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**Authentication Context Certificate Extension
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Abstract

This document defines an extension to certificates according to [\[RFC5280\]](#). The extension defined in this document holds data about how the certificate subject was authenticated by the Certification Authority that issued the certificate in which this extension appears

This document also defines one data structure for inclusion in this Extension. The data structure is designed to hold information when the subject is authenticated using a SAML assertion [\[SAML\]](#).

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1 Introduction

The primary purpose of this document is to provide a mechanism that allows an application to obtain information that expresses the identity of a subject in a certificate. The identity is stored either in a subject field attribute, as a subject alternative name, or in a subject directory attribute.

The motivation for this work is to enable mapping of identity data between an identity system and a certificate where the identity system and the certificate are using different attributes and data formats to express the identity of the same entity. In such scenario, the certificate subject already has an authenticated identity composed of a set of attributes, or so called claims, that differ from the attributes commonly used to express the identity of a certificate subject, which may be governed by a specific certificate profile limiting the set of certificate attributes.

A typical scenario motivating the definition of this extension arises when the source of user authentication and user identity is derived from a SAML federation attribute profile. In a SAML federation, the subject presents a SAML assertion in exchange for a certificate that can be uniquely linked to information provided in the original SAML assertion - eg attributes and/or level of assurance indicators.

Such certificates are sometimes issued in order to provide the user with a means to create an electronic signature that ties the user to the SAML subject, its attributes and level of assurance indicators

If such certificate needs to conform to a certificate profile such as [[RFC3739](#)], then this certificate may have to use a separate set of attributes to express the subject identity. The certificate also may have to employ a different format for attribute values, vs. the set of attributes obtained from the SAML assertion.

The extension defined in the document makes it possible to represent information about the authentication context employed when authenticating the subject for the purpose of issuing a certificate. This may include information such as:

- o The Identity Provider that authenticated the subject.
- o The level of assurance with which the subject was authenticated.
- o The trust framework where this level of assurance was defined.
- o A unique reference to the authentication instant
- o A mapping between the subject attributes obtained from the SAML assertion used to authenticate the subject, and the subject identity information placed in the issued certificate.

One scenario where this information may be useful arises when a user logs in to a service using SAML credentials, and the same user (at some point) is required to sign some information. The service may need to verify that the signature was created by the same user that logged on to the service. Today this is only possible using out-of-band knowledge about the CA that issued the certificate and its practices. However, this approach does not scale to a large number of service providers, identity providers, and CAs.

The extension defined here provides better scalability since it requires only the service provider to maintain a list of trusted CAs. All other information about the relationship between the certificate subject, and the SAML authenticated subject is available in the certificate.

1.1 Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

1.2 Deployment

EDITORS NOTE:

[This section provided information for better understanding the rationale of the extension. This section can be deleted when the document is published]

The extension described in this draft has been defined and deployed in the National Swedish Identity infrastructure (eID) which is based on SAML federated identity. The Swedish infrastructure went live in 2013 and provides secure identification of citizens for Swedish government services. A central requirement in these government services is to allow citizens to sign various documents, representing a wide range of declarations and applications.

A central part of this infrastructure is therefore to use centralized signature services that allows citizens to sign based on their SAML credentials. Service providers authenticate and understand user identities only under a SAML context within this national infrastructure. Thus this extension allows Service Providers to determine whether a presented signature matches a particular user and whether it meets the security requirements of the service.

Through information provided in this extension a service provider may, for example, receive notice that the user logged on using one level of assurance, but presented a signature verifiable using a certificate obtained using a lower level of assurance. In such

circumstances the service provider might reject the signature.

This extension is therefore fundamental to the function of the Swedish eID infrastructure.

2. Authentication Context Extension Syntax

The Authentication Context extension has the following syntax:

```
AuthenticationContexts ::= SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
                           AuthenticationContext

AuthenticationContext ::= SEQUENCE {
    contextType      UTF8String,
    contextInfo      UTF8String OPTIONAL
}
```

This extension holds a sequence of AuthenticationContext information. When present, this extension MUST include at least one AuthenticationContext.

The type of authentication context defined in AuthenticationContext is identified by the contextType. The contextType MUST contain a URI that identifies the context type as well as an XML Schema name space [[Schema1](#)] and [[Schema2](#)] for associated context information. The optional authentication context information is carried as an XML [[XML](#)] string in contextInfo in accordance with the identified XML Schema.

