

OAuth Working Group  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: January 30, 2014

J. Richer, Ed.  
The MITRE Corporation  
J. Bradley  
Ping Identity  
M. Jones  
Microsoft  
M. Machulak  
Newcastle University  
July 29, 2013

**OAuth 2.0 Dynamic Client Registration Protocol**  
**draft-ietf-oauth-dyn-reg-14**

**Abstract**

This specification defines an endpoint and protocol for dynamic registration of OAuth 2.0 clients at an authorization server and methods for the dynamically registered client to manage its registration through an OAuth 2.0 protected web API.

**Status of This Memo**

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-Drafts is at <http://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/>.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

This Internet-Draft will expire on January 30, 2014.

**Copyright Notice**

Copyright (c) 2013 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to [BCP 78](#) and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents (<http://trustee.ietf.org/license-info>) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect

to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Simplified BSD License text as described in Section 4.e of the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Simplified BSD License.

## Table of Contents

|                             |   |                    |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <a href="#">1.</a>          | <a href="#">Introduction . . . . .</a>                                    | <a href="#">2</a>  |
| <a href="#">1.1.</a>        | <a href="#">Notational Conventions . . . . .</a>                          | <a href="#">3</a>  |
| <a href="#">1.2.</a>        | <a href="#">Terminology . . . . .</a>                                     | <a href="#">3</a>  |
| <a href="#">1.3.</a>        | <a href="#">Protocol Flow . . . . .</a>                                   | <a href="#">4</a>  |
| <a href="#">1.4.</a>        | <a href="#">Registration Tokens and Client Credentials . . . . .</a>      | <a href="#">6</a>  |
| <a href="#">1.4.1.</a>      | <a href="#">Credential Rotation . . . . .</a>                             | <a href="#">7</a>  |
| <a href="#">2.</a>          | <a href="#">Client Metadata . . . . .</a>                                 | <a href="#">7</a>  |
| <a href="#">2.1.</a>        | <a href="#">Relationship Between Grant Types and Response Types . . .</a> | <a href="#">11</a> |
| <a href="#">2.2.</a>        | <a href="#">Human Readable Client Metadata . . . . .</a>                  | <a href="#">11</a> |
| <a href="#">3.</a>          | <a href="#">Client Registration Endpoint . . . . .</a>                    | <a href="#">13</a> |
| <a href="#">3.1.</a>        | <a href="#">Client Registration Request . . . . .</a>                     | <a href="#">13</a> |
| <a href="#">3.2.</a>        | <a href="#">Client Registration Response . . . . .</a>                    | <a href="#">15</a> |
| <a href="#">4.</a>          | <a href="#">Client Configuration Endpoint . . . . .</a>                   | <a href="#">15</a> |
| <a href="#">4.1.</a>        | <a href="#">Forming the Client Configuration Endpoint URL . . . . .</a>   | <a href="#">16</a> |
| <a href="#">4.2.</a>        | <a href="#">Client Read Request . . . . .</a>                             | <a href="#">16</a> |
| <a href="#">4.3.</a>        | <a href="#">Client Update Request . . . . .</a>                           | <a href="#">17</a> |
| <a href="#">4.4.</a>        | <a href="#">Client Delete Request . . . . .</a>                           | <a href="#">19</a> |
| <a href="#">5.</a>          | <a href="#">Responses . . . . .</a>                                       | <a href="#">20</a> |
| <a href="#">5.1.</a>        | <a href="#">Client Information Response . . . . .</a>                     | <a href="#">20</a> |
| <a href="#">5.2.</a>        | <a href="#">Client Registration Error Response . . . . .</a>              | <a href="#">22</a> |
| <a href="#">6.</a>          | <a href="#">IANA Considerations . . . . .</a>                             | <a href="#">23</a> |
| <a href="#">6.1.</a>        | <a href="#">OAuth Token Endpoint Authentication Methods Registry . .</a>  | <a href="#">23</a> |
| <a href="#">6.1.1.</a>      | <a href="#">Registration Template . . . . .</a>                           | <a href="#">24</a> |
| <a href="#">6.1.2.</a>      | <a href="#">Initial Registry Contents . . . . .</a>                       | <a href="#">24</a> |
| <a href="#">7.</a>          | <a href="#">Security Considerations . . . . .</a>                         | <a href="#">25</a> |
| <a href="#">8.</a>          | <a href="#">Normative References . . . . .</a>                            | <a href="#">27</a> |
| <a href="#">Appendix A.</a> | <a href="#">Acknowledgments . . . . .</a>                                 | <a href="#">28</a> |
| <a href="#">Appendix B.</a> | <a href="#">Client Lifecycle Examples . . . . .</a>                       | <a href="#">28</a> |
| <a href="#">B.1.</a>        | <a href="#">Open Registration . . . . .</a>                               | <a href="#">29</a> |
| <a href="#">B.2.</a>        | <a href="#">Protected Registration . . . . .</a>                          | <a href="#">30</a> |
| <a href="#">B.3.</a>        | <a href="#">Developer Automation . . . . .</a>                            | <a href="#">31</a> |
| <a href="#">Appendix C.</a> | <a href="#">Document History . . . . .</a>                                | <a href="#">33</a> |
|                             | <a href="#">Authors' Addresses . . . . .</a>                              | <a href="#">36</a> |

## 1. Introduction

In some use-case scenarios, it is desirable or necessary to allow OAuth 2.0 clients to obtain authorization from an OAuth 2.0 authorization server without requiring the two parties to interact beforehand. Nevertheless, for the authorization server to accurately and securely represent to end-users which client is seeking



authorization to access the end-user's resources, a method for automatic and unique registration of clients is needed. The OAuth 2.0 authorization framework does not define how the relationship between the client and the authorization server is initialized, or how a given client is assigned a unique client identifier. Historically, this has happened out-of-band from the OAuth 2.0 protocol. This draft provides a mechanism for a client to register itself with the authorization server, which can be used to dynamically provision a client identifier, and optionally a client secret. Additionally, the mechanisms in this draft may can be used by a client developer to register the client with the authorization server in a programmatic fashion.

As part of the registration process, this specification also defines a mechanism for the client to present the authorization server with a set of metadata, such as a display name and icon to be presented to the user during the authorization step. This draft also provides a mechanism for the client to read and update this information after the initial registration action. This draft protects these actions through the use of an OAuth 2.0 bearer access token that is issued to the client during registration explicitly for this purpose.

### **1.1. Notational Conventions**

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](#)].

Unless otherwise noted, all the protocol parameter names and values are case sensitive.

### **1.2. Terminology**

This specification uses the terms "Access Token", "Refresh Token", "Authorization Code", "Authorization Grant", "Authorization Server", "Authorization Endpoint", "Client", "Client Identifier", "Client Secret", "Protected Resource", "Resource Owner", "Resource Server", and "Token Endpoint" defined by OAuth 2.0 [[RFC6749](#)].

This specification defines the following additional terms:

**Client Registration Endpoint** OAuth 2.0 endpoint through which a client can be registered at an authorization server. The means by which the URL for this endpoint are obtained are out of scope for this specification.



**Client Configuration Endpoint** OAuth 2.0 endpoint through which registration information for a registered client can be managed. This URL for this endpoint is returned by the authorization server in the client information response.

**Registration Access Token** OAuth 2.0 bearer token issued by the authorization server through the client registration endpoint that is used to authenticate the caller when accessing the client's registration information at the client configuration endpoint. This access token is associated with a particular registered client.

**Initial Access Token** OAuth 2.0 access token optionally issued by an Authorization Server and used to authorize calls to the client registration endpoint. The type and format of this token are likely service-specific and are out of scope for this specification. The means by which the authorization server issues this token as well as the means by which the registration endpoint validates this token are out of scope for this specification.

