The Grant Negotiation and Authorization Protocol
draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-14

Abstract

Client software often desires resources or identity claims that are independent of the client. This protocol allows a user and/or resource owner to delegate resource authorization and/or release of identity claims to a server. Client software can then request access to resources and/or identity claims by calling the server. The server acquires consent and authorization from the user and/or resource owner if required, and then returns to the client software the authorization and identity claims that were approved. This protocol may be extended on many dimensions.

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1. Introduction

*EDITOR NOTE*

_This document captures a number of concepts that may be adopted by_ the proposed GNAP working group. Please refer to this document as:__

*XAuth*

_The use of GNAP in this document is not intended to be a declaration of_ it being endorsed by the GNAP working group.__

This document describes the core Grant Negotiation and Authorization Protocol (GNAP). The protocol supports the widely deployed use cases supported by OAuth 2.0 [RFC6749] & [RFC6750], OpenID Connect [OIDC] - an extension of OAuth 2.0, as well as other extensions. Related
documents include: GNAP - Advanced Features [GNAP_Advanced] and JOSE Authentication [JOSE_Authentication] that describes the JOSE mechanisms for client authentication.

The technology landscape has changed since OAuth 2.0 was initially drafted. More interactions happen on mobile devices than PCs. Modern browsers now directly support asymmetric cryptographic functions. Standards have emerged for signing and encrypting tokens with rich payloads (JOSE) that are widely deployed.

GNAP simplifies the overall architectural model, takes advantage of today’s technology landscape, provides support for all the widely deployed use cases, offers numerous extension points, and addresses many of the security issues in OAuth 2.0 by passing parameters securely between parties rather than via a browser redirection.

While GNAP is not backwards compatible with OAuth 2.0, it strives to minimize the migration effort.

The suggested pronunciation of GNAP is "guh-nap".

1.1. The Grant

The Grant is at the center of the protocol between a client and a server. A Grant Client requests a Grant from a Grant Server. The Grant Client and Grant Server negotiate the Grant. The Grant Server acquires authorization to grant the Grant to the Grant Client. The Grant Server then returns the Grant to the Grant Client.

The Grant Request may contain information about the User, the Grant Client, the interaction modes supported by the Grant Client, the requested identity claims, and the requested resource access. Extensions may define additional information to be included in the Grant Request.

1.2. Protocol Roles

There are three roles in GNAP: the Grant Client (GC), the Grant Server (GS), and the Resource Server (RS). Below is how the roles interact:
(1) The GC may query the RS to determine what the RS requires from a GS for resource access. This step is not in scope for this document.

(2) The GC makes a Grant request to the GS (Create Grant Section 3.2). How the GC authenticates to the GS is not in scope for this document. One mechanism is [JOSE_Authentication].

(3) The GC and GS may negotiate the Grant.

(4) The GS returns a Grant to the GC (Grant Response Section 4.1).

(5) The GC accesses resources at the RS (RS Access Section 6).

(6) The RS evaluates access granted by the GS to determine access granted to the GC. This step is not in scope for this document.

1.3. Human Interactions

The Grant Client may be interacting with a human end-user (User), and the Grant Client may need to get authorization to release the Grant from the User, or from the owner of the resources at the Resource Server, the Resource Owner (RO).

Below is when the human interactions may occur in the protocol:
Steps (1) - (6) are the same as Section 1.2. The addition of the human interactions (A) - (C) are *bolded* below.

*(A) The User is interacting with a GC, and the GC needs resource access and/or identity claims (a Grant)*

(1) The GC may query the RS to determine what the RS requires from a GS for resource access

(2) The GC makes a Grant request to the GS

(3) The GC and GS may negotiate the Grant

*(B) The GS may interact with the User for grant authorization*

*(C) The GS may interact with the RO for grant authorization*

(4) The GS returns a Grant to the GC

(5) The GC accesses resources at the RS

(6) The RS evaluates access granted by the GS to determine access granted to the GC
Alternatively, the Resource Owner could be a legal entity that has a software component that the Grant Server interacts with for Grant authorization. This interaction is not in scope of this document.

1.4. Trust Model

In addition to the User and the Resource Owner, there are three other entities that are part of the trust model:

* *Client Owner* (CO) - the legal entity that owns the Grant Client.

* *Grant Server Owner* (GSO) - the legal entity that owns the Grant Server.

* *Claims Issuer* (Issuer) - a legal entity that issues identity claims about the User. The Grant Server Owner may be an Issuer, and the Resource Owner may be an Issuer.

These three entities do not interact in the protocol, but are trusted by the User and the Resource Owner:

```
+------------+           +--------------+----------+
|    User    | >> (A) >> | Grant Server |          |
|            |           | Owner (GSO)  |          |
+------------+         > +--------------+          |
V              /          ^       |  Claims  |
(B)          (C)          (E)      |  Issuer  |
V          /              ^       | (Issuer) |
+------------+ >         +--------------+          |
|  Client    | >> (D) >> |   Resource   |          |
| Owner (CO) |           |  Owner (RO)  |          |
+------------+           +--------------+----------+
```

(A) User trusts the GSO to acquire authorization before making a grant to the CO

(B) User trusts the CO to act in the User’s best interest with the Grant the GSO grants to the CO

(C) CO trusts claims issued by the GSO

(D) CO trusts claims issued by the RO

(E) RO trusts the GSO to manage access to the RO resources
1.5. Terminology

*Roles*

*Grant Client* (GC)
- may want access to resources at a Resource Server
- may be interacting with a User and want identity claims about the User
- requests the Grant Service to grant resource access and identity claims

*Grant Server* (GS)
- accepts Grant requests from the GC for resource access and identity claims
- negotiates the interaction mode with the GC if interaction is required with the User
- acquires authorization from the User before granting identity claims to the GC
- acquires authorization from the RO before granting resource access to the GC
- grants resource access and identity claims to the GC

*Resource Server* (RS)
- has resources that the GC may want to access
- expresses what the GC must obtain from the GS for access through documentation or an API. This is not in scope for this document
- verifies the GS granted access to the GC, when the GS makes resource access requests

*Humans*

*User*
- the person interacting with the Grant Client.
- has delegated access to identity claims about themselves to the Grant Server.
- may authenticate at the GS.

*Resource Owner* (RO)
- the legal entity that owns resources at the Resource Server (RS).
- has delegated resource access management to the GS.
- may be the User, or may be a different entity that the GS interacts with independently.

*Reused Terms*

*access token* - an access token as defined in [RFC6749] Section 1.4. An GC uses an access token for resource access at a RS.

*Claim* - a Claim as defined in [OIDC] Section 5. Claims are issued by a Claims Issuer.

*Client ID* - a GS unique identifier for a Registered Client as defined in [RFC6749] Section 2.2.

*ID Token* - an ID Token as defined in [OIDC] Section 2. ID Tokens are issued by the GS. The GC uses an ID Token to authenticate the User.

*NumericDate* - a NumericDate as defined in [RFC7519] Section 2.

*authN* - short for authentication.

*authZ* - short for authorization.

*New Terms*

*GS URI* - the endpoint at the GS the GC calls to create a Grant, and is the unique identifier for the GS.

