This document provides a profile for the use XACML with resources that are structured as hierarchies. The profile addresses resources represented as nodes in XML documents or represented in some non-XML way. The profile covers identifying nodes in a hierarchy, requesting access to nodes in a hierarchy, and specifying policies that apply to nodes in a hierarchy.
Status:

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# Table of Contents

1  Introduction ................................................................................................................................. 5

1.1 Glossary ....................................................................................................................................... 6

1.1.1 Comparison of hierarchical structures .................................................................................. 8

1.2 Terminology ............................................................................................................................... 8

1.3 Normative References ............................................................................................................... 9

1.4 Non-Normative References ...................................................................................................... 9

2  Representing the identity of a node .............................................................................................. 10

2.1 Nodes in XML documents ......................................................................................................... 10

2.2 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by URIs .................................................................. 10

2.2.1 Alternative URI-reference representation for XML documents ............................................. 11

2.3 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes ............................................. 12

3  Requesting access to a node ........................................................................................................ 13

3.1 Nodes in an XML document ..................................................................................................... 13

3.2 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by URIs ................................................................. 13

3.3 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes ............................................. 14

3.3.1 Pseudo-code for Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes (non-
    normative) .................................................................................................................................. 14

4  Stating policies that apply to nodes ............................................................................................. 17

4.1 Policies applying to nodes with ancestor attributes .................................................................. 17

4.2 Policies applying only to nodes in XML documents .................................................................. 17

4.3 Policies applying only to nodes identified with URIs ............................................................... 17

5  New attribute identifiers ............................................................................................................... 19

5.1 content-selector ....................................................................................................................... 19

5.2 document-id ............................................................................................................................. 19

5.3 resource-parent ......................................................................................................................... 19

5.4 resource-ancestor ..................................................................................................................... 19

5.5 resource-ancestor-or-self ....................................................................................................... 19

6  New profile identifiers .................................................................................................................. 20

7  Conformance ................................................................................................................................ 21

7.1 Nodes in XML documents ....................................................................................................... 21

7.2 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by URIs ............................................................... 21

7.3 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes ......................................... 21

A. Acknowledgements ..................................................................................................................... 22

B. Revision History ......................................................................................................................... 23
1 Introduction

{Non-normative}

It is often the case that a resource is organized as a hierarchy. Examples include file systems, XML documents, and organizations. This Profile specifies how XACML can provide access control for a resource that is organized as a hierarchy.

Why are resources organized as hierarchies special? First of all, policies over hierarchies frequently apply the same access controls to entire sub-trees of the hierarchy. Being able to express a single policy constraint that will apply to an entire sub-tree of nodes in the hierarchy, rather than having to specify a separate constraint for each node, increases both ease of use and the likelihood that the policy will correctly reflect the desired access controls. Another special characteristic of hierarchical resources is that access to one node may depend on the value of another node. For example, a medical patient might be granted access to the “diagnosis” node in a XML document medical record only if the patient’s name matches the value in the “patient name” node. Where this is the case, the requested node can not be processed in isolation from the rest of the nodes in the hierarchy, and the PDP must have access to the values of other nodes. Finally, the identity of nodes in a hierarchy often depends on the position of the node in the hierarchy; there also may be multiple ways to describe the identity of a single node. In this Profile, a resource organized as a hierarchy may be

- a “(rooted) tree” (a hierarchy with a single root),
- a “Directed Acyclic Graph” or “DAG” (a hierarchy with multiple roots, but a DAG may not have cycles; (also, a DAG may be expanded to an equivalent set of disjoint hierarchies, a fact, which is useful to know when conceptualizing the hierarchical properties of the DAG)),
- or a “polyarchy” (a “forest”, which is a disjoint set of trees, which when applied to a collection of resources may be designed to become a polyarchy, because each disjoint tree is layed on the same collection of resources, and nodes from disjoint trees, in general, may refer to the same resource, and as a result, with respect to the resource, merge to become a single node, which organizes the resources as a polyarchy; note also, that by jumping from one disjoint tree to another while on an intersecting node, that the polyarchy may contain cycles, which are not possible with the DAG).

All such resources are called hierarchical resources in this Profile. An XML document is always structured as a “tree”. Other types of hierarchical resources, such as files in a file system that supports links, may be structured as a “forest”.

In this Profile, the nodes in a hierarchical resource are treated as individual resources. An authorization decision that permits access to an interior node does not imply that access to its descendant nodes is permitted. An authorization decision that denies access to an interior node does not imply that access to its descendant nodes is denied.

There are three types of facilities specified in this Profile for dealing with hierarchical resources:

- Representing the identity of a node.
- Requesting access to a node.
- Stating policies that apply to one or more nodes.

