



XACML v3.0 Administration and Delegation Profile Version 1.0

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Abstract:

This specification describes a profile for XACML 3.0 to enable it to express administration and delegation policies.

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1 Introduction

2 1.1 Terminology

3 The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD
4 NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described
5 in [RFC2119].

6 1.2 Glossary

7 For simplicity, this document uses the term **policy** to include the XACML definitions for both **policy** and
8 **policy set**.

9 The following terms are defined.

10 Access policy

11 A **policy** that governs access.

12 Access request

13 A request to determine whether access to a resource should be granted.

14 Administrative policy

15 A **policy** that authorizes a **delegate** to issue **policies** about constrained **situations**.

16 Administrative request

17 A request to determine whether a **policy** was issued by an authorized source.

18 Backward Chaining

19 Finding a chain of administrative and **access policies** beginning with an **access policy**, such
20 that each **policy** is authorized by the next one.

21 Delegate

22 Someone authorized by an **administrative policy** to issue **policies**.

23 Forward Chaining

24 Finding a chain of administrative and **access policies** beginning at a **trusted policy**, such that
25 each **policy** authorizes the next one.

26 Issuer

27 A set of attributes describing the source of a **policy**.

28 Reduction

29 the process by which the authority of a **policy** associated with an **issuer** is verified or discarded.

30 Situation

31 A set of properties delineated by the <Attributes> elements of an **access request** context.

32 Trusted policy

33 A **policy** without a <PolicyIssuer> element.

34 1.3 Normative References

35 [RFC2119] S. Bradner, *Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels*,
36 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>, IETF RFC 2119, March 1997.

37 [XACML] E. Rissanen, ed., *eXtensible access control markup language (XACML) Version
3.0*. Working draft 11. 5 April 2009. Available at: [FIXME URL](#)

39 **1.4 Non-Normative References**

40 **None**

41 2 Use Cases (non-normative)

42 This specification is intended to support the following use cases.

43 2.1 Administration/Delegation

44 2.1.1 Use case 1: Policy Administration

45 **Policy** administration controls the types of **policies** that individuals can create and modify. Typically,
46 different individuals would be allowed to create **policies** about certain sets of resources. Alternatively,
47 administration might be divided up by action type, subject or some other properties.

48 In XACML 2.0 the question of the circumstances under which **policies** can be created is out of scope. It
49 essentially says that some **policies** exist which the PDP will use.

50 2.1.2 Use case 2: Dynamic Delegation

51 Dynamic delegation permits some users to create **policies** of limited duration to delegate certain
52 capabilities to others. XACML 2.0 allows **policies** that say, "Mary can do something on behalf of Jack" by
53 means of different subject-categories. But, it would be useful to allow people to generate **policies** on the
54 fly that say such things as "while I am on vacation, Mary can approve requests." This requires the ability
55 to create **policies** that control the **policies** that can be created.

56 2.1.3 Discussion

57 In meeting these two use cases, it is NOT desirable to require either of the following to always be true:

- 58 1. Anything you can do, you can delegate to someone else to do.
- 59 2. If you can delegate something, you can always do it yourself by generating the necessary **policy**
60 that applies to you.

61 It should be possible to create **policies** that enable #1 and/or #2, but they should not be "wired in."

62 The main difference between use cases #1 and #2 is how **policies** are accessed. In #1, most likely
63 **policies** will be found in some repository or set of repositories. There will be some simple enforcement
64 mechanism that says that the **issuer** of one **policy** must correspond to the person who created or
65 modified the other **policy**. In #2, **policies** might need to be carried in application requests or accessed
66 dynamically via some back channel. In this case, signatures, or some other such mechanism, would be
67 used to verify the **issuer**'s identity.

68 Note that in both cases, having a **policy** from Fred, signed by Fred does not mean the **policy** will be
69 enforced. It merely means that it will be considered as a candidate. It is still necessary to authorize
70 Fred's **policy** for it to be enforced.

71 It is also desirable to arrange for **policy** evaluation to be optimized by doing as much work prior to access
72 time as possible. It should be possible to "flatten" **policy** chains to an equivalent form using whatever
73 **policies** are at hand.

74 Support for administration/delegation should not reduce the existing functionality of XACML 2.0

75 2.2 Only if X is permitted to do it

76 Consider the common use case: Mary is the manager and approves expense reports for her department.
77 When she is on vacation, Jack can approve expense reports.

78 We need a convenient way to say "Jack is allowed to do such and such, but only if Mary is allowed to do
79 it". Mary might or might not be the **issuer** of this **policy**. In plain XACML, there is no way to do this
80 except by duplicating the rules that apply to Mary.

- 81 In other words, we need a way to replace the access-subject in the request context with a specified
- 82 subject, call the entire **policy** evaluation process and if the result is “Permit”, then return a value of “True.”

83 3 Solution Overview and Semantics (non-normative)

84 The purpose of the delegation model is to make it possible to express permissions about the right to issue
85 **policies** and to verify issued **policies** against these permissions.

86 A **policy** may contain a <PolicyIssuer> element that describes the source of the **policy**. A missing
87 <PolicyIssuer> element means that the **policy** is trusted.

88 A **trusted policy** is considered valid and its origin is not verified by the PDP.

89 **Policies** which have an **issuer** need to have their authority verified. The essence of the verification is that
90 the **issuer** of the **policy** is checked against the **trusted policies**, directly or through other **policies** with
91 **issuers**. During this check the right of the **issuer** to issue a **policy** about the current **access request** is
92 verified.

93 If the authority of the **policy issuer** can be traced back to the **trusted policies**, the **policy** is used by the
94 PDP, otherwise it is discarded as an unauthorized **policy**. The authority of the **issuer** depends on which
95 access **situation** the current **access request** applies to, so a **policy** can be both valid and invalid
96 depending on the **access request**.

97 Steps in the validation process are performed using a special case XACML requests, called
98 **administrative requests**, which contain information about the **policy issuers** and the access **situation**.

99 4 Processing Model

100 4.1 URIs

101 urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:delegation:decision
102 The identifier which MUST be used for the attribute indicating which type of decision is being
103 reduced.

104 4.2 Reserved Attribute Categories

105 urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegate
106 This attribute category MUST be used in **administrative requests** to carry the attributes of the
107 **issuer** of the **policy** which is being reduced.
108 urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegation-info
109 This attribute category MUST be used in **administrative requests** to carry information about the
110 **reduction** in progress, such as the decision being reduced.
111 urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegated:<anyURI>
112 Categories starting with this and ending with any URI MUST be used to carry information about
113 the **situation** which is being reduced.

