GÉANT Data Protection Code of Conduct
Entity Category Specification

For Service Providers established in European Union, European Economic Area and countries with adequate data protection pursuant to Article 25.6 of the directive 95/46/EC

Version 1.0, 14 June 2013

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Introduction

The EU Data Protection Directive (95/46/EC) sets the legal framework for attribute release within the European Union and European Economic Area. For more information on the requirements imposed, see Introduction to Data protection directive [DirectiveIntroduction].

The Data Protection Code of Conduct sets out practices for meeting the requirements of the Data Protection Directive. It defines a set of rules to be followed by Service Providers wishing to receive user attributes from the Identity Providers managed by Home Organisations. It is expected that Home Organisations will be more willing to release attributes to Service Providers asserting the conformance to the Data Protection Code of Conduct. For more information, see Introduction to Code of Conduct [CoCIntroduction].

This document defines a SAML 2.0 Entity Category attribute [SAML2EntityAttr] for Service Providers that claim conformance to the Data Protection Code of Conduct.

Syntax

The following URI is used as the Attribute Value for the Entity Category attribute:

http://www.geant.net/uri/dataprotection-code-of-conduct/v1

Semantics

By asserting membership in the Entity Category, a Service Provider claims

- that it is bound by
  - the data protection laws in the European Union or European Economic Area, or
  - a third country’s domestic data protection laws which have been recognised by the EC as ensuring an adequate level of protection [ECWhiteList], or
  - an international commitment into which a third country has entered and which has been recognised by the EC as ensuring an adequate level of protection [ECWhiteList], such as the US Safe harbour [USSafeHarbour]
- that it has committed to the Data Protection Code of Conduct for Service Providers [CoCforSP], and
- that it conforms to the SAML 2 Profile for the Data Protection Code of Conduct [CoCSAML2]
Provenance

When an Entity's registrar (normally the Entity's home federation) registers the Entity's assertion of membership in the Entity Category it must perform at least the checks defined for a home federation operator in the Operator guidelines document [CoCOperatorGuidelines].

Examples

```xml
<EntityDescriptor xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata"
  entityID="https://service.example.com/entity">
  <Extensions>
    <EntityAttributes xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:metadata:attribute">
      <Attribute xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
        NameFormat="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:attrname-format:uri"
        Name="http://macedir.org/entity-category">
        http://www.geant.net/uri/dataprotection-code-of-conduct/v1
      </AttributeValue>
      <Attribute/>
    </EntityAttributes>
  </Extensions>
...</EntityDescriptor>
```

Usage

Enable Home Organisations / Identity Provider administrators to easily set up a global attribute filter policy for Service Providers committed to the Code of Conduct.

For related configuration examples, see

- Code of Conduct Cookbook [CoCCookbook].
- InCommon's R&S category [InCommon].
- Shibboleth configuration instructions by SWAMID [SWAMID].
References


<https://refeds.terena.org/index.php/Operator_guidelines>

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<https://refeds.terena.org/index.php/Introduction_to_Data_protection_directive>

<https://refeds.terena.org/index.php/Introduction_to_Data_protection_directive>

[ECWhiteList] European Commission, “Commission decisions on the adequacy of the protection of personal

[InCommon] InCommon federation, “Configure a Shibboleth IdP to Support R and S”,
<https://spaces.internet2.edu/display/InCFederation/Configure+a+Shibboleth+IdP+to+Support+R+and+S>

[SAML2EntityAttr] Young, I., Johansson, L., Cantor, S., “The Entity Category SAML Entity Metadata Attribute

<https://wiki.swamid.se/display/SWAMID/GEANT+Data+Protection+Code+of+Conduct>

[USSafeHarbour] International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, "Welcome to the U.S.-EU &