

# ADR-HTTP Message and payload signing with JAdES

Kennisplatform API's Guide  
Draft November 21, 2023

**This version:**

<https://geonovum.github.io/KPAPI/>

**Latest published version:**

<https://docs.geostandaarden.nl/api/signing-jades>

**Latest editor's draft:**

<https://geonovum.github.io/KPAPI/>

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## Abstract

This ADR Module contains the requirements for ADR-HTTP Message and payload signing with JAdES

- JAdES [[JAdES](#)]

This module is based on the *ISA<sup>2</sup> IPS REST API Profile v1.0 section 5.2.2 Message And Payload Level Security*

## Status of This Document

This is a draft that could be altered, removed or replaced by other documents. It is not a recommendation approved by TO.

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1. ADR-HTTP Message and payload signing with JAdES

NOTE: Status

This module is under development

§

1.1 Introduction

This module specifies the use of JAdES signatures for HTTP message and payload signing. The module is directly based on the *ISA<sup>2</sup> IPS REST API Profile v1.0* (which was a result of the [REST API Pilot project for eDelivery](#))

## § 1.2 JWS detached signatures

This module enforces the use of JWS detached signatures following the HTTP Headers Mechanism of the ETSI ESI JAdES specification [ETSI-JADES].

This structure is enforced for the following reasons:

- JWS, being a simple JSON Structure, can be supported by clients in a light context, while specifications like the ETSI ESI ASIC containers are more difficult to do.
- JWS in detached form does not change the payload structure, meaning that a client not supporting the validation of signature can continue to operate as if there was no signature applied.
- JWS Detached can be transported using an HTTP header, making its presence unintrusive and easily transportable.

## § 1.3 Cryptographic Algorithms

Following ENISA's Good Practises in Cryptography – Primitives and Schemes [ENISA-CRYPTO-2020], the following algorithms found in [RFC7518] are selected for this profile, to be used in the following form:

- The ECDSA Algorithm with SHA-256 and P-256 Curve *MUST* be supported, with a key length of at least 256 bits. The value "ES256" for the alg parameter *MUST* be used in this case as defined in [RFC7518].
- The EdDSA Algorithm [RFC8032] using one of the curves defined in [RFC7748] *SHOULD* be supported and is *RECOMMENDED* for use, with a key length of at least 256 bits. The value "EdDSA" for the alg parameter *MUST* be used in this case and the curve shall be encoded in the crv parameter as defined in [RFC8037].

## § 1.4 Payload signing

Payload signing ensures the integrity and authenticity of the payload part of the message. When payload signing is considered, the Detached JSON Web Signatures following the JAdES specification [ETSI-JADES] *MUST* be applied with the following restrictions:

- The JWS content (Data to be Signed) *MUST* be detached from the signatures as defined in [\[RFC7515\]](#) Appendix F.
- The signed SigD parameter object *MUST* be present in the JWS headers, denoting the use of the JAdES detached header profile.
- The value of the mId parameter *MUST* be set to "<http://uri.etsi.org/19182/HttpHeaders>".
- The pars array of the SigD *MUST* contain only the element "digest", denoting that for the calculation of the signature only the digest of the HTTP payload must be taken into account, according to [\[RFC3230\]](#).
- The alg parameter *MUST* be set to the correct value depending on the algorithm used (see above).
- If the alg parameter is set to "EdDSA", the crv parameter *MUST* be set to the correct value (see above).

The JWS structure shall be carried in HTTP header field named **nlgov-adr-payload-sig**. The header field can be used in both requests and responses. The header field *MUST* not appear more than once in a message; if a message contains multiple nlgov-adr-payload-sig header fields, the receiver *MUST* consider the signature invalid.

## § 1.5 HTTP Message signing

The Introduction section of [\[DRAFT-IETF-HTTPS-BIS-MSG-SIGS\]](#) details why message integrity and authenticity are critical to the secure operation of many HTTP/REST applications. When Message-Level Security is considered, the HttpHeaders Mechanism of the JAdES Specification [\[ETSI-JADES\]](#) *MUST* be used, with the following restrictions applied:

- The JWS content (Data to be Signed) *MUST* be detached from the signatures as defined in [\[RFC7515\]](#) Appendix F.
- The signed SigD parameter object *MUST* be present in the JWS headers, denoting the use of the JAdES detached header profile.
- The value of the mId parameter *MUST* be set to "<http://uri.etsi.org/19182/HttpHeaders>".
- The pars array of the SigD *MUST* contain at least the following elements:
  - the element "(request-target)", for containing the HTTP Request URI
  - the element "host", for containing the host the message was submitted to, if present
  - the element "origin", for containing the scheme, hostname, and port from which the request was initiated, if present
  - the element "content-encoding", if present

- the element "content-type", if present
- the element "content-length", if present
- the element "digest", for taking into account the Digest header that contains the hash value of the HTTP payload.
- The alg parameter *MUST* be set to the correct value depending on the algorithm used (see above).
- If the alg parameter is set to "EdDSA", the crv parameter *MUST* be set to the correct value (see above).

