

Web Services Security: SAML Token Profile 1.1

OASIS Standard, 1 February 2006

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wss-v1.1-spec-os-SAMLTokenProfile

6 OASIS Identifier:

{WSS: SOAP Message Security }-{SAMLTokenProfile}-{1.1} (OpenOffice) (PDF) (HTML)

8 Location:

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This Version: http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-SAMLTokenProfile-1.1

Previous Version:http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.0

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Abstract:

This document describes how to use Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) V1.1 and V2.0 assertions with the Web Services Security (WSS): SOAP Message Security V1.1 specification.

With respect to the description of the use of SAML V1.1, this document subsumes and is totally consistent with the Web Services Security: SAML Token Profile 1.0 and includes all corrections identified in the 1.0 errata.

Status:

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100 1 Introduction

- 101 The WSS: SOAP Message Security specification defines a standard set of SOAP extensions that
- implement SOAP message authentication and encryption. This specification defines the use of Security
- 103 Assertion Markup Language (SAML) assertions as security tokens from the <wsse:Security>header
- block defined by the WSS: SOAP Message Security specification.

105 **1.1 Goals**

- The goal of this specification is to define the use of SAML V1.1 and V2.0 assertions in the context of
- 107 WSS: SOAP Message Security including for the purpose of securing SOAP messages and SOAP
- message exchanges. To achieve this goal, this profile describes how:
- 109 1. SAML assertions are carried in and referenced from <wsse:Security> Headers.
- 2. SAML assertions are used with XML signature to bind the subjects and statements of the assertions (i.e., the claims) to a SOAP message.

112 **1.1.1 Non-Goals**

- 113 The following topics are outside the scope of this document:
- 1. Defining SAML statement syntax or semantics.
- 115 2. Describing the use of SAML assertions other than for SOAP Message Security.
- Describing the use of SAML V1.0 assertions with the Web Services Security (WSS): SOAP Message
 Security specification.

2 Notations and Terminology

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

2.1 Notational Conventions

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

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- 124 This document uses the notational conventions defined in the WS-Security SOAP Message Security
- 125 document.
- 126 Namespace URIs (of the general form "some-URI") represent some application-dependent or context-
- dependent URI as defined in RFC2396.
- 128 This specification is designed to work with the general SOAP message structure and message processing
- model, and should be applicable to any version of SOAP. The current SOAP 1.2 namespace URI is used
- herein to provide detailed examples, but there is no intention to limit the applicability of this specification to
- a single version of SOAP.
- 132 Readers are presumed to be familiar with the terms in the Internet Security Glossary.

2.2 Namespaces

- 134 The appearance of the following [XML-ns] namespace prefixes in the examples within this specification
- should be understood to refer to the corresponding namespaces (from the following table) whether or
- not an XML namespace declaration appears in 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-1.0.xsd		
wssell	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.1.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		
sam12	urn: oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion		
samlp	urn: oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:protocol		
xsi	http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance		

Table-1 Namespace Prefixes

2.3 Terminology

- 139 This specification employs the terminology defined in the WSS: SOAP Message Security specification.
- The definitions for additional terminology used in this specification appear below.
- 141 Attesting Entity the entity that provides the confirmation evidence that will be used to establish the
- 142 correspondence between the subjects and claims of SAML statements (in SAML assertions) and SOAP
- 143 message content.

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- 144 Confirmation Method Identifier the value within a SAML SubjectConfirmation element that identifies the
- subject confirmation process to be used with the corresponding statements.
- Subject Confirmation the process of establishing the correspondence between the subject and claims of
- 147 SAML statements (in SAML assertions) and SOAP message content by verifying the confirmation
- evidence provided by an attesting entity.
- 149 SAML Assertion Authority A system entity that issues assertions.
- Subject A representation of the entity to which the claims in one or more SAML statements apply.

151 3 Usage

- 152 This section defines the specific mechanisms and procedures for using SAML assertions as security
- 153 tokens.

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3.1 Processing Model

- This specification extends the token-independent processing model defined by the WSS: SOAP Message
- 156 Security specification.
- 157 When a receiver processes a <wsse:Security> header containing or referencing SAML assertions, it
- selects, based on its policy, the signatures and assertions that it will process. It is assumed that a
- receiver's signature selection policy MAY rely on semantic labeling¹ of
- signatures. It is also assumed that the assertions selected for validation and processing will include those
- referenced from the <ds:KeyInfo> and <ds:SignedInfo> elements of the selected signatures.
- As part of its validation and processing of the selected assertions, the receiver MUST² establish the
- relationship between the subject and claims of the SAML statements (of the referenced SAML assertions)
- and the entity providing the evidence to satisfy the confirmation method defined for the statements (i.e.,
- the attesting entity). Two methods for establishing this correspondence, holder-of-key and sender-
- vouches are described below. Systems implementing this specification MUST implement the processing
- necessary to support both of these subject confirmation methods.

3.2 SAML Version Differences

- 170 The following sub-sections describe the differences between SAML V1.1 and V2.0 that apply to this
- 171 specification.

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172 3.2.1 Assertion Identifier

- In SAML V1.1 the name of the assertion identifier attribute is "AssertionID". In SAML v2.0 the name of the
- assertion identifier attribute is "ID". In both versions the type of the identifier attribute is xs: ID.

175 3.2.2 Relationship of Subjects to Statements

- A SAML assertion contains a collection of 0 or more statements. In SAML V1.1, a separate subject with
- 177 separate subject confirmation methods may be specified for each statement of an assertion. In SAML
- 178 V2.0, at most one subject and at most one set of subject confirmation methods may be specified for all
- the statements of the assertion. These distinctions are described in more detail by the following
- 180 paragraphs.
- 181 A SAML V1.1 statement that contains a <saml:Subject> element (i.e., a subject statement) may
- 182 contain a <saml: SubjectConfirmation> element that defines the rules for confirming the subject and
- 183 claims of the statement. If present, the <saml:SubjectConfirmation> element occurs within the
- 184 subject element, and defines one or more methods (i.e., <saml:ConfirmationMethod> elements) by
- which the statement may be confirmed and will include a <ds:KeyInfo>3 element when any of the
- specified methods are based on demonstration of a confirmation key. The

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.

² When the confirmation method is urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:bearer, proof of the relationship between the attesting entity and the subject of the statements in the assertion is implicit and no steps need be taken by the receiver to establish this relationship.

³ When a <ds: KeyInfo> element is specified, it identifies the key that applies to all the key confirmed methods of the confirmation element.

