Replay attacks can be detected by receivers if message senders include additional
837 message identifying information (e.g. timestamps, nonces, and or recipient
838 identifiers) within origin protected message content and receivers check this
839 information against previously received values.

840 **4.3 Message Insertion**

841 The SAML token profile of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) is not vulnerable to
842 message insertion attacks.

843 **4.4 Message Deletion**

844 The SAML token profile of [WSS: SOAP Message Security](#) is not vulnerable to
845 message deletion attacks.

846 **4.5 Message Modification**

847 Messages constructed according to this specification are protected from message
848 modification if receivers can detect unauthorized modification of relevant message
849 content. Therefore, it is strongly RECOMMENDED that all relevant and immutable
850 message content be signed by an attesting entity. Receivers SHOULD only consider
851 the correspondence between the subject of the SAML assertions and the SOAP
852 message content to have been established for those portions of the message that are
853 protected by the attesting entity against modification by another entity.

854 To ensure that message receivers can have confidence that received assertions have
855 not been forged or altered since their issuance, SAML assertions appearing in or
856 referenced from `<wsse:Security>` header elements MUST be protected against
857 unauthorized modification (e.g. signed) by their issuing authority or the attesting
858 entity (as the case warrants). It is strongly RECOMMENDED that an attesting entity
859 sign any `<saml:Assertion>` elements that it is attesting for and that are not signed
860 by their issuing authority.

861 Transport-layer security MAY be used to protect the message and contained SAML
862 assertions and/or assertion references from modification while in transport, but
863 signatures are required to extend such protection through intermediaries.

864 **4.6 Man-in-the-Middle**

865 Assertions with a holder-of-key subject confirmation method are not vulnerable to a
866 MITM attack. Assertions with a sender-vouches subject confirmation method are
867 vulnerable to MITM attacks to the degree that the receiver does not have a trusted
868 binding of key to the attesting entity's identity.

5 References

869

- 870 **[GLOSSARY]** Informational RFC 2828, "[Internet Security Glossary](#)," May
871 2000.
- 872 **[KEYWORDS]** S. Bradner, "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement
873 Levels," [RFC 2119](#), Harvard University, March 1997
- 874 **[SAMLBind]** Oasis Committee Specification 01, E. Maler, P.Mishra, and R.
875 Philpott (Editors), [Bindings and Profiles for the OASIS Security
876 Assertion Markup Language \(SAML\) V1.1](#), September 2003.
- 877 **[SAMLCore]** Oasis Committee Specification 01, E. Maler, P.Mishra, and R.
878 Philpott (Editors), [Assertions and Protocol for the OASIS
879 Security Assertion Markup Language \(SAML\) V1.1](#), September
880 2003.
- 881 **[SOAP]** W3C Note, "[SOAP: Simple Object Access Protocol 1.1](#)," 08 May
882 2000.
- 883 W3C Working Draft, Nilo Mitra (Editor), [SOAP Version 1.2 Part
884 0: Primer](#), June 2002.
- 885 W3C Working Draft, Martin Gudgin, Marc Hadley, Noah
886 Mendelsohn, Jean-Jacques Moreau, Henrik Frystyk Nielsen
887 (Editors), [SOAP Version 1.2 Part 1: Messaging Framework](#), June
888 2002.
- 889 W3C Working Draft, Martin Gudgin, Marc Hadley, Noah
890 Mendelsohn, Jean-Jacques Moreau, Henrik Frystyk Nielsen
891 (Editors), [SOAP Version 1.2 Part 2: Adjuncts](#), June 2002.
- 892 **[URI]** T. Berners-Lee, R. Fielding, L. Masinter, "Uniform Resource
893 Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax," [RFC 2396](#), MIT/LCS, U.C.
894 Irvine, Xerox Corporation, August 1998.
- 895 **[WS-SAML]** Contribution to the WSS TC, P. Mishra (Editor), [WS-Security
896 Profile of the Security Assertion Markup Language \(SAML\)
897 Working Draft 04](#), Sept 2002.
- 898 **[WSS: SOAP Message Security]** Oasis Standard, A. Nadalin, C.Kaler, P.
899 Hallem-Baker, R. Monzillo (Editors), [Web Services Security:
900 SOAP Message Security 1.0 \(WS-Security 2004\)](#), August 2003.
- 901 **[XML-ns]** W3C Recommendation, "[Namespaces in XML](#)," 14 January
902 1999.
- 903 **[XML Signature]**W3C Recommendation, "[XML Signature Syntax and
904 Processing](#)," 12 February 2002.
- 905 **[XML Token]** Contribution to the WSS TC, Chris Kaler (Editor),
906 WS-Security Profile for XML-based Tokens, August 2002.