The XML data format is mainly used to allow context information to be extracted and processed in applications that lack ASN.1 processing capabilities. XML is easy to de-serialize into component data objects both in application and web environments, enabling further comparison with the characteristics of SAML authenticated sessions.

This extension MAY be marked critical.

Applications that find an authentication context information type they do not understand MUST ignore it if the extension is non-critical, and MUST reject the certificate if the extension is marked critical. If an application requires that an authentication context exist, and either the extension is absent, or none of the provided authentication contexts can be used, the end user certificate fails validation.

This document defines one authentication context information type

([Section 3](#)) that is used to provide information about SAML based authentication of the subject that was utilized in the certificate issuance process. Other documents can define other authentication context information types.

3 SAML Authentication Context Information

The SAML Authentication context information provides a contextType field that can be used to carry information about SAML-based authentication of the certified subject as utilized in the certificate issuance process.

The data carried in this authentication context information field is identified by the following XML Schema name space:

<http://id.elegnamnden.se/auth-cont/1.0/saci>

When this URI is specified as contextType, then associated XML data MUST be provided in contextInfo

3.1 contextInfo Data Structure

The data provided in contextInfo SHALL contain UTF-8 encoded XML in accordance with the XML schema provided in [Appendix B](#). The XML document string in contextInfo MUST NOT include an XML header. That is, the XML document string contains only the root element <SAMLAuthContext> with it's child elements <AuthContextInfo> and <IdAttributes>.

The <AuthContextInfo> and <IdAttributes> elements are outlined in the following subsections.

3.1.1 AuthContextInfo Element

The <AuthContextInfo> element MAY be present. This element contains the following attributes:

IdentityProvider	(required): The SAML EntityID of the Identity Provider which authenticated the subject.
AuthenticationInstant	(required): Date and time when the subject was authenticated, expressed according to section 3.3 .
AuthnContextClassRef	(required): A URI identifying the AuthnContextClassRef that is provided in the

AuthnStatement of the Assertion that was used to authenticate the subject. This URI identifies the context and the level of assurance associated with this instance of authentication.

AssertionRef (optional): A unique reference to the SAML Assertion

ServiceID (optional): An identifier of the service that verified the SAML assertion.

The <AuthContextInfo> element may hold any number of child elements of type any (processContents="lax"), providing additional information according to local conventions. Any such elements MAY be ignored if not understood.

3.1.2 IdAttributes Element

The <IdAttributes> element MAY be present. This element holds a sequence of one or more <AttributeMapping> elements, where each <AttributeMapping> element contains mapping information about one certificate subject attribute or name form present in the certificate.

Each <AttributeMapping> element MUST specify the following attributes:

Type A string containing one of the enumerated values "rdn", "san" or "sda", specifying the type of certificate attribute or name form for which mapping information is provided:

"rdn" Mapping information is provided for an attribute in a Relative Distinguished Name located in the subject field.

"san" Mapping information is provided for a name in the Subject Alternative Name extension of the certificate.

"sda" Mapping information is provided for an attribute in the Subject Directory Attributes extension.

Ref A reference to the specific attribute or name field. This reference is dependent on the value of Type in the following way:

"rdn" REF holds a string representation of the OID of the relative distinguished name attribute.

"sda" REF holds a string representation of the OID of the subject directory attribute attribute.

"san" REF holds a string representation of the explicit tag number of the Subject Alternative Name type (e.g. "1" = e-mail address (rfc822Name) and "2" = dNSName). If the SubjectAlternative name is an otherName, then the Ref holds a string representation of the OID defining the otherName form.

String representations of object identifiers (OID) in the Ref attribute MUST be represented by a sequence of integers separated by a period. E.g. "2.5.4.32". This string MUST NOT contain any white-space or line breaks.

Each <AttributeMapping> element MUST contain a <saml:Attribute> element as defined in [SAML]. This SAML attribute element MUST have a Name attribute (specifying its type), MAY have other attributes and

MAY have zero or more <saml:AttributeValue> child elements. A present SAML attribute with absent attribute value limits mapping to the type of SAML attribute that was used to obtain the value stored in the referenced certificate subject attribute or name form, without duplicating the actual attribute value.

If an attribute value is present in the SAML attribute, then the value stored in the certificate in the referenced attribute or name form MAY differ in format and encoding from the present SAML attribute value. For example, a SAML attribute value can specify a country expressed as "Sweden" while this country value is stored in the certificate in a countryName attribute using the two letter country code "SE".

