



Cross-Enterprise Security and Privacy Authorization (XSPA) Profile of WS-Trust for Healthcare

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Abstract:

This profile describes a framework in which WS-Trust is leveraged by cross-enterprise security and privacy authorization (XSPA) to satisfy requirements pertaining to information-centric security within the healthcare community.

Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Cross-enterprise Security and Privacy Authorization (XSPA) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	6
1.1	Terminology.....	6
1.2	Normative References.....	6
1.3	Non-Normative References.....	7
2	XSPA profile of WS-Trust Implementation.....	8
2.1	Interactions between Parties.....	8
2.1.1	Access Control Service at Service User.....	8
2.1.2	Access Control Service at Service Provider.....	8
2.1.3	Attributes.....	8
2.1.4	Security Policy.....	9
2.1.5	Privacy Policy.....	9
2.2	Transmission Integrity.....	9
2.3	Transmission Confidentiality.....	9
2.4	Error States.....	9
2.5	Security Considerations.....	9
2.6	Confirmation Identifiers.....	9
2.7	Metadata Definitions.....	10
2.8	Naming Syntax, Restrictions and Acceptable Values.....	10
2.9	Namespace Requirements.....	10
2.10	Attribute Rules of Equality.....	10
2.11	WS-Trust Claims.....	10
2.11.1	XSPA Dialect (normative).....	10
2.11.2	XSPA ClaimType (normative).....	10
2.11.3	XSPA Claims – Static vs. Runtime.....	11
2.12	Attribute Naming Syntax, Restrictions and Acceptable Values.....	11
2.12.1	Name.....	12
2.12.2	National Provider Identifier (NPI) – (optional).....	12
2.12.3	Organization.....	12
2.12.4	Organization-ID.....	13
2.12.5	Structural Role.....	13
2.12.6	Functional Role.....	13
2.12.7	Permission (optional).....	13
2.12.8	Action.....	13
2.12.9	Execute (optional).....	13
2.12.10	Object.....	13
2.12.11	Purpose of Use (POU).....	14
2.12.12	Resource.....	14
3	Examples of Use.....	16
3.1	WS-Trust Event Flow.....	16
4	Conformance.....	17
4.1	Introduction.....	17
4.2	Conformance Tables.....	17
4.3	Attributes.....	17

A. Acknowledgements	19
B. Revision History	20

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Interaction between Parties	8
Figure 2: Determining Subject Permissions	14
Figure 3: Cross-Enterprise Example Interaction	16

1 Introduction

This document describes a framework that provides access control interoperability useful in the healthcare environment. Interoperability is achieved using WS-Trust secure token request/response elements to carry common semantics and vocabularies in exchanges specified below.

1.1 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 keywords “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

The following definitions establish additional terminology and usage in this profile:

Access Control Service (ACS) – The Access Control Service is the enterprise security service that supports and implements user-side and service-side access control capabilities. The service would be utilized by the Service and/or Service User.

Entity - An entity may also be known as a principal and/or subject, which represents an application, a machine, or any other type of entity that may act as a requester in a transaction.

Object – An *object* is an entity that contains or receives information. The *objects* can represent information containers (e.g., files or directories in an operating system, and/or columns, rows, tables, and views within a database management system) or *objects* can represent exhaustible system resources, such as printers, disk space, and **central processing unit** (CPU) cycles. ANSI RBAC (American National Standards Institute Role Based Access Control)

Operation - An *operation* is an executable image of a program, which upon invocation executes some function for the user. Within a file system, *operations* might include read, write, and execute. Within a database management system, *operations* might include insert, delete, append, and update. An *operation* is also known as an action or privilege. ANSI RBAC

Permission - An approval to perform an operation on one or more RBAC protected objects. ANSI RBAC

Structural Role - A job function within the context of an organization whose permissions are defined by operations on workflow objects. ASTM (**American Society for Testing and Materials**) E2595-2007

Service Provider (SP) - The service provider represents the system providing a protected resource and relies on the provided security service.

Service User - The service user represents any individual entity [such as on an Electronic Health Record (EHR)/**personal health record (PHR)** system] that needs to make a service request of a Service Provider.