### 1.3. Protocol Flow

(preamble)

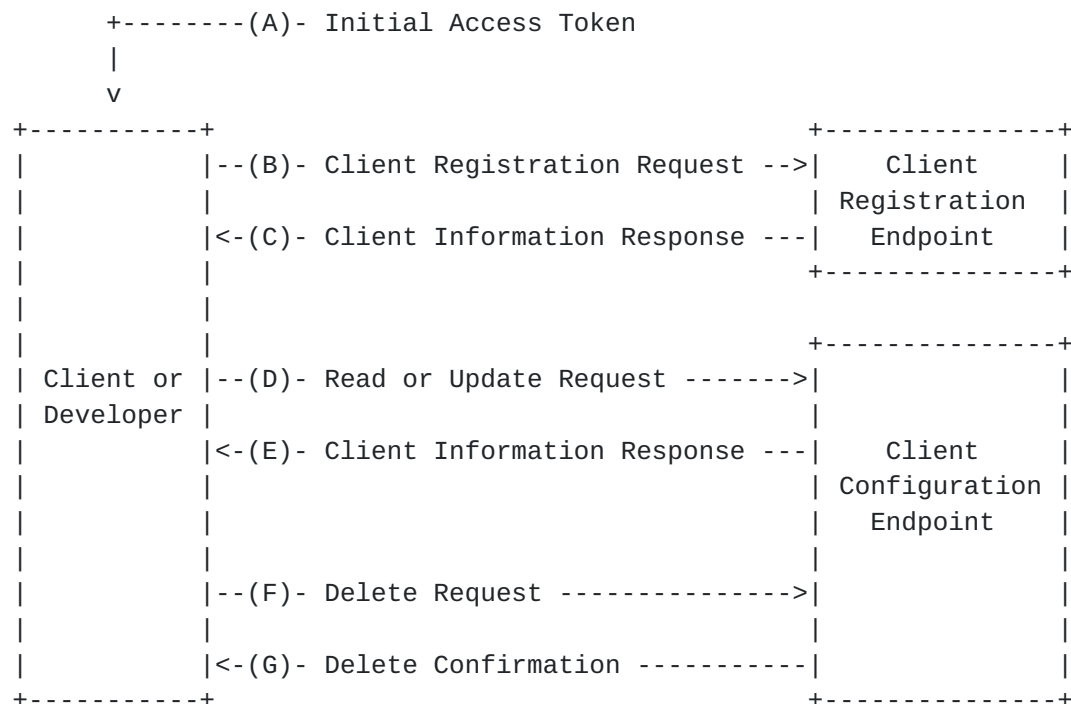


Figure 1: Abstract Protocol Flow



The abstract OAuth 2.0 Client dynamic registration flow illustrated in Figure 1 describes the interaction between the client or developer and the two endpoints defined in this specification. This figure does not demonstrate error conditions. This flow includes the following steps:

- (A)  
Optionally, the client or developer is issued an initial access token for use with the client registration endpoint. The method by which the initial access token is issued to the client or developer is out of scope for this specification.
- (B)  
The client or developer calls the client registration endpoint with its desired registration metadata, optionally including the initial access token from (A) if one is required by the authorization server.
- (C)  
The authorization server registers the client and returns the client's registered metadata, a client identifier that is unique at the server, a set of client credentials such as a client secret if applicable for this client, a URI pointing to the client configuration endpoint, and a registration access token to be used when calling the client configuration endpoint.
- (D)  
The client or developer optionally calls the client configuration endpoint with a read or update request using the registration access token issued in (C). An update request contains all of the client's registered metadata.
- (E)  
The authorization server responds with the client's current configuration, potentially including a new registration access token and a new set of client credentials such as a client secret if applicable for this client. If a new registration access token is issued, it replaces the token issued in (C) for all subsequent calls to the client configuration endpoint.
- (F)  
The client or developer optionally calls the client configuration endpoint with a delete request using the registration access token issued in (C).
- (G)  
The authorization server deprovisions the client and responds with a confirmation that the deletion has taken place.

Further discussion of possible example lifecycles are found in the Appendix to this specification, Client Lifecycle Examples (Appendix B).





#### **1.4. Registration Tokens and Client Credentials**

Throughout the course of the dynamic registration protocol, there are three different classes of credentials in play, each with different properties and targets.

- o The initial access token is optionally used by the client or developer at the registration endpoint. This is an OAuth 2.0 token that is used to authorize the initial client registration request. The content, structure, generation, and validation of this token are out of scope for this specification. The authorization server can use this token to verify that the presenter is allowed to dynamically register new clients. This token may be shared between multiple instances of a client to allow them to each register separately, thereby letting the authorization server use this token to tie multiple instances of registered clients (each with their own distinct client identifier) back to the party to whom the initial access token was issued, usually an application developer. This token should be used only at the client registration endpoint.
- o The registration access token is used by the client or developer at the client configuration endpoint and represents the holder's authorization to manage the registration of a client. This is an OAuth 2.0 bearer token that is issued from the client registration endpoint in response to a client registration request and is returned in a client information response. The registration access token is uniquely bound to the client identifier and is required to be presented with all calls to the client configuration endpoint. The registration access token should be protected and should not be shared between instances of a client (otherwise, one instance could change or delete registration values for all instances of the client). The registration access token can be rotated through the use of the client read and update methods on the client configuration endpoint. The registration access token should be used only at the client configuration endpoint.
- o The client credentials (such as "client\_secret") are optional depending on the type of client and are used to retrieve OAuth tokens. Client credentials are most often bound to particular instances of a client and should not be shared between instances. Note that since not all types of clients have client credentials, they cannot be used to manage client registrations at the client configuration endpoint. The client credentials can be rotated through the use of the client read and update methods on the client configuration endpoint. The client credentials can not be used for authentication at the client registration endpoint or at the client configuration endpoint.



#### **1.4.1. Credential Rotation**

The Authorization Server MAY rotate the client's registration access token and/or client credentials (such as a "client\_secret") throughout the lifetime of the client. The client can discover that these values have changed by reading the client information response returned from either a read or update request to the client configuration endpoint. The client's current registration access token and client credentials (if applicable) MUST be included in this response.

The registration access token SHOULD be rotated only in response to a read or update request to the client configuration endpoint, at which point the new registration access token is returned to the client and the old registration access token SHOULD be discarded by both parties. If the registration access token expires or is rotated outside of such requests, the client or developer may be locked out of managing the client's configuration.

## **2. Client Metadata**

Clients generally have an array of metadata associated with their unique client identifier at the authorization server. These can range from human-facing display strings, such as a client name, to items that impact the security of the protocol, such as the list of valid redirect URIs.

The client metadata values serve two parallel purposes in the overall OAuth 2.0 dynamic client registration protocol:

- o the client requesting its desired values for each parameter to the authorization server in a register ([Section 3.1](#)) or update ([Section 4.3](#)) request, and
- o the authorization server informing the client of the current values of each parameter that the client has been registered to use through a client information response ([Section 5.1](#)).

An authorization server MAY override any value that a client requests during the registration process (including any omitted values) and replace the requested value with a default at the server's discretion. The authorization server SHOULD provide documentation for any fields that it requires to be filled in by the client or to have particular values or formats. An authorization server MAY ignore the values provided by the client for any field in this list.



Extensions and profiles of this specification MAY expand this list, and authorization servers MUST accept all fields in this list. The authorization server MUST ignore any additional parameters sent by the Client that it does not understand.

#### redirect\_uris

Array of redirect URIs for use in redirect-based flows such as the authorization code and implicit grant types. It is RECOMMENDED that clients using these flows register this parameter, and an authorization server SHOULD require registration of valid redirect URIs for all clients that use these grant types to protect against token and credential theft attacks.

#### client\_name

Human-readable name of the client to be presented to the user. If omitted, the authorization server MAY display the raw "client\_id" value to the user instead. It is RECOMMENDED that clients always send this field. The value of this field MAY be internationalized as described in Human Readable Client Metadata ([Section 2.2](#)).