Several <AttributeMapping> elements MAY be present for the same certificate subject attribute or name form if the certificate contains multiple instances of this attribute or name form where their values were obtained from different SAML attributes. But in such cases it is not defined which present subject attribute or name form maps to which SAML attribute. A certificate-using application MAY attempt to determine this by comparing attribute values stored in this extension with attribute or name values present in the certificate, but this specification does not define any explicit matching rules that would guarantee an unambiguous result.

The <AttributeMapping> element may hold any number of child elements of type any (processContents="lax"), providing additional information according to local conventions. Any such elements MAY be ignored if not understood.

Note: The <AttributeMapping> element is designed to provide mapping between SAML attributes and certificate subject attributes and name forms where there is a distinct and clear relationship between relevant SAML attributes and corresponding certificate attributes and name forms. This does not cover all aspects of complex mapping situations. If more than one SAML attribute maps to the same certificate attribute or if structured multi valued attributes are split into a range of other attributes and name forms, these situations are not covered. Such complex mapping situations MAY be covered by extending this XML Schema or by defining a more versatile context information schema.

4 Security Considerations

This extension allows a CA to outsource the process used to identify and authenticate a subject to another trust infrastructure in a dynamic manner that may differ from certificate to certificate. Since the authentication context is explicitly declared in the certificate, one certificate may be issued with a lower level of assurance than another, even though both have the same Issuer.

This means that a relying party needs to be aware of the certificate policy under which this CA operates in order to understand when the certificate provides a level of assurance with regard to subject authentication that is higher than the lowest provided level. A relying party that is not capable of understanding the information in the authentication context extension MUST assume that the certificate is issued using the lowest allowed level of assurance declared by the policy.

5 IANA Considerations

This document contains no actions for IANA.

6 References

6.1 Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>>.
- [RFC3739] Santesson, S., Nystrom, M., and T. Polk, "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure: Qualified Certificates Profile", [RFC 3739](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC3739, March 2004, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3739>>.
- [RFC5280] Cooper, D., Santesson, S., Farrell, S., Boeyen, S., Housley, R., and W. Polk, "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile", [RFC 5280](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5280, May 2008, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5280>>.
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Public Key Infrastructure Using X.509 (PKIX)",
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Standard, 15 March 2005.
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<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-xml/#sec-element-content>, W3C
Recommendation 26 November 2008.
- [Schema1] H. S. Thompson et al. XML Schema Part 1: Structures,
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-1/>, W3C Recommendation,
May 2001.
- [Schema2] P. V. Biron et al. XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes.
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/> , W3C
Recommendation, May 2001.

6.2 Informative References

No informational references

Appendix A - ASN.1 modules

This appendix includes the ASN.1 modules for the Authentication Context extension. [Appendix B.1](#) includes an ASN.1 module that conforms to the 1998 version of ASN.1. [Appendix B.2](#) includes an ASN.1 module, corresponding to the module present in B.1, that conforms to the 2008 version of ASN.1. Although a 2008 ASN.1 module is provided, the module in [Appendix B.1](#) remains the normative module as per policy adopted by the PKIX working group for certificate related specifications.

A.1 ASN.1 1988 Syntax

ACE-88

```
{iso(1) member-body(2) se(752) e-legnamnden(201)
  id-mod(0) id-mod-auth-context-88(1)}
```

DEFINITIONS EXPLICIT TAGS ::=

BEGIN

IMPORTS

```
-- Certificate Extensions
```

```
Extensions
```

```
FROM PKIX1Explicit88 { iso(1) identified-organization(3)
    dod(6) internet(1) security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7)
    id-mod(0) id-pkix1-explicit(18) };
```

```
-- Authentication Context Extension
```

```
AuthenticationContexts ::= SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
    AuthenticationContext
```

```
AuthenticationContext ::= SEQUENCE {
    contextType      UTF8String,
    contextInfo      UTF8String OPTIONAL
}
```

```
e-legnamnden      OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { iso(1) member-body(2)
    se(752) 201 }
```

```
id-eleg-ce        OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { e-legnamnden 5 }
```

```
id-ce-authContext OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { id-eleg-ce 1 }
```

```
END
```