1.2 Normative References

- [RFC2119] S. Bradner, *Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels*, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>, IETF RFC 2119, March 1997.
- [SAMLPROF] OASIS Standard, “Profiles for the OASIS Security Assertion Markup Language, v2.0,” March 2005. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/saml/v2.0/saml-profiles-2.0-os.pdf>
- [ASTM E1986-09 (2009)] Standard Guide for Information Access Privileges to Health Information.
- [ASTM E2595 (2007)] Standard Guide for Privilege Management Infrastructure
- [SAML] OASIS Standard, “Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) v2.0”, March 2005. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/saml/v2.0/saml-core-2.0-os.pdf>

- 43 **[HL7-PERM]** HL7 Security Technical Committee, HL7 Version 3 Standard: Role-based Access
44 Control Healthcare Permission Catalog, (Available through
45 <http://www.hl7.org/library/standards.cfm>), Release 1, Designation: ANSI/HL7 V3
46 RBAC, R1-2008, Approval Date 2/20/2008.
- 47 **[HL7-CONSENT]** HL7 Consent Related Vocabulary Confidentiality Codes Recommendation,
48 <http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/xacml-demo-tech/200712/doc00003.doc>, from
49 project submission: [http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/xacml-demo-](http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/xacml-demo-tech/200712/msg00015.html)
50 [tech/200712/msg00015.html](http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/xacml-demo-tech/200712/msg00015.html)
- 51 **[WS-TRUST]** OASIS Standard, “WS-Trust, Version 1.3”, March 2007. [http://docs.oasis-](http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-trust/200512/ws-trust-1.3-os.pdf)
52 [open.org/ws-sx/ws-trust/200512/ws-trust-1.3-os.pdf](http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-trust/200512/ws-trust-1.3-os.pdf).

53 **1.3 Non-Normative References**

- 54 **[XSPA-SAML-INTRO]**
55 OASIS Committee Working Draft, “XSPA Introduction to Profile of SAML for
56 Healthcare”, December 2008. [http://www.oasis-](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/30407/xspa-saml-introduction-01.doc)
57 [open.org/committees/download.php/30407/xspa-saml-introduction-01.doc](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/30407/xspa-saml-introduction-01.doc)
- 58 **[XSPA-SAML-EXAMPLES]**
59 OASIS Committee Working Draft, “XSPA Profile of SAML for Health
60 Implementation Examples”, December 2008. [http://www.oasis-](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/30408/xspa-saml-examples-01.doc)
61 [open.org/committees/download.php/30408/xspa-saml-examples-01.doc](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/30408/xspa-saml-examples-01.doc)

2 XSPA profile of WS-Trust Implementation

The XSPA profile of WS-Trust provides cross-enterprise authorization of entities within and between healthcare information technology (IT) systems by providing common semantics and vocabularies for interoperable coarse and fine-grained access control.

Additional introductory information and examples can be found in Cross-Enterprise Security and Privacy Authorization (XSPA) Profile of WS-Trust Implementation Examples [XSPA-WS-TRUST-EXAMPLES].

2.1 Interactions between Parties

Figure 1 displays an overview of interactions between parties in the exchange of healthcare information. Elements described in the figure are explained in the subsections below.

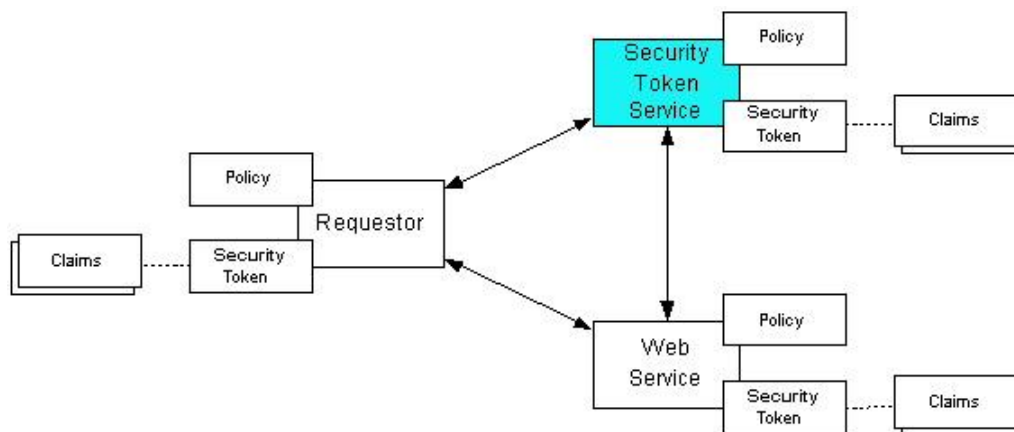


Figure 1: Interaction between Parties

2.1.1 Access Control Service at Service User

The XSPA profile of WS-Trust supports sending all requests through an Access Control Service (ACS). The ACS receives the Request Security Token (RST) from the Service User and responds with a Request Security Token Response (RSTR) containing SAML assertions regarding user authorizations and attributes.