*Registered Client* - a GC that has registered with the GS and has a Client ID to identify itself, and can prove it possesses a key that is linked to the Client ID. The GS may have different policies for what different Registered Clients can request. A Registered Client MAY be interacting with a User.
* Dynamic Client* - a GC that has not been previously registered with the GS, and each instance will generate its own asymmetric key pair so it can prove it is the same instance of the GC on subsequent requests. The GS MAY return a Dynamic Client a Client Handle for the Dynamic Client to identify itself in subsequent requests. A single-page application with no active server component is an example of a Dynamic Client.

* Client Handle* - a unique identifier at the GS for a Dynamic Client for the Dynamic Client to refer to itself in subsequent requests.

* Interaction* - how the GC directs the User to interact with the GS. This document defines the interaction modes: "redirect", "indirect", and "user_code" in Section 5.

* Grant* - the user identity claims and/or resource access the GS has granted to the Client. The GS MAY invalidate a Grant at any time.

* Grant URI* - the URI that represents the Grant. The Grant URI MUST start with the GS URI.

* Access* - the access granted by the RO to the GC and contains an access token. The GS may invalidate an Access at any time.

* Access URI* - the URI that represents the Access the GC was granted by the RO. The Access URI MUST start with the GS URI. The Access URI is used to refresh an access token.

1.6. Notational Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this specification are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

Certain security-related terms are to be understood in the sense defined in [RFC4949]. These terms include, but are not limited to, "attack", "authentication", "authorization", "certificate", "confidentiality", "credential", "encryption", "identity", "sign", "signature", "trust", "validate", and "verify".

_[[Editor: review that the terms listed and used are the same]]_

Unless otherwise noted, all the protocol parameter names and values are case sensitive.
Some protocol parameters are parts of a JSON document, and are referred to in JavaScript notation. For example, "foo.bar" refers to the "bar" boolean attribute in the "foo" object in the following example JSON document:

```json
{
    "foo" : {
        "bar": true
    }
}
```

2. Exemplar Sequences

The following sequences are demonstrative of how GNAP can be used, but are just a few of the possible sequences possible with GNAP.

Before any sequence, the GC needs to be manually or programmatically configured for the GS. See GS Options Section 3.7 for details on programmatically acquiring GS metadata.

In the sequence diagrams:

++ + indicates an interaction with a person
----- indicates an interaction between protocol roles

2.1. "redirect" Interaction

The GC is a web application and wants a Grant from the User containing resource access and identity claims. The User is the RO for the resource:
1. *Create Grant* The GC creates a Request JSON document Section 3.5 containing an interaction.redirect object, and the requested identity claims and resource access. The GC then makes a Create Grant request (Section 3.2) by sending the JSON with an HTTP POST to the GS URI.

2. *Interaction Response* The GS determines that interaction with the User is required and sends an Interaction Response (Section 4.2) containing the Grant URI and an interaction.redirect object containing the redirect_uri.

3. *Interaction Transfer* The GC redirects the User to the redirect_uri at the GS.


5. *User Authorization* If required, the GS interacts with the User (who may also be the RO) to determine the identity claims and resource access in the Grant Request are to be granted.

6. *Interaction Transfer* The GS redirects the User to the completion_uri at the GC.

7. *Verify Grant* The GC makes an HTTP PATCH request to the Grant URI passing the verification code (Section 3.3).
8. *Grant Response* The GS responds with a Grant Response (Section 4.1).

The GC can now access the resources at the RS per Section 2.4.

2.2. "user_code" Interaction

A GC is on a device that wants a Grant from the User. The User will interact with the GS using a separate device:

1. *Create Grant* The GC creates a Request JSON document Section 3.5 containing an interaction.user_code object and makes a Create Grant request (Section 3.2) by sending the JSON with an HTTP POST to the GS URI.

2. *Interaction Response* The GS determines that interaction with the User is required and sends an Interaction Response (Section 4.2) containing the Grant URI and an interaction.user_code object.

3. *Read Grant* The GC makes an HTTP GET request to the Grant URI.
4. *User Authentication* The User loads display_uri in their browser, and the GS authenticates the User.

5. *User Code* The User enters the code at the GS.

6. *User Authorization* If required, the GS interacts with the User (who may also be the RO) to determine the identity claims and resource access in the Grant Request are to be granted.

7. *Grant Response* The GS responds with a Grant Response (Section 4.1).

8. *Information URI Redirect* The GS redirects the User to the information_uri provided by the GC.

The GC can now access the resources at the RS per Section 2.4.

2.3. Independent RO Authorization

The GC wants access to resources that require the GS to interact with the RO, who is not interacting with the GC. The authorization from the RO may take some time, so the GS instructs the GC to wait and check back later.

1. *Create Grant* The GC creates a Grant Request (Section 3.2) and sends it with an HTTP POST to the GS GS URI.

2. *Wait Response* The GS sends an Wait Response (Section 4.3) containing the Grant URI and the "wait" attribute.

3. *GC Waits* The GC waits for the time specified in the "wait" attribute.
4. *RO AuthZ* The GS interacts with the RO to determine which identity claims and/or resource access in the Grant Request are to be granted.

5. *Read Grant* The GC does an HTTP GET of the Grant URI (Section 3.4).

6. *Grant Response* The GS responds with a Grant Response (Section 4.1).

The GC can now access the resources at the RS per Section 2.4.

2.4. Resource Server Access

The GC received an Access URI from the GS. The GC acquires an access token, calls the RS, and later the access token expires. The GC then gets a fresh access token.

```
+--------+                             +----------+  +--------+
| Grant  |                             | Resource |  | Grant  |
| Client  |<------------------- Access Resource ----->|  Server  |  | Server |
| (GC)    |<------- Resource Response --|          |  |        |
|         |--(2)--- Access Resource --->|          |  |        |
|         |<------- Error Response -----|          |  |        |
|         |                             +----------+  |        |
|         |--(3)--- Read Access ----------------->|        |
|         |<------- Access Response ------------------|        |
|         |                                           |        |
|         |                                           +--------+
```

1. *Resource Request* The GC accesses the RS with the access token per Section 6 and receives a response from the RS.

2. *Resource Request* The GC attempts to access the RS, but receives an error indicating the access token needs to be refreshed.

3. *Read Access* The GC makes a Read Access (Section 3.6) with an HTTP GET to the Access URI and receives as Response JSON "access" object (Section 4.4.4) with a fresh access token.

3. GS APIs
   
   *GC Authentication*
All GS APIs except for GS Options require the GC to authenticate. Authentication mechanisms include:

* JOSE Authentication [JOSE_Authentication]
* [Others TBD]*

### 3.1. GS API Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>request</th>
<th>http method</th>
<th>uri</th>
<th>response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create Grant</td>
<td>POST</td>
<td>GS URI</td>
<td>Interaction, wait, or Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verify Grant</td>
<td>PATCH</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Grant URI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Grant</td>
<td>GET</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>wait, or Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Access</td>
<td>GET</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Access URI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS Options</td>
<td>OPTIONS</td>
<td>GS URI</td>
<td>metadata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

### 3.2. Create Grant

The GC creates a Grant by doing an HTTP POST of a JSON [RFC8259] document to the GS URI. This is a Grant Request.

The JSON document MUST include the following from the Request JSON Section 3.5:

* iat
* nonce
* uri - MUST be set to the GS URI
* method - MUST be "POST"
* client

and MAY include the following from Request JSON Section 3.5
The GS MUST respond with one of Grant Response Section 4.1, Interaction Response Section 4.2, Wait Response Section 4.3, or one of the following errors:

* TBD

from Error Responses Section 7.