114 4.3 Trusted policies

115 In case there is no <PolicyIssuer> element in the **policy** or **policy set**, the **policy** or **policy set**
116 MUST be trusted and no **reduction** of the **policy** will be performed.

117 4.4 The context handler

118 The attributes contained in an explicit <Attributes> element with Category
119 “urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegate” MAY be complemented with additional
120 attributes by the context handler, as is the case with the other elements in the request context.
121 A dynamic **issuer** attribute is an attribute of an **issuer/delegate** such that the attribute value may have
122 changed since the **policy** was issued. The time at which attributes are resolved is important for dynamic
123 **delegate** attributes. The PDP and context handler MUST operate in either “current **issuer/delegate**
124 attribute mode” or “historic **issuer/delegate** attribute mode” but not in both.

- 125 • Current attributes mode
 - 126 In current attribute mode, when a **delegate** attribute is dynamic, the value of the attribute MUST
127 be used as it is at the time of the **access request** being processed.
 - 128 • Historic attributes mode
 - 129 In historic attribute mode, when a **delegate** attribute is dynamic, the value of the attribute MUST
130 be used as it was at the time when the **policy**, from which the **delegate** was derived, was issued.

131 These rules MUST apply to both attributes that appear in the <PolicyIssuer> element and the
132 attributes that are retrieved by the context handler, which means that in case of the current attribute mode
133 dynamic **issuer** attributes MUST NOT be present in the <PolicyIssuer> element.
134 See also the security considerations discussion related to this in section 8.1.

135 4.5 Administrative request generation during reduction

136 **Reduction** is the process by which the authority of **policies** is established. **Reduction** is performed as a
137 search in a graph. This section explains how a single **administrative request** is created to determine an
138 edge in the **reduction** graph. **Reduction** is always performed in the context of a request *R*, which is
139 being evaluated against a **policy set**.

140 Given a potentially supported **policy**, *P*, and the request *R*, an **administrative request**, *A*, generated
141 based on *R* by the following steps:

- 142 1. The <Attributes> elements of *R* are mapped to <Attributes> elements in *A* according to
143 the following:

- 144 a. An <Attributes> element with Category equal to
145 "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegate" in *R* has no corresponding
146 part in *A*.
- 147 b. An <Attributes> element with Category which starts with the prefix
148 "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegated:" maps to an identical
149 <Attributes> element.
- 150 c. An <Attributes> element with Category equal to
151 "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegation-info" in *R* has no
152 corresponding part in *A*. (Note, a new delegation-info category is created, see point 3
153 below.)
- 154 d. An <Attributes> element with any other Category maps to an <Attributes>
155 element with the Category prefixed with "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
156 category:delegated:" and identical contents.

- 157 2. *A* contains an <Attributes> element with Category equal to
158 "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegate" and contents identical to the
159 <PolicyIssuer> element from *P*.

- 160 3. *A* contains an <Attributes> element with Category equal to
161 "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegation-info" and the following contents:

- 162 a. An <Attribute> element with AttributeId equal to
163 "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:delegation:decision", DataType equal to
164 "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string", and the value equal to the decision which
165 is being reduced, that is either "Permit" or "Deny". (See section 4.7 for explanation on
166 how this value is set.)

167 4.6 Policy set evaluation

168 This delegation profile defines how **policy sets** are evaluated in the presence of **policies** with **issuers**. A
169 PDP implementing this profile MUST perform **policy set** evaluation according the following process or a
170 process that produces an identical result in all cases. Note that the regular **policy set** evaluation
171 according to [XACML] is a special case of this process as long as no **policy** has an **issuer**.

172 The evaluation of a **policy set** is done as in [XACML], with the exception that the contained **policies** are
173 possibly reduced and/or discarded, before combination, as defined by the following table.

Value of evaluated policy	Policy Issuer	Action
Don't care	Absent	The value is combined as it is.
"Permit", "Deny" or "Indeterminate"	Present	The value is reduced as defined in sections 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10 respectively and possibly discarded before combination.

"Not applicable"	Present	The value is discarded.
------------------	---------	-------------------------

175

176 After the above actions have been performed, the remaining **trusted policy** values determine the value
 177 of the **policy set** as defined in [XACML].

178 4.7 Forming the reduction graph

179 The **reduction** process is a graph search where the nodes of the graph are the **policies** in a **policy set**
 180 and the edges represent how the **policies** authorize each other.

181 The nodes of the **reduction** graph are the **policies** of the **policy set**.

182 There are four kinds of directed edges in the graph: Types PP, PI, DP and DI.

183 Note (non-normative): Informally, the PP and DP edges are used to indicate whether a
 184 **policy** authorizes delegation of "Permit" and "Deny" respectively. The PI and DI edges
 185 are used to propagate "Indeterminate" results from **administrative policies** into the final
 186 result. It is important to propagate "Indeterminate" results since failing to detect an error
 187 can result in the wrong decision being implemented by the PEP.

188 To generate the edges of the **reduction** graph

- 189 1. For each ordered pair of **policies** in the **policy set** (P_1, P_2), generate an **administrative request**
 190 A reducing "Permit" based on P_1 and the request being evaluated against the **policy set**.
 - 191 a. Evaluate A against P_2 .
 - 192 b. If and only if the result is "Permit", there is a PP edge from P_1 to P_2 .
 - 193 c. If and only if the result is "Indeterminate", there is a PI edge from P_1 to P_2 .
- 194 2. For each ordered pair of **policies** in the **policy set** (P_1, P_2), generate an **administrative request**
 195 A reducing "Deny" based on P_1 and the request being evaluated against the **policy set**.
 - 196 a. Evaluate A against P_2 .
 - 197 b. If and only if the result is "Permit", there is a DP edge from P_1 to P_2 .
 - 198 c. If and only if the result is "Indeterminate", there is a DI edge from P_1 to P_2 .

199 4.8 Reduction of "Permit"

200 A **policy**, P , which evaluated to "Permit" in the **policy set**, MUST be reduced as follows in this section.

201 Form a reduction graph as described in section 4.7.

202 Start a graph search from the node corresponding to the **policy** to be reduced. Follow only PP edges. If it
 203 is possible to reach a node which corresponds to a **trusted policy**, the **policy** P is treated as "Permit" in
 204 combination of the **policy set**.