<saml:SubjectConfirmation> element also provides for the inclusion of additional information to be
applied in the confirmation method processing via the optional <saml:SubjectConfirmationData>
element. The following example depicts a SAML V1.1 assertion containing two subject statements with
different subjects and different subject confirmation elements.

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```
<saml:Assertion xmlns:saml="..." xmlns:ds="..."</pre>
191
             MajorVersion="1" MinorVersion="1" >
192
193
194
            <saml:SubjectStatement>
                <saml:Subject>
195
196
                   <saml:NameIdentifier>
197
                   </saml:NameIdentifier>
198
                   <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
199
200
                      <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
201
                          urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:sender-vouches
202
                      </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
203
                      <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
204
                         urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder-of-key
205
                      </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
206
                      <ds:KeyInfo>
207
                         <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
208
                      </ds:KeyInfo>
209
                    </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
210
                </saml:Subject>
211
             </saml:SubjectStatement>
212
            <saml:SubjectStatement>
213
214
                <saml:Subject>
215
                   <saml:NameIdentifier>
216
217
                   </saml:NameIdentifier>
218
                   <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
                      <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
219
220
                          urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:sender-vouches
221
                      </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
222
                    </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
223
                </saml:Subject>
224
225
             </saml:SubjectStatement>
226
          </saml:Assertion>
227
```

A SAML V2.0 assertion may contain a single <code><saml2:Subject></code> that applies to all the statements of the assertion. When a subject is included in A SAML V2.0 assertion, it may contain any number of <code><saml2:SubjectConfimation></code> elements, satisfying any of which is sufficient to confirm the subject and all the statements of the assertion. Each <code><saml2:SubjectConfirmation></code> element identifies a single confirmation method (by attribute value) and may include an optional

<saml2:SubjectConfirmationData> element that is used to specify optional confirmation method independent condition attributes and to define additional method specific confirmation data. In the case of a key dependent confirmation method, a complex schema type,

saml2: KeyInfoConfirmationDataType, that includes 1 or more <ds: KeyInfo> elements, can be specified as the xsi:type of the <saml2: SubjectConfirmationData> element. In this case, each <ds: KeyInfo> element identifies a key that may be demonstrated to confirm the assertion. The following example depicts a SAML V2.0 assertion containing a subject with multiple confirmation elements that apply to all the statements of the assertion.

```
247
                   Method="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:sender-vouches">
248
                   <saml2:SubjectConfirmationData>
                    Address="129.148.9.42"
249
250
                    </saml2:SubjectConfirmationData>
251
                </saml2:SubjectConfirmation>
252
                <saml2:SubjectConfirmation</pre>
253
                   Method="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:holder-of-key">
254
                   <saml2:SubjectConfirmationData</pre>
255
                      xsi:type="saml2:KeyInfoConfirmationDataType">
256
                       <ds:KeyInfo>
257
                          <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
258
                       </ds:KeyInfo>
259
                    </saml2:SubjectConfirmationData>
260
                </saml2:SubjectConfirmation>
261
             </saml2:Subject>
262
             <sam12:Statement>
263
264
             </saml2:Statement>
265
266
267
             <saml2:Statement>
268
269
             </saml2:Statement>
270
271
272
          </saml2:Assertion>
```

3.2.3 Assertion URI Reference Replaces AuthorityBinding

- SAML V1.1 defines the (deprecated) <saml:AuthorityBinding> element so that a relying party can locate and communicate with an assertion authority to acquire a referenced assertion.
- The <saml:AuthorityBinding> element was removed from SAML V2.0. [SAMLBindV2] requires that an assertion authority support a URL endpoint at which an assertion will be returned in response to an HTTP request with a single query string parameter named ID.
- 279 For example, if the documented endpoint at an assertion authority is:

```
https://saml.example.edu/assertion-authority
```

then the following request will cause the assertion with ID "abcde" to be returned:

https://saml.example.edu/assertion-authority?ID=abcde

3.2.4 Attesting Entity Identifier

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The <saml2: SubjectConfirmation> element of SAML V2.0 provides for the optional inclusion of an element (i.e., NameID) to identify the expected attesting entity as distinct from the subject of the assertion.

```
286
          <saml2:SubjectConfirmation xmlns:saml2="..."</pre>
            Method="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:sender-vouches">
287
288
             <NameID>
289
                 gateway
290
             </NameID>
291
             <saml2:SubjectConfirmationData>
292
                Address="129.148.9.42"
             </saml2:SubjectConfirmationData>
293
294
          </saml2:SubjectConfirmation>
```

3.3 Attaching Security Tokens

SAML assertions are attached to SOAP messages using WSS: SOAP Message Security by placing assertion elements or references to assertions inside a <wsse:Security>header. The following example illustrates a SOAP message containing a bearer confirmed SAML V1.1 assertion in a <wsse:Security>header.