Support for each of these facilities is optional.

This Profile addresses three ways of representing a hierarchical resource.

- In the first way, the hierarchy of which the node is a part is represented as an XML document that is included in the Request, and the requested resource is represented as a node in that document.
- In the second way, the resource must be a part of one or more singly rooted hierarchies. The resource is identified using a hierarchical URI which reflects the resource’s place in these hierarchies.
In the third way, the resource may be a part of one or more singly or multiply rooted hierarchies. The parent and other ancestor nodes of the resource are identified as attributes in the request. The naming of the resource (or its ancestors) has no significance in terms of describing the structure of the hierarchy.

Note that the actual target resource in the first case need not be part of an XML document - it is merely represented that way in the Request. Likewise, the target resource in the second case might actually be part of an XML document, but is being represented in some other way in the Request.

Facilities for dealing with resources represented as nodes in XML documents can make use of the fact that the XML document itself is included in the decision request. [XPath] expressions can be used to reference nodes in this document in a standard way, and can provide unique representations for a given node in the document. These facilities are not available for hierarchical resources that are not represented as XML documents. Other means must be provided in the case of such non-XML resources for determining the location of the requested node in the hierarchy. In some cases this can be done by including the node's position in the hierarchy as part of the node's identifier. In other cases, a node may have more than one normative identity, such as when the pathname of a file in a file system can include hard links. In such cases, the XACML PDP's Context Handler may need to supply the identities of all the node's ancestors. For all these reasons, the facilities for dealing with nodes in XML documents differ from the facilities for dealing with nodes in other hierarchical resources.

In dealing with a hierarchical resource, it may be useful to request authorization decisions for multiple nodes in the resource in a single decision request. Ways to make such requests are specified in another Profile – the Multiple resource profile of XACML V3.0 [MULTIPLE]. That Profile also provides a way to return a single authorization decision when access to multiple nodes in a hierarchy is requested. Readers of this Profile are encouraged to become familiar with the Multiple resource profile of XACML.

This Profile may be considered to be layered on top of the multiple resource profile, which in turn is layered on top of the behavior specified in the core XACML specification [XACML]. The functionality in this Profile MAY, however, be layered directly on the functionality in the core XACML specification.

This Profile for hierarchical resources assumes that all requests for access to multiple nodes in a hierarchical resource [MULTIPLE] have been resolved to individual requests for access to a single node.

1.1 Glossary

DAG

A Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG), which may also be characterized as a multi-rooted hierarchy.

Hierarchical resource

A resource that is organized as a tree or (Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) of individual resources called nodes.

Hierarchy

A general term that applies to all the types of hierarchical representations that are used in this specification to represent the organization of a collection of resource. This includes a single-rooted hierarchy, a multi-rooted hierarchy, and a multi-rooted disjoint hierarchy.

Multi-rooted disjoint hierarchy

A “hierarchy” that has multiple top level “root” nodes, each of which is top node of a single-rooted hierarchy, which in general, contains subtrees that overlap with subtrees of the other single-rooted hierarchies, that are topped by the other top level root nodes, where all the nodes that were in each original single-rooted hierarchy retain their identity as having been and remaining as a member of that original hierarchy. Because of this retention of identity within original single-rooted hierarchy, there are no restrictions with respect to cycles or otherwise as to the layout of the single-rooted hierarchies with respect to each other. This structure is also know as a “polyarchy”. It is also known as a “forest”, or “disjoint set of trees”, with the logical to physical characteristic that each “set of overlapping nodes” from multiple hierarchies that identifies a specific single resource, actually contains a “set of individual distinct identifiers” any of which can be used to identify that single resource within the multi-rooted disjoint hierarchy.
A specific example of this type of structure may begin with a set of resources that have been identified and organized within a **single-rooted hierarchy** by having one of a set of hierarchical URIs (considered to be a distinct hierarchical namespace) assigned to each resource as described in section 2.2. One may then for a totally independent purpose apply another set of hierarchical URIs (section 2.2) to a set of resources that may include part or all of the first set, and may include new members that were not included in the first set. Note that any **multi-rooted hierarchy (DAG)** may be represented in this manner.

However, the **multi-rooted disjoint hierarchy** (polyarchy) has no constraints on the additional single-rooted hierarchies that are laid down, and therefore, can be used to create more complex structures that may include cycles that cannot be represented by a **DAG.** Note also, that the use of URIs is a convenience and not a necessity for implementation of this structure.

