

Network Working Group
Internet-Draft
Obsoletes: [5653](#) (if approved)
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: February 5, 2018

M. Upadhyay
Google
S. Malkani
ActivIdentity
W. Wang
Oracle
August 4, 2017

Generic Security Service API Version 2: Java Bindings Update
draft-ietf-kitten-rfc5653bis-05

Abstract

The Generic Security Services Application Program Interface (GSS-API) offers application programmers uniform access to security services atop a variety of underlying cryptographic mechanisms. This document updates the Java bindings for the GSS-API that are specified in "Generic Security Service API Version 2 : Java Bindings Update" ([RFC 5653](#)). This document obsoletes [RFC 5653](#) by adding a new output token field to the GSSException class so that when the `initSecContext` or `acceptSecContext` methods of the GSSContext class fails it has a chance to emit an error token which can be sent to the peer for debugging or informational purpose. The stream-based GSSContext methods are also removed in this version.

The GSS-API is described at a language-independent conceptual level in "Generic Security Service Application Program Interface Version 2, Update 1" ([RFC 2743](#)). The GSS-API allows a caller application to authenticate a principal identity, to delegate rights to a peer, and to apply security services such as confidentiality and integrity on a per-message basis. Examples of security mechanisms defined for GSS-API are "The Simple Public-Key GSS-API Mechanism" ([RFC 2025](#)) and "The Kerberos Version 5 Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API) Mechanism: Version 2" ([RFC 4121](#)).

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	6
2.	GSS-API Operational Paradigm	7
3.	Additional Controls	8
3.1.	Delegation	9
3.2.	Mutual Authentication	10
3.3.	Replay and Out-of-Sequence Detection	11
3.4.	Anonymous Authentication	11
3.5.	Integrity and Confidentiality	12
3.6.	Inter-process Context Transfer	13
3.7.	The Use of Incomplete Contexts	13
4.	Calling Conventions	14
4.1.	Package Name	14
4.2.	Provider Framework	14
4.3.	Integer Types	15

4.4.	Opaque Data Types	15
4.5.	Strings	15
4.6.	Object Identifiers	16
4.7.	Object Identifier Sets	16
4.8.	Credentials	16
4.9.	Contexts	18
4.10.	Authentication Tokens	19
4.11.	Inter-Process Tokens	19
4.12.	Error Reporting	19
4.12.1.	GSS Status Codes	20
4.12.2.	Mechanism-Specific Status Codes	22
4.12.3.	Supplementary Status Codes	22
4.13.	Names	23
4.14.	Channel Bindings	26
4.15.	Optional Parameters	27
5.	Introduction to GSS-API Classes and Interfaces	27
5.1.	GSSManager Class	27
5.2.	GSSName Interface	28
5.3.	GSSCredential Interface	29
5.4.	GSSContext Interface	30
5.5.	MessageProp Class	32
5.6.	GSSException Class	32
5.7.	Oid Class	32
5.8.	ChannelBinding Class	32
6.	Detailed GSS-API Class Description	33
6.1.	public abstract class GSSManager	33
6.1.1.	getInstance	34
6.1.2.	getMechs	34
6.1.3.	getNamesForMech	34
6.1.4.	getMechsForName	35
6.1.5.	createName	35
6.1.6.	createName	35
6.1.7.	createName	36
6.1.8.	createName	37
6.1.9.	createCredential	37
6.1.10.	createCredential	38
6.1.11.	createCredential	38
6.1.12.	createContext	39
6.1.13.	createContext	40
6.1.14.	createContext	40
6.1.15.	addProviderAtFront	40
6.1.15.1.	addProviderAtFront Example Code	41
6.1.16.	addProviderAtEnd	42
6.1.16.1.	addProviderAtEnd Example Code	43
6.1.17.	Example Code	44
6.2.	public interface GSSName	44
6.2.1.	Static Constants	44
6.2.2.	equals	45

6.2.3.	equals	45
6.2.4.	canonicalize	46
6.2.5.	export	46
6.2.6.	toString	46
6.2.7.	getStringNameType	47
6.2.8.	isAnonymous	47
6.2.9.	isMN	47
6.2.10.	Example Code	47
6.3.	public interface GSSCredential implements Cloneable	48
6.3.1.	Static Constants	49
6.3.2.	dispose	50
6.3.3.	getName	50
6.3.4.	getName	50
6.3.5.	getRemainingLifetime	50
6.3.6.	getRemainingInitLifetime	51
6.3.7.	getRemainingAcceptLifetime	51
6.3.8.	getUsage	51
6.3.9.	getUsage	52
6.3.10.	getMechs	52
6.3.11.	add	52
6.3.12.	equals	53
6.3.13.	Example Code	53
6.4.	public interface GSSContext	54
6.4.1.	Static Constants	55
6.4.2.	initSecContext	55
6.4.3.	acceptSecContext	56
6.4.4.	isEstablished	57
6.4.5.	dispose	57
6.4.6.	getWrapSizeLimit	57
6.4.7.	wrap	58
6.4.8.	unwrap	59
6.4.9.	getMIC	60
6.4.10.	verifyMIC	60
6.4.11.	export	61
6.4.12.	requestMutualAuth	62
6.4.13.	requestReplayDet	62
6.4.14.	requestSequenceDet	62
6.4.15.	requestCredDeleg	63
6.4.16.	requestAnonymity	63
6.4.17.	requestConf	63
6.4.18.	requestInteg	64
6.4.19.	requestLifetime	64
6.4.20.	setChannelBinding	64
6.4.21.	getCredDelegState	64
6.4.22.	getMutualAuthState	65
6.4.23.	getReplayDetState	65
6.4.24.	getSequenceDetState	65
6.4.25.	getAnonymityState	65

6.4.26.	isTransferable	65
6.4.27.	isProtReady	66
6.4.28.	getConfState	66
6.4.29.	getIntegState	66
6.4.30.	getLifetime	66
6.4.31.	getSrcName	66
6.4.32.	getTargName	67
6.4.33.	getMech	67
6.4.34.	getDelegCred	67
6.4.35.	isInitiator	67
6.4.36.	Example Code	67
6.5.	public class MessageProp	69
6.5.1.	Constructors	70
6.5.2.	getQOP	70
6.5.3.	getPrivacy	70
6.5.4.	getMinorStatus	70
6.5.5.	getMinorString	70
6.5.6.	setQOP	71
6.5.7.	setPrivacy	71
6.5.8.	isDuplicateToken	71
6.5.9.	isOldToken	71
6.5.10.	isUnseqToken	71
6.5.11.	isGapToken	71
6.5.12.	setSupplementaryStates	72
6.6.	public class ChannelBinding	72
6.6.1.	Constructors	73
6.6.2.	getInitiatorAddress	73
6.6.3.	getAcceptorAddress	73
6.6.4.	getApplicationData	74
6.6.5.	equals	74
6.7.	public class Oid	74
6.7.1.	Constructors	74
6.7.2.	toString	75
6.7.3.	equals	75
6.7.4.	getDER	76
6.7.5.	containedIn	76
6.8.	public class GSSException extends Exception	76
6.8.1.	Static Constants	76
6.8.2.	Constructors	79
6.8.3.	getMajor	80
6.8.4.	getMinor	80
6.8.5.	getMajorString	80
6.8.6.	getMinorString	80
6.8.7.	getOutputToken	81
6.8.8.	setMinor	81
6.8.9.	toString	81
6.8.10.	getMessage	81
7.	Sample Applications	81

7.1.	Simple GSS Context Initiator	82
7.2.	Simple GSS Context Acceptor	85
8.	Security Considerations	89
9.	IANA Considerations	90
10.	Acknowledgments	90
11.	Changes since RFC 5653	90
12.	Changes since RFC 2853	92
13.	References	92
13.1.	Normative References	92
13.2.	Informative References	93
	Authors' Addresses	93

[1.](#) Introduction

This document specifies Java language bindings for the Generic Security Services Application Programming Interface version 2 (GSS-API). GSS-API version 2 is described in a language-independent format in [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)]. The GSS-API allows a caller application to authenticate a principal identity, to delegate rights to a peer, and to apply security services such as confidentiality and integrity on a per-message basis.

This document and its predecessor, [RFC 2853](#) [[RFC2853](#)] and [RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)], leverage the work done by the working group (WG) in the area of [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] and the C-bindings of [RFC 2744](#) [[RFC2744](#)]. Whenever appropriate, text has been used from the C-bindings document ([RFC 2744](#)) to explain generic concepts and provide direction to the implementors.

The design goals of this API have been to satisfy all the functionality defined in [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] and to provide these services in an object-oriented method. The specification also aims to satisfy the needs of both types of Java application developers, those who would like access to a "system-wide" GSS-API implementation, as well as those who would want to provide their own "custom" implementation.

A system-wide implementation is one that is available to all applications in the form of a library package. It may be the standard package in the Java runtime environment (JRE) being used or it may be additionally installed and accessible to any application via the CLASSPATH.

A custom implementation of the GSS-API, on the other hand, is one that would, in most cases, be bundled with the application during distribution. It is expected that such an implementation would be meant to provide for some particular need of the application, such as support for some specific mechanism.

The design of this API also aims to provide a flexible framework to add and manage GSS-API mechanisms. GSS-API leverages the Java Cryptography Architecture (JCA) provider model to support the plugability of mechanisms. Mechanisms can be added on a system-wide basis, where all users of the framework will have them available. The specification also allows for the addition of mechanisms per-instance of the GSS-API.

Lastly, this specification presents an API that will naturally fit within the operation environment of the Java platform. Readers are assumed to be familiar with both the GSS-API and the Java platform.

2. GSS-API Operational Paradigm

"Generic Security Service Application Programming Interface, Version 2" [[RFC2743](#)] defines a generic security API to calling applications. It allows a communicating application to authenticate the user associated with another application, to delegate rights to another application, and to apply security services such as confidentiality and integrity on a per-message basis.

There are four stages to using GSS-API:

- 1) The application acquires a set of credentials with which it may prove its identity to other processes. The application's credentials vouch for its global identity, which may or may not be related to any local username under which it may be running.
- 2) A pair of communicating applications establish a joint security context using their credentials. The security context encapsulates shared state information, which is required in order that per-message security services may be provided. Examples of state information that might be shared between applications as part of a security context are cryptographic keys and message sequence numbers. As part of the establishment of a security context, the context initiator is authenticated to the responder, and may require that the responder is authenticated back to the initiator. The initiator may optionally give the responder the right to initiate further security contexts, acting as an agent or delegate of the initiator. This transfer of rights is termed "delegation", and is achieved by creating a set of credentials, similar to those used by the initiating application, but which may be used by the responder.

A GSSContext object is used to establish and maintain the shared information that makes up the security context. Certain GSSContext methods will generate a token, which applications treat as cryptographically protected, opaque data. The caller of such a

GSSContext method is responsible for transferring the token to the peer application, encapsulated if necessary in an application-to-application protocol. On receipt of such a token, the peer application should pass it to a corresponding GSSContext method which will decode the token and extract the information, updating the security context state information accordingly.

- 3) Per-message services are invoked on a GSSContext object to apply either:

integrity and data origin authentication, or

confidentiality, integrity and data origin authentication

to application data, which are treated by GSS-API as arbitrary octet-strings. An application transmitting a message that it wishes to protect will call the appropriate GSSContext method (getMIC or wrap) to apply protection, and send the resulting token to the receiving application. The receiver will pass the received token (and, in the case of data protected by getMIC, the accompanying message-data) to the corresponding decoding method of the GSSContext interface (verifyMIC or unwrap) to remove the protection and validate the data.

- 4) At the completion of a communications session (which may extend across several transport connections), each application uses a GSSContext method to invalidate the security context and release any system or cryptographic resources held. Multiple contexts may also be used (either successively or simultaneously) within a single communications association, at the discretion of the applications.

3. Additional Controls

This section discusses the optional services that a context initiator may request of the GSS-API before the context establishment. Each of these services is requested by calling the appropriate mutator method in the GSSContext object before the first call to init is performed. Only the context initiator can request context flags.

The optional services defined are:

Delegation: The (usually temporary) transfer of rights from initiator to acceptor, enabling the acceptor to authenticate itself as an agent of the initiator.

Mutual Authentication: In addition to the initiator authenticating its identity to the context acceptor, the context acceptor should also authenticate itself to the initiator.

Replay Detection: In addition to providing message integrity services, GSSContext per-message operations of getMIC and wrap should include message numbering information to enable verifyMIC and unwrap to detect if a message has been duplicated.

Out-of-Sequence Detection: In addition to providing message integrity services, GSSContext per-message operations (getMIC and wrap) should include message sequencing information to enable verifyMIC and unwrap to detect if a message has been received out of sequence.

Anonymous Authentication: The establishment of the security context should not reveal the initiator's identity to the context acceptor.

Some mechanisms may not support all optional services, and some mechanisms may only support some services in conjunction with others. The GSSContext interface offers query methods to allow the verification by the calling application of which services will be available from the context when the establishment phase is complete. In general, if the security mechanism is capable of providing a requested service, it should do so even if additional services must be enabled in order to provide the requested service. If the mechanism is incapable of providing a requested service, it should proceed without the service leaving the application to abort the context establishment process if it considers the requested service to be mandatory.

Some mechanisms may specify that support for some services is optional, and that implementors of the mechanism need not provide it. This is most commonly true of the confidentiality service, often because of legal restrictions on the use of data-encryption, but may apply to any of the services. Such mechanisms are required to send at least one token from acceptor to initiator during context establishment when the initiator indicates a desire to use such a service, so that the initiating GSS-API can correctly indicate whether the service is supported by the acceptor's GSS-API.

3.1. Delegation

The GSS-API allows delegation to be controlled by the initiating application via the requestCredDeleg method before the first call to init has been issued. Some mechanisms do not support delegation, and

for such mechanisms, attempts by an application to enable delegation are ignored.

The acceptor of a security context, for which the initiator enabled delegation, can check if delegation was enabled by using the `getCredDelegState` method of the `GSSContext` interface. In cases when it is enabled, the delegated credential object can be obtained by calling the `getDelegCred` method. The obtained `GSSCredential` object may then be used to initiate subsequent GSS-API security contexts as an agent or delegate of the initiator. If the original initiator's identity is "A" and the delegate's identity is "B", then, depending on the underlying mechanism, the identity embodied by the delegated credential may be either "A" or "B acting for A".

For many mechanisms that support delegation, a simple boolean does not provide enough control. Examples of additional aspects of delegation control that a mechanism might provide to an application are duration of delegation, network addresses from which delegation is valid, and constraints on the tasks that may be performed by a delegate. Such controls are presently outside the scope of the GSS-API. GSS-API implementations supporting mechanisms offering additional controls should provide extension routines that allow these controls to be exercised (perhaps by modifying the initiator's GSS-API credential object prior to its use in establishing a context). However, the simple delegation control provided by GSS-API should always be able to override other mechanism-specific delegation controls. If the application instructs the `GSSContext` object that delegation is not desired, then the implementation must not permit delegation to occur. This is an exception to the general rule that a mechanism may enable services even if they are not requested -- delegation may only be provided at the explicit request of the application.

3.2. Mutual Authentication

Usually, a context acceptor will require that a context initiator authenticate itself so that the acceptor may make an access-control decision prior to performing a service for the initiator. In some cases, the initiator may also request that the acceptor authenticate itself. GSS-API allows the initiating application to request this mutual authentication service by calling the `requestMutualAuth` method of the `GSSContext` interface with a "true" parameter before making the first call to `init`. The initiating application is informed as to whether or not the context acceptor has authenticated itself. Note that some mechanisms may not support mutual authentication, and other mechanisms may always perform mutual authentication, whether or not the initiating application requests it. In particular, mutual authentication may be required by some mechanisms in order to support

replay or out-of-sequence message detection, and for such mechanisms, a request for either of these services will automatically enable mutual authentication.