[A.2 ASN.1 2008 Syntax](#)

```
ACE-08
```

```
{iso(1) member-body(2) se(752) e-legnamnden(201)
    id-mod(0) id-mod-auth-context-08(2)}
```

```
DEFINITIONS EXPLICIT TAGS ::=
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
IMPORTS
```

```
Extensions{ }, EXTENSION
```

```
FROM PKIX-CommonTypes-2009 -- From [RFC5912]
```

```
{iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1) security(5)
    mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0) id-mod-pkixCommon-02(57)}
```

```
ext-AuthenticationContext EXTENSION ::= { SYNTAX
    AuthenticationContexts IDENTIFIED BY
    id-ce-authContext }
```

```
AuthenticationContexts ::= SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
    AuthenticationContext
```



```
AuthenticationContext ::= SEQUENCE {
    contextType      UTF8String,
    contextInfo      UTF8String OPTIONAL
}
```

```
e-legnamnden      OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { iso(1) member-body(2)
                                     se(752) 201 }
id-eleg-ce        OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { e-legnamnden 5 }
id-ce-authContext OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { id-eleg-ce 1 }
```

END

Appendix B - SAML Authentication Context Info XML Schema

This appendix section B.1 includes an XML Schema ([[Schema1](#)] and [[Schema2](#)]) for the SAML Authentication context information defined in [section 3](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE: The XML Schema in B.1 specifies a URL on row 9 and 10 to the SAML schemaLocation (<http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/v2.0/saml-schema-assertion-2.0.xsd>), which is too long to fit into one row and therefore contains a line-break. This line-break has to be removed before this schema can be successfully compiled.

[B.1](#) XML Schema

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
            elementFormDefault="qualified"
            targetNamespace="http://id.elegnamnden.se/auth-cont/1.0/saci"
            xmlns:saci="http://id.elegnamnden.se/auth-cont/1.0/saci"
            xmlns:saml="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion">

    <xs:import namespace="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
                schemaLocation="http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/v2.0/
saml-schema-assertion-2.0.xsd"/>

    <xs:element name="SAMLAuthContext"
                type="saci:SAMLAuthContextType"/>
    <xs:complexType name="SAMLAuthContextType">
        <xs:sequence>
            <xs:element ref="saci:AuthContextInfo" minOccurs="0"/>
            <xs:element ref="saci:IdAttributes" minOccurs="0"/>
        </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
</xs:schema>
```



```
</xs:complexType>
<xs:element name="AuthContextInfo"
  type="saci:AuthContextInfoType"/>
<xs:complexType name="AuthContextInfoType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:any processContents="lax"
      minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
  </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="IdentityProvider"
    type="xs:string" use="required"/>
  <xs:attribute name="AuthenticationInstant"
    type="xs:dateTime" use="required"/>
  <xs:attribute name="AuthnContextClassRef"
    type="xs:anyURI" use="required"/>
  <xs:attribute name="AssertionRef" type="xs:string"/>
  <xs:attribute name="ServiceID" type="xs:string"/>
</xs:complexType>

<xs:element name="IdAttributes" type="saci:IdAttributesType"/>
<xs:complexType name="IdAttributesType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded" minOccurs="1"
      ref="saci:AttributeMapping"/>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
<xs:element name="AttributeMapping"
  type="saci:AttributeMappingType"/>
<xs:complexType name="AttributeMappingType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element ref="saml:Attribute"/>
    <xs:any processContents="lax"
      minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
  </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="Type" use="required">
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
        <xs:enumeration value="rdn"/>
        <xs:enumeration value="san"/>
        <xs:enumeration value="sda"/>
      </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:attribute>
  <xs:attribute name="Ref" type="xs:string" use="required"/>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:schema>
```


Appendix C - SAML Authentication Context Info XML Examples

This appendix provides examples of SAML Authentication Context information according to the schema in [Appendix B](#).

C.1 Complete context information and mappings

This example provides a complete example with authentication context information as well as mapping information for several subject field attributes as well as a subject alt name.

