

Draft Standard MEF W128 Draft (R1)

LSO API Security Profile - Implementer's Guide

October 2021

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1 List of Contributing Members

The following members of the MEF participated in the development of this document and have requested to be included in this list.

• To be filled out before Letter Ballot

2 Abstract

This document defines the security profile, security approaches and security architecture for LSO API security using OAuth2 and OIDC within either a centralized or federated identity provider framework.

The intended audience of this document is senior IT security professionals in the telecom industry.

The document first defines the LSO API security architecture and conformance requirements to that architecture. The standard then defines the following JSON security components:

- JWT Best Practices for LSO API Security
- JWKS Endpoints for cryptographic signatures and their verifications
- Structure and conformance requirements for JWSs and JWEs as used in the LSO API Security architecture
- LSO API Payload Authenticity

Lastly, this document lays out a non-normative implementer's guide for applying the LSO API security profile and architecture to LSO APIs' calls in the following order:

- Specified and Unspecified LSO API Behavior
- Success flows for LSO API authentication and authorization
- A brief discussion of common implementation edge cases

3 Terminology and Abbreviations

This section defines the terms used in this document. In many cases, the normative definitions to terms are found in other documents. In these cases, the third column is used to provide the reference that is controlling, in other MEF or external documents.

In addition, terms defined in MEF 10.4 [20] are included in this document by reference and are not repeated in the table below.

Term	Definition	Reference
Account Information Service	Account Information Service Providers are	Open Banking [25]
Providers	authorized entities to retrieve account data provided	
	by service providers.	
AISP	Account Information Service Provider	Open Banking [25]
API	Application Program Interface	MEF 55.1 [21]
Application Program	A software intermediary that allows two applications	MEF 55.1 [21]
Interface	to talk to each other.	
DID	Decentralized Identifier	W3C DIDs [32]
Decentralized Identifier	A globally unique persistent identifier that does not	W3C DIDs [32]
	require a centralized registration authority and is	
	often generated and/or registered cryptographically.	
FAPI	Financial-grade API	OpenID FAPI [31]
Financial-grade API	An industry-led specification of JSON data schemas,	OpenID FAPI [31]
	security, and privacy protocols to support use cases	
	for commercial and investment banking accounts as	
	well as insurance and credit card accounts.	
JavaScript Object Notation	A lightweight data-interchange format.	ECMA JSON [2]
JOSE	JSON Object Signing and Encryption	IANA JOSE [3]
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation	ECMA JSON [2]
JSON Web Encryption	Encrypted content represented using JSON-based	IETF RFC 7516 [14]
	data structures.	
JSON Web Key Set	A set of keys containing the public keys used to	Auth0 JWKS [1]
	verify any JSON Web Token (JWT) issued by the	
	authorization server and signed using an approved	
	signing algorithm such as the recommended RS256	
	(RSA signature with sha-256 hashing).	
JSON Web Signature	Represents content secured with digital signatures or	IETF RFC 7515 [13]
	Message Authentication Codes (MACs) using JSON-	
	based data structures.	
JSON Web Token	An open, industry standard method for representing	IETF RFC 7519 [16]
	claims securely between two parties.	
JWE	JSON Web Encryption	IETF RFC 7516 [14]
JWKS	JSON Web Key Set	Auth0 JWKS [1]
JWS	JSON Web Signature	IETF RFC 7515 [13]
JWT	JSON Web Token	IETF RFC 7519 [16]
LSO	Lifecycle Service Orchestration	MEF 55.1 [21]

Term	Definition	Reference
OAuth2	OAuth 2.0 focuses on client developer simplicity	IETF RFC 6749 [11]
	while providing specific authorization flows for web	
	applications. The OAuth2.0 Framework is defined in	
	RFC 6749	
OIDC	OpenID Connect	OpenID Connect [28]
OpenID Connect	A simple identity layer on top of the OAuth 2.0	OpenID Connect [28]
	protocol. It allows Clients to verify the identity of the	
	End-User based on the authentication performed by	
	an Authorization Server, as well as to obtain basic	
	profile information about the End-User in an	
	interoperable and REST-like manner.	
Relying Party	An OAuth 2.0 Client application that requires user	OpenID Connect [28]
	authentication and claims from an OpenID Connect	
	Provider.	
Representational State	An architectural style for distributed hypermedia	Fielding 2000 [4]
Transfer	systems	
REST	Representational State Transfer	Fielding 2000 [4]
RP	Relying Party	OpenID Connect [28]
Software Statement	A JSON Web Token (JWT) containing client	IETF SSA [8]
Assertion	metadata about an instance of client software. This is	
	used for OpenID Dynamic Client Registration.	
Security Domain	A domain that implements a security policy and is	CNSSI 4009 [3]
	administered by a single authority.	
SSA	Software Statement Assertion	IETF SSA [8]
Third Party Provider	Account Information Service Providers	Open Banking [25]
TPP	Third Party Provider	Open Banking [25]
Trust Domain	Security Domain	This document
VC	Verifiable Credential	W3C VCDM [33]
Verifiable Credential	A tamper-evident credential that has authorship that	W3C VCDM [33]
	can be cryptographically verified.	

Table 1 – Terminology and Abbreviations

4 Release Notes

This draft incorporates the changes from Call for Comments Ballot #1. No known issues remain, however some of the standards referenced are currently in development at MEF. It is not expected they will change in such a way as to materially affect this document. Call for Comments Ballot #2 is currently open and may introduce changes.

The W3C Decentralized Identifier standard is not yet ratified – see Editor Note 1:

5 Compliance Levels

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 (RFC 2119, RFC 8174) when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here. All key words must be in bold text.

Items that are **REQUIRED** (contain the words **MUST** or **MUST NOT**) are labeled as **[Rx]** for required. Items that are **RECOMMENDED** (contain the words **SHOULD** or **SHOULD NOT**) are labeled as **[Dx]** for desirable. Items that are **OPTIONAL** (contain the words **MAY** or **OPTIONAL**) are labeled as **[Ox]** for optional.

Editor Note 1: The W3C Decentralized Identifier standard is currently in the Recommended status before final ratification in 2021. This means the standard in its version 1 will no longer be altered before ratification. Even though the standard may change when it reaches final ratification, it will not impact the use as a reference within this document, as there is no specific functionality dependency.

A paragraph preceded by **[CRa]<** specifies a conditional mandatory requirement that **MUST** be followed if the condition(s) following the "<" have been met. For example, "**[CR1]<[D38]**" indicates that Conditional Mandatory Requirement 1 must be followed if Desirable Requirement 38 has been met. A paragraph preceded by **[CDb]<** specifies a Conditional Desirable Requirement that **SHOULD** be followed if the condition(s) following the "<" have been met. A paragraph preceded by **[COc]<** specifies a Conditional Optional Requirement that **MAY** be followed if the condition(s) following the "<" have been met.

6 Introduction

In a now predominantly digital world, the Telecom industry is not only faced with exponential new business opportunities crossing and blurring traditional lines between industries, but also facing exponential digital threats both from outside as well as within security perimeters as the recent Solar Winds and Kaseya security breaches impacting thousands of companies and dozens of governments amply demonstrate. Cyber criminals, often operating under the direction of state actors, have demonstrated their rapid adaptability to deployed counter measures. This requires that companies do both advanced threat protection and regular cyber security "blocking and tackling" within and across enterprise trust boundaries.

MEF has been leading the industry in B2B automation standards, helping companies to take out operating costs and allowing them to focus on the revenue side of the business. However, the current B2B business automation standards as expressed through the LSO APIs are lacking basic cyber security standards – cyber security "blocking and tackling" – and advanced threat protection. Through the W118 project to establish a Zero Trust Framework standard, MEF is greatly supporting its members in establishing advanced threat protections for their environments. In fact, US President Biden has called out the implementation of Zero Trust Frameworks as mandatory for

US agency systems in June of 2021, highlighting the enormous attention placed on Zero Trust Frameworks on a global scale.

One key prerequisite for a Zero Trust Framework is the implementation of normal cyber security "blocking and tackling" standards as foundational building blocks such as authentication and authorization across enterprise trust boundaries within the context of other MEF standards such as LSO APIs.

Therefore, this standard sets out to provide such context-specific cyber security "blocking and tackling" by providing specific cyber security functional requirements and mechanisms that help to produce consistently secure LSO API based communications between organizations across trust boundaries. This standard's aim is to gain alignment on the detailed LSO API security mechanisms for interface reference points including Sonata, Interlude, Cantata and Allegro.

This document provides a baseline for authentication (verifying the identity of a service requester) and authorization (verifying the allowed scope of access to service provider resources of a service requester) across enterprise trust boundaries between API consumer and provider, the threat models that are addressed, and a list of supported Identity frameworks that will integrate with access policies defined in this document.

Note that the intended audience of this document are senior IT security professionals in the telecom industry.

The scope of this document is to address the following security areas for LSO APIs:

- Authentication Frameworks and their threat models
- Identity Authentication
- Access Claims Requirements
- Authorization Framework
- Access Claims Processing

This standard covers OpenAPI/REST APIs. RestConf and NetConf APIs are out of scope.

Furthermore, this standard will not address the lifecycle (provisioning/removal/updates) of identities and claims (access control policies).

First, and by way to set context, accessing, requesting, and delivering a service between a Buyer and a Seller via LSO APIs always follows the request-response schema; the Buyer requests and the Seller responds at each step of LSO API access, request, and delivery. Note, that this document intentionally does not specify whether a Buyer and a Seller are within the same or a different organization. This document assumes that a Subject and a Seller are in different Trust Domains and, therefore, must apply the LSO API Security Framework to all services crossing trust domains irrespective if they are inter- or intra-organizational. A Trust Domain in the context of this document is equivalent to a Security Domain as defined in CNSSI 4009 [3].

A Trust Domain is a security domain that implements a security Policy and is administered by a single authority. An example of a Trust Domain is an Amazon Web Services Security Zone.

Second, there are three levels of LSO API security across Trust Domains, which are delineated at a high-level below:

- 1. Transport layer security through HTTPS as described in OAuth2 using OAuth2's OpenAPI definitions secure communication channel between Buyer and Seller.
- 2. LSO API access security through the endpoint providing LSO API authentication and authorization answering the question: Am I allowed to access a specific environment?
- 3. Buyer–Seller LSO API security through function-specific scopes and associated authentication and authorization policies Answering the question: Am I allowed to access specific functions/resources in a specific environment and do specific things with that function/resource?