```
<S12:Envelope xmlns:S12="...">
300
301
            <S12:Header>
302
              <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
               <saml:Assertion xmlns:saml="..."</pre>
303
                  AssertionID=" a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc"
304
                  IssueInstant="2003-04-17T00:46:02Z"
305
                  Issuer="www.opensaml.org"
306
307
                  MajorVersion="1"
308
                  MinorVersion="1">
309
                 <saml:AuthenticationStatement>
                    <saml:Subject>
310
311
                       <saml:NameIdentifier</pre>
312
                         NameQualifier="www.example.com"
313
                         Format="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.1:nameid-
314
          format: X509SubjectName">
315
                         uid=joe, ou=people, ou=saml-demo, o=baltimore.com
                       </saml:NameIdentifier>
316
317
                       <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
318
                         <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
319
                           urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:bearer
320
                         </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
                       </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
321
322
                    </saml:Subject>
323
                  </saml:AuthenticationStatement>
324
325
                </saml:Assertion>
326
327
           </wsse:Security>
328
           </S12:Header>
329
            <S12:Body>
330
            </S12:Body>
331
332
          </S12:Envelope>
```

3.4 Identifying and Referencing Security Tokens

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The WSS: SOAP Message Security specification defines the wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element for referencing security tokens. Three forms of token references are defined by this element and the element schema includes provision for defining additional reference forms should they be necessary. The three forms of token references defined by the wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element are defined as follows:

- 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.
 - 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 value from Table 2 corresponding to the version of the referenced assertion. The key identifier MUST NOT include an EncodingType⁴ attribute and the element content of the key identifier MUST be encoded as xs:string.
 - 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 <saml:AuthorityBinding> element MUST be contained in the <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> element containing the key identifier. The contents of the <saml:AuthorityBinding> element MUST contain values sufficient for the intended recipients of

⁴ "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 WS-Security Specification (including V1.1).

- 352 the <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> to acquire the identified assertion from the intended
- Authority. To this end, the value of the AuthorityKind attribute of the
- 354 <saml:AuthorityBinding> element MUST be "samlp:AssertionIdReference".
- When a key Identifier is used to reference a SAML assertion contained in the same message as the
- key identifier, a <saml:AuthorityBinding> element MUST NOT be included in the
- 357 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> containing the key identifier.
- A key identifier MUST NOT be used to reference a SAML V2.0 assertion if the assertion is NOT contained in the same message as the key identifier.
- A Direct or URI reference a generic element (i.e., <wsse:Reference>) that identifies a security token by URI. If only a fragment identifier is specified, then the reference is to the security token within the document whose local identifier (e.g., wsu:Id attribute) matches the fragment identifier.
- Otherwise, the reference is to the (potentially external) security token identified by the URI.
- A reference to a SAML V2.0 assertion that is NOT contained in the same message MUST be a Direct or URI reference. In this case, the value of the URI attribute must conform to the URI syntax defined in section 3.7.5.1 of [SAMLBindV2]. That is, an HTTP or HTTPS request with a single query string parameter named ID. The reference MUST also contain a wssell:TokenType attribute and the
- value of this attribute MUST be the value from Table 3 identifying the assertion as a SAML V2.0
- security token. When a Direct reference is made to a SAML V2.0 Assertion, the Direct reference SHOULD NOT contain a ValueType attribute.
- This profile does not describe the use of Direct or URI references to reference V1.1 SAML assertions.
- An Embedded reference a reference that encapsulates a security token.
- When an Embedded reference is used to encapsulate a SAML assertion, the SAML assertion MUST be included as a contained element within a <wsse:Embedded> element within a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>.
- This specification describes how SAML assertions may be referenced in four contexts:
 - A SAML assertion may be referenced directly from a <wsse:Security> header element. In this case, the assertion is being conveyed by reference in the message.
- A SAML assertion may be referenced from a <ds:KeyInfo> element of a <ds:Signature>
 380 element in a <wsse:Security> header. In this case, the assertion contains a
 381 SubjectConfirmation element that identifies the key used in the signature calculation.
- A SAML assertion reference may be referenced from a <ds:Reference> element within the <ds:SignedInfo> element of a <ds:Signature> element in a <wsse:Security> header. In this case, the doubly-referenced assertion is signed by the containing signature.
- In each of these contexts, the referenced assertion may be:

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- local in which case, it is included in the <wsse:Security> header containing the reference.
- remote in which case it is not included in the <wsse:Security> header containing the reference, but may occur in another part of the SOAP message or may be available at the location identified by the reference which may be an assertion authority.
- 394 A SAML key identifier reference MUST be used for all (local and remote) references to SAML 1.1
- assertions. All (local and remote) references to SAML V2.0 assertions SHOULD be by Direct reference
- and all remote references to V2.0 assertions MUST be by Direct reference URI. A key identifier reference
- MAY be used to reference a local V2.0 assertion. To maintain compatibility with Web Services Security:
- 398 SOAP Message Security 1.0, the practice of referencing local SAML 1.1 assertions by Direct
- 399 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> reference is not defined by this profile.
- 400 Every key identifier, direct, or embedded reference to a SAML assertion SHOULD contain a
- 401 wssell: TokenType attribute and the value of this attribute MUST be the value from Table 3 that

identifies the type and version of the referenced security token. When the referenced assertion is a SAML V2.0 Assertion the reference MUST contain a wssell: TokenType attribute (as described above).

Assertion Version	Value
V1.1	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID
V2.0	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.1#SAMLID

404 Table-2 Key Identifier ValueType Attribute Values

Assertion Version	Value
V1.1	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1
V2.0	http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0

405 Table-3 TokenType Attribute Values

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The following subsections define the SAML assertion references that MUST be supported by conformant implementations of this profile. A conformant implementation may choose to support the reference forms corresponding to either or both V1.1 or V2.0 SAML assertions.

3.4.1 SAML Assertion Referenced from Header or Element

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

A SAML assertion may be referenced from a <wsse:Security> header or from an element (other than a signature) in the header. The following example demonstrates the use of a key identifier in a <wsse:Security> header to reference a local SAML V1.1 assertion.

```
<S12:Envelope xmlns:S12="...">
417
418
            <S12:Header>
419
              <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="...">
420
                <saml:Assertion xmlns:saml="..."</pre>
                  AssertionID=" a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc"
421
                  IssueInstant="2003-04-17T00:46:02Z"
422
423
                  Issuer="www.opensaml.org"
                  MajorVersion="1"
424
425
                  MinorVersion="1">
426
                </saml:Assertion>
427
                <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1"</pre>
428
                  wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
429
          profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
                  <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
430
                    ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
431
432
          profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
                     a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
433
434
                  </wsse:KevIdentifier>
435
               </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
              </wsse:Security>
436
437
            </S12:Header>
438
            <S12:Body>
439
440
            </S12:Body>
441
          </S12:Envelope>
```

The following example depicts the use of a key identifier reference to reference a local SAML V2.0 442 assertion. 443

```
444
          <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
             xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..."
wsu:Id="STR1"
445
446
             wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
447
448
          profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0">
             <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
449
450
                ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-
451
          1.1#SAMLID">
452
                  a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
453
             </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
454
          </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
```

A SAML V1.1 assertion that exists outside of a <wsse:Security> header may be referenced from the <wsse:Security> header element by including (in the <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>) a <saml:AuthorityBinding> element that defines the location, binding, and guery that may be used to acquire the identified assertion at a SAML assertion authority or responder.

```
459
          <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
460
             xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..."
461
             wsu:Id="STR1"
462
            wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
463
         profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
464
            <saml:AuthorityBinding xmlns:saml="..."</pre>
              Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-binding"
465
466
              Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"
467
             AuthorityKind= "samlp:AssertionIdReference"/>
468
            <wsse:KevIdentifier</pre>
              wsu:Id="..."
469
470
              ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-
471
          1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
               a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
472
473
            </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
474
          </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
```

The following example depicts the use of a Direct or URI reference to reference a SAML V2.0 assertion that exists outside of a <wsse:Security>header.

```
477
          <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
              xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..."
478
479
              wsu:Id="..."
480
              wssell:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
481
          profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0">
482
           <wsse:Reference</pre>
483
              wsu:Id="..."
              URI="https://saml.example.edu/assertion-authority?ID=abcde">
484
485
            </wsse:Reference>
486
          </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
```

3.4.2 SAML Assertion Referenced from KeyInfo

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

The following example depicts the use of a key identifier to reference a local V1.1 assertion from 492 <ds:KeyInfo>.

