



Open Command and Control (OpenC2) Language Specification Version 1.1

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Abstract:

Cyberattacks are increasingly sophisticated, less expensive to execute, dynamic and automated. The provision of cyber defense via statically configured products operating in isolation is untenable. Standardized interfaces, protocols and data models will facilitate the integration of the functional blocks within a system and between systems. Open Command and Control (OpenC2) is a concise and extensible language to enable machine-to-machine communications for purposes of command and control of cyber defense components, subsystems and/or systems in a manner that is agnostic of the underlying products, technologies, transport mechanisms or other aspects of the implementation. It should be understood that a language such as OpenC2 is necessary but insufficient to enable coordinated cyber responses that occur within cyber relevant time. Other aspects of coordinated cyber response such as sensing, analytics, and selecting appropriate courses of action are beyond the scope of OpenC2.

Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Open Command and Control (OpenC2) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the "Latest stage" location noted above for possible later revisions of this document. Any other numbered Versions and other technical work produced by the Technical Committee (TC) are listed at https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=openc2#technical.

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The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [[RFC2119](#)] and [[RFC8174](#)]

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1 Introduction

The content in this section is non-normative, except where it is marked normative.

OpenC2 is a suite of specifications that enables command and control of cyber defense systems and components. OpenC2 typically uses a request-response paradigm where a *Command* is encoded by a *Producer* (managing application) and transferred to a *Consumer* (managed device or virtualized function) using a secure transfer protocol, and the Consumer can respond with status and any requested information.

OpenC2 allows the application producing the commands to discover the set of capabilities supported by the managed devices. These capabilities permit the managing application to adjust its behavior to take advantage of the features exposed by the managed device. The capability definitions can be easily extended in a noncentralized manner, allowing standard and non-standard capabilities to be defined with semantic and syntactic rigor.

1.2 Glossary

1.2.1 Definitions of Terms

This section is normative.

- **Action:** The task or activity to be performed (e.g., 'deny').
- **Actuator:** The function performed by the Consumer that executes the Command (e.g., 'Stateless Packet Filtering').
- **Argument:** A property of a Command that provides additional information on how to perform the Command, such as date/time, periodicity, duration, etc.
- **Command:** A Message defined by an Action-Target pair that is sent from a Producer and received by a Consumer.
- **Consumer:** A managed device / application that receives Commands. Note that a single device / application can have both Consumer and Producer capabilities.
- **Message:** A content- and transport-independent set of elements conveyed between Consumers and Producers.
- **Producer:** A manager application that sends Commands.
- **Response:** A Message from a Consumer to a Producer acknowledging a Command or returning the requested resources or status to a previously received Command.
- **Specifier:** A property or field that identifies a Target or Actuator to some level of precision.
- **Target:** The object of the Action, i.e., the Action is performed on the Target (e.g., IP

Address).

1.2.1 Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym	Description
API	Application Programming Interface
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange
BCP	Best Current Practice
CBOR	Concise Binary Object Representation
CIDR	Classless Inter-Domain Routing
CoAP	Constrained Application Protocol
DOI	Digital Object Identifier
EUI	Extended Unique Identifier
HTTP	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure
IACD	Integrated Adaptive Cyber Defense
IANA	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
ID	Identifier
IP	Internet Protocol
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
MAC	Media Access Control
MD5	Message Digest
MQTT	Message Queuing Telemetry Transfer
OASIS	Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards

Acronym	Description
OODA	Observe-Orient-Decide-Act
OpenC2	Open Command and Control
OpenDXL	Open Data eXchange Layer
PDF	Portable Document Format
RFC	Request for Comment
SCTP	Stream Control Transmission Protocol
SHA	Security Hash Algorithm
SLPF	StateLess Packet Filtering
STD	Standard
TC	Technical Committee
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
UDP	User Datagram Control Protocol
UML	Unified Modeling Language
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
UUID	Universally Unique IDentifier
XML	eXtensibel Markup Language

1.2.3 Document Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#) and [\[RFC8174\]](#) when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

1.2.3.1 Naming Conventions

- [\[RFC2119\]](#)/[\[RFC8174\]](#) key words (see [Section 1.2](#)) are in all uppercase.

- All property names and literals are in lowercase, except when referencing canonical names defined in another standard (e.g., literal values from an IANA registry).
- All type names begin with an uppercase character.
- Property names and type names are between 1 and 32 characters long.
- Words in property names are separated with an underscore (`_`), while words in type names are separated with a hyphen (`-`).
- "Underscore" refers to Unicode "low line", U+005F; "hyphen" refers to Unicode "hyphen-minus", U+002D.

1.2.3.2 Font Colors and Style

The following color, font and font style conventions are used in this document:

- A fixed width font is used for all type names, property names, and literals.
- Property names are in bold style – '**created_at**'.
- All examples in this document are expressed in JSON. They are in fixed width font, with straight quotes, black text and a light shaded background, and 4-space indentation. JSON examples in this document are representations of JSON Objects. They should not be interpreted as string literals. The ordering of object keys is insignificant. Whitespace before or after JSON structural characters in the examples are insignificant [\[RFC8259\]](#).
- Parts of the example may be omitted for conciseness and clarity. These omitted parts are denoted with ellipses (...).