### Multi-rooted hierarchy

A “hierarchy” that has multiple top level “root” **nodes,** each of which is top **node** of a **single-rooted hierarchy,** which in general, contains subtrees that overlap with subtrees of the other **single-rooted hierarchies,** that are topped by the other top level root **nodes.** This type of “hierarchy” is also known as a Directed Acyclic Graph (**DAG**). In general, multiple **single-rooted hierarchies** may be laid across a set of resources for organization purposes. The **DAG** properties constrain the layout options somewhat, in that within the layout of the multiple overlapping hierarchies, there may not be contained any cycles, i.e. where one could follow a path from any particular **node** that eventually returns to that same particular **node.**

A specific example of this type of structure may begin with a set of resources that have been identified and organized within a **single-rooted hierarchy** by having one of a set of hierarchical URIs (considered to be a distinct hierarchical namespace) assigned to each resource as described in section 2.2. One may then for a totally independent purpose apply another set of hierarchical URIs (section 2.2) to a set of resources that may include part or all of the first set, and may include new members that were not included in the first set. Note that any **multi-rooted hierarchy (DAG)** may be represented in this manner.

However, there are constraints on the 2**nd** and additional **single-rooted hierarchies** that are laid down, specifically, that no cycles are allowed to be produced when the new edges are added to the **DAG** for the additional hierarchies.

### Node

An individual resource that is part of a **hierarchical resource.**

### Single-rooted hierarchy

A “hierarchy” that has one top level “root” **node** and each member of the hierarchy can have only one parent **node.** Examples of resources that fit this model include a single XML document, and any **hierarchical resource** that is organized as a single hierarchy, such as typical organization charts, or the individual components within an overall assembly, where the finished assembled entity represents the top root node.
1.1.1 Comparison of hierarchical structures

The following table is intended to capture the salient features of the hierarchical structures used in this document:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Single-Rooted Hierarchy (XML document)</th>
<th>Multi-Rooted Hierarchy (DAG)</th>
<th>Multi-Rooted Disjoint Hierarchy (polyarchy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of root nodes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>n&gt;=1</td>
<td>n&gt;=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum number of parent nodes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>m&gt;=1</td>
<td>m&gt;=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is original hierarchical membership retained</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are navigation cycles allowed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, by shifting to at least one different original hierarchy along cyclic path, if such paths exist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there restrictions whether a specific existing node is allowed to be made a child of current node</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if adding the new node will create a cycle.</td>
<td>No, however, each new connection made must identify a specific hierarchy included in current node, or begin a new hierarchy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The situation with "cycles" is that there seems, in general, little point to purposely trying to create such a cycle, however, if such a cycle should happen to occur as a result of the difference in semantics of two single-rooted hierarchies that are being applied to the set of resources, whereby, for example, if in one hierarchy node “a” is the parent of node “b”, while in a 2nd hierarchy node “b” was the parent of node “a” then such a construct would not be allowed by the DAG, but would be allowed by the polyarchy. As a result, the polyarchy may be regarded as more general than the DAG, because the layouts possible with a polyarchy are a superset of those possible with a DAG on the same set of resources.

1.2 Terminology

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

The phrase (Optional) means that the described functionality is optional for compliant XACML implementations, but, if the functionality is claimed as being supported according to this Profile, then it SHALL be supported in the way described.

Example code listings appear like this.

In descriptions of syntax, elements in angle brackets (“<”, “>”) are to be replaced by appropriate values, square brackets (“[”, “]”) enclose optional elements (but are taken as literal when within quotes), elements in quotes are literal components, backslash-quote (“\”) is a literal quote character within a literal component, and an unquoted asterisk, (*), indicates that the preceding element may occur zero or more times, whereas an asterisk in quotes, (**), is a literal asterisk.
1.3 Normative References


1.4 Non-Normative References

2 Representing the identity of a node

In order for XACML policies to apply consistently to nodes in a hierarchical resource, it is necessary for the nodes in that resource to be represented in a consistent way. If a policy refers to a node using one representation, but a request refers to the node using a different representation, then the policy will not apply, and security may be compromised.

The following sections describe RECOMMENDED representations for nodes in hierarchical resources. Alternative representations of nodes in a given resource are permitted so long as all Policy Administration Points and all Policy Enforcement Points that deal with that resource have contracted to use the alternative representation.

2.1 Nodes in XML documents

(Optional)

The following URI SHALL be used as the identifier for the functionality specified in this Section of this Profile. This identifier represents metadata about this specification and implementations implementing this specification. This identifier MAY be used to describe capabilities of an implementation or to make other references to this specification


The identity of a node in a resource that is represented as an XML document instance SHALL be an XPath expression that evaluates to exactly that one node in the copy of the resource that is contained in the <Content> element of the <Attributes> element with the resource category of the <Request>.