```
493
          <ds:KeyInfo xmlns:ds="...">
            <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
494
495
              xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..."
              wsu:Id="STR1"
496
497
              wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
498
          profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
499
              <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
```

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```
500
               ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-
         1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
501
502
                a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
503
             </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
504
           </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
505
         </ds:KevInfo>
```

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A local, V2.0 assertion may be referenced by replacing the values of the Key Identifier ValueType and reference TokenType attributes with the values defined in tables 2 and 3 (respectively) for SAML V2.0 as follows:

```
<ds:KeyInfo xmlns:ds="...">
  <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
    xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..."
    wsu:Id="STR1"
   wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0">
    <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
     ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-
1.1#SAMLID">
      a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
    </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
  </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
</ds:KeyInfo>
```

The following example demonstrates the use of a <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> containing a key identifier and a <saml:AuthorityBinding> to communicate information (location, binding, and query) sufficient to acquire the identified V1.1 assertion at an identified SAML assertion authority or responder.

```
526
         <ds:KeyInfo xmlns:ds="...">
527
            <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
              xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..."
528
              wsu:Id="STR1"
529
530
             wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
531
         profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
532
             <saml:AuthorityBinding xmlns:saml="..."</pre>
533
                Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-binding"
                Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"
534
                AuthorityKind= "samlp:AssertionIdReference"/>
535
536
              <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
537
                ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-profile-
538
         1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
          a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
539
540
              </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
541
            </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
542
         </ds:KeyInfo>
```

Remote references to V2.0 assertions are made by Direct reference URI. The following example depicts the use of a Direct reference URI to reference a remote V2.0 assertion from <ds:KeyInfo>.

```
545
          <ds:KeyInfo xmlns:ds="...">
546
            <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
                xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..."
547
                 wsu:id="STR1"
548
549
                 wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
550
         profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0">
              <wsse:Reference</pre>
552
                 wsu:id="..."
                 URI="https://saml.example.edu/assertion-authority?ID=abcde">
553
554
               </wsse:Reference>
555
            </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
556
          </ds:KeyInfo>
```

- 557 <ds:KeyInfo> elements may also occur in <xenc:EncryptedData> and <xenc:EncryptedKey>
 558 elements where they serve to identify the encryption key. <ds:KeyInfo> elements may also occur in
 559 SAML SubjectConfirmation elements where they identify a key that MUST be demonstrated to
- confirm the subject of the corresponding statement(s).

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- Conformant implementations of this profile are NOT required to process SAML assertion references
- occurring within the <ds:KeyInfo> elements within <xenc:EncryptedData>,
- 563 <xenc:EncryptedKey>, or SAML SubjectConfirmation elements.

3.4.3 SAML Assertion Referenced from SignedInfo

Independent of the confirmation method of the referenced assertion, all conformant implementations MUST be able to process SAML assertions referenced by \text{wsse:SecurityTokenReference} from <ds:Reference</pre> elements within the <ds:SignedInfo</pre> element of a <ds:Signature</pre> element in a <wsse:Security</pre> header. Embedded references may be digested directly, thus effectively digesting the encapsulated assertion. Other <msse:SecurityTokenReference</pre> forms must be dereferenced for the referenced assertion to be digested.

The core specification, WSS: SOAP Message Security, defines the STR Dereference transform to cause the replacement (in the digest stream) of a <code><wsse:SecurityTokenReference></code> with the contents of the referenced token. To digest any SAML assertion that is referenced by a non-embedded <code><wsse:SecurityTokenReference></code>, the STR Dereference transform MUST be specified and applied in the processing of the <code><ds:Reference></code>. Conversly, the STR Dereference transform MUST NOT be specified or applied when the <code><wsse:SecurityTokenReference></code>, not the referenced assertion, is to be digested.

The following example demonstrates the use of the STR Dereference transform to dereference a reference to a SAML V1.1 Assertion (i.e., Security Token) such that the digest operation is performed on the security token not its reference.

```
581
          <wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
             xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsu="..." xmlns:wsse11="..." wsu:Id="STR1"
582
             wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
583
584
         profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
585
           <saml:AuthorityBinding xmlns:saml="..."</pre>
586
             Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-binding"
587
             Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"
588
             AuthorityKind= "samlp:AssertionIdReference"/>
           <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
589
590
             ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-2004XX-wss-saml-token-
591
          profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
              a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
592
           </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
593
594
          </wsse:SecurityTokenReference</pre>
595
596
         <ds:SignedInfo xmlns:ds="..." xmlns:wsse="...">
597
           <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
598
             Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
599
           <ds:SignatureMethod
600
             Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
           <ds:Reference URI="#STR1">
601
602
              <Transforms>
603
                <ds:Transform
604
                  Algorithm="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-
605
         soap-message-security-1.0#STR-Transform">
606
                  <wsse:TransformationParameters>
607
                    <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
                      Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
608
609
                  </wsse:TransformationParameters>
610
                </ds:Transform>
              </Transforms>
611
              <ds:DigestMethod
612
613
               Algorithm= "http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
```

618 Note that the URI appearing in the <ds:Reference> element identifies the

619 <wsse: SecurityTokenReference> element by its wsu: Id value. Also note that the STR Dereference

620 transform MUST contain (in <wsse:TransformationParameters>) a

621 <ds:CanonicalizationMethod> that defines the algorithm to be used to serialize the input node set 622 (of the referenced assertion).

As depicted in the other examples of this section, this profile establishes

624 <wsse:SecurityTokenReference> forms for referencing V1.1, local V2.0, and remote V2.0

625 assertions.

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3.4.4 SAML Assertion Referenced from Encrypted Data Reference

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

```
639
         <xenc:EncryptedData xmlns:xenc="..." xmlns:ds="..." Id="EncryptedSTR1">
640
           <ds:KeyInfo>
641
642
           </ds:KeyInfo>
643
           <xenc:CipherData>
644
             <xenc:CipherValue>...
645
           </xenc:CipherData>
646
         </xenc:EncryptedData>
647
         <xenc:ReferenceList xmlns:xenc="...">
           <xenc:DataReference URI="#EncryptedSTR1"/>
648
         </xenc:ReferenceList>
649
```

3.4.5 SAML Version Support and Backward Compatibility

651 An implementation of this profile MUST satisfy all of its requirements with respect to either or both SAML

652 V1.1 or SAML V2.0 Assertions. An implementation that satisfies the requirements of this profile with

respect to SAML V1.1 assertions MUST be able to fully interoperate with any fully compatible

implementation of version 1.0 of this profile.