#### client\_uri

URL of the homepage of the client. If present, the server SHOULD display this URL to the end user in a clickable fashion. It is RECOMMENDED that clients always send this field. The value of this field MUST point to a valid web page. The value of this field MAY be internationalized as described in Human Readable Client Metadata ([Section 2.2](#)).

#### logo\_uri

URL that references a logo for the client. If present, the server SHOULD display this image to the end user during approval. The value of this field MUST point to a valid image file. The value of this field MAY be internationalized as described in Human Readable Client Metadata ([Section 2.2](#)).

#### contacts

Array of email addresses for people responsible for this client. The authorization server MAY make these addresses available to end users for support requests for the client. An authorization server MAY use these email addresses as identifiers for an administrative page for this client.

#### tos\_uri

URL that points to a human-readable Terms of Service document for the client. The Authorization Server SHOULD display this URL to the end-user if it is given. The Terms of Service usually describe a contractual relationship between the end-user and the client that the end-user accepts when authorizing the client. The value of this field MUST point to a valid web page. The value of this field MAY be internationalized as described in Human Readable Client Metadata ([Section 2.2](#)).

#### policy\_uri



URL that points to a human-readable Policy document for the client. The authorization server SHOULD display this URL to the end-user if it is given. The policy usually describes how an end-user's data will be used by the client. The value of this field MUST point to a valid web page. The value of this field MAY be internationalized as described in Human Readable Client Metadata ([Section 2.2](#)).

#### token\_endpoint\_auth\_method

The requested authentication method for the token endpoint.

Values defined by this specification are:

- \* "none": The client is a public client as defined in OAuth 2.0 and does not have a client secret.
- \* "client\_secret\_post": The client uses the HTTP POST parameters defined in OAuth 2.0 [section 2.3.1](#).
- \* "client\_secret\_basic": the client uses HTTP Basic defined in OAuth 2.0 [section 2.3.1](#)

Additional values can be defined via the IANA OAuth Token Endpoint Authentication Methods Registry [Section 6.1](#). Absolute URIs can also be used as values for this parameter without being registered. If unspecified or omitted, the default is "client\_secret\_basic", denoting HTTP Basic Authentication Scheme as specified in [Section 2.3.1](#) of OAuth 2.0.

#### scope

Space separated list of scope values (as described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 3.3 \[RFC6749\]](#)) that the client can use when requesting access tokens. The semantics of values in this list is service specific. If omitted, an authorization server MAY register a Client with a default set of scopes.

#### grant\_types

Array of OAuth 2.0 grant types that the Client may use. These grant types are defined as follows:

- \* "authorization\_code": The Authorization Code Grant described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 4.1](#)
- \* "implicit": The Implicit Grant described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 4.2](#)
- \* "password": The Resource Owner Password Credentials Grant described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 4.3](#)
- \* "client\_credentials": The Client Credentials Grant described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 4.4](#)
- \* "refresh\_token": The Refresh Token Grant described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 6](#).
- \* "urn:ietf:params:oauth:grant-type:jwt-bearer": The JWT Bearer Grant defined in OAuth JWT Bearer Token Profiles [[OAuth.JWT](#)].





- \* "urn:ietf:params:oauth:grant-type:saml2-bearer": The SAML 2 Bearer Grant defined in OAuth SAML 2 Bearer Token Profiles [[OAuth.SAML2](#)].

Authorization Servers MAY allow for other values as defined in grant type extensions to OAuth 2.0. The extension process is described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 2.5](#). If the token endpoint is used in the grant type, the value of this parameter MUST be the same as the value of the "grant\_type" parameter passed to the token endpoint defined in the extension.

#### response\_types

Array of the OAuth 2.0 response types that the Client may use. These response types are defined as follows:

- \* "code": The Authorization Code response described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 4.1](#).
- \* "token": The Implicit response described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 4.2](#).

Authorization servers MAY allow for other values as defined in response type extensions to OAuth 2.0. The extension process is described in OAuth 2.0 [Section 2.5](#). If the authorization endpoint is used by the grant type, the value of this parameter MUST be the same as the value of the "response\_type" parameter passed to the authorization endpoint defined in the extension.

#### jwks\_uri

URL for the Client's JSON Web Key Set [[JWK](#)] document representing the client's public keys. The value of this field MUST point to a valid JWK Set. These keys MAY be used for higher level protocols that require signing or encryption.

#### software\_id

A identifier for the software that comprises a client. Unlike "client\_id", which is issued by the authorization server and generally varies between instances, the "software\_id" is asserted by the client software and is intended to be shared between all copies of the client software. The value for this field MAY be a UUID [[RFC4122](#)]. The identifier SHOULD NOT change when software version changes or when a new installation instance is detected. Authorization servers MUST treat this field as self-asserted by the client and MUST NOT make any trusted decisions on the value of this field alone.

#### software\_version



A version identifier for the software that comprises a client. The value of this field is a string that is intended to be compared using string equality matching. The value of the "software\_version" SHOULD change on any update to the client software. Authorization servers MUST treat this field as self-asserted by the client and MUST NOT make any trusted decisions on the value of this field alone.

### **2.1. Relationship Between Grant Types and Response Types**

The "grant\_types" and "response\_types" values described above are partially orthogonal, as they refer to arguments passed to different endpoints in the OAuth protocol. However, they are related in that the "grant\_types" available to a client influence the "response\_types" that the client is allowed to use, and vice versa. For instance, a "grant\_types" value that includes "authorization\_code" implies a "response\_types" value that includes "code", as both values are defined as part of the OAuth 2.0 authorization code grant. As such, a server supporting these fields SHOULD take steps to ensure that a client cannot register itself into an inconsistent state.

The correlation between the two fields is listed in the table below.

| +-----+-----+                                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| grant_types value includes:                   | response_types  |
|   | value includes: |
| +-----+-----+                                 |                 |
| authorization_code                            | code            |
| implicit                                      | token           |
| password                                      | (none)          |
| client_credentials                            | (none)          |
| refresh_token                                 | (none)          |
| urn:ietf:params:oauth:grant-type:jwt-bearer   | (none)          |
| urn:ietf:params:oauth:grant-type:saml2-bearer | (none)          |
| +-----+-----+                                 |                 |

Extensions and profiles of this document that introduce new values to either the "grant\_types" or "response\_types" parameter MUST document all correspondences between these two parameter types.

### **2.2. Human Readable Client Metadata**

Human-readable client metadata values and client metadata values that reference human-readable values MAY be represented in multiple languages and scripts. For example, the values of fields such as "client\_name", "tos\_uri", "policy\_uri", "logo\_uri", and "client\_uri"



might have multiple locale-specific values in some client registrations.

To specify the languages and scripts, [BCP47](#) [[RFC5646](#)] language tags are added to client metadata member names, delimited by a # character. Since JSON member names are case sensitive, it is RECOMMENDED that language tag values used in Claim Names be spelled using the character case with which they are registered in the IANA Language Subtag Registry [[IANA.Language](#)]. In particular, normally language names are spelled with lowercase characters, region names are spelled with uppercase characters, and languages are spelled with mixed case characters. However, since [BCP47](#) language tag values are case insensitive, implementations SHOULD interpret the language tag values supplied in a case insensitive manner. Per the recommendations in [BCP47](#), language tag values used in metadata member names should only be as specific as necessary. For instance, using "fr" might be sufficient in many contexts, rather than "fr-CA" or "fr-FR".

For example, a client could represent its name in English as `"client_name#en": "My Client"` and its name in Japanese as `"client_name#ja-Jpan-JP": "\u30AF\u30E9\u30A4\u30A2\u30F3\u30C8\u540D"` within the same registration request. The authorization server MAY display any or all of these names to the resource owner during the authorization step, choosing which name to display based on system configuration, user preferences or other factors.

If any human-readable field is sent without a language tag, parties using it MUST NOT make any assumptions about the language, character set, or script of the string value, and the string value MUST be used as-is wherever it is presented in a user interface. To facilitate interoperability, it is RECOMMENDED that clients and servers use a human-readable field without any language tags in addition to any language-specific fields, and it is RECOMMENDED that any human-readable fields sent without language tags contain values suitable for display on a wide variety of systems.