Example:

```
{
  "action": "deny",
  "target": {
    "file": {
      "hashes": {
        "sha256":
"22fe72a34f006ea67d26bb7004e2b6941b5c3953d43ae7ec24d41b1a928a6973"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

1.4 Overview

In general, there are two types of participants involved in the exchange of OpenC2 Messages, as depicted in Figure 1-1:

1. **Producers:** A Producer is an entity that creates Commands to provide instruction to one or more systems to act in accordance with the content of the Command. A Producer may receive and process Responses in conjunction with a Command.
2. **Consumers:** A Consumer is an entity that receives and may act upon a Command. A Consumer may create Responses that provide any information captured or necessary to send back to the Producer.

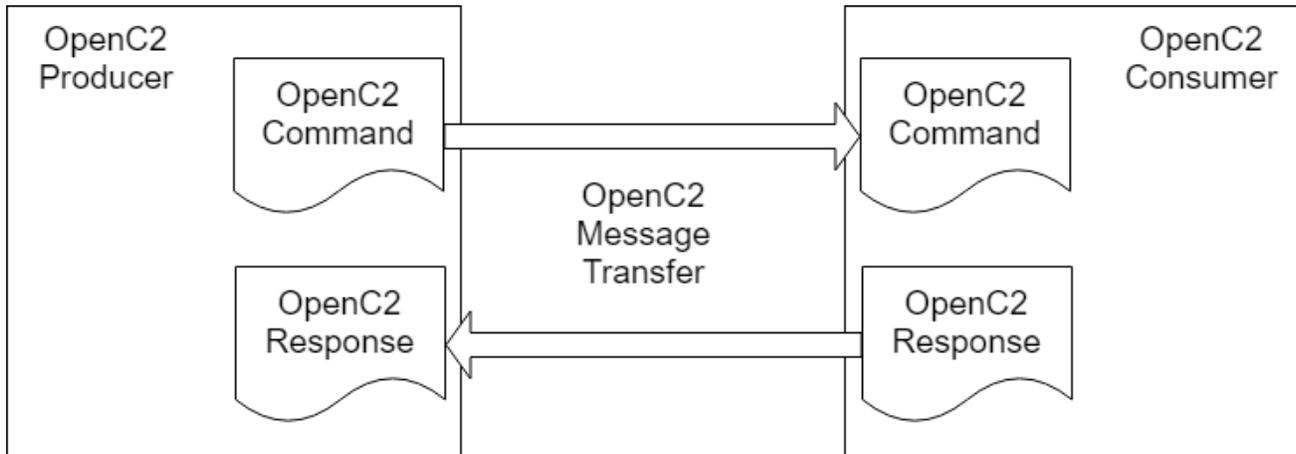


Figure 1-1. OpenC2 Message Exchange

OpenC2 is a suite of specifications for Producers and Consumers to command and execute cyber defense functions. These specifications include the OpenC2 Language Specification, Actuator Profiles, and Transfer Specifications. The OpenC2 Language Specification and Actuator Profile specifications focus on the language content and meaning at the Producer and Consumer of the Command and Response while the transfer specifications focus on the protocols for their exchange.

- The **OpenC2 Language Specification** (this document) provides the semantics for the essential elements of the language, the structure for Commands and Responses, and the schema that defines the proper syntax for the language elements that represents the Command or Response.
- **OpenC2 Actuator Profiles** specify the subset of the OpenC2 language relevant in the context of specific Actuator functions. Cyber defense components, devices, systems and/or instances may (in fact are likely to) implement multiple Actuator profiles. Actuator profiles extend the language by defining Specifiers that identify the Actuator to the required level of precision. Actuator Profiles may define Command Arguments and Targets that are relevant and/or unique to those Actuator functions.
- **OpenC2 Transfer Specifications** utilize existing protocols and standards to implement OpenC2 in specific environments. These standards are used for communications and security functions beyond the scope of the language, such as message transfer encoding, authentication, and end-to-end transport of OpenC2 Messages.

The OpenC2 Language Specification defines a language used to compose Messages for command and control of cyber defense systems and components. A Message consists of a header and a payload (*defined* as a Message body in the OpenC2 Language Specification Version 1.1 and *specified* in one or more Actuator profiles).

The language defines two payload structures:

1. **Command:** An instruction from one system known as the Producer, to one or more systems, the Consumer(s), to act on the content of the Command.
2. **Response:** Any information sent back to the Producer as a result of the Command.

OpenC2 implementations integrate the related OpenC2 specifications described above with related industry specifications, protocols, and standards. Figure 1-2 depicts the relationships among OpenC2 specifications, and their relationships to other industry standards and environment-specific implementations of OpenC2. Note that the layering of implementation aspects in the diagram is notional, and not intended to preclude any particular approach to implementing the needed functionality (for example, the use of an application-layer message signature function to provide message source authentication and integrity).

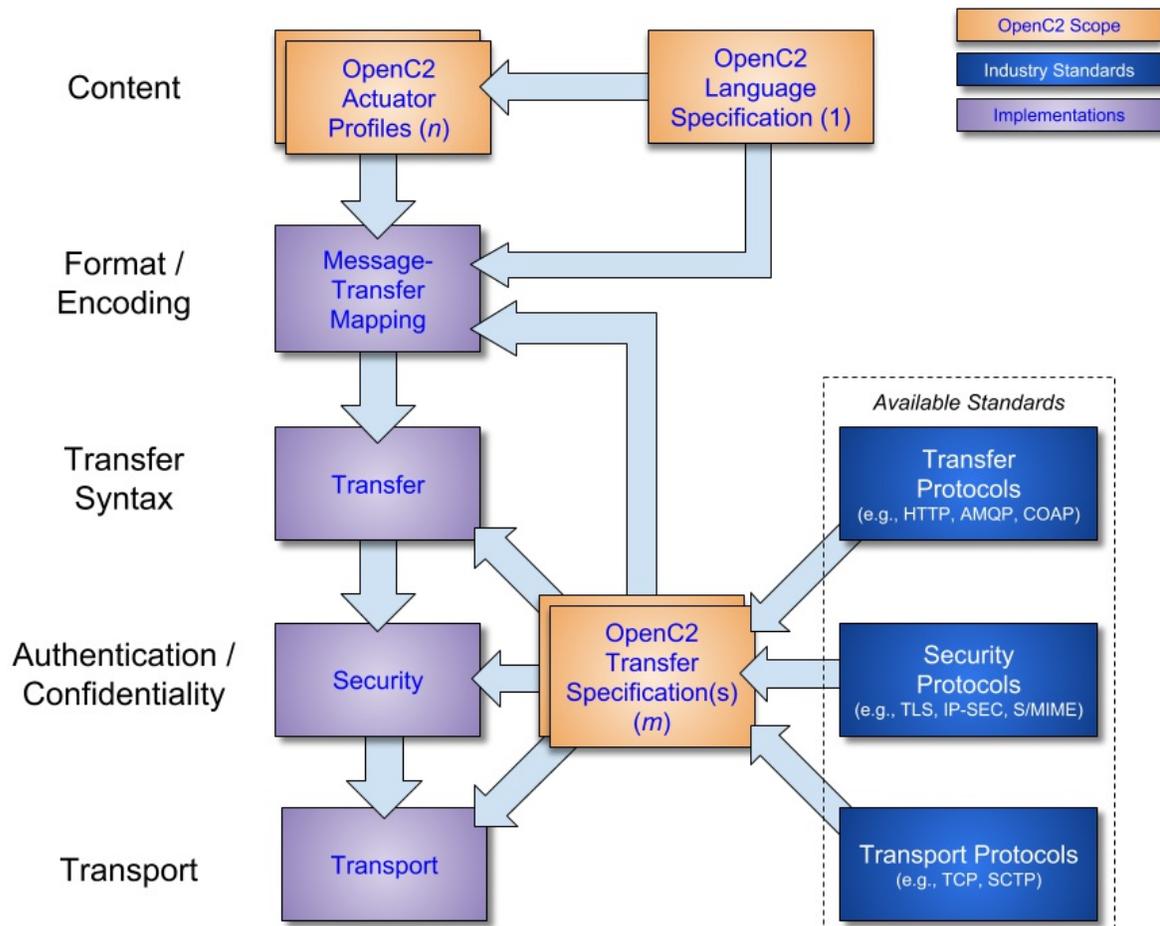


Figure 1-2. OpenC2 Documentation and Layering Model

OpenC2 is conceptually partitioned into four layers as shown in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. OpenC2 Protocol Layers

Layer	Examples
Function-Specific Content	Actuator Profiles([OpenC2-SLPF-v1.0] , ...)
Common Content	Language Specification(this document)
Message	Transfer Specifications([OpenC2-HTTPS-v1.0] , OpenC2-over-CoAP, ...). May optionally use the Message structure defined in Common Content.
Secure Transport	HTTPS, CoAP, MQTT, OpenDXL, ...

- The **Secure Transport** layer provides a communication path between the Producer and the Consumer. OpenC2 can be layered over any standard transport protocol.
- The **Message** layer provides a transfer- and content-independent mechanism for conveying Messages. A transfer specification maps transfer-specific protocol elements to a transfer-independent set of message elements consisting of content and associated metadata.
- The **Common Content** layer defines the structure of Commands and Responses and a set of common language elements used to construct them.
- The **Function-specific Content** layer defines the language elements used to support a particular cyber defense function. An Actuator profile defines the implementation conformance requirements for that function. Producers and Consumers will support one or more profiles.

The components of a Command are an Action (what is to be done), a Target (what is being acted upon), an optional Actuator (what is performing the command), and Command Arguments, which influence how the Command is to be performed. An Action coupled with a Target is sufficient to describe a complete Command. Though optional, the inclusion of an Actuator and/or Command Arguments provides additional precision to a Command.

The components of a Response are a numerical status code, an optional status text string, and optional results. The format of the results, if included, depend on the type of Response being transferred.

1.5 Goal

The goal of the OpenC2 Language Specification is to provide a language for interoperating between functional elements of cyber defense systems. This language used in conjunction with OpenC2 Actuator Profiles and OpenC2 Transfer Specifications allows for vendor-agnostic cybertime response to attacks.

The Integrated Adaptive Cyber Defense (IACD) framework defines a collection of activities, based on the traditional OODA (Observe–Orient–Decide–Act) Loop [\[IACD\]](#):

- Sensing: gathering of data regarding system activities
- Sense Making: evaluating data using analytics to understand what's happening
- Decision Making: determining a course-of-action to respond to system events
- Acting: Executing the course-of-action

The goal of OpenC2 is to enable coordinated defense in cyber-relevant time between decoupled blocks that perform cyber defense functions. OpenC2 focuses on the Acting portion of the IACD framework; the assumption that underlies the design of OpenC2 is that the sensing/analytics have been provisioned and the decision to act has been made. This goal and these assumptions guide the design of OpenC2:

- **Technology Agnostic:** The OpenC2 language defines a set of abstract atomic cyber defense actions in a platform and implementation agnostic manner
- **Concise:** A Command is intended to convey only the essential information required to describe the action required and can be represented in a very compact form for communications-constrained environments
- **Abstract:** Commands and Responses are defined abstractly and can be encoded and transferred via multiple schemes as dictated by the needs of different implementation environments
- **Extensible:** While OpenC2 defines a core set of Actions and Targets for cyber defense, the language is expected to evolve with cyber defense technologies, and permits extensions to accommodate new cyber defense technologies.

1.6 Purpose and Scope

The OpenC2 Language Specification defines the set of components to assemble a complete command and control Message and provides a framework so that the language can be extended. To achieve this purpose, the scope of this specification includes:

1. the set of Actions and options that may be used in Commands
2. the set of Targets and Target Specifiers

3. a syntax that defines the structure of Commands and Responses
4. a JSON serialization of Commands and Responses
5. the procedures for extending the language

The OpenC2 language assumes that the event has been detected, a decision to act has been made, the act is warranted, and the initiator and recipient of the Commands are authenticated and authorized. The OpenC2 language was designed to be agnostic of the other aspects of cyber defense implementations that realize these assumptions. The following items are beyond the scope of this specification:

1. Language elements applicable to some Actuators, which may be defined in individual Actuator profiles.
2. Alternate serializations of Commands and Responses.
3. The enumeration of the protocols required for transport, information assurance, sensing, analytics and other external dependencies.

2 OpenC2 Language Description

The content in this section is non-normative.

The OpenC2 language has two distinct content types: Command and Response. The Command is sent from a Producer to a Consumer and describes an Action to be performed by an Actuator on a Target. The Response is sent from a Consumer, usually back to the Producer, and is a means to provide information (such as acknowledgment, status, etc.) as a result of a Command.

2.1 OpenC2 Command

The Command describes an Action to be performed on a Target and may include information identifying the Actuator or Actuators that are to execute the Command.

A Command has four main components, two required and two optional. The required components are the Action and the Target. The optional components are Command Arguments and the Actuator. A Command can also contain an optional Command identifier, if necessary. [Section 3.3.1](#) defines the syntax of an OpenC2 Command.

The following list summarizes the main four components of a Command.

- **Action** (required): The task or activity to be performed.
- **Target** (required): The object of the action. The Action is performed on the Target. Properties of the Target, called Target Specifiers, further identify the Target to some level of precision, such as a specific Target, a list of Targets, or a class of Targets.
- **Arguments** (optional): Provide additional information on how the command is to be performed, such as date/time, periodicity, duration, etc.
- **Actuator** (optional): The Actuator executes the Command. The Actuator will be defined within the context of an Actuator Profile. Properties of the Actuator, called Actuator Specifiers, further identify the Actuator to some level of precision, such as a specific Actuator, a list of Actuators, or a group of Actuators.

The Action and Target components are required and are populated by one of the Actions in [Section 3.3.1.1](#) and the Targets in [Section 3.3.1.2](#). A particular Target may be further refined by the Target type definitions in [Section 3.4.1](#). Procedures to extend the Targets are described in [Section 3.1.4](#).