An implementation that does not satisfy the requirements of this profile with respect to SAML V1.1 or

656 SAML V2.0 assertions MUST reject a message containing a <wsse:Security> header that references

657 or conveys an assertion of the unsupported version. When a message containing an unsupported

assertion version is detected, the receiver MAY choose to respond with an appropriate fault as defined in

659 Section 3.6, "Error Codes".

3.5 Subject Confirmation of SAML Assertions

The SAML profile of WSS: SOAP Message Security requires that systems support the holder-of-key and sender-vouches methods of subject confirmation. It is strongly RECOMMENDED that an XML signature

be used to establish the relationship between the message and the statements of the attached assertions.

- This is especially RECOMMENDED whenever the SOAP message exchange is conducted over an unprotected transport.
- Any processor of SAML assertions MUST conform to the required validation and processing rules defined in the corresponding SAML specification including the validation of assertion signatures, the processing of <saml:Condition> elements within assertions, and the processing of
- 669 <saml2:SubjectConfirmationData> attributes. [SAMLCoreV1] defines the validation and
- processing rules for V1.1 assertions, while [SAMLCoreV2] is authoritative for V2.0 assertions.
- The following table enumerates the mandatory subject confirmation methods and summarizes their associated processing models:

Mechanism	RECOMMENDED Processing Rules
<pre>Urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder- of-key Or urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:holder- of-key</pre>	The attesting entity demonstrates knowledge of a confirmation key identified in a holder-of-key SubjectConfirmation element within the assertion.
<pre>Urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:sender- vouches Or urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:sender- vouches</pre>	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 in combination with the message content against modification by another party. See also section 4.

- Note that the high level processing model described in the following sections does not differentiate between the attesting entity and the message sender as would be necessary to guard against replay attacks. The high-level processing model also does not take into account requirements for authentication of receiver by sender, or for message or assertion confidentiality. These concerns must be addressed by means other than those described in the high-level processing model (i.e., section 3.1).
 - 3.5.1 Holder-of-key Subject Confirmation Method
- The following sections describe the holder-of-key method of establishing the correspondence between a SOAP message and the subject and claims of SAML assertions added to the SOAP message according to this specification.
 - 3.5.1.1 Attesting Entity

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- An attesting entity demonstrates that it is authorized to act as the subject of a holder-of-key confirmed
- 684 SAML statement by demonstrating knowledge of any key identified in a holder-of-key
- 685 SubjectConfirmation element associated with the statement by the assertion containing the
- statement. Statements attested for by the holder-of-key method MUST be associated, within their
- 687 containing assertion, with one or more holder-of-key SubjectConfirmation elements.

The SubjectConfirmation elements MUST include a <ds:KeyInfo> element that identifies a public or secret key⁵ that can be used to confirm the identity of the subject.

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

SAML assertions that contain a holder-of-key SubjectConfirmation element SHOULD contain a

<ds:Signature> element that protects the integrity of the confirmation <ds:KeyInfo> established by
the assertion authority.

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

3.5.1.2 Receiver

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Of the SAML assertions it selects for processing, a message receiver MUST NOT accept statements of these assertions based on a holder-of-key <code>SubjectConfirmation</code> element defined for the statements (within the assertion) unless the receiver has validated the integrity of the assertion and the attesting entity has demonstrated knowledge of a key identified within the confirmation element.

If the receiver determines that the attesting entity has demonstrated knowledge of a subject confirmation key, then the subjects and claims of the SAML statements confirmed by the key MAY be attributed to the attesting entity and any content of the message whose integrity is protected by the key MAY be considered to have been provided by the attesting entity.

3.5.1.3 Example V1.1

The following example illustrates the use of the holder-of-key subject confirmation method to establish the correspondence between the SOAP message and the subject of statements of the SAML V1.1 assertions in the <wsse:Security>header:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
716
          <S12:Envelope xmlns:S12="..." xmlns:wsu="...">
717
718
            <S12:Header>
719
720
              <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsse11="..." xmlns:ds="...">
721
                <saml:Assertion xmlns:saml="..."</pre>
                  AssertionID=" a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc"
722
                  IssueInstant="2005-05-27T16:53:33.173Z"
723
724
                  Issuer="www.opensaml.org"
                  MajorVersion="1"
725
726
                  MinorVersion="1">
727
                  <saml:Conditions</pre>
                    NotBefore="2005-05-27T16:53:33.173Z"
728
                    NotOnOrAfter="2005-05-27T16:58:33.17302Z"/>
729
730
                  <saml:AttributeStatement>
731
                    <saml:Subject>
732
                      <saml:NameIdentifier</pre>
```

⁵[SAMLCoreV1] defines <code>KeyInfo</code> of <code>SubjectConfirmation</code> 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. In <code>[SAMLCoreV2]</code>, the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee agreed to remove the phrase "held by the subject" from the definition of <code>KeyInfo</code> within <code>SubjectConfirmation(Data)</code>.