Transport security is considered the 1st level of security and will be aligned with the minimum requirements of the standards referenced in this document – OAuth2, OpenID Connect (OIDC), UK Open Banking and W3C Decentralized Identifiers and W3C Verifiable Credentials – and not further discussed in this document.

This document will provide MEF-specific standards for the 2nd and 3rd level of security.

To provide further context for the subsequent discussions, the document provides concrete examples of what is meant by the 2nd and 3rd level of security as defined above in the two figures below. Since the 1st level is out of scope for this document, this document does not provide an example.

Figure 1 below outlines an example of LSO API Authentication, the 2nd level of security.

API Security General Architecture - Authentication

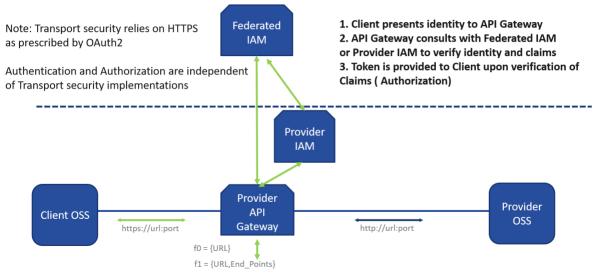


Figure 1 – Example Authentication Flow

The dataflow in Figure 1 is composed of the following steps:

• Buyer's client application presents its identity to the Seller API Gateway

- The Seller's API gateway consults with its internal and/or federated Identity providers to verify the identity and claims presented by the client application
- Upon verification of claims and identity, a token is provided to the client application.

Figure 2 below outlines an example of Buyer–Seller LSO API security through function-specific scopes and associated authentication and authorization policies, 3rd level of security.

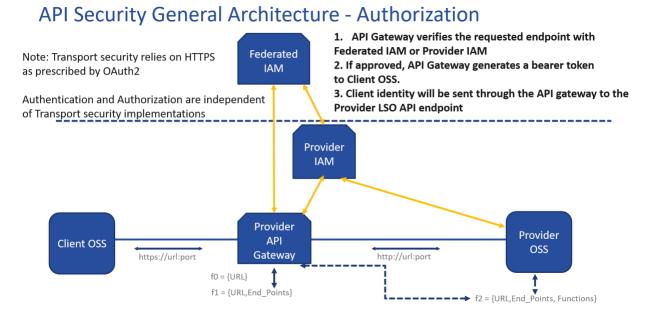


Figure 2 – Example Authorization Framework with Federation

The dataflow in Figure 2 is composed of the following steps:

- Seller's API Gateway verifies whether the endpoint access request is permitted for the Buyer's identity presented in the request
- If the request is allowed, the API gateway generates a bearer token and provides it to the Buyer's client application
- The client's identity is passed through the API gateway to the seller's LSO API endpoint

The document's scope is limited to the definition of the schema of the JSON Web Token (JWT) used to perform authentication of a Buyer and the authorization that said Buyer has to the LSO API endpoint the Buyer is interacting with. The treatment of the response payload sent by the Seller to the Buyer, or from the Buyer to the Seller, is not covered in this document.

Payload security is part of the Zero Trust framework defined in MEF W118 [23]. It should be implemented to ensure both parties use verifiable means to protect the integrity of data being exchanged.

Figure 2 depicts the data flows between Buyer and Seller to obtain an Access (Bearer) token, and how the Bearer token is used to access protected resources.

The document is structured in the following way:

- 1. MEF LSO Security Architecture in Section 7 with
 - a. A discussion on MEF LSO API Security Architecture Prerequisites
 - b. The delineation of Supported Authentication Frameworks and their threat models
 - c. An outline of how to consume Service Provider (SP) owned Resources from another Service Provider (SP)
 - d. A detailed discussion of the recommended Hybrid Grant Flow Request with Intent Id
 - e. A discussion of the Hybrid Grant Flow Parameters
- 2. JWT Security Suite Information v1.0 in section 8 with
 - a. General Guidance for JWT Best Practice
 - b. A brief discussion of JSON Web Key Sets (JWKS) Endpoints.
 - c. General outline for creating a JSON Web Signature Token (JWS) to be used in LSO API Security Architecture.
 - d. General Outline for creating a JSON Web Signature Token (JWE), as an alternative to a JWS, to be used in LSO API Security Architecture.
- 3. A non-normative Implementation Guide in Section 10 with
 - a. Specified and Non-specified Authentication and Authorization behavior
 - b. Detailed Success Flows and examples for LSO API Authentication and Authorization
 - c. Common Implementation Edge Cases

7 MEF LSO Security Architecture

This section details the MEF LSO Security Architecture. This document discusses the following aspects in sequence:

- 1. Prerequisites for utilizing the MEF LSO security
- 2. Supported authentication frameworks and the threat models they address
- 3. MEF LSO API security architecture workflows, data models and JSON security information
- 4. MEF LSO API security model examples & exceptions

7.1 MEF LSO API Security Architecture Prerequisites

Uniqueness and security of identifiers utilized in LSO APIs is particularly important to unambiguously identify Service Providers (SPs) and the Third-Party Providers (TPPs) as their delegates interacting with and through LSO APIs and to keep those interactions secure. Furthermore, and to facilitate automation and real time interactions within and through LSO APIs, discovery of identifiers and an ability to resolve them to the underlying public keys that secure them without having to rely on a trusted 3rd party is also critical.

This document assumes several things to be in place before the MEF LSO API security workflows can successfully commence. We express them in this minimal set of prerequisites below:

- [R1] The SP or its TPP requesting access to a SP LSO API MUST have a unique identifier.
- [R2] Any unique identifier MUST be associated with a set of public keys.

This allows an SP to prove that it controls, and can, thus, authenticate the unique identifier utilized in the LSO API Security context of this document without a verifying 3rd party.

[R3] Any unique identifier MUST be resolvable to its associated public keys used for cryptographic authentication of the unique identifier.

This allows an SP to access the public keys used in the unique identifier authentication independently of the SP or TPP requesting access or any other 3rd party.

[D1] Any unique identifier **SHOULD** follow the W3C DID Core specification.

This requirement supports the self-issuance of unique identifiers that allow for cryptographically verifiable non-repudiation. Note that the usage of commonly used public key infrastructure (PKI) based on X.509 digital certificates is permissible. However, the adoption of W3C DIDs is encouraged based on the threat models to traditional PKI as outlined in Appendix A.

After having discussed the minimal set of requirements on identifiers utilized in LSO APIs, it is important to discuss how these relate to identity and claims about facts relevant to SPs, also called credentials.

[R4] A unique identifier utilized with LSO APIs MUST be linked to a Legal Entity of the service requesting SP or its TPP through a cryptographically signed, cryptographically verifiable, and cryptographically revocable credential based on the public keys associated with the unique identifier of the credential issuer.

In the context of this document, a Legal Entity is an individual, organization or company that has legal rights and obligations.

This document makes no assumptions as to how a legal identity establishing credential is created, which identity credential issuers are mutually acceptable between Buyer and Seller and how these identity credentials are exchanged to establish mutual trust across enterprise trust boundaries to perform authentication and authorization operations for LSO APIs between Buyer and Seller.

Note that credentials utilized with LSO APIs may be self-issued. The acceptance of self-issued credentials is up to the SPs that need to rely on the claim(s) within a self-issued credential.

- [R5] The unique identifier of the Legal Entity of the TPP/SP MUST be the subject of the credential.
- [R6] The unique identifier of the issuer of the Legal Entity credential utilized in LSO APIs MUST have a credential linking the unique identifier of the issuer to an Entity accepted by the SPs.
- [D2] The credential **SHOULD** follow the W3C Verifiable Credential specification.
- [R7] A credential utilized with an LSO API MUST itself have a unique and resolvable identifier.

Note that the unique and resolvable identifier of a credential does not have to be associated with any cryptographic keys.

[R8] If present, the status of a credential utilized within an LSO API **MUST** be discoverable by a party verifying the credential, the credential verifier.

In the context of this document, a credential status signals if a credential has been revoked or not, and a credential verifier is defined per the W3C Verifiable Credential Standard [33].

- [D3] A credential utilized with an LSO API **SHOULD** be discoverable by either SP.
- **[R9]** The presentation of a credential utilized with a LSO API **MUST** be cryptographically signed by the presenter of the credential, also known as the credential holder.

See the W3C Verifiable Credential Standard for a definition of credential holder.

[R10] If a credential holder is a SP, the holder MUST have a unique identifier that has been established within the LSO API security context the holder operates in.

This document makes no assumptions about existing business relationships between SPs. It is in the purview of the relying party whether the above prerequisites are sufficient or whether additional requirements need to be fulfilled. An (OIDC) Relying Party is an OAuth 2.0 Client application that requires user authentication and claims from an OpenID Connect Provider.

7.2 Supported Authentication Frameworks and their Threat Models

In this standard, OAuth 2.0 will be the primary framework for API Security for MEF LSO APIs augmented by both centralized and federated Identity Provider frameworks utilizing JSON Web Tokens (JWTs) [16] for authentication and resource authorization claims following the OpenID Connect standard framework (OIDC) [28]. OAuth 2.0 itself is a framework which can be deployed in many ways. Therefore, and to securely use the OAuth 2.0 framework, a security profile must exist by which Service Providers (SPs) or their ThirdParty Service Providers (TPPs) are certified to have correctly configured their clients and servers. TPPs act as a SP authentication service provider when the SP has outsourced its authentication services to a vendor.

To contextualize and motivate the usage of OAuth2 together with OIDC and the recommendations on authentication flows made, this document briefly discusses the threat model that OAuth2 and OIDC are intended to address. The threat model for OAuth2 and OIDC is documented in IETF RFC 6819 [12]. This document will not detail the individual attack vectors but rather detail the components of the attack surface and the assumptions on the attacker.