205 If it was not possible to reach a **trusted policy**, do a second graph search, following PP and PI edges. If it
 206 is possible to reach a **trusted policy** in this manner, the **policy** P is treated as "Indeterminate" in
 207 combination of the **policy set**.

208 If it was not possible to reach a **trusted policy** with either search, the **policy** P is discarded and not
 209 combined in the **policy set**.

210 In all graph searches, the maximum delegation depth limit MUST be checked as described in section
 211 4.11.

212 In all graph searches obligations must be collected as described in section 4.12.

213 4.9 Reduction of "Deny"

214 A **policy**, P , which evaluated to "Deny" in the **policy set**, MUST be reduced as follows in this section.

215 Form a reduction graph as described in section 4.7.

216 Start a graph search from the node corresponding to the **policy** to be reduced. Follow only DP edges. If it
217 is possible to reach a node which corresponds to a **trusted policy**, the **policy P** is treated as "Deny" in
218 combination of the **policy set**.
219 If it was not possible to reach a **trusted policy**, do a second graph search, following DP and DI edges. If
220 it possible to reach a **trusted policy** in this manner, the **policy P** is treated as "Indeterminate" in
221 combination of the **policy set**.
222 If it was not possible to reach a **trusted policy** with either search, the **policy P** is discarded and not
223 combined in the **policy set**.
224 In all graph searches, the maximum delegation depth limit MUST be checked as described in section
225 4.11.
226 In all graph searches obligations must be collected as described in section 4.12.

227 **4.10 Reduction of "Indeterminate"**

228 A **policy**, *P*, which evaluated to "Indeterminate" in the **policy set**, MUST be reduced as follows in this
229 section.
230 Form a reduction graph as described in section 4.7.
231 Start a graph search from the node corresponding to the **policy** to be reduced. Follow PP and PI edges.
232 If it is possible to reach a node which corresponds to a **trusted policy**, the **policy P** is treated as
233 "Indeterminate" in combination of the **policy set**.
234 If it was not possible to reach a **trusted policy**, do a second graph search, following DP and DI edges. If
235 it possible to reach a **trusted policy** in this manner, the **policy P** is treated as "Indeterminate" in
236 combination of the **policy set**.
237 If it was not possible to reach a **trusted policy** with either search, the **policy P** is discarded and not
238 combined in the **policy set**.
239 In all graph searches, the maximum delegation depth limit MUST be checked as described in section
240 4.11.
241 In all graph searches obligations must be collected as described in section 4.12.

242 Note (non-normative): This process is designed in this way because it is important to
243 reduce "Indeterminate" results before combining them. An unauthorized "Indeterminate"
244 can be used as an attack by forcing the PEP into error handling, and possibly denying or
245 allowing access depending on the bias of the PEP. Intuitively we test if the **policy** would
246 be authorized if it would have been "Permit" or "Deny". If neither a "Permit" nor a "Deny"
247 would have been authorized, the **policy** is not authorized, so the "Indeterminate" is
248 discarded.

249 **4.11 Maximum delegation depth**

250 A **policy** or **policy set** MAY contain an XML attribute called MaxDelegationDepth, which limits the
251 depth of delegation which is authorized by the **policy**. During the searches in the **reduction** graph, a path
252 MUST be aborted if the number of nodes on the path exceeds the integer value of this attribute. The node
253 count on the path includes the initial node which is being reduced, but does not include the node
254 corresponding to the **policy** with the MaxDelegationDepth attribute being checked.

255 **4.12 Obligations**

256 Obligations in the **access policies** that have been reduced and are being combined are treated exactly
257 as in [XACML]. **Administrative policies** may contain obligations but the obligations apply to the access
258 decision, not the administrative decisions. All obligations that are found in **policies** that are used to
259 reduce an **access policy** are treated as if they would have appeared in the **access policy**.
260 Due to security concerns with obligations, a **PDP** MAY refuse to load a policy with an obligation it does
261 not recognize. Also, see Section 8.5 for security considerations concerning obligations.

262 5 Example (non-normative)

263 The following example **policy set** is used for illustrating the processing model.

264

```
265 <PolicySet PolicySetId="PolicySet1"
266   PolicyCombiningAlgId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:policy-combining-algorithm:permit-
267 overrides">
268   <Target/>
269   <Policy PolicyId="Policy1"
270     RuleCombiningAlgId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:rule-combining-algorithm:permit-
271 overrides">
272     <Target>
273       <AnyOf>
274         <AllOf>
275           <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
276             <AttributeValue
277               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"
278               >employee</AttributeValue>
279             <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
280 category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-category:access-subject "
281               AttributeId="group"
282               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
283           </Match>
284         </AllOf>
285       </AnyOf>
286       <AnyOf>
287         <AllOf>
288           <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
289             <AttributeValue
290               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">printer</AttributeValue>
291             <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
292 category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:resource"
293               AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id"
294               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
295           </Match>
296         </AllOf>
297       </AnyOf>
298       <AnyOf>
299         <AllOf>
300           <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
301             <AttributeValue
302               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">print</AttributeValue>
303             <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
304 category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:action"
305               AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id"
306               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
307           </Match>
308         </AllOf>
309       </AnyOf>
310       <AnyOf>
311         <AllOf>
312           <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
313             <AttributeValue
314               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">Carol</AttributeValue>
315             <AttributeDesignator
316               Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegate"
317               AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
318               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
319           </Match>
320         </AllOf>
321       </AnyOf>
322     </Target>
323     <Rule RuleId="Rule1" Effect="Permit">
324       <Target/>
325     </Rule>
326   </Policy>
327 
```

```

328 <Policy PolicyId="Policy2"
329   RuleCombiningAlgId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:rule-combining-algorithm:permit-
330 overrides">
331   <PolicyIssuer>
332     <Attribute
333       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
334       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
335       <AttributeValue>Carol</AttributeValue>
336     </Attribute>
337   </PolicyIssuer>
338   <Target>
339     <AnyOf>
340       <AllOf>
341         <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
342           <AttributeValue
343             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
344             <employee></AttributeValue>
345           <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
346 category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-category:access-subject"
347             AttributeId="group"
348             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
349           </Match>
350         </AllOf>
351       </AnyOf>
352     <AnyOf>
353       <AllOf>
354         <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
355           <AttributeValue
356             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">printer</AttributeValue>
357           <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
358 category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:resource"
359             AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id"
360             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
361           </Match>
362         </AllOf>
363       </AnyOf>
364     <AnyOf>
365       <AllOf>
366         <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
367           <AttributeValue
368             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">print</AttributeValue>
369           <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
370 category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:action"
371             AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id"
372             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
373           </Match>
374         </AllOf>
375       </AnyOf>
376     <AnyOf>
377       <AllOf>
378         <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
379           <AttributeValue
380             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">Bob</AttributeValue>
381           <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
382 category:delegate"
383             AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
384             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
385           </Match>
386         </AllOf>
387       </AnyOf>
388     </Target>
389     <Rule RuleId="Rule2" Effect="Permit">
390       <Target/>
391     </Rule>
392   </Policy>

393   <Policy PolicyId="Policy3"
394     RuleCombiningAlgId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:rule-combining-algorithm:permit-
395 overrides">
396     <PolicyIssuer>
397       <Attribute
398         AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
399         DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">