Implementer's Note: Many JSON libraries make it possible to reference members of a JSON object as members of an object construct in the native programming environment of the library. However, while the "#" character is a valid character inside of a JSON object's member names, it is not a valid character for use in an object member name in many programming environments. Therefore, implementations will need to use alternative access forms for these claims. For instance, in JavaScript, if one parses the JSON as follows, `"var j = JSON.parse(json);"`, then the member `"client_name#en-us"` can be accessed using the JavaScript syntax `j["client_name#en-us"]`.



### **3. Client Registration Endpoint**

The client registration endpoint is an OAuth 2.0 endpoint defined in this document that is designed to allow a client to be registered with the authorization server. The client registration endpoint MUST accept HTTP POST messages with request parameters encoded in the entity body using the "application/json" format. The client registration endpoint MUST be protected by a transport-layer security mechanism, and the server MUST support TLS 1.2 [RFC 5246](#) [[RFC5246](#)] and/or TLS 1.0 [[RFC2246](#)] and MAY support additional transport-layer mechanisms meeting its security requirements. When using TLS, the Client MUST perform a TLS/SSL server certificate check, per [RFC 6125](#) [[RFC6125](#)].

The client registration endpoint MAY be an OAuth 2.0 protected resource and accept an initial access token in the form of an OAuth 2.0 [[RFC6749](#)] access token to limit registration to only previously authorized parties. The method by which the initial access token is obtained by the registrant is generally out-of-band and is out of scope for this specification. The method by which the initial access token is verified and validated by the client registration endpoint is out of scope for this specification.

To support open registration and facilitate wider interoperability, the client registration endpoint SHOULD allow initial registration requests with no authorization (which is to say, with no OAuth 2.0 access token in the request). These requests MAY be rate-limited or otherwise limited to prevent a denial-of-service attack on the client registration endpoint.

To allow the registrant to manage the client's information, the client registration endpoint issues a request access token as an OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token [[RFC6750](#)] to securely authorize calls to the client configuration endpoint ([Section 4](#)).

The client registration endpoint MUST ignore all parameters it does not understand.

#### **3.1. Client Registration Request**

This operation registers a new client to the authorization server. The authorization server assigns this client a unique client identifier, optionally assigns a client secret, and associates the metadata given in the request with the issued client identifier. The request includes any parameters described in Client Metadata ([Section 2](#)) that the client wishes to specify for itself during the registration. The authorization server MAY provision default values for any items omitted in the client metadata.





To register, the client or developer sends an HTTP POST to the client registration endpoint with a content type of "application/json". The HTTP Entity Payload is a JSON [[RFC4627](#)] document consisting of a JSON object and all parameters as top-level members of that JSON object.

For example, if the server supports open registration (with no initial access token), the client could send the following registration request to the client registration endpoint:

Following is a non-normative example request (with line wraps for display purposes only):

```
POST /register HTTP/1.1
Content-Type: application/json
Accept: application/json
Host: server.example.com

{
  "redirect_uris":["https://client.example.org/callback",
    "https://client.example.org/callback2"],
  "client_name":"My Example Client",
  "client_name#ja-Jpan-JP":
    "\u30AF\u30E9\u30A4\u30A2\u30F3\u30C8\u540D",
  "token_endpoint_auth_method":"client_secret_basic",
  "scope":"read write dolphin",
  "logo_uri":"https://client.example.org/logo.png",
  "jwks_uri":"https://client.example.org/my_public_keys.jwks"
}
```

Alternatively, if the server supports authorized registration, the developer or the client will be provisioned with an initial access token (the method by which the initial access token is obtained is out of scope for this specification). The developer or client sends the following authorized registration request to the client registration endpoint. Note that the initial access token sent in this example as an OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token [[RFC6750](#)], but any OAuth 2.0 token type could be used by an authorization server:

Following is a non-normative example request (with line wraps for display purposes only):



```
POST /register HTTP/1.1
Content-Type: application/json
Accept: application/json
Authorization: Bearer ey23f2.adfj230.af32-developer321
Host: server.example.com

{
  "redirect_uris":["https://client.example.org/callback",
    "https://client.example.org/callback2"],
  "client_name":"My Example Client",
  "client_name#ja-Jpan-JP":
    "\u30AF\u30E9\u30A4\u30A2\u30F3\u30C8\u540D",
  "token_endpoint_auth_method":"client_secret_basic",
  "scope":"read write dolphin",
  "logo_uri":"https://client.example.org/logo.png",
  "jwks_uri":"https://client.example.org/my_public_keys.jwks"
}
```

### **3.2. Client Registration Response**

Upon successful registration, the authorization server generates a new client identifier for the client. This client identifier **MUST** be unique at the server and **MUST NOT** be in use by any other client. The server responds with an HTTP 201 Created code and a body of type "application/json" with content described in Client Information Response ([Section 5.1](#)).

Upon an unsuccessful registration, the authorization server responds with an error as described in Client Registration Error ([Section 5.2](#)).

## **4. Client Configuration Endpoint**

The client configuration endpoint is an OAuth 2.0 protected resource that is provisioned by the server to facilitate viewing, updating, and deleting a client's registered information. The location of this endpoint is communicated to the client through the "registration\_client\_uri" member of the Client Information Response ([Section 5.1](#)). The client **MUST** use its registration access token in all calls to this endpoint as an OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token [[RFC6750](#)].

Operations on this endpoint are switched through the use of different HTTP methods [[RFC2616](#)]. If an authorization server does not support a particular method on the client configuration endpoint, it **MUST** respond with the appropriate error code.



#### **4.1. Forming the Client Configuration Endpoint URL**

The authorization server MUST provide the client with the fully qualified URL in the "registration\_client\_uri" element of the Client Information Response ([Section 5.1](#)). The authorization server MUST NOT expect the client to construct or discover this URL on its own. The client MUST use the URL as given by the server and MUST NOT construct this URL from component pieces.

Depending on deployment characteristics, the client configuration endpoint URL may take any number of forms. It is RECOMMENDED that this endpoint URL be formed through the use of a server-constructed URL string which combines the client registration endpoint's URL and the issued "client\_id" for this client, with the latter as either a path parameter or a query parameter. For example, a client with the client identifier "s6BhdRkqt3" could be given a client configuration endpoint URL of "https://server.example.com/register/s6BhdRkqt3" (path parameter) or of "https://server.example.com/register?client\_id=s6BhdRkqt3" (query parameter). In both of these cases, the client simply uses the URL as given by the authorization server.

These common patterns can help the server to more easily determine the client to which the request pertains, which MUST be matched against the client to which the registration access token was issued. If desired, the server MAY simply return the client registration endpoint URL as the client configuration endpoint URL and change behavior based on the authentication context provided by the registration access token.

#### **4.2. Client Read Request**

To read the current configuration of the client on the authorization server, the client makes an HTTP GET request to the client configuration endpoint, authenticating with its registration access token.

Following is a non-normative example request (with line wraps for display purposes only):

```
GET /register/s6BhdRkqt3 HTTP/1.1
Accept: application/json
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: Bearer reg-23410913-abewfq.123483
```



Upon successful read of the information for a currently active client, the authorization server responds with an HTTP 200 OK with content type of "application/json" and a payload as described in Client Information Response ([Section 5.1](#)). Some values in the response, including the "client\_secret" and "registration\_access\_token", MAY be different from those in the initial registration response. If the authorization server includes a new client secret and/or registration access token in its response, the client MUST immediately discard its previous client secret and/or registration access token. The value of the "client\_id" MUST NOT change from the initial registration response.

If the registration access token used to make this request is not valid, the server MUST respond with an error as described in OAuth Bearer Token Usage [[RFC6750](#)].

If the client does not exist on this server, the server MUST respond with HTTP 401 Unauthorized and the registration access token used to make this request SHOULD be immediately revoked.

