



# SAML V2.0 Metadata Extensions for Registration and Publication Information Version 1.0

## Committee Specification 01

03 April 2012

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This prose specification is one component of a Work Product which also includes:

- XML schema: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/Post2.0/saml-metadata-rpi/v1.0/cs01/xsd/>

#### Related work:

This specification defines extensions for use with:

- *Metadata for the OASIS Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) V2.0*. March 2005. OASIS Standard. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/v2.0/saml-metadata-2.0-os.pdf>.

#### Declared XML namespace:

- `urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:metadata:rpi`

**Abstract:**

This document defines a set of extensions to SAML metadata that provide information about the creation and intended usage of the metadata document and information about who and how particular entities were registered.

**Status:**

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Security Services (SAML) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the “Latest version” location noted above for possible later revisions of this document.

Technical Committee members should send comments on this Work Product to the Technical Committee’s email list. Others should send comments to the Technical Committee by using the “Send A Comment” button on the Technical Committee’s web page at <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/security/>.

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[open.org/security/saml/Post2.0/saml-metadata-rpi/v1.0/cs01/saml-metadata-rpi-v1.0-cs01.html](http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/Post2.0/saml-metadata-rpi/v1.0/cs01/saml-metadata-rpi-v1.0-cs01.html).

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# 1 Introduction

SAML Metadata [SAML2Meta] provides a mechanism for describing the information necessary for various SAML actors to interact. However, it does not provide basic information which may facilitate the business processes surrounding the production, consumption or use of metadata. For example, when a metadata document was created, when an entity was first registered, etc.

The extensions defined in this document are informed by the common registration/publication model found in other network architectures (e.g., DNS, PKI). In this case the registrar is an organization that accepts metadata for a particular entity and vouches for some, or all, of the data contained therein. The publisher is responsible for making information collected from registrars or other publishers available, hopefully in a scalable manner, to interested consumers.

## 1.1 Terminology and Notation

The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this specification are to be interpreted as described in IETF RFC 2119 [RFC 2119].

Conventional XML namespace prefixes are used throughout the listings in this specification to stand for their respective namespaces as follows, whether or not a namespace declaration is present in the example:

Prefix	XML Namespace	Comments
saml:	urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion	This is the SAML V2.0 assertion namespace defined in the SAML V2.0 core specification [SAML2Errata].
md:	urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata	This is the SAML V2.0 metadata namespace defined in the SAML V2.0 metadata specification [SAML2-Meta].
mdrpi:	urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:metadata:rpi	The namespace defined by this document.
xsd:	http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema	This namespace is defined in the W3C XML Schema specification [Schema1]. In schema listings, this is the default namespace and no prefix is shown.
xsi:	http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance	This is the XML Schema namespace for schema-related markup that appears in XML instances [Schema1].

This specification uses the following typographical conventions in text: `<ns:Element>`, `Attribute`, `Datatype`, `OtherCode`.

This specification uses the following typographical conventions in XML listings:

```
Listings of XML schemas appear like this.
```

```
Listings of XML examples appear like this. These listings are non-normative.
```

## 1.2 Normative References

[RFC 2119] S. Bradner. *Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels*. IETF RFC 2119, March 1997. <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>.

[SAML2Errata] OASIS Approved Errata, *SAML V2.0 Errata*, October 2009. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/v2.0/sstc-saml-approved-errata-2.0.pdf>.

[SAML2Meta] OASIS Standard, *Metadata for the OASIS Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) V2.0*. March 2005. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/v2.0/saml-metadata-2.0-os.pdf>.

- [Schema1]** H. S. Thompson et al. XML Schema Part 1: Structures. World Wide Web Consortium Recommendation, May 2001. See <http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-1-20010502/>.
- [Schema2]** Paul V. Biron, Ashok Malhotra. *XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes*. World Wide Web Consortium Recommendation, May 2001. See <http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-2-20010502/>.