Following is a non-normative example of a web application GC requesting identity claims about the User and read access to the User’s contacts:
Example 1

```json
{
    "iat"       : 15790460234,
    "uri"       : "https://as.example/endpoint",
    "method"    : "POST",
    "nonce"     : "f6a60810-3d07-41ac-81e7-b958c0dd21e4",
    "client": {
        "display": {
            "name"  : "SPA Display Name",
            "uri"   : "https://spa.example/about"
        }
    },
    "interaction": {
        "redirect": {
            "completion_uri"    : "https://web.example/return"
        },
        "global": {
            "ui_locals" : "de"
        }
    },
    "access": [ "read_contacts" ],
    "claims": {
        "oidc": {
            "id_token": {
                "email"          : { "essential" : true },
                "email_verified" : { "essential" : true }
            },
            "userinfo": {
                "name"           : { "essential" : true },
                "picture"        : null
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Following is a non-normative example of a device GC requesting two different access tokens, one request with "oauth_scope", the other with "oauth_rich":

```json

```
Example 2

```json
{
  "iat" : 15790460234,
  "uri" : "https://as.example/endpoint",
  "method" : "POST",
  "nonce" : "5c9360a5-9065-4f7b-a330-5713909e06c6",
  "client": {
    "id" : "di3872h34dkJW"
  },
  "interaction": {
    "indirect": {
      "information_uri": "https://device.example/c/indirect"
    },
    "user_code": {
      "information_uri": "https://device.example/c/user_code"
    }
  },
  "access": {
    "play_music": [ "play_music" ],
    "read_user_info": [ {
      "type" : "customer_information",
      "locations" : [ "https://example.com/customers" ],
      "actions" : [ "read" ],
      "datatypes" : [ "contacts", "photos" ]
    } ]
  }
}
```

3.3. Verify Grant

The GC verifies a Grant by doing an HTTP PATCH of a JSON document to the Grant URI. The GC MUST only verify a Grant once.

The JSON document MUST include the following from the Request JSON Section 3.5:

* iat
* nonce
* uri - MUST be set to the Grant URI
* method - MUST be PATCH
* interaction.redirection.verification - MUST be the verification code received per Section 5.1.1.
Following is a non-normative example:

```json
{
    "iat" : 15790460235,
    "uri" : "https://as.example/endpoint/grant/example1",
    "method" : "PATCH",
    "nonce" : "9b6af70-2036-47c9-b953-5dd1fd0c699a",
    "interaction": {
        "redirect": {
            "verification" : "cb4aa22d-2fe1-4321-b87e-bbaa66fbe707"
        }
    }
}
```

The GS MUST respond with one of Grant Response Section 4.1 or one of the following errors:

* TBD

3.4. Read Grant

The GC reads a Grant by doing an HTTP GET of the corresponding Grant URI. The GC MAY read a Grant until it expires or has been invalidated.

The GS MUST respond with one of Grant Response Section 4.1, Wait Response Section 4.3, or one of the following errors:

* TBD

3.5. Request JSON

* *iat* - the time of the request as a NumericDate.

* *nonce* - a unique identifier for this request. Note the Grant Response MUST contain a matching "nonce" attribute value.

* *uri* - the URI being invoked

* *method* - the HTTP method being used

3.5.1. "client" Object

The client object MUST only one of the following:

* *id* - the Client ID the GS has for a Registered Client.
* *handle* - the Client Handle the GS previously provided a Dynamic Client

* *display* - the display object contains the following attributes:
  - *name* - a string that represents the Dynamic Client
  - *uri* - a URI representing the Dynamic Client

The GS will show the User the display.name and display.uri values when prompting for authorization.

_[Editor: a max length for the name and URI so a GS can reserve appropriate space?]_

3.5.2. "interaction" Object

The interaction object contains one or more interaction mode objects per Section 5 representing the interactions the GC is willing to provide the User. In addition to the interaction mode objects, the interaction object may contain the "global" object;

* *global* - an optional object containing parameters that are applicable for all interaction modes. Only one attribute is defined in this document:

  - *ui_locales* - End-User’s preferred languages and scripts for the user interface, represented as a space-separated list of [RFC5646] language tag values, ordered by preference. This attribute is OPTIONAL.

_[Editor: ui_locales is taken from OIDC. Why space-separated and not a JSON array?]_

3.5.3. "user" Object

* *identifiers* - The identifiers MAY be used by the GS to improve the User experience. This object contains one or more of the following identifiers for the User:

  - *phone_number* - contains a phone number per Section 5 of [RFC3966].
  - *email* - contains an email address per [RFC5322].
  - *oidc* - is an object containing both the "iss" and "sub" attributes from an OpenID Connect ID Token [OIDC] Section 2.
3.5.4. "access" Object

The GC may request a single Access, or multiple. If a single Access, the "access" object contains an array of [RAR] objects. If multiple, the "access" object contains an object where each property name is a unique string created by the GC, and the property value is an array of [RAR] objects.

3.5.5. "claims" Object

Includes one or more of the following:

* *oidc* - an object that contains one or both of the following objects:
  - *userinfo* - Claims that will be returned as a JSON object
  - *id_token* - Claims that will be included in the returned ID Token. If the null value, an ID Token will be returned containing no additional Claims.

The contents of the userinfo and id_token objects are Claims as defined in [OIDC] Section 5.

* *oidc4ia* - OpenID Connect for Identity Assurance claims request per [OIDC4IA].

* *vc* - _[Editor: define how W3C Verifiable Credentials can be requested.]_ [W3C_VC]

3.6. Read Access

The GC acquires and refreshes an Access by doing an HTTP GET to the corresponding Access URI.

The GS MUST respond with a Access JSON document Section 4.5, or one of the following errors:

* TBD

from Error Responses Section 7.
3.7. GS Options

The GC can get the metadata for the GS by doing an HTTP OPTIONS of the corresponding GS URI. This is the only API where the GS MAY respond to an unauthenticated request.

The GS MUST respond with the following JSON document:

* `uri` - the GS URI.
* `client_authentication` - a JSON array of the GC Authentication mechanisms supported by the GS.
* `interactions` - a JSON array of the interaction modes supported by the GS.
* `access` - an object containing the access the GC may request from the GS, if any.
  
  - Details TBD
* `claims` - an object containing the identity claims the GC may request from the GS, if any, and what public keys the claims will be signed with.
  
  - Details TBD
* `algorithms` - a JSON array of the cryptographic algorithms supported by the GS. [details TBD]*
* `features` - an object containing feature or extension support or one of the following errors:
  
  * TBD

from Error Responses Section 7.

4. GS Responses

There are three successful responses to a Grant Request: Grant Response, Interaction Response, or Wait Response.

4.1. Grant Response

The Grant Response MUST include the following from the Response JSON Section 4.4
* iat
* nonce
* uri

and MAY include the following from the Response JSON Section 4.4
* client.handle
* access
* claims
* expires_in
* warnings

Example non-normative Grant Response JSON document for Example 1 in Section 3.2:

```
{
   "iat" : 15790460234,
   "nonce" : "f6a60810-3d07-41ac-81e7-b958c0dd21e4",
   "uri" : "https://as.example/endpoint/grant/example1",
   "expires_in" : 300,
   "access": {
      "mechanism" : "bearer",
      "token" : "eyJhbUzI1N.example.access.token.mZf9p",
      "expires_in" : 3600,
      "granted" : [ "read_contacts" ],
   },
   "claims": {
      "oidc": {
         "id_token" : "eyJhbUzI1N.example.id.token.YRw5DFdbW",
         "userinfo" : {
            "name" : "John Doe",
            "picture" : "https://photos.example/p/eyJzdkiO"
         }
      }
   }
}
```

Note in this example since no Access URI was returned in the access object, the access token can not be refreshed, and expires in an hour.
Example non-normative Grant Response JSON document for Example 2 in Section 3.2:

```
{
    "iat" : 15790460234,
    "nonce" : "5c9360a5-9065-4f7b-a330-5713909e06c6",
    "uri" : "https://as.example/endpoint/grant/example2",
    "access": {
        "play_music": { "uri" : "https://as.example/endpoint/access/example2" },
        "read_user_info": { "uri" : "https://as.example/endpoint/access/" }
    }
}
```

Note in this example the GS only provided the Access URIs. The GC must acquire the Access per Section 3.6

[Editor: the GC needs to remember if it asked for a single access, or multiple, as there is no crisp algorithm for differentiating between the responses]

4.2. Interaction Response

The Interaction Response MUST include the following from the Response JSON Section 4.4

* iat
* nonce
* uri
* interaction

and MAY include the following from the Response JSON Section 4.4

* user
* wait
* warnings

A non-normative example of an Interaction Response follows:
4.3. Wait Response

The Wait Response MUST include the following from the Response JSON Section 4.4

* iat
* nonce
* uri
* wait

and MAY include the following from the Response JSON Section 4.4

* warnings

A non-normative example of Wait Response follows:

```json
{
  "iat" : 15790460234,
  "nonce" : "0d1998d8-fbfa-4879-b942-85a88bflf3b",
  "uri" : "https://as.example/endpoint/grant/example5",
  "wait" : 300
}
```

4.4. Response JSON

Details of the JSON document:

* *iat* - the time of the response as a NumericDate.
* *nonce* - the nonce that was included in the Request JSON Section 3.5.
* *uri* - the Grant URI.
4.4.1. "client" Object

If the GC is a Dynamic Client, the GS may return

* "handle" - the Client Handle

4.4.2. "interaction" Object

If the GS wants the GC to start the interaction, the GS MUST return an interaction object containing one or more interaction mode responses per Section 5 to one or more of the interaction mode requests provided by the GC.

4.4.3. "access" Object

If the GC requested a single Access, the "access" object is an access response object Section 4.4.4. If the GC requested multiple, the access object contains a property of the same name for each Access requested by the GC, and each property is an access response object Section 4.4.4.

4.4.4. Access Response Object

The access response object contains properties from the Access JSON Section 4.5. The access response object MUST contain either the "uri" property from, or MUST contain:

* mechanism
* token

and MAY contain:

* access
* expires_in
* uri

If there is no "uri" property, the access token can not be refreshed. If only the "uri" property is present, the GC MUST acquire the Access per Section 3.6.
4.4.5. "claims" Object

The claims object is a response to the Grant Request "claims" object Section 3.5.5.

*  *oidc*

  -  *id_token* - an OpenID Connect ID Token containing the Claims the User consented to be released.
  -  *userinfo* - the Claims the User consented to be released.

Claims are defined in [OIDC] Section 5.

*  *oidc4ia* - OpenID Connect for Identity Assurance claims response per [OIDC4IA].

*  *vc*

  The verified claims the user consented to be released. _[Editor: details TBD]_

4.4.6. "warnings" JSON Array

Includes zero or more warnings from Section 8,

4.5. Access JSON

The Access JSON is a Grant Response Access Object Section 4.4.4 or the response to a Read Access request by the GC Section 3.6.

*  *mechanism* - the RS access mechanism. This document defines the "bearer" mechanism as defined in Section 6. Required.

*  *token* - the access token for accessing an RS. Required.

*  *expires_in* - an optional numeric value specifying how many seconds until the access token expires.

*  *uri* - the Access URI. Used to acquire or refresh Access. Required.

*  *granted* - an optional array of [RAR] objects containing the resource access granted

_ [Editor: would an optional expiry for the Access be useful?]_

The following is a non-normative example of Access JSON:
4.6. Response Verification

On receipt of a response, the GC MUST verify the following:

* TBD

5. Interaction Modes

This document defines three interaction modes: "redirect", "indirect", and "user_code". Extensions may define additional interaction modes.

The "global" attribute is reserved in the interaction object for attributes that apply to all interaction modes.

5.1. "redirect"

A Redirect Interaction is characterized by the GC redirecting the User’s browser to the GS, the GS interacting with the User, and then GS redirecting the User’s browser back to the GC. The GS correlates the Grant Request with the unique redirect_uri, and the GC correlates the Grant Request with the unique completion_uri.

* The request "interaction" object contains:

  * *completion_uri* a unique URI at the GC that the GS will return the User to. The URI MUST not contain the "nonce" from the Grant Request, and MUST not be guessable. This attribute is REQUIRED.

  * The response "interaction" object contains:

  * *redirect_uri* a unique URI at the GS that the GC will redirect the User to. The URI MUST not contain the "nonce" from the Grant Request, and MUST not be guessable. This attribute is REQUIRED.

  * *verification* a boolean value indicating the GS requires the GC to make a Verify Grant request. (Section 3.3)
5.1.1. "redirect" verification

If the GS indicates that Grant Verification is required, the GS MUST add a ‘verification’ query parameter with a value of a unique verification code to the completion_uri.

On receiving the verification code in the redirect from the GS, the GC makes a Verify Grant request (Section 3.3) with the verification code.

5.2. "indirect"

An Indirect Interaction is characterized by the GC causing the User’s browser to load the indirect_uri at GS, the GS interacting with the User, and then the GS MAY optionally redirect the User’s Browser to a information_uri. There is no mechanism for the GS to redirect the User’s browser back to the GC.

Examples of how the GC may initiate the interaction are encoding the indirect_uri as a code scannable by the User’s mobile device, or launching a system browser from a command line interface (CLI) application.

The "indirect" mode is susceptible to session fixation attacks. See TBD in the Security Considerations for details.

*The request "interaction" object contains:

*information_uri* an OPTIONAL URI that the GS will redirect the User’s browser to after GS interaction.

The response "interaction" object contains:

*indirect_uri* the URI the GC will cause to load in the User’s browser. The URI SHOULD be short enough to be easily encoded in a scannable code. The URI MUST not contain the "nonce" from the Grant Request, and MUST not be guessable. _[Editor: recommend a maximum length?]

5.3. "user_code"

An Indirect Interaction is characterized by the GC displaying a code and a URI for the User to load in a browser and then enter the code. _[Editor: recommend a minimum entropy?]

*The request "interaction" object contains:*
*information_uri* an OPTIONAL URI that the GS will redirect the User’s browser to after GS interaction.

*The response "interaction" object contains:*

*code* the code the GC displays to the User to enter at the display_uri. This attribute is REQUIRED.

*display_uri* the URI the GC displays to the User to load in a browser to enter the code.

6. RS Access

The mechanism the GC MUST use to access an RS is in the Access JSON "mechanism" attribute Section 4.4.4.

The "bearer" mechanism is defined in Section 2.1 of [RFC6750]

The "jose" and "jose+body" mechanisms are defined in [JOSE_Authentication]

A non-normative "bearer" example of the HTTP request headers follows:

GET /calendar HTTP/2
Host: calendar.example
Authorization: bearer eyJJ2D6.example.access.token.mZf9pTSpA

7. Error Responses

* TBD

8. Warnings

[Editor: Warnings are an optional response that can assist a GC in detecting non-fatal errors, such as ignored objects and properties.]

* TBD

9. Extensibility

This standard can be extended in a number of areas:

* GC Authentication Mechanisms*
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- An extension could define other mechanisms for the GC to authenticate to the GS and/or RS such as Mutual TLS or HTTP Signing. Constrained environments could use CBOR [RFC7049] instead of JSON, and COSE [RFC8152] instead of JOSE, and CoAP [RFC8323] instead of HTTP/2.

* *Grant*

- An extension can define new objects in the Grant Request and Grant Response JSON that return new URIs.

* *Top Level*

- Top level objects SHOULD only be defined to represent functionality other the existing top level objects and attributes.

* *"client" Object*

- Additional information about the GC that the GS would require related to an extension.

* *"user" Object*

- Additional information about the User that the GS would require related to an extension.

* *"access" Object*

- RAR is inherently extensible.

* *"claims" Object*

- Additional claim schemas in addition to OpenID Connect claims and Verified Credentials.

* *interaction modes*

- Additional types of interactions a GC can start with the User.

* *Continuous Authentication*

- An extension could define a mechanism for the GC to regularly provide continuous authentication signals and receive responses.

_[Editor: do we specify access token introspection in this document, or leave that to an extension?]_
10. Rational

1. *Why do GCs now always use Asymmetric cryptography? Why not keep the client secret?*

In the past, asymmetric cryptography was relatively computational expensive. Modern browsers now have asymmetric cryptographic APIs available, and modern hardware has significantly reduced the computational impact.

2. *Why have both Client ID and Client Handle?*

While they both refer to a Grant Client in the protocol, the Client ID refers to a pre-registered client, and the Client Handle is specific to an instance of a Dynamic Client. Using separate terms clearly differentiates which identifier is being presented to the GS.

3. *Why allow GC and GS to negotiate the user interaction mode?*

The GC knows what interaction modes it is capable of, and the GS knows which interaction modes it will permit for a given Grant Request. The GC can then present the intersection to the User to choose which one is preferred. For example, while a device based GC may be willing to do both "indirect" and "user_code", a GS may not enable "indirect" for concern of a session fixation attack. Additional interaction modes will likely become available which allows new modes to be negotiated between GC and GS as each adds additional interaction modes.

4. *Why have both identity claims and resource access?*

There are use cases for each that are independent: authenticating a user and providing claims vs granting access to a resource. A request for an authorization returns an access token which may have full CRUD capabilities, while a request for a claim returns the claim about the User - with no create, update or delete capabilities. While the UserInfo endpoint in OIDC may be thought of as a resource, separating the concepts and how they are requested keeps each of them simpler in the Editor’s opinion. :)

5. *Why do some of the JSON objects only have one child, such as the identifiers object in the user object in the Grant Request?*
It is difficult to forecast future use cases. Having more resolution may mean the difference between a simple extension, and a convoluted extension. For example, the "global" object in the "interaction" object allows new global parameters to be added without impacting new interaction modes.

6. *Why is the "iss" included in the "oidc" identifier object? Would the "sub" not be enough for the GS to identify the User?*

   This decouples the GS from the OpenID Provider (OP). The GS identifier is the GS URI, which is the endpoint at the GS. The OP issuer identifier will likely not be the same as the GS URI. The GS may also provide claims from multiple OPs.

7. *Why is there not a UserInfo endpoint as there is with OpenID Connect?*

   Since the GC can Read Grant at any time, it get the same functionality as the UserInfo endpoint, without the GC having to manage a separate access token and refresh token. If the GC would like additional claims, it can Update Grant, and the GS will let the GC know if an interaction is required to get any of the additional claims, which the GC can then start.

   _[Editor: is there some other reason to have the UserInfo endpoint?]_

8. *Why use URIs for the Grant and Access?*

   * Grant URI and Access URI are defined to start with the GS URI, allowing the GC, and GS to determine which GS a Grant or Access belongs to.

   * URIs also enable a RESTful interface to the GS functionality.

   * A large scale GS can easily separate out the services that provide functionality as routing of requests can be done at the HTTP layer based on URI and HTTP method. This allows a separation of concerns, independent deployment, and resiliency.

Having the GS URI endpoint respond to the metadata allows the GS to provide GC specific results using the same GC authentication used for other requests to the GS. It also reduces the risk of a mismatch between the advertised metadata, and the actual metadata. A .well-known discovery mechanism may be defined to resolve from a hostname to the GS URI.

10. *Why is there a Verify Grant? The GC can protect itself from session fixation without it.*