That basic architecture and, thus three main attack surfaces, are:

- Authentication/Authorization Servers with elements such as
 - usernames and passwords
 - o client identifiers and secrets

- o client-specific authentication and authorization refresh tokens
- o client-specific access tokens
- o HTTPS certificates or public keys or both
- o per-authorization process data such as redirect URIs

Resource Servers

- o user data (out of scope)
- o HTTPS certificates or public keys or both
- o either authorization server credentials or authorization server shared secret/public key
- o access tokens

Client

- client id (and client secret or corresponding client credential) which could be a W3C
 DID
- o one or more refresh (possibly persistent) tokens and access tokens
- o a typically transient per end user or other security or delegation related context
- trusted certification authority (CA) certificates (HTTPS) or W3C Verifiable Credentials
- o per-authorization process data

Note that a resource server typically has no knowledge of refresh tokens, user passwords, or client secrets to enable separations of concern.

The assumptions on a potential attacker are as follows:

- Full access to the network between the client and authorization servers and the client and the resource server), respectively (Buyer and Seller or vice versa). The attacker may also intercept any communications between Buyer and Seller. However, the attacker is not assumed to have access to communication between the authorization server and resource server since this is within the trust boundary of Buyer and Seller. If an attacker gains access to either trust domain, this framework no longer applies. To mitigate such a scenario, a Zero Trust framework should be implemented.
- An attacker has unlimited resources to mount an attack.
- Two of the three parties involved in the OAuth protocol may collude to initiate an attack
 against the 3rd party. For example, the client (e.g. Buyer) and authorization server (e.g.
 Seller) may be under control of an attacker and collude to trick Buyer or Seller to gain
 access to resources.

Given the data on the above three components we can now detail the full attack surface across all components:

- Client Tokens such as Obtaining Access and Refresh Tokens or client secrets
- Authorization Endpoints such as password phishing
- Token Endpoints such as eavesdropping access tokens
- Obtaining Authorization from:
 - o Authorization 'code'
 - Implicit Grants
 - o Resource Owner Password Credentials
 - Client Credentials
- Refreshing of Access Tokens such as Refresh Token Phishing

• Accessing protected resources such as Replay of Authorized Resource Server Requests

IETF RFC 6819 [12] also lists mitigation strategies against attacks on those attack surfaces such as limiting the length of validity and number of uses of an Access Token.

7.3 Consuming Service Provider (SP)-owned Resources from another SP

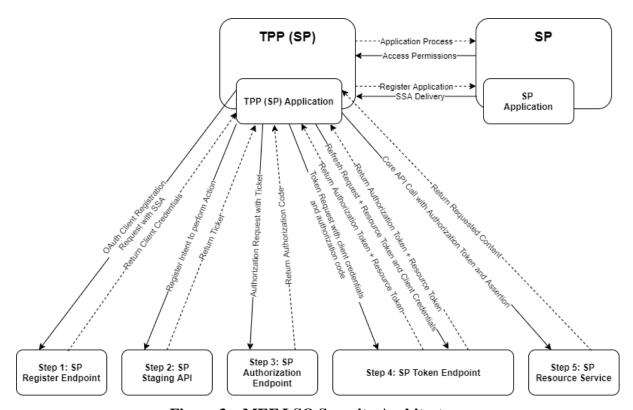


Figure 3 – MEF LSO Security Architecture

For context setting and completeness this document reiterates the typical OAuth2 authentication and authorization process for SP resources such as LSO APIs incorporating OpenID Connect Request Objects as JWTs containing relevant Identity Provider Information as depicted in Figure 1.

Step 1: SP Register Endpoint

A TPP/SP submits a SSA through an OAuth2 client registration request to a known API endpoint of a SP that controls client registration for an LSO API as a resource to be accessed by the TPP/SP. A Software Statement Assertion (SSA) [8] is a JWT containing client metadata about an instance of TPP/SP client software. This is used for OpenID Connect Dynamic Client Registration. The SSA is used by an OAuth client to provide both informational and OAuth protocol-related assertions that aid OAuth infrastructure to both recognize client software, e.g., signed release hash and determine a client's expected requirements when accessing an OAuth-protected resource, e.g., required cryptographic algorithms to be used.

If the SSA meets the OAuth2 requirements of the target SP, either Buyer or Seller, the target SP issues client credentials.

Step 2: SP Staging API

When a TPP/SP wants to access an LSO API either once or repeatedly. the TPP/SP submits an intent to perform a specific LSO API action and why the client wants to perform such an action to a known API endpoint of a SP. If the request is authenticated, the client will receive a ticket back which is necessary to be presented in the next step. A ticket could for example be simply an Id such as an Intent Id. This step is recommended to provide very specific authorizations which might be required for regulatory reasons such as for payment. A ticket functions just like a queue number. Details of a ticket object and its definition are given in the Open Banking standard [26] and will not be repeated here.

Step 3: SP Authorization Endpoint

To receive an authorization token for the LSO API (not the specific function), the TPP/SP submits the ticket from step 2 in an authorization request to a known API endpoint of a SP. And if the TPP/SP is both authenticated and the ticket validated, the SP providing the LSO API will return an authorization code. This authorization code will be used to obtain the fine-grained authorization to the desired function.

Step 4: SP Token Endpoint

Once an authorization code to access the domain of the LSO API has been obtained by the TPP/SP, the TPP submits a token request to a known API endpoint of a SP containing the client credential and the authorization token. If there is an existing authorization policy for the LSO API associated with the client credential at the token endpoint, an authorization token – that the TPP/SP can access a very specific LSO API functional endpoint and may or may not include specific fine-grained authorizations and cryptographic material – and a resource token – that the TPP/SP can access a specific resource, typically a specific server or specific serverless function and may or may not include specific resource metadata and cryptographic material – are issued to the TPP/SP. Note that if the original intent was to access the LSO API repeatedly the authorization and resource tokens will be time bound and need to be refreshed. Otherwise, they are typically single use only.

Step 5: SP Resource Server

The TPP/SP can now finally access the detailed LSO API function on the resource server through a known API endpoint of a SP, by calling a single function LSO API endpoint on the resource server in a request containing the authorization and resource tokens and the LSO API endpoint payload. If the resource server validates the authorization token and the resource token, the LSO API request is executed, and the function specific response is generated and sent to the TPP/SP.

There are two possible operating models that this document needs to accommodate, see figure above:

- **Model 1:** An SP, as Buyer or Seller, is operating its own authentication and resource infrastructure. In this model the TPP is the SP.
- Model 2: An SP, as Buyer or Seller, outsourced/delegated either its authentication or resource infrastructure or both to a 3rd party, a TPP. In this model the TPP is different from the SP owning the resource.

Note that as a prerequisite to **Step 1: SP Register Endpoint**, the SP receiving the registration request needs to have a notion of the TPP/SP and its identity submitting the request.

Furthermore, since SPs TPP/SP client requirements are SP specific, these requirements are out of scope of this document as well. This means that for Step 1, this document simply refers to the OpenID Connect Dynamic Client Registration standard, and there in particular Section 3.1: Client Registration Request [28]. It is recommended that SPs follow the OpenID Connect Discovery standard [30] to publish their OAuth2 client requirements.

Below, Model 2 is discussed because it is more general, and, where required, this document will highlight any adjustments to Model 2 to accommodate Model 1.

See the OpenID Connect Core standard, section 6 [28] for necessary OIDC flow details not discussed below.

The OpenID Connect Request object in the above figure uses the same claims' object for specifying claim names, priorities, and values. However, if the request object is used, the claims object becomes a member in an assertion that can be signed and encrypted, allowing the SP to authenticate the request directly (Model 1) or from its TPP (Model 2) and ensure it has not been tampered with. The OpenID Connect request object can either be passed as a query string parameter, a JWS or a JWE or can be referenced at a protected endpoint.

In addition to specifying a ticket, the TPP (SP) can optionally require a minimum strength of authentication context or request to know how long ago the requesting SP was authenticated. Multiple tickets could be passed, if necessary. Note, this feature is fully specified in the OpenID Connect standard, therefore, there is no need for any proprietary implementations.

Full accountability is available as required by all participants. Not only can the SP prove that they received the original request from the TPP (Model 2) or the other SP (Model 1), but the TPP (Model 2) or SP (Model 1) can prove that the access token that comes back was the token that was intended to be affiliated to this specific request.

7.4 Hybrid Flow Request with Intent Id

Within the OpenID Connect Framework there are three types of authentication flows:

- 1. Authentication Code Flow
- 2. Implicit Flow
- 3. Hybrid Flow

These flows will be combined with OpenID Connect claims to integrate authorization within authentication flows.

The Hybrid Flow incorporating an Intent is the recommended approach because it not only addresses the attacks outlined in IETF RFC 6819 [12] but also Identity Provider Mix Up attacks. A so called 'cut and pasted code attack' where the attacker exchanges the 'code' in the authorization response with the victim's 'code' obtained by the attacker through another attack. The attacker uses the 'code' in a session to feed to the client to obtain an access token with the victim's privileges. Furthermore, registering an intent simplifies audit reporting when the API

accesses sensitive data or triggers sensitive operations. This flow has also been adopted by the Open Banking consortium. Since authorization claims will be included in the flow after authentication, it is called Hybrid Grant Flow.

This section describes parameters that should be used with a hybrid grant flow request such that an intent id can be passed from the TPP/SP to a SP.

Prior to this step:

- The TPP/SP (Buyer) would have been granted a credential by another SP (Seller)
- The Seller would have applied an authorization policy to the Buyer credential
- The TPP/SP would have registered a client application (Step 1 from section 7.3)
- The TPP/SP would have already registered an intent with a SP (Step 2 from section 7.3)
- The SP would have responded with an intent id (Step 2 from section 7.3).

7.5 Hybrid Grant Flow Parameters

7.5.1 Minimum Conformance Requirements

7.5.1.1 Overview

This section describes the minimal set of authorization request parameters that an SP must support. The **technical definitive reference** is specified in OpenID Connect Core Errata 1 Section 6.1 (Request Object) [28].

- [R11] All standards and guidance MUST be followed as per the OpenID Connect (OIDC) specification.
- [R12] A SP MUST support the issuance of OIDC ID Tokens as defined in the OIDC specification.
- [O1] A TPP/SP MAY request that an ID token is issued.