If the client does not have permission to read its record, the server MUST return an HTTP 403 Forbidden.

#### **[4.3.](#) Client Update Request**

This operation updates a previously-registered client with new metadata at the authorization server. This request is authenticated by the registration access token issued to the client.

The client sends an HTTP PUT to the client configuration endpoint with a content type of "application/json". The HTTP entity payload is a JSON [[RFC4627](#)] document consisting of a JSON object and all parameters as top- level members of that JSON object.

This request MUST include all fields described in Client Metadata ([Section 2](#)) as returned to the client from a previous register, read, or update operation. The client MUST NOT include the "registration\_access\_token", "registration\_client\_uri", "client\_secret\_expires\_at", or "client\_id\_issued\_at" fields described in Client Information Response ([Section 5.1](#)).

Valid values of client metadata fields in this request MUST replace, not augment, the values previously associated with this client. Omitted fields MUST be treated as null or empty values by the server.

The client MUST include its "client\_id" field in the request, and it MUST be the same as its currently-issued client identifier. If the client includes the "client\_secret" field in the request, the value





of this field MUST match the currently-issued client secret for that client. The client MUST NOT be allowed to overwrite its existing client secret with its own chosen value.

For all metadata fields, the authorization server MAY replace any invalid values with suitable default values, and it MUST return any such fields to the client in the response.

For example, a client could send the following request to the client registration endpoint to update the client registration in the above example with new information:

Following is a non-normative example request (with line wraps for display purposes only):

```
PUT /register/s6BhdRkqt3 HTTP/1.1
Accept: application/json
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: Bearer reg-23410913-abewfq.123483
```

```
{
  "client_id": "s6BhdRkqt3",
  "client_secret": "cf136dc3c1fc93f31185e5885805d",
  "redirect_uris": ["https://client.example.org/callback",
    "https://client.example.org/alt"],
  "scope": "read write dolphin",
  "grant_types": ["authorization_code", "refresh_token"]
  "token_endpoint_auth_method": "client_secret_basic",
  "jwks_uri": "https://client.example.org/my_public_keys.jwks"
  "client_name": "My New Example",
  "client_name#fr": "Mon Nouvel Exemple",
  "logo_uri": "https://client.example.org/newlogo.png"
  "logo_uri#fr": "https://client.example.org/fr/newlogo.png"
}
```

Upon successful update, the authorization server responds with an HTTP 200 OK Message with content type "application/json" and a payload as described in Client Information Response ([Section 5.1](#)). Some values in the response, including the "client\_secret" and "registration\_access\_token", MAY be different from those in the initial registration response. If the authorization server includes a new client secret and/or registration access token in its response, the client MUST immediately discard its previous client secret and/or registration access token. The value of the "client\_id" MUST NOT change from the initial registration response.



If the registration access token used to make this request is not valid, the server MUST respond with an error as described in OAuth Bearer Token Usage [[RFC6750](#)].

If the client does not exist on this server, the server MUST respond with HTTP 401 Unauthorized, and the registration access token used to make this request SHOULD be immediately revoked.

If the client is not allowed to update its records, the server MUST respond with HTTP 403 Forbidden.

If the client attempts to set an invalid metadata field and the authorization server does not set a default value, the authorization server responds with an error as described in Client Registration Error Response ([Section 5.2](#)).

#### **[4.4.](#) Client Delete Request**

To deprovision itself on the authorization server, the client makes an HTTP DELETE request to the client configuration endpoint. This request is authenticated by the registration access token issued to the client.

Following is a non-normative example request (with line wraps for display purposes only):

```
DELETE /register/s6BhdRkqt3 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: Bearer reg-23410913-abewfq.123483
```

A successful delete action will invalidate the "client\_id", "client\_secret", and "registration\_access\_token" for this client, thereby preventing the "client\_id" from being used at either the authorization endpoint or token endpoint of the authorization server. The authorization server SHOULD immediately invalidate all existing authorization grants and currently-active tokens associated with this client.

If a client has been successfully deprovisioned, the authorization server responds with an HTTP 204 No Content message.

If the server does not support the delete method, the server MUST respond with an HTTP 405 Not Supported.



If the registration access token used to make this request is not valid, the server MUST respond with an error as described in OAuth Bearer Token Usage [[RFC6750](#)].

If the client does not exist on this server, the server MUST respond with HTTP 401 Unauthorized and the registration access token used to make this request SHOULD be immediately revoked.

If the client is not allowed to delete itself, the server MUST respond with HTTP 403 Forbidden.

Following is a non-normative example response:

```
HTTP/1.1 204 No Content
Cache-Control: no-store
Pragma: no-cache
```

## **5. Responses**

In response to certain requests from the client to either the client registration endpoint or the client configuration endpoint as described in this specification, the authorization server sends the following response bodies.

### **5.1. Client Information Response**

The response contains the client identifier as well as the client secret, if the client is a confidential client. The response also contains the fully qualified URL of the client configuration endpoint for this specific client that the client may use to obtain and update information about itself. The response also contains a registration access token that is to be used by the client to perform subsequent operations at the client configuration endpoint.

**client\_id**

REQUIRED. The unique client identifier, MUST NOT be currently valid for any other registered client.

**client\_secret**

OPTIONAL. The client secret. If issued, this MUST be unique for each "client\_id". This value is used by confidential clients to authenticate to the token endpoint as described in OAuth 2.0 [[RFC6749](#)] [Section 2.3.1](#).

**client\_id\_issued\_at**

OPTIONAL. Time at which the Client Identifier was issued. The time is represented as the number of seconds from 1970-01-01T0:0:0Z as measured in UTC until the date/time.



`client_secret_expires_at`

REQUIRED if "client\_secret" is issued. Time at which the "client\_secret" will expire or 0 if it will not expire. The time is represented as the number of seconds from 1970-01-01T0:0:0Z as measured in UTC until the date/time.

`registration_access_token`

REQUIRED. Access token that is used at the client configuration endpoint to perform subsequent operations upon the client registration.

`registration_client_uri`

REQUIRED. The fully qualified URL of the client configuration endpoint for this client. The client MUST use this URL as given when communicating with the client configuration endpoint.

Additionally, the Authorization Server MUST return all registered metadata ([Section 2](#)) about this client, including any fields provisioned by the authorization server itself. The authorization server MAY reject or replace any of the client's requested metadata values submitted during the registration or update requests and substitute them with suitable values.

The response is an "application/json" document with all parameters as top-level members of a JSON object [[RFC4627](#)].

Following is a non-normative example response:





```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Cache-Control: no-store
Pragma: no-cache

{
  "registration_access_token": "reg-23410913-abewfq.123483",
  "registration_client_uri":
    "https://server.example.com/register/s6BhdRkqt3",
  "client_id": "s6BhdRkqt3",
  "client_secret": "cf136dc3c1fc93f31185e5885805d",
  "client_id_issued_at": 2893256800
  "client_secret_expires_at": 2893276800
  "client_name": "My Example Client",
  "client_name#ja-Jpan-JP":
    "\u30AF\u30E9\u30A4\u30A2\u30F3\u30C8\u540D",
  "redirect_uris": ["https://client.example.org/callback",
    "https://client.example.org/callback2"]
  "scope": "read write dolphin",
  "grant_types": ["authorization_code", "refresh_token"]
  "token_endpoint_auth_method": "client_secret_basic",
  "logo_uri": "https://client.example.org/logo.png",
  "jwks_uri": "https://client.example.org/my_public_keys.jwks"
}
```

## 5.2. Client Registration Error Response

When an OAuth 2.0 error condition occurs, such as the client presenting an invalid registration access token, the authorization server returns an error response appropriate to the OAuth 2.0 token type. For the registration access token, which is an OAuth 2.0 bearer token, this error response is defined in [Section 3](#) of OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token Usage [[RFC6750](#)].