GC implementations may not always follow the best practices. The Verify Grant allows the GS to ensure there is not a session fixation as the instance of the GC making creating the Grant is the one that gets the verification code in the redirect.

11. **Why use the [OIDC] claims rather than the [IANA_JWT] list of claims?**

The [IANA_JWT] claims include claims that are not identity claims, and [IANA_JWT] references the [OIDC] claims, and [OIDC] 5.1 are only identity claims.

11. Privacy Considerations

   TBD

12. Security Considerations

   TBD

13. Acknowledgments

   This draft derives many of its concepts from Justin Richer’s Transactional Authorization draft [TxAuth].

   Additional thanks to Justin Richer and Annabelle Richard Backman for their strong critique of earlier drafts. [Editor: add in the other contributors from mail list]

14. IANA Considerations

   TBD

15. References

15.1. Normative References


15.2. Informative References


Appendix A. Document History

A.1. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-00
   * Initial version

A.2. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-01
   * text clean up
   * added OIDC4IA claims
   * added "jws" method for accessing a resource.
   * renamed Initiation Request -> Grant Request
   * renamed Initiation Response -> Interaction Response
   * renamed Completion Request -> Authorization Request
   * renamed Completion Response -> Grant Request
   * renamed completion handle -> authorization handle
   * added Authentication Request, Authentication Response,
     authentication handle

A.3. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-02
   * major rewrite
   * handles are now URIs
   * the collection of claims and authorizations are a Grant
   * an Authorization is its own type
   * lots of sequences added

A.4. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-03
   * fixed RO definition
   * improved language in Rationals
* added user code interaction method, and aligned qr code interaction method
* added information_uri for code flows

A.5. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-04
* renamed interaction uris to have purpose specific names

A.6. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-05
* separated claims from identifiers in request user object
* simplified reciprocal grant flow
* reduced interactions to redirect and indirect
* simplified interaction parameters
* added in language for Client to verify interaction completion
* added Verify Grant API and Interaction Nonce
* replaced Refresh AuthZ with Read AuthZ. Read and refresh are same operation.

A.7. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-06
* fixup examples to match specification

A.8. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-07
* refactored interaction request and response syntax, and enabled interaction mode negotiation
* generation of client handle by GS for dynamic clients
* renamed title to Grant Negotiation and Authorization Protocol. Preserved draft-hardt-xauth-protocol filename to ease tracking changes.
* changed Authorizations to be key / value pairs (aka dictionary) instead of a JSON array

A.9. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-08
* split document into three documents: core, advanced, and JOSE authentication.
* grouped access granted into "access" object in Authorization JSON
* added warnings object to the Grant Response JSON

A.10. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-09
* added editorial note that this document should be referred to as XAuth

A.11. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-10
* added example of RAR authorization request
* fixed typos

A.12. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-11
* renamed authorization_uri to interaction_uri to avoid confusion with AZ URI
* made URI names more consistent
  - renamed completion_uri to information_uri
  - renamed redirect_uri to completion_uri
  - renamed interaction_uri to redirect_uri
  - renamed short_uri to indirect_uri
* editorial fixes
* renamed http verb to method
* added Verify Grant and verification parameters

A.13. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-12
* removed authorization object, and made authorizations object polymorphic

A.14. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-13
* added Q about referencing OIDC claims vs IANA JWT
* made all authorizations be a RAR type as it provides the required flexibility, removed "oauth_rar" type
* added RO to places where the RO and User are the same

A.15. draft-hardt-xauth-protocol-14
* rewrote introduction
* add in claims issuer and grant server owner
* abstract protocol
* add clarification on different parties
* renamed Client to Grant Client
* added entity relationship diagram
* updated diagrams
* added placeholder for Privacy Considerations
* renamed Authorization to Access

Appendix B. Comparison with OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect

* Changed Features *

The major changes between GNAP and OAuth 2.X and OpenID Connect are:

* The OAuth 2.X client and the OpenID Connect replying party are the Grant Client in GNAP.

* The GNAP Grant Server is a superset of the OAuth 2.X authorization server, and the OpenID Connect OP (OpenID Provider).

* The GC always uses a private asymmetric key to authenticate to the GS. There is no client secret.

* The GC initiates the protocol by making a signed request directly to the GS instead of redirecting the User to the GS.

* The GC does not pass any parameters in redirecting the User to the GS.

* The refresh_token has been replaced with an AZ URI that both represents the authorization, and is the URI for obtaining a fresh access token.
* The GC can request identity claims to be returned independent of the ID Token.

* The GS URI is the only static endpoint. All other URIs are dynamically generated. The GC does not need to register its redirect URIs.

TBD - negotiation

*Preserved Features*

* GNAP reuses the scopes, Client IDs, and access tokens of OAuth 2.0.

* GNAP reuses the Client IDs, Claims and ID Token of OpenID Connect.

* No change is required by the GC or the RS for accessing existing bearer token protected APIs.

*New Features*

* All GC calls to the GS are authenticated with asymmetric cryptography

* A Grant represents both the user identity claims and RS access granted to the GC.

* Support for scannable code initiated interactions.

* Highly extensible per Section 9.

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Grant Negotiation and Authorization Protocol
draft-richer-transactional-authz-14

Abstract

This document defines a mechanism for delegating authorization to a piece of software, and conveying that delegation to the software. This delegation can include access to a set of APIs as well as information passed directly to the software.

This document has been prepared by the GNAP working group design team of Kathleen Moriarty, Fabien Imbault, Dick Hardt, Mike Jones, and Justin Richer. This document is intended as a starting point for the working group and includes decision points for discussion and agreement. Many of the features in this proposed protocol can be accomplished in a number of ways. Where possible, the editor has included notes and discussion from the design team regarding the options as understood.

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

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1. Protocol

This protocol allows a piece of software, the resource client, to request delegated authorization to resource servers and direct information. This delegation is facilitated by an authorization server usually on behalf of a resource owner. The requesting party operating the software may interact with the authorization server to authenticate, provide consent, and authorize the request.

The process by which the delegation happens is known as a grant, and the GNAP protocol allows for the negotiation of the grant process over time by multiple parties acting in distinct roles.

This protocol solves many of the same use cases as OAuth 2.0 [RFC6749], OpenID Connect [OIDC], and the family of protocols that have grown up around that ecosystem. However, GNAP is not an extension of OAuth 2.0 and is not intended to be directly compatible with OAuth 2.0. GNAP seeks to provide functionality and solve use cases that OAuth 2.0 cannot easily or cleanly address. Even so, GNAP and OAuth 2.0 will exist in parallel for many deployments, and considerations have been taken to facilitate the mapping and transition from legacy systems to GNAP. Some examples of these can be found in Appendix D.2.

1.1. Roles

The parties in the GNAP protocol perform actions under different roles. Roles are defined by the actions taken and the expectations leveraged on the role by the overall protocol.
Authorization Server (AS)  Manages the requested delegations for the RO. The AS issues tokens and directly delegated information to the RC. The AS is defined by its grant endpoint, a single URL that accepts a POST request with a JSON payload. The AS could also have other endpoints, including interaction endpoints and user code endpoints, and these are introduced to the RC as needed during the delegation process.

Resource Client (RC, aka "client")  Requests tokens from the AS and uses tokens at the RS. An instance of the RC software is identified by its key, which can be known to the AS prior to the first request. The AS determines which policies apply to a given RC, including what it can request and on whose behalf.

Resource Server (RS, aka "API")  Accepts tokens from the RC issued by the AS and serves delegated resources on behalf of the RO. There could be multiple RSs protected by the AS that the RC will call.

Resource Owner (RO)  Authorizes the request from the RC to the RS, often interactively at the AS.

Requesting Party (RQ, aka "user")  Operates and interacts with the RC.

The GNAP protocol design does not assume any one deployment architecture, but instead attempts to define roles that can be fulfilled in a number of different ways for different use cases. As long as a given role fulfills all of its obligations and behaviors as defined by the protocol, GNAP does not make additional requirements on its structure or setup.

Multiple roles can be fulfilled by the same party, and a given party can switch roles in different instances of the protocol. For example, the RO and RQ in many instances are the same person, where a user is authorizing the RC to act on their own behalf at the RS. In this case, one party fulfills both of the RO and RQ roles, but the roles themselves are still defined separately from each other to allow for other use cases where they are fulfilled by different parties.

For another example, in some complex scenarios, an RS receiving requests from one RC can act as an RC for a downstream secondary RS in order to fulfill the original request. In this case, one piece of software is both an RS and an RC from different perspectives, and it fulfills these roles separately as far as the overall protocol is concerned.
A single role need not be deployed as a monolithic service. For example, an RC could have components that are installed on the RQ's device as well as a back-end system that it communicates with. If both of these components participate in the delegation protocol, they are both considered part of the RC.

For another example, an AS could likewise be built out of many constituent components in a distributed architecture. The component that the RC calls directly could be different from the component that the RO interacts with to drive consent, since API calls and user interaction have different security considerations in many environments. Furthermore, the AS could need to collect identity claims about the RO from one system that deals with user attributes while generating access tokens at another system that deals with security rights. From the perspective of GNAP, all of these are pieces of the AS and together fulfill the role of the AS as defined by the protocol.

[[ Editor’s note: The names for the roles are an area of ongoing discussion within the working group, as is the appropriate precision of what activities and expectations a particular role covers. In particular, the AS might be formally decomposed into delegation components, that the client talks to, and interaction components, that the user talks to. Several alternative names have been proposed for different roles and components, including:

* Grant Server (for Authorization Server)
* Grant Client (for Resource Client)
* Operator (for Requesting Party)
]]

1.2. Elements

In addition to the roles above, the protocol also involves several elements that are acted upon by the roles throughout the process.

**Access Token** A credential representing a set of access rights delegated to the RC. The access token is created by the AS, consumed and verified by the RS, and issued to and carried by the RC. The contents and format of the access token are opaque to the RC.

**Grant** The process by which a the RC requests and is given delegated access to the RS by the AS through the authority of the RO.
Key  A cryptographic element binding a request to the holder of the key. Access tokens and RC instances can be associated with specific keys.

Resource  A protected API served by the RS and accessed by the RC. Access to this resource is delegated by the RO as part of the grant process.

Subject Information  Information about the RO that is returned directly to the RC from the AS without the RC making a separate call to an RS. Access to this information is delegated by the RO as part of the grant process.

[Editor’s note: What other core elements need an introduction here? These aren’t roles to be taken on by different parties, nor are they descriptions of the possible configurations of parties, but these are still important moving parts within the protocol. ]

1.3. Sequences

The GNAP protocol can be used in a variety of ways to allow the core delegation process to take place. Many portions of this process are conditionally present depending on the context of the deployments, and not every step in this overview will happen in all circumstances.

Note that a connection between roles in this process does not necessarily indicate that a specific protocol message is sent across the wire between the components fulfilling the roles in question, or that a particular step is required every time. For example, for an RC interested in only getting subject information directly, and not calling an RS, all steps involving the RS below do not apply.

In some circumstances, the information needed at a given stage is communicated out-of-band or is pre-configured between the components or entities performing the roles. For example, one entity can fulfill multiple roles, and so explicit communication between the roles is not necessary within the protocol flow.
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Legend
+ + + indicates a possible interaction with a human
----- indicates an interaction between protocol roles
˜ ˜ ˜ indicates a potential equivalence or out-of-band communication between roles

* (A) The RQ interacts with the RC to indicate a need for resources on behalf of the RO. This could identify the RS the RC needs to call, the resources needed, or the RO that is needed to approve the request. Note that the RO and RQ are often the same entity in practice.

* (1) The RC attempts to call the RS (Section 10.4) to determine what access is needed. The RS informs the RC that access can be granted through the AS. Note that for most situations, the RC already knows which AS to talk to and which kinds of access it needs.

* (2) The RC requests access at the AS (Section 2).
* (3) The AS processes the request and determines what is needed to fulfill the request. The AS sends its response to the RC (Section 3).

* (4) If interaction is required, the AS interacts with the RO (Section 4) to gather authorization. The interactive component of the AS can function using a variety of possible mechanisms including web page redirects, applications, challenge/response protocols, or other methods. The RO approves the request for the RC being operated by the RQ. Note that the RO and RQ are often the same entity in practice.

* (5) The RC continues the grant at the AS (Section 5).

* (6) If the AS determines that access can be granted, it returns a response to the RC (Section 3) including an access token (Section 3.2) for calling the RS and any directly returned information (Section 3.4) about the RO.

* (7) The RC uses the access token (Section 7) to call the RS.

* (8) The RS determines if the token is sufficient for the request by examining the token, potentially calling the AS (Section 10.1). Note that the RS could also examine the token directly, call an internal data store, execute a policy engine request, or any number of alternative methods for validating the token and its fitness for the request.

* (9) The RC to call the RS (Section 7) using the access token until the RS or RC determine that the token is no longer valid.

* (10) When the token no longer works, the RC fetches an updated access token (Section 6.1) based on the rights granted in (5).

* (11) The AS issues a new access token (Section 3.2) to the RC.

* (12) The RC uses the new access token (Section 7) to call the RS.

* (13) The RS determines if the new token is sufficient for the request by examining the token, potentially calling the AS (Section 10.1).

* (14) The RC disposes of the token (Section 6.2) once the RC has completed its access of the RS and no longer needs the token.

The following sections and Appendix C contain specific guidance on how to use the GNAP protocol in different situations and deployments.
1.3.1. Redirect-based Interaction

In this example flow, the RC is a web application that wants access to resources on behalf of the current user, who acts as both the requesting party (RQ) and the resource owner (RO). Since the RC is capable of directing the user to an arbitrary URL and receiving responses from the user’s browser, interaction here is handled through front-channel redirects using the user’s browser. The RC uses a persistent session with the user to ensure the same user that is starting the interaction is the user that returns from the interaction.

1. The RC establishes a verifiable session to the user, in the role of the RQ.

2. The RC requests access to the resource (Section 2). The RC indicates that it can redirect to an arbitrary URL (Section 2.5.1) and receive a callback from the browser (Section 2.5.3). The RC stores verification information for its callback in the session created in (1).
3. The AS determines that interaction is needed and responds (Section 3) with a URL to send the user to (Section 3.3.1) and information needed to verify the callback (Section 3.3.3) in (7). The AS also includes information the RC will need to continue the request (Section 3.1) in (8). The AS associates this continuation information with an ongoing request that will be referenced in (4), (6), and (8).

4. The RC stores the verification and continuation information from (3) in the session from (1). The RC then redirects the user to the URL (Section 4.1) given by the AS in (3). The user’s browser loads the interaction redirect URL. The AS loads the pending request based on the incoming URL generated in (3).

5. The user authenticates at the AS, taking on the role of the RO.

6. As the RO, the user authorizes the pending request from the RC.

7. When the AS is done interacting with the user, the AS redirects the user back (Section 4.4.1) to the RC using the callback URL provided in (2). The callback URL is augmented with an interaction reference that the AS associates with the ongoing request created in (2) and referenced in (4). The callback URL is also augmented with a hash of the security information provided in (2) and (3). The RC loads the verification information from (2) and (3) from the session created in (1). The RC calculates a hash (Section 4.4.3) based on this information and continues only if the hash validates. Note that the RC needs to ensure that the parameters for the incoming request match those that it is expecting from the session created in (1). The RC also needs to be prepared for the RQ never being returned to the RC and handle time outs appropriately.

8. The RC loads the continuation information from (3) and sends the interaction reference from (7) in a request to continue the request (Section 5.1). The AS validates the interaction reference ensuring that the reference is associated with the request being continued.

9. If the request has been authorized, the AS grants access to the information in the form of access tokens (Section 3.2) and direct subject information (Section 3.4) to the RC.

An example set of protocol messages for this method can be found in Appendix C.1.
1.3.2. User-code Interaction

In this example flow, the RC is a device that is capable of presenting a short, human-readable code to the user and directing the user to enter that code at a known URL. The RC is not capable of presenting an arbitrary URL to the user, nor is it capable of accepting incoming HTTP requests from the user’s browser. The RC polls the AS while it is waiting for the RO to authorize the request. The user’s interaction is assumed to occur on a secondary device. In this example it is assumed that the user is both the RQ and RO, though the user is not assumed to be interacting with the RC through the same web browser used for interaction at the AS.

1. The RC requests access to the resource (Section 2). The RC indicates that it can display a user code (Section 2.5.4).

2. The AS determines that interaction is needed and responds (Section 3) with a user code to communicate to the user (Section 3.3.4). This could optionally include a URL to direct
the user to, but this URL should be static and so could be configured in the RC’s documentation. The AS also includes information the RC will need to continue the request (Section 3.1) in (8) and (10). The AS associates this continuation information with an ongoing request that will be referenced in (4), (6), (8), and (10).

3. The RC stores the continuation information from (2) for use in (8) and (10). The RC then communicates the code to the user (Section 4.1) given by the AS in (2).

4. The user’s directs their browser to the user code URL. This URL is stable and can be communicated via the RC’s documentation, the AS documentation, or the RC software itself. Since it is assumed that the RO will interact with the AS through a secondary device, the RC does not provide a mechanism to launch the RO’s browser at this URL.

5. The RQ authenticates at the AS, taking on the role of the RO.

6. The RO enters the code communicated in (3) to the AS. The AS validates this code against a current request in process.

7. As the RO, the user authorizes the pending request from the RC.

8. When the AS is done interacting with the user, the AS indicates to the RO that the request has been completed.

9. Meanwhile, the RC loads the continuation information stored at (3) and continues the request (Section 5). The AS determines which ongoing access request is referenced here and checks its state.

10. If the access request has not yet been authorized by the RO in (6), the AS responds to the RC to continue the request (Section 3.1) at a future time through additional polled continuation requests. This response can include updated continuation information as well as information regarding how long the RC should wait before calling again. The RC replaces its stored continuation information from the previous response (2). Note that the AS may need to determine that the RO has not approved the request in a sufficient amount of time and return an appropriate error to the RC.

11. The RC continues to poll the AS (Section 5.2) with the new continuation information in (9).
12. If the request has been authorized, the AS grants access to the
information in the form of access tokens (Section 3.2) and
direct subject information (Section 3.4) to the RC.

An example set of protocol messages for this method can be found in
Appendix C.2.

1.3.3. Asynchronous Authorization

In this example flow, the RQ and RO roles are fulfilled by different
parties, and the RO does not interact with the RC. The AS reaches
out asynchronously to the RO during the request process to gather the
RO’s authorization for the RC’s request. The RC polls the AS while
it is waiting for the RO to authorize the request.

