



E-health web services profiles



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Australian Standard[®]

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Technical Committee IT-014, Health Informatics, to supersede ATS 5820—2010, *E-health web services profiles*.

This Standard is designed to be compatible with implementations of ATS 5820—2010. The XML namespace and XML Schema are unchanged and there have been minor corrections and clarifications to the conformance points. The changes are not expected to impact communications between implementations of ATS 5820—2010 and this Standard. WS-Security is an optional element in this Standard. WS-Security has been removed from AS 5552 and will be removed from this Standard at the next release. It is currently included for backward compatibility only.

The objective of this Standard is to define a common set of interoperable mechanisms using SOAP Web services for interconnecting computer systems in e-health applications.

Interoperability is enhanced by refining the Web services specifications. The Web services specifications by themselves are not sufficient to ensure that different systems can be interconnected. The specifications cover a broad range of situations, so they contain optional and implementation defined features.

Interoperability is also enhanced by focusing on mechanisms that can be implemented using existing software toolkits. The toolkits may not implement the full specification, may sometimes implement optional or ambiguous features differently, and may contain bugs. The profiles in this Standard were developed to identify the features that can be implemented using existing toolkits, rather than what is permitted by the specifications but cannot be easily implemented.

This Standard defines three profiles: a base Web services profile, and profiles for securing Web services using either TLS or WS-Security. These profiles are designed to be referenced by specific service interface specifications to enable those services to inherit the interoperability properties built into the profiles. These profiles clarify the optional and implementation defined features from the Web services specifications.

The term ‘normative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
E-health web services profiles

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE

1.1.1 Scope

This Standard defines profiles of the SOAP Web services specifications. It defines a base set of specifications for Web services, so that interoperable Web services can be defined for e-health. It also defines profiles that can be used to secure those Web services.

This Standard does not define any service interfaces. Instead, it specifies profiles that provide a set of mechanisms that service interface authors can use to meet their particular requirements. It is outside the scope of this document to know which requirements are needed by the service interface specifications, and to address them.

The profiles defined in this Standard have been designed with the goal of achieving interconnectivity between implementations using Web services toolkits. Compared to the Web services specifications and other Web services profiles, it provides details to improve interconnectivity.

1.1.2 Intended audience

This Standard is intended for—

- (a) authors of service interface specifications who incorporate the profiles into the service interface specifications they produce;
- (b) solution architects who incorporate the service interface specifications into the system specifications they design;
- (c) software developers who create software programs that conform to the system specifications and service interface specifications; and
- (d) conformance testers who test software to determine how it conforms to the service interface specifications, and the profiles that it uses.

The primary user of these profiles is the service interface specification author. Solution architects, software developers and conformance testers will use these profiles because they are referenced by the service interface specifications which they are using.

The reader is expected to have a detailed knowledge of SOAP Web services, WSDL, WS-Addressing, WS-Policy, TLS, WS-Security and PKI.

1.2 OVERVIEW

This Standard defines the following profiles:

- (a) Web Services Base Profile (Section 2).
- (b) TLS Profile (Section 3).
- (c) WS-Security Profile (Section 4).