3.3. Replay and Out-of-Sequence Detection

The GSS-API may provide detection of mis-ordered messages once a security context has been established. Protection may be applied to messages by either application, by calling either `getMIC` or `wrap` methods of the `GSSContext` interface, and verified by the peer application by calling `verifyMIC` or `unwrap` for the peer's `GSSContext` object.

The `getMIC` method calculates a cryptographic checksum (authentication tag) of an application message, and returns that checksum in a token. The application should pass both the token and the message to the peer application, which presents them to the `verifyMIC` method of the peer's `GSSContext` object.

The `wrap` method calculates a cryptographic checksum of an application message, and places both the checksum and the message inside a single token. The application should pass the token to the peer application, which presents it to the `unwrap` method of the peer's `GSSContext` object to extract the message and verify the checksum.

Either pair of routines may be capable of detecting out-of-sequence message delivery or the duplication of messages. Details of such mis-ordered messages are indicated through supplementary query methods of the `MessageProp` object that is filled in by each of these routines.

A mechanism need not maintain a list of all tokens that have been processed in order to support these status codes. A typical mechanism might retain information about only the most recent "N" tokens processed, allowing it to distinguish duplicates and missing tokens within the most recent "N" messages; the receipt of a token older than the most recent "N" would result in the `isOldToken` method of the instance of `MessageProp` to return "true".

3.4. Anonymous Authentication

In certain situations, an application may wish to initiate the authentication process to authenticate a peer, without revealing its own identity. As an example, consider an application providing access to a database containing medical information and offering unrestricted access to the service. A client of such a service might wish to authenticate the service (in order to establish trust in any information retrieved from it), but might not wish the service to be

able to obtain the client's identity (perhaps due to privacy concerns about the specific inquiries, or perhaps simply to avoid being placed on mailing-lists).

In normal use of the GSS-API, the initiator's identity is made available to the acceptor as a result of the context establishment process. However, context initiators may request that their identity not be revealed to the context acceptor. Many mechanisms do not support anonymous authentication, and for such mechanisms, the request will not be honored. An authentication token will still be generated, but the application is always informed if a requested service is unavailable, and has the option to abort context establishment if anonymity is valued above the other security services that would require a context to be established.

In addition to informing the application that a context is established anonymously (via the `isAnonymous` method of the `GSSContext` class), the `getSrcName` method of the acceptor's `GSSContext` object will, for such contexts, return a reserved internal-form name, defined by the implementation.

The `toString` method for a `GSSName` object representing an anonymous entity will return a printable name. The returned value will be syntactically distinguishable from any valid principal name supported by the implementation. The associated name-type object identifier will be an oid representing the value of `NT_ANONYMOUS`. This name-type oid will be defined as a public, static `Oid` object of the `GSSName` class. The printable form of an anonymous name should be chosen such that it implies anonymity, since this name may appear in, for example, audit logs. For example, the string "<anonymous>" might be a good choice, if no valid printable names supported by the implementation can begin with "<" and end with ">".

When using the `equal` method of the `GSSName` interface, and one of the operands is a `GSSName` instance representing an anonymous entity, the method must return "false".

3.5. Integrity and Confidentiality

If a `GSSContext` supports the integrity service, `getMic` method may be used to create message integrity check tokens on application messages.

If a `GSSContext` supports the confidentiality service, `wrap` method may be used to encrypt application messages. Messages are selectively encrypted, under the control of the `setPrivacy` method of the `MessageProp` object used in the `wrap` method. Confidentiality will be applied if the privacy state is set to true.

3.6. Inter-process Context Transfer

GSS-APIv2 provides functionality that allows a security context to be transferred between processes on a single machine. These are implemented using the export method of GSSContext and a byte array constructor of the same class. The most common use for such a feature is a client-server design where the server is implemented as a single process that accepts incoming security contexts, which then launches child processes to deal with the data on these contexts. In such a design, the child processes must have access to the security context object created within the parent so that they can use per-message protection services and delete the security context when the communication session ends.

Since the security context data structure is expected to contain sequencing information, it is impractical in general to share a context between processes. Thus, the GSSContext interface provides an export method that the process, which currently owns the context, can call to declare that it has no intention to use the context subsequently, and to create an inter-process token containing information needed by the adopting process to successfully recreate the context. After successful completion of export, the original security context is made inaccessible to the calling process by GSS-API, and any further usage of this object will result in failures. The originating process transfers the inter-process token to the adopting process, which creates a new GSSContext object using the byte array constructor. The properties of the context are equivalent to that of the original context.

The inter-process token may contain sensitive data from the original security context (including cryptographic keys). Applications using inter-process tokens to transfer security contexts must take appropriate steps to protect these tokens in transit.

Implementations are not required to support the inter-process transfer of security contexts. Calling the `isTransferable` method of the GSSContext interface will indicate if the context object is transferable.

3.7. The Use of Incomplete Contexts

Some mechanisms may allow the per-message services to be used before the context establishment process is complete. For example, a mechanism may include sufficient information in its initial context-level tokens for the context acceptor to immediately decode messages protected with wrap or getMIC. For such a mechanism, the initiating application need not wait until subsequent context-level tokens have

been sent and received before invoking the per-message protection services.

An application can invoke the `isProtReady` method of the `GSSContext` class to determine if the per-message services are available in advance of complete context establishment. Applications wishing to use per-message protection services on partially established contexts should query this method before attempting to invoke `wrap` or `getMIC`.

4. Calling Conventions

Java provides the implementors with not just a syntax for the language, but also an operational environment. For example, memory is automatically managed and does not require application intervention. These language features have allowed for a simpler API and have led to the elimination of certain GSS-API functions.

Moreover, the JCA defines a provider model that allows for implementation-independent access to security services. Using this model, applications can seamlessly switch between different implementations and dynamically add new services. The GSS-API specification leverages these concepts by the usage of providers for the mechanism implementations.

4.1. Package Name

The classes and interfaces defined in this document reside in the package called "org.ietf.jgss". Applications that wish to make use of this API should import this package name as shown in [section 7](#).

4.2. Provider Framework

The Java security API's use a provider architecture that allows applications to be implementation independent and security API implementations to be modular and extensible. The `java.security.Provider` class is an abstract class that a vendor extends. This class maps various properties that represent different security services that are available to the names of the actual vendor classes that implement those services. When requesting a service, an application simply specifies the desired provider and the API delegates the request to service classes available from that provider.

Using the Java security provider model insulates applications from implementation details of the services they wish to use. Applications can switch between providers easily and new providers can be added as needed, even at runtime.

The GSS-API may use providers to find components for specific underlying security mechanisms. For instance, a particular provider might contain components that will allow the GSS-API to support the Kerberos v5 mechanism [[RFC4121](#)] and another might contain components to support the Simple Public-Key GSS-API Mechanism (SPKM) [[RFC2025](#)]. By delegating mechanism-specific functionality to the components obtained from providers, the GSS-API can be extended to support an arbitrary list of mechanism.

How the GSS-API locates and queries these providers is beyond the scope of this document and is being deferred to a Service Provider Interface (SPI) specification. The availability of such an SPI specification is not mandatory for the adoption of this API specification nor is it mandatory to use providers in the implementation of a GSS-API framework. However, by using the provider framework together with an SPI specification, one can create an extensible and implementation-independent GSS-API framework.

[4.3.](#) Integer Types

All numeric values are declared as "int" primitive Java type. The Java specification guarantees that this will be a 32-bit two's complement signed number.

Throughout this API, the "boolean" primitive Java type is used wherever a boolean value is required or returned.

[4.4.](#) Opaque Data Types

Java byte arrays are used to represent opaque data types that are consumed and produced by the GSS-API in the form of tokens. Java arrays contain a length field that enables the users to easily determine their size. The language has automatic garbage collection that alleviates the need by developers to release memory and simplifies buffer ownership issues.

[4.5.](#) Strings

The String object will be used to represent all textual data. The Java String object transparently treats all characters as two-byte Unicode characters, which allows support for many locals. All routines returning or accepting textual data will use the String object.

4.6. Object Identifiers

An Oid object will be used to represent Universal Object Identifiers (Oids). Oids are ISO-defined, hierarchically globally interpretable identifiers used within the GSS-API framework to identify security mechanisms and name formats. The Oid object can be created from a string representation of its dot notation (e.g., "1.3.6.1.5.6.2") as well as from its ASN.1 DER encoding. Methods are also provided to test equality and provide the DER representation for the object.

An important feature of the Oid class is that its instances are immutable -- i.e., there are no methods defined that allow one to change the contents of an Oid. This property allows one to treat these objects as "statics" without the need to perform copies.

Certain routines allow the usage of a default oid. A "null" value can be used in those cases.

4.7. Object Identifier Sets

The Java bindings represent object identifier sets as arrays of Oid objects. All Java arrays contain a length field, which allows for easy manipulation and reference.

In order to support the full functionality of [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)], the Oid class includes a method that checks for existence of an Oid object within a specified array. This is equivalent in functionality to `gss_test_oid_set_member`. The use of Java arrays and Java's automatic garbage collection has eliminated the need for the following routines: `gss_create_empty_oid_set`, `gss_release_oid_set`, and `gss_add_oid_set_member`. Java GSS-API implementations will not contain them. Java's automatic garbage collection and the immutable property of the Oid object eliminates the memory management issues of the C counterpart.

Whenever a default value for an Object Identifier Set is required, a "null" value can be used. Please consult the detailed method description for details.

4.8. Credentials

GSS-API credentials are represented by the `GSSCredential` interface. The interface contains several constructs to allow for the creation of most common credential objects for the initiator and the acceptor. Comparisons are performed using the interface's "equals" method. The following general description of GSS-API credentials is included from the C-bindings specification:

GSS-API credentials can contain mechanism-specific principal authentication data for multiple mechanisms. A GSS-API credential is composed of a set of credential-elements, each of which is applicable to a single mechanism. A credential may contain at most one credential-element for each supported mechanism. A credential-element identifies the data needed by a single mechanism to authenticate a single principal, and conceptually contains two credential-references that describe the actual mechanism-specific authentication data, one to be used by GSS-API for initiating contexts, and one to be used for accepting contexts. For mechanisms that do not distinguish between acceptor and initiator credentials, both references would point to the same underlying mechanism-specific authentication data.

Credentials describe a set of mechanism-specific principals, and give their holder the ability to act as any of those principals. All principal identities asserted by a single GSS-API credential should belong to the same entity, although enforcement of this property is an implementation-specific matter. A single GSSCredential object represents all the credential elements that have been acquired.

The creation of an GSSContext object allows the value of "null" to be specified as the GSSCredential input parameter. This will indicate a desire by the application to act as a default principal. While individual GSS-API implementations are free to determine such default behavior as appropriate to the mechanism, the following default behavior by these routines is recommended for portability:

For the initiator side of the context:

- 1) If there is only a single principal capable of initiating security contexts for the chosen mechanism that the application is authorized to act on behalf of, then that principal shall be used; otherwise,
- 2) If the platform maintains a concept of a default network-identity for the chosen mechanism, and if the application is authorized to act on behalf of that identity for the purpose of initiating security contexts, then the principal corresponding to that identity shall be used; otherwise,
- 3) If the platform maintains a concept of a default local identity, and provides a means to map local identities into network-identities for the chosen mechanism, and if the application is authorized to act on behalf of the network-identity image of the default local identity for the purpose of initiating security contexts using the chosen mechanism, then the principal corresponding to that identity shall be used; otherwise,

- 4) A user-configurable default identity should be used.

For the acceptor side of the context:

- 1) If there is only a single authorized principal identity capable of accepting security contexts for the chosen mechanism, then that principal shall be used; otherwise,
- 2) If the mechanism can determine the identity of the target principal by examining the context-establishment token processed during the accept method, and if the accepting application is authorized to act as that principal for the purpose of accepting security contexts using the chosen mechanism, then that principal identity shall be used; otherwise,
- 3) If the mechanism supports context acceptance by any principal, and if mutual authentication was not requested, any principal that the application is authorized to accept security contexts under using the chosen mechanism may be used; otherwise,
- 4) A user-configurable default identity shall be used.

The purpose of the above rules is to allow security contexts to be established by both initiator and acceptor using the default behavior whenever possible. Applications requesting default behavior are likely to be more portable across mechanisms and implementations than ones that instantiate an `GSSCredential` object representing a specific identity.

4.9. Contexts

The `GSSContext` interface is used to represent one end of a GSS-API security context, storing state information appropriate to that end of the peer communication, including cryptographic state information. The instantiation of the context object is done differently by the initiator and the acceptor. After the context has been instantiated, the initiator may choose to set various context options that will determine the characteristics of the desired security context. When all the application-desired characteristics have been set, the initiator will call the `initSecContext` method, which will produce a token for consumption by the peer's `acceptSecContext` method. It is the responsibility of the application to deliver the authentication token(s) between the peer applications for processing. Upon completion of the context-establishment phase, context attributes can be retrieved, by both the initiator and acceptor, using the accessor methods. These will reflect the actual attributes of the established context and might not match the initiator-requested values. If any retrieved attribute does not match the desired value but it is

necessary for the application protocol, the application should destroy the security context and not use it for application traffic. Otherwise, at this point, the context can be used by the application to apply cryptographic services to its data.

[4.10.](#) Authentication Tokens

A token is a caller-opaque type that GSS-API uses to maintain synchronization between each end of the GSS-API security context. The token is a cryptographically protected octet-string, generated by the underlying mechanism at one end of a GSS-API security context for use by the peer mechanism at the other end. Encapsulation (if required) within the application protocol and transfer of the token are the responsibility of the peer applications.

Java GSS-API uses byte arrays to represent authentication tokens.

[4.11.](#) Inter-Process Tokens

Certain GSS-API routines are intended to transfer data between processes in multi-process programs. These routines use a caller-opaque octet-string, generated by the GSS-API in one process for use by the GSS-API in another process. The calling application is responsible for transferring such tokens between processes. Note that, while GSS-API implementors are encouraged to avoid placing sensitive information within inter-process tokens, or to cryptographically protect them, many implementations will be unable to avoid placing key material or other sensitive data within them. It is the application's responsibility to ensure that inter-process tokens are protected in transit, and transferred only to processes that are trustworthy. An inter-process token is represented using a byte array emitted from the export method of the GSSContext interface. The receiver of the inter-process token would initialize an GSSContext object with this token to create a new context. Once a context has been exported, the GSSContext object is invalidated and is no longer available.

[4.12.](#) Error Reporting

[RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] defined the usage of major and minor status values for the signaling of GSS-API errors. The major code, also called GSS status code, is used to signal errors at the GSS-API level, independent of the underlying mechanism(s). The minor status value or Mechanism status code, is a mechanism-defined error value indicating a mechanism-specific error code.

Java GSS-API uses exceptions implemented by the GSSException class to signal both minor and major error values. Both mechanism-specific

errors and GSS-API level errors are signaled through instances of this class. The usage of exceptions replaces the need for major and minor codes to be used within the API calls. The `GSSEException` class also contains methods to obtain textual representations for both the major and minor values, which is equivalent to the functionality of `gss_display_status`. A `GSSEException` object may also include an output token that should be sent to the peer.

If an exception is thrown during context establishment, the context negotiation has failed and the `GSSContext` object must be abandoned. If it is thrown in a per-message call, the context can remain useful.

[4.12.1.](#) GSS Status Codes

GSS status codes indicate errors that are independent of the underlying mechanism(s) used to provide the security service. The errors that can be indicated via a GSS status code are generic API routine errors (errors that are defined in the GSS-API specification). These bindings take advantage of the Java exceptions mechanism, thus, eliminating the need for calling errors.