Appendix A: Revision History

Rev	Date	What
01	19-Sep-02	Initial draft produced by extracting SAML related content from [XML token]
02	23-Sep-02	Merged in content from SS TC submission
03	18-Nov-02	Resolved issues raised by TC
04	09-Dec-02	Refined confirmation mechanisms, and added signing example
05	15-Dec-02	Results of Baltimore F2F
06	21-Feb-03	Changed name to profile
07	05-May-03	Acknowledged contributors
07	05-May-03	Throughout document, Refined terminology to distinguish attesting entity from subject and sender, and to distinguish assertions from statements within assertions. Also modified sender-vouches to support traced vouching (by allowing for the use of a confirmation key)
08	09-Jun-03	Indicated reliance on conventions of core in "Notational Conventions"
08	09-Jun-03	In "Terminology", added definitions of new terms (attesting entity and confirmation method identifier), edited definition of Subject Confirmation, and replaced definition of sender with subject.
08	09-Jun-03	In "Subject Confirmation of SAML Assertions", added requirement that an attesting entity must protect unsigned sender-vouches confirmed assertions.
08	25-Nov-03	Added SAM v1.1 version distinction to "Abstract"
08	25-Nov-03	Editorial changes to "Introduction"
08	25-Nov-03	Reorganized non-normative text of requirements and goals sections
08	25-Nov-03	Removed Identification, Contact Information, Description, and Updates from "Usage".
08	25-Nov-03	Updated schema URIs and corrected namespace prefixes in "Namespaces"
08	25-Nov-03	Updated SAML document references in "References" to point to v1.1. specs.

Rev	Date	What
08	25-Nov-03	In Error codes, changed error processing such that it is optional and consistent with the recommendations in core.
08	25-Nov-03	Qualified "Threat Model and Counter-measures" as non-normative.
08	30-Nov-03	In "Identifying and Referencing Security Tokens", removed keyname references and added embedded references. Also removed editorial comment regarding using artifacts to reference assertions.
08	30-Nov-03	Made editorial changes to "Processing Model", including clarification (by footnote) of "semantic labeling"
08	30-Nov-03	Removed "Acknowledgments" as it duplicated preceding sections of the document
08	12-15-03	Added high level goals and non-goals
08	12-15-03	Added support for the use of (fragment) URI references to section 3.3
08	12-15-03	Specified default encoding type for SAML and fragment UR references to be xsi:string
08	12-15-03	Added two more contexts in which SAML assertions may be referenced; from within SubjectConfirmation elements and as encrypted data.
08	12-15-03	Made it a requirement of conformant implementations that they support the various methods of referencing SAML assertions
08	12-15-03	Added new sections to describe SAML assertion referenced from SubjectConfirmation and SAML assertion referenced from Encrypted Data reference.
09	01-27-04	Changed document identifier and location
09	01-27-04	Modified namespace table of section 2.2 to differentiate SOAP 1.1 and SOAP 1.2
10	02-05-04	Changed all instances of wsu:id to wsu:Id
10	02-05-04	In section 3.4.2.1 beginning around line 705, removed the distinction of the "typical case where the assertion authority has NOT securely bound a key..." because we no longer expect sender-vouches to use a confirmation key.
10	3-29-04	Corrected STR transform URL to match change

Rev	Date	What
		in core.
10	3-29-04	Removed from section 3.3.2 mention of use of KeyInfo with sender-vouches confirmation method.
10	3-29-04	Modified footnote in section 3.2 regarding usage attribute to reflect change from QNAMES to URIs.
10	3-29-04	Corrected signature algorithm in examples.
10	3-29-04	Corrected transforms syntax of example in section 3.3.3.
10	3-29-04	In section 3.3.3 recommended that STR dereference transform not be applied to embedded token references.
10	3-29-04	Removed requirement (from section 4.5 of Security Considerations) that assertion references be protected from unauthorized modification.
10	4-02-04	Removed namespace qualification from ValueType, URI, EncodingType, and Usage Attributes (mostly in examples). Also removed angle brackets.
10	4-05-04	Reworded initial paragraph of section 2.2 Namespaces such that it is not normative, and affords more flexibility in the form of the examples.
10	4-05-04	Removed namespace declarations from examples.
10	4-05-04	Corrected misspelling of "Authorty" in examples.
10	4-05-04	Modified processing rule for sender-vouches in Table of section 3.4 (to allow sender to vouch for itself).
10	4-05-04	Editing changes to the error codes section. In particular, replaced the word "generated" with "returned", and rewrote the description of the mapping to 1.2 constructs.
10	4-05-04	Removed unused SAMLreqs and SAMLSecure from the references section.
10	4-06-04	Added footnote to explain optional support for SAML V1.0 assertions.
10	4-06-04	Removed section 3.3.4 "SAML Assertion referenced from SubjectConfirmation", as

