# Connection types

### Pin Connection

The PIN Connection mechanism is similar to the Direct connection mechanism except that the process is initiated on an administration device by requesting assignment of a new authentication PIN. The PIN is then input to the connecting device to authenticate the request.

<include=..\Examples\ArchitectureConnectPIN.md>

If the Device Profile fingerprint is known at the time the PIN is generated, this can be bound to the PIN authorization assertion to permit connection of a specific device.

### EARL/QR Code Connection

The EARL/QR code connection mechanisms are used to connect a constrained device to a Mesh profile by means of an Encrypted Authenticated Resource Locator, typically presented as a QR code on the device itself or its packaging.

Since the meshman tool does not support QR input, it is decoded using a separate tool to recover the UDF EARL which is presented as a command line parameter:

<include=..\Examples\ArchitectureConnectQR.md>