Parameter	MEF LSO	Notes
response_type	Required	OAuth2 specification requires that this parameter is provided in an OAuth2 authentication workflow. The value is set to 'code id_token', 'code id_token token' or 'code'.
		[R13] TPPs/SPs MUST provide this parameter and set its value to one of the three above depending on what the SP supports as described in its well-known configuration endpoint. See definition of the well-known configuration endpoint in the OpenID Connect Discovery 1.0 specification [30].
		 [R14] The values for these configuration parameters MUST match those in the OIDC Request Object, if present. Note: Risks have been identified with the "code" flow that can be mitigated with the hybrid flow. The MEF LSO API Profile allows SPs to indicate what grant types are supported using the standard well-known configuration endpoint.
		 [R15] (OIDC) Relying Parties (RPs) MUST take care in validating that code swap attacks have not been attempted. An (OIDC) Relying Party is an OAuth 2.0 Client application that requires user authentication and claims from an OpenID Connect Provider.
client_id	Required	[R16] TPPs/SPs MUST provide this value and set it to the client id issued to them by the SP to which the authorization code grant request is being made.
		[D4] The client_id SHOULD be self-issued by the TPP as per the W3C DID standard, if it has been linked to either directly or indirectly through a verifiable credential as per the W3C Verifiable Credential standard
redirect_uri	Required	[R17] TPPs/SPs MUST provide the URI to which they want the resource owner's user agent to be redirected to after authorization.
		[R18] This URI MUST be a valid, absolute URL or resolvable URI that was registered during Client Registration with the SP
		[R19] In case the client_id is a DID, the URI MUST be a Service Endpoint in the DID document of the registering client_id.
scope	Required	[R20] TPPs/SPs MUST specify the scope that is being requested.
		[R21] At a minimum, the scope parameter MUST contain openid
		[R22] The scopes MUST be a sub-set of the scopes that were registered during client registration with the SP.

state	Recommended	[O2] TPPs/SPs MAY provide a state parameter.	
		The state parameter may be of any format, and is opaque to the SP.	
		[CR1]<[O1] If the state parameter is provided, the SP MUST play-back the value in the redirect to the TPP/SP.	
		[D5] SPs SHOULD include the s_hash – the hash of the state as the state parameter.	
request	Required	[R23] The TPP MUST provide a value for this parameter.	
		[R24] The parameter MUST contain a JWS or JWE that is signed by the TPP.	
		[R25] The JWS/JWE payload MUST consist of a JSON object containing an OIDC request object as per OIDC Core specification 6.1.	
		 [R26] The OIDC request object MUST contain a claims section that includes an ID Token having as a minimum the following element: meflso_intent_id: that identifies the intent id for which 	
		this authorization is requested	
		[R27] The intent id MUST be the identifier for an intent returned by the SP to TPP that is initiating the authorization request.	
		[O3] acr_values: TPPs MAY provide a space-separated string that specifies the acr values that the Authorization Server is being requested to use for processing this Authentication Request, with the values appearing in order of preference.	
		 [R28] The acr_values MUST be one of: urn:meflso:sca: To indicate that secure customer authentication must be carried out urn:meflso:ca: To request that the customer is authenticated without using a SCA, if permitted 	
		[O4] The OIDC request object MAY contain claims to be retrieved via the UserInfo endpoint only if the endpoint is made available and listed on the well-known configuration endpoint on the authorization server.	
		[O5] The OIDC request object MAY contain additional claims to be requested should the SPs authorization server support them; these claims will be listed on the OID well-known configuration endpoint.	

Table 2 – Minimum Conformance

7.5.1.2 Example for minimum conformance hybrid grant flow profiles

The examples below are non-normative.

7.5.1.2.1 HTTP Request Example

```
GET /authorize?
response_type=code%20id_token
&client_id=s6BhdRkqt3
&state=af0ifjsldkj&
&scope=openid
&nonce=n-0S6_WzA2Mj
&redirect_uri=https://api.mytpp.com/cb
&request=CJleHAiOjE0OTUxOTk1ODd.....JjVqsDuushgpwp0E.5leGFtcGxlIiwianRpIjoiM....J
leHAiOjE0.olnx_YKAm2J1rbpOP8wGhi1BDNHJjVqsDuushgpwp0E
```

Figure 4 - HTTP Request - Hybrid Grant Flow

7.5.1.2.2 Request JWS/JWE

Note that the Example below is without Base64 encoding. Also note that "essential" is an optional property. It indicates whether the Claim being requested is an Essential Claim. If the value is true, this indicates that the Claim is an Essential Claim. For instance, the Claim request:

```
"auth time": {"essential": true}
```

can be used to specify that it is Essential to return an auth_time Claim Value. If the value is false, it indicates that it is a Voluntary Claim. The default is false.

By requesting Claims as Essential Claims, the RP indicates to the SP that releasing these Claims will ensure a smooth authorization for the specific task requested by a SP.

Note that even if the Claims are not available because the SP did not authorize their release or they are not present, the authorization server must not generate an error when Claims are not returned, whether they are Essential or Voluntary, unless otherwise specified in the description of the specific claim, see the OIDC Core Specification.

```
{
    "alg": "RS256",
    "kid": "GxlIiwianVqsDuushgjE00TUxOTk"
}

{
    "aud": "https://api.acme.com",
    "iss": "s6BhdRkqt3",
    "response_type": "code id_token",
    "client_id": "s6BhdRkqt3",
    "redirect_uri": "https://api.mytpp.com/cb",
```

Figure 5 – Request JWS/JWE

7.5.1.2.3 id_token returned

Note that Sub is being populated with an EphemeralId of the IntentId.

```
{
   "alg": "RS256",
   "kid": "12345",
   "typ": "JWT"
}

{
   "iss": "https://api.acme.com",
   "iat": 1234569795,
   "sub": "urn-acme-quote-58923",
   "acr": "urn:meflso:ca",
   "meflso_intent_id": "urn-acme-quote-58923",
   "aud": "s6BhdRkqt3",
   "nonce": "n-0S6_WzA2Mj",
   "exp": 1311281970,
   "s_hash": "76sa5dd",
   "c_hash": "asd097d"
   }
}
.
{
<<Signature>>
}
```

Figure 6 – id_token Return

7.5.1.2.4 id_token returned

Identity Claims and IntentId with sub being populated with an UserIdentifier

```
"alg": "RS256",
  "kid": "12345",
  "typ": "JWT"
   "iss": "https://api.acme.com",
   "iat": 1234569795,
   "sub": "ralph.bragg@raidiam.com",
   "acr": "urn:meflso:sca",
   "address": "2 Thomas More Square",
   "phone": "+447890130559",
   "meflso intent id": "urn-acme-quote-58923",
   "aud": "s6BhdRkqt3",
   "nonce": "n-0S6 WzA2Mj",
   "exp": 1311281970,
   "s hash": "76sa5dd",
   "c_hash": "asd097d"
{
<<Signature>>
```

Figure 7 – Another Response

Implementers should note that ID Token Claims details should follow the JWT Best Current Practices [6] section 3.1.

The different token data properties are listed in the table below. The last column describes what the value of the field means.

Field	Definition	Notes	Value(s)
iss	Issuer of the token	Token issuer will be specific to the business.	A resolvable URI such as a URL or a
		[R29] The iss MUST be JSON string that represents the issuer identifier of the authorization server as defined in RFC 7519 [16]. When OAuth 2.0 is used, the value is the redirection URI. When OpenID Connect is used, the value is the issuer value of the authorization server.	DID

sub	Token subject identifier	[R30] Sub MUST be a unique and non-repeating identifier for the subject, i.e. the Buyer.	Non-Identity Services Providers will use the
		[R31] The sub identifier MUST be the same when created by the Authorization and Token endpoints during the Hybrid flow.	Intent/Consent ID for this field.
			Identity Services Providers will choose a value at the discretion of the SP's.
meflso_intent_id	Intent ID of the originating request	[R32] meflso_intent_id MUST be a unique and non-repeating identifier containing the intent_id.	Use the Intent/Consent ID for this field.
		[O6] This field MAY duplicate the value in "sub" for many providers.	
aud	Audience that the ID token is intended for	[R33] OpenID Connect protocol mandates aud MUST include the client ID of the TPP/SP. See also the FAPI Read Write / OpenID Standard [31].	See requirement
exp	Token expiration date/time	[R34] Exp MUST be included in the Claim ID token The validity length will be at the discretion of the SPs such that it does not impact the functionality of the APIs. For example, an expiry time of 1 second is insufficient for all Resource Requests.	Expressed as an epoch, i.e., number of seconds from 1970-01-01T0:0:0Z as measured in UTC. RFC 7519 [16]
iat	Token issuance date/time	[R35] The iat property MUST be included in the Claim ID token	Expressed as an epoch, i.e., number of seconds from 1970-01-01T0:0:0Z as measured in UTC.
auth_time	Date/time when End User was authorised	 [O7] The max_age property MAY be requested in the Claim ID Token. [CR2]< [O2] If the max_age request is made or max_age is included as an essential claim, auth_time MUST be supported by the SP. 	Expressed as an epoch, i.e., number of seconds from 1970-01-01T0:0:0Z as measured in UTC.