A GSS status code indicates a single fatal generic API error from the routine that has thrown the `GSSEException`. Using exceptions announces that a fatal error has occurred during the execution of the method. The GSS-API operational model also allows for the signaling of supplementary status information from the per-message calls. These need to be handled as return values since using exceptions is not appropriate for informatory or warning-like information. The methods that are capable of producing supplementary information are the two per-message methods `GSSContext.verifyMIC()` and `GSSContext.unwrap()`. These methods fill the supplementary status codes in the `MessageProp` object that was passed in.

A `GSSEException` object, along with providing the functionality for setting of the various error codes and translating them into textual representation, also contains the definitions of all the numeric error values. The following table lists the definitions of error codes:

Table: GSS Status Codes

Name	Value	Meaning
BAD_BINDINGS	1	Incorrect channel bindings were supplied.
BAD_MECH	2	An unsupported mechanism was

		requested.
BAD_NAME	3	An invalid name was supplied.
BAD_NAMETYPE	4	A supplied name was of an unsupported type.
BAD_STATUS	5	An invalid status code was supplied.
BAD_MIC	6	A token had an invalid MIC.
CONTEXT_EXPIRED	7	The context has expired.
CREDENTIALS_EXPIRED	8	The referenced credentials have expired.
DEFECTIVE_CREDENTIAL	9	A supplied credential was invalid.
DEFECTIVE_TOKEN	10	A supplied token was invalid.
FAILURE	11	Miscellaneous failure, unspecified at the GSS-API level.
NO_CONTEXT	12	Invalid context has been supplied.
NO_CRED	13	No credentials were supplied, or the credentials were unavailable or inaccessible.
BAD_QOP	14	The quality-of-protection (QOP) requested could not be provided.
UNAUTHORIZED	15	The operation is forbidden by the local security policy.
UNAVAILABLE	16	The operation or option is unavailable.
DUPLICATE_ELEMENT	17	The requested credential element already exists.
NAME_NOT_MN	18	The provided name was not a mechanism name.
+-----+-----+-----+-----+		

The following four status codes (DUPLICATE_TOKEN, OLD_TOKEN, UNSEQ_TOKEN, and GAP_TOKEN) are contained in a GSSException only if

detected during context establishment, in which case it is a fatal error. (During per-message calls, these values are indicated as supplementary information contained in the MessageProp object.) They are:

Name	Value	Meaning
DUPLICATE_TOKEN	19	The token was a duplicate of an earlier version.
OLD_TOKEN	20	The token's validity period has expired.
UNSEQ_TOKEN	21	A later token has already been processed.
GAP_TOKEN	22	The expected token was not received.

The GSS major status code of FAILURE is used to indicate that the underlying mechanism detected an error for which no specific GSS status code is defined. The mechanism-specific status code can provide more details about the error.

The different major status codes that can be contained in the GSSException object thrown by the methods in this specification are the same as the major status codes returned by the corresponding calls in [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)].

[4.12.2.](#) Mechanism-Specific Status Codes

Mechanism-specific status codes are communicated in two ways, they are part of any GSSException thrown from the mechanism-specific layer to signal a fatal error, or they are part of the MessageProp object that the per-message calls use to signal non-fatal errors.

A default value of 0 in either the GSSException object or the MessageProp object will be used to represent the absence of any mechanism-specific status code.

[4.12.3.](#) Supplementary Status Codes

Supplementary status codes are confined to the per-message methods of the GSSContext interface. Because of the informative nature of these errors it is not appropriate to use exceptions to signal them. Instead, the per-message operations of the GSSContext interface return these values in a MessageProp object.

The MessageProp class defines query methods that return boolean values indicating the following supplementary states:

Table: Supplementary Status Methods

Method Name	Meaning when "true" is returned
isDuplicateToken	The token was a duplicate of an earlier token.
isOldToken	The token's validity period has expired.
isUnseqToken	A later token has already been processed.
isGapToken	An expected per-message token was not received.

A "true" return value for any of the above methods indicates that the token exhibited the specified property. The application must determine the appropriate course of action for these supplementary values. They are not treated as errors by the GSS-API.

4.13. Names

A name is used to identify a person or entity. GSS-API authenticates the relationship between a name and the entity claiming the name.

Since different authentication mechanisms may employ different namespaces for identifying their principals, GSS-API's naming support is necessarily complex in multi-mechanism environments (or even in some single-mechanism environments where the underlying mechanism supports multiple namespaces).

Two distinct conceptual representations are defined for names:

- 1) A GSS-API form represented by implementations of the GSSName interface: A single GSSName object may contain multiple names from different namespaces, but all names should refer to the same entity. An example of such an internal name would be the name returned from a call to the getName method of the GSSCredential interface, when applied to a credential containing credential elements for multiple authentication mechanisms employing different namespaces. This GSSName object will contain a distinct name for the entity for each authentication mechanism.

For GSS-API implementations supporting multiple namespaces, GSSName implementations must contain sufficient information to determine the namespace to which each primitive name belongs.

- 2) Mechanism-specific contiguous byte array and string forms:
Different GSSName initialization methods are provided to handle both byte array and string formats and to accommodate various calling applications and name types. These formats are capable of containing only a single name (from a single namespace). Contiguous string names are always accompanied by an object identifier specifying the namespace to which the name belongs, and their format is dependent on the authentication mechanism that employs that name. The string name forms are assumed to be printable, and may therefore be used by GSS-API applications for communication with their users. The byte array name formats are assumed to be in non-printable formats (e.g., the byte array returned from the export method of the GSSName interface).

A GSSName object can be converted to a contiguous representation by using the toString method. This will guarantee that the name will be converted to a printable format. Different initialization methods in the GSSName interface are defined allowing support for multiple syntaxes for each supported namespace, and allowing users the freedom to choose a preferred name representation. The toString method should use an implementation-chosen printable syntax for each supported name type. To obtain the printable name type, getStringNameType method can be used.

There is no guarantee that calling the toString method on the GSSName interface will produce the same string form as the original imported string name. Furthermore, it is possible that the name was not even constructed from a string representation. The same applies to namespace identifiers, which may not necessarily survive unchanged after a journey through the internal name form. An example of this might be a mechanism that authenticates X.500 names, but provides an algorithmic mapping of Internet DNS names into X.500. That mechanism's implementation of GSSName might, when presented with a DNS name, generate an internal name that contained both the original DNS name and the equivalent X.500 name. Alternatively, it might only store the X.500 name. In the latter case, the toString method of GSSName would most likely generate a printable X.500 name, rather than the original DNS name.

The context acceptor can obtain a GSSName object representing the entity performing the context initiation (through the usage of getSrcName method). Since this name has been authenticated by a single mechanism, it contains only a single name (even if the internal name presented by the context initiator to the GSSContext

object had multiple components). Such names are termed internal-mechanism names (or MNs), and the names emitted by GSSContext interface in the `getSrcName` and `getTargName` are always of this type. Since some applications may require MNs without wanting to incur the overhead of an authentication operation, creation methods are provided that take not only the name buffer and name type, but also the mechanism oid for which this name should be created. When dealing with an existing GSSName object, the `canonicalize` method may be invoked to convert a general internal name into an MN.

GSSName objects can be compared using their `equal` method, which returns "true" if the two names being compared refer to the same entity. This is the preferred way to perform name comparisons instead of using the printable names that a given GSS-API implementation may support. Since GSS-API assumes that all primitive names contained within a given internal name refer to the same entity, `equal` can return "true" if the two names have at least one primitive name in common. If the implementation embodies knowledge of equivalence relationships between names taken from different namespaces, this knowledge may also allow successful comparisons of internal names containing no overlapping primitive elements. However, applications should note that to avoid surprising behavior, it is best to ensure that the names being compared are either both mechanism names for the same mechanism, or both internal names that are not mechanism names. This holds whether the `equals` method is used directly, or the `export` method is used to generate byte strings that are then compared byte-by-byte.

When used in large access control lists, the overhead of creating a GSSName object on each name and invoking the `equal` method on each name from the Access Control List (ACL) may be prohibitive. As an alternative way of supporting this case, GSS-API defines a special form of the contiguous byte array name, which may be compared directly (byte by byte). Contiguous names suitable for comparison are generated by the `export` method. Exported names may be re-imported by using the byte array constructor and specifying the `NT_EXPORT_NAME` as the name type object identifier. The resulting GSSName name will also be a MN.

The GSSName interface defines public static Oid objects representing the standard name types. Structurally, an exported name object consists of a header containing an OID identifying the mechanism that authenticated the name, and a trailer containing the name itself, where the syntax of the trailer is defined by the individual mechanism specification. Detailed description of the format is specified in the language-independent GSS-API specification [[RFC2743](#)].

Note that the results obtained by using the equals method will in general be different from those obtained by invoking canonicalize and export, and then comparing the byte array output. The first series of operation determines whether two (unauthenticated) names identify the same principal; the second whether a particular mechanism would authenticate them as the same principal. These two operations will in general give the same results only for MNs.

It is important to note that the above are guidelines as to how GSSName implementations should behave, and are not intended to be specific requirements of how name objects must be implemented. The mechanism designers are free to decide on the details of their implementations of the GSSName interface as long as the behavior satisfies the above guidelines.

4.14. Channel Bindings

GSS-API supports the use of user-specified tags to identify a given context to the peer application. These tags are intended to be used to identify the particular communications channel that carries the context. Channel bindings are communicated to the GSS-API using the ChannelBinding object. The application may use byte arrays to specify the application data to be used in the channel binding as well as using instances of the InetAddress. The InetAddress for the initiator and/or acceptor can be used within an instance of a ChannelBinding. ChannelBinding can be set for the GSSContext object using the setChannelBinding method before the first call to init or accept has been performed. Unless the setChannelBinding method has been used to set the ChannelBinding for a GSSContext object, "null" ChannelBinding will be assumed. InetAddress is currently the only address type defined within the Java platform and as such, it is the only one supported within the ChannelBinding class. Applications that use other types of addresses can include them as part of the application-specific data.

Conceptually, the GSS-API concatenates the initiator and acceptor address information, and the application-supplied byte array to form an octet-string. The mechanism calculates a Message Integrity Code (MIC) over this octet-string and binds the MIC to the context establishment token emitted by the init method of the GSSContext interface. The same bindings are set by the context acceptor for its GSSContext object and during processing of the accept method, a MIC is calculated in the same way. The calculated MIC is compared with that found in the token, and if the MICs differ, accept will throw a GSSException with the major code set to BAD_BINDINGS, and the context will not be established. Some mechanisms may include the actual channel binding data in the token (rather than just a MIC);

applications should therefore not use confidential data as channel-binding components.

Individual mechanisms may impose additional constraints on addresses that may appear in channel bindings. For example, a mechanism may verify that the initiator address field of the channel binding contains the correct network address of the host system. Portable applications should therefore ensure that they either provide correct information for the address fields, or omit the setting of the addressing information.

[4.15.](#) Optional Parameters

Whenever the application wishes to omit an optional parameter the "null" value shall be used. The detailed method descriptions indicate which parameters are optional. Method overloading has also been used as a technique to indicate default parameters.

[5.](#) Introduction to GSS-API Classes and Interfaces

This section presents a brief description of the classes and interfaces that constitute the GSS-API. The implementations of these are obtained from the CLASSPATH defined by the application. If Java GSS becomes part of the standard Java APIs, then these classes will be available by default on all systems as part of the JRE's system classes.

This section also shows the corresponding [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] functionality implemented by each of the classes. Detailed description of these classes and their methods is presented in [section 6](#)

[5.1.](#) GSSManager Class

This abstract class serves as a factory to instantiate implementations of the GSS-API interfaces and also provides methods to make queries about underlying security mechanisms.

A default implementation can be obtained using the static method `getInstance()`. Applications that desire to provide their own implementation of the GSSManager class can simply extend the abstract class themselves.

This class contains equivalents of the following [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] routines:

RFC 2743 Routine	Function	Section(s)
<code>gss_import_name</code>	Create an internal name from the supplied information.	6.1.5 - 6.1.8
<code>gss_acquire_cred</code>	Acquire credential for use.	6.1.9 - 6.1.11
<code>gss_import_sec_context</code>	Create a previously exported context.	6.1.14
<code>gss_indicate_mechs</code>	List the mechanisms supported by this GSS-API implementation.	6.1.2
<code>gss_inquire_mechs_for_name</code>	List the mechanisms supporting the specified name type.	6.1.4
<code>gss_inquire_names_for_mech</code>	List the name types supported by the specified mechanism.	6.1.3

[5.2.](#) GSSName Interface

GSS-API names are represented in the Java bindings through the GSSName interface. Different name formats and their definitions are identified with Universal Object Identifiers (oids). The format of the names can be derived based on the unique oid of each name type. The following GSS-API routines are provided by the GSSName interface:

RFC 2743 Routine	Function	Section(s)
<code>gss_display_name</code>	Convert internal name representation to text format.	6.2.6
<code>gss_compare_name</code>	Compare two internal names.	6.2.2, 6.2.3
<code>gss_release_name</code>	Release resources associated with the internal name.	N/A
<code>gss_canonicalize_name</code>	Convert an internal name to a mechanism name.	6.2.4
<code>gss_export_name</code>	Convert a mechanism name to export format.	6.2.5
<code>gss_duplicate_name</code>	Create a copy of the internal name.	N/A

The `gss_release_name` call is not provided as Java does its own garbage collection. The `gss_duplicate_name` call is also redundant; the `GSSName` interface has no mutator methods that can change the state of the object so it is safe for sharing across threads.

[5.3.](#) **GSSCredential Interface**

The `GSSCredential` interface is responsible for the encapsulation of GSS-API credentials. Credentials identify a single entity and provide the necessary cryptographic information to enable the creation of a context on behalf of that entity. A single credential may contain multiple mechanism-specific credentials, each referred to as a credential element. The `GSSCredential` interface provides the functionality of the following GSS-API routines:

RFC 2743 Routine	Function	Section(s)
gss_add_cred	Constructs credentials incrementally.	6.3.11
gss_inquire_cred	Obtain information about credential.	6.3.3 - 6.3.10
gss_inquire_cred_by_mech	Obtain per-mechanism information about a credential.	6.3.4 - 6.3.9
gss_release_cred	Dispose of credentials after use.	6.3.2

[5.4.](#) GSSContext Interface

This interface encapsulates the functionality of context-level calls required for security context establishment and management between peers as well as the per-message services offered to applications. A context is established between a pair of peers and allows the usage of security services on a per-message basis on application data. It is created over a single security mechanism. The GSSContext interface provides the functionality of the following GSS-API routines:

RFC 2743 Routine	Function	Section(s)
<code>gss_init_sec_context</code>	Initiate the creation of a security context with a peer.	6.4.2
<code>gss_accept_sec_context</code>	Accept a security context initiated by a peer.	6.4.3
<code>gss_delete_sec_context</code>	Destroy a security context.	6.4.5
<code>gss_context_time</code>	Obtain remaining context time.	6.4.30
<code>gss_inquire_context</code>	Obtain context characteristics.	6.4.21 - 6.4.35
<code>gss_wrap_size_limit</code>	Determine token-size limit for <code>gss_wrap</code> .	6.4.6
<code>gss_export_sec_context</code>	Transfer security context to another process.	6.4.11
<code>gss_get_mic</code>	Calculate a cryptographic Message Integrity Code (MIC) for a message.	6.4.9
<code>gss_verify_mic</code>	Verify integrity on a received message.	6.4.10
<code>gss_wrap</code>	Attach a MIC to a message and optionally encrypt the message content.	6.4.7
<code>gss_unwrap</code>	Obtain a previously wrapped application message verifying its integrity and optionally decrypting it.	6.4.8

The functionality offered by the `gss_process_context_token` routine has not been included in the Java bindings specification. The corresponding functionality of `gss_delete_sec_context` has also been modified to not return any peer tokens. This has been proposed in accordance to the recommendations stated in [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)]. `GSSContext` does offer the functionality of destroying the locally stored context information.