Command Arguments, if present, influence the Command by providing information such as timing, periodicity, duration, or other details on what is to be executed. They can also be used to convey the need for acknowledgment or additional status information about the execution of a Command. The valid Arguments defined in this specification are in [Section 3.3.1.4](#). Procedures to extend Arguments are described in [Section 3.1.4](#).

An Actuator is an implementation of a cyber defense function that executes the Command. An Actuator Profile is a specification that identifies the subset of Actions, Targets and other aspects of this language specification that are required or optional in the context of a particular Actuator. An Actuator Profile may extend the language by defining additional Targets, Arguments, and Actuator Specifiers that are meaningful and possibly unique to the Actuator.

The Actuator may be omitted from a Command and typically will not be included in implementations where the identities of the endpoints are unambiguous or when a high-level effects-based Command is desired and the tactical decisions on how the effect is achieved is left to the recipient.

2.2 OpenC2 Response

The Response is a Message sent from the recipient of a Command. Response messages provide acknowledgment, status, results from a query, or other information. At a minimum, a Response will contain a status code to indicate the result of performing the Command. Additional status text and response fields optionally provide more detailed information that is specific to or requested by the Command. [Section 3.3.2](#) defines the syntax of an OpenC2 Response.

3 OpenC2 Language Definition

The content in this section is normative.

3.1 Base Components and Structures

3.1.1 Data Types

OpenC2 data types are defined using an abstract notation that is independent of both their representation within applications ("**API**" values) and their format for transmission between applications ("**serialized**" values). The data types used in OpenC2 Messages are:

Type	Description
Primitive Types	
Any	Anything, used to designate fields with an unspecified value.
Binary	A sequence of octets. Length is the number of octets.
Boolean	An element with one of two values: <code>true</code> and <code>false</code> .
Integer	A whole number.
Number	A real number.
Null	Nothing, used to designate fields with no value.
String	A sequence of characters, each of which has a Unicode codepoint. Length is the number of characters.
Structures	
Array	An ordered list of unnamed fields with positionally-defined semantics. Each field has a position, label, and type.
<code>ArrayOf(vtype)</code>	An ordered list of fields with the same semantics. Each field has a position and type <code>vtype</code> .
Choice	One field selected from a set of named fields. The API value has a name and a type.
Choice.ID	One field selected from a set of fields. The API value has an id and a type.

Type	Description
Enumerated	A set of named integral constants. The API value is a name.
Enumerated.ID	A set of unnamed integral constants. The API value is an id.
Map	An unordered map from a set of specified keys to values with semantics bound to each key. Each field has an id, name and type.
Map.ID	An unordered set of fields. The API value of each field has an id, label, and type.
MapOf(<i>ktype</i> , <i>vtype</i>)	An unordered set of keys to values with the same semantics. Each key has key type <i>ktype</i> and is mapped to value type <i>vtype</i> .
Record	An ordered map from a list of keys with positions to values with positionally-defined semantics. Each key has a position and name, and is mapped to a type. Represents a row in a spreadsheet or database table.

- **API** values do not affect interoperability, and although they must exhibit the characteristics specified above, their representation within applications is unspecified. A Python application might represent the Map type as a dict variable, a javascript application might represent it as an object literal or an ES6 Map type, and a C# application might represent it as a Dictionary or a Hashtable.
- **Serialized** values are critical to interoperability, and this document defines a set of **serialization rules** that unambiguously define how each of the above types are serialized using a human-friendly JSON format. Other serialization rules, such as for XML, machine-optimized JSON, and CBOR formats, exist but are out of scope for this document. Both the format-specific serialization rules in [Section 3.1.5](#) and the format-agnostic type definitions in [Section 3.4](#) are Normative.

Types defined with an ".ID" suffix (Choice.ID, Enumerated.ID, Map.ID) are equivalent to the non-suffixed types except:

1. Field definitions and API values are identified only by ID. The non-normative description may include a suggested name.
2. Serialized values of Enumerated types and keys of Choice/Map types are IDs regardless of serialization format.

OpenC2 type definitions are presented in table format. All table columns except Description are Normative. The Description column is always Non-normative.

For types without individual field definitions (Primitive types and ArrayOf), the type definition includes the name of the type being defined and the definition of that type. This table defines a type called *Email-Addr* that is a *String* that has a semantic value constraint of *email*:

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Email-Addr	String (email)	Email address

For Structure types, the definition includes the name of the type being defined, the built-in type on which it is based, and options applicable to the type as a whole. This is followed by a table defining each of the fields in the structure. This table defines a type called *Args* that is a *Map* containing at least one field. Each of the fields has an integer Tag/ID, a Name, and a Type. Each field in this definition is optional (Multiplicity = 0..1), but per the type definition at least one must be present.

Type: **Args (Map{1..*})**

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	start_time	Date-Time	0..1	The specific date/time to initiate the action
2	stop_time	Date-Time	0..1	The specific date/time to terminate the action
3	duration	Duration	0..1	The length of time for an action to be in effect

The field columns present in a structure definition depends on the base type:

Base Type	Field Definition Columns
Enumerated.ID	ID, Description
Enumerated	ID, Name, Description
Array, Choice.ID, Map.ID	ID, Type, Multiplicity (#), Description
Choice, Map, Record	ID, Name, Type, Multiplicity (#), Description

The ID column of Array and Record types contains the ordinal position of the field, numbered sequentially starting at 1. The ID column of Choice, Enumerated, and Map types contains tags with arbitrary integer values. IDs and Names are unique within each type definition.

3.1.2 Semantic Value Constraints

Structural validation alone may be insufficient to validate that an instance meets all the requirements of an application. Semantic validation keywords specify value constraints for which an authoritative definition exists.

Keyword	Applies to Type	Constraint
---------	-----------------	------------

Keyword	Applies to Type	Constraint
email	String	Value must be an email address as defined in [RFC5322] , Section 3.4.1
eui	Binary	Value must be an EUI-48 or EUI-64 as defined in [EUI]
hostname	String	Value must be a hostname as defined in [RFC1034] , Section 3.1
idn-email	String	Value must be an internationalized email address as defined in [RFC6531]
idn-hostname	String	Value must be an internationalized hostname as defined in [RFC5890] , Section 2.3.2.3
iri	String	Value must be an Internationalized Resource Identifier (IRI) as defined in [RFC3987]
uri	String	Value must be a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) as defined in [RFC3986]

3.1.3 Multiplicity

Property tables for types based on Array, Choice, Map and Record include a multiplicity column (#) that specifies the minimum and maximum cardinality (number of elements) of a field. As used in the Unified Modeling Language ([\[UML\]](#)), typical examples of multiplicity are:

Multiplicity	Description	Keywords
1	Exactly one instance	Required
0..1	No instances or one instance	Optional
1..*	At least one instance	Required, Repeatable
0..*	Zero or more instances	Optional, Repeatable
m..n	At least m but no more than n instances	Required, Repeatable

When a repeatable field type is converted to a separate `ArrayOf()` Type, multiplicity is converted to the array size, enclosed in curly brackets, e.g.,:

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
-----------	-----------------	-------------

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Features	ArrayOf(Feature) {0..10}	An array of zero to ten names used to query an actuator for its supported capabilities.

A multiplicity of 0..1 denotes a single optional value of the specified type. A multiplicity of 0..n denotes a field that is either omitted or is an array containing one or more values of the specified type.

An array containing zero or more values of a specified type cannot be created implicitly using multiplicity, it must be defined explicitly as a named ArrayOf type. The named type can then be used as the type of a required field (multiplicity 1). Results are unspecified if an optional field (multiplicity 0..1) is a named ArrayOf type with a minimum length of zero.

3.1.4 Extensions

One of the main design goals of OpenC2 was extensibility. Actuator profiles define the language extensions that are meaningful and possibly unique to the Actuator.

Each Actuator profile has a unique name used to identify the profile document and a short reference called a namespace identifier (NSID). The NSID is used to separate extensions from the core language defined in this specification.

All extensions **MUST** be identified with a short namespace reference, called a namespace identifier (NSID).

For example, the OASIS standard Stateless Packet Filtering actuator profile has:

- **Unique Name:** <http://docs.oasis-open.org/openc2/oc2slpf/v1.0/oc2slpf-v1.0.md>
- **NSID:** slpf

The namespace identifier for non-standard extensions **MUST** be prefixed with "x-".

For example, the fictional, non-standard Superwidget actuator profile has:

- **Unique Name:** <http://www.example.com/openc2/superwidget-v1.0.html>
- **NSID:** x-example

The list of Actions in [Section 3.3.1.1](#) SHALL NOT be extended.

Targets, defined in [Section 3.3.1.2](#), MAY be extended. Extended Target names **MUST** be prefixed with a namespace identifier followed by a colon (":").

Example: In this example Command, the extended Target, `rule_number`, is defined within the Stateless Packet Filtering Profile with the namespace identifier, `slpf`.

