SAML V2.0 Metadata Extension for Entity Attributes Version 1.0

Committee Specification 01

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urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:metadata:attribute

Abstract:
This profile defines an extension element for use in attaching SAML attributes to an
<md:EntityDescriptor> or <md:EntitiesDescriptor> element, to communicate an
arbitrary set of additional information about an entity in its metadata.
Status

This document was last revised or approved by the SSTC on the above date. The level of
approval is also listed above. Check the current location noted above for possible later revisions
of this document. This document is updated periodically on no particular schedule.

TC members should send comments on this specification to the TC's email list. Others
should send comments to the TC by using the “Send A Comment” button on the TC's

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1 Introduction

The SAML V2.0 metadata specification [SAML2Meta] includes the `<md:Extensions>` element in various places, including the `<md:EntityDescriptor>` and `<md:EntitiesDescriptor>` elements, for use in extending the specification by carrying externally defined content. This profile defines such an extension element, `<mdattr:EntityAttributes>`, as a container for one or more `<saml:Attribute>` or `<saml:Assertion>` elements. It allows an arbitrary set of attribute information to be carried within an entity’s (or a group of entities’) metadata to communicate additional information about that entity (or group) to a metadata consumer.

1.1 Notation

This specification uses normative text.

The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SALL", "SALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this specification are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119]:

…they MUST only be used where it is actually required for interoperation or to limit behavior which has potential for causing harm (e.g., limiting retransmissions)…

These keywords are thus capitalized when used to unambiguously specify requirements over protocol and application features and behavior that affect the interoperability and security of implementations. When these words are not capitalized, they are meant in their natural-language sense.

Listings of XML schemas appear like this.

Example code listings appear like this.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>XML Namespace</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>saml:</td>
<td>urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion</td>
<td>This is the SAML V2.0 assertion namespace defined in the SAML V2.0 core specification [SAML2Core].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>md:</td>
<td>urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata</td>
<td>This is the SAML V2.0 metadata namespace defined in the SAML V2.0 metadata specification [SAML2Meta].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mdattr:</td>
<td>urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:metadata:attribute</td>
<td>This is the namespace defined by this document and its accompanying schema [MetaAttr-xsd].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xsd:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema</a></td>
<td>This namespace is defined in the W3C XML Schema specification [Schema1]. In schema listings, this is the default namespace and no prefix is shown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xsi:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance</a></td>
<td>This is the XML Schema namespace for schema-related markup that appears in XML instances [Schema1].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This specification uses the following typographical conventions in text: `<SAMLElement>`, `<ns:ForeignElement>`, Attribute, Datatype, OtherCode.
1.2 Normative References


2 SAML V2.0 Metadata Extension for Entity Attributes

2.1 Required Information

Contact information: security-services-comment@lists.oasis-open.org
Description: Given below.
Updates: None.

2.2 Profile Overview

SAML deployments and SAML-enabled applications often make extensive use of the
<saml:Attribute> element as a vehicle for carrying and consuming arbitrary structured information
about assertion subjects. This profile defines a metadata extension element as a container for one or
more such elements, or more generically for communicating a SAML attribute assertion. It allows attribute
information to be carried within an entity’s (or a group of entities’) metadata to communicate additional
information about that entity (or group) to a metadata consumer, much as an assertion can carry
attributes about a subject.

In some SAML deployments, metadata is often maintained and signed by a third party federation
operator, and this mechanism allows that operator to include extensible information (possibly signed by
still another party) about the federation’s member sites, such as their adherence to optional federation
policies. Metadata consumers can then choose to process or ignore such information as they deem
necessary.

This profile defines no specific attributes to be communicated, but additional profiles might leverage it to
do so.

2.3 Element <mdattr:EntityAttributes>

The <mdattr:EntityAttributes> element is a wrapper for one or more <saml:Attribute> or
<saml:Assertion> elements. Assertions that appear MUST conform to the profile in section 2.4, and
will contain only attribute statements. Relying parties MUST process assertions in accordance with the
standard Processing rules in [SAML2Core].

If this element is used within the <md:Extensions> element of an <md:EntityDescriptor> element,
then it binds the enclosed SAML attributes (or the attributes within the enclosed assertions) to the
enclosing entity.

If this element is used within the <md:Extensions> element of an <md:EntitiesDescriptor>
element, then only <saml:Attribute> elements are to be used; <saml:Assertion> elements MUST
NOT be included. The enclosed attributes are bound to each <md:EntityDescriptor> within the
enclosing <md:EntitiesDescriptor> element.

The meaning of this element is undefined by this profile if it appears anywhere else within a metadata
instance, or within any other XML document.

Finally, this element MUST NOT appear more than once within a given <md:Extensions> element.

The following schema fragment defines the <mdattr:EntityAttributes> element:

```
<element name="EntityAttributes" type="mdattr:EntityAttributesType"/>
<complexType name="EntityAttributesType">
  <choice maxOccurs="unbounded">
```

2.4 Assertion Profile

All SAML assertions that appear in an `<mdattr:EntityAttributes>` element MUST conform to the following restrictions:

- The assertion's `<saml:Subject>` element MUST contain a `<saml:NameID>` element with a Format of `urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:nameid-format:entity`. The value of the `<saml:NameID>` MUST correspond to the entityID of the enclosing `<md:EntityDescriptor>` element.
- The assertion's subject element MUST NOT include any `<saml:SubjectConfirmation>` elements.
- One (and only one) `<saml:AttributeStatement>` element MUST be included. Other statement types MUST NOT be included.
- The assertion MUST be independently signed (rather than inheriting a signature from the metadata itself).

Apart from the above constraints, any other legal assertion content MAY be included, including the `<saml:Conditions>` element and any conditions within it.
3 Conformance

3.0.1 SAML V2.0 Metadata Extension for Entity Attributes

A metadata producer conforms to this profile if it has the ability to produce extended metadata in accordance with section 2.

A metadata consumer conforms to this profile if it can consume extended metadata in accordance with section 2.
Appendix A. Acknowledgements

The editors would like to acknowledge the contributions of the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee, whose voting members at the time of publication were:

- Rob Philpott, EMC Corporation
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Appendix B. Revision History

- Draft 01.
- Draft 02, add option for assertions, fix the schema and conformance sections.
- Committee Draft 01, CD edits.