When a registration error condition occurs, the authorization server returns an HTTP 400 status code (unless otherwise specified) with content type "application/json" consisting of a JSON object [[RFC4627](#)] describing the error in the response body.

The JSON object contains two members:

`error`

The error code, a single ASCII string.

`error_description`

A human-readable text description of the error for debugging.

This specification defines the following error codes:



**invalid\_redirect\_uri**

The value of one or more "redirect\_uris" is invalid.

**invalid\_client\_metadata**

The value of one of the client metadata ([Section 2](#)) fields is invalid and the server has rejected this request. Note that an Authorization server MAY choose to substitute a valid value for any requested parameter of a client's metadata.

**invalid\_client\_id**

The value of "client\_id" does not match the one assigned to this client.

Following is a non-normative example of an error response (with line wraps for display purposes only):

HTTP/1.1 400 Bad Request

Content-Type: application/json

Cache-Control: no-store

Pragma: no-cache

```
{
  "error": "invalid_redirect_uri",
  "error_description": "The redirect URI of http://sketchy.example.com
    is not allowed for this server."
}
```

## **[6.](#) IANA Considerations**

### **[6.1.](#) OAuth Token Endpoint Authentication Methods Registry**

This specification establishes the OAuth Token Endpoint Authentication Methods registry.

Additional values for use as "token\_endpoint\_auth\_method" metadata values are registered with a Specification Required ([\[RFC5226\]](#)) after a two-week review period on the `oauth-ext-review@ietf.org` mailing list, on the advice of one or more Designated Experts. However, to allow for the allocation of values prior to publication, the Designated Expert(s) may approve registration once they are satisfied that such a specification will be published.

Registration requests must be sent to the `oauth-ext-review@ietf.org` mailing list for review and comment, with an appropriate subject (e.g., "Request to register token\_endpoint\_auth\_method value: example").

Within the review period, the Designated Expert(s) will either approve or deny the registration request, communicating this decision



to the review list and IANA. Denials should include an explanation and, if applicable, suggestions as to how to make the request successful.

IANA must only accept registry updates from the Designated Expert(s) and should direct all requests for registration to the review mailing list.

#### **6.1.1. Registration Template**

Token Endpoint Authorization Method name:

The name requested (e.g., "example"). This name is case sensitive. Names that match other registered names in a case insensitive manner SHOULD NOT be accepted.

Change controller:

For Standards Track RFCs, state "IETF". For others, give the name of the responsible party. Other details (e.g., postal address, email address, home page URI) may also be included.

Specification document(s):

Reference to the document(s) that specify the token endpoint authorization method, preferably including a URI that can be used to retrieve a copy of the document(s). An indication of the relevant sections may also be included but is not required.

#### **6.1.2. Initial Registry Contents**

The OAuth Token Endpoint Authentication Methods registry's initial contents are:

- o Token Endpoint Authorization Method name: "none"
- o Change controller: IETF
- o Specification document(s): [[ this document ]]
  
- o Token Endpoint Authorization Method name: "client\_secret\_post"
- o Change controller: IETF
- o Specification document(s): [[ this document ]]
  
- o Token Endpoint Authorization Method name: "client\_secret\_basic"
- o Change controller: IETF
- o Specification document(s): [[ this document ]]



## 7. Security Considerations

Since requests to the client registration endpoint result in the transmission of clear-text credentials (in the HTTP request and response), the Authorization Server MUST require the use of a transport-layer security mechanism when sending requests to the registration endpoint. The server MUST support TLS 1.2 [RFC 5246](#) [[RFC5246](#)] and/or TLS 1.0 [[RFC2246](#)] and MAY support additional transport-layer mechanisms meeting its security requirements. When using TLS, the Client MUST perform a TLS/SSL server certificate check, per [RFC 6125](#) [[RFC6125](#)].

Since the client configuration endpoint is an OAuth 2.0 protected resource, it SHOULD have some rate limiting on failures to prevent the registration access token from being disclosed through repeated access attempts.

For clients that use redirect-based grant types such as "authorization\_code" and "implicit", authorization servers SHOULD require clients to register their "redirect\_uris". Requiring clients to do so can help mitigate attacks where rogue actors inject and impersonate a validly registered client and intercept its authorization code or tokens through an invalid redirect URI.

The authorization server MUST treat all client metadata as self-asserted. For instance, a rogue client might use the name and logo for the legitimate client which it is trying to impersonate. Additionally, a rogue client might try to use the software identifier or software version of a legitimate client to attempt to associate itself on the authorization server instances of the legitimate client. To counteract this, an authorization server needs to take steps to mitigate this phishing risk by looking at the entire registration request and client configuration. For instance, an authorization server could warn if the domain/site of the logo doesn't match the domain/site of redirect URIs. An authorization server could also refuse registration from a known software identifier that is requesting different redirect URIs or a different client homepage uri. An authorization server can also present warning messages to end users about dynamically registered clients in all cases, especially if such clients have been recently registered or have not been trusted by any users at the authorization server before.

In a situation where the authorization server is supporting open client registration, it must be extremely careful with any URL provided by the client that will be displayed to the user (e.g. "logo\_uri", "tos\_uri", "client\_uri", and "policy\_uri"). For instance, a rogue client could specify a registration request with a





reference to a drive-by download in the "policy\_uri". The authorization server SHOULD check to see if the "logo\_uri", "tos\_uri", "client\_uri", and "policy\_uri" have the same host and scheme as the those defined in the array of "redirect\_uris" and that all of these resolve to valid web pages.

While the client secret can expire, the registration access token should not expire while a client is still actively registered. If this token were to expire, a developer or client could be left in a situation where they have no means of retrieving or updating the client's registration information. Were that the case, a new registration would be required, thereby generating a new client identifier. However, to limit the exposure surface of the registration access token, the registration access token MAY be rotated when the developer or client does a read or update operation on the client's client configuration endpoint. As the registration access tokens are relatively long-term credentials, and since the registration access token is a Bearer token and acts as the sole authentication for use at the client configuration endpoint, it MUST be protected by the developer or client as described in OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token Usage [[RFC6750](#)].

If a client is deprovisioned from a server, any outstanding registration access token for that client MUST be invalidated at the same time. Otherwise, this can lead to an inconsistent state wherein a client could make requests to the client configuration endpoint where the authentication would succeed but the action would fail because the client is no longer valid. To prevent accidental disclosure from such an erroneous situation, the authorization server MUST treat all such requests as if the registration access token was invalid (by returning an HTTP 401 Unauthorized error, as described).

Public clients MAY register with an authorization server using this protocol, if the authorization server's policy allows them. Public clients use a "none" value for the "token\_endpoint\_auth\_method" metadata field and are generally used with the "implicit" grant type. Often these clients will be short-lived in-browser applications requesting access to a user's resources and access is tied to a user's active session at the authorization server. Since such clients often do not have long-term storage, it's possible that such clients would need to re-register every time the browser application is loaded. Additionally, such clients may not have ample opportunity to unregister themselves using the delete action before the browser closes. To avoid the resulting proliferation of dead client identifiers, an authorization server MAY decide to expire registrations for existing clients meeting certain criteria after a period of time has elapsed.



Since different OAuth 2.0 grant types have different security and usage parameters, an authorization server MAY require separate registrations for a piece of software to support multiple grant types. For instance, an authorization server might require that all clients using the "authorization\_code" grant type make use of a client secret for the "token\_endpoint\_auth\_method", but any clients using the "implicit" grant type do not use any authentication at the token endpoint. In such a situation, a server MAY disallow clients from registering for both the "authorization\_code" and "implicit" grant types simultaneously. Similarly, the "authorization\_code" grant type is used to represent access on behalf of an end user, but the "client\_credentials" grant type represents access on behalf of the client itself. For security reasons, an authorization server could require that different scopes be used for these different use cases, and as a consequence it MAY disallow these two grant types from being registered together by the same client. In all of these cases, the authorization server would respond with an "invalid\_client\_metadata" error response ([Section 5.2](#)).