Note: one possible XPath expression template for representation of node identifiers in an XML document or as part or a URI-reference is described in section 2.2.1.

2.2 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by URIs

(Optional)

The following URI SHALL be used as the identifier for the functionality specified in this Section of this Profile. This identifier represents metadata about this specification and implementations implementing this specification. This identifier MAY be used to describe capabilities of an implementation or to make other references to this specification


The identity of a node in a hierarchical resource that is not represented as an XML document instance MAY be represented as a URI that conforms to [RFC3986] and which has a hierarchical structure where the ancestors are delimited by slashes. (According to [RFC2396] URI schemes may be non-hierarchical, e.g. mailto:, hierarchical without slashes, e.g. urn: or hierarchical using slashes, e.g. http:). Hierarchical URIs with slashes are of the following generic form.

```
<scheme> ":" [/] <authority>] [ "/" <pathname>]
```

File system resources SHALL use the "file:" scheme. If the resource is identified with a standard <scheme> specified in [RFC3986] or in a related standard for a registered URI scheme which is hierarchical with slashes, then that scheme SHALL be used. Otherwise the URI SHALL use the "file:" scheme.

The <pathname> portion of the URI SHALL be of the form

```
<root name> [ "/" <node name> ] *
```

- The sequence of <root name> and <node name> values SHALL correspond to the individual hierarchical component names of ancestors of the represented node along the path from a <root> node to the represented node.
The components of the <pathname> portion of the URI SHALL be specified using the canonical form for such path components at the <authority>.

In accordance with [RFC3986], the separator character between hierarchical components of the <pathname> portion of the URI SHALL be the character "". Sequences of the "" character SHALL be resolved to a single "". Node identities SHALL NOT terminate with the "" character.

All <pathname> values SHALL be absolute.

If there is more than one fully resolved, absolute path from a <root> at the <authority> to the represented node, then a separate resource attribute with AttributeId "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id" andDataType http://urn:oasis:names.tc:xacml:1.0:data-type:anyURI SHALL be present in the Request Context for each such path.

Implementation note: the scheme name of the URI should be checked to determine it is an expected scheme before parsing the URI into its hierarchical components.

Also note that the notion of parsing the syntax of a URI is controversial, see for example [URIOpacity].

### 2.2.1 Alternative URI-reference representation for XML documents

(Optional)
The following URI SHALL be used as the identifier for the functionality specified in this Section of this Profile:


The identity of a node in a hierarchical resource that is represented as an XML document instance MAY be represented as a URI-reference that conforms to [RFC3986] and which has a hierarchical structure where the ancestors are delimited by slashes. Hierarchical "URI-references" with slashes conform to the following five component generic form (where the "URI portion" is the first four components):

```
<scheme> ":" ["//" <authority>] ["/" <pathname>] ["?" <query>] ["#" <fragment>]
```

The query portion of the URI is not used in this profile.

The <fragment> portion of the URI-reference MAY be used to identify explicit element, attribute, text, and other nodes in an XML document when constructed as an XPath path expression using the following form:

```
<fragment> = "xpointer(" <fragment-id> ")"
```

where

```
<fragment-id> = [ <doc-node-xsegment> [ "/" <elem-node-xsegment> ] * [ "/" <end-node-xsegment> ] ]
```

and

```
<doc-node-xsegment> = "*:" <doc-node-local-name> [ <namespace-uri> ]
```

```
<elem-node-xsegment> = = "*:" <elem-node-local-name> [ <namespace-uri> ] [ <position> ]
```

```
<attr-node-xsegment> = "@" "*:" <attr-node-local-name> [ <namespace-uri> ]
```

```
<text-node-xsegment> = "text()"
```

```
<other-node-xsegment> = (literal xpath syntax for other node types)
```

```
<position> = [" [ <integer> "]"
```

```
<integer> = (same as result of xpath fcn: position(), i.e. integer >= 1 )
```

```
<end-node-xsegment> = <attr-node-xsegment> | <text-node-xsegment> | <other-node-xsegment>
```

```
<doc-node-xsegment> = "*:" <doc-node-local-name> [ <namespace-uri> ]
```

```
<elem-node-xsegment> = = "*:" <elem-node-local-name> [ <namespace-uri> ] [ <position> ]
```

```
<attr-node-xsegment> = "@" "*:" <attr-node-local-name> [ <namespace-uri> ]
```

```
<text-node-xsegment> = "text()"
```

```
<other-node-xsegment> = (literal xpath syntax for other node types)
```

```
<position> = [" [ <integer> "]"
```

```
<integer> = (same as result of xpath fcn: position(), i.e. integer >= 1 )
```
<namespace-uri> = "[namespace-uri()="" <literal-namespace> ""]"