```

```

401      <AttributeValue>Mallory</AttributeValue>
402    </Attribute>
403  </PolicyIssuer>
404  <Target>
405    <AnyOf>
406      <AllOf>
407        <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
408          <AttributeValue
409            DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">Alice</AttributeValue>
410          <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-
category:access-subject"
411            AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
412            DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
413        </Match>
414      </AllOf>
415    </AnyOf>
416    <AnyOf>
417      <AllOf>
418        <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
419          <AttributeValue
420            DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">printer</AttributeValue>
421          <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
category:resource"
422            AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id"
423            DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
424        </Match>
425      </AllOf>
426    </AnyOf>
427    <AnyOf>
428      <AllOf>
429        <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
430          <AttributeValue
431            DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">print</AttributeValue>
432          <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
category:action"
433            AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id"
434            DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
435        </Match>
436      </AllOf>
437    </AnyOf>
438  </Target>
439  <Rule RuleId="Rule3" Effect="Permit">
440    <Target/>
441  </Rule>
442 </Policy>

443 <Policy PolicyId="Policy4"
444   RuleCombiningAlgId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:rule-combining-algorithm:permit-
445 overrides">
446   <PolicyIssuer>
447     <Attribute
448       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
449       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
450       <AttributeValue>Bob</AttributeValue>
451     </Attribute>
452   </PolicyIssuer>
453   <Target>
454     <AnyOf>
455       <AllOf>
456         <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
457           <AttributeValue
458             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">Alice</AttributeValue>
459             <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-
category:access-subject"
460               AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
461               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
462             </Match>
463           </AllOf>
464         </AnyOf>
465       <AnyOf>
466         <AllOf>
467           <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
468             <AttributeValue
469               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
470             <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-
category:access-subject"
471               AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
472               DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
473             </Match>
474           </AllOf>
475         </AnyOf>
476       <AnyOf>
477         <AllOf>
478           <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
479             <AttributeValue

```

```

474             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">printer</AttributeValue>
475             <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
476 category:resource"
477                 AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id"
478                 DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
479             </Match>
480         </AllOf>
481     </AnyOf>
482     <AnyOf>
483         <AllOf>
484             <Match MatchId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:string-equal">
485                 <AttributeValue
486                     DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">print</AttributeValue>
487                 <AttributeDesignator Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
488 category:action"
489                     AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id"
490                     DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
491                 </Match>
492             </AllOf>
493         </AnyOf>
494     </Target>
495     <Rule RuleId="Rule4" Effect="Permit">
496         <Target/>
497     </Rule>
498   </Policy>
499 </PolicySet>
```

500 Listing 1 The sample policy set.

501

502 The **policy set** contains four **policies**. Policy 1 is a **trusted policy** since it has no **issuer**. The target with
 503 the standard attribute categories for the subject, resource and action constrain the **situation** that the
 504 **policy** applies to. The **policy** could have defined additional constraints on the **situation** by an
 505 environment target or by conditions or by rule targets. In this case the **policy** allows granting **policies**
 506 about any **situation** which is an employee who prints on the printer. Since there are <Match> elements
 507 with delegated categories in the **policy** target, Policy 1 is an **administrative policy**. In this case the
 508 **policy** allows for Carol to create any **policy** which allows a **situation** that is also allowed by Policy 1, that
 509 is, Carol can give access to the printer to any employee. Since there is no limit on the delegation depth,
 510 Carol can also create an **administrative policy** over these **situations**.

511 Policy 2 is issued by Carol as is indicated by the <PolicyIssuer> element. The allowed **situations** are
 512 again that an employee prints on the printer. Again, since there are <Match> elements with delegated
 513 categories, Policy 2 is an **administrative policy**. In this case Bob is granted the right to issue **policies**
 514 granting access to **situations** that are allowed by Policy 2.

515 Policy 3 is issued by Mallory, as is indicated by the <PolicyIssuer> element. The <Match> elements
 516 are on non-delegated categories, so it is an **access policy**. It grants access to the printer for Alice. As we
 517 will see later on, this **policy** is unauthorized since Mallory has not been authorized to allow access for this
 518 **situation** (Alice accessing the printer).

519 Policy 4 is issued by Bob as is indicated by the <PolicyIssuer> element. There are no delegated
 520 categories, so it is an **access policy**. It grants access to the printer for Alice.

521 We start with the following example **access request**. The request indicates that Alice is trying to access
 522 the printer. In this case Alice is also associated with the employee group attribute.

523

```

524 <Request>
525     <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-category:access-subject">
526         <Attribute
527             AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
528             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
529                 <AttributeValue>Alice</AttributeValue>
530             </Attribute>
531         <Attribute
532             AttributeId="group"
533             DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
534                 <AttributeValue>employee</AttributeValue>
```

```

535     </Attribute>
536   </Attributes>
537   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:resource">
538     <Attribute
539       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id"
540       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
541         <AttributeValue>printer</AttributeValue>
542     </Attribute>
543   </Attributes>
544   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:action">
545     <Attribute
546       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id"
547       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
548         <AttributeValue>print</AttributeValue>
549     </Attribute>
550   </Attributes>
551 </Request>

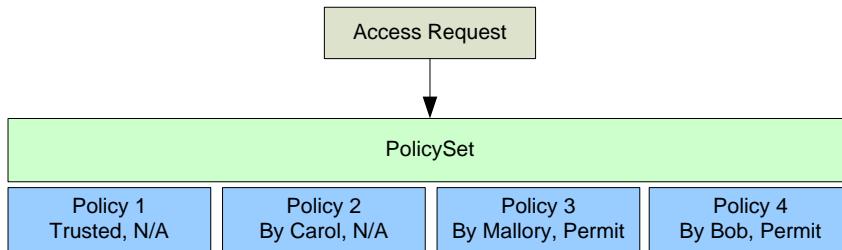
```

552 Listing 2 The access request.

553

554 The request is evaluated against the **policies** in the **policy set**. The request will not match the targets in
 555 Policy 1 or Policy 2 since there are no delegated categories in the request. Both Policy 3 and Policy 4 will
 556 evaluate to "Permit" since the targets match directly. This is illustrated in the following figure.