## 8. Normative References

[IANA.Language]

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), "Language Subtag Registry", 2005.

[JWK]

Jones, M., "JSON Web Key (JWK)", [draft-ietf-jose-json-web-key](#) (work in progress), May 2013.

[OAuth.JWT]

Jones, M., Campbell, B., and C. Mortimore, "JSON Web Token (JWT) Bearer Token Profiles for OAuth 2.0", [draft-ietf-oauth-jwt-bearer](#) (work in progress), March 2013.

[OAuth.SAML2]

Campbell, B., Mortimore, C., and M. Jones, "SAML 2.0 Bearer Assertion Profiles for OAuth 2.0", [draft-ietf-oauth-saml2-bearer](#) (work in progress), March 2013.

[RFC2119]

Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.

[RFC2246]

Dierks, T. and C. Allen, "The TLS Protocol Version 1.0", [RFC 2246](#), January 1999.

[RFC2616]

Fielding, R., Gettys, J., Mogul, J., Frystyk, H., Masinter, L., Leach, P., and T. Berners-Lee, "Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1", [RFC 2616](#), June 1999.



- [RFC4122] Leach, P., Mealling, M., and R. Salz, "A Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) URN Namespace", [RFC 4122](#), July 2005.
- [RFC4627] Crockford, D., "The application/json Media Type for JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)", [RFC 4627](#), July 2006.
- [RFC5226] Narten, T. and H. Alvestrand, "Guidelines for Writing an IANA Considerations Section in RFCs", [BCP 26](#), [RFC 5226](#), May 2008.
- [RFC5246] Dierks, T. and E. Rescorla, "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2", [RFC 5246](#), August 2008.
- [RFC5646] Phillips, A. and M. Davis, "Tags for Identifying Languages", [BCP 47](#), [RFC 5646](#), September 2009.
- [RFC6125] Saint-Andre, P. and J. Hodges, "Representation and Verification of Domain-Based Application Service Identity within Internet Public Key Infrastructure Using X.509 (PKIX) Certificates in the Context of Transport Layer Security (TLS)", [RFC 6125](#), March 2011.
- [RFC6749] Hardt, D., "The OAuth 2.0 Authorization Framework", [RFC 6749](#), October 2012.
- [RFC6750] Jones, M. and D. Hardt, "The OAuth 2.0 Authorization Framework: Bearer Token Usage", [RFC 6750](#), October 2012.

## **Appendix A. Acknowledgments**

The authors thank the OAuth Working Group, the User-Managed Access Working Group, and the OpenID Connect Working Group participants for their input to this document. In particular, the following individuals have been instrumental in their review and contribution to various versions of this document: Amanda Anganes, Derek Atkins, Tim Bray, Domenico Catalano, Donald Coffin, Vladimir Dzhuvinov, George Fletcher, Thomas Hardjono, Phil Hunt, William Kim, Torsten Lodderstedt, Eve Maler, Josh Mandel, Nov Mataka, Nat Sakimura, Christian Scholz, and Hannes Tschofenig.

## **Appendix B. Client Lifecycle Examples**

In the OAuth 2.0 specification [[RFC6749](#)], a client is identified by its own unique Client identifier ("client\_id") at each authorization server that it associates with. Dynamic registration as defined in this document is one way for a client to get a client identifier and associate a set of metadata with that identifier. Lack of such a



client identifier is the expected trigger for a client registration operation.

In many cases, this client identifier is a unique, pairwise association between a particular running instance of a piece of client software and a particular running instance of an authorization server software. In particular:

- o A single instance of client software (such as a Web server) talking to multiple authorization servers will need to register with each authorization server separately, creating a distinct client identifier with each authorization server. The client can not make any assumption that the authorization servers are correlating separate registrations of the client software together without further profiles and extensions to this specification document. The means by which a client discovers and differentiates between multiple authorization servers is out of scope for this specification.
- o Multiple instances of client software (such as a native application installed on multiple devices simultaneously) talking to the same authorization server will need to each register with that authorization server separately, creating a distinct client identifier for each copy of the application. The authorization server cannot make any assumption of correlation between these clients without further specifications, profiles, and extensions to this specification. The client can not make any assumption that the authorization server will correlate separate registrations of the client software together without further profiles and extensions to this specification document.

A client identifier (and its associated credentials) could also be shared between multiple instances of a client. Mechanisms for sharing client identifiers between multiple instances of a piece of software (either client or authorization server) are outside the scope of this specification, as it is expected that every successful registration request ([Section 3.1](#)) results in the issuance of a new client identifier.

There are several patterns of OAuth client registration that dynamic registration protocol can enable. The following non-normative example lifecycle descriptions are not intended to be an exhaustive list. It is assumed that the authorization server supports the dynamic registration protocol and that all necessary discovery steps (which are out of scope for this specification) have already been performed.

### **[B.1.](#) Open Registration**





Open registration, with no authorization required on the client registration endpoint, works as follows:

- a. A client needs to get OAuth 2.0 tokens from an authorization server, but the client does not have a client identifier for that authorization server.
- b. The client sends an HTTP POST request to the client registration endpoint at the authorization server and includes its metadata.
- c. The authorization server issues a client identifier and returns it to the client along with a registration access token and a reference to the client's client configuration endpoint.
- d. The client stores the returned response from the authorization server. At a minimum, it should remember the values of "client\_id", "client\_secret" (if present), "registration\_access\_token", and "registration\_client\_uri".
- e. The client uses the its "client\_id" and "client\_secret" (if provided) to request OAuth 2.0 tokens using any valid OAuth 2.0 flow for which it is authorized.
- f. If the client's "client\_secret" expires or otherwise stops working, the client sends an HTTP GET request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This response will contain the client's refreshed "client\_secret" along with any changed metadata values. Its "client\_id" will remain the same.
- g. If the client needs to update its configuration on the authorization server, it sends an HTTP PUT request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This response will contain the client's changed metadata values. Its "client\_id" will remain the same.
- h. If the client is uninstalled or otherwise deprovisioned, it can send an HTTP DELETE request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This will effectively deprovision the client from the authorization server.

## **B.2. Protected Registration**

An authorization server may require an initial access token for requests to its registration endpoint. While the method by which a client receives this initial Access token and the method by which the authorization server validates this initial access token are out of scope for this specification, a common approach is for the developer to use a manual pre-registration portal at the authorization server that issues an initial access token to the developer. This allows the developer to package the initial access token with different instances of the client application. While each copy of the application would get its own client identifier (and registration access token), all instances of the application would be tied back to the developer by their shared use of this initial access token.



- a. A developer is creating a client to use an authorization server and knows that instances of the client will dynamically register at runtime, but that the authorization server requires authorization at the registration endpoint.
- b. The developer visits a manual pre-registration page at the authorization server and is issued an initial access token in the form of an OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token [RFC6750].
- c. The developer packages that token with all instances of the client application.
- d. The client needs to get OAuth 2.0 tokens from an authorization server, but the client does not have a client identifier for that authorization server.
- e. The client sends an HTTP POST request to the client registration endpoint at the authorization server with its metadata, and the initial access token as its authorization.
- f. The authorization server issues a client identifier and returns it to the client along with a registration access token and a reference to the client's client configuration endpoint.
- g. The client stores the returned response from the authorization server. At a minimum, it should know the values of "client\_id", "client\_secret" (if present), "registration\_access\_token", and "registration\_client\_uri".
- h. The client uses the its "client\_id" and "client\_secret" (if provided) to request OAuth 2.0 tokens using any supported OAuth 2.0 flow for which this client is authorized.
- i. If the client's "client\_secret" expires or otherwise stops working, the client sends an HTTP GET request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This response will contain the client's refreshed "client\_secret" along with any metadata values registered to that client, some of which may have changed. Its "client\_id" will remain the same.
- j. If the client needs to update its configuration on the authorization server, it sends an HTTP PUT request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. The response will contain the client's changed metadata values. Its "client\_id" will remain the same.
- k. If the client is uninstalled or otherwise deprovisioned, it can send an HTTP DELETE request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This will effectively deprovision the client from the Authorization Server.