```
733
                         NameQualifier="www.example.com"
734
                         Format="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.1:nameid-
735
          format: X509SubjectName">
736
                         uid=joe, ou=people, ou=saml-demo, o=baltimore.com
737
                      </saml:NameIdentifier>
738
                      <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
739
                         <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
740
                           urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder-of-key
741
                         </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
742
                         <ds:KeyInfo>
743
                           <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
744
                         </ds:KeyInfo>
745
                      </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
746
                    </saml:Subject>
747
                    <saml:Attribute</pre>
748
                      AttributeName="MemberLevel"
749
                      AttributeNamespace="http://www.oasis-
750
          open.org/Catalyst2002/attributes">
751
                      <saml:AttributeValue>gold</saml:AttributeValue>
752
                    </saml:Attribute>
753
                    <saml:Attribute</pre>
                      AttributeName="E-mail"
754
755
                      AttributeNamespace="http://www.oasis-
756
          open.org/Catalyst2002/attributes">
757
                      <saml:AttributeValue>joe@yahoo.com</saml:AttributeValue>
758
                    </saml:Attribute>
759
                  </saml:AttributeStatement>
760
                  <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
761
                </saml:Assertion>
762
763
                <ds:Signature>
764
                  <ds:SignedInfo>
                    <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
765
766
                      Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
767
                    <ds:SignatureMethod
768
                      Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
769
                    <ds:Reference
                      URI="#MsqBody">
770
771
                      <ds:DigestMethod
                        Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
772
773
                      <ds:DigestValue>GyGsF0Pi4xPU...</ds:DigestValue>
774
                    </ds:Reference>
775
                  </ds:SignedInfo>
776
                  <ds:SignatureValue>HJJWbvqW9E84vJVQk...</ds:SignatureValue>
777
                  <ds:KeyInfo>
778
                    <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1"</pre>
                      wssell:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
779
780
          token-profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
                      <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
781
782
                        ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
783
          profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
784
                         a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
785
                       </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
786
                    </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
787
                  </ds:KeyInfo>
788
                </ds:Signature>
789
              </wsse:Security>
790
            </S12:Header>
791
792
            <S12:Body wsu:Id="MsgBody">
              <ReportRequest>
793
794
                <TickerSymbol>SUNW</TickerSymbol>
795
              </ReportRequest>
796
            </S12:Body>
797
          </S12:Envelope>
```

3.5.1.4 Example V2.0

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The following example illustrates the use of the holder-of-key subject confirmation method to establish the correspondence between the SOAP message and the subject of the SAML V2.0 assertion in the

<wsse:Security> header:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
802
803
          <S12:Envelope xmlns:S12="..." xmlns:wsu="...">
804
            <S12:Header>
805
806
              <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsse11="..." xmlns:ds="...">
                <saml2:Assertion xmlns:saml2="..." xmlns:xsi="..."</pre>
807
808
                  ID="_a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc">
809
                <sam12:Subject>
810
                 <saml2:NameID>
811
812
                 </saml2:NameID>
                 <saml2:SubjectConfirmation</pre>
813
814
                      Method="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:holder-of-key">
815
                       <saml2:SubjectConfirmationData</pre>
                          xsi:type="saml2:KeyInfoConfirmationDataType">
816
817
                          <ds:KevInfo>
818
                             <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
819
                          </ds:KeyInfo>
820
                      </saml2:SubjectConfirmationData>
821
                   </saml2:SubjectConfirmation>
822
                </saml2:Subject>
823
                <sam12:Statement>
824
                </saml2:Statement>
825
826
                  <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
827
                </saml2:Assertion>
828
829
                <ds:Signature>
830
                  <ds:SignedInfo>
831
                    <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
832
                      Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
833
                    <ds:SignatureMethod
834
                      Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
835
                    <ds:Reference
                      URI="#MsgBody">
836
837
                      <ds:DigestMethod
838
                         Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
839
                      <ds:DigestValue>GyGsF0Pi4xPU...</ds:DigestValue>
840
                    </ds:Reference>
841
                  </ds:SignedInfo>
                  <ds:SignatureValue>HJJWbvqW9E84vJVQk...</ds:SignatureValue>
842
843
                  <ds:KeyInfo>
844
                    <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1"</pre>
                      wssell:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
845
846
          token-profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0">
847
                      <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
848
                         ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
849
          profile-1.1#SAMLID">
850
                         a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
851
                      </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
852
                    </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
853
                  </ds:KeyInfo>
854
                </ds:Signature>
855
              </wsse:Security>
856
            </S12:Header>
857
858
            <S12:Body wsu:Id="MsgBody">
859
              <ReportRequest>
860
                <TickerSymbol>SUNW</TickerSymbol>
861
              </ReportRequest>
```

```
862 </S12:Body>
863 </S12:Envelope>
```

3.5.2 Sender-vouches Subject Confirmation Method

The following sections describe the sender-vouches method of establishing the correspondence between a SOAP message and the SAML assertions added to the SOAP message according to the SAML profile of WSS: SOAP Message Security.

3.5.2.1 Attesting Entity

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An attesting entity uses the sender-vouches confirmation method to assert that it is acting on behalf of the subject of SAML statements attributed with a sender-vouches SubjectConfirmation element.

Statements attested for by the sender-vouches method MUST be associated, within their containing

872 assertion, with one or more sender-vouches SubjectConfirmation elements.

To satisfy the associated confirmation method processing of the receiver, the attesting entity MUST protect the vouched for SOAP message content such that the receiver can determine when it has been altered by another party. The attesting entity MUST also cause the vouched for statements (as necessary) and their binding to the message contents to be protected such that unauthorized modification can be detected. The attesting entity MAY satisfy these requirements by including in the corresponding wsse:Security header a <ds:Signature element that it prepares by using its key to sign the relevant message content and assertions. As defined by the XML Signature specification, the attesting entity MAY identify its key by including a <ds:KeyInfo> element within the <ds:Signature> element.

A <ds:Signature> element produced for this purpose MUST conform to the canonicalization and token pre-pending rules defined in the WSS: SOAP Message Security specification.

3.5.2.2 Receiver

Of the SAML assertions it selects for processing, a message receiver MUST NOT accept statements of these assertions based on a sender-vouches SubjectConfirmation element defined for the statements (within the assertion) unless the assertions and SOAP message content being vouched for are protected (as described above) by an attesting entity who is trusted by the receiver to act as the subjects and with the claims of the statements.

3.5.2.3 Example V1.1

The following example illustrates an attesting entity's use of the sender-vouches subject confirmation method with an associated <ds:Signature> element to establish its identity and to assert that it has sent the message body on behalf of the subject(s) of the V1.1 assertion referenced by "STR1".

The assertion referenced by "STR1" is not included in the message. "STR1" is referenced by <ds:Reference> from <ds:SignedInfo>. The ds:Reference> includes the STR-transform to cause the assertion, not the <SecurityTokenReference> to be included in the digest calculation. "STR1" includes a <saml:AuthorityBinding> element that utilizes the remote assertion referencing technique depicted in the example of section 3.3.3.