Rev	Date	What
		SAML is evolving in a manner that will make it unlikely that authorities will need to produce such assertions. Moved the description of SAML Assertions references occurring within KeyInfo of SubjectConfirmation to section 3.3.2 "SAML assertion referenced from KeyInfo"
10	4-06-04	From Section 3.3 "Identifying and referencing Security Tokens", removed referencing a SAML assertion from KeyInfo of SubjectConfirmation from the five contexts in which SAML assertions may be referenced.
10	4-06-04	Moved description of SAML Assertion references occurring within KeyInfo of SubjectConfirmation to section 3.3.2.
10	4-06-04	Added footnote to description of holder-of-key semantics in section 3.4.1.1 to describe interpretation of "held by the subject" phrase appearing in definition in [SAMLCore].
10	4-06-04	Updated contributors list
11	5-21-04	Moved " http://...documents.php " URL from "Location" to "Document Repository (temporary):" which will be removed when document is available from "Location".
11	5-21-04	In section "1.1.1 Non-Goals", added new bullet to indicate that describing support for V1.0 assertions is outside the scope of the profile.
11	5-21-04	Changed SAMLAssertion-1.0 wsse:Reference/@ValueType to SAMLAssertion-1.1 in examples (lines 366, 611, and 752)
11	5-21-04	Updated document, specification, and schema URL's to accommodate change to OASIS document URLs (i.e. www.docs.oasis-open.org changed to docs.oasis-open.org)
11	5-21-04	Removed SAMLAssertion-1.0 wsse:Reference/@ValueType from "Table-2 ValueType Attribute Values." Also removed footnote on table title.
11	5-21-04	Editorial correction made to the attributes of the NameIdentifier element in the examples (see lines 564 and 684).
11	5-21-04	In section 3.4, "Subject Confirmation of SAML Assertions" (line 485), changed the reference to be to [SAMLCore] for the definition of the validation and processing rules that apply to

Rev	Date	What
		SAML assertions. Also (as the resolution to issue 275), extended the stated reliance (on [SAMLCore]) with "including the validation of assertion signatures, and the processing of <saml:Condition> elements within Assertions"
12	6-25-04	In section 3.4.2.3, clarified the description of the sender-vouches example.
13	6-30-04	Modified section 3.3 to describe the use of KeyIdentifiers as apposed to Direct references to reference SAML assertions.
13	6-30-04	In section 3.3 and 3.3.4 clarified the use of STRs from <xenc:DataReference>
13	6-3--04	Removed wsse:Reference/@ValueType from Table 2 of section 3.3, as the change to KeyIdentifiers rendered the ValueType unnecessary.
13	6-30-04	Changed the examples in sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.4, 3.4.1.3, and 3.4.2.3 to reflect the change from Direct references to KeyIdentifiers.
14	7-12-04	Corrected KeyIdentifier syntax of examples at lines 338, 376, 627, and 780.
15	7-19-04	Added clarification to sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2, and 3.3.4 to address issue 295b; that the profile include provision for the use of "Bearer" confirmed assertions.
CD 02	9-08-04	Renamed as committee draft, added reference to errata, updated contributor lists, modified status to CD, and added footnote to description of KeyIdentifier to direct reader to clarification in errata.
CD 03	9-21-04	Removed version qualification (i.e. "Version 2 of ") from the reference to the Errata occurring in the footnote (of section 3.3).
CD 04	10-21-04	Updated OASIS logo (bitmap). Changed Appendix B Copyright to 2004.
OASIS Standard	12-01-04	Updated document title, identifier, location, and status to reflect new status.

908

Appendix B: Notices

909 OASIS takes no position regarding the validity or scope of any intellectual property
910 or other rights that might be claimed to pertain to the implementation or use of the
911 technology described in this document or the extent to which any license under such
912 rights might or might not be available; neither does it represent that it has made any
913 effort to identify any such rights. Information on OASIS's procedures with respect to
914 rights in OASIS specifications can be found at the OASIS website. Copies of claims of
915 rights made available for publication and any assurances of licenses to be made
916 available, or the result of an attempt made to obtain a general license or permission
917 for the use of such proprietary rights by implementors or users of this specification,
918 can be obtained from the OASIS Executive Director.

919 OASIS invites any interested party to bring to its attention any copyrights, patents or
920 patent applications, or other proprietary rights which may cover technology that may
921 be required to implement this specification. Please address the information to the
922 OASIS Executive Director.

923 Copyright © OASIS Open 2004. *All Rights Reserved.*

924 This document and translations of it may be copied and furnished to others, and
925 derivative works that comment on or otherwise explain it or assist in its
926 implementation may be prepared, copied, published and distributed, in whole or in
927 part, without restriction of any kind, provided that the above copyright notice and
928 this paragraph are included on all such copies and derivative works. However, this
929 document itself does not be modified in any way, such as by removing the copyright
930 notice or references to OASIS, except as needed for the purpose of developing
931 OASIS specifications, in which case the procedures for copyrights defined in the
932 OASIS Intellectual Property Rights document must be followed, or as required to
933 translate it into languages other than English.

934 The limited permissions granted above are perpetual and will not be revoked by
935 OASIS or its successors or assigns.

936 This document and the information contained herein is provided on an "AS IS" basis
937 and OASIS DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT
938 NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY THAT THE USE OF THE INFORMATION HEREIN
939 WILL NOT INFRINGE ANY RIGHTS OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF
940 MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.