5.5. MessageProp Class

This helper class is used in the per-message operations on the context. An instance of this class is created by the application and then passed into the per-message calls. In some cases, the application conveys information to the GSS-API implementation through this object and in other cases the GSS-API returns information to the application by setting it in this object. See the description of the per-message operations wrap, unwrap, getMIC, and verifyMIC in the GSSContext interfaces for details.

5.6. GSSException Class

Exceptions are used in the Java bindings to signal fatal errors to the calling applications. This replaces the major and minor codes used in the C-bindings specification as a method of signaling failures. The GSSException class handles both minor and major codes, as well as their translation into textual representation. All GSS-API methods are declared as throwing this exception.

RFC 2743 Routine	Function	Section
gss_display_status	Retrieve textual representation of error codes.	6.8.5, 6.8.6, 6.8.9, 6.8.10

5.7. Oid Class

This utility class is used to represent Universal Object Identifiers and their associated operations. GSS-API uses object identifiers to distinguish between security mechanisms and name types. This class, aside from being used whenever an object identifier is needed, implements the following GSS-API functionality:

RFC 2743 Routine	Function	Section
gss_test_oid_set_member	Determine if the specified oid is part of a set of oids.	6.7.5

5.8. ChannelBinding Class

An instance of this class is used to specify channel binding information to the GSSContext object before the start of a security context establishment. The application may use a byte array to

specify application data to be used in the channel binding as well as to use instances of the `InetAddress`. `InetAddress` is currently the only address type defined within the Java platform and as such, it is the only one supported within the `ChannelBinding` class. Applications that use other types of addresses can include them as part of the application data.

6. Detailed GSS-API Class Description

This section lists a detailed description of all the public methods that each of the GSS-API classes and interfaces must provide.

6.1. `public abstract class GSSManager`

The `GSSManager` class is an abstract class that serves as a factory for three GSS interfaces: `GSSName`, `GSSCredential`, and `GSSContext`. It also provides methods for applications to determine what mechanisms are available from the GSS implementation and what name types these mechanisms support. An instance of the default `GSSManager` subclass may be obtained through the static method `getInstance()`, but applications are free to instantiate other subclasses of `GSSManager`.

All but one method in this class are declared abstract. This means that subclasses have to provide the complete implementation for those methods. The only exception to this is the static method `getInstance()`, which will have platform-specific code to return an instance of the default subclass.

Platform providers of GSS are required not to add any constructors to this class, private, public, or protected. This will ensure that all subclasses invoke only the default constructor provided to the base class by the compiler.

A subclass extending the `GSSManager` abstract class may be implemented as a modular provider-based layer that utilizes some well-known service provider specification. The `GSSManager` API provides the application with methods to set provider preferences on such an implementation. These methods also allow the implementation to throw a well-defined exception in case provider-based configuration is not supported. Applications that expect to be portable should be aware of this and recover cleanly by catching the exception.

It is envisioned that there will be three most common ways in which providers will be used:

- 1) The application does not care about what provider is used (the default case).

- 2) The application wants a particular provider to be used preferentially, either for a particular mechanism or all the time, irrespective of the mechanism.
- 3) The application wants to use the locally configured providers as far as possible, but if support is missing for one or more mechanisms, then it wants to fall back on its own provider.

The GSSManager class has two methods that enable these modes of usage: `addProviderAtFront()` and `addProviderAtEnd()`. These methods have the effect of creating an ordered list of <provider, oid> pairs where each pair indicates a preference of provider for a given oid.

The use of these methods does not require any knowledge of whatever service provider specification the GSSManager subclass follows. It is hoped that these methods will serve the needs of most applications. Additional methods may be added to an extended GSSManager that could be part of a service provider specification that is standardized later.

When neither of the methods is called, the implementation should choose a default provider for each mechanism it supports.

[6.1.1.](#) getInstance

```
public static GSSManager getInstance()
```

Returns the default GSSManager implementation.

[6.1.2.](#) getMechs

```
public abstract Oid[] getMechs()
```

Returns an array of Oid objects indicating the mechanisms available to GSS-API callers. A "null" value is returned when no mechanism are available (an example of this would be when mechanism are dynamically configured, and currently no mechanisms are installed).

[6.1.3.](#) getNamesForMech

```
public abstract Oid[] getNamesForMech(Oid mech)
                                throws GSSException
```

Returns name type Oid's supported by the specified mechanism.

Parameters:

mech The Oid object for the mechanism to query.

[6.1.4.](#) getMechsForName

```
public abstract Oid[] getMechsForName(Oid nameType)
```

Returns an array of Oid objects corresponding to the mechanisms that support the specific name type. "null" is returned when no mechanisms are found to support the specified name type.

Parameters:

nameType The Oid object for the name type.

[6.1.5.](#) createName

```
public abstract GSSName createName(String nameStr, Oid nameType)
    throws GSSException
```

Factory method to convert a contiguous string name from the specified namespace to a GSSName object. In general, the GSSName object created will not be an MN; two examples that are exceptions to this are when the namespace type parameter indicates NT_EXPORT_NAME or when the GSS-API implementation is not multi-mechanism.

Parameters:

nameStr The string representing a printable form of the name to create.

nameType The Oid specifying the namespace of the printable name is supplied. Note that nameType serves to describe and qualify the interpretation of the input nameStr, it does not necessarily imply a type for the output GSSName implementation. The "null" value can be used to specify that a mechanism-specific default printable syntax should be assumed by each mechanism that examines nameStr.

[6.1.6.](#) createName

```
public abstract GSSName createName(byte[] name, Oid nameType)
    throws GSSException
```

Factory method to convert a contiguous byte array containing a name from the specified namespace to a GSSName object. In general, the GSSName object created will not be an MN; two examples that are exceptions to this are when the namespace type parameter indicates

NT_EXPORT_NAME or when the GSS-API implementation is not multi-mechanism.

Parameters:

name	The byte array containing the name to create.
nameType	The Oid specifying the namespace of the name supplied in the byte array. Note that nameType serves to describe and qualify the interpretation of the input name byte array; it does not necessarily imply a type for the output GSSName implementation. The "null" value can be used to specify that a mechanism-specific default syntax should be assumed by each mechanism that examines the byte array.

[6.1.7.](#) createName

```
public abstract GSSName createName(String nameStr, Oid nameType,  
                                   Oid mech) throws GSSException
```

Factory method to convert a contiguous string name from the specified namespace to a GSSName object that is a mechanism name (MN). In other words, this method is a utility that does the equivalent of two steps: the createName described in [section 6.1.5](#), and then also the GSSName.canonicalize() described in [section 6.2.4](#).

Parameters:

nameStr	The string representing a printable form of the name to create.
nameType	The Oid specifying the namespace of the printable name supplied. Note that nameType serves to describe and qualify the interpretation of the input nameStr; it does not necessarily imply a type for the output GSSName implementation. The "null" value can be used to specify that a mechanism-specific default printable syntax should be assumed when the mechanism examines nameStr.
mech	Oid specifying the mechanism for which this name should be created.

[6.1.8.](#) createName

```
public abstract GSSName createName(byte[] name, Oid nameType,  
                                   Oid mech) throws GSSEException
```

Factory method to convert a contiguous byte array containing a name from the specified namespace to a GSSName object that is an MN. In other words, this method is a utility that does the equivalent of two steps: the createName described in [section 6.1.6](#), and then also the GSSName.canonicalize() described in [section 6.2.4](#).

Parameters:

name	The byte array representing the name to create.
nameType	The Oid specifying the namespace of the name supplied in the byte array. Note that nameType serves to describe and qualify the interpretation of the input name byte array, it does not necessarily imply a type for the output GSSName implementation. The "null" value can be used to specify that a mechanism-specific default syntax should be assumed by each mechanism that examines the byte array.
mech	Oid specifying the mechanism for which this name should be created.

[6.1.9.](#) createCredential

```
public abstract GSSCredential createCredential(int usage)  
                                   throws GSSEException
```

Factory method for acquiring default credentials. This will cause the GSS-API to use system-specific defaults for the set of mechanisms, name, and a DEFAULT lifetime.

Parameters:

usage	The intended usage for this credential object. The value of this parameter must be one of: GSSCredential.INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT(0), GSSCredential.INITIATE_ONLY(1), or GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY(2)
-------	---

6.1.10. createCredential

```
public abstract GSSCredential createCredential(GSSName aName,  
        int lifetime, Oid mech, int usage)  
        throws GSSEException
```

Factory method for acquiring a single mechanism credential.

Parameters:

aName Name of the principal for whom this credential is to be acquired. Use "null" to specify the default principal.

lifetime The number of seconds that credentials should remain valid. Use GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME to request that the credentials have the maximum permitted lifetime. Use GSSCredential.DEFAULT_LIFETIME to request default credential lifetime.

mech The oid of the desired mechanism. Use "(Oid) null" to request the default mechanism(s).

usage The intended usage for this credential object. The value of this parameter must be one of:

```
GSSCredential.INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT(0),  
GSSCredential.INITIATE_ONLY(1), or  
GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY(2)
```

6.1.11. createCredential

```
public abstract GSSCredential createCredential(GSSName aName,  
        int lifetime, Oid[] mechs, int usage)  
        throws GSSEException
```

Factory method for acquiring credentials over a set of mechanisms. Acquires credentials for each of the mechanisms specified in the array called mechs. To determine the list of mechanisms' for which the acquisition of credentials succeeded, the caller should use the GSSCredential.getMechs() method.

Parameters:

aName Name of the principal for whom this credential is to be acquired. Use "null" to specify the default principal.

lifetime	The number of seconds that credentials should remain valid. Use <code>GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME</code> to request that the credentials have the maximum permitted lifetime. Use <code>GSSCredential.DEFAULT_LIFETIME</code> to request default credential lifetime.
mechs	The array of mechanisms over which the credential is to be acquired. Use <code>"(Oid[]) null"</code> for requesting a system-specific default set of mechanisms.
usage	The intended usage for this credential object. The value of this parameter must be one of: <code>GSSCredential.INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT(0)</code> , <code>GSSCredential.INITIATE_ONLY(1)</code> , or <code>GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY(2)</code>

[6.1.12](#). **createContext**

```
public abstract GSSContext createContext(GSSName peer, Oid mech,  
                                         GSSCredential myCred, int lifetime)  
    throws GSSException
```

Factory method for creating a context on the initiator's side. Context flags may be modified through the mutator methods prior to calling `GSSContext.initSecContext()`.

Parameters:

peer	Name of the target peer.
mech	Oid of the desired mechanism. Use <code>"(Oid) null"</code> to request the default mechanism.
myCred	Credentials of the initiator. Use <code>"null"</code> to act as a default initiator principal.
lifetime	The request lifetime, in seconds, for the context. Use <code>GSSContext.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME</code> and <code>GSSContext.DEFAULT_LIFETIME</code> to request indefinite or default context lifetime.

[6.1.13.](#) createContext

```
public abstract GSSContext createContext(GSSCredential myCred)
    throws GSSException
```

Factory method for creating a context on the acceptor' side. The context's properties will be determined from the input token supplied to the accept method.

Parameters:

myCred Credentials for the acceptor. Use "null" to act as a default acceptor principal.

[6.1.14.](#) createContext

```
public abstract GSSContext createContext(byte[] interProcessToken)
    throws GSSException
```

Factory method for importing a previously exported context. The context properties will be determined from the input token and can't be modified through the set methods.

Parameters:

interProcessToken The token previously emitted from the export method.

[6.1.15.](#) addProviderAtFront

```
public abstract void addProviderAtFront(Provider p, Oid mech)
    throws GSSException
```

This method is used to indicate to the GSSManager that the application would like a particular provider to be used ahead of all others when support is desired for the given mechanism. When a value of "null" is used instead of an Oid for the mechanism, the GSSManager must use the indicated provider ahead of all others no matter what the mechanism is. Only when the indicated provider does not support the needed mechanism should the GSSManager move on to a different provider.

Calling this method repeatedly preserves the older settings but lowers them in preference thus forming an ordered list of provider and Oid pairs that grows at the top.

Calling addProviderAtFront with a null Oid will remove all previous preferences that were set for this provider in the GSSManager

instance. Calling `addProviderAtFront` with a non-null `Oid` will remove any previous preference that was set using this mechanism and this provider together.

If the `GSSManager` implementation does not support an SPI with a pluggable provider architecture, it should throw a `GSSEException` with the status code `GSSEException.UNAVAILABLE` to indicate that the operation is unavailable.

Parameters:

<code>p</code>	The provider instance that should be used whenever support is needed for <code>mech</code> .
<code>mech</code>	The mechanism for which the provider is being set.

6.1.15.1. addProviderAtFront Example Code

Suppose an application desired that the provider A always be checked first when any mechanism is needed, it would call:

```
<CODE BEGINS>
GSSManager mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();
// mgr may at this point have its own pre-configured list
// of provider preferences. The following will prepend to
// any such list:

mgr.addProviderAtFront(A, null);
<CODE ENDS>
```

Now if it also desired that the mechanism of `Oid m1` always be obtained from the provider B before the previously set A was checked, it would call:

```
<CODE BEGINS>
mgr.addProviderAtFront(B, m1);
<CODE ENDS>
```

The `GSSManager` would then first check with B if `m1` was needed. In case B did not provide support for `m1`, the `GSSManager` would continue on to check with A. If any mechanism `m2` is needed where `m2` is different from `m1`, then the `GSSManager` would skip B and check with A directly.

Suppose, at a later time, the following call is made to the same `GSSManager` instance:

<CODE BEGINS>

```
mgr.addProviderAtFront(B, null)
```

<CODE ENDS>

then the previous setting with the pair (B, m1) is subsumed by this and should be removed. Effectively, the list of preferences now becomes {(B, null), (A, null), ... //followed by the pre-configured list}.

Please note, however, that the following call:

<CODE BEGINS>

```
mgr.addProviderAtFront(A, m3)
```

<CODE ENDS>

does not subsume the previous setting of (A, null), and the list will effectively become {(A, m3), (B, null), (A, null), ...}

6.1.16. addProviderAtEnd

```
public abstract void addProviderAtEnd(Provider p, Oid mech)
                        throws GSSEException
```

This method is used to indicate to the GSSManager that the application would like a particular provider to be used if no other provider can be found that supports the given mechanism. When a value of "null" is used instead of an Oid for the mechanism, the GSSManager must use the indicated provider for any mechanism.

Calling this method repeatedly preserves the older settings, but raises them above newer ones in preference thus forming an ordered list of providers and Oid pairs that grows at the bottom. Thus, the older provider settings will be utilized first before this one is.

If there are any previously existing preferences that conflict with the preference being set here, then the GSSManager should ignore this request.

If the GSSManager implementation does not support an SPI with a pluggable provider architecture, it should throw a GSSEException with the status code GSSEException.UNAVAILABLE to indicate that the operation is unavailable.

Parameters:

p	The provider instance that should be used whenever support is needed for mech.
---	--

mech The mechanism for which the provider is being set.

6.1.16.1. addProviderAtEnd Example Code

Suppose an application desired that when a mechanism of Oid m1 is needed, the system default providers always be checked first, and only when they do not support m1 should a provider A be checked. It would then make the call:

```
<CODE BEGINS>
GSSManager mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();

mgr.addProviderAtEnd(A, m1);
<CODE ENDS>
```

Now, if it also desired that for all mechanisms the provider B be checked after all configured providers have been checked, it would then call:

```
<CODE BEGINS>
mgr.addProviderAtEnd(B, null);
<CODE ENDS>
```

Effectively, the list of preferences now becomes {..., (A, m1), (B, null)}.