The SAML V1.1 assertion embedded in the header and referenced by "STR2" from <ds:KeyInfo> corresponds to the attesting entity. The private key corresponding to the public confirmation key occurring in the assertion is used to sign together the message body and assertion referenced by "STRI".

```
911
                  MajorVersion="1"
                  MinorVersion="1">
912
913
                  <saml:Conditions</pre>
914
                    NotBefore="2005-05-27T16:53:33.173Z"
915
                    NotOnOrAfter="2005-05-27T16:58:33.173Z"/>
916
                  <saml:AttributeStatement>
917
                    <saml:Subject>
918
                       <saml:NameIdentifier</pre>
919
                         NameQualifier="www.example.com"
                         Format="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.1:nameid-
920
921
          format: X509SubjectName">
                         uid=proxy,ou=system,ou=saml-demo,o=baltimore.com
922
923
                       </saml:NameIdentifier>
924
                       <saml:SubjectConfirmation>
925
                         <saml:ConfirmationMethod>
                           urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:holder-of-key
926
927
                         </saml:ConfirmationMethod>
928
                         <ds:KeyInfo>
929
                           <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
930
                         </ds:KeyInfo>
931
                       </saml:SubjectConfirmation>
932
                    </saml:Subject>
933
                    <saml:Attribute>
934
935
                    </saml:Attribute>
936
937
                  </saml:AttributeStatement>
938
                </saml:Assertion>
939
940
                <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1">
941
                  wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
942
          profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
943
                  <saml:AuthorityBinding xmlns:saml="..."</pre>
944
                     Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:bindings:SOAP-binding"
945
                     Location="http://www.opensaml.org/SAML-Authority"
946
                    AuthorityKind="samlp:AssertionIdReference"/>
947
                  <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="...'</pre>
948
                    ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
949
          profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
950
                     a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdbe
951
                  </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
952
                </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
953
954
                <ds:Signature>
955
                  <ds:SignedInfo>
956
                    <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
957
                       Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
958
                    <ds:SignatureMethod
959
                       Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
                   <ds:Reference URI="#STR1">
960
961
                       <Transforms>
962
                         <ds:Transform
963
                           Algorithm="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-
         200401-wss-soap-message-security-1.0#STR-Transform">
<wsse:TransformationParameters>
964
965
966
                             <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
967
                               Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
968
                           </wsse:TransformationParameters>
969
                         </ds:Transform>
970
                       </Transforms>
971
                       <ds:DigestMethod
972
                         Algorithm= "http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
973
                       <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
974
                    </ds:Reference>
975
                    <ds:Reference URI="#MsgBody">
976
                       <ds:DigestMethod
```

```
977
                         Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
978
                       <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
979
                     </ds:Reference>
980
                   </ds:SignedInfo>
981
                   <ds:SignatureValue>HJJWbvqW9E84vJVQk...</ds:SignatureValue>
982
                   <ds:KevInfo>
983
                     <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR2"</pre>
984
                       wssell:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
985
          token-profile-1.1#SAMLV1.1">
                       <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
986
987
                         ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
988
          profile-1.0#SAMLAssertionID">
989
                          a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
990
                       </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
991
                     </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
992
                   </ds:KeyInfo>
993
                 </ds:Signature>
994
               </wsse:Security>
995
            </S12:Header>
996
997
            <S12:Body wsu:Id="MsgBody">
998
               <ReportRequest>
999
                 <TickerSymbol>SUNW</TickerSymbol>
1000
               </ReportRequest>
1001
            </S12:Body>
1002
          </S12:Envelope>
```

3.5.2.4 Example V2.0

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The following example illustrates the mapping of the preceding example to SAML V2.0 assertions.

```
1005
           <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
           <S12:Envelope xmlns:S12="..." xmlns:wsu="...">
1006
1007
             <S12:Header>
1008
                <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="..." xmlns:wsse11="..." xmlns:ds="...">
    <saml2:Assertion xmlns:saml2="..." xmlns:xsi="..."</pre>
1009
1010
1011
                     ID=" a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc">
1012
                    <sam12:Subject>
1013
1014
                     <saml2:NameID>
1015
1016
                     </saml2:NameID>
1017
                     <saml2:SubjectConfirmation</pre>
                            Method="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:cm:holder-of-key">
1018
1019
                             <saml2:SubjectConfirmationData</pre>
1020
                               xsi:type="saml2:KeyInfoConfirmationDataType">
1021
                                <ds:KeyInfo>
1022
                                   <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
1023
                                </ds:KeyInfo>
1024
                            </saml2:SubjectConfirmationData>
1025
                         </saml2:SubjectConfirmation>
1026
                     </saml2:Subject>
1027
                      <saml2:Statement>
1028
                      </saml2:Statement>
1029
1030
                      <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
1031
                  </saml2:Assertion>
1032
1033
                  <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR1"</pre>
1034
                    wsse11:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
1035
           profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0">
1036
                    <wsse:Reference wsu:Id="..."</pre>
1037
                      URI="https://www.opensaml.org? a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-
1038
           dbd8372ebdbe">
1039
                    </wsse:Reference>
```

```
1040
                 </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
1041
1042
                 <ds:Signature>
1043
                   <ds:SignedInfo>
1044
                     <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
                       Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
1045
1046
                     <ds:SignatureMethod
1047
                       Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
1048
                     <ds:Reference URI="#STR1">
1049
                       <Transforms>
1050
                         <ds:Transform
1051
1052
                        Algorithm="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-
1053
          wss-soap-message-security-1.0#STR-Transform">
1054
                            <wsse:TransformationParameters>
1055
                              <ds:CanonicalizationMethod
                                Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
1056
1057
                           </wsse:TransformationParameters>
1058
                         </ds:Transform>
1059
                       </Transforms>
1060
                       <ds:DigestMethod
1061
                         Algorithm= "http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
1062
                       <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
1063
                     </ds:Reference>
1064
                     <ds:Reference URI="#MsqBody">
1065
                       <ds:DigestMethod
1066
                         Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
                       <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
1067
1068
                     </ds:Reference>
1069
                   </ds:SignedInfo>
1070
                   <ds:SignatureValue>HJJWbvqW9E84vJVQk...</ds:SignatureValue>
1071
                   <ds:KeyInfo>
1072
                     <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="STR2"</pre>
1073
                       wssel1:TokenType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-
1074
          token-profile-1.1#SAMLV2.0">
1075
                       <wsse:KeyIdentifier wsu:Id="..."</pre>
1076
                         ValueType="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-saml-token-
1077
          profile-1.1#SAMLID">
1078
                          a75adf55-01d7-40cc-929f-dbd8372ebdfc
                       </wsse:KeyIdentifier>
1079
1080
                     </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
1081
                   </ds:KeyInfo>
1082
                 </ds:Signature>
               </wsse:Security>
1083
            </S12:Header>
1084
1085
            <S12:Body wsu:Id="MsgBody">
1086
1087
               <ReportRequest>
1088
                <TickerSymbol>SUNW</TickerSymbol>
1089
               </ReportRequest>
1090
            </S12:Body>
1091
          </S12:Envelope>
```

3.5.3 Bearer Confirmation Method

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This profile does NOT require message receivers to establish the relationship between a received message and the statements of any bearer confirmed (i.e., confirmation method urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:cm:bearer) assertions conveyed or referenced from the message. Conformant implementations of this profile MUST be able to process references and convey bearer assertions within <wsse:Security>headers. Any additional processing requirements that pertain specifically to bearer confirmed assertions are outside the scope of this profile.

3.6 Error Codes

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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 the processing of a security header, it MAY choose to report the cause of the error using the SOAP fault mechanism. The SAML token profile of WSS: SOAP Message Security does not require that SOAP faults be returned for such errors, and systems that choose to return faults SHOULD take care not to introduce any security vulnerabilities as a result of the information returned in error responses.