```

{
  "action": "delete",
  "target": {
    "slpf:rule_number": 1234
  }
}

```

Command Arguments, defined in [Section 3.3.1.4](#), MAY be extended using the namespace identifier as the Argument name, called an extended Argument namespace. Extended Arguments MUST be defined within the extended Argument namespace.

Example: In this example Command, the extended Argument, `direction`, is defined within the Stateless Packet Filtering Profile namespace, `slpf`.

```

{
  "action": "deny",
  "target": {
    "ipv6_net": {...}
  },
  "args": {
    "slpf": {
      "direction": "ingress"
    }
  }
}

```

The Actuator property of a Command, defined in [Section 3.3.1.3](#), MUST be extended using the namespace identifier as the Actuator name, called an extended Actuator namespace. Actuator Specifiers MUST be defined within the extended Actuator namespace.

Example: In this example Command, the Actuator Specifier `asset_id` is defined within the Stateless Packet Filtering Profile namespace, `slpf`.

```

{
  "action": "deny",
  "target": {
    "ipv4_connection": {...}
  },
  "actuator": {
    "slpf": {
      "asset_id": "30"
    }
  }
}

```

Response results, defined in Section TBD, MAY be extended using the namespace identifier as the results name, called an extended results namespace. Extended results MUST be defined within the extended results namespace.

Example: In this example Response, the Response results property, `rule_number`, is defined within the Stateless Packet Filtering Profile namespace, `slpf`.

```
{
  "status": 200,
  "results": {
    "slpf": {
      "rule_number": 1234
    }
  }
}
```

3.1.5 Serialization

OpenC2 is agnostic of any particular serialization; however, implementations MUST support JSON serialization in accordance with [\[RFC7493\]](#) and additional requirements specified in the following table.

JSON Serialization Requirements:

OpenC2 Data Type	JSON Serialization Requirement
Binary	JSON string containing Base64url encoding of the binary value as defined in [RFC4648] , Section 5.
Binary /x	JSON string containing Base16 (hex) encoding of a binary value as defined in [RFC4648] , Section 8. Note that the Base16 alphabet does not include lower-case letters.
IPv4-Addr	JSON string containing the "dotted-quad" representation of an IPv4 address as specified in [RFC2673] , Section 3.2.
IPv6-Addr	JSON string containing the text representation of an IPv6 address as specified in [RFC5952] , Section 4.
MAC-Addr	JSON string containing the text representation of a MAC Address in colon hexadecimal format as defined in [EUI] .
Boolean	JSON true or false
Integer	JSON number

OpenC2 Data Type	JSON Serialization Requirement
Number	JSON number
Null	JSON null
String	JSON string
Array	JSON array
Array /ipv4-net	JSON string containing the text representation of an IPv4 address range as specified in [RFC4632] , Section 3.1.
Array /ipv6-net	JSON string containing the text representation of an IPv6 address range as specified in [RFC4291] , Section 2.3.
ArrayOf	JSON array
Choice	JSON object with one member. Member key is the field name.
Choice.ID	JSON object with one member. Member key is the integer field id converted to string.
Enumerated	JSON string
Enumerated.ID	JSON integer
Map	JSON object . Member keys are field names.
Map.ID	JSON object . Member keys are integer field ids converted to strings.
MapOf	JSON object . Member keys are as defined in the specified key type.
Record	JSON object . Member keys are field names.

3.1.5.1 ID and Name Serialization

Instances of Enumerated types and keys for Choice and Map types are serialized as ID values except when using serialization formats intended for human consumption, where Name strings are used instead. Defining a type using ".ID" appended to the base type (e.g., Enumerated.ID, Map.ID) indicates that:

1. Type definitions and application values use only the ID. There is no corresponding name except as an optional part of the description.
2. Instances of Enumerated values and Choice/Map keys are serialized as IDs regardless of serialization format.

3.2 Message

This language specification and one or more Actuator profiles define the content of Commands and Responses, while transfer specifications define the on-the-wire format of a Message over specific secure transport protocols. Transfer specifications are agnostic with regard to content, and content is agnostic with regard to transfer protocol. This decoupling is accomplished by defining a standard message interface used to transfer any type of content over any transfer protocol.

A message is a content- and transport-independent set of elements conveyed between Producers and Consumers. To ensure interoperability all transfer specifications must unambiguously define how the Message elements in [Table 3-1](#) are represented within the secure transport protocol. This does not imply that all Message elements must be used in all Messages. Content, content_type, and msg_type are required in all Messages. Other Message elements are not required by this specification but may be required by other specifications. The internal representation of a Message does not affect interoperability and is therefore beyond the scope of OpenC2.

Table 3-1. Common Message Elements

Name	Type	Description
content		Message body as specified by content_type and msg_type.
content_type	String	Media Type that identifies the format of the content, including major version. Incompatible content formats must have different content_types. Content_type application/openc2 identifies content defined by OpenC2 language specification versions 1.x, i.e., all versions that are compatible with version 1.1.
msg_type	Message-Type	The type of OpenC2 Message.
status	Status-Code	Populated with a numeric status code in Responses.
request_id	String	A unique identifier created by the Producer and copied by Consumer into all Responses, in order to support reference to a particular Command, transaction, or event chain.
created	Date-Time	Creation date/time of the content.
from	String	Authenticated identifier of the creator of or authority for execution of a message.

Name	Type	Description
to	ArrayOf(String)	Authenticated identifier(s) of the authorized recipient(s) of a message.

As an alternative to using protocol-specific mechanisms to convey message elements, transfer specifications MAY collect all message elements into a single Message structure used as a protocol payload. The media type "application/openc2" is reserved with IANA to designate content in OpenC2 Message format. The Message structure and its media type are intended to remain stable across future versions of this specification.

Type: Message (Record)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	headers	Headers	0..1	
2	body	Body	1	
3	signature	String	0..1	

Headers contains optional common message elements. Additional constraints on common header values may be defined. Additional headers may be defined. The "signature" field is use to contain an option digital signature to provide source authentication and integrity protections of the OpenC2 message.

Type: Headers (Map{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	request_id	String	0..1	
2	created	Is:Date-Time	0..1	
3	from	String	0..1	
4	to	String	0..*	

Body indicates the Message content format and is intended to support new types of OpenC2 Content such as command lists or bundle objects, but OpenC2 may also assign Body types for non-OpenC2 content such as STIX or CACAO objects.

Type: Body (Choice)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
----	------	------	---	-------------

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	openc2	OpenC2-Content	1	

Type: OpenC2-Content (Choice)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	request	OpenC2-Command	1	
2	response	OpenC2-Response	1	
3	notification	OpenC2-Event	1	

Example JSON-serialized Message payload (without signature):