<literal-namespace> = (same as result of xpath fcn: namespace-uri() )

Notes:

- When expressions using the above syntax are used within an actual URI-Reference, the literal forms of "*:-node-xsegment" items MUST be percent-encoded as described in [RFC2396]. However, the decoded form is an executable XPath path expression.
- The "*:-node-xsegment" items are all have a leading ":*" which selects all nodes in any namespace with the "*:-node-local-name" that follows. The following <namespace-uri> item is then used to specify the namespace.
- When the following literal <namespace-uri> predicate appears in an expression it may be ignored or removed by the policies without changing the meaning of the expression:
  [namespace-uri()='""]
  because when the namespace-uri() XPath function evaluates to the empty string as shown, this means there is "no namespace" defined for the element, which is equivalent to an unprefixed local-name QName. Also the ":*" may also be ignored or removed. (Ignoring or removing is meant within the context of regular expression (regexp) processing.)
  For example the XPath segment "*:abc[namespace-uri()='"]" may be regarded as equal to "abc".
- Policies may, in general, ignore <position> predicates for matching purposes (i.e. allow "any" position value), because they usually do not represent a specific property of the node, but only provide a discriminator for otherwise equal node locations within the hierarchy. For example, a list of line items in a purchase order, usually does not attach any specific significance to the order in which the line items appear.

2.3 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes

(Optional)

The following URI SHALL be used as the identifier for the functionality specified in this Section of this Profile. This identifier represents metadata about this specification and implementations implementing this specification. This identifier MAY be used to describe capabilities of an implementation or to make other references to this specification


The identity of a node in a hierarchical resource that is not represented as an XML document instance MAY be represented by specifying its ancestors as XACML attributes in the request. In this case the node and its ancestors may be identified using identifiers of any XACML datatype. There is no requirement that different nodes use the same XACML datatype or that nodes in the same hierarchy use the same datatype.

In this mode of operation, any number of hierarchies with any number of roots may be represented, however, only hierarchies of which the resource is a member will be included. Hierarchies which include the ancestors or descendants of the resource, but do not contain the resource are not included.

In this approach, considerable information is discarded. It is not possible to determine how many hierarchies there are or which ancestors are in which hierarchies or the relative position of ancestors other than immediate parents.
3 Requesting access to a node

In order for XACML policies to apply consistently to nodes in a hierarchical resource, it is necessary for each request context that represents a request for access to a node in that resource to use a consistent description of that node access. If a policy refers to certain expected attributes of a node, but the request context does not contain those attributes, or if the attributes are not expressed in the expected way, then the policy may not apply, and security may be compromised.

The following sections describe RECOMMENDED request context descriptions of access to nodes in hierarchical resources. Alternative representations of such requests are permitted so long as all Policy Administration Points and all Policy Enforcement Points that deal with that resource have contracted to use the alternative representation.

3.1 Nodes in an XML document

(Optional)
The following URI SHALL be used as the identifier for the functionality specified in this Section of this Profile. This identifier represents metadata about this specification and implementations implementing this specification. This identifier MAY be used to describe capabilities of an implementation or to make other references to this specification.


In order to request access to a resource represented as a node in an XML document, the request context <Attributes> element in the resource category SHALL contain the following elements and XML attributes:

- A <Content> element that contains the entire XML document instance of which the requested node is a part.
- An <Attribute> element with an AttributeId of "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:content-selector" and a DataType of "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:data-type:xpathExpression". The <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> SHALL be an XPath expression whose context node SHALL be the <Content> element in the "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:attribute-category:resource" attribute category. This XPath expression SHALL evaluate to a nodeset containing the single node in the <Content> element that is the node to which access is requested. This <Attribute> MAY specify an Issuer.

Additional attributes MAY be included in the <Resource> element. In particular, the following attribute MAY be included.

- An <Attribute> element with an AttributeId of "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:document-id" and a DataType of "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:data-type:anyURI". The <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> SHALL be a URI that identifies the XML document of which the requested resource is a part, and of which a copy is present in the <Content> element. This <Attribute> MAY specify an Issuer.