Suppose, at a later time, the following call is made to the same GSSManager instance:

```
<CODE BEGINS>
mgr.addProviderAtEnd(B, m2)
<CODE ENDS>
```

then the previous setting with the pair (B, null) subsumes this; therefore, this request should be ignored. The same would happen if a request is made for the already existing pairs of (A, m1) or (B, null).

Please note, however, that the following call:

```
<CODE BEGINS>
mgr.addProviderAtEnd(A, null)
<CODE ENDS>
```

is not subsumed by the previous setting of (A, m1) and the list will effectively become {..., (A, m1), (B, null), (A, null)}.

6.1.17. Example Code

```
<CODE BEGINS>
GSSManager mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();

// What mechs are available to us?

Oid[] supportedMechs = mgr.getMechs();

// Set a preference for the provider to be used when support
// is needed for the mechanisms:
// "1.2.840.113554.1.2.2" and "1.3.6.1.5.5.1.1".

Oid krb = new Oid("1.2.840.113554.1.2.2");
Oid spkm1 = new Oid("1.3.6.1.5.5.1.1");

Provider p = (Provider) (new com.foo.security.Provider());

mgr.addProviderAtFront(p, krb);
mgr.addProviderAtFront(p, spkm1);

// What name types does this spkm implementation support?
Oid[] nameTypes = mgr.getNamesForMech(spkm1);
<CODE ENDS>
```

6.2. public interface GSSName

This interface encapsulates a single GSS-API principal entity. Different name formats and their definitions are identified with Universal Object Identifiers (Oids). The format of the names can be derived based on the unique oid of its namespace type.

6.2.1. Static Constants

```
public static final Oid NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE
```

Oid indicating a host-based service name form. It is used to represent services associated with host computers. This name form is constructed using two elements, "service" and "hostname", as follows:

```
service@hostname
```

Values for the "service" element are registered with the IANA. It represents the following value: { iso(1) member-body(2) Unites States(840) mit(113554) infosys(1) gssapi(2) generic(1) service_name(4) }

```
public static final Oid NT_USER_NAME
```


Name type to indicate a named user on a local system. It represents the following value: { iso(1) member-body(2) United States(840) mit(113554) infosys(1) gssapi(2) generic(1) user_name(1) }

```
public static final Oid NT_MACHINE_UID_NAME
```

Name type to indicate a numeric user identifier corresponding to a user on a local system (e.g., Uid). It represents the following value: { iso(1) member-body(2) United States(840) mit(113554) infosys(1) gssapi(2) generic(1) machine_uid_name(2) }

```
public static final Oid NT_STRING_UID_NAME
```

Name type to indicate a string of digits representing the numeric user identifier of a user on a local system. It represents the following value: { iso(1) member-body(2) United States(840) mit(113554) infosys(1) gssapi(2) generic(1) string_uid_name(3) }

```
public static final Oid NT_ANONYMOUS
```

Name type for representing an anonymous entity. It represents the following value: { iso(1), org(3), dod(6), internet(1), security(5), nametypes(6), gss-anonymous-name(3) }

```
public static final Oid NT_EXPORT_NAME
```

Name type used to indicate an exported name produced by the export method. It represents the following value: { iso(1), org(3), dod(6), internet(1), security(5), nametypes(6), gss-api-exported-name(4) }

6.2.2. equals

```
public boolean equals(GSSName another) throws GSSEException
```

Compares two GSSName objects to determine whether they refer to the same entity. This method may throw a GSSEException when the names cannot be compared. If either of the names represents an anonymous entity, the method will return "false".

Parameters:

another GSSName object with which to compare.

6.2.3. equals

```
public boolean equals(Object another)
```


A variation of the equals method, described in [section 6.2.2](#), that is provided to override the `Object.equals()` method that the implementing class will inherit. The behavior is exactly the same as that in [section 6.2.2](#) except that no `GSSEException` is thrown; instead, "false" will be returned in the situation where an error occurs. (Note that the Java language specification requires that two objects that are equal according to the `equals(Object)` method must return the same integer result when the `hashCode()` method is called on them.)

Parameters:

another `GSSName` object with which to compare.

[6.2.4.](#) canonicalize

`public GSSName canonicalize(Oid mech) throws GSSEException`

Creates a mechanism name (MN) from an arbitrary internal name. This is equivalent to using the factory methods described in sections 6.1.7 or 6.1.8 that take the mechanism name as one of their parameters.

Parameters:

mech The oid for the mechanism for which the canonical form of the name is requested.

[6.2.5.](#) export

`public byte[] export() throws GSSEException`

Returns a canonical contiguous byte representation of a mechanism name (MN), suitable for direct, byte-by-byte comparison by authorization functions. If the name is not an MN, implementations may throw a `GSSEException` with the `NAME_NOT_MN` status code. If an implementation chooses not to throw an exception, it should use some system-specific default mechanism to canonicalize the name and then export it. The format of the header of the output buffer is specified in [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)].

[6.2.6.](#) toString

`public String toString()`

Returns a textual representation of the `GSSName` object. To retrieve the printed name format, which determines the syntax of the returned string, the `getStringNameType` method can be used.

[6.2.7.](#) getStringNameType

```
public Oid getStringNameType() throws GSSEException
```

Returns the oid representing the type of name returned through the toString method. Using this oid, the syntax of the printable name can be determined.

[6.2.8.](#) isAnonymous

```
public boolean isAnonymous()
```

Tests if this name object represents an anonymous entity. Returns "true" if this is an anonymous name.

[6.2.9.](#) isMN

```
public boolean isMN()
```

Tests if this name object contains only one mechanism element and is thus a mechanism name as defined by [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)].

[6.2.10.](#) Example Code

Included below are code examples utilizing the GSSName interface. The code below creates a GSSName, converts it to a mechanism name (MN), performs a comparison, obtains a printable representation of the name, exports it and then re-imports to obtain a new GSSName.


```
<CODE BEGINS>
GSSManager mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();

// create a host-based service name
GSSName name = mgr.createName("service@host",
                               GSSName.NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE);

Oid krb5 = new Oid("1.2.840.113554.1.2.2");

GSSName mechName = name.canonicalize(krb5);

// the above two steps are equivalent to the following
GSSName mechName = mgr.createName("service@host",
                                   GSSName.NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE, krb5);

// perform name comparison
if (name.equals(mechName))
    print("Names are equals.");

// obtain textual representation of name and its printable
// name type
print(mechName.toString() +
      mechName.getStringNameType().toString());

// export the name
byte[] exportName = mechName.export();

// create a new name object from the exported buffer
GSSName newName = mgr.createName(exportName,
                                   GSSName.NT_EXPORT_NAME);
<CODE ENDS>
```

6.3. public interface GSSCredential implements Cloneable

This interface encapsulates the GSS-API credentials for an entity. A credential contains all the necessary cryptographic information to enable the creation of a context on behalf of the entity that it represents. It may contain multiple, distinct, mechanism-specific credential elements, each containing information for a specific security mechanism, but all referring to the same entity.

A credential may be used to perform context initiation, acceptance, or both.

GSS-API implementations must impose a local access-control policy on callers to prevent unauthorized callers from acquiring credentials to which they are not entitled. GSS-API credential creation is not intended to provide a "login to the network" function, as such a

function would involve the creation of new credentials rather than merely acquiring a handle to existing credentials. Such functions, if required, should be defined in implementation-specific extensions to the API.

If credential acquisition is time-consuming for a mechanism, the mechanism may choose to delay the actual acquisition until the credential is required (e.g., by GSSContext). Such mechanism-specific implementation decisions should be invisible to the calling application; thus, the query methods immediately following the creation of a credential object must return valid credential data, and may therefore incur the overhead of a deferred credential acquisition.

Applications will create a credential object passing the desired parameters. The application can then use the query methods to obtain specific information about the instantiated credential object (equivalent to the `gss_inquire` routines). When the credential is no longer needed, the application should call the `dispose` (equivalent to `gss_release_cred`) method to release any resources held by the credential object and to destroy any cryptographically sensitive information.

Classes implementing this interface also implement the `Cloneable` interface. This indicates that the class will support the `clone()` method that will allow the creation of duplicate credentials. This is useful when called just before the `add()` call to retain a copy of the original credential.

6.3.1. Static Constants

```
public static final int INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT
```

Credential usage flag requesting that it be able to be used for both context initiation and acceptance. The value of this constant is 0.

```
public static final int INITIATE_ONLY
```

Credential usage flag requesting that it be able to be used for context initiation only. The value of this constant is 1.

```
public static final int ACCEPT_ONLY
```

Credential usage flag requesting that it be able to be used for context acceptance only. The value of this constant is 2.

```
public static final int DEFAULT_LIFETIME
```


A lifetime constant representing the default credential lifetime. The value of this constant is 0.

```
public static final int INDEFINITE_LIFETIME
```

A lifetime constant representing indefinite credential lifetime. The value of this constant is the maximum integer value in Java - Integer.MAX_VALUE.

[6.3.2.](#) dispose

```
public void dispose() throws GSSEException
```

Releases any sensitive information that the GSSCredential object may be containing. Applications should call this method as soon as the credential is no longer needed to minimize the time any sensitive information is maintained.

[6.3.3.](#) getName

```
public GSSName getName() throws GSSEException
```

Retrieves the name of the entity that the credential asserts.

[6.3.4.](#) getName

```
public GSSName getName(Ord mechOID) throws GSSEException
```

Retrieves a mechanism name of the entity that the credential asserts. Equivalent to calling canonicalize() on the name returned by [section 6.3.3.](#)

Parameters:

mechOID	The mechanism for which information should be returned.
---------	---

[6.3.5.](#) getRemainingLifetime

```
public int getRemainingLifetime() throws GSSEException
```

Returns the remaining lifetime in seconds for a credential. The remaining lifetime is the minimum lifetime for any of the underlying credential mechanisms. A return value of GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME indicates that the credential does not expire. A return value of 0 indicates that the credential is already expired.

6.3.6. getRemainingInitLifetime

`public int getRemainingInitLifetime(Oid mech) throws GSSEException`

Returns the remaining lifetime in seconds for the credential to remain capable of initiating security contexts under the specified mechanism. A return value of `GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME` indicates that the credential does not expire for context initiation. A return value of 0 indicates that the credential is already expired.

Parameters:

<code>mechOID</code>	The mechanism for which information should be returned.
----------------------	---

6.3.7. getRemainingAcceptLifetime

`public int getRemainingAcceptLifetime(Oid mech) throws GSSEException`

Returns the remaining lifetime in seconds for the credential to remain capable of accepting security contexts under the specified mechanism. A return value of `GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME` indicates that the credential does not expire for context acceptance. A return value of 0 indicates that the credential is already expired.

Parameters:

<code>mechOID</code>	The mechanism for which information should be returned.
----------------------	---

6.3.8. getUsage

`public int getUsage() throws GSSEException`

Returns the credential usage flag as a union over all mechanisms. The return value will be one of `GSSCredential.INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT(0)`, `GSSCredential.INITIATE_ONLY(1)`, or `GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY(2)`.

Specifically, `GSSCredential.INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT(0)` should be returned as long as there exists one credential element allowing context initiation and one credential element allowing context acceptance. These two credential elements are not necessarily the same one, nor do they need to use the same mechanism(s).

6.3.9. getUsage

```
public int getUsage(Oid mechOID) throws GSSEException
```

Returns the credential usage flag for the specified mechanism only. The return value will be one of `GSSCredential.INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT(0)`, `GSSCredential.INITIATE_ONLY(1)`, or `GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY(2)`.

Parameters:

<code>mechOID</code>	The mechanism for which information should be returned.
----------------------	---

6.3.10. getMechs

```
public Oid[] getMechs() throws GSSEException
```

Returns an array of mechanisms supported by this credential.

6.3.11. add

```
public void add(GSSName aName, int initLifetime, int acceptLifetime,  
               Oid mech, int usage) throws GSSEException
```

Adds a mechanism-specific credential-element to an existing credential. This method allows the construction of credentials one mechanism at a time.

This routine is envisioned to be used mainly by context acceptors during the creation of acceptance credentials, which are to be used with a variety of clients using different security mechanisms.

This routine adds the new credential element "in-place". To add the element in a new credential, first call `clone()` to obtain a copy of this credential, then call its `add()` method.

Parameters:

<code>aName</code>	Name of the principal for whom this credential is to be acquired. Use "null" to specify the default principal.
--------------------	--

<code>initLifetime</code>	The number of seconds that credentials should remain valid for initiating of security contexts. Use <code>GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME</code> to request that the credentials have the maximum permitted lifetime. Use <code>GSSCredential.DEFAULT_LIFETIME</code> to request default credential lifetime.
---------------------------	---

acceptLifetime	<p>The number of seconds that credentials should remain valid for accepting of security contexts.</p> <p>Use <code>GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME</code> to request that the credentials have the maximum permitted lifetime. Use <code>GSSCredential.DEFAULT_LIFETIME</code> to request default credential lifetime.</p>
mech	<p>The mechanisms over which the credential is to be acquired.</p>
usage	<p>The intended usage for this credential object. The value of this parameter must be one of:</p> <p><code>GSSCredential.INITIATE_AND_ACCEPT(0)</code>, <code>GSSCredential.INITIATE_ONLY(1)</code>, or <code>GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY(2)</code></p>

[6.3.12.](#) equals

```
public boolean equals(Object another)
```

Tests if this `GSSCredential` refers to the same entity as the supplied object. The two credentials must be acquired over the same mechanisms and must refer to the same principal. Returns "true" if the two `GSSCredentials` refer to the same entity; "false" otherwise. (Note that the Java language specification [[JLS](#)] requires that two objects that are equal according to the `equals(Object)` method must return the same integer result when the `hashCode()` method is called on them.)

Parameters:

another Another `GSSCredential` object for comparison.

[6.3.13.](#) Example Code

This example code demonstrates the creation of a `GSSCredential` implementation for a specific entity, querying of its fields, and its release when it is no longer needed.


```
<CODE BEGINS>
GSSManager mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();

// start by creating a name object for the entity
GSSName name = mgr.createName("userName", GSSName.NT_USER_NAME);

// now acquire credentials for the entity
GSSCredential cred = mgr.createCredential(name,
                                           GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY);

// display credential information - name, remaining lifetime,
// and the mechanisms it has been acquired over
print(cred.getName().toString());
print(cred.getRemainingLifetime());

Oid[] mechs = cred.getMechs();
if (mechs != null) {
    for (int i = 0; i < mechs.length; i++)
        print(mechs[i].toString());
}
// release system resources held by the credential
cred.dispose();
<CODE ENDS>
```

6.4. public interface GSSContext

This interface encapsulates the GSS-API security context and provides the security services (wrap, unwrap, getMIC, verifyMIC) that are available over the context. Security contexts are established between peers using locally acquired credentials. Multiple contexts may exist simultaneously between a pair of peers, using the same or different set of credentials. GSS-API functions in a manner independent of the underlying transport protocol and depends on its calling application to transport its tokens between peers.

Before the context establishment phase is initiated, the context initiator may request specific characteristics desired of the established context. These can be set using the set methods. After the context is established, the caller can check the actual characteristic and services offered by the context using the query methods.

The context establishment phase begins with the first call to the init method by the context initiator. During this phase, the initSecContext and acceptSecContext methods will produce GSS-API authentication tokens, which the calling application needs to send to its peer. If an error occurs at any point, an exception will get thrown and the code will start executing in a catch block where the

exception may contain an output token that should be sent to the peer for debugging or informational purpose. If not, the normal flow of code continues and the application can make a call to the `isEstablished()` method. If this method returns "false" it indicates that a token is needed from its peer in order to continue the context establishment phase. A return value of "true" signals that the local end of the context is established. This may still require that a token be sent to the peer, if one is produced by GSS-API. During the context establishment phase, the `isProtReady()` method may be called to determine if the context can be used for the per-message operations. This allows applications to use per-message operations on contexts that aren't fully established.