Implementations that make use of the HTTP Header fields for data representation *SHOULD* also include these header fields in the pars array. The JWS structure *MUST* be carried in HTTP header field named **nlgov-adr-message-sig**. The header field can be used in both requests and responses. The header field *MUST* not appear more than once in a message; if a message contains multiple nlgov-adr-message-sig header fields, the receiver *MUST* consider the signature invalid.

## § 1.6 Signature Representations

The following example is strictly informative !

```

openapi: 3.1.0
info:
  title: JAdES Signatures
  summary: An example showcasing JAdES signatures
  description: An example showcasing JAdES signatures as JWS detached signature
  termsOfService: https://domain.server.io/terms-of-service
  license:
    name: EUPL-1.2 or later
    url: https://eupl.eu/1.2/en/
  version: 1.0.0
externalDocs:
  description: The ISA² IPS REST API Core Profile
  url: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/api4dt/document/isa2-ips-rest-api
servers:
- url: https://domain.server.io/v2
tags:
- name: DetachedPayloadSignature
  description: Operations using payload security
- name: DetachedMessageSignature
  description: Operations using message-level security
paths:
  /openapi:
    get:
      summary: Returns the OpenAPI Document for the API
      ...
    responses:
      200:
        description: ...
        content: {
          $ref: 'https://spec.openapis.org/oas/3.1/schema/2021-05-20'
          ...
        }
  /certificate:
    get:
      tags:
      - DetachedMessageSignature
      summary: Get a Certificate
      securitySchemes:
        OAuth2:
          type: oauth2
      flows:
        authorizationCode:
          authorizationUrl: https://example.com/api/oauth/dialog
          scopes:
            send:message: send a message
      ...

```



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## § 2. Conformance

As well as sections marked as non-normative, all authoring guidelines, diagrams, examples, and notes in this specification are non-normative. Everything else in this specification is normative.

The key words *MUST*, *RECOMMENDED*, and *SHOULD* in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

## A. References

### A.1 Normative references

#### [DRAFT-IETF-HTTPS-BIS-MSG-SIGS]

*HTTP Message Signatures*. URL: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-httpbis-message-signatures>

#### [ENISA-CRYPTO-2020]

*ENISA Good Practises in Cryptography – Primitives and Schemes, December 2020. (Limited availability)*. URL: <https://www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/cryptography>

#### [ETSI-JADES]

*JAdES digital signatures*. URL: [https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi\\_ts/119100\\_119199/11918201/01.01.01\\_60/ts\\_11918201v010101p.pdf](https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_ts/119100_119199/11918201/01.01.01_60/ts_11918201v010101p.pdf)

#### [RFC2119]

*Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels*. S. Bradner. IETF. March 1997. Best Current Practice. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2119>

#### [RFC3230]

*Instance Digests in HTTP*. J. Mogul; A. Van Hoff. IETF. January 2002. Proposed Standard. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc3230>

#### [RFC7515]

*JSON Web Signature (JWS)*. M. Jones; J. Bradley; N. Sakimura. IETF. May 2015. Proposed Standard. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7515>

#### [RFC7518]

*JSON Web Algorithms (JWA)*. M. Jones. IETF. May 2015. Proposed Standard. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7518>

#### [RFC7748]

*Elliptic Curves for Security*. A. Langley; M. Hamburg; S. Turner. IETF. January 2016. Informational. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7748>

#### [RFC8032]

*Edwards-Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (EdDSA)*. S. Josefsson; I. Liusvaara. IETF. January 2017. Informational. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8032>

#### [RFC8037]

*CFRG Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman (ECDH) and Signatures in JSON Object Signing and Encryption (JOSE)*. I. Liusvaara. IETF. January 2017. Proposed Standard. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8037>

**[RFC8174]**

*Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words*, B. Leiba, IETF, May 2017.  
Best Current Practice. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8174>

**A.2 Informative references****[JAdES]**

*JAdES digital signatures*. URL:  
[https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi\\_ts/119100\\_119199/11918201/01.01.01\\_60/ts\\_11918201v010101p.pdf](https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_ts/119100_119199/11918201/01.01.01_60/ts_11918201v010101p.pdf)