To perform its function, the ACS may acquire additional attribute information related to user location, role, purpose of use, and requested resource requirement and actions. The requesting ACS is responsible for enforcement of the access control decision.

It should be noted that the ACS may make an access control decision to deny access to remote resources based on local internal policies.

2.1.2 Access Control Service at Service Provider

The Service Provider ACS is responsible for the parsing of assertions, evaluating the assertions against the security and privacy policy, and making and enforcing a decision on behalf of the Service Provider.

2.1.3 Attributes

Attributes are information related to user location, role, purpose of use, and requested resource requirements and actions necessary to make an access control decision.

90 **2.1.4 Security Policy**

91 The security policy includes the rules regarding authorizations required to access a protected resource
92 and additional security conditions (location, time of day, cardinality, separation of duty, purpose, etc.) that
93 constrain enforcement.

94 **2.1.5 Privacy Policy**

95 The privacy policy includes the set of consent directives and other privacy conditions (object masking,
96 object filtering, user, role, purpose, etc.) that constrain enforcement.

97 **2.2 Transmission Integrity**

98 The XSPA profile of WS-Trust recommends the use of reliable transmission protocols. Where
99 transmission integrity is required, this profile makes no specific recommendations regarding mechanism
100 or assurance level.

101 **2.3 Transmission Confidentiality**

102 The XSPA profile of WS-Trust recommends the use of secure transmission protocols. Where
103 transmission confidentiality is required, this profile makes no specific recommendations regarding
104 mechanisms.

105 **2.4 Error States**

106 This profile adheres to error states described in WS-Trust v1.3.

107 **2.5 Security Considerations**

108 The following security considerations are established for the XSPA profile of WS-Trust:

- 109 • Participating information domains have agreed to use XSPA profile and that a trust relationship
110 exists,
- 111 • Entities are members of defined information domains under the authorization control of a defined
112 set of policies,
- 113 • Entities have been identified and provisioned (credentials issued, privileges granted, etc.) in
114 accordance with policy,
- 115 • Privacy policies have been identified and provisioned (consents, user preferences, etc.) in
116 accordance with policy,
- 117 • Pre-existing security and privacy policies have been provisioned to Access Control Services,
- 118 • The capabilities and location of requested information/document repository services are known,
- 119 • Secure channels are established as required by policy,
- 120 • Audit services are operational and initialized, and
- 121 • Entities have asserted membership in an information domain by successful and unique
122 authentication.

123 **2.6 Confirmation Identifiers**

124 The manner used by the relying party to confirm that the requester message came from a system entity
125 that is associated with the subject of the assertion will depend upon the context and sensitivity of the
126 data. For confirmations requiring a specific level of assurance, this profile specifies the use of National
127 Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-63 Electronic Authentication
128 Guideline. In addition, this profile specifies the Liberty Identity Access Framework (LIAF) criteria for
129 evaluating and approving credential service providers.

130 **2.7 Metadata Definitions**

131 This profile will utilize the WS-Trust <AttributeStatement> to inject a SAML assertion into request.

132 **2.8 Naming Syntax, Restrictions and Acceptable Values**

133 This profile conforms to WS-Trust v1.3 specification.

134 **2.9 Namespace Requirements**

135 This profile will support the namespace requirements described in WS-Trust v1.3.

136 **2.10 Attribute Rules of Equality**

137 All asserted attributes child to <AttributeStatement> element will be typed as strings. Two <Attributes>
138 elements refer to the same SAML attribute if and only if their Name XML attribute values are equal in a
139 binary comparison.

140 **2.11 WS-Trust Claims**

141 The optional wst:Claims parameter defined in **[WS-Trust]** can be used by the service provider to specify
142 its claims requirements, as well as by the client to pass claims at run time.