Nonce	Used to help mitigate against replay attacks Authentication Context Class Reference	 [R36] The nonce property MUST be in the Claim ID Token The nonce value is passed in as a Request parameter. [R37] The nonce MUST be replayed in the ID token when the token is utilized in a subsequent access request. [R38] The acr property MUST be included in the Claim ID Token The acr is an identifier that qualifies what conditions were satisfied when the authentication was performed. 	The values to be provided will be urn:meflso:ca or urn:meflso:sca.
		[D6] The acr SHOULD correspond to one of the values requested by the acr_values field on the request. However, even if not present on the request, the SP should populate the acr with a value that attests that the SP performed or NOT performed an appropriate level of authentication such that the SP believes it has met the requirement for "Strong Customer Authentication" (SCA).	
		SPs that do not wish to provide this as a claim should remove it from the well-known configuration endpoint. As per OIDC Core, marking a claim as "essential" and a SP cannot fulfil it, then an error should not be generated.	
amr	Authentication Methods References	The amr property specifies the methods that are used in the authentication. For example, this field might contain indicators that a password was supplied. Note that the industry direction is to consolidate on Vectors of Trust: RFC 8485 [18]. Hence, this field may be replaced shortly. Also note that amr does not give the flexibility to address all the actual particulars of both the authentication and the identity that is utilized.	

azp	Authorized party	The azp property is the authorized party to which the ID Token was issued. [O8] The azp property MAY be present in the Claim ID Token.	A resolvable URI such as a URL or a DID
		[CR3]<[O3] If the azp property is present, it MUST contain the OAuth 2.0 Client ID of this party. This Claim is only needed when the ID Token has a single audience value, and that audience is different than the authorized party. It may be included even when the authorized party is the same as the sole audience.	
s_hash	State Hash Value	[D7] The s_hash property SHOULD be present in the Claim ID Token The state hash, s_hash, in the ID Token is to protect the state value.	Its value is the base64url encoding of the left-most half of the hash of the octets of the ASCII representation of the state value, where the hash algorithm used is the hash algorithm used in the algHeader Parameter of the ID Token's JOSE Header. For instance, if the alg is HS512, hash the code value with SHA-512, then take the left-most 256 bits and base64url encode them. The s_hashvalue is a case sensitive string.

at_hash	Access Token	[O9] The Claim ID Token MAY be issued from	Its value is the
	Hash Value	the Authorization Endpoint with an	base64url encoding
		access_token value.	of the left-most half
		decess_token value.	of the hash of the
		[CR4]<[O4] The at_hash property MUST be	octets of the ASCII
		included in the Claim ID Token	representation of the
			access_token value,
			where the hash
			algorithm used is the
			hash algorithm used
			_
			in the alg Header
			Parameter of the ID
			Token's JOSE
			Header. For
			instance, if the alg is
			RS256, hash the
			access_token value
			with SHA-256, then
			take the left-most
			128 bits and
			base64url encode
			them. The at_hash
			ŭ
c_hash			
	value.	the Authorization Endpoint with a code.	base64url encoding
			of the left-most half
		·	
		included in the Claim ID Token	octets of the ASCII
			representation of the
			code value, where
			the hash algorithm
			used is the hash
			algorithm used in
			the alg Header
			Parameter of the ID
			Token's JOSE
			Header.
c_hash	Code hash value.	[O10] The Claim ID Token MAY be issued from the Authorization Endpoint with a code. [CR5]<[O5] The c_hash property MUST be included in the Claim ID Token	value is a case sensitive string. Its value is the base64url encodi of the left-most h of the hash of the octets of the ASC representation of code value, when the hash algorithm used is the hash algorithm used in the alg Header Parameter of the Token's JOSE

Table 3 – ID Token Claims Details

JWT Security Suite Information v1.0

This document utilizes, and where required concretizes for the usage with this standard, the JOSE standard v1.0 [5]. Note that all JOSE standard V1.0 requirements are carried over as a minimal requirement set in this document unless otherwise explicitly indicated in this document.

8.1 General Guidance for JWT Best Practice

See RFC 8725 [19] for the recommended JWT approach.

8.2 JWKS Endpoints

Upon issuance of a certificate from a JWKS [1] hosting service, a JWK Set will be created or updated for a given TPP/SP.

- [D8] All participants **SHOULD** include the "kid" and "jku" properties of the key that was used to sign the payloads in the JWKS issuance request.
- [**D9**] The JKU property **SHOULD** be considered a hint only and relying parties should derive and then validate wherever possible the appropriate JWKS endpoint for the message signer.

See Auth0 JWKS [1], section 4.1

Note that as certificates are added and removed the JWKS endpoint will be updated automatically.

8.3 General outline for creating a JWS

8.3.1 Step 1: Select the certificate and private key that will be used for signing the JWS

- [R39] As the JWS is used for non-repudiation, it MUST be signed using one of JWS issuer's private keys.
- [R40] The private key MUST have been used by the issuer to get a signing certificate issued from an identity provider.
- [R41] The signing certificate MUST be verifiably valid at the time of creating the JWS.

8.3.2 Step 2: Form the JOSE Header

[R42] The JWS JOSE header is a JSON object which MUST consist of minimally two fields, also called the claims, as specified below:

Claim	Description		
alg	The algorithm that will be used for signing the JWS.		
	[R43] The alg property MUST be taken from the list of valid JOSE algorithms can be found in IANA JOSE [5], section 3.1.		
	In addition, this document recommends the following algorithms:		
	[D10] ED25519, also as a JWK, with sha3-256 as the hashing algorithm SHOULD also be used as an algorithm for JWS signing		

Claim	Description			
kid	The "kid" (key ID) Header Parameter is a hint indicating which key was used to secure the JWS.			
	[R44] The kid property MUST match the certificate id of the certificate selected in step 1.			
	[D11]	The receiver SHOULD use this value to identify the certificate to be used for verifying the JWS.		

Table 4 – Forming the JOSE Header

8.3.3 Step 3: Form the payload to be signed

The JSON payload to be signed must have the following claims:

Claim	Description
iss	The issuer of the JWS.
	[R45] The iss property MUST match the dn of the certificate selected in step 1.

Table 5 – Signing the JSON Payload

The payload to be signed is computed as:

```
payload = base64Encode (JOSEHeader) + "." + base64Encode(json)
```

Where:

- **JOSEHeader:** is the header created in Step 2 and
- **json:** is the message for the original data to be sent

8.3.4 Step 4: Sign and encode the payload

The signed payload is computed as follows:

```
signedAndEncodedPayload = base64Encode (encrypt(privateKey, payload))
```

Where:

- **privateKey:** is the private key selected in step 1
- payload: is the payload computed in Step 3
- **encrypt:** Is an encryption function that implements the `alg` identified in Step 2.

8.3.5 Step 5: Assemble the JWS

The JWS is computed as follows:

Where:

- payload: is the payload computed in Step 3
- **signedAndEncodedPayload:** is the signed element computed in Step 5.

8.4 General Outline for creating a JWE

The implementation guide is based on RFC 7516 [14].

JSON Web Encryption (JWE) represents encrypted content using JSON data structures and base64url encoding. These JSON data structures may contain whitespace and/or line breaks before or after any JSON values or structural characters, in accordance with Section 2 of RFC 7516 [14]. A JWE represents these logical values:

- JOSE Header
- JWE Encrypted Key
- JWE Initialization Vector
- JWE AAD (Additional Authenticated Data)
- JWE Ciphertext
- JWE Authentication Tag

For a JWE, the JOSE Header members are the union of the members of these values:

- JWE Protected Header
- JWE Shared Unprotected Header
- JWE Per-Recipient Unprotected Header

JWE utilizes authenticated encryption to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the plaintext and the integrity of the JWE Protected Header and the JWE AAD.

This document recommends the following for the JWE Compact Serialization as a representation:

[D12] JWE Shared Unprotected Header or JWE Per-Recipient Unprotected Header SHOULD not be used.

In this case, the JOSE Header and the JWE Protected Header are the same.

In this serialization, the JWE is represented as the following concatenation:

```
BASE64URL(UTF8(JWE Protected Header)) || '.' ||
BASE64URL(JWE Encrypted Key) || '.' ||
BASE64URL(JWE Initialization Vector) || '.' ||
BASE64URL(JWE Ciphertext) || '.' ||
BASE64URL(JWE Authentication Tag)
```

8.4.1 Step 1: Select the certificate and private key that will be used for signing the JWE

[R46] As the JWS is used for non-repudiation, it MUST be signed using one of JWS issuer's private keys.

- [R47] The private key MUST have been used by the issuer to get a signing certificate issued from an identity provider.
- [R48] The signing certificate MUST be verifiably valid at the time of creating the JWE.

8.4.2 Step 2: Form the JOSE Header of the JWE

[R49] The JWE JOSE header is a JSON object which MUST consist of minimally four fields, also called the claims, as specified below:

Claim	Description		
alg	The algorithm that will be used for signing the JWS.		
	[R50] The alg property MUST be taken from the list of valid JOSE algorithms in RFC 7518 [15], section 3.1		
	[R51] The NULL cipher MUST NOT be used as an alg value in JWTs. In addition, this document recommends the following algorithms:		
	[D13] ED25519, also as a JWK, with sha3-256 as the hashing algorithm SHOULD be used.		
kid	The "kid" (key ID) Header Parameter is a hint indicating which key was used to secure the JWS. [R52] The kid property MUST match the certificate id of the certificate selected in step 1.		
	[D14] The receiver SHOULD use this value to identify the certificate to be used for verifying the JWS.		

enc	The "enc" (encryption algorithm) Header Parameter identifies the content encryption algorithm used to perform authenticated encryption on the plaintext to produce the ciphertext and the Authentication Tag. [R53] The selected encryption algorithm MUST be an AEAD algorithm with a specified key length. The encrypted content is not usable if the "enc" value does not represent a
	supported algorithm. [D15] "enc" values SHOULD either be registered in the IANA "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry established by [(IANA - JOSE, 2020)] or be a value that contains a Collision-Resistant Name.
	The "enc" value is a case-sensitive ASCII string containing a String Or URI value.
	[R54] The "enc" property MUST be present
	[R55] The "enc" property MUST be understood and processed by implementations.
	A list of defined "enc" values for this use can be found in the IANA registry established in IANA JOSE [5], with the initial contents of this registry are the values defined in Section 5.1.
accessjwk	This parameter has the same meaning, syntax, and processing rules as the "jwk" Header Parameter defined in Section 7.1.3 of RFC 7516 [14], except that the key is the public key to which the JWE was encrypted with; this can be used to determine the private key needed to decrypt the JWE.

Table 6 – Forming the JOSE Header of the JWE

8.4.3 Step 3: Form the encryption key, initialization vector and AAD

- 1. Determine the Key Management Mode employed by the algorithm used to determine the Content Encryption Key value (set in "alg").
- 2. When Key Wrapping, Key Encryption, or Key Agreement with Key Wrapping are employed, generate a random CEK value. See RFC 4086 [10] for considerations on generating random values.
 - [R56] The CEK MUST have a length equal to that required for the content encryption algorithm.
- 3. When Direct Key Agreement or Key Agreement with Key Wrapping are employed, use the key agreement algorithm to compute the value of the agreed upon key. When Direct Key Agreement is employed, let the CEK be the agreed upon key. When Key Agreement with Key Wrapping is employed, the agreed upon key will be used to wrap the CEK.
- 4. When Key Wrapping, Key Encryption, or Key Agreement with Key Wrapping are employed, encrypt the CEK to the recipient and let the result be the JWE Encrypted Key.