```
<saci:SAMLAuthContext
  xmlns:saci="http://id.elegnamnden.se/auth-cont/1.0/saci"
  xmlns:saml="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <saci:AuthContextInfo
    ServiceID="eid2csig"
    AssertionRef="_71b981ab017eb42869ae4b62b2a63add"
    IdentityProvider="https://idp-test.nordu.net/idp/shibboleth"
    AuthenticationInstant="2013-03-05T22:59:57.000+01:00"
    AuthnContextClassRef="http://id.elegnamnden.se/loa/1.0/loa3"/>
  <saci:IdAttributes>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.6">
      <saml:Attribute
        FriendlyName="Country"
        Name="urn:oid:2.5.4.6">
        <saml:AttributeValue xsi:type="xs:string"
          >SE</saml:AttributeValue>
      </saml:Attribute>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.5">
      <saml:Attribute
        FriendlyName="Personal ID Number"
        Name="urn:oid:1.2.752.29.4.13">
        <saml:AttributeValue xsi:type="xs:string"
          >200007292386</saml:AttributeValue>
      </saml:Attribute>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.42">
      <saml:Attribute
        FriendlyName="Given Name"
        Name="urn:oid:2.5.4.42">
        <saml:AttributeValue xsi:type="xs:string"
          >John</saml:AttributeValue>
      </saml:Attribute>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.4">
      <saml:Attribute
```



```

        FriendlyName="Surname"
        Name="urn:oid:2.5.4.4">
        <saml:AttributeValue xsi:type="xs:string"
            >Doe</saml:AttributeValue>
    </saml:Attribute>
</saci:AttributeMapping>
<saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.3">
    <saml:Attribute
        FriendlyName="Display Name"
        Name="urn:oid:2.16.840.1.113730.3.1.241">
        <saml:AttributeValue xsi:type="xs:string"
            >John Doe</saml:AttributeValue>
    </saml:Attribute>
</saci:AttributeMapping>
<saci:AttributeMapping Type="san" Ref="1">
    <saml:Attribute
        FriendlyName="E-mail"
        Name="urn:oid:0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.3">
        <saml:AttributeValue xsi:type="xs:string"
            >john.doe@example.com</saml:AttributeValue>
    </saml:Attribute>
</saci:AttributeMapping>
</saci:IdAttributes>
</saci:SAMLAuthContext>

```

[C.2](#) Only mapping information without SAML attribute values

This example shows an instance of the SAML Authentication Context information that only provides a mapping table without providing any authentication context information or saml attribute values.

```

<saci:SAMLAuthContext
  xmlns:saci="http://id.elegnamnden.se/auth-cont/1.0/saci"
  xmlns:saml="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion">
  <saci:IdAttributes>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.6">
      <saml:Attribute Name="urn:oid:2.5.4.6"/>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.5">
      <saml:Attribute Name="urn:oid:1.2.752.29.4.13"/>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.42">
      <saml:Attribute Name="urn:oid:2.5.4.42"/>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.4">
      <saml:Attribute Name="urn:oid:2.5.4.4"/>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
  </saci:IdAttributes>
</saci:SAMLAuthContext>

```



```
<saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.3">
  <saml:Attribute Name="urn:oid:2.16.840.1.113730.3.1.241"/>
</saci:AttributeMapping>
<saci:AttributeMapping Type="san" Ref="1">
  <saml:Attribute Name="urn:oid:0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.3"/>
</saci:AttributeMapping>
</saci:IdAttributes>
</saci:SAMLAuthContext>
```

C.3 Authentication context and serialNumber mapping

This example shows an instance of the SAML Authentication Context information, which provides authentication context information and mapping information that specifies the source of the data stored in the serialNumber attribute in the subject field.

```
<saci:SAMLAuthContext
  xmlns:saci="http://id.elegnamnden.se/auth-cont/1.0/saci"
  xmlns:saml="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:assertion"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <saci:AuthContextInfo
    ServiceID="eid2csig"
    AssertionRef="_71b981ab017eb42869ae4b62b2a63add"
    IdentityProvider="https://idp-test.nordu.net/idp/shibboleth"
    AuthenticationInstant="2013-03-05T22:59:57.000+01:00"
    AuthnContextClassRef="http://id.elegnamnden.se/loa/1.0/loa3"/>
  <saci:IdAttributes>
    <saci:AttributeMapping Type="rdn" Ref="2.5.4.5">
      <saml:Attribute
        FriendlyName="Personal ID Number"
        Name="urn:oid:1.2.752.29.4.13">
        <saml:AttributeValue xsi:type="xs:string"
          >200007292386</saml:AttributeValue>
      </saml:Attribute>
    </saci:AttributeMapping>
  </saci:IdAttributes>
</saci:SAMLAuthContext>
```


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