143 **2.11.1 XSPA Dialect (normative)**

144 This profile defines a dialect for using wst:Claims with XSPA. The dialect is identified by the following
145 URI:

146 urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:claims

147 **2.11.2 XSPA ClaimType (normative)**

148 The XSPA dialect also defines the xspa:ClaimType element. The xspa:ClaimType is a child element of
149 wst:Claims. One or many xspa:ClaimType(s) may be included in a wst:Claims.

150 **Example of use:**

```
151 <xspa:ClaimType uri="xs:anyURI" optional="xs:boolean">  
152 <xspa:ClaimValue>xs:string</xspa:ClaimValue>  
153 </xspa:ClaimType>
```

154

155 *Table 1: XSPA ClaimType (Normative)*

Tag	Description
/xspa:ClaimType	Represents claim
/xspa:ClaimType/@Uri	The unique identifier specifying the claim type.
/xspa:ClaimType/@Optional	Defaults to true.
/xspa:ClaimValue	The specific value specified in the claim, optional.

156

157 **Example of use:**

```
158 <wst:Claims Dialect="urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:claims">  
159 <xspa:ClaimType Uri="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id"/>  
160 <xspa:ClaimType Uri="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:subject:role"/>  
161 <xspa:ClaimType Uri="urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:resource:resource-id"/>  
162 <xspa:ClaimType Uri="urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:purposeofuse"/>
```

```

163     <xspa:ClaimType Uri="urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:npi"
164     optional="true"/>
165 </wst:Claims>

```

166
167 **Example of use:**

```

168 <wst: Claims Dialect=""urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:claims">
169   <xspa:ClaimType Uri="urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:purposeofuse">
170     <xspa:ClaimValue>Emergency Treatment</xspa: ClaimValue>
171   </xspa:ClaimType>
172 </wst:Claims>

```

173 **2.11.3 XSPA Claims – Static vs. Runtime**

174 Many of the attributes described in this profile may be delivered to an STS from an Identity Management
175 Provider. These attributes describe the requesting individual, his or her unique identifier and permissions.
176 And organization information, all of which are static in nature.

177 Other attributes must be determined at runtime, are usually based on work flow, state, or application
178 knowledge. It is RECOMMENDED at minimum implementers should support dynamic assertion of
179 following XSPA claims.

180 *Table 2: XSPA Claims Determined at Runtime*

ClaimType	Description
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:purposeofuse	The standards based Healthcare reason why user is requesting resource.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id	The resource being requested.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:resource:hl7:type	The type of resource being requested.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:functional-role	The role internal to the requesting organization that may be based on current workflow.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id	Create, read, update, delete, execute, etc.

181
182 **2.12 Attribute Naming Syntax, Restrictions and Acceptable Values**

183 This profile leverages the attribute naming syntax, restrictions and acceptable values defined in [XSPA-
184 SAML] and [XSPA-XACML], both utilize the namespace of urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0.

185 The following table lists attribute naming syntax, restrictions, and acceptable values that are discussed in
186 greater detail in the subsections below.

187 Notes on Table 3:

- 188 • The OID for the HL7 Permission Catalog [HL7-PERM] is 2.16.840.1.113883.13.27.
- 189 • The OID for structural roles referenced in [ASTM E1986-09 (2009)] is 1.2.840.10065.1986.7
- 190 • The mechanism used to identify the patent in a standardized way, e.g. resource:resource-id, is
191 outside the scope of the profile.
- 192 • HL7 RBAC Permission Catalog [HL7-PERM] represents a conformant minimum interoperability
193 set for object/action pairings.

194 *Table 3: XSPA Standard Attributes (Normative)*

Identifier	Type	Valid Values
------------	------	--------------

urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id	String	Name of the user as required by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Disclosure Accounting. The name will be typed as a string and in plain text.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xpsa:1.0:subject:organization	String	Organization the requestor belongs to as required by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Disclosure Accounting.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xpsa:1.0:subject:organization-id	anyURI	Unique identifier of the consuming organization and/or facility
urn:oasis:names:tc:xpsa:1.0:subject:hl7:permission	String	Refer to [HL7-PERM] and its OID representation.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:subject:role	String	Structural Role refer to [ASTM E1986-09 (2009)] and its OID representation.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xpsa:1.0:subject:purposeofuse	String	TREATMENT, PAYMENT, OPERATIONS, EMERGENCY, SYSADMIN, MARKETING, RESEARCH, REQUEST, PUBLICHEALTH
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id	String	Unique identifier of the resource defined by and controlled by the servicing organization. In healthcare this is the patient unique identifier.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xpsa:1.0:resource:hl7:type	String	For minimum interoperability set of objects and supporting actions refer to [HL7-PERM] and their OID representations.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xpsa:1.0:environment:locality	String	Unique identifier of the servicing organization.
urn:oasis:names:tc:xpsa:2.0:subject:npa	String	National Provider ID provided by U.S. Government for all active providers.