- 5. When Direct Key Agreement or Direct Encryption are employed, let the JWE Encrypted Key be the empty octet sequence.
- 6. When Direct Encryption is employed, let the CEK be the shared symmetric key.
- 7. Compute the encoded key value BASE64URL(JWE Encrypted Key).
- 8. Generate a random JWE Initialization Vector of the correct size for the content encryption algorithm (if required for the algorithm); otherwise, let the JWE Initialization Vector be the empty octet sequence.
- 9. Compute the encoded Initialization Vector value BASE64URL(JWE Initialization Vector).
- 10. Create the JSON object(s) containing the desired set of Header Parameters, which together comprise the JOSE Header: one or more of the JWE Protected Header. There are no unprotected headers in the JWE compact serialization representation.
- 11. Compute the Encoded Protected Header value BASE64URL(UTF8(JWE Protected Header)).
- 12. Let the Additional Authenticated Data encryption parameter be ASCII(Encoded Protected Header).

8.4.4 Step 4: Form the JWE Ciphertext and final JWE

The JSON payload to be encrypted must have the following claims:

Claim	Description
iss	The issuer of the JWS.
	[R57] The iss property MUST match the dn of the certificate selected in step 1.

Table 7 – The Issuer

- 1. Encrypt the BASE64URL (JSON message) using the CEK, the JWE Initialization Vector, and the Additional Authenticated Data value using the specified content encryption algorithm to create the JWE Ciphertext value and the JWE Authentication Tag (which is the Authentication Tag output from the encryption operation).
- 2. Compute the encoded ciphertext value BASE64URL(JWE Ciphertext).
- 3. Compute the encoded Authentication Tag value BASE64URL(JWE Authentication Tag).
- 4. If a JWE AAD value is present, compute the encoded AAD value BASE64URL(JWE AAD).
- 5. Create the desired serialized output. The Compact Serialization of this result is the string BASE64URL(UTF8(JWE Protected Header)) || '.' || BASE64URL(JWE Encrypted Key) || '.' || BASE64URL(JWE Initialization Vector) || '.' || BASE64URL(JWE Ciphertext) || '.' || BASE64URL(JWE Authentication Tag).

9 LSO API Payload Authenticity

Up to this point we have only discussed security of the LSO API payload and LSO API response as described in the previous section. However, of equal importance is LSO API payload and LSO API response authenticity since the LSO API payload and LSO API response may be constructed by an entity other than Buyer or Seller. Therefore, this document only focuses on the authenticity

of the LSO API payload and LSO API response since the authenticity of the Subject and Seller have already been established before an LSO API payload and LSO API response is authenticated.

LSO API payload / response authenticity is a special case of Message Authenticity which is defined as the outcome of message authentication, which is defined in NIST SP 800-152 [24] as a process that provides assurance of the integrity of messages, documents, or stored data. The following requirements are focused on authenticity and privacy.

[R58] Delegation of Trust MUST NOT be permitted if Buyer / Seller and their intended delegates are not in the same Trust Domain

Delegation of Trust refers to the process whereby a Buyer / Seller imparts their inherent level of trust within their Trust Domain to another Buyer / Seller.

Message Authenticity, and therefore, LSO API payload / response authenticity, in the context of this document specifies how a Message Payload needs to be structured such that it can be authenticated independent of the authentication of a Buyer or Seller.

[D16] To ensure Message Authenticity for a request from the Buyer to the Seller, the semantics of a Message Payload SHOULD contain the elements of Table 8 below.

Element	Example
A previously established shared secret between	An alphanumeric string such as
Subject and Seller	"ABC1234X7CV5"
A new shared secret between Buyer and Seller	An alphanumeric string such as
	"CBA1234X7CV5"
A domain identifier for the next response from	google.com
Seller to Buyer, if the Buyer's domain identifier	
changes compared to the domain identifier of the	
Buyer's request	
An endpoint identifier for the next response from	/quotemanagement/notification
Seller to Buyer, if the Buyer's domain identifier	
changes compared to the domain identifier of the	
Buyer's request	

Table 8 – Message Payload Request Required Elements

- [D17] To ensure Message Authenticity for a response from the Seller to the Buyer, the semantics of a Message Payload SHOULD contain the elements of Table 8 where the roles of Buyer and Seller are reversed.
- [D18] All Policies in a Buyer's or Seller's Trust Domain SHOULD enforce [D16] and [D17]

10 Implementation Guide (Non-Normative)

10.1 Overview

This section provides an implementation perspective of the MEF LSO API Security Profile. For generality, this document will use an abstracted API model. Any application to a specific API is simply a swapping out of the relevant API data model.

10.2 Specified Behavior

The implementation of the abstracted API is based on the known configurations listed in the subsections below.

10.2.1 Client Types

As per the OAuth 2.0 specification [11], section 2.1, the Confidential Client Type is illustrated in the sample API as it can maintain its own credentials.

10.2.2 Grant Types

10.2.2.1 OIDC Hybrid Flow (response_type = code id_token)

• The sample API illustrates the use of the *request_type = code id_token* for the OIDC Hybrid Flow implementation.

The SP may optionally choose to return Refresh Tokens for the Hybrid Grant Flow when issuing an access token.

10.2.2.2 Client Credentials Grant Type using multiple scopes (scope = specific functions)

- The Client Credentials Grant Type (RFC 6749 [11], section 4.4) is only used when the TPP/SP requires an access token (on behalf of itself) to access an API resource e.g.
 - o Quotes:

```
POST /quote
GET /quote-submissions/{QuoteSubmissionId}
```

Figure 8 – Client Credential Type Using Multiple Scopes

- In this example, an SP enables the same Confidential Client (ClientId) access to an API called Quote. A TPP/SP may, therefore, choose to request either a single scope or multiple scope(s) as the TPP/SP may want to use the *same* access token across multiple API e.g., Quote and Order.
- Only valid API scopes will be accepted when generating an access token, for example *POST /quote* or *GET/quote-submissions*.
- Access tokens generated by a Client Credentials grant may not return any refresh tokens (as per the OAuth 2.0 specification [11]).
- Scopes are delimited by using a comma, for example POST /quote, GET /hub.

10.2.3 Access Tokens

- For one or more APIs, the access token must be obtained within a secure, server-side context between the TPP/SP and the SP.
- Access Tokens must be validated by the TPP/SP as outlined within RFC 6749 [11].

10.2.4 Refresh Tokens

- SPs may optionally return a refresh token [29] when an authorization request is successfully processed at the token endpoint. The Hybrid Grant Flow supports the provisioning of refresh tokens.
- The sample API implementation below cites an example for SPs requesting a Refresh Token to refresh an expired access token prior to invoking the /quote resource.
- Refresh Tokens must be validated as outlined in OpenID Registration [29].

10.2.5 ID Tokens

- ID Tokens must be validated by the TPP/SP as outlined in OpenID Registration [29].
- TPPs/SPs must use the *meflso_intent_id* claim to populate and retrieve the IntentID, e.g., QuoteID in our example, for any required validation.
- The full set of claims that can be represented within an ID Token are documented in the Request Object and ID Token Section of the above MEF LSO API Security Profile.

10.2.6 Authorization Codes

• Authorization codes must be validated by the TPP/SP as outlined in RFC 6749 [11].

10.3 Non-Specified Behavior

The current MEF LSO APIs are not specified for the following configurations:

10.3.1 Client Types

• As per the OAuth 2.0 specification [11], section 2.1, the Public Client Type has not been defined for MEF LSO APIs.

10.3.2 Grant Types

10.3.2.1 OIDC Hybrid Flow (response type = code id token token or response type = code token)

• Forces an access token to be returned from the SP authorization endpoint (instead of a token endpoint).

10.3.2.2 OIDC Implicit Flow (response_type=id_token token or response_type=id_token)

• The Implicit Flow does not authenticate the Client that is invoking the request.

10.3.2.3 Client Credentials Grant Type (scope=openid email profile address phone)

• Requesting OIDC specific scopes or any non-specified scopes when using the Client Credentials grant.

10.3.3 Validity Lengths (Authorization Code, Access Token, ID Token, Refresh Token)

Each SP's authorization / resource server will be configured independently to comply with internal SP security policies and guidelines. The LSO API specifications do not mandate validity lengths.

10.3.3.1 Authorization Code

• The OAuth 2.0 Specification [11] suggests an authorization code should be short lived to a maximum of 10 minutes. Any codes exceeding this limit are to be rejected.

10.3.3.2 ID Token

- ID Token claims (*exp* and *iat*) determine its validity.
- Returned with the authorization code when the Hybrid Grant Flow (code id_token) is initiated.

10.3.3.3 Access Token

- The *expires_in* attribute returned by the authorization server when an access token is generated determines its validity.
- Access tokens are generally short lived, and when they expire, are then exchanged for another using a longer-lived refresh token.
- Refer to Section 16.18 of OpenID Connect Core [28], Lifetimes of Access Tokens and Refresh Tokens.

10.3.3.4 Refresh Token

- The *expires_in* attribute returned by the authorization server when a refresh token is generated determines its validity.
- Refresh tokens are generally longer lived in comparison to access tokens.
- Refer to Section 16.18 of OpenID Connect Core [28], Lifetimes of Access Tokens and Refresh Tokens.

10.4 Success Flows

In the sections below, the document outlines the success flow path of proper client application authentication and authorization using the sample API.

10.4.1 Quote API Specification

The sequence diagram below highlights the standard OAuth 2.0 Client Credentials Grant and OIDC Hybrid Grant flow with intent that are used by the sample API.

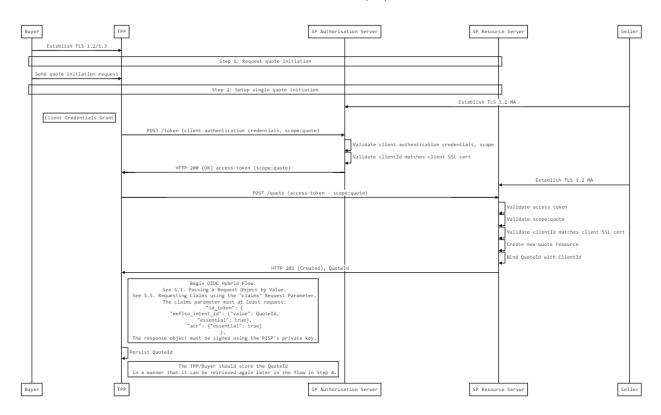


Figure 9 – Sample Quote API OAuth2/OIDC Authentication/Authorization Flow

10.4.2 Client Credentials Grant Type (OAuth 2.0)

10.4.2.1 Summary

This grant type is used by the Buyer (through the TPP) in Step 2 to setup a single quote with the Seller (SP).