557



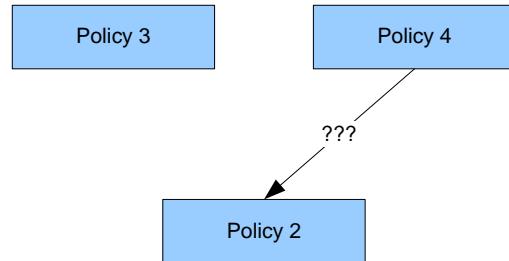
558

560 Policy 3 and Policy 4 need to be reduced since they are not trusted.

561 As specified in the processing model, **reduction** consists of two steps. First a **reduction** graph is built,
 562 and then the PDP searches the graph for a path to the **trusted policies** for each **policy** with an **issuer**.
 563 Note that this example follows the definition of the processing model and does not attempt to be efficient.
 564 An efficient PDP can mix edge creation and path searching so that only those edges which are actually
 565 needed are created. This example does not do so for simplicity and we create a full graph before we do a
 566 search.

567 So, we begin by creating the **reduction** graph. Creating the **reduction** graph means finding any edges
 568 between the **policies** in the **policy set**. We need to check each pair of **policies** for an edge (although in
 569 practice a PDP may optimize the search to find a minimum set of edges as needed to determine the
 570 result). First, consider the question whether there is any edge between Policy 4 and Policy 2:

571



572
573

574 As defined by the processing model, there is an edge if and only if the ***administrative request*** generated
575 from policy 4 evaluates to Permit (or Indeterminate) for policy 2. So to test for an edge, we create the
576 following ***administrative request***, and evaluate it against Policy 2:

577

```

578 <Request>
579   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
580 category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-category:access-subject">
581     <Attribute
582       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
583       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
584       <AttributeValue>Alice</AttributeValue>
585     </Attribute>
586     <Attribute
587       AttributeId="group"
588       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
589       <AttributeValue>employee</AttributeValue>
590     </Attribute>
591   </Attributes>
592   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegated:
593 urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:resource">
594     <Attribute
595       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id"
596       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
597       <AttributeValue>printer</AttributeValue>
598     </Attribute>
599   </Attributes>
600   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegated:
601 urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:action">
602     <Attribute
603       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id"
604       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
605       <AttributeValue>print</AttributeValue>
606     </Attribute>
607   </Attributes>
608   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegate">
609     <Attribute
610       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
611       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
612       <AttributeValue>Bob</AttributeValue>
613     </Attribute>
614     <Attribute
615       AttributeId="group"
616       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
617       <AttributeValue>administrator</AttributeValue>
618     </Attribute>
619   </Attributes>
620   <Attributes
621     Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegation-info">
622     <Attribute
623       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:delegation:decision">

```

```

624   <Attribute>
625     <AttributeValue>Permit</AttributeValue>
626   </Attribute>
627   </Attributes>
628 </Request>

```

629 Listing 3 The administrative request for detecting edges from policy 4 to policy 2.

630

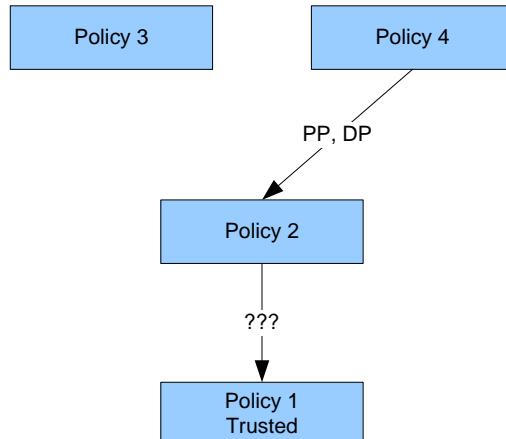
631 The **administrative request** is created based on the request being evaluated against the whole **policy set** and the **issuer** of Policy 4, that is, Bob. The subject, resource and action from the **access request** in
 632 Listing 2 are transformed into delegated subject, resource and action in the **administrative request** in
 633 Listing 3 and the **issuer** of Policy 4 becomes the **delegate** of the **administrative request**. We perform
 634 the request with a permit decision initially.

635 The interpretation of the **administrative request** is “Is Bob allowed to create a **policy** that concerns
 636 access to the printer for Alice?” In this case we also filled in the attribute representing membership in the
 637 administrators group for Bob in the request context. This represents the fact that the context handler can
 638 fill in attributes in the request context. (The details of how the context handler found the administrator
 639 attribute depend on the PDP implementation and the available attribute sources in the particular
 640 implementation.)

641 The request will evaluate to “Permit” on Policy 2. This means that there is a PP edge from Policy 4 to
 642 Policy 2, which represents that Policy 2 authorizes Policy 4 for a “Permit” decision on the particular
 643 **situation**. To test for a DP edge, another **administrative request** is created and evaluated. This request
 644 will have the same contents as the first one, except for a “Deny” decision in the delegation-info category.
 645 (The request is not shown here. Also note that since policy 4 evaluated to “Permit”, the DP edge is not
 646 really needed, although it is specified in the definition of the graph, so this request could be skipped by an
 647 optimizing PDP.) This will also evaluate to “Permit”, so there is a DP edge as well. (It would have been
 648 possible for Policy 2 to include a condition so it would only allow a “Permit” decision, but this is not the
 649 case here.)

650 We have now established the edges going from Policy 4 to Policy 2. Next, we test for edges from Policy 2
 651 to Policy 1.