195

196 **2.12.1 Name**

197 Name is the name of the user as required by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
198 Privacy Disclosure Accounting.

199 **2.12.2 National Provider Identifier (NPI) – (optional)**

200 NPI is a US Government issued unique provider identifier required for all Health Insurance Portability and
201 Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Disclosure Accounting transactions.

202 **2.12.3 Organization**

203 Organization is the organization that the user belongs to as required by HIPAA Privacy Disclosure
204 Accounting.

205 **2.12.4 Organization-ID**

206 Organization-ID is the unique identifier of the consuming organization and/or facility.

207 **2.12.5 Structural Role**

208 Structural Role is the value of the principal's structural role. Structural roles that are used in this profile
209 are defined in Table 2 "Healthcare Personnel that Warrant Differing Levels of Access Control" of ASTM
210 1986-09 (2009) Standard Guide for Information Access Privileges to Health Information.

211 ASTM E1986 Structural roles are described in greater depth in ASTM E2595-07, Standard Guide for
212 Privilege Management Infrastructure.

213 Structural roles provide authorizations on objects at a global level without regard to internal details.
214 Examples include authorization to participate in a session, authorization to connect to a database,
215 authorization to participate in an order workflow, or connection to a protected uniform resource locator
216 (URL). The structural role is the role name referenced by the patient's consent directive.

217 **2.12.6 Functional Role**

218 Functional role can include custom attributes related to application functionality agreed upon by the
219 parties in an exchange.

220 **2.12.7 Permission (optional)**

221 Permission is not required by this profile. Permission is determined by the action on the target. See
222 "Action" below. The permission is the ANSI INCITS (International Committee for Information Technology
223 Standards) RBAC compliant action-object pair representing the authorization required for access by the
224 protected resource.

225 **2.12.8 Action**

226 The HL7 (Health Level Seven) RBAC Permission catalog is an ANSI INCITS 359-2004 RBAC compliant
227 vocabulary that provides a minimal permission subset for interoperability. This profile specifies the use of
228 the following HL7 RBAC Permission Catalog Actions:

- 229 • Append
- 230 • Create
- 231 • Delete
- 232 • Read
- 233 • Update
- 234 • Execute

235 **2.12.9 Execute (optional)**

236 Execute refers to complex functions and stored procedures that provide for extended actions within the
237 healthcare environment. Examples include "print", "suspend", and "sign". Execute can include custom
238 attributes related to functionality agreed upon by the parties in an exchange.

239 **2.12.10 Object**

240 Objects are any system resource subject to access control. This profile specifies the use of HL7 RBAC
241 Permission Catalog as the object vocabulary in an action-object permission pair. HL7 RBAC Permission
242 Catalog provides the minimum set of interoperable objects suitable for the support of security and privacy
243 access control decisions in this profile.