- 1. The TPP initiates an authorization request using valid Client Credentials Grant (RFC 6749 [11], section 4.4) type and scope(s).
- 2. The SP authorization server validates the Client Authentication request from the TPP and generates an access token response when the request is valid.
- 3. The TPP uses the access token to create a new Quote resource against the SP resource server.
- 4. The SP resource server responds with the QuoteId for the resource it has created.
- 5. The Client Credentials Grant may optionally be used by the TPP in Step 5 to retrieve the status of a Quote or Quote-Submission where no active access token is available.

10.4.3 OIDC Hybrid Flow

10.4.3.1 Summary

• The Hybrid Grant flow [26] is the recommendation from the MEF LSO Security Profile and the FAPI Specification [31] for FAPI Read/Write. The Hybrid flow prevents IdP mix-up-attacks as documented in Mix-up Mitigation [7].

- This is initiated at the end of Step 2 by the TPP after the QuoteId is generated by the SP and returned to the TPP.
- This is used in a redirect across the Buyer and Seller (SP) in Step 3 for the Buyer to authorize consent with the SP for the TPP to proceed with the Quote.
- This is used across the TPP and SP in Step 4 by exchanging the authorization code for an access token to create the Quote-Submission resource.

10.4.4 HTTP Request and Response Examples

10.4.4.1 Step 1 – Request Quote Initiation

There are no requests and responses against the sample Quote API in this Step for the Buyer, TPP and Seller/SP.

10.4.4.2 Step 2 – Setup Single Quote Initiation

TPP obtains an access token using a Client Credentials Grant Type. The scope *quote* must be used. When an access token expires, the TPP will need to re-request for another access token using the same request below.

Request: Client Credentials using private_key_jwt	Response: Client
	Credentials
POST /as/token.oauth2 HTTP/1.1 Host: https://authn.acme.com Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded Accept: application/json grant_type=client_credentials &scope=quote &client_assertion_type=	<pre>HTTP/1.1 200 Success Content-Length: 1103 Content-Type: application/json Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2022 15:18:28 GMT { "alg": "RS256", "kid": "12347", "typ": "JWT" } . "access_token": "2YotnFZFEjrlzCsicMWpAA", "expires_in": 3600, "token_type": "bearer", "scope":"quote" } . <<signature>></signature></pre>

Table 9 – Non-Base64 JWT client_assertion

Then the TPP uses the access token (with *quote* scope) from the SP to invoke the sample Quote API.

Request: Quote API	Response: Quote API
POST /quote HTTP/1.1 Authorization: Bearer 2YotnFZFEjr1zCsicMWpAA x-idempotency-key: FRESCO.21302.GFX.20 x-fapi-mef-id: mef/2021/011 x-fapi-buyer-last-logged-time: 2021-06-13T11:36:09 x-fapi-buyer-ip-address: 104.25.212.99 x-fapi-interaction-id: 93bac548-d2de-4546-b106- 880a5018460d Content-Type: application/json Accept: application/json	HTTP/1.1 201 Created Content-Type: application/json x-fapi-interaction-id: 93bac548-d2de- 4546-b106-880a5018460d { "alg": "RS256", "kid": "12347", "typ": "JWT"
<pre>{ "alg": "RS256", "kid": "12345", "typ": "JWT" } . { "Data": {} } . <<signature>></signature></pre>	<pre>{ "Data": {} } . <<signature>></signature></pre>

Table 10 – Single Quote Initiation

10.4.4.3 Step 3 - Authorize Consent

Then the TPP receives a QuoteId from the SP (Seller). The TPP then creates an authorization request (using a signed, and possibly encrypted, JWT request containing the QuoteId as a claim) for the Buyer/TPP to consent to the Quote directly with their Seller/SP. The request is an OIDC Hybrid Grant flow (requesting for code and id_token)

Request: OIDC Hybrid Grant Flow	Response: OIDC Hybrid Grant Flow
Sourced from the MEF LSO Security Profile Request Object section GET /authorize? response_type=code id_token &client_id=s6BhdRkqt3 &state=af0ifjsldkj &scope=openid quote	After the Buyer has consented directly with the SP the SP validates the authorization request and generates an auth code and ID token
&nonce=n-0S6_WzA2Mj &redirect_uri=https://api.mytpp.com/cb &request=CJleHAiOjE0OTUxOTk1ODdJjVqsDuushgpwp0E.5leGFtcGxlI iwianRpIjoiMJleHAiOjE0.olnx_YKAm2J1rbpOP8wGhi1BDNHJjVqsDuushgpwp0E	HTTP/1.1 302 Found Location: https://api.mytpp.com/cb#
<pre>{ "alg": "", "kid": "GxlIiwianVqsDuushgjE00TUxOTk" } .</pre>	<pre>code=SplxlOBeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA &id_token=eyJ0 NiJ9.eyJ1c I6IjIifX0.DeWt4Qu ZXso &state=af0ifjsldkj</pre>
"iss": "https://api.acme.com", "aud": "s6BhdRkqt3", "response_type": "code id_token",	

```
"client id": "s6BhdRkqt3",
   "redirect uri": "https://api.mytpp.com/cb",
   "scope": "openid , POST /quote, GET /quote",
   "state": "af0ifjsldkj",
   "nonce": "n-0S6 WzA2Mj",
   "max age": 86400,
   "claims":
     "userinfo":
       "meflso_intent_id": {"value": "urn:acme:intent:58923",
"essential": true}
     },
     "id_token":
       "meflso intent id": {"value": "urn:acme:intent:58923",
"essential": true},
       "acr": {"essential": true,
                "values": ["urn:meflso:sca"
                  1 } } }
      }
<<signature>>
```

Table 11 - Non-Base64-encoded Example of the Request Parameter Object

Then, the Buyer is redirected to the TPP. The TPP will now possess the Authorization Code and ID Token from the SP (Seller). Note at this point, there is no access token. The TPP will now introspect the ID Token and use it as a detached signature to check:

- The hash of the authorization code to prove it has not been tampered with during redirect (comparing the hash value against the c_hash attribute in ID Token)
- The hash of the state to prove it has not been tampered with during redirect (comparing the state hash value against the s_hash attribute in the ID Token)

```
Example: ID Token

{
    "alg": "RS256",
    "kid": "12345",
    "typ": "JWT"
}

.
    "iss": "https://api.acme.com",
    "iat": 1234569795,
    "sub": "urn:acme:quote:58923",
    "acr": "urn:meflso:ca",
    "meflso_intent_id": "urn:acme:quote:58923",
    "aud": "s6BhdRkqt3",
    "nonce": "n-086_WzA2Mj",
    "exp": 1311281970,
    "s_hash": "76sa5dd",
    "c_hash": "asd097d"
}
.
<<signature>>
```

Table 12 – ID Token Example

Once the state and code validations have been confirmed as successful, the TPP will proceed to obtain an access token from the SP/Seller using the authorization code it now possesses. The TPP will present its authorization code together with the private_key_jwt. The access token is required by the TPP to submit the Quote on behalf of the Buyer. The *quote* scope should already be associated with the authorization code generated in the previous step.

```
Request: Access Token Request using Authorization Code and private_key_jwt
                                                                           Response: Access Token
POST /as/token.oauth2 HTTP/1.1
                                                                           HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Host: https://authn.acme.com
                                                                           Content-Type:
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
                                                                           application/json
Accept: application/json
                                                                           Cache-Control: no-store
grant type=authorization code
                                                                           Pragma: no-cache
&code=SplxlOBeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA
&redirect uri=https://api.mytpp.com/cb
                                                                            "access token":
&client assertion type=
    urn 83Aietf 83Aparams 83Aoauth 83Aclient-assertion-type 83Ajwt-bearer
                                                                           "Slav32hkKG",
                                                                            "token_type": "Bearer",
&client assertion=eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJpc3MiOiJodHRw
"expires in": 3600
vbSIsIm5iZiI6MTQ5OTE4MzYwMSwiZXhwIjoxNDk5MTg3MjAxLCJpYXQi0jE0OTkxODM2MD
EsImp0aSI6ImlkMTIzNDU2IiwidHlwIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly9leGFtcGx1LmNvbS9yZWdpc3Rlc
iJ9.SAxPMaJK wYl W2idTQASjiEZ4UoI7-P2SbmnHKr6LvP8ZJZX6JlnpK xClJswAni1T
p1UnHJslc08JrexctaeEIBrqwHG18iBcWKjhHK2Tv5m4nbTsSi1MFQ01MUTRFq3 LQiHqV2
M8Hflv9q9YaQqxDa4MK0asDUtE zYMHz8kKDb-jj-Vh4mVDeM4 FPiffd2C5ckjkrZBNOK0
01Xktm7xTqX6fk56KTrejeA4x6D 1ygJcGfjZCv6Knki7Jl-6MFwUKb9ZoZ9LiwHf51LXPuy
QrOyM0pONWKj9K4Mj7I4GPGvzyVqpaZUgjcOaZY rlu p9tnSlE781dDLuw
  "alg": "RS256",
  "kid": "12345",
  "typ": "JWT"
  "iss": "s6BhdRkqt3",
  "sub": "s6BhdRkqt3",
  "exp": 1499187201,
  "iat": 1499183601,
  "jti": "id123456",
  "aud": "https://authn.acme.com/as/token.oauth2"
<<signature>>
```

Table 13 - Non-Base64 JWT Client Assertion

10.4.4.4 Step 4 - Create Quote-Submission

The TPP has an access token which can be used to create a Quote-Submission (Step 4). The TPP must obtain the QuoteId (Intent ID) so that the Quote request is associated with the correct QuoteId. This is sourced from the QuoteId claim from the signed ID Token (default). The TPP will need to decode the ID Token JWT and locate the claim attribute associated with the QuoteId.

Once the previous step is completed, the TPP can now invoke the /quote-submissions API endpoint to commit the Quote using the access token and QuoteId in the payload of the request.