---

## 25 2 Metadata Extensions for Registration and 26 Publication Information

### 27 2.1 Registration Information

28 The registration information extension is used to provide information about the registrar of an entity. That  
29 is, the entity that took in SAML metadata, verified the metadata according to its registration policy, and  
30 made the information available to a wider audience. The entity registrar can be thought of as similar to a  
31 DNS registrar.

32 The `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>` container element, defined below, **MUST** appear within the  
33 `<md:Extensions>` element of `<md:EntityDescriptor>` or `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` elements.  
34 The use of `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>`, or any other element defined in this section, outside of that  
35 context is not defined by this specification.

36 The `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>` element **MUST NOT** appear more than once within the `<md:Ex-`  
37 `tensions>` element of a given `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` or `<md:EntityDescriptor>` element.  
38 When a `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>` element appears in the `<md:Extensions>` element of a  
39 `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` element it applies to all descendant `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` and  
40 `<md:EntityDescriptor>` elements. That is to say, this is equivalent to putting an identical  
41 `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>` on every descendant `<md:EntityDescriptor>`. When used in this  
42 manner, descendant `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` and `<md:EntityDescriptor>` elements **MUST**  
43 **NOT** contain a `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>` element in their `<md:Extensions>` element.

#### 44 2.1.1 Element `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>`

45 The `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>` contains information that describes the registrar of an entity.

46 `registrationAuthority` [Required]

47 The unique identifier of the authority that registered the entity. It is **RECOMMENDED** that this be  
48 a URL that resolves to a human readable page describing the registrar authority (e.g., the  
49 registrar's home page).

50 `registrationInstant` [Optional]

51 The instant the entity was registered with the authority. This attribute **SHOULD** be populated for  
52 all newly registered entities but is optional because the registration instant may not have been  
53 tracked by the registrar for existing entities.

54 Time values **MUST** be expressed in the UTC timezone using the 'Z' timezone identifier.

55 `<mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy>` [Optional]

56 The policy under which the entity was registered. The lack of this element indicates that the  
57 registrar has not disclosed its registration policy. It does not indicate that the registrar lacks a  
58 registration policy.

59 There **MUST NOT** be more than one `<mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy>`, within a given  
60 `<mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>`, for a given language.

```
61 <element name="RegistrationInfo" type="mdrpi:RegistrationInfoType" />  
62 <complexType name="RegistrationInfoType">  
63   <sequence>  
64     <element ref="mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy" minOccurs="0"  
65       maxOccurs="unbounded" />  
66     <any namespace="##other" processContents="lax" minOccurs="0"/>
```

```
67         maxOccurs="unbounded" />
68     </sequence>
69     <attribute name="registrationAuthority" type="string" use="required" />
70     <attribute name="registrationInstant" type="dateTime" />
71     <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax" />
72 </complexType>
```

## 73 2.1.2 Element <mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy>

74 The <mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy> element is a URL to a localized registration policy of the registrar.  
75 The URL MUST represent a single, immutable, policy document. Any changes made to an existing policy  
76 document MUST result in a new URL. The URL SHOULD resolve to a human readable form of the policy  
77 document for the entire period in which the policy may be in use.

```
78 <element name="RegistrationPolicy" type="md:localizedURIType" />
```

## 79 2.2 Publication Information

80 The publication information extension provides information that helps uniquely identify a specific publica-  
81 tion of metadata and provide some information about its intended use. The ability to uniquely identify a  
82 particular publication can be very helpful in troubleshooting issues as well as facilitating the identification  
83 of the path a particular bit of metadata took before it arrived at a consumer (see section 2.3).

84 The <mdrpi:PublicationInfo> element, defined below, MUST appear within the <md:Exten-  
85 sions> element of either <md:EntitiesDescriptor> or <md:EntityDescriptor> elements. The  
86 use of <mdrpi:PublicationInfo>, or any other element defined in this section, outside of that context  
87 is not defined by this specification.