652



653

654 To test for PP and PI edges from Policy 2 to Policy 1, the following **administrative request** is generated:

655

```

656 <Request>
657   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-
658   category:delegated:urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject-category:access-subject">
659     <Attribute
660       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
661       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
662       <AttributeValue>Alice</AttributeValue>
663     </Attribute>
664   </Attributes>
665 </Request>

```

```

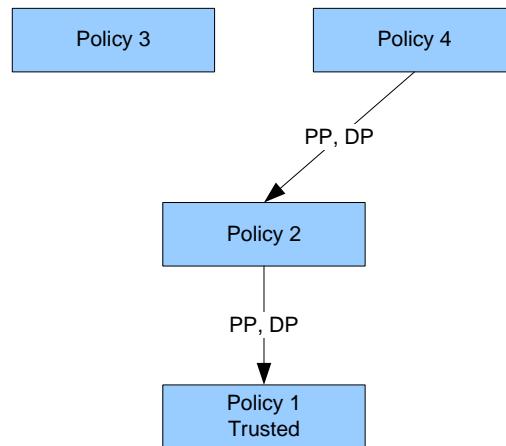
666     <Attribute
667       AttributeId="group"
668       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
669       <AttributeValue>employee</AttributeValue>
670     </Attribute>
671   </Attributes>
672   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegated:
673     urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:resource">
674     <Attribute
675       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id"
676       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
677       <AttributeValue>printer</AttributeValue>
678     </Attribute>
679   </Attributes>
680   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegated:
681     urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:action">
682     <Attribute
683       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id"
684       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
685       <AttributeValue>print</AttributeValue>
686     </Attribute>
687   </Attributes>
688   <Attributes Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegate">
689     <Attribute
690       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"
691       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
692       <AttributeValue>Carol</AttributeValue>
693     </Attribute>
694   </Attributes>
695   <Attributes
696     Category="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:delegation-info">
697     <Attribute
698       AttributeId="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:delegation:decision"
699       DataType="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
700       <AttributeValue>Permit</AttributeValue>
701     </Attribute>
702   </Attributes>
703 </Request>

```

704 *Listing 4 The administrative request for detecting edges from policy 2 to policy 1.*

705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712

Again, the subject, resource and action are copied from Listing 2 in to Listing 4 as delegated subject, resource and action and the ***issuer*** of policy 2, Carol, becomes the ***delegate*** of Listing 4. (In this case Carol is not a member of the administrator group so the context handler has not added such an attribute to Carol in this request.) This request and a corresponding request with a “Deny” decision evaluate to “Permit”, so we have found PP and DP edges. It remains to test the remaining combinations of nodes. These tests are not shown here to conserve space, but the end result will be a graph like this:

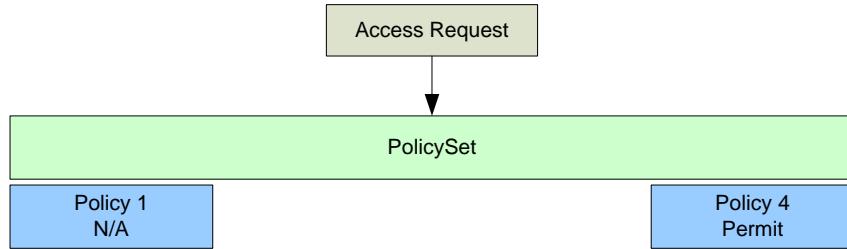


713
714

715 This is the full **reduction** graph for the example.

716 The second step of the PDP is now to find paths to the **trusted policies** from policies 3 and 4, which
717 were the applicable **policies** to the original **access request**. In the graph we can see that there is a PP
718 edged path to a **trusted policy** for Policy 4, so the Permit from Policy 4 is combined. There is no path for
719 Policy 3, so policy 3 is disregarded. Policy 2 is not applicable and is not trusted, so it is also discarded.
720 Policy 1 remains since it is trusted, although it is not applicable. We have the following:

721



722

723

724 These **policies** are combined as usual, which in this case leads to a “Permit” for the **policy set** in whole.

725 **6 Optimization (non-normative)**

726 **6.1 Optimization of Reduction**

727 When **administrative policies** are simple and few in number, the previous process can be executed as
728 written. However, when **policies** are numerous, preprocessing will help improve performance at access
729 time. The following strategies may be employed.

730 • **Eliminate unauthorized polices**

731 Eliminating **administrative policies** for which there is no chain back to the **trusted policies** will
732 greatly reduce the processing required at access time by eliminating backtracking. This works when
733 **policies** are drawn exclusively from a repository. When **policies** may be presented dynamically at
734 access time, it will be useful to limit what **policies** can be presented. For example, dynamic **policies**
735 might be restricted to being only **access policies** or either access or leaf **administrative policies**. If
736 root **policies** can be presented dynamically, then it will not be possible to perform this processing in
737 advance.

738 • **Flatten delegation chains**

739 When a chain can be found from the **trusted policies** to a particular **access policy**, then a derived
740 **trusted policy**, with the same allowed **situations** and effect value can be substituted for the original
741 **access policy**.

742 • **Split policies**

743 It may be possible to split a **policy** into two (or more) simpler ones. For example, when a **policy**
744 contains a disjunctive condition, it will be equivalent to two distinct **policies** each containing one of
745 the alternatives, with the same effect value. The benefit of doing this is that it may then be possible to
746 eliminate or flatten one of the derived **policies**.

747 • **Creating graph edges only as needed**

748 Typical **reduction** graphs are likely sparse, so rather than testing each pair of nodes, it may be more
749 efficient to test for new edges as new nodes are reached with existing edges.

750 These optimizations may be done by **backward chaining**, **forward chaining** or both.

751 One of the main obstacles to performing these optimizations will be the lack of information about
752 **situation** attributes in advance of access time so it will be possible to tell which **situation** constraint
753 subsumes another. In particular implementations or applications the **policies** may have restricted forms,
754 so the **situation** constraints are directly comparable or extra knowledge of attributes is available, such
755 that comparisons between **situation** constraints can be made.

756 Since the **delegate** plays a particularly crucial role, and since the number of parties who are allowed to be
757 **policy issuers** will typically be small compared to the total user population, it may be worthwhile to
758 arrange that the authoritative source of these attributes be made available when doing optimizations.

759 **6.2 Alternative forms of delegation**

760 XACML **policies** are written in terms of attributes. This means that another way to achieve delegation, is
761 to delegate attribute assignment, rather than XACML **policies**. Which is more efficient depends on the
762 particular use case requirements.

763 For instance, if relatively few general rules can be used to express **policies**, and the requirement of
764 delegation is to assign to whom these rules apply, delegation of attribute assignment may be more
765 appropriate.

766 In contrast, for instance, if there are no general rules, and access permissions need to combine resources
767 from many different authorities, the delegation model described in this profile may be ideal.

7 Actions Other Than Create

768 An **administrative policy** allows **policies** to be created by delegates. What about other operations on
769 **policies**, such as Update and Delete?