244 **2.12.11 Purpose of Use (POU)**

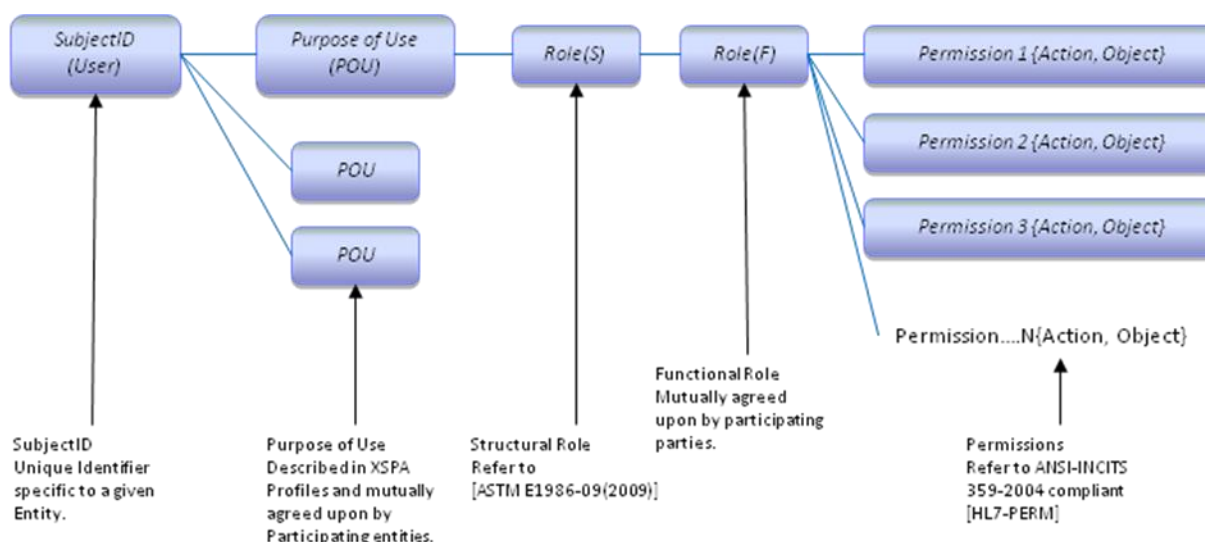
245 Purpose of use provides context to requests for information resources. Each purpose of use will be
 246 unique to a specific assertion, and will establish the context for other security and privacy attributes. For
 247 a given claim, all assertions must be bound to the same purpose of use. Purpose of use allows the
 248 service to consult its policies to determine if the user's authorizations meet or exceed those needed for
 249 access control.

250 The following list of healthcare related purposes of use is specified by this profile:

251 *Table 4: Values for Purpose of Use*

Description	Allowed Value
Healthcare Treatment	TREATMENT
Payment	PAYMENT
Operations	OPERATIONS
Emergency Treatment	EMERGENCY
System Administration	SYSADMIN
Research	RESEARCH
Marketing	MARKETING
Request of the Individual	REQUEST
Public Health	PUBLICHEALTH

252
 253 The figure below illustrates the general relationship between subject (user) and granted permissions to
 254 specific objects as a relationship to their POU. Roles in this relationship are placeholders for permissions.
 255 Permission defines the object-action relationship.



256
 257 *Figure 2: Determining Subject Permissions*

258 **2.12.12 Resource**

259 The object(s) for which access is requested must be identical to the object(s) for which the authorization
 260 assertions of this profile apply. A requested resource is not required to be a simple object but may