Systems that choose to return faults SHOULD respond with the error codes and fault strings defined in the WSS: SOAP Message Security specification. The RECOMMENDED correspondence between the common assertion processing failures and the error codes defined in WSS: SOAP Message Security are defined in the following table:

Assertion Processing Error	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.</saml:condition>	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
The receiver does not support the SAML version of a referenced or included assertion.	wsse:UnsupportedSecurityToken

The preceding table defines fault codes in a form suitable for use with SOAP 1.1. The WSS: SOAP
Message Security specification describes how to map SOAP 1.1 fault constructs to the SOAP 1.2 fault

1112 constructs.

4 Threat Model and Countermeasures (non-normative)

- 1115 This document defines the mechanisms and procedures for securely attaching SAML assertions to SOAP
- messages. SOAP messages are used in multiple contexts, specifically including cases where the
- message is transported without an active session, the message is persisted, or the message is routed
- through a number of intermediaries. Such a general context of use suggests that users of this profile must
- be concerned with a variety of threats.

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- 1120 In general, the use of SAML assertions with WSS: SOAP Message Security introduces no new threats
- beyond those identified for SAML or by the WSS: SOAP Message Security specification. The following
- 1122 sections provide an overview of the characteristics of the threat model, and the countermeasures that
- SHOULD be adopted for each perceived threat.

4.1 Eavesdropping

- 1125 Eavesdropping is a threat to the SAML token profile of WSS: SOAP Message Security in the same
- manner as it is a threat to any network protocol. The routing of SOAP messages through intermediaries
- increases the potential incidences of eavesdropping. Additional opportunities for eavesdropping exist
- when SOAP messages are persisted.
- 1129 To provide maximum protection from eavesdropping, assertions, assertion references, and sensitive
- message content SHOULD be encrypted such that only the intended audiences can view their content.
- 1131 This approach removes threats of eavesdropping in transit, but MAY not remove risks associated with
- storage or poor handling by the receiver.
- 1133 Transport-layer security MAY be used to protect the message and contained SAML assertions and/or
- references from eavesdropping while in transport, but message content MUST be encrypted above the
- transport if it is to be protected from eavesdropping by intermediaries.

4.2 Replay

- 1137 Reliance on authority-protected (e.g., signed) assertions with a holder-of-key subject confirmation
- mechanism precludes all but a holder of the key from binding the assertions to a SOAP message.
- Although this mechanism effectively restricts data origin to a holder of the confirmation key, it does not, by
- itself, provide the means to detect the capture and resubmission of the message by other parties.
- 1141 Assertions that contain a sender-vouches confirmation mechanism introduce another dimension to replay
- vulnerability if the assertions impose no restriction on the entities that may use or reuse the assertions.
- 1143 Replay attacks can be detected by receivers if message senders include additional message identifying
- 1144 information (e.g., timestamps, nonces, and or recipient identifiers) within origin-protected message
- content and receivers check this information against previously received values.

4.3 Message Insertion

1147 The SAML token profile of WSS: SOAP Message Security is not vulnerable to message insertion attacks.

4.4 Message Deletion

1149 The SAML token profile of WSS: SOAP Message Security is not vulnerable to message deletion attacks.

4.5 Message Modification

- 1151 Messages constructed according to this specification are protected from message modification if receivers
- can detect unauthorized modification of relevant message content. Therefore, it is strongly
- 1153 RECOMMENDED that all relevant and immutable message content be signed by an attesting entity.
- 1154 Receivers SHOULD only consider the correspondence between the subject of the SAML assertions and

- the SOAP message content to have been established for those portions of the message that are protected by the attesting entity against modification by another entity.
- 1157 To ensure that message receivers can have confidence that received assertions have not been forged or
- altered since their issuance, SAML assertions appearing in or referenced from <wsse:Security>
- header elements MUST be protected against unauthorized modification (e.g., signed) by their issuing
- authority or the attesting entity (as the case warrants). It is strongly RECOMMENDED that an attesting
- entity sign any <saml: Assertion> elements that it is attesting for and that are not signed by their
- 1162 issuing authority.
- 1163 Transport-layer security MAY be used to protect the message and contained SAML assertions and/or
- assertion references from modification while in transport, but signatures are required to extend such
- 1165 protection through intermediaries.

1166 4.6 Man-in-the-Middle

- 1167 Assertions with a holder-of-key subject confirmation method are not vulnerable to a MITM attack.
- 1168 Assertions with a sender-vouches subject confirmation method are vulnerable to MITM attacks to the
- degree that the receiver does not have a trusted binding of key to the attesting entity's identity.

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		•

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Prateek Vamsi Ramana Ben Rob Blake Sundeep Coumara	Barbir Mishra Motukuru Turlapi Hammond Philpott Dournaee Peechu Radja	Nortel Oracle Oracle Oracle RSA Security RSA Security Sarvega Sarvega Sarvega
Prateek Vamsi Ramana Ben Rob Blake Sundeep Coumara Pete	Barbir Mishra Motukuru Turlapi Hammond Philpott Dournaee Peechu Radja Wenzel	Nortel Oracle Oracle Oracle RSA Security RSA Security Sarvega Sarvega Sarvega SeeBeyond
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Prateek Vamsi Ramana Ben Rob Blake Sundeep Coumara Pete Manveen Ronald	Barbir Mishra Motukuru Turlapi Hammond Philpott Dournaee Peechu Radja Wenzel Kaur Monzillo	Nortel Oracle Oracle Oracle RSA Security RSA Security Sarvega Sarvega Sarvega SeeBeyond Sun Microsystems Sun Microsystems
Prateek Vamsi Ramana Ben Rob Blake Sundeep Coumara Pete Manveen Ronald Jan	Barbir Mishra Motukuru Turlapi Hammond Philpott Dournaee Peechu Radja Wenzel Kaur Monzillo Alexander	Nortel Oracle Oracle Oracle RSA Security RSA Security Sarvega Sarvega Sarvega SeeBeyond Sun Microsystems Systinet
Prateek Vamsi Ramana Ben Rob Blake Sundeep Coumara Pete Manveen Ronald Jan Symon	Barbir Mishra Motukuru Turlapi Hammond Philpott Dournaee Peechu Radja Wenzel Kaur Monzillo Alexander Chang	Nortel Oracle Oracle Oracle RSA Security RSA Security Sarvega Sarvega Sarvega SeeBeyond Sun Microsystems Systinet TIBCO Software
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