770
771 Update (modify) can be treated as a Delete followed by a Create. In the case where **policies** are signed
772 by the **policy issuer**, this is literally true

773 This profile does not specify a particular model for policy deletion (revocation of policies). An
774 implementation MAY specify a model for policy deletion and may therefore disregard policies during
775 processing. Revoked policies MAY also be removed from the policy repository, in which case they will not
776 be seen by the PDP.

777 The following sections suggest some models for revocation which MAY be used. They are all optional
778 and other models MAY be used as well.

7.1 Revocation by the issuer

780 One possible revocation model which may be implemented is that the **issuer** of a **policy** is the one who
781 is authorized to remove it. How the **issuer** of the revocation is authenticated and how the effect of
782 revocation is implemented is not specified by this profile.

7.2 Revocation by super administrators

783 One possible revocation model which may be implemented is that super administrators of the PDP (or
784 **policy** repository) may remove any **policy** at their discretion.

7.3 Revocation as an action under access control

785 One possible revocation model is that access to the **policy** repository is controlled by XACML (or some
786 other policy language) and removal of a **policy** is an action which can be performed. In this case the
787 **policy** or the **policy** repository is modeled as a **resource** and the revocation as an action.

790 8 Security and Privacy Considerations (non- 791 normative)

792 8.1 Dynamic Issuer Attributes

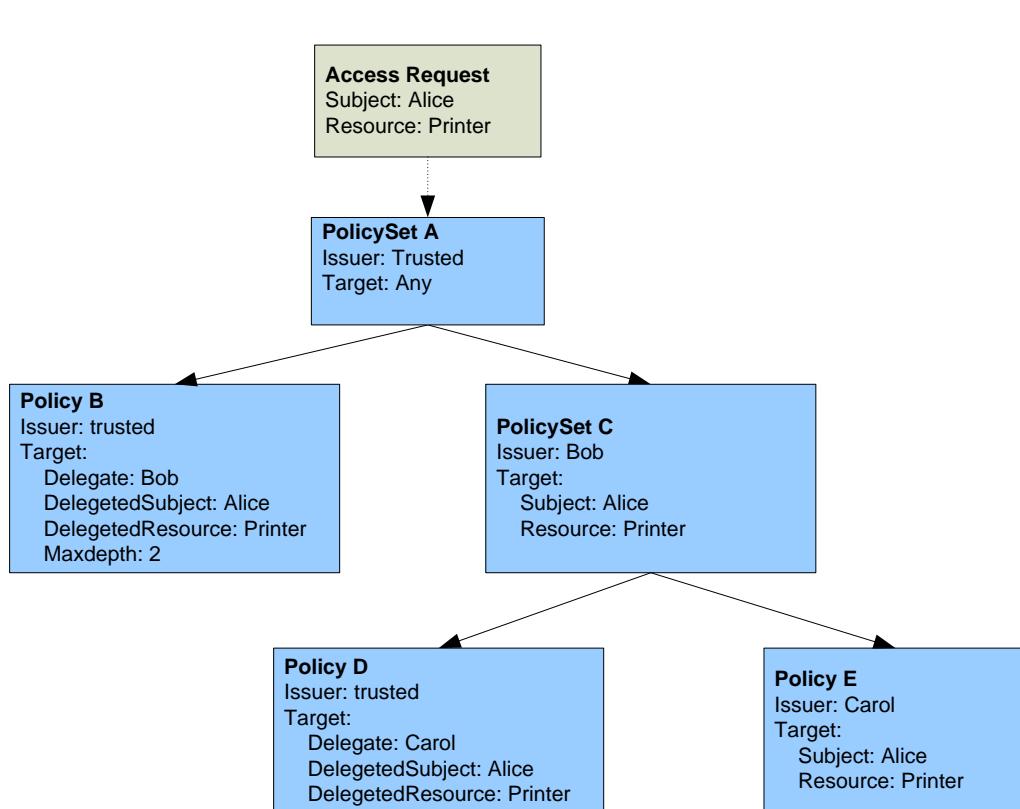
793 In case the attributes of an *issuer* may change with time, the choice of the point in time used for resolving
794 them may affect the outcome of **administrative requests**. The PDP MUST treat this consistently and
795 choose to operate in either historic or current *issuer* attribute mode. Policy writers need to be aware of
796 the mode in which the PDP will operate.

797 Also in some environments it may be problematic to resolve old attributes and/or to reliably know at which
798 time a **policy** was issued without special measures such as trusted time stamp authorities.

799 8.2 Enforcing Constraints on Delegation

800 This profile allows for defining a maximum depth for delegation. Implementers and users should be aware
801 that this constraint cannot be enforced in the strict sense. It may be possible for someone with access
802 rights to “delegate” that access right to anyone else “off-line” by just performing any operation himself on
803 the behalf of the other person. However, in many applications these kinds of constraints can still be useful
804 since they limit how the **policies** may evolve and indicate to users what policy is, and thus probably
805 limiting casual policy violations.

806 Implementers should also be aware of that if there are nested *issuers* in a **policy set**, then the
807 delegation that goes inside the outermost *issuer* is not visible to the outermost level of **reduction**. This
808 means that constraints on delegation depth have no effect on the nested *issuers*. See the following figure
809 for an example:



813 During evaluation, **reduction** will be performed inside policy set C, where policy D will support policy E.
814 This **reduction** is not visible outside policy set C. The maximum depth condition in policy B has no effect
815 on the **reduction** which goes on inside policy set C. If you wish to use a maximum depth constraint, you
816 must collect delegated **policies** at a single level of nesting in a **policy set**.

817 **8.3 Issuer and delegate attributes**

818 An implementation must take care to authenticate the contents of <PolicyIssuer> elements before the
819 **policies** are included in the PDP. It is the responsibility of the entity issuing a **policy set** to verify that the
820 attributes of all **issuers** of the immediately contained **policies** are correct. As a special case, it is the
821 responsibility of the PDP owner to verify all **issuers** of the **policies** in the PDP at the PDP **policy set**
822 level.

823 If the context handler provides additional attributes of delegates, naturally, the context handler must have
824 verified their correctness.

825 A special case of **issuer** attribute verification is when the <PolicyIssuer> element is dynamically
826 created when the **policy** is loaded from storage into the PDP. In this case the <PolicyIssuer> element
827 could for instance be based on a digital signature on the **policy** in the storage.

828 **8.4 Denial of Service**

829 If an attacker can insert **policies** into the repository, even if the **issuers** of the **policies** would not be
830 trusted and the **policy** could not be traced to a trusted source, it may be possible, depending on the
831 implementation, for the attacker to draft **policies** such that there will be a lot of computation during
832 request evaluation. This could degrade performance and result in denied or reduced service. An
833 implementation must take this in consideration.