```
{
  "headers": {
    "request_id": "95ad511c-3339-4111-9c47-9156c47d37d3",
    "created": 1595268027000,
    "from": "Producer1@example.com",
    "to": ["consumer1@example.com", "consumer2@example.com",
"consumer3@example.com"]
  },
  "body": {
    "openc2": {
      "request": {
        "action": "deny",
        "target": {
          "uri": "http://www.example.com" }}}}}}
```

Usage Requirements:

- A Producer **MUST** include a `request_id` in the Message header of a Command if it requests a Response.
- The `request_id` of a Message **SHOULD** be a Version 4 UUID as specified in [\[RFC4122\]](#), Section 4.4.
- A Consumer **MUST** copy the `request_id` from the Message header of a Command into each Response to that Command.

3.3 Content

The purpose of this specification is to define the Action and Target portions of a Command and the common portions of a Response. The properties of the Command are defined in

[Section 3.3.1](#) and the properties of the Response are defined in [Section 3.3.2](#).

In addition to the Action and Target, a Command has an optional Actuator. Other than identification of namespace identifier, the semantics associated with the Actuator Specifiers are defined in Actuator Profiles. The Actuators and Actuator-specific results contained in a Response are specified in 'Actuator Profile Specifications' such as StateLess Packet Filtering Profile, Routing Profile etc.

3.3.1 OpenC2 Command

The Command defines an Action to be performed on a Target.

Type: OpenC2-Command (Record)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	action	Action	1	The task or activity to be performed (i.e., the 'verb').
2	target	Target	1	The object of the Action. The Action is performed on the Target.
3	args	Args	0..1	Additional information that applies to the Command.
4	actuator	Actuator	0..1	The subject of the Action. The Actuator executes the Action on the Target.
5	command_id	Command-ID	0..1	An identifier of this Command.

Usage Requirements:

- A Consumer receiving a Command with `command_id` absent and `request_id` present in the header of the Message MUST use the value of `request_id` as the `command_id`.
- If present, the `args` property MUST contain at least one element defined in [Section 3.3.1.4](#).

3.3.1.1 Action

Type: Action (Enumerated)

ID	Name	Description
1	scan	Systematic examination of some aspect of the entity or its environment.

ID	Name	Description
2	locate	Find an object physically, logically, functionally, or by organization.
3	query	Initiate a request for information.
6	deny	Prevent a certain event or action from completion, such as preventing a flow from reaching a destination or preventing access.
7	contain	Isolate a file, process, or entity so that it cannot modify or access assets or processes.
8	allow	Permit access to or execution of a Target.
9	start	Initiate a process, application, system, or activity.
10	stop	Halt a system or end an activity.
11	restart	Stop then start a system or an activity.
14	cancel	Invalidate a previously issued Action.
15	set	Change a value, configuration, or state of a managed entity.
16	update	Instruct a component to retrieve, install, process, and operate in accordance with a software update, reconfiguration, or other update.
18	redirect	Change the flow of traffic to a destination other than its original destination.
19	create	Add a new entity of a known type (e.g., data, files, directories).
20	delete	Remove an entity (e.g., data, files, flows).
22	detonate	Execute and observe the behavior of a Target (e.g., file, hyperlink) in an isolated environment.
23	restore	Return a system to a previously known state.
28	copy	Duplicate an object, file, data flow, or artifact.
30	investigate	Task the recipient to aggregate and report information as it pertains to a security event or incident.
32	remediate	Task the recipient to eliminate a vulnerability or attack point.

Usage Requirements:

- Each Command MUST contain exactly one Action defined in [Section 3.3.1.1](#).

3.3.1.2 Target

Type: Target (Choice)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	artifact	Artifact	1	An array of bytes representing a file-like object or a link to that object.
2	command	Command-ID	1	A reference to a previously issued Command.
3	device	Device	1	The properties of a hardware device.
7	domain_name	Domain-Name	1	A network domain name.
8	email_addr	Email-Addr	1	A single email address.
9	features	Features	1	A set of items used with the query Action to determine an Actuator's capabilities.
10	file	File	1	Properties of a file.
11	idn_domain_name	IDN-Domain-Name	1	An internationalized domain name.
12	idn_email_addr	IDN-Email-Addr	1	A single internationalized email address.
13	ipv4_net	IPv4-Net	1	An IPv4 address range including CIDR prefix length.
14	ipv6_net	IPv6-Net	1	An IPv6 address range including prefix length.
15	ipv4_connection	IPv4-Connection	1	A 5-tuple of source and destination IPv4 address ranges, source and destination ports, and protocol.
16	ipv6_connection	IPv6-Connection	1	A 5-tuple of source and destination IPv6 address ranges, source and destination ports, and protocol.

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
20	iri	IRI	1	An internationalized resource identifier (IRI).
17	mac_addr	MAC-Addr	1	A Media Access Control (MAC) address - EUI-48 or EUI-64 as defined in [EUI] .
18	process	Process	1	Common properties of an instance of a computer program as executed on an operating system.
25	properties	Properties	1	Data attribute associated with an Actuator.
19	uri	URI	1	A uniform resource identifier (URI).

Usage Requirements:

- The `target` field in a Command MUST contain exactly one type of Target (e.g., `ipv4_net`).

3.3.1.3 Actuator

Type: Actuator (Choice)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1024	slpf	slpf:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Stateless Packet Filtering Profile
1025	sfpf	sfpf:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Stateful Packet Filtering Profile
1026	sbom	sbom:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Software Bill of Materials Profile
1027	endp	endp:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Endpoint Profile
1028	sdnc	sdnc:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Software Defined Network Controller Profile
1029	emgw	emgw:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Email Gateway Profile
1030	ids	ids:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Intrusion Detection System Profile

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
----	------	------	---	-------------

1031	ips	xxx:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Intrusion Prevention System Profile
1032	dlp	dlp:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Data Loss Prevention Profile
1033	swg	swg:Actuator	1	Example: Actuator Specifiers defined in the Secure Web Gateway Profile

3.3.1.4 Command Arguments

Type: Args (Map{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	start_time	Date-Time	0..1	The specific date/time to initiate the Command
2	stop_time	Date-Time	0..1	The specific date/time to terminate the Command
3	duration	Duration	0..1	The length of time for an Command to be in effect
4	response_requested	Response-Type	0..1	The type of Response required for the Command: none, ack, status, complete.

Usage Requirements:

- start_time, stop_time, duration:
 - If none are specified, then start_time is now, stop_time is never, and duration is infinity.
 - Only two of the three are allowed on any given Command and the third is derived from the equation $stop_time = start_time + duration$.
 - If only start_time is specified then stop_time is never and duration is infinity.
 - If only stop_time is specified then start_time is now and duration is derived.

- If only `duration` is specified then `start_time` is now and `stop_time` is derived.
- `response_requested`:
 - If `response_requested` is specified as `none` then the Consumer SHOULD NOT send a Response.
 - If `response_requested` is specified as `ack` then the Consumer SHOULD send a Response acknowledging receipt of the Command: `{"status": 102}`.
 - If `response_requested` is specified as `status` then the Consumer SHOULD send a Response containing the current status of Command execution.
 - If `response_requested` is specified as `complete` then the Consumer SHOULD send a Response containing the status or results upon completion of Command execution.
 - If `response_requested` is not explicitly specified then the Consumer SHOULD respond as if `complete` was specified.

3.3.2 OpenC2 Response

OpenC2-Response defines the structure of a response to OpenC2-Command.

Type: OpenC2-Response (Record)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	status	Status-Code	1	An integer status code.
2	status_text	String	0..1	A free-form human-readable description of the Response status.
3	results	Results	0..1	Map of key:value pairs that contain additional results based on the invoking Command.

Example:

```
{
  "status": 200,
  "results": {
    "versions": ["1.1"]
  }
}
```

Usage Requirements:

- All Responses MUST contain a status.

3.3.2.1 Response Status Code**Type: Status-Code (Enumerated.ID)**

ID	Description
102	Processing - an interim Response used to inform the Producer that the Consumer has accepted the Command but has not yet completed it.
200	OK - the Command has succeeded.
400	Bad Request - the Consumer cannot process the Command due to something that is perceived to be a Producer error (e.g., malformed Command syntax).
401	Unauthorized - the Command Message lacks valid authentication credentials for the target resource or authorization has been refused for the submitted credentials.
403	Forbidden - the Consumer understood the Command but refuses to authorize it.
404	Not Found - the Consumer has not found anything matching the Command.
500	Internal Error - the Consumer encountered an unexpected condition that prevented it from performing the Command.
501	Not Implemented - the Consumer does not support the functionality required to perform the Command.
503	Service Unavailable - the Consumer is currently unable to perform the Command due to a temporary overloading or maintenance of the Consumer.

3.3.2.2 Response Results**Type: Results (Map{1..*})**

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	versions	Version unique	0..*	List of OpenC2 language versions supported by this Actuator
2	profiles	ArrayOf(Nsid)	0..1	List of profiles supported by this Actuator
3	pairs	Action- Targets	0..1	List of targets applicable to each supported Action

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
4	rate_limit	Number{0..*}	0..1	Maximum number of requests per minute supported by design or policy

3.3.3 OpenC2 Event

OpenC2-Event defines the content of a one-way notification. This structure defines no common event fields, but is the point at which profile-defined event content may be added.

Type: OpenC2-Event (Map{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
----	------	------	---	-------------

3.3.4 Message Signatures

Command and control mechanisms need to provide appropriate security controls protecting message content (especially authentication of command origin and protection of command integrity) so that Consumers receiving commands can proceed to execute them with confidence and Producers can have confidence that the feedback in response messages is meaningful. Digital signatures can provide both of those security properties. OpenC2 messages can be protected with digital signatures using standard mechanisms. The following RFCs specify mechanisms for digital signature protection of JSON-encoded content:

- RFC 7515: JSON Web Signature (JWS) [RFC7515]
- RFC 8785: JSON Canonicalization Scheme (JCS) [RFC8785]
- RFC 7493: The I-JSON Format [RFC7493]

OpenC2 messages SHOULD be digitally signed, unless message integrity and source authentication are provided by other mechanisms.

OpenC2 messages serialized in JSON MUST conform to the requirements of RFC 7493 to support canonicalization.

Digitally-signed OpenC2 messages serialized in JSON MUST be signed using JSON Web Signature in accordance with RFC 7515.

Digitally-signed OpenC2 messages serialized in JSON MUST use the JWS Compact Serialization method described in RFC 7515, Section 3.1.

Digitally-signed OpenC2 messages MUST use the “Detached Content” format described in Appendix F of RFC 7515, and MUST NOT include the Base64url-encoded JWS content (i.e., the encoding of the OpenC2 message content) in the transmitted message.

The JWS signature for a digitally-signed OpenC2 message SHALL be placed in the optional

“signature” field of the Message structure defined in Section 3.2.

An example of creating and validating an OpenC2 message signature is contained in [Annex A, Example 4](#).

The method for message recipients to identify and validate the appropriate public key to validate a message signature is beyond the scope of this specification. Alternative, appropriate signature mechanisms may need to be specified for serializations other than JSON.

3.4 Type Definitions

3.4.1 Target Types

3.4.1.1 Artifact

Type: Artifact (Record{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	mime_type	String	0..1	Permitted values specified in the IANA Media Types registry, [RFC6838]
2	payload	Payload	0..1	Choice of literal content or URL
3	hashes	Hashes	0..1	Hashes of the payload content

Usage Requirement:

- An "Artifact" Target **MUST** contain at least one property.

3.4.1.2 Device

Type: Device (Map{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	hostname	Hostname	0..1	A hostname that can be used to connect to this device over a network
2	idn_hostname	IDN-Hostname	0..1	An internationalized hostname that can be used to connect to this device over a network
3	device_id	String	0..1	An identifier that refers to this device within an inventory or management system

Usage Requirement:

- A "Device" Target MUST contain at least one property.

3.4.1.3 Domain Name

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Domain-Name	String /hostname	[RFC1034] , Section 3.5

3.4.1.4 Email Address

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Email-Addr	String /email	Email address, [RFC5322] , Section 3.4.1

3.4.1.5 Features

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Features	ArrayOf(Feature) {0..10} unique	An array of zero to ten names used to query an Actuator for its supported capabilities.

Usage Requirements:

- A Producer MUST NOT send a list containing more than one instance of any Feature.
- A Consumer receiving a list containing more than one instance of any Feature SHOULD behave as if the duplicate(s) were not present.
- A Producer MAY send a 'query' Command containing an empty list of features. A Producer could do this to determine if a Consumer is responding to Commands (a heartbeat command) or to generate idle traffic to keep a connection to a Consumer from being closed due to inactivity (a keep-alive command). An active Consumer could return an empty response to this command, minimizing the amount of traffic used to perform heartbeat / keep-alive functions.

3.4.1.6 File

Type: File (Map{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	name	String	0..1	The name of the file as defined in the file system
2	path	String	0..1	The absolute path to the location of the file in the file system

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
3	hashes	Hashes	0..1	One or more cryptographic hash codes of the file contents

Usage Requirement:

- A "File" Target MUST contain at least one property.

3.4.1.7 Internationalized Domain Name

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
IDN-Domain-Name	String /idn-hostname	Internationalized Domain Name, [RFC5890] , Section 2.3.2.3.

3.4.1.8 Internationalized Email Address

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
IDN-Email-Addr	String /idn-email	Internationalized email address, [RFC6531]

3.4.1.9 IPv4 Address Range

An IPv4 address range is a CIDR block per "Classless Inter-domain Routing (CIDR): The Internet Address Assignment and Aggregation Plan" [\[RFC4632\]](#) and consists of two values, an IPv4 address and a prefix.

For example, "192.168.17.0/24" is range of IP addresses with a prefix of 24 (i.e. 192.168.17.0 - 192.168.17.255).

JSON serialization of an IPv4 address range SHALL use the 'dotted/slash' textual representation of [\[RFC4632\]](#).

CBOR serialization of an IPv4 address range SHALL use a binary representation of the IP address and the prefix, each in their own field.

Type: IPv4-Net (Array /ipv4-net)

ID	Type	#	Description
1	IPv4-Addr	1	IPv4 address as defined in [RFC0791]
2	Integer	0..1	CIDR prefix-length. If omitted, refers to a single host address.

3.4.1.10 IPv4 Connection**Type: IPv4-Connection (Record{1..*})**

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	src_addr	IPv4-Net	0..1	IPv4 source address range
2	src_port	Port	0..1	Source service per [RFC6335]
3	dst_addr	IPv4-Net	0..1	IPv4 destination address range
4	dst_port	Port	0..1	Destination service per [RFC6335]
5	protocol	L4-Protocol	0..1	Layer 4 protocol (e.g., TCP) - see Section 3.4.2.10

Usage Requirement:

- An "IPv4-Connection" MUST contain at least one property.

3.4.1.11 IPv6 Address Range**Type: IPv6-Net (Array /ipv6-net)**

ID	Type	#	Description
1	IPv6-Addr	1	IPv6 address as defined in [RFC8200]
2	Integer	0..1	prefix-length. If omitted, refers to a single host address.

3.4.1.12 IPv6 Connection**Type: IPv6-Connection (Record{1..*})**

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	src_addr	IPv6-Net	0..1	IPv6 source address range
2	src_port	Port	0..1	Source service per [RFC6335]
3	dst_addr	IPv6-Net	0..1	IPv6 destination address range
4	dst_port	Port	0..1	Destination service per [RFC6335]
5	protocol	L4-Protocol	0..1	Layer 4 protocol (e.g., TCP) - Section 3.4.2.10

Usage Requirement:

- An "IPv6-Connection" Target MUST contain at least one property.

3.4.1.13 IRI

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
IRI	String /iri	Internationalized Resource Identifier, [RFC3987] .

3.4.1.14 MAC Address

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
MAC-Addr	Binary /eui	Media Access Control / Extended Unique Identifier address - EUI-48 or EUI-64 as defined in [EUI] .

3.4.1.15 Process

Type: Process (Map{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	pid	Integer{0..*}	0..1	Process ID of the process
2	name	String	0..1	Name of the process
3	cwd	String	0..1	Current working directory of the process
4	executable	File	0..1	Executable that was executed to start the process
5	parent	Process	0..1	Process that spawned this one
6	command_line	String	0..1	The full command line invocation used to start this process, including all arguments

Usage Requirement:

- A "Process" Target MUST contain at least one property.

3.4.1.16 Properties

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Properties	ArrayOf(String){1..*} unique	A list of names that uniquely identify properties of an Actuator.

3.4.1.17 URI

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
URI	String (uri)	Uniform Resource Identifier, [RFC3986] .

3.4.2 Data Types

3.4.2.1 Action-Targets

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Action-Targets	MapOf(Action, Targets){1..*}	Map of each action supported by this actuator to the list of targets applicable to that action.
Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Targets	ArrayOf(Enum(Target)) {1..*} unique	List of Target fields

3.4.2.2 Date-Time

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Date-Time	Integer{0..*}	Date and Time

Usage Requirements:

- Value is the number of milliseconds since 00:00:00 UTC, 1 January 1970

3.4.2.3 Duration

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Duration	Integer{0..*}	A length of time

Usage Requirements:

- Value is a number of milliseconds

3.4.2.4 Feature

Specifies the results to be returned from a query features Command.

Type: Feature (Enumerated)

ID	Name	Description
1	versions	List of OpenC2 Language versions supported by this Actuator
2	profiles	List of profiles supported by this Actuator
3	pairs	List of supported Actions and applicable Targets
4	rate_limit	Maximum number of Commands per minute supported by design or policy

3.4.2.5 Hashes

Type: Hashes (Map{1..*})

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	md5	Binary /x	0..1	MD5 hash as defined in [RFC1321]
2	sha1	Binary /x	0..1	SHA1 hash as defined in [RFC6234]
3	sha256	Binary /x	0..1	SHA256 hash as defined in [RFC6234]

Usage Requirement:

- A "Hashes" data type MUST contain at least one key.

3.4.2.6 Hostname

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Hostname	String /hostname	Internet host name as specified in [RFC1123]

3.4.2.7 Internationalized Hostname

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
IDN-Hostname	String /idn-hostname	Internationalized Internet host name as specified in [RFC5890] , Section 2.3.2.3.

3.4.2.8 IPv4 Address

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
-----------	-----------------	-------------

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
IPv4-Addr	Binary /ipv4-addr	32 bit IPv4 address as defined in [RFC0791]

3.4.2.9 IPv6 Address

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
IPv6-Addr	Binary /ipv6-addr	128 bit IPv6 address as defined in [RFC8200]

3.4.2.10 L4 Protocol

Value of the protocol (IPv4) or next header (IPv6) field in an IP packet. Any IANA value, [\[RFC5237\]](#)

Type: L4-Protocol (Enumerated)

ID	Name	Description
1	icmp	Internet Control Message Protocol - [RFC0792]
6	tcp	Transmission Control Protocol - [RFC0793]
17	udp	User Datagram Protocol - [RFC0768]
132	sctp	Stream Control Transmission Protocol - [RFC4960]

3.4.2.11 Message-Type

Identifies the type of Message.

Type: Message-Type (Enumerated)

ID	Name	Description
1	command	The Message content is an OpenC2 Command
2	response	The Message content is an OpenC2 Response

3.4.2.12 Namespace Identifier

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Nsid	String{1..16}	A short identifier that refers to a namespace.

3.4.2.13 Payload

Type: Payload (Choice)

ID	Name	Type	#	Description
1	bin	Binary	1	Specifies the data contained in the artifact
2	url	URI	1	MUST be a valid URL that resolves to the un-encoded content

3.4.2.14 Port

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Port	Integer{0..65535}	Transport Protocol Port Number, RFC6335

3.4.2.15 Response-Type**Type: Response-Type (Enumerated)**

ID	Name	Description
0	none	No response
1	ack	Respond when Command received
2	status	Respond with progress toward Command completion
3	complete	Respond when all aspects of Command completed

3.4.2.16 Command-ID

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Command-ID	String (%^\S{0,36}\$%)	Command Identifier

3.4.2.17 Version

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Version	String	Major.Minor version number

4 Mandatory Commands/Responses

The content in this section is normative, except where it is marked non-normative.

A Command consists of an Action/Target pair and associated Specifiers and Arguments. This section enumerates the allowed Commands, identifies which are required or optional to implement, and presents the associated responses.

4.1 Implementation of 'query features' Command

The 'query features' Command is REQUIRED for all Producers and Consumers implementing OpenC2. This section defines the REQUIRED and OPTIONAL aspects of the 'query features' Command and associated response for Producers and Consumers.

The 'query features' Command is REQUIRED for all Producers. The 'query features' Command MAY include one or more Features as defined in [Section 3.4.2.4](#). The 'query features' Command MAY include the "response_requested": "complete" Argument. The 'query features' Command MUST NOT include any other Argument.

The 'query features' Command is REQUIRED for all Consumers. Consumers that receive and parse the 'query features':

- With any Argument other than "response_requested": "complete"
 - MUST NOT respond with OK/200.
 - SHOULD respond with Bad Request/400.
 - MAY respond with the 500 status code.
- With no Target Specifiers MUST respond with response code 200.
- With the "versions" Target Specifier MUST respond with status 200 and populate the versions field with a list of the OpenC2 Language Versions supported by the consumer.
- With the "profiles" Target Specifier MUST respond with status 200 and populate the profiles field with a list of profiles supported by the consumer.
- With the "pairs" Target Specifier MUST respond with status 200 and populate the pairs field with a list of action target pairs that define valid commands supported by the consumer.
- With the "rate_limit" Target Specifier populated:
 - SHOULD respond with status 200 and populate the rate_limit field with the maximum number of Commands per minute that the Consumer may support.
 - MAY respond with status 200 and with the rate_limit field unpopulated.

4.2 Examples of 'query features' Commands and Responses

This section is non-normative.

This sub-section provides examples of 'query features' Commands and Responses. The examples provided in this section are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be interpreted as operational examples for actual systems.

4.2.1 Example 1

There are no features specified in the 'query features' Command. A simple "OK" Response Message is returned.

Command:

```
{
  "action": "query",
  "target": {
    "features": []
  }
}
```

Response:

```
{
  "status": 200
}
```

4.2.2 Example 2

There are several features requested in the 'query features' Command. All requested features can be returned in a single Response Message.

Command:

```
{
  "action": "query",
  "target": {
    "features": ["versions", "profiles", "rate_limit"]
  }
}
```

Response:

```
{
  "status": 200,
```

Standards Track Work Product

```
"results": {  
  "versions": ["1.1"],  
  "profiles": ["slpf", "x-lock"],  
  "rate_limit": 30  
}  
}
```

5 Conformance

This content in this section is normative.

5.1 Conformance Clause 1: Command

A conformant Command

- 5.1-1 MUST be structured in accordance with [Section 3.3.1](#).
- 5.1-2 MUST include exactly one `action` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.3.1.1](#).
- 5.1-3 MUST include exactly one `target` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.3.1.2](#) or exactly one imported `target` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.1.4](#).
- 5.1-4 MUST include zero or one `actuator` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.3.1.3](#) or zero or one imported `actuator` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.1.4](#).
- 5.1-5 MUST include zero or one `args` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.3.1.4](#) or zero or one imported `args` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.1.4](#).

5.2 Conformance Clause 2: Response

A conformant Response

- 5.2-1 MUST be structured in accordance with [Section 3.3.2](#).
- 5.2-2 MUST include exactly one `status` property defined in accordance with [Section 3.3.2.1](#).

5.3 Conformance Clause 3: Producer

A conformant Producer

- 5.3-1 MUST issue Commands and process Responses in accordance with [Section 4](#).
- 5.3-2 MUST implement JSON serialization of generated Commands in accordance with [\[RFC7493\]](#).
- 5.3-3 MUST implement JSON serialization of received Responses in accordance with [\[RFC7493\]](#).

5.4 Conformance Clause 4: Consumer

A conformant Consumer

- 5.4-1 MUST process Commands and issue Responses in accordance with [Section 4](#).
- 5.4-2 MUST implement JSON serialization of generated Responses in accordance with [\[RFC7493\]](#).
- 5.4-3 MUST implement JSON serialization of received Commands in accordance with [\[RFC7493\]](#).

Appendix A. References

This appendix contains the normative and informative references that are used in this document. Normative references are specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) and Informative references are either specific or non-specific.

While any hyperlinks included in this appendix were valid at the time of publication, OASIS cannot guarantee their long-term validity.

A.1 Normative References

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Appendix B. Safety, Security and Privacy Considerations

(Note: OASIS strongly recommends that Technical Committees consider issues that might affect safety, security, privacy, and/or data protection in implementations of their specification and document them for implementers and adopters. For some purposes, you may find it required, e.g. if you apply for IANA registration.

While it may not be immediately obvious how your specification might make systems vulnerable to attack, most specifications, because they involve communications between systems, message formats, or system settings, open potential channels for exploit. For example, IETF [[RFC3552](#)] lists “eavesdropping, replay, message insertion, deletion, modification, and man-in-the-middle” as well as potential denial of service attacks as threats that must be considered and, if appropriate, addressed in IETF RFCs.

In addition to considering and describing foreseeable risks, this section should include guidance on how implementers and adopters can protect against these risks.

We encourage editors and TC members concerned with this subject to read *Guidelines for Writing RFC Text on Security Considerations*, IETF [[RFC3552](#)], for more information.

Remove this note before submitting for publication.)

Appendix C. Examples

The content in this section is non-normative.

C.1 Example 1

This Command would be used to quarantine a device on the network.

```
{
  "action": "contain",
  "target": {
    "device": {
      "device_id": "9BCE8431AC106FAA3861C7E771D20E53"
    }
  }
}
```

C.2 Example 2

This Command blocks a particular connection within the domain. The standard Actuator profile defines the extended Command Argument, `drop_process`, and the Actuator Specifier, `asset_id`. The Response is a simple acknowledgment that was requested in the Command.

Command:

```
{
  "action": "deny",
  "target": {
    "ipv4_connection": {
      "protocol": "tcp",
      "src_addr": "1.2.3.4",
      "src_port": 10996,
      "dst_addr": "198.2.3.4",
      "dst_port": 80
    }
  },
  "args": {
    "start_time": 1534775460000,
    "duration": 500,
    "response_requested": "ack",
    "slpf": {
      "drop_process": "none"
    }
  },
  "actuator": {
```

```

    "slpf": {
      "asset_id": "30"
    }
  }
}

```

Response:

```

{
  "status": 102
}

```

C.3 Example 3

This is a notional example of a Command issued to a non-standard Actuator. A Producer sends a 'query properties' Command to request detail about a 'battery'. The Consumer responds with the battery information extended in the results of the Response.

Command:

```

{
  "action": "query",
  "target": {
    "properties": ["battery"]
  },
  "actuator": {
    "x-esm": {
      "asset_id": "TGEadsasd"
    }
  }
}

```

Response:

```

{
  "status": 200,
  "results": {
    "x-esm": {
      "battery": {
        "capacity": 0.577216,
        "charged_at": 1547506988,
        "status": 12,
        "mode": {
          "output": "high",
          "supported": [ "high", "trickle" ]
        }
      }
    }
  }
}

```

```

        },
        "visible_on_display": true
    },
    "asset_id": "TGEadsasd"
}
}
}

```

C.4 Example 4

This example illustrates the creation and validation of a JSON message signature, as specified in [3.3.4 Message Signatures](#). The example in this section was prepared using the on-line JWS tool at <https://mobilepki.org/jws-ct/create>, using the ES256 algorithm. Base64url-encoded data and canonicalized JSON in the example are shown with line wrapping for presentation only.

C.4.1 OpenC2 Message Signature

The user embeds the signature field into the end of the payload that carries all the data required to validate authenticity and integrity of the payload. This should be done as a last step before transfer and only for the purposes of transferring the signature along with the payload. Once the payload is received the receiver should strip off the signature field from the payload, validate the signature, validate the content, and then process the contents. The process in which a particular payload will be signed will be determined by the serialization utilized.

In JSON we can accomplish this by utilizing well know [RFC8785] JSON Web Signatures (JWS) and [RFC7515] JSON Canonicalizing Scheme (JCS). Although [RFC7515] supports a variety of configurations, for this example we will use the ES256 algorithm and assume that the receiver has a mechanism to discover the correct public key. The following is a generic approach, many libraries in multiple programming languages exist that can alter/simplify this process.

C.4.2 OpenC2 Signing Operation (JSON)

1. Generate the OpenC2 JSON object as described in the OpenC2 Language Specification.

```

{
  "headers": {
    "request_id": "95ad511c-3339-4111-9c47-9156c47d37d3",
    "created": 1595268027000,
    "from": "Producer1@example.com",
    "to": ["consumer1@example.com", "consumer2@example.com",
"consumer3@example.com"]
  },
  "body": {

```



```
eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IiByb2R1Y2VyMUBleGFtcGxlMnVbSJ9 . eyJib
2R5ljp7lm9wZW5jMiI6eyJyZXF1ZXN0ljp7lmFjdGlvbiI6ImRlbnkiLCJ0YXJnZXQi
OnsidXJpIjoiaHR0cDovL3d3dy5leGFtcGxlMnVbSJ9fX19LCJoZWFKZlJzlp7l
mNyZWFOZWQiOjE1OTUyNjgwMjcwMDAsImZyb20iOiJQcm9kdWNLcjFAZXhh
bXBsZS5jb20iLCJyZXF1ZXN0X2lkjoiOTVhZDUxMzZmMzZmOS00MTEuLTIjN
DctOTE1NmM0N2QzN2QzliwidG8iOlsiY29uc3VtZXlxQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tliw
iY29uc3VtZXlyQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tliwiY29uc3VtZXlzQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tll
19fQ
```

E. Utilize the signing input, ES256 algorithm, and the sender's private key to calculate the signature.