88 The <mdrpi:PublicationInfo> element SHOULD only be used on the root element of a metadata  
89 document.

90 The <mdrpi:PublicationInfo> element MUST NOT appear more than once within the <md:Exten-  
91 sions> element of a given <md:EntitiesDescriptor> or <md:EntityDescriptor> element.

### 92 2.2.1 Element <mdrpi:PublicationInfo>

93 The <mdrpi:PublicationInfo> element contains information which pertains to the publication of a  
94 metadata document. Within a given <mdrpi:PublicationInfo> either the creationInstant or  
95 publicationId element SHOULD be present.

96 publisher [Required]

97 A unique identifier for the publisher of the metadata. This may be the location from which the  
98 metadata was retrieved, an abstract identifier such as a SAML entity ID, or some other unique  
99 identifier for the publisher.

100 creationInstant [Optional]

101 The instant the metadata publication was created. Creation is loosely defined as the moment the  
102 metadata publication is ready for consumption by external processes. This may, for example,  
103 correspond to the time a document is signed.

104 Time values MUST be expressed in the UTC timezone using the 'Z' timezone identifier.

105 publicationId [Optional]

106 A unique, publisher-specific, identifier for this metadata publication. This identifier MAY change  
107 independently of the ID attribute found on <md:EntitiesDescriptor> and  
108 <md:EntityDescriptor> elements. For example, if a metadata document is auto-generated,  
109 the ID attribute might change upon each generation but the publicationId might only change  
110 if a particular set of data changes.

111 The publicationId MUST be considered an opaque string.



112 <mdrpi:UsagePolicy> [Optional]  
113 A description of the intended usage for the metadata document. The lack of this element  
114 indicates that the publisher has not disclosed its usage policy. It does not indicate that the  
115 publisher lacks a usage policy.

116 There MUST NOT be more than one <mdrpi:UsagePolicy>, within a given  
117 <mdrpi:PublicationInfo>, for a given language.

```
118 <element name="PublicationInfo" type="mdrpi:PublicationInfoType" />  
119 <complexType name="PublicationInfoType">  
120   <sequence>  
121     <element ref="mdrpi:UsagePolicy" minOccurs="0"  
122       maxOccurs="unbounded" />  
123     <any namespace="##other" processContents="lax" minOccurs="0"  
124       maxOccurs="unbounded" />  
125   </sequence>  
126   <attribute name="publisher" type="string" use="required" />  
127   <attribute name="creationInstant" type="dateTime" />  
128   <attribute name="publicationId" type="string" />  
129   <anyAttribute namespace="##other" processContents="lax" />  
130 </complexType>
```

## 131 2.2.2 Element <mdrpi:UsagePolicy>

132 The <mdrpi:UsagePolicy> element is a URL to a localized description of the intended usage of this  
133 metadata publication. The URL MUST represent a single, immutable, policy document. Any changes  
134 made to an existing policy document MUST result in a new URL. The URL SHOULD resolve to a human  
135 readable form of the policy document for the entire period in which the policy may be in use.

```
136 <element name="UsagePolicy" type="md:localizedURIType" />
```

## 137 2.3 Publication Path

138 In some cases, a metadata document may be published by something other than the original registrar  
139 (e.g., a metadata lookup service or an aggregator that assembled a new document from a number of  
140 other documents). In such cases it can be helpful to know the path the <md:EntitiesDescriptor> or  
141 <md:EntityDescriptor> elements took before being included in the consumed document. The  
142 <mdrpi:PublicationPath>, defined below, provides a way of expressing this.

143 The <mdrpi:PublicationPath> element MUST appear within the <md:Extensions> element of  
144 either <md:EntitiesDescriptor> or <md:EntityDescriptor> elements. The use of  
145 <mdrpi:PublicationPath>, or any other element defined in this section, outside of that context is not  
146 defined by this specification.

147 The <mdrpi:PublicationPath> element MUST NOT appear more than once within the <md:Exten-  
148 sions> element of a given <md:EntitiesDescriptor> or <md:EntityDescriptor> element.