Request: quote-submissions	Response: quote-submissions
POST /quote-submissions HTTP/1.1 Authorization: Bearer SlAV32hkKG x-idempotency-key: FRESNO.1317.GFX.22 x-fapi mef-id: mef/2021/011 x-fapi-buyer-last-logged-time: 2020-06-13T11:36:09	HTTP/1.1 201 Created x-fapi-interaction-id: 93bac548- d2de-4546-b106-880a5018460d Content-Type: application/json
x-fapi-buyer-ip-address: 104.25.212.99 x-fapi-interaction-id: 93bac548-d2de-4546-b106-880a5018460de9699 Content-Type: application/json Accept: application/json	{ "alg": "RS256", "kid": "12347", "typ": "JWT"
{ "alg": "RS256", "kid": "12345", "typ": "JWT"	'. { "Data": {} }
<pre>} . { "Data": {} }</pre>	< <signature>></signature>
. < <signature>></signature>	

Table 14 – Non-Base64 JWT Quote Submission

10.4.4.5 Step 5 – Get Quote-Submission Status

The TPP can query for the status of a Quote-Submission by invoking the /quote-submissions API endpoint using the known QuoteSubmissionId. This can use an existing access token with *quote* scope or the TPP/SP can obtain a fresh access token by replaying the client credentials grant request as per Step 2 – Setup Single Quote Initiation.

```
Request: quote-submissions/{QuoteSubmissionId}
                                                      Response: quote-submissions
                                                      HTTP/1.1 200 OK
                                                      x-fapi-interaction-id: 93bac548-d2de-4546-
GET /quote-submissions/58923-001 HTTP/1.1
                                                      b106-880a5018460d
Authorization: Bearer SlAV32hkKG
                                                      Content-Type: application/json
x-fapi mef-id: mef/2021/011
x-fapi-buyer-last-logged-time: 2020-06-13T11:36:09
x-fapi-buyer-ip-address: 104.25.212.99
                                                        "alg": "RS256",
x-fapi-interaction-id: 93bac548-d2de-4546-b106-
                                                        "kid": "12347",
880a5018460d
                                                        "typ": "JWT"
Accept: application/json
                                                        "Data": {...}
                                                      <<siqnature>>
```

Table 15 - Non-Base64 JWT Quote Submission Status

Afterwards, a TPP can also optionally query for the status of a Quote resource by invoking /quote/{QuoteId} API endpoint. This can use an existing access token with *quote* scope or the TPP can obtain a fresh access token by replaying the client credentials grant request as per Step 2 – Setup Single Quote Initiation.

10.5 Edge Cases (Non-Normative)

This section provides further information on potential, common edge cases that may arise during the implementation of this standard. The document continues to use the Quote API example for specificity. However, the edge cases are general in nature, and not constrained to said API.

10.5.1 Buyer Consent Authorization Interrupt with Seller

API	Scenario	Workflow Step	Impact	Solution Options
Any	Due to an interruption,	Step 3:	Resource	The TPP may choose to implement a separate
	the Buyer does not	Authorize	Status, in	follow up process which reminds the Buyer to
	complete the	Consent	the	complete their authorization consent steps
	Authorization of the API		example	with the SP. This would imply re-using the
	request with the SP		Quote,	assigned unique resource ID, e.g., the
	when redirected by the		remains as	QuoteId, that has a status and re-issuing
	TPP (for Quote API		Pending	another Hybrid Grant Flow request to the SP.
	after creating a QuoteId)			The implementation of how the follow up
				process is initiated is in the competitive space
				for the TPPs/SPs to decide.

Table 16 - Buyer Consent Authorization Interruption

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Appendix A Why Decentralized Public Key Infrastructure? (Informative)

Currently 3rd parties such as Domain Name Services (DNS) registrars, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), X.509 Certificate Authorities (CAs), or social media companies are responsible for the creation and management of online identifiers and the secure communication between them.

As evidenced over the last 20+ years, this design has demonstrated serious usability and security shortcomings.

When DNS and X.509 Public Key Infrastructure (PKIX) as described in NIST publication SP 800-32 was designed, the internet did not have a way to agree upon the state of a registry (or database) in a reliable manner with no trust assumptions. Consequently, standard bodies designated trusted 3rd parties (TTPs) to manage identifiers and public keys. Today, virtually all Internet software relies on these authorities. These trusted 3rd parties, however, are central points of failure, where each could compromise the integrity and security of large portions of the Internet. Therefore, once a TTP has been compromised, the usability of the identifiers it manages is also compromised.

As a result, companies spend significant resources fighting security breaches caused by CAs, and public internet communications that are both truly secure and user-friendly are still out of reach for most.

Therefore, this standard suggests an identity approach where every identity is controlled by its Principal Owner and not by a 3rd party, unless the Principal Owner has delegated control to a 3rd party. A Principal Owner is defined as the entity controlling the public key(s) which control the identity and its identifiers upon inception of the identity.

Identity in the context of this document is to mean the following:

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Identity = <Identifier(s)> + <associated data>
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where associated data refers to data describing the characteristics of the identity that is associated with the identifier(s). An example of such associated data could be an X.509 issues by a CA.

Such an approach suggests a decentralized, or at least strongly federated, infrastructure. Decentralized in this context means that there is no single point of failure in the PKI where possibly no participants are known to one another. And strongly federated in this context means that there is a known, finite number of participants, without a single point of failure in the PKI. However, a collusion of a limited number of participants in the federated infrastructure may still lead to a compromised PKI. The consensus thresholds required for a change in the infrastructure needs to be defined by each identity federation.

For a LSO APIs to properly operate, communication must be trusted and secure. Communications are secured through the safe delivery of public keys tied to identities. The Principal Owner of the identity uses a corresponding secret private key to both decrypt messages sent to them, and to prove they sent a message by signing it with its private key.

PKI systems are responsible for the secure delivery of public keys. However, the commonly used X.509 PKI (PKIX) undermines both the creation and the secure delivery of these keys.

In PKIX services are secured through the creation of keys signed by CAs. However, the complexity of generating and managing keys and certificates in PKIX have caused companies to manage the creation and signing of these keys themselves, rather than leaving it to their clients. This creates major security concerns from the outset, as it results in the accumulation of private keys at a central point of failure, making it possible for anyone with access to that repository of keys to compromise the security of connections in a way that is virtually undetectable.

The design of X.509 PKIX also permits any of the thousands of CAs to impersonate any website or web service. Therefore, entities cannot be certain that their communications are not being compromised by a fraudulent certificate allowing a PITM (Person-in-the-Middle) attack. While workarounds have been proposed, good ones do not exist yet.

Decentralized Public Key Infrastructure (DPKI) has been proposed as a secure alternative. The goal of DPKI is to ensure that, unlike PKIX, no single third-party can compromise the integrity and security of a system employing DPKI as a whole.

Within DPKI, a Principal Owner can be given direct control and ownership of a globally readable identifier by registering the identifier for example in a Distributed Ledger, often referred to as a Blockchain, or other system that guarantees data integrity without a central point of failure. Simultaneously, Distributed Ledgers allow for the assignment of arbitrary data such as public keys to these identifiers and permit those values to be globally readable in a secure manner that is not vulnerable to the PITM attacks that are possible in PKIX. This is done by linking an identifier's lookup value to the latest and most correct public keys for that identifier. In this design, control over the identifier is returned to the Principal Owner.

Therefore, it is no longer trivial for any one entity to undermine the security of the entire DKPI system or to compromise an identifier that is not theirs overcoming the challenges of typical PKI.

Furthermore, DPKI requires a public registry of identifiers and their associated public keys that can be read by anyone but cannot be compromised. As long as this registration remains valid, and the Principal Owner is able to maintain control of their private key, no 3rd party can take ownership of that identifier without resorting to direct coercion of the Principal Owner. Any Principal Owner in a DPKI system must be able to broadcast a message if it is well-formed within the context of the DPKI. Other peers in the system do not require admission control. This implies a decentralized consensus mechanism naturally leading to the utilization of systems such as distributed ledgers. Therefore, given two or more histories of updates, any Principal Owner must be able to determine which one is preferred due to security by inspection. This implies the existence of a method of ascertaining the level of resources backing a DPKI history such as the hash power in the Bitcoin blockchain based on difficulty level and nonce.

Requirements of identifier registration in DPKI is handled differently from DNS. Although registrars may exist in DPKI, these registrars must adhere to several requirements that ensure that identities belong to the entities they represent. This is achieved the following way:

- Private keys must be generated in a manner that ensures they remain under the Principal Owner's control.
- Generating key pairs on behalf of Principal Owner must not be allowed.

- Principals Owners must always be in control of their identifiers and the corresponding public keys. However, Principal Owners may extend control of their identifier to third parties, if they prefer, for example for public key recovery purposes.
- Extension of control of identifiers to 3rd parties must be an explicit, informed decision by the Principal Owner of such identifier.
- Private keys must be stored and/or transmitted in a secure manner.
- No mechanism should exist that would allow a single entity to deprive a Principal Owner of their identifier without their consent. This implies that:
 - Once a namespace for an identity is created it must not be possible to destroy it.
 - Namespaces in a DPKI must not contain blacklisting mechanisms that would allow anyone to invalidate identifiers that do not belong to them.
 - Once set, namespace rules within a DPKI must not be altered to introduce any new restrictions for renewing or updating identifiers. Otherwise, it would be possible to take control of identifiers away from Principals Owners without their consent.
- The rules for registering and renewing identifiers in a DPKI must be transparent and expressed in simple terms.

Note that if registration is used as security to an expiration or other policy, the Principal Owner must be explicitly and timely warned that failure to renew the registration on time could result in the Principal Owner losing control of the identifier.

- Also, within a DPKI, processes for renewing or updating identifiers must not be modified to introduce new restrictions for updating or renewing an identifier, once issued.
- Finally, within a DPKI all network communications for creating, updating, renewing, or deleting identifiers must be sent via a non-centralized mechanism. This is necessary to ensure that a single entity cannot prevent identifiers from being updated or renewed.

While the above might not yet be common practice, DPKI mitigates the PKIX threat model, and is either already in use as with the state government of British Columbia in Canada, or under active development and regulatory consideration as within EU countries such as Germany to meet the EU's General Data Privacy Regulation directive or with the Department of Homeland Security in the US.