834 On case of such intensive computation is if the attacker is able to draft **policies** which contain complex
835 conditional expressions.

836 Another identified attack is to create nested **policy sets** which contain **policies** which need to be
837 reduced. Since creation of the **reduction** graph in worst case means that every **policy** will be evaluated
838 twice, bu nesting **reduction** in **policy sets**, the number of times the deepest **policies** will be evaluated
839 will increase exponentially with the depth of the **policy set** nesting. Possible protections against this
840 attack include dynamic detection of it, not accepting **policies** with nested **policy sets** which need
841 **reduction** and doing **reduction** graph generation by **forward chaining**, and not evaluate those **policies**
842 which are not reached from the **trusted policies**.

843 **8.5 Obligations**

844 When **access policies** containing obligations are combined, an obligation from a **policy** will be included
845 in the result, even if there is a **policy** evaluating to the same result but which does not contain the
846 obligation. In a setting with decentralized administration where **policies** are issued by multiple **issuers**,
847 this may in some cases be undesirable behavior. Depending on the nature of the obligation an obligation
848 could be seen as an additional restriction to the access right. By adding an obligation to a **policy**, one
849 **issuer** can in effect restrict the authority of another **issuer**. In particular, by including an obligation that is
850 intentionally unrecognizable by the PEP, one **issuer** can completely deny the access that another **issuer**
851 has granted.

852 When delegated XACML is used in an application, these issues must be considered. One possible
853 solution is to allow only certain kinds of obligations. Another solution is to allow use of obligations only in
854 the **trusted policies**.

855

856

857

858 **9 Conformance**

859 **9.1 Delegation by reduction**

860 An implementation conforms to this specification if it performs evaluation of XACML as specified in
861 sections 4 and 7 of this document. The following URI identifies this functionality:
862 urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:profile:administration:reduction

863 **A. Acknowledgements**

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867 Anthony Nadalin, IBM
868 Bill Parducci
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870 Hal Lockhart, Oracle
871 Rich Levinson, Oracle
872 Seth Proctor, Sun

873 B. Revision History

874 [optional; should not be included in OASIS Standards]

875

Revision	Date	Editor	Changes Made
WD 01	22 Mar 2005	Hal Lockhart	Initial working draft.
WD 02	8 Apr 2005	Tim Moses	Added PolicyIssuerMatch to <Target> element. Added delegation depth control.
WD 03	20 Apr 2005	Tim Moses	Added a pseudo-code description of the processing model Added schema for the request context.
WD 04	22 Apr 2005	Tim Moses	Added a plain-language description of the processing model. Modified <PolicyIssuerMatch> syntax and changed name to “delegates”. Made <PolicyIssuer> mandatory and included a URI for “root”.
WD 05			
WD 06			
WD 07	5 Jul 2005	Erik Rissanen	Added missing parts and corrected incorrect parts of the schema fragments. Clarified descriptive text. Added some new definitions in the terminology list. Fixed formatting.
WD 08	15 Aug 2005	Erik Rissanen	Improvements of the text, figures and formatting. Improved consistency and terminology. Fill in details, simplify and improve the processing model.
WD 09	13 Sep 2005	Erik Rissanen	Changed the definition of “situation”. Added max delegation depth to the processing model. Added obligations to the processing model. Added some security considerations. Changed IndirectDelegateDesignator to IndirectDelegatesCondition. Added the possibility for a target to match both access and administrative requests. Other improvements and corrections.
WD 10		Erik Rissanen	Removed the term untrusted issuer . It was confusing since it really meant “issuer not trusted yet”. Fixed some errors in the schema fragments

			<p>and the example.</p> <p>Removed the <Policies> element from the request. It will be placed in the SAML profile instead.</p> <p>Added historic/current attribute modes to the normative text.</p> <p>Made the effect part of the situation in order to support deny at the access level.</p> <p>Misc editing and fixing.</p>
WD 11	18 Jun 2006	Erik Rissanen	<p>Misc editing and corrections.</p> <p>Added description for the context <Decision> element.</p> <p>Added updated description of the access permitted function.</p> <p>Disallow even the trusted issuer to issue negative administrative decisions.</p>
WD 12	25 Jul 2006	Erik Rissanen	<p>Corrected typos.</p> <p>Added section with additions to the SAML profile of XACML.</p>
WD 13	4 Oct 2006	Erik Rissanen	Updated to new OASIS document template.
WD 14	5 Oct 2006	Erik Rissanen	<p>Fixed typos, formatting and clarified the text in multiple places.</p> <p>Removed statement in solution overview which stated that the policy which the PDP starts with by definition is issued by the trusted issuer. See issue #27 in the issues list.</p> <p>Major rewrite to make use of attribute categories.</p>
WD 15	4 Jan 2007	Erik Rissanen	Clarified some of the text.
WD 16		Erik Rissanen	<p>Removed indirect delegates.</p> <p>Updated XML based on new core schema.</p> <p>Removed section about SAML profile (moved into an updated SAML profile document).</p> <p>Removed sections about schema (moved to the core specification draft).</p> <p>Improved text and presentation.</p> <p>Updated processing model.</p>
WD 17		Erik Rissanen	<p>Changed to a reduction algorithm which handles indeterminate.</p> <p>Changed maximum depth to use a special XML attribute, rather being part of the request XACML attributes.</p> <p>Removed the non-normative overview of the processing model. It was not up to date and didn't really contribute anything beyond the examples.</p>

WD 18	24 Aug 2007	Erik Rissanen	Change disjunctive/conjunctive match to AnyOf/AllOf
WD 19	10 Oct 2007	Erik Rissanen	Fixed typos and improved descriptive text. Removed the trusted issuer. Rewrote the confusing section 4.
WD 20	28 Dec 2007	Erik Rissanen	Converted to current OASIS template.
WD 21	24 Feb 2008	Erik Rissanen	Added normative statement which for security reasons allows the PDP refuse policies which contain unknown obligations. Rewrote section on actions other than create and included some revocation models there. Updated the access-permitted function to the new generalized attribute categories.
WD 22	4 Nov 2008	Erik Rissanen	Moved the "access permitted" feature to the core specification.
WD 23	18 Mar 2009	Erik Rissanen	Fix error on treatment of delegation-info in section 4.5.
WD 24	4 Apr 2009	Erik Rissanen	Editorial cleanups Clarification of normative statements.
WD 25		Erik Rissanen	Fixed typos.

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