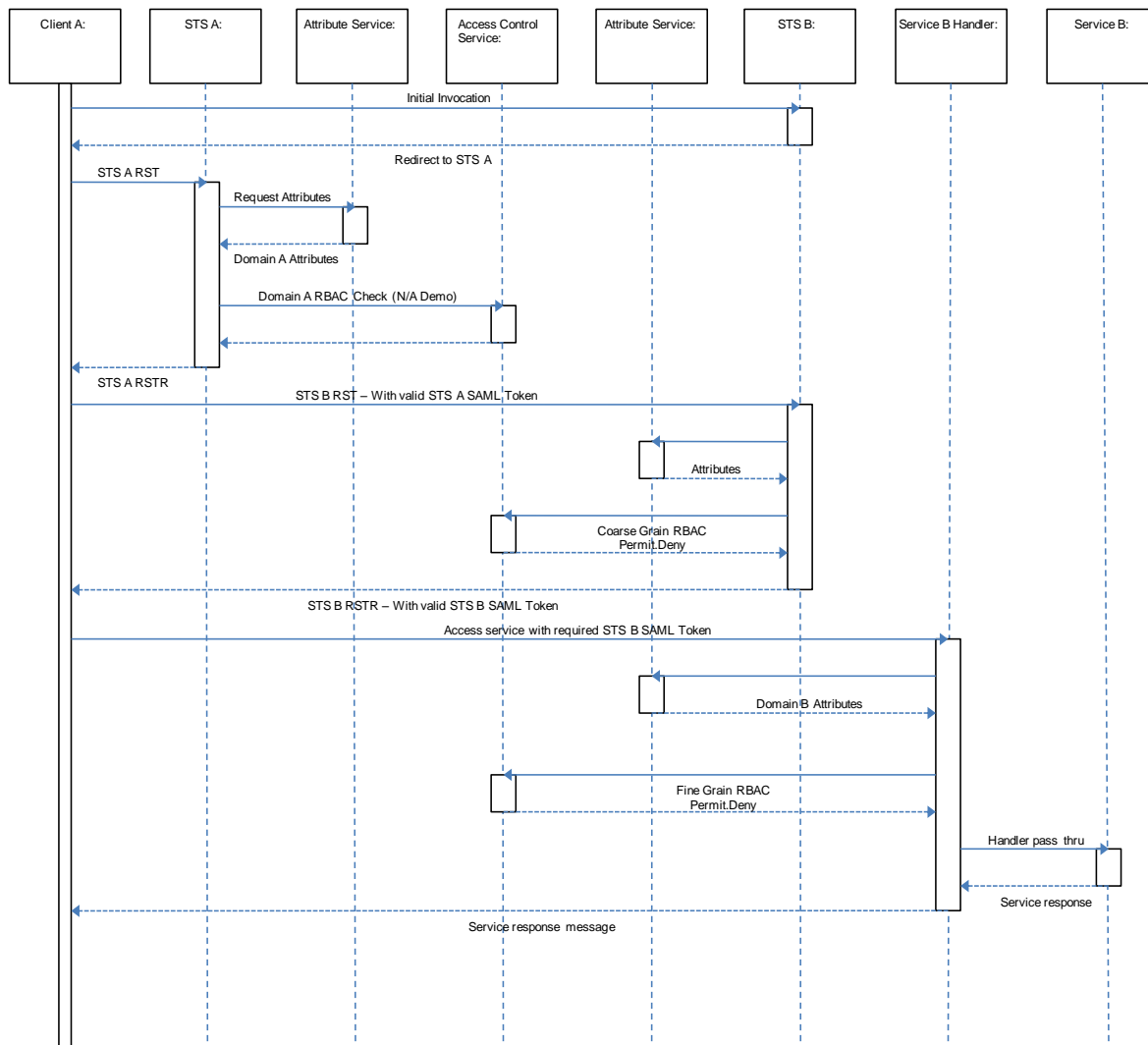
261 instead be a process or workflow. This profile specifies the use of HL7 RBAC Permission Catalog as the
262 resource vocabulary.

263 **3 Examples of Use**

264 The following examples of WS-Trust request and response messages are intended to provide additional
 265 guidance to implementers of this profile.

266 **3.1 WS-Trust Event Flow**

267



268
 269

Figure 3: Cross-Enterprise Example Interaction

270 4 Conformance

271 4.1 Introduction

272 The XSPA profile of WS-Trust addresses the following aspects of conformance:

- 273 • This profile describes a minimum vocabulary set that must be supported in order to claim
274 conformance.
- 275 • An Implementation must conform at minimum to the WS-Trust v1.3 specification and implement
276 support for xspa:Dialect, and xspa:ClaimType described in section 2.11 of this profile.

277 4.2 Conformance Tables

278 The table below identifies portions of the profile that MUST be adhered to in order to claim conformance.

279 Note: “M” is mandatory and MUST be used, “O” is optional, “P” is Preferred, and “n/a” is not applicable.

280 4.3 Attributes

281 The implementation MUST use the attributes associated with the identifiers in the table below consistent
282 with descriptions in this profile.

283 *Table 5: Attribute Naming, Typing, and Acceptable Value Set*

Identifier	Required Attribute	Runtime Claim Assertion	Claim Asserted Externally
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:subject:subject-id	M	O	P
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:organization-id	M	O	P
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:organization	M	O	P
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:hl7:permission	O	O	P
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:2.0:subject:role (ASTM E1986-09 (2009) Structured Role Value)	M	O	P
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:functional-role	O	P	n/a
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:subject:purposeofuse	M	P	n/a
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:resource:resource-id	M	P	n/a
urn:oasis:names:tc:xacml:1.0:action:action-id (HL7 Permission Catalog Resource Action Value)	O	P	n/a
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:resource:hl7:type (HL7 Permission Catalog Object Value)	O	P	n/a

Identifier	Required Attribute	Runtime Claim Assertion	Claim Asserted Externally
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:1.0:environment:locality	M	O	n/a
urn:oasis:names:tc:xspa:2.0:subject:npi	O	O	P

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319

B. Revision History

320

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