149 When a <mdrpi:PublicationPath> element appears in the <md:Extensions> element of a  
150 <md:EntitiesDescriptor> element it applies to all descendant <md:EntitiesDescriptor> and  
151 <md:EntityDescriptor> elements. That is to say, this is equivalent to putting an identical  
152 <mdrpi:PublicationPath> on every descendant <md:EntitiesDescriptor> and <md:Entity-  
153 Descriptor>. When used in this manner, descendant <md:EntitiesDescriptor> and <md:En-  
154 tityDescriptor> elements MUST NOT contain a <mdrpi:PublicationPath> element in their  
155 <md:Extensions> element.

### 156 2.3.1 Element <mdrpi:PublicationPath>

157 The <mdrpi:PublicationPath> element provides a record of the publication path, from current pub-  
158 lication to initial publication, for the <md:EntitiesDescriptor> or <md:EntityDescriptor> ele-  
159 ment on which it resides.

160 Each contained <mdrpi:Publication> element represents one step in the publication path. The list of  
161 <mdrpi:Publication> elements is ordered from most recent, excluding the current publication, to  
162 least recent (the initial source publication).

163 For example, assume the current publication is PubC. Further assume that an `<md:Entity-`  
164 `Descriptor>` in PubC was retrieved from PubB which itself received the `<md:EntityDescriptor>`  
165 from PubA. In such a situation the publication path for that entity descriptor would be PubB, PubA.

166 `<mdrpi:Publication>` [zero or more]

167 The publication from which the `<md:EntityDescriptor>` or `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>`, to  
168 which this extension is applied, was retrieved. The lack of this element indicates that the  
169 publisher has not disclosed the source from which it has acquired the containing  
170 `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` or `<md:EntityDescriptor>`.

```
171 <element name="PublicationPath" type="mdrpi:PublicationPathType" />
172 <complexType name="PublicationPathType">
173   <sequence>
174     <element ref="mdrpi:Publication" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded" />
175   </sequence>
176 </complexType>
```

### 177 2.3.2 Element `<mdrpi:Publication>`

178 The `<mdrpi:Publication>` element identifies a metadata publication that was incorporated, in full or in  
179 part, in to the metadata document containing this extension.

180 publisher [Required]

181 The publisher value of the `<mdrpi:PublicationInfo>` found on the root element of the  
182 document containing the republished `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` or  
183 `<md:EntityDescriptor>` elements.

184 creationInstant [Optional]

185 The creationInstant value of the `<mdrpi:PublicationInfo>` found on the root element  
186 of the document containing the republished `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` or  
187 `<md:EntityDescriptor>` elements.

188 publicationId [Optional]

189 The publicationId value of the `<mdrpi:PublicationInfo>` found on the root element of  
190 the document containing the republished `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` or  
191 `<md:EntityDescriptor>` elements.

```
192 <element name="Publication" type="mdrpi:PublicationType" />
193 <complexType name="PublicationType">
194   <attribute name="publisherID" type="string" use="required" />
195   <attribute name="creationInstant" type="dateTime" />
196   <attribute name="publicationId" type="string" />
197 </complexType>
```