```
-----BEGIN PRIVATE KEY-----
MIGTAgEAMBMGBYqGSM49AgEGCCqGSM49AwEHBHkwdwIBAQQg6XxMFxhcYT5QN9w5TIg2aSKsbcj+
pj4BnZkK7ZOt4B+gCgYIKoZIzj0DAQehRANCAAToErGm3Lxwj57EPMKSH6ChTplerctxjRx3Uto
DGI2tZgm3L1M5u0I9y7dm+QT8kJaEPdbX9g9lfoM3lMvmlHY
-----END PRIVATE KEY-----
```

Signature value:

```
PsJmWi726O_HTK-Svp_fllZ8FdIH6jeWslM9F5Qrv1gFqv7EwREGOUU4rd53h
HS59Yr0Zapk4Ryv9XFmPxHObw
```

F. Normally at this point we would concatenate all 3 with a period character to create our JWS. However, in order to reduce overhead, we will be using detached version of JWS. To do this we replace the JWS payload portion with an empty string.

```
eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IiByb2R1Y2VyMUBleGFtcGxlMnVbSJ9..PsJm
Wi726O_HTK-Svp_fllZ8FdIH6jeWslM9F5Qrv1gFqv7EwREGOUU4rd53hHS59
Yr0Zapk4Ryv9XFmPxHObw
```

4. Add the detached JWS back into the original OpenC2 JSON object under the property "signature".

```
{
  "headers": {
    "request_id": "95ad511c-3339-4111-9c47-9156c47d37d3",
    "created": 1595268027000,
    "from": "Producer1@example.com",
    "to": ["consumer1@example.com", "consumer2@example.com",
"consumer3@example.com"]
  },
  "body": {
    "openc2": {
      "request": {
        "action": "deny",
        "target": {
```

```

        "uri": "http://www.example.com"
      }
    }
  }
  "signature":
"eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IiByb2R1Y2VyMUBleGFtcGxlImNvbSJ9..PsJmWi726O_HTK-
Svp_fIIZ8FdIH6jeWslM9F5Qrv1gFqv7EwREGOUU4rd53hHS59Yr0Zapk4Ryv9XFmPxHObw"
}

```

5. Serialize the signed OpenC2 JSON object and send to recipient(s).

C.4.3 OpenC2 Signing Validation (JSON)

1. Parse the received OpenC2 JSON object and separate out the signature. This should yield:

A. Original OpenC2 JSON object.

```

{
  "headers": {
    "request_id": "95ad511c-3339-4111-9c47-9156c47d37d3",
    "created": 1595268027000,
    "from": "Producer1@example.com",
    "to": ["consumer1@example.com", "consumer2@example.com",
"consumer3@example.com"]
  },
  "body": {
    "openc2": {
      "request": {
        "action": "deny",
        "target": {
          "uri": "http://www.example.com"
        }
      }
    }
  }
}

```

B. Original Detached JWS.

```

eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IiByb2R1Y2VyMUBleGFtcGxlImNvbSJ9..PsJm
Wi726O_HTK-Svp_fIIZ8FdIH6jeWslM9F5Qrv1gFqv7EwREGOUU4rd53hHS59
Yr0Zapk4Ryv9XFmPxHObw

```

2. Canonicalize JSON Data using the process described in RFC8785.

```
{ "body": { "openc2": { "request": { "action": "deny", "target":
{ "uri": "http://www.example.com" } } } },
"headers":
{ "created": 1595268027000, "from": "Producer1@example.com", "request_id": "95ad511c-
3339-4111-9c47-9156c47d37d3",
"to":
[ "consumer1@example.com", "consumer2@example.com", "consumer3@example.com" ] } }
```

3. Create a JWS using the process described in RFC7515.

A. Base64 encode our canonicalize JSON object from step 2 to create the JWS payload

```
eyJib2R5Jlp7Im9wZW5jMiI6eyJyZXF1ZlN0Jlp7ImFjdGlvbil6ImRlbnkiLCJ0YXJnZXQiO
nsidXJpIjoiaHR0cDovL3d3dy5leGFtcGxlImNvbSJ9fX19LCJoZWFKZXJzJlp7ImNyZW
F0ZWQiOjE1OTUyNjgwMjcwMDAsImZyb20iOiJQcm9kdWNLcjFAZXhhbXBsZS5jb20iLC
JyZXF1ZlN0X2lkjoiOTVhZDUxMWMtMzMzOS00MTEuXLTijNDctOTE1NmM0N2QzN2Qz
liwidG8iOlsiY29uc3VtZXlxQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tliwiY29uc3VtZXlzQGV4YW1wbGUu
Y29tll19fQ
```

B. Overwrite the detached JWS empty string between the first and second period characters with the JWS payload to create a standard, non-detached, JWS.

```
eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IiByb2R1Y2VyMUBleGFtcGxlImNvbSJ9.eyJib2R5Jlp7Im9wZW5jMiI6eyJyZXF1ZlN0Jlp7ImFjdGlvbil6ImRlbnkiLCJ0YXJnZXQiO
nsidXJpIjoiaHR0cDovL3d3dy5leGFtcGxlImNvbSJ9fX19LCJoZWFKZXJzJlp7ImNyZW
F0ZWQiOjE1OTUyNjgwMjcwMDAsImZyb20iOiJQcm9kdWNLcjFAZXhhbXBsZS5jb20iLC
JyZXF1ZlN0X2lkjoiOTVhZDUxMWMtMzMzOS00MTEuXLTijNDctOTE1NmM0N2QzN2Qz
liwidG8iOlsiY29uc3VtZXlxQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tliwiY29uc3VtZXlzQGV4YW1wbGUu
Y29tll19fQ.PsJmWi726O_HTK-Svp_fllZ8FdIH6jeWslM9F5Qrv1gFqv7EwREGOUU4r
d53hHS59Yr0Zapk4Ryv9XFmPxHobw
```

4. Follow the JWS validation process described in RFC7515.

A. Save the JWS signing Input (which is the initial substring of the JWS up until but not including the second period character)

```
eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IiByb2R1Y2VyMUBleGFtcGxlImNvbSJ9.eyJib2R5Jlp7Im9wZW5jMiI6eyJyZXF1ZlN0Jlp7ImFjdGlvbil6ImRlbnkiLCJ0YXJnZXQiO
nsidXJpIjoiaHR0cDovL3d3dy5leGFtcGxlImNvbSJ9fX19LCJoZWFKZXJzJlp7ImNyZW
F0ZWQiOjE1OTUyNjgwMjcwMDAsImZyb20iOiJQcm9kdWNLcjFAZXhhbXBsZS5jb20iLC
JyZXF1ZlN0X2lkjoiOTVhZDUxMWMtMzMzOS00MTEuXLTijNDctOTE1NmM0N2QzN2Qz
liwidG8iOlsiY29uc3VtZXlxQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tliwiY29uc3VtZXlzQGV4YW1wbGUu
Y29tll19fQ
```

B. Save the JWS signature (Which is the string following but not including the second

period character)

```
PsJmWi726O_HTK-Svp_fllZ8FdIH6jeWslM9F5Qrv1gFqv7EwREGOUU4rd53h  
HS59Yr0Zapk4Ryv9XFmPxHObw
```

C. Pass the public key, the JWS signature, and the JWS signing input to an ES256 signature verifier. Expect a Boolean response.

```
-----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY-----  
MFkwEwYHKoZIzj0CAQYIKoZIzj0DAQcDQgAE6BKxpty8cI+exDzCkh+goU6dXq3MbcY0cd1LaAxi  
NrWYJty9TObjiPcu3Zvke/JCWhD3W1/YPZX6DN5TFZpR2A==  
-----END PUBLIC KEY-----
```

Appendix D. Design Elements

D.1 Derived Enumerations

It is sometimes useful to reference the fields of a structure definition, for example to list fields that are usable in a particular context, or to read or update the value of a specific field. An instance of a reference can be validated against the set of valid references using either an explicit or a derived Enumerated type. A derived enumeration is created using an Enum() expression on the type being referenced, and it results in an Enumerated type containing the ID and Name columns of the referenced type.

This is the design element that defines the "Action-Targets" data type. The "Action-Targets" data type is a map of each action supported by an actuator to a list of targets implemented for each action. The list of Actions, defined in [Section 3.3.1.1](#), is appropriately an enumerated list of possible Actions. The list of Targets, defined in [Section 3.3.1.2](#), is a Choice data structure where each element is a complex data type of its own. A derived enumeration is used in this case to signify that the list of Targets for the "Action-Targets" data type should be an enumerated list of the possible Targets

Definition of "Action-Targets" Data Type: The Targets data type is defined as an array of "Target" enumerations. The "Target" enumerations are derived from the "Target" data type.

Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Action-Targets	MapOf(Action, Targets)	Map of each action supported by this actuator to the list of targets applicable to that action.
Type Name	Type Definition	Description
Targets	ArrayOf(Enum(Target)) {1..*}	List of Target fields

Example: The "pairs" property is defined as an "Action-Targets" data type.

```
{
  "status": 200,
  "results": {
    "pairs": {
      "allow": ["ipv6_net", "ipv6_connection"],
      "deny": ["ipv6_net", "ipv6_connection"],
      "query": ["features"],
      "delete": ["slpf:rule_number"],
      "update": ["file"]
    }
  }
}
```

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```
}  
  }  
}
```

Appendix E. Revision History

The content in this section is non-normative.

Revision	Date	Editor	Changes Made
v1.1-wd01	10/31/2017	Sparrell, Considine	Initial working draft

Appendix F. Acknowledgments

The content in this section is non-normative.

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