After the context has been established or the `isProtReady()` method returns "true", the query routines can be invoked to determine the actual characteristics and services of the established context. The application can also start using the per-message methods of `wrap` and `getMIC` to obtain cryptographic operations on application supplied data.

When the context is no longer needed, the application should call `dispose` to release any system resources the context may be using.

6.4.1. Static Constants

```
public static final int DEFAULT_LIFETIME
```

A lifetime constant representing the default context lifetime. The value of this constant is 0.

```
public static final int INDEFINITE_LIFETIME
```

A lifetime constant representing indefinite context lifetime. The value of this constant is the maximum integer value in Java - `Integer.MAX_VALUE`.

6.4.2. `initSecContext`

```
public byte[] initSecContext(byte[] inputBuf, int offset, int len)
    throws GSSException
```

Called by the context initiator to start the context creation process. This method may return an output token that the application will need to send to the peer for processing by the accept call. The application can call `isEstablished()` to determine if the context establishment phase is complete for this peer. A return value of "false" from `isEstablished()` indicates that more tokens are expected to be supplied to the `initSecContext()` method. Note that it is

possible that the `initSecContext()` method will return a token for the peer and `isEstablished()` will return "true" also. This indicates that the token needs to be sent to the peer, but the local end of the context is now fully established.

Upon completion of the context establishment, the available context options may be queried through the get methods.

A `GSSEException` will be thrown if the call fails. Users should call its `getOutputToken()` method to find out if there is a token that can be sent to the acceptor to communicate the reason for the error.

Parameters:

<code>inputBuf</code>	Token generated by the peer. This parameter is ignored on the first call.
<code>offset</code>	The offset within the <code>inputBuf</code> where the token begins.
<code>len</code>	The length of the token within the <code>inputBuf</code> (starting at the offset).

[6.4.3.](#) `acceptSecContext`

```
public byte[] acceptSecContext(byte[] inTok, int offset, int len)
    throws GSSEException
```

Called by the context acceptor upon receiving a token from the peer.

This method may return an output token that the application will need to send to the peer for further processing by the `init` call.

The "null" return value indicates that no token needs to be sent to the peer. The application can call `isEstablished()` to determine if the context establishment phase is complete for this peer. A return value of "false" from `isEstablished()` indicates that more tokens are expected to be supplied to this method.

Note that it is possible that `acceptSecContext()` will return a token for the peer and `isEstablished()` will return "true" also. This indicates that the token needs to be sent to the peer, but the local end of the context is now fully established.

Upon completion of the context establishment, the available context options may be queried through the get methods.

A GSSEException will be thrown if the call fails. Users should call its `getOutputToken()` method to find out if there is a token that can be sent to the initiator to communicate the reason for the error.

Parameters:

<code>inTok</code>	Token generated by the peer.
<code>offset</code>	The offset within the <code>inTok</code> where the token begins.
<code>len</code>	The length of the token within the <code>inTok</code> (starting at the <code>offset</code>).

[6.4.4.](#) `isEstablished`

```
public boolean isEstablished()
```

Used during context establishment to determine the state of the context. Returns "true" if this is a fully established context on the caller's side and no more tokens are needed from the peer. Should be called after a call to `initSecContext()` or `acceptSecContext()` when no GSSEException is thrown.

[6.4.5.](#) `dispose`

```
public void dispose() throws GSSEException
```

Releases any system resources and cryptographic information stored in the context object. This will invalidate the context.

[6.4.6.](#) `getWrapSizeLimit`

```
public int getWrapSizeLimit(int qop, boolean confReq,  
                             int maxTokenSize) throws GSSEException
```

Returns the maximum message size that, if presented to the `wrap` method with the same `confReq` and `qop` parameters, will result in an output token containing no more than the `maxTokenSize` bytes.

This call is intended for use by applications that communicate over protocols that impose a maximum message size. It enables the application to fragment messages prior to applying protection.

GSS-API implementations are recommended but not required to detect invalid QOP values when `getWrapSizeLimit` is called. This routine guarantees only a maximum message size, not the availability of specific QOP values for message protection.

Successful completion of this call does not guarantee that wrap will be able to protect a message of the computed length, since this ability may depend on the availability of system resources at the time that wrap is called. However, if the implementation itself imposes an upper limit on the length of messages that may be processed by wrap, the implementation should not return a value that is greater than this length.

Parameters:

qop	Indicates the level of protection wrap will be asked to provide.
confReq	Indicates if wrap will be asked to provide privacy service.
maxTokenSize	The desired maximum size of the token emitted by wrap.

[6.4.7.](#) wrap

```
public byte[] wrap(byte[] inBuf, int offset, int len,  
                  MessageProp msgProp) throws GSSEException
```

Applies per-message security services over the established security context. The method will return a token with a cryptographic MIC and may optionally encrypt the specified inBuf. The returned byte array will contain both the MIC and the message.

The MessageProp object is instantiated by the application and used to specify a QOP value that selects cryptographic algorithms, and a privacy service to optionally encrypt the message. The underlying mechanism that is used in the call may not be able to provide the privacy service. It sets the actual privacy service that it does provide in this MessageProp object, which the caller should then query upon return. If the mechanism is not able to provide the requested QOP, it throws a GSSEException with the BAD_QOP code.

Since some application-level protocols may wish to use tokens emitted by wrap to provide "secure framing", implementations should support the wrapping of zero-length messages.

The application will be responsible for sending the token to the peer.

Parameters:

inBuf	Application data to be protected.
-------	-----------------------------------

offset	The offset within the inBuf where the data begins.
len	The length of the data within the inBuf (starting at the offset).
msgProp	Instance of MessageProp that is used by the application to set the desired QOP and privacy state. Set the desired QOP to 0 to request the default QOP. Upon return from this method, this object will contain the actual privacy state that was applied to the message by the underlying mechanism.

[6.4.8.](#) unwrap

```
public byte[] unwrap(byte[] inBuf, int offset, int len,  
                     MessageProp msgProp) throws GSSEException
```

Used by the peer application to process tokens generated with the wrap call. The method will return the message supplied in the peer application to the wrap call, verifying the embedded MIC.

The MessageProp object is instantiated by the application and is used by the underlying mechanism to return information to the caller such as the QOP, whether confidentiality was applied to the message, and other supplementary message state information.

Since some application-level protocols may wish to use tokens emitted by wrap to provide "secure framing", implementations should support the wrapping and unwrapping of zero-length messages.

Parameters:

inBuf	GSS-API wrap token received from peer.
offset	The offset within the inBuf where the token begins.
len	The length of the token within the inBuf (starting at the offset).
msgProp	Upon return from the method, this object will contain the applied QOP, the privacy state of the message, and supplementary information, described in section 4.12.3 , stating whether the token was a duplicate, old, out of sequence, or arriving after a gap.

6.4.9. getMIC

```
public byte[] getMIC(byte[] inMsg, int offset, int len,  
                    MessageProp msgProp) throws GSSEException
```

Returns a token containing a cryptographic MIC for the supplied message for transfer to the peer application. Unlike wrap, which encapsulates the user message in the returned token, only the message MIC is returned in the output token.

Note that privacy can only be applied through the wrap call.

Since some application-level protocols may wish to use tokens emitted by getMIC to provide "secure framing", implementations should support derivation of MICs from zero-length messages.

Parameters:

inMsg	Message over which to generate MIC.
offset	The offset within the inMsg where the token begins.
len	The length of the token within the inMsg (starting at the offset).
msgProp	Instance of MessageProp that is used by the application to set the desired QOP. Set the desired QOP to 0 in msgProp to request the default QOP. Alternatively, pass in "null" for msgProp to request default QOP.

6.4.10. verifyMIC

```
public void verifyMIC(byte[] inTok, int tokOffset, int tokLen,  
                    byte[] inMsg, int msgOffset, int msgLen,  
                    MessageProp msgProp) throws GSSEException
```

Verifies the cryptographic MIC, contained in the token parameter, over the supplied message.

The MessageProp object is instantiated by the application and is used by the underlying mechanism to return information to the caller such as the QOP indicating the strength of protection that was applied to the message and other supplementary message state information.

Since some application-level protocols may wish to use tokens emitted by getMIC to provide "secure framing", implementations should support the calculation and verification of MICs over zero-length messages.

Parameters:

inTok	Token generated by peer's getMIC method.
tokOffset	The offset within the inTok where the token begins.
tokLen	The length of the token within the inTok (starting at the offset).
inMsg	Application message over which to verify the cryptographic MIC.
msgOffset	The offset within the inMsg where the message begins.
msgLen	The length of the message within the inMsg (starting at the offset).
msgProp	Upon return from the method, this object will contain the applied QOP and supplementary information, described in section 4.12.3 , stating whether the token was a duplicate, old, out of sequence, or arriving after a gap. The confidentiality state will be set to "false".

[6.4.11](#). export

```
public byte[] export() throws GSSEException
```

Provided to support the sharing of work between multiple processes. This routine will typically be used by the context acceptor, in an application where a single process receives incoming connection requests and accepts security contexts over them, then passes the established context to one or more other processes for message exchange.

This method deactivates the security context and creates an inter-process token which, when passed to the byte array constructor of the GSSContext interface in another process, will re-activate the context in the second process. Only a single instantiation of a given context may be active at any one time; a subsequent attempt by a context exporter to access the exported security context will fail.

The implementation may constrain the set of processes by which the inter-process token may be imported, either as a function of local security policy, or as a result of implementation decisions. For example, some implementations may constrain contexts to be passed only between processes that run under the same account, or which are part of the same process group.

The inter-process token may contain security-sensitive information (for example, cryptographic keys). While mechanisms are encouraged to either avoid placing such sensitive information within inter-process tokens or to encrypt the token before returning it to the application, in a typical GSS-API implementation, this may not be possible. Thus, the application must take care to protect the inter-process token, and ensure that any process to which the token is transferred is trustworthy.

[6.4.12.](#) **requestMutualAuth**

```
public void requestMutualAuth(boolean state) throws GSSEException
```

Sets the request state of the mutual authentication flag for the context. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator.

Parameters:

state	Boolean representing if mutual authentication should be requested during context establishment.
-------	---

[6.4.13.](#) **requestReplayDet**

```
public void requestReplayDet(boolean state) throws GSSEException
```

Sets the request state of the replay detection service for the context. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator.

Parameters:

state	Boolean representing if replay detection is desired over the established context.
-------	---

[6.4.14.](#) **requestSequenceDet**

```
public void requestSequenceDet(boolean state) throws GSSEException
```


Sets the request state for the sequence checking service of the context. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator.

Parameters:

state Boolean representing if sequence detection is desired over the established context.

[6.4.15.](#) requestCredDeleg

```
public void requestCredDeleg(boolean state) throws GSSEException
```

Sets the request state for the credential delegation flag for the context. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator.

Parameters:

state Boolean representing if credential delegation is desired.

[6.4.16.](#) requestAnonymity

```
public void requestAnonymity(boolean state) throws GSSEException
```

Requests anonymous support over the context. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator.

Parameters:

state Boolean representing if anonymity support is requested.

[6.4.17.](#) requestConf

```
public void requestConf(boolean state) throws GSSEException
```

Requests that confidentiality service be available over the context. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator.

Parameters:

state Boolean indicating if confidentiality services are to be requested for the context.

[6.4.18.](#) requestInteg

`public void requestInteg(boolean state) throws GSSEException`

Requests that integrity services be available over the context. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator.

Parameters:

state	Boolean indicating if integrity services are to be requested for the context.
-------	---

[6.4.19.](#) requestLifetime

`public void requestLifetime(int lifetime) throws GSSEException`

Sets the desired lifetime for the context in seconds. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins and only for the initiator. Use `GSSContext.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME` and `GSSContext.DEFAULT_LIFETIME` to request indefinite or default context lifetime.

Parameters:

lifetime	The desired context lifetime in seconds.
----------	--

[6.4.20.](#) setChannelBinding

`public void setChannelBinding(ChannelBinding cb) throws GSSEException`

Sets the channel bindings to be used during context establishment. This method is only valid before the context creation process begins.

Parameters:

cb	Channel bindings to be used.
----	------------------------------

[6.4.21.](#) getCredDelegState

`public boolean getCredDelegState()`

Returns the state of the delegated credentials for the context. When issued before context establishment is completed or when the `isProtReady` method returns "false", it returns the desired state; otherwise, it will indicate the actual state over the established context.

[6.4.22.](#) getMutualAuthState

```
public boolean getMutualAuthState()
```

Returns the state of the mutual authentication option for the context. When issued before context establishment completes or when the `isProtReady` method returns "false", it returns the desired state; otherwise, it will indicate the actual state over the established context.

[6.4.23.](#) getReplayDetState

```
public boolean getReplayDetState()
```

Returns the state of the replay detection option for the context. When issued before context establishment completes or when the `isProtReady` method returns "false", it returns the desired state; otherwise, it will indicate the actual state over the established context.

[6.4.24.](#) getSequenceDetState

```
public boolean getSequenceDetState()
```

Returns the state of the sequence detection option for the context. When issued before context establishment completes or when the `isProtReady` method returns "false", it returns the desired state; otherwise, it will indicate the actual state over the established context.

[6.4.25.](#) getAnonymityState

```
public boolean getAnonymityState()
```

Returns "true" if this is an anonymous context. When issued before context establishment completes or when the `isProtReady` method returns "false", it returns the desired state; otherwise, it will indicate the actual state over the established context.

[6.4.26.](#) isTransferable

```
public boolean isTransferable() throws GSSEException
```

Returns "true" if the context is transferable to other processes through the use of the `export` method. This call is only valid on fully established contexts.

6.4.27. isProtReady

```
public boolean isProtReady()
```

Returns "true" if the per-message operations can be applied over the context. Some mechanisms may allow the usage of per-message operations before the context is fully established. This will also indicate that the get methods will return actual context state characteristics instead of the desired ones.

6.4.28. getConfState

```
public boolean getConfState()
```

Returns the confidentiality service state over the context. When issued before context establishment completes or when the isProtReady method returns "false", it returns the desired state; otherwise, it will indicate the actual state over the established context.

6.4.29. getIntegState

```
public boolean getIntegState()
```

Returns the integrity service state over the context. When issued before context establishment completes or when the isProtReady method returns "false", it returns the desired state; otherwise, it will indicate the actual state over the established context.

6.4.30. getLifetime

```
public int getLifetime()
```

Returns the context lifetime in seconds. When issued before context establishment completes or when the isProtReady method returns "false", it returns the desired lifetime; otherwise, it will indicate the remaining lifetime for the context.

6.4.31. getSrcName

```
public GSSName getSrcName() throws GSSException
```

Returns the name of the context initiator. This call is valid only after the context is fully established or the isProtReady method returns "true". It is guaranteed to return an MN.

[6.4.32.](#) **getTargName**

```
public GSSName getTargName() throws GSSEException
```

Returns the name of the context target (acceptor). This call is valid only after the context is fully established or the `isProtReady` method returns "true". It is guaranteed to return an MN.

[6.4.33.](#) **getMech**

```
public Oid getMech() throws GSSEException
```

Returns the mechanism oid for this context. This method may be called before the context is fully established, but the mechanism returned may change on successive calls in negotiated mechanism case.

[6.4.34.](#) **getDelegCred**

```
public GSSCredential getDelegCred() throws GSSEException
```

Returns the delegated credential object on the acceptor's side. To check for availability of delegated credentials call `getDelegCredState`. This call is only valid on fully established contexts.

[6.4.35.](#) **isInitiator**

```
public boolean isInitiator() throws GSSEException
```

Returns "true" if this is the initiator of the context. This call is only valid after the context creation process has started.