## 198 2.4 Example

```
199 <EntitiesDescriptor xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata"
200                   xmlns:mdrpi="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:metadata:rpi">
201   <Extensions>
202     <mdrpi:PublicationInfo publisher="urn:example.org:md:publisher"
203                           publicationId="1q2w3e4r" />
204   </Extensions>
205   <!-- SWITCH IDP -->
206   <EntityDescriptor entityID="https://aai-logon.switch.ch/idp/shibboleth">
207     <Extensions>
208       <mdrpi:RegistrationInfo
209         registrationAuthority="urn:mace:switch.ch:SWITCHaai"
210       />
211     </Extensions>
212   </EntityDescriptor>
213 </EntitiesDescriptor>
```

```

215         registrationInstant="2006-05-29T11:34:27Z">
216     <mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy xml:lang="en">
217         http://www.switch.ch/aai/metadata/en_registration.html
218     </mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy>
219     <mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy xml:lang="de">
220         http://www.switch.ch/aai/metadata/de_registration.html
221     </mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy>
222 </mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>
223
224 <mdrpi:PublicationPath>
225     <mdrpi:Publication publisher="urn:mace:switch.ch:SWITCHaai"
226         publicationId="k3klsoi"/>
227 </mdrpi:PublicationPath>
228
229 </Extensions>
230
231 <IDPSSODescriptor
232     protocolSupportEnumeration="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:protocol">
233     <SingleSignOnService
234         Binding="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:bindings:HTTP-POST"
235         Location="https://aai-logon.switch.ch/idp/profile/SAML2/POST/SSO"/>
236     </IDPSSODescriptor>
237 </EntityDescriptor>
238
239 <!-- Ohio State IDP -->
240 <EntityDescriptor entityID="urn:mace:incommon:osu.edu">
241
242     <Extensions>
243
244         <mdrpi:RegistrationInfo
245             registrationAuthority="urn:mace:incommon">
246             <mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy xml:lang="en">
247                 http://www.incommonfederation.org/metadata/en_registration.html
248             </mdrpi:RegistrationPolicy>
249         </mdrpi:RegistrationInfo>
250
251         <mdrpi:PublicationPath>
252             <mdrpi:Publication publisher="urn:mace:incommon"
253                 publicationId="i2lkd9c"/>
254         </mdrpi:PublicationPath>
255     </Extensions>
256
257     <IDPSSODescriptor
258         protocolSupportEnumeration="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.1:protocol">
259         <SingleSignOnService
260             Binding="urn:mace:shibboleth:1.0:profiles:AuthnRequest"
261             Location="https://idp.ohio-state.edu/idp/profile/Shibboleth/SSO"/>
262         </IDPSSODescriptor>
263     </EntityDescriptor>
264
265 </EntitiesDescriptor>

```

---

266 **3 Conformance**

267 **3.1 SAML V2.0 Metadata Extensions for Registration and Publication**  
268 **Information Version 1.0**

269 A metadata producer conforms to this profile if it has the ability to produce metadata in accordance with  
270 sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

---

271 **Appendix A Acknowledgments**

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- 276 • Frederick Hirsch, Nokia Corp.
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## 289 Appendix B Revision History

290 Changes made to produce WD09

291 • State what the lack of <RegistrationPolicy>, <UsagePolicy> and <PublicationPath>  
292 means

293 • Editorial and grammar fixups

294 Changes made to produce WD08

295 • Correct typos in schema snippets

296 • Correct publication path elements in example

297 Changes made to produce WD07

298 • Correct namespace URI on line 265

299 • Correct document title in Section 3.1 title

300 Changes made to produce WD06

301 • <RegistrationPolicy> and <UsagePolicy> text to disallow multiple instances with the  
302 same language

303 • Corrected example in 2.4 which contained a <RegistrationInfo> at the root level and child  
304 elements which was in violation of section 2.1

305 • Editorial and grammar fix ups

306 Changes made to produce WD05

307 • Corrected XML schema for optional elements that mistakenly did not have a minOccurs="0"

308 Changes made to produce WD04

309 • Add list of voting members to Appendix A: Acknowledgements

310 Changes made to produce WD03

311 • Corrected references to CreationInstant and SerialNumber elements which were replaced with at-  
312 tributes on the PublicationInfo element

313 • Editorial and grammar fix ups

314 Changes made to produce WD02

315 • Title changed to "SAML V2.0 Metadata Extensions for Registration and Publication Information"

316 • Namespace changed to urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:metadata:rpi

317 • Concept of "document information" changed to "publication information" with corresponding ele-  
318 ment name changes.

319 • Registration Information put before publication information

320 • Editorial and grammar fix ups

321