### **B.3. Developer Automation**

The dynamic registration protocol can also be used in place of a manual registration portal, for instance as part of an automated build and deployment process. In this scenario, the authorization server may require an initial access token for requests to its



registration endpoint, as described in Protected Registration (Appendix B.2). However, here the developer manages the client's registration instead of the client itself. Therefore, the initial registration token and registration access token all remain with the developer. The developer packages the client identifier with the client as part of the client's build process.

- a. A developer is creating a client to use an authorization server and knows that instances of the client will not dynamically register at runtime.
- b. If required for registrations at the authorization server, the developer performs an OAuth 2.0 authorization of his build environment against the authorization server using any valid OAuth 2.0 flow. The authorization server and is issues an initial access token to the developer's build environment in the form of an OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token [[RFC6750](#)].
- c. The developer configures his build environment to send an HTTP POST request to the client registration endpoint at the authorization server with the client's metadata, using the initial access token obtained the previous step as an OAuth 2.0 Bearer Token [[RFC6750](#)].
- d. The authorization server issues a client identifier and returns it to the developer along with a registration access token and a reference to the client's client configuration endpoint.
- e. The developer packages the client identifier with the client and stores the "registration\_access\_token", and "registration\_client\_uri" in the deployment system.
- f. The client uses the its "client\_id" and "client\_secret" (if provided) to request OAuth 2.0 tokens using any supported OAuth 2.0 flow.
- g. If the client's "client\_secret" expires or otherwise stops working, the developer's deployment system sends an HTTP GET request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This response will contain the client's refreshed "client\_secret" along with any changed metadata values. Its "client\_id" will remain the same. These new values will then be packaged and shipped to or retrieved by instances of the client, if necessary.
- h. If the developer needs to update its configuration on the authorization server, the deployment system sends an HTTP PUT request to the "registration\_client\_uri" with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This response will contain the client's changed metadata values. Its "client\_id" will remain the same. These new values will then be packaged and shipped to or retrieved by instances of the client, if necessary.
- i. If the client is deprovisioned, the developer's deployment system can send an HTTP DELETE request to the "registration\_client\_uri"



with the "registration\_access\_token" as its authorization. This will effectively deprovision the client from the authorization server and prevent any instances of the client from functioning.

## [Appendix C](#). Document History

[[ to be removed by the RFC editor before publication as an RFC ]]

-14

- o Added software\_id and software\_version metadata fields
- o Added direct references to [RFC6750](#) errors in read/update/delete methods

-13

- o Fixed broken example text in registration request and in delete request
- o Added security discussion of separating clients of different grant types
- o Fixed error reference to point to [RFC6750](#) instead of [RFC6749](#)
- o Clarified that servers must respond to all requests to configuration endpoint, even if it's just an error code
- o Lowercased all Terms to conform to style used in [RFC6750](#)

-12

- o Improved definition of Initial Access Token
- o Changed developer registration scenario to have the Initial Access Token gotten through a normal OAuth 2.0 flow
- o Moved non-normative client lifecycle examples to appendix
- o Marked differentiating between auth servers as out of scope
- o Added protocol flow diagram
- o Added credential rotation discussion
- o Called out Client Registration Endpoint as an OAuth 2.0 Protected Resource
- o Cleaned up several pieces of text

-11

- o Added localized text to registration request and response examples.
- o Removed "client\_secret\_jwt" and "private\_key\_jwt".
- o Clarified "tos\_uri" and "policy\_uri" definitions.
- o Added the OAuth Token Endpoint Authentication Methods registry for registering "token\_endpoint\_auth\_method" metadata values.
- o Removed uses of non-ASCII characters, per RFC formatting rules.





- o Changed "expires\_at" to "client\_secret\_expires\_at" and "issued\_at" to "client\_id\_issued\_at" for greater clarity.
- o Added explanatory text for different credentials (Initial Access Token, Registration Access Token, Client Credentials) and what they're used for.
- o Added Client Lifecycle discussion and examples.
- o Defined Initial Access Token in Terminology section.

-10

- o Added language to point out that scope values are service-specific
- o Clarified normative language around client metadata
- o Added extensibility to token\_endpoint\_auth\_method using absolute URIs
- o Added security consideration about registering redirect URIs
- o Changed erroneous 403 responses to 401's with notes about token handling
- o Added example for initial registration credential

-09

- o Added method of internationalization for Client Metadata values
- o Fixed SAML reference

-08

- o Collapsed jwk\_uri, jwk\_encryption\_uri, x509\_uri, and x509\_encryption\_uri into a single jwks\_uri parameter
- o Renamed grant\_type to grant\_types since it's a plural value
- o Formalized name of "OAuth 2.0" throughout document
- o Added JWT Bearer Assertion and SAML 2 Bearer Assertion to example grant types
- o Added response\_types parameter and explanatory text on its use with and relationship to grant\_types

-07

- o Changed registration\_access\_url to registration\_client\_uri
- o Fixed missing text in 5.1
- o Added Pragma: no-cache to examples
- o Changed "no such client" error to 403
- o Renamed Client Registration Access Endpoint to Client Configuration Endpoint
- o Changed all the parameter names containing "\_url" to instead use "\_uri"
- o Updated example text for forming Client Configuration Endpoint URL

-06



- o Removed secret\_rotation as a client-initiated action, including removing client secret rotation endpoint and parameters.
- o Changed \_links structure to single value registration\_access\_url.
- o Collapsed create/update/read responses into client info response.
- o Changed return code of create action to 201.
- o Added section to describe suggested generation and composition of Client Registration Access URL.
- o Added clarifying text to PUT and POST requests to specify JSON in the body.
- o Added Editor's Note to DELETE operation about its inclusion.
- o Added Editor's Note to registration\_access\_url about alternate syntax proposals.

-05

- o changed redirect\_uri and contact to lists instead of space delimited strings
- o removed operation parameter
- o added \_links structure
- o made client update management more RESTful
- o split endpoint into three parts
- o changed input to JSON from form-encoded
- o added READ and DELETE operations
- o removed Requirements section
- o changed token\_endpoint\_auth\_type back to token\_endpoint\_auth\_method to match OIDC who changed to match us

-04

- o removed default\_acr, too undefined in the general OAuth2 case
- o removed default\_max\_auth\_age, since there's no mechanism for supplying a non-default max\_auth\_age in OAuth2
- o clarified signing and encryption URLs
- o changed token\_endpoint\_auth\_method to token\_endpoint\_auth\_type to match OIDC

-03

- o added scope and grant\_type claims
- o fixed various typos and changed wording for better clarity
- o endpoint now returns the full set of client information
- o operations on client\_update allow for three actions on metadata: leave existing value, clear existing value, replace existing value with new value

-02

- o Reorganized contributors and references



- o Moved OAuth references to RFC
- o Reorganized model/protocol sections for clarity
- o Changed terminology to "client register" instead of "client associate"
- o Specified that client\_id must match across all subsequent requests
- o Fixed RFC2XML formatting, especially on lists

-01

- o Merged UMA and OpenID Connect registrations into a single document
- o Changed to form-paramter inputs to endpoint
- o Removed pull-based registration

-00

- o Imported original UMA draft specification

#### Authors' Addresses

Justin Richer (editor)  
The MITRE Corporation

Email: [jricher@mitre.org](mailto:jricher@mitre.org)

John Bradley  
Ping Identity

Email: [ve7jtb@ve7jtb.com](mailto:ve7jtb@ve7jtb.com)

Michael B. Jones  
Microsoft

Email: [mbj@microsoft.com](mailto:mbj@microsoft.com)

URI: <http://self-issued.info/>

Maciej Machulak  
Newcastle University

Email: [m.p.machulak@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:m.p.machulak@ncl.ac.uk)

URI: <http://ncl.ac.uk/>