[6.4.36.](#) **Example Code**

The example code presented below demonstrates the usage of the `GSSContext` interface for the initiating peer. Different operations on the `GSSContext` object are presented, including: object instantiation, setting of desired flags, context establishment, query of actual context flags, per-message operations on application data, and finally context deletion.

<CODE BEGINS>

```
GSSManager mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();
```

```
// start by creating the name for a service entity
GSSName targetName = mgr.createName("service@host",
                                     GSSName.NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE);
// create a context using default credentials for the above entity
```



```
// and the implementation-specific default mechanism
GSSContext context = mgr.createContext(targetName,
    null,    /* default mechanism */
    null,    /* default credentials */
    GSSContext.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME);

// set desired context options - all others are "false" by default
context.requestConf(true);
context.requestMutualAuth(true);
context.requestReplayDet(true);
context.requestSequenceDet(true);

// establish a context between peers - using byte arrays
byte[] inTok = new byte[0];

try {
    do {
        byte[] outTok = context.initSecContext(inTok, 0,
            inTok.length);

        // send the token if present
        if (outTok != null)
            sendToken(outTok);

        // check if we should expect more tokens
        if (context.isEstablished())
            break;

        // another token expected from peer
        inTok = readToken();

    } while (true);

} catch (GSSException e) {
    print("GSSAPI error: " + e.getMessage());

    // If the exception contains an output token,
    // it should be sent to the acceptor.
    byte[] outTok = e.getOutputToken();
    if (outTok != null) {
        sendToken(outTok);
    }

    return;
}

// display context information
print("Remaining lifetime in seconds = " + context.getLifetime());
```



```
print("Context mechanism = " + context.getMech().toString());
print("Initiator = " + context.getSrcName().toString());
print("Acceptor = " + context.getTargName().toString());

if (context.getConfState())
    print("Confidentiality security service available");

if (context.getIntegState())
    print("Integrity security service available");

// perform wrap on an application-supplied message, appMsg,
// using QOP = 0, and requesting privacy service
byte[] appMsg ...

MessageProp mProp = new MessageProp(0, true);

byte[] tok = context.wrap(appMsg, 0, appMsg.length, mProp);

if (mProp.getPrivacy())
    print("Message protected with privacy.");

sendToken(tok);

// release the local end of the context
context.dispose();
<CODE ENDS>
```

6.5. public class MessageProp

This is a utility class used within the per-message GSSContext methods to convey per-message properties.

When used with the GSSContext interface's wrap and getMIC methods, an instance of this class is used to indicate the desired QOP and to request if confidentiality services are to be applied to caller supplied data (wrap only). To request default QOP, the value of 0 should be used for QOP. A QOP is an integer value defined by an mechanism.

When used with the unwrap and verifyMIC methods of the GSSContext interface, an instance of this class will be used to indicate the applied QOP and confidentiality services over the supplied message. In the case of verifyMIC, the confidentiality state will always be "false". Upon return from these methods, this object will also contain any supplementary status values applicable to the processed token. The supplementary status values can indicate old tokens, out of sequence tokens, gap tokens, or duplicate tokens.

6.5.1. Constructors

```
public MessageProp(boolean privState)
```

Constructor that sets QOP to 0 indicating that the default QOP is requested.

Parameters:

privState	The desired privacy state. "true" for privacy and "false" for integrity only.
-----------	---

```
public MessageProp(int qop, boolean privState)
```

Constructor that sets the values for the qop and privacy state.

Parameters:

qop	The desired QOP. Use 0 to request a default QOP.
-----	--

privState	The desired privacy state. "true" for privacy and "false" for integrity only.
-----------	---

6.5.2. getQOP

```
public int getQOP()
```

Retrieves the QOP value.

6.5.3. getPrivacy

```
public boolean getPrivacy()
```

Retrieves the privacy state.

6.5.4. getMinorStatus

```
public int getMinorStatus()
```

Retrieves the minor status that the underlying mechanism might have set.

6.5.5. getMinorString

```
public String getMinorString()
```

Returns a string explaining the mechanism-specific error code. "null" will be returned when no mechanism error code has been set.

[6.5.6.](#) setQOP

```
public void setQOP(int qopVal)
```

Sets the QOP value.

Parameters:

qopVal	The QOP value to be set. Use 0 to request a default QOP value.
--------	--

[6.5.7.](#) setPrivacy

```
public void setPrivacy(boolean privState)
```

Sets the privacy state.

Parameters:

privState	The privacy state to set.
-----------	---------------------------

[6.5.8.](#) isDuplicateToken

```
public boolean isDuplicateToken()
```

Returns "true" if this is a duplicate of an earlier token.

[6.5.9.](#) isOldToken

```
public boolean isOldToken()
```

Returns "true" if the token's validity period has expired.

[6.5.10.](#) isUnseqToken

```
public boolean isUnseqToken()
```

Returns "true" if a later token has already been processed.

[6.5.11.](#) isGapToken

```
public boolean isGapToken()
```

Returns "true" if an expected per-message token was not received.

6.5.12. setSupplementaryStates

```
public void setSupplementaryStates(boolean duplicate,  
                                   boolean old, boolean unseq, boolean gap,  
                                   int minorStatus, String minorString)
```

This method sets the state for the supplementary information flags and the minor status in MessageProp. It is not used by the application but by the GSS implementation to return this information to the caller of a per-message context method.

Parameters:

duplicate	"true" if the token was a duplicate of an earlier token; otherwise, "false".
old	"true" if the token's validity period has expired; otherwise, "false".
unseq	"true" if a later token has already been processed; otherwise, "false".
gap	"true" if one or more predecessor tokens have not yet been successfully processed; otherwise, "false".
minorStatus	The integer minor status code that the underlying mechanism wants to set.
minorString	The textual representation of the minorStatus value.

6.6. public class ChannelBinding

The GSS-API accommodates the concept of caller-provided channel binding information. Channel bindings are used to strengthen the quality with which peer entity authentication is provided during context establishment. They enable the GSS-API callers to bind the establishment of the security context to relevant characteristics like addresses or to application-specific data.

The caller initiating the security context must determine the appropriate channel binding values to set in the GSSContext object. The acceptor must provide an identical binding in order to validate that received tokens possess correct channel-related characteristics.

Use of channel bindings is optional in GSS-API. Since channel-binding information may be transmitted in context establishment

tokens, applications should therefore not use confidential data as channel-binding components.

[6.6.1.](#) Constructors

```
public ChannelBinding(InetAddress initAddr, InetAddress acceptAddr,  
                      byte[] appData)
```

Create a ChannelBinding object with user-supplied address information and data. "null" values can be used for any fields that the application does not want to specify.

Parameters:

initAddr	The address of the context initiator. "null" value can be supplied to indicate that the application does not want to set this value.
acceptAddr	The address of the context acceptor. "null" value can be supplied to indicate that the application does not want to set this value.
appData	Application-supplied data to be used as part of the channel bindings. "null" value can be supplied to indicate that the application does not want to set this value.

```
public ChannelBinding(byte[] appData)
```

Creates a ChannelBinding object without any addressing information.

Parameters:

appData	Application supplied data to be used as part of the channel bindings.
---------	---

[6.6.2.](#) getInitiatorAddress

```
public InetAddress getInitiatorAddress()
```

Returns the initiator's address for this channel binding. "null" is returned if the address has not been set.

[6.6.3.](#) getAcceptorAddress

```
public InetAddress getAcceptorAddress()
```


Returns the acceptor's address for this channel binding. "null" is returned if the address has not been set.

[6.6.4.](#) `getApplicationData`

```
public byte[] getApplicationData()
```

Returns application data being used as part of the ChannelBinding. "null" is returned if no application data has been specified for the channel binding.

[6.6.5.](#) `equals`

```
public boolean equals(Object obj)
```

Returns "true" if two channel bindings match. (Note that the Java language specification requires that two objects that are equal according to the `equals(Object)` method must return the same integer result when the `hashCode()` method is called on them.)

Parameters:

`obj` Another channel binding with which to compare.

[6.7.](#) `public class Oid`

This class represents Universal Object Identifiers (Oids) and their associated operations.

Oids are hierarchically globally interpretable identifiers used within the GSS-API framework to identify mechanisms and name formats.

The structure and encoding of Oids is defined in ISOIEC-8824 and ISOIEC-8825. For example, the Oid representation of the Kerberos v5 mechanism is "1.2.840.113554.1.2.2".

The GSSName name class contains public static Oid objects representing the standard name types defined in GSS-API.

[6.7.1.](#) `Constructors`

```
public Oid(String strOid) throws GSSEException
```

Creates an Oid object from a string representation of its integer components (e.g., "1.2.840.113554.1.2.2").

Parameters:

strOid The string representation for the oid.

```
public Oid(InputStream derOid) throws GSSEException
```

Creates an Oid object from its DER encoding. This refers to the full encoding including tag and length. The structure and encoding of Oids is defined in ISOIEC-8824 and ISOIEC-8825. This method is identical in functionality to its byte array counterpart.

Parameters:

derOid Stream containing the DER-encoded oid.

```
public Oid(byte[] DERoid) throws GSSEException
```

Creates an Oid object from its DER encoding. This refers to the full encoding including tag and length. The structure and encoding of Oids is defined in ISOIEC-8824 and ISOIEC-8825. This method is identical in functionality to its byte array counterpart.

Parameters:

derOid Byte array storing a DER-encoded oid.

[6.7.2.](#) toString

```
public String toString()
```

Returns a string representation of the oid's integer components in dot separated notation (e.g., "1.2.840.113554.1.2.2").

[6.7.3.](#) equals

```
public boolean equals(Object Obj)
```

Returns "true" if the two Oid objects represent the same oid value. (Note that the Java language specification [[JLS](#)] requires that two objects that are equal according to the equals(Object) method must return the same integer result when the hashCode() method is called on them.)

Parameters:

obj Another Oid object with which to compare.

6.7.4. getDER

```
public byte[] getDER()
```

Returns the full ASN.1 DER encoding for this oid object, which includes the tag and length.

6.7.5. containedIn

```
public boolean containedIn(Oid[] oids)
```

A utility method to test if an Oid object is contained within the supplied Oid object array.

Parameters:

oids An array of oids to search.

6.8. public class GSSException extends Exception

This exception is thrown whenever a fatal GSS-API error occurs including mechanism-specific errors. It may contain both, the major and minor, GSS-API status codes. The mechanism implementors are responsible for setting appropriate minor status codes when throwing this exception. Aside from delivering the numeric error code(s) to the caller, this class performs the mapping from their numeric values to textual representations. This exception may also include an output token that should be sent to the peer. For example, when an `initSecContext` call fails due to a fatal error, the mechanism may define an error token that should be sent to the peer for debugging or informational purpose. All Java GSS-API methods are declared throwing this exception.

All implementations are encouraged to use the Java internationalization techniques to provide local translations of the message strings.

6.8.1. Static Constants

All valid major GSS-API error code values are declared as constants in this class.

```
public static final int BAD_BINDINGS
```

Channel bindings mismatch error. The value of this constant is 1.

```
public static final int BAD_MECH
```


Unsupported mechanism requested error. The value of this constant is 2.

```
public static final int BAD_NAME
```

Invalid name provided error. The value of this constant is 3.

```
public static final int BAD_NAME_TYPE
```

Name of unsupported type provided error. The value of this constant is 4.

```
public static final int BAD_STATUS
```

Invalid status code error - this is the default status value. The value of this constant is 5.

```
public static final int BAD_MIC
```

Token had invalid integrity check error. The value of this constant is 6.

```
public static final int CONTEXT_EXPIRED
```

Specified security context expired error. The value of this constant is 7.

```
public static final int CREDENTIALS_EXPIRED
```

Expired credentials detected error. The value of this constant is 8.

```
public static final int DEFECTIVE_CREDENTIAL
```

Defective credential error. The value of this constant is 9.

```
public static final int DEFECTIVE_TOKEN
```

Defective token error. The value of this constant is 10.

```
public static final int FAILURE
```

General failure, unspecified at GSS-API level. The value of this constant is 11.

```
public static final int NO_CONTEXT
```

Invalid security context error. The value of this constant is 12.


```
public static final int NO_CRED
```

Invalid credentials error. The value of this constant is 13.

```
public static final int BAD_QOP
```

Unsupported QOP value error. The value of this constant is 14.

```
public static final int UNAUTHORIZED
```

Operation unauthorized error. The value of this constant is 15.

```
public static final int UNAVAILABLE
```

Operation unavailable error. The value of this constant is 16.

```
public static final int DUPLICATE_ELEMENT
```

Duplicate credential element requested error. The value of this constant is 17.

```
public static final int NAME_NOT_MN
```

Name contains multi-mechanism elements error. The value of this constant is 18.

```
public static final int DUPLICATE_TOKEN
```

The token was a duplicate of an earlier token. This is contained in an exception only when detected during context establishment, in which case it is considered a fatal error. (Non-fatal supplementary codes are indicated via the MessageProp object.) The value of this constant is 19.

```
public static final int OLD_TOKEN
```

The token's validity period has expired. This is contained in an exception only when detected during context establishment, in which case it is considered a fatal error. (Non-fatal supplementary codes are indicated via the MessageProp object.) The value of this constant is 20.

```
public static final int UNSEQ_TOKEN
```

A later token has already been processed. This is contained in an exception only when detected during context establishment, in which case it is considered a fatal error. (Non-fatal supplementary codes

are indicated via the MessageProp object.) The value of this constant is 21.

```
public static final int GAP_TOKEN
```

An expected per-message token was not received. This is contained in an exception only when detected during context establishment, in which case it is considered a fatal error. (Non-fatal supplementary codes are indicated via the MessageProp object.) The value of this constant is 22.

6.8.2. Constructors

```
public GSSEException(int majorCode)
```

Creates a GSSEException object with a specified major code.

Calling this constructor is equivalent to calling
GSSEException(majorCode, null, 0, null, null).

```
public GSSEException(int majorCode, int minorCode, String minorString)
```

Creates a GSSEException object with the specified major code, minor code, and minor code textual explanation. This constructor is to be used when the exception is originating from the security mechanism. It allows to specify the GSS code and the mechanism code.

Calling this constructor is equivalent to calling
GSSEException(majorCode, null, minorCode, minorString, null).

```
public GSSEException(int majorCode, String majorString,  
                    int minorCode, String minorString,  
                    byte[] outputToken)
```

Creates a GSSEException object with the specified major code, major code textual explanation, minor code, minor code textual explanation, and an output token. This is a general-purpose constructor that can be used to create any type of GSSEException.

Parameters:

majorCode	The GSS error code causing this exception to be thrown.
majorString	The textual explanation of the GSS error code. If null is provided, a default explanation that matches the majorCode will be set.

minorCode	The mechanism error code causing this exception to be thrown. Can be 0 if no mechanism error code is available.
minorString	The textual explanation of the mechanism error code. Can be null if no textual explanation is available.
outputToken	The output token that should be sent to the peer. Can be null if no such token is available. It must not be an empty array. When provided, the array will be cloned to protect against subsequent modifications.

[6.8.3.](#) getMajor

```
public int getMajor()
```

Returns the major code representing the GSS error code that caused this exception to be thrown.

[6.8.4.](#) getMinor

```
public int getMinor()
```

Returns the mechanism error code that caused this exception. The minor code is set by the underlying mechanism. Value of 0 indicates that mechanism error code is not set.

[6.8.5.](#) getMajorString

```
public String getMajorString()
```

Returns a string explaining the GSS major error code causing this exception to be thrown.

[6.8.6.](#) getMinorString

```
public String getMinorString()
```

Returns a string explaining the mechanism-specific error code. "null" will be returned when no string explaining the mechanism error code has been set.

[6.8.7.](#) getOutputToken

```
public byte[] getOutputToken
```

Returns the output token in a new byte array.