3.2 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by URIs

(Optional)
The following URI SHALL be used as the identifier for the functionality specified in this Section of this Profile:


The resource SHALL be identified by means of a hierarchical URI (or URIs) as described in section 2.2. Parent and Ancestor attributes SHALL NOT be provided.
3.3 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes

(Optional)

The following URI SHALL be used as the identifier for the functionality specified in this Section of this Profile:

- urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-parent,
- urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor,
- urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor-or-self

Attributes with AttributeIds of "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-parent", "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor", and "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor-or-self" are optional to implement. If this section of the specification is supported, the following URIs SHALL be used as identifiers for the functionality they represent:


In order to request access to a node in a hierarchical resource in this mode of operation, the request context <Attributes> element SHALL NOT contain a <Content> element. The request context <Attributes> element in the resource category SHALL contain the following elements and XML attributes. Note that in this case, a node MAY have multiple parents. For example, in a file system that supports hard links, there may be multiple normative paths to a single file. Each such path MAY contain different sets of parents and ancestors.

The following discussion assumes that the Context Handler knows what hierarchies exist, how they are represented and how the nodes in them are named. There may be any number of distinct hierarchies which may be singly or multiply rooted. Individual nodes may belong to any number of hierarchies. Nodes in the hierarchies may be of a single type or multiple types. The resource-id of nodes may be of the same XACML datatype or different ones. Where they use the same datatype, say string, the naming scheme may be a single scheme or multiple schemes. A node may have a different name in every hierarchy it is in or one name in all hierarchies. A node may have multiple names in a single hierarchy of which it is a member. In general the naming scheme is not constrained to relate to the hierarchy in any way.

All that is required is that the Context Handler be able to determine what hierarchies exist, what are the resource-ids of the members and what are their relationships. Starting from this information the Context Handler SHALL perform the following steps or some process which gives equivalent results.

1. Identify all the hierarchies associated with the resources in question.
2. Drop from further consideration any hierarchies of which the node in question is not actually a member.
3. Drop from further consideration any descendants of the node.
4. In each hierarchy in turn, collect all of the identifiers for all of the nodes in each hierarchy for each of the node types described below.
5. Discard any duplicates.

- For each representation of the requested node, an <Attribute> element with AttributeId of "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id". The <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> SHALL be an identifier of the node to which access is requested. The DataType of the <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> MAY be of any XACML datatype. This <Attribute> MAY specify an Issuer.

- For each immediate parent of the node specified in the "resource-id" attribute or attributes, and for each representation of that parent node, an <Attribute> element with AttributeId "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-parent". The <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> SHALL be an identifier of the parent node. The DataType of the
<AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> MAY be of any XACML datatype. This <Attribute> MAY specify an Issuer.

- For each ancestor of the node specified in the “resource-id” attribute or attributes, and for each representation of that ancestor node, an <Attribute> element with AttributeId “urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor”. The <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> SHALL be an identifier of the ancestor node. The DataType of the <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> MAY be of any XACML datatype. This <Attribute> MAY specify an Issuer.

- For each ancestor of the node specified in the “resource-id” attribute or attributes, and for each representation of that ancestor node, an <Attribute> element with AttributeId “urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor-or-self”. The <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> SHALL be an identifier of the ancestor node or of the “resource-id” node itself. The DataType of the <AttributeValue> of this <Attribute> MAY be of any XACML datatype. This <Attribute> MAY specify an Issuer.

Additional attributes MAY be included in the <Attributes> element.

3.3.1 Pseudo-code for Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes (non-normative)

This section contains pseudo-code which may be considered to represent a model by which one can represent any collection of resources that are each individually identified as belonging to one or more hierarchies and/or DAGs. An algorithm is then defined to process the collection according to the rules of section 3.3.

```java
// Define a class for "Resource Hierarchy identifier" node
class ResHierId(int res, int hier) {
    // Define Sets to collect nodes in:
    selfNodes = new HashSet<ResHierId>();
    parentNodes = new HashSet<ResHierId>();
    ancestorNodes = new HashSet<ResHierId>();
    ancestorOrSelfNodes = new HashSet<ResHierId>();

    // Define number of resources, hierarchies and 1-based 2-d array
    int nRes = 4, mHier = 5; // example hierarchy dims
    int[][] ijResource = new int[nRes+1][mHier+1];

    // Define method to collect nodes
    collectAncestorNodes(int iRes) {
        for (int j = 1; j < mHier+1; j++) {
            int mDag = 1; m = j; iDepth = 0;
            if (ijResource[0][j] != 0) {
                while ((m < mHier) && (ijResource[0][m+1] == ijResource[0][j])) {
                    mDag++; m++;
                }
                walkUpHierarchyDag(iRes, j, mDag, iDepth);
                j = j + mDag - 1; // skip columns handled by mDag
            }
        }
    }

    // walkUpHierarchyDag(int iRes, int j, int mDag, int iDepth)
    // for each instance of self in Dag subrow
    for (int k = 1; k < mDag+1; k++) {
        int m = j + k-1; // m is column in big matrix
        int iResCurrent = iRes; // iResCurrent is 1-based row-id
        if (ijResource[iResCurrent][m] != 0) {
            ResHierId rhId = new ResHierId(iResCurrent, m);
            if (iDepth == 0) {
                selfNodes.add(rhId);
                ancestorOrSelfNodes.add(rhId);
            } else if (iDepth == 1) {
                parentNodes.add(rhId);
                ancestorNodes.add(rhId);
            } else { // parentNodes.add(rhId);
        }
    }
}
```