If the method (For example, `GSSContext#initSecContext`) that throws this `GSSEException` needs to generate an output token that should be sent to the peer, that token will be stored in this `GSSEException` and can be retrieved with this method.

The return value must be null if no such token is generated. It must not be an empty byte array.

[6.8.8.](#) setMinor

```
public void setMinor(int minorCode, String message)
```

Used internally by the GSS-API implementation and the underlying mechanisms to set the minor code and its textual representation.

Parameters:

<code>minorCode</code>	The mechanism-specific error code.
------------------------	------------------------------------

<code>message</code>	A textual explanation of the mechanism error code.
----------------------	--

[6.8.9.](#) toString

```
public String toString()
```

Returns a textual representation of both the major and minor status codes.

[6.8.10.](#) getMessage

```
public String getMessage()
```

Returns a detailed message of this exception. Overrides `Throwable.getMessage`. It is customary in Java to use this method to obtain exception information.

[7.](#) Sample Applications

7.1. Simple GSS Context Initiator

```
<CODE BEGINS>
import org.ietf.jgss.*;

/**
 * This is a partial sketch for a simple client program that acts
 * as a GSS context initiator. It illustrates how to use the Java
 * bindings for the GSS-API specified in
 * Generic Security Service API Version 2 : Java bindings
 *
 * This code sketch assumes the existence of a GSS-API
 * implementation that supports the mechanism that it will need
 * and is present as a library package (org.ietf.jgss) either as
 * part of the standard JRE or in the CLASSPATH the application
 * specifies.
 */

public class SimpleClient {

    private String serviceName; // name of peer (i.e., server)
    private GSSCredential clientCred = null;
    private GSSContext context = null;
    private Oid mech; // underlying mechanism to use

    private GSSManager mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();

    ...
    ...

    private void clientActions() {
        initializeGSS();
        establishContext();
        doCommunication();
    }

    /**
     * Acquire credentials for the client.
     */
    private void initializeGSS() {

        try {

            clientCred = mgr.createCredential(null /*default princ*/,
                GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME /* max lifetime */,
                mech /* mechanism to use */,
                GSSCredential.INITIATE_ONLY /* init context */);
```



```
        print("GSSCredential created for " +
              cred.getName().toString());
        print("Credential lifetime (sec)=" +
              cred.getRemainingLifetime());
    } catch (GSSEException e) {
        print("GSS-API error in credential acquisition: "
              + e.getMessage());
        ...
        ...
    }
    ...
    ...
}

/**
 * Does the security context establishment with the
 * server.
 */
private void establishContext() {

    byte[] inToken = new byte[0];
    byte[] outToken = null;

    try {

        GSSName peer = mgr.createName(serviceName,
                                      GSSName.NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE);
        context = mgr.createContext(peer, mech, gssCred,
                                    GSSContext.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME/*lifetime*/);

        // Will need to support confidentiality
        context.requestConf(true);

        while (!context.isEstablished()) {

            outToken = context.initSecContext(inToken, 0,
                                              inToken.length);

            if (outToken != null)
                writeGSSToken(outToken);

            if (!context.isEstablished())
                inToken = readGSSToken();
        }

        GSSName peer = context.getSrcName();
        print("Security context established with " + peer +
              " using underlying mechanism " + mech.toString());
    }
```



```
    } catch (GSSEException e) {
        print("GSS-API error during context establishment: "
            + e.getMessage());

        // If the exception contains an output token,
        // it should be sent to the acceptor.
        byte[] outTok = e.getOutputToken();
        if (outTok != null) {
            writeGSSToken(outTok);
        }
        ...
    }
    ...
}

/**
 * Sends some data to the server and reads back the
 * response.
 */
private void doCommunication() {
    byte[] inToken = null;
    byte[] outToken = null;
    byte[] buffer;

    // Container for multiple input-output arguments to and
    // from the per-message routines (e.g., wrap/unwrap).
    MessageProp messgInfo = new MessageProp();

    try {

        /**
         * Now send some bytes to the server to be
         * processed. They will be integrity protected
         * but not encrypted for privacy.
         */

        buffer = readFromFile();

        // Set privacy to "false" and use the default QOP
        messgInfo.setPrivacy(false);

        outToken = context.wrap(buffer, 0, buffer.length,
                                messgInfo);

        writeGSSToken(outToken);
    }
}
```



```

    /*
     * Now read the response from the server.
     */

    inToken = readGSSToken();
    buffer = context.unwrap(inToken, 0,
                           inToken.length, messgInfo);
    // All ok if no exception was thrown!

    GSSName peer = context.getSrcName();

    print("Message from " + peer.toString()
          + " arrived.");
    print("Was it encrypted? " +
          messgInfo.getPrivacy());
    print("Duplicate Token? " +
          messgInfo.isDuplicateToken());
    print("Old Token? " +
          messgInfo.isOldToken());
    print("Unsequenced Token? " +
          messgInfo.isUnseqToken());
    print("Gap Token? " +
          messgInfo.isGapToken());
    ...
    ...
} catch (GSSEException e) {
    print("GSS-API error in per-message calls: "
          + e.getMessage());
    ...
    ...
}
...
...
} // end of doCommunication method

...
...

} // end of class SimpleClient
<CODE ENDS>

```

7.2. Simple GSS Context Acceptor

```

<CODE BEGINS>
import org.ietf.jgss.*;

/**
 * This is a partial sketch for a simple server program that acts

```



```
* as a GSS context acceptor. It illustrates how to use the Java
* bindings for the GSS-API specified in
* Generic Security Service API Version 2 : Java bindings.
*
* This code sketch assumes the existence of a GSS-API
* implementation that supports the mechanisms that it will need
* and is present as a library package (org.ietf.jgss) either as
* part of the standard JRE or in the CLASSPATH the application
* specifies.
*/
```

```
import org.ietf.jgss.*;
```

```
public class SimpleServer {
```

```
    private String serviceName;
    private GSSName name;
    private GSSCredential cred;
```

```
    private GSSManager mgr;
```

```
    ...
    ...
```

```
/**
```

```
 * Wait for client connections, establish security contexts
 * and provide service.
 */
```

```
private void loop() {
```

```
    ...
    ...
```

```
    mgr = GSSManager.getInstance();
```

```
    name = mgr.createName(serviceName,
        GSSName.NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE);
```

```
    cred = mgr.createCredential(name,
        GSSCredential.INDEFINITE_LIFETIME,
        null,
        GSSCredential.ACCEPT_ONLY);
```

```
// Loop infinitely
```

```
while (true) {
    Socket s = serverSock.accept();
```

```
    // Start a new thread to serve this connection
    Thread serverThread = new ServerThread(s);
    serverThread.start();
```



```
    }  
}  
  
/**  
 * Inner class ServerThread whose run() method provides the  
 * secure service to a connection.  
 */  
  
private class ServerThread extends Thread {  
  
    ...  
    ...  
  
    /**  
     * Deals with the connection from one client. It also  
     * handles all GSSException's thrown while talking to  
     * this client.  
     */  
    public void run() {  
  
        byte[] inToken = null;  
        byte[] outToken = null;  
        byte[] buffer;  
  
        GSSName peer;  
  
        // Container for multiple input-output arguments to  
        // and from the per-message routines  
        // (i.e., wrap/unwrap).  
        MessageProp supplInfo = new MessageProp();  
        GSSContext secContext = null;  
  
        try {  
            // Now do the context establishment loop  
            GSSContext context = mgr.createContext(cred);  
  
            while (!context.isEstablished()) {  
  
                inToken = readGSSToken();  
                outToken = context.acceptSecContext(inToken,  
                                                    0, inToken.length);  
                if (outToken != null)  
                    writeGSSToken(outToken);  
            }  
  
            // SimpleServer wants confidentiality to be  
            // available. Check for it.  
            if (!context.getConfState()){
```



```
        ...
        ...
    }

    GSSName peer = context.getSrcName();
    Oid mech = context.getMech();
    print("Security context established with " +
        peer.toString() +
        " using underlying mechanism " +
        mech.toString() +
        " from Provider " +
        context.getProvider().getName());

    // Now read the bytes sent by the client to be
    // processed.
    inToken = readGSSToken();

    // Unwrap the message
    buffer = context.unwrap(inToken, 0,
        inToken.length, supplInfo);
    // All ok if no exception was thrown!

    // Print other supplementary per-message status
    // information.

    print("Message from " +
        peer.toString() + " arrived.");
    print("Was it encrypted? " +
        supplInfo.getPrivacy());
    print("Duplicate Token? " +
        supplInfo.isDuplicateToken());
    print("Old Token? " + supplInfo.isOldToken());
    print("Unsequenced Token? " +
        supplInfo.isUnseqToken());
    print("Gap Token? " + supplInfo.isGapToken());

    /*
     * Now process the bytes and send back an
     * encrypted response.
     */

    buffer = serverProcess(buffer);

    // Encipher it and send it across

    supplInfo.setPrivacy(true); // privacy requested
    supplInfo.setQOP(0); // default QOP
    outToken = context.wrap(buffer, 0, buffer.length,
```



```
                                supplInfo);
        writeGSSToken(outToken);

    } catch (GSSEException e) {
        print("GSS-API Error: " + e.getMessage());
        // Alternatively, could call e.getMajorMessage()
        // and e.getMinorMessage()

        // If the exception contains an output token,
        // it should be sent to the initiator.
        byte[] outTok = e.getOutputToken();
        if (outTok != null) {
            writeGSSToken(outTok);
        }
        print("Abandoning security context.");
        ...
        ...
    }
    ...
    ...
} // end of run method in ServerThread

} // end of inner class ServerThread

...
...

} // end of class SimpleServer
<CODE ENDS>
```

8. Security Considerations

The Java language security model allows platform providers to have policy-based fine-grained access control over any resource that an application wants. When using a Java security manager (such as, but not limited to, the case of applets running in browsers) the application code is in a sandbox by default.

Administrators of the platform JRE determine what permissions, if any, are to be given to source from different codebases. Thus, the administrator has to be aware of any special requirements that the GSS provider might have for system resources. For instance, a Kerberos provider might wish to make a network connection to the Key Distribution Center (KDC) to obtain initial credentials. This would not be allowed under the sandbox unless the administrator had granted permissions for this. Also, note that this granting and checking of permissions happens transparently to the application and is outside the scope of this document.

The Java language allows administrators to pre-configure a list of security service providers in the <JRE>/lib/security/java.security file. At runtime, the system approaches these providers in order of preference when looking for security related services. Applications have a means to modify this list through methods in the "Security" class in the "java.security" package. However, since these modifications would be visible in the entire Java Virtual Machine (JVM) and thus affect all code executing in it, this operation is not available in the sandbox and requires special permissions to perform. Thus, when a GSS application has special needs that are met by a particular security provider, it has two choices:

- 1) To install the provider on a JVM-wide basis using the `java.security.Security` class and then depend on the system to find the right provider automatically when the need arises. (This would require the application to be granted a "insertProvider SecurityPermission".)
- 2) To pass an instance of the provider to the local instance of `GSSManager` so that only factory calls going through that `GSSManager` use the desired provider. (This would not require any permissions.)

9. IANA Considerations

This document has no actions for IANA.

10. Acknowledgments

This proposed API leverages earlier work performed by the IETF's CAT WG as outlined in both [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] and [RFC 2744](#) [[RFC2744](#)]. Many conceptual definitions, implementation directions, and explanations have been included from these documents.

We would like to thank Mike Eisler, Lin Ling, Ram Marti, Michael Saltz, and other members of Sun's development team for their helpful input, comments, and suggestions.

We would also like to thank Joe Salowey, and Michael Smith for many insightful ideas and suggestions that have contributed to this document.

11. Changes since [RFC 5653](#)

This document has following changes:

- 1) New error token embedded in `GSSEException`

There is a design flaw in the `initSecContext` and `acceptSecContext` methods of the `GSSContext` class defined in Generic Security Service API Version 2: Java Bindings Update [[RFC5653](#)].

The methods could either return a token (possibly null if no more tokens are needed) when the call succeeds or throw a `GSSEException` if there is a failure, but NOT both. On the other hand, the C bindings of GSS-API [[RFC2744](#)] can return both, that is to say, a call to the `GSS_Init_sec_context()` function can return a major status code, and at the same time, fill in the `output_token` argument if there is one.

Without the ability to emit an error token when there is a failure, a Java application has no mechanism to tell the other side what the error is. For example, a "reject" `NegTokenResp` token can never be transmitted for the SPNEGO mechanism [[RFC4178](#)].

While a Java method can never return a value and throw an exception at the same time, we can embed the error token inside the exception so that the caller has a chance to retrieve it. This update adds a new `GSSEException` constructor to include this token inside a `GSSEException` object, and a `getOutputToken()` method to retrieve the token. The specification for the `initSecContext` and `acceptSecContext` methods are updated to describe the new behavior. Various examples are also updated.

This is a compatible change. New JGSS programs should make use of this new feature but it is not mandatory.

2) Removing stream-based `GSSContext` methods

The overloaded methods of `GSSContext` that use input and output streams as the means to convey authentication and per-message GSS-API tokens as described in [Section 5.15 of RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)] are removed in this update as the wire protocol should be defined by an application and not a library. It's also impossible to implement these methods correctly when the token has no self-framing (where the end cannot be determined) or the library has no knowledge of the token format (for example, as a bridge talking to another GSS library). These methods include `initSecContext` ([Section 7.4.5 of RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)]), `acceptSecContext` ([Section 7.4.9 of RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)]), `wrap` ([Section 7.4.15 of RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)]), `unwrap` ([Section 7.4.17 of RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)]), `getMIC` ([Section 7.4.19 of RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)]), and `verifyMIC` ([Section 7.4.21 of RFC 5653](#) [[RFC5653](#)]).

12. Changes since [RFC 2853](#)

This document has following changes:

1) Major GSS Status Code Constant Values

[RFC 2853](#) listed all the GSS status code values in two different sections: [section 4.12.1](#) defined numeric values for them, and [section 6.8.1](#) defined them as static constants in the GSSException class without assigning any values. Due to an inconsistent ordering between these two sections, all of the GSS major status codes resulted in misalignment, and a subsequent disagreement between deployed implementations.

This document defines the numeric values of the GSS status codes in both sections, while maintaining the original ordering from [section 6.8.1 of RFC 2853](#) [[RFC2853](#)], and obsoletes the GSS status code values defined in [section 4.12.1](#). The relevant sections in this document are sections [4.12.1](#) and [6.8.1](#).

2) GSS Credential Usage Constant Values

[RFC 2853 section 6.3.2](#) defines static constants for the GSSCredential usage flags. However, the values of these constants were not defined anywhere in [RFC 2853](#) [[RFC2853](#)].

This document defines the credential usage values in [section 6.3.1](#). The original ordering of these values from [section 6.3.2 of RFC 2853](#) [[RFC2853](#)] is maintained.

3) GSS Host-Based Service Name

[RFC 2853](#) [[RFC2853](#)], [section 6.2.2](#), defines the static constant for the GSS host-based service OID NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE, using a deprecated OID value.

This document updates the NT_HOSTBASED_SERVICE OID value in [section 6.2.1](#) to be consistent with the C-bindings in [RFC 2744](#) [[RFC2744](#)].

13. References

13.1. Normative References

- [RFC2025] Adams, C., "The Simple Public-Key GSS-API Mechanism (SPKM)", [RFC 2025](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC2025, October 1996, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2025>>.

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[13.2. Informative References](#)

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Authors' Addresses

Mayank D. Upadhyay
Google Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043
USA

Email: m.d.upadhyay+ietf@gmail.com

Seema Malkani
ActivIdentity Corp.
6623 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, California 94555
USA

Email: Seema.Malkani@gmail.com

Wang Weijun
Oracle
Building No. 24, Zhongguancun Software Park
Beijing 100193
China

Email: weijun.wang@oracle.com