xacml-3.0-hierarchical-v1-spec-cd-03-en
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11 March 2010
Page 15 of 23
else {
    ancestorNodes.add(rhId);
    ancestorOrSelfNodes.add(rhId);
}
if (iResCurrent != ijResource[iResCurrent][m]) {
    // Set the new current node as parent of current node
    iResCurrent = ijResource[iResCurrent][m];
    iDepth++;
    walkUpHierarchyDag(iResCurrent, j, mDag, iDepth);
} else { } // found root on this path - done
else { } // zero means node not used - done
}

Note the following:

- The matrix, \(ijResource[nRes+1][mHier+1]\) represents a collection of \(nRes\) resources, each of which may belong to any of \(mHier\) single-parent hierarchies, or a mix of hierarchies and DAGs.

- DAGs are represented by multiple columns, where the width of the DAG is \(mDag\), which is equal to the maximum number of parents that a single node in the DAG currently has. It is assumed that the matrix has been prepared such that all columns within a single DAG are adjacent. Each DAG has a unique “DAG-id”, which is present in row 0 of each column of the DAG. By contrast, single-parent hierarchies (single column) have a zero in row 0.

- The matrix is generally sparse, is initialized to all zeroes, and single-parent hierarchies and DAGs are built by assigning the row number (effectively resource-id) of the parent of the resource to the cell in resource’s row, effectively making the row a collection of potential hierarchies and DAGs that the resource can belong to. The root of a hierarchy is indicated by the row element pointing to the current row, a self-reference.

- The 2-d array is “one-based” in that column 0 and row 0 are not used so that resources and hierarchies may be identified as running from 1->\(nRes\) and 1->\(mHier\).

- Once the matrix is built, the ancestors for a resource may be collected by passing the row number of the resource to the collectAncestorNodes(iRes) method. For each hierarchy and DAG in the matrix, the recursive \(\text{walkUpHierarchyOrDag(res-id, hier-id, dag-width, depth)}\) method is called, which will collect all the ancestors of either a hierarchy or DAG.

- The collected ancestors are stored in 4 sets: one each for self, parent, ancestor, and ancestor-or-self.

- This algorithm is intended to be a model only and does not represent any specific implementation strategy, except to clearly identify a concrete framework for identifying all the resources and hierarchies and DAGs that are potentially covered by this profile.
4 Stating policies that apply to nodes

{Non-normative}
This Section describes various ways to specify a policy predicate that can apply to multiple nodes in a hierarchical resource. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

4.1 Policies applying to nodes with ancestor attributes

{Non-normative}
Resource attributes with the following AttributeId values, described in Section 5: New attribute identifiers for hierarchical resources of this Profile, MAY be used to state policies that apply to one or more nodes in any hierarchical resource.

- urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor
- urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor-or-self

Note that a <AttributeDesignator> that refers to the “resource-parent”, “resource-ancestor”, or “resource-ancestor-or-self” attribute will return a bag of values representing all normative identities of all parents, ancestors, or ancestors plus the resource itself, respectively, of the resource to which access is being requested. The representations of the identities of these parents, ancestors, or self will not necessarily indicate the path from the root of the hierarchy to the respective parent, ancestor, or self unless the representation recommended in Section 3.2: Nodes in a resource that is not an XML document is used.

The standard XACML [XACML] bag and higher-order bag functions MAY be used to state policies that apply to one or more nodes in any hierarchical resource. The nodes used as arguments to these functions MAY be specified using a <AttributeDesignator> with the “resource-parent”, “resource-ancestor”, or “resource-ancestor-or-self” AttributeId value.

4.2 Policies applying only to nodes in XML documents

{Non-normative}
For hierarchical resources that are represented as XML document instances, the following function, described in the XACML 3.0 Specification [XACML] MAY be used to state policy predicates that apply to one or more nodes in that resource.

- urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:function:xpath-node-match

The standard XACML <AttributeSelector> element MAY be used in policies to refer to all or portions of a resource represented as an XML document and contained in the <Content> element of a request context.

The standard XACML [XACML] bag and higher-order bag functions MAY be used to state policies that apply to one or more nodes in a resource represented as an XML document. The nodes used as arguments to these functions MAY be specified using an <AttributeSelector> that selects a portion of the <Content> element of the <Attributes> element with the resource category.

4.3 Policies applying only to nodes identified with URIs

{Non-normative}
For hierarchical resources that are not represented as XML document instances, and where the URI representation of nodes specified in Section 2.2 of this Profile is used, the following functions described in the XACML 3.0 Specification [XACML] MAY be used to state policies that apply to one or more nodes in that resource.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:function:anyURI-equal
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:function:regexp-uri-match
5 New attribute identifiers

(Optional)

5.1 content-selector

The following identifier locates with an XPath expression the resource in the XML document that represents the hierarchy in which the requested resource is a part. The DataType of this attribute MUST be "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:data-type:xpathExpression".

urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:3.0:content-selector

5.2 document-id

The following identifier indicates the identity of the XML document that represents the hierarchy of which the requested resource is a part, and of which a copy is present in the <Content> element. Whenever access to a node in a resource represented as an XML document is requested, one or more instances of an attribute with this AttributeId MAY be provided in the <Attributes> element of the request context. The DataType of these attributes SHALL be "urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:data-type:anyURI".

urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:document-id

5.3 resource-parent

The following identifier indicates one normative identity of one parent node in the tree or forest of which the requested node is a part. Whenever access to a node in a hierarchical resource is requested, one instance of an attribute with this AttributeId SHALL be provided in the <Attributes> element of the request context for each normative representation of each node that is a parent of the requested node.


5.4 resource-ancestor

The following identifier indicates one normative identity of one ancestor node in the tree or forest of which the requested node is a part. Whenever access to a node in a hierarchical resource is requested, one instance of an attribute with this AttributeId SHALL be provided in the <Attributes> element of the request context for each normative representation of each node that is an ancestor of the requested node.

urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor

5.5 resource-ancestor-or-self

The following identifier indicates one normative identity of one ancestor node in the tree or forest of which the requested node is a part, or one normative identity of the requested node itself. Whenever access to a node in a hierarchical resource is requested, one instance of an attribute with this AttributeId SHALL be provided in the <Attributes> element of the request context for each normative representation of each node that is an ancestor of the requested node, and for each normative representation of the requested node itself.

urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-ancestor-or-self
6 New profile identifiers

The following URI values SHALL be used as identifiers for the functionality specified in various Sections of this Profile:

Section 2.1: Nodes in XML documents


Section 2.2: Nodes in resources that are not XML documents


Section 3.1: Nodes in an XML document


Section 3.2: Nodes in a resource that is not an XML document


Support for the “resource-parent”, “resource-ancestor”, and “resource-ancestor-or-self” attributes is optional within this Section, so these have separate identifiers:

7 Conformance

Implementations of this profile MAY conform to any or all of the following conformance clauses.

7.1 Nodes in XML documents

Implementations supporting hierarchical resources as nodes in an xml document SHALL conform to sections 2.1 and 3.1. The following URI identifies this functionality.


7.2 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by URIs

Implementations supporting hierarchical resources by means of URIs SHALL conform to sections 2.2 and 3.2. The following URI identifies this functionality.


7.3 Nodes in hierarchical resources identified by ancestor attributes

Implementations supporting hierarchical resources by means of ancestor attributes SHALL conform to sections 2.3 and 3.3. The following URI identifies this functionality.

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B. Revision History

[optional; should not be included in OASIS Standards]

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<th>Revision</th>
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<td>WD 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Erik Rissanen</td>
<td>Initial conversion to XACML 3.0.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WD 2</td>
<td>28 Dec 2007</td>
<td>Erik Rissanen</td>
<td>Conversion to the current OASIS template.</td>
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<td>WD 3</td>
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<td>Update to XACML core working draft 7.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WD 6</td>
<td>24 March 2009</td>
<td>Hal Lockhart</td>
<td>Added definitions provided by Rich Levinson Separated Attribute and URI modes</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Added conformance section</td>
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<tr>
<td>WD 8</td>
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<td>Erik Rissanen</td>
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<td>WD 9</td>
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<td>Added non-normative pseudo-code (by Rich) for how one can collect the required attributes from a hierarchy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WD 11</td>
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<td>Erik Rissanen</td>
<td>Fixed typos. Fixed OASIS references Updated acknowledgments</td>
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<td>WD 12</td>
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<td>Updated cross references Updated acknowledgments</td>
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<td>WD 13</td>
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<td>Erik Rissanen</td>
<td>Updated cross references Fixed OASIS formatting issues</td>
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