```
+--------+                                  +--------+         +------+
|   RC   |                                  |   AS   |         |  RO  |
|        |--(1)--- Request Access --------->|        |         |      |
|        |                                  |        |         |      |
|        |<-(2)-- Not Yet Granted (Wait) ---|        |         |      |
|        |                                  |        |<+ (3) +>|      |
|        |<-(6)--- Continue Request (A) ---> |        |  AuthN  |      |
|        |--(7)--- Not Yet Granted (Wait) ---|
|        |                                  |        |<+ (4) +>|      |
|        |<-(8)--- Continue Request (B) ---> |        |  AuthZ  |      |
|        |                                  |        |         |      |
|        |<-(9)------ Grant Access --------- |        | Completed|      |
+--------+                                  +--------+         +------+
```

1. The RC requests access to the resource (Section 2). The RC does
not send any interactions modes to the server, indicating that it
does not expect to interact with the RO. The RC can also signal
which RO it requires authorization from, if known, by using the
user request section (Section 2.4).

2. The AS determines that interaction is needed, but the RC cannot
interact with the RO. The AS responds (Section 3) with the
information the RC will need to continue the request
(Section 3.1) in (6) and (8), including a signal that the RC
should wait before checking the status of the request again. The
AS associates this continuation information with an ongoing
request that will be referenced in (3), (4), (5), (6), and (8).
3. The AS determines which RO to contact based on the request in (1), through a combination of the user request (Section 2.4), the resources request (Section 2.1), and other policy information. The AS contacts the RO and authenticates them.

4. The RO authorizes the pending request from the RC.

5. When the AS is done interacting with the RO, the AS indicates to the RO that the request has been completed.

6. Meanwhile, the RC loads the continuation information stored at (3) and continues the request (Section 5). The AS determines which ongoing access request is referenced here and checks its state.

7. If the access request has not yet been authorized by the RO in (6), the AS responds to the RC to continue the request (Section 3.1) at a future time through additional polling. This response can include refreshed credentials as well as information regarding how long the RC should wait before calling again. The RC replaces its stored continuation information from the previous response (2). Note that the AS may need to determine that the RO has not approved the request in a sufficient amount of time and return an appropriate error to the RC.

8. The RC continues to poll the AS (Section 5.2) with the new continuation information from (7).

9. If the request has been authorized, the AS grants access to the information in the form of access tokens (Section 3.2) and direct subject information (Section 3.4) to the RC.

An example set of protocol messages for this method can be found in Appendix D.1.

1.3.4. Software-only Authorization

In this example flow, the AS policy allows the RC to make a call on its own behalf, without the need for a RO to be involved at runtime to approve the decision. Since there is no explicit RO, the RC does not interact with an RO.
1. The RC requests access to the resource (Section 2). The RC does not send any interactions modes to the server.

2. The AS determines that the request is been authorized, the AS grants access to the information in the form of access tokens (Section 3.2) and direct subject information (Section 3.4) to the RC.

An example set of protocol messages for this method can be found in Appendix D.

1.3.5. Refreshing an Expired Access Token

In this example flow, the RC receives an access token to access a resource server through some valid GNAP process. The RC uses that token at the RS for some time, but eventually the access token expires. The RC then gets a new access token by rotating the expired access token at the AS using the token’s management URL.

1. The RC requests access to the resource (Section 2).
2. The AS grants access to the resource (Section 3) with an access
   token (Section 3.2) usable at the RS. The access token response
   includes a token management URI.

3. The RC presents the token (Section 7) to the RS. The RS
   validates the token and returns an appropriate response for the
   API.

4. When the access token is expired, the RS responds to the RC with
   an error.

5. The RC calls the token management URI returned in (2) to rotate
   the access token (Section 6.1). The RC presents the access token
   as well as the appropriate key.

6. The AS validates the rotation request including the signature and
   keys presented in (5) and returns a new access token
   (Section 3.2.1). The response includes a new access token and
   can also include updated token management information, which the
   RC will store in place of the values returned in (2).

2. Requesting Access

   To start a request, the RC sends JSON [RFC8259] document with an
   object as its root. Each member of the request object represents a
   different aspect of the RC’s request. Each field is described in
   detail in a section below.

   resources Describes the rights that the RC is requesting for one or
   more access tokens to be used at RS’s. Section 2.1

   subject Describes the information about the RO that the RC is
   requesting to be returned directly in the response from the AS.
   Section 2.2

   client Describes the RC that is making this request, including the
   key that the RC will use to protect this request and any
   continuation requests at the AS and any user-facing information
   about the RC used in interactions at the AS. Section 2.3

   user Identifies the RQ to the AS in a manner that the AS can verify,
   either directly or by interacting with the RQ to determine their
   status as the RO. Section 2.4

   interact Describes the modes that the RC has for allowing the RO to
   interact with the AS and modes for the RC to receive updates when
   interaction is complete. Section 2.5
capabilities

Identifies named extension capabilities that the RC can use, signaling to the AS which extensions it can use. Section 2.6

existing_grant

Identifies a previously-existing grant that the RC is extending with this request. Section 2.7

claims

Identifies the identity claims to be returned as part of an OpenID Connect claims request. Section 2.8

Additional members of this request object can be defined by extensions to this protocol as described in Section 2.9

A non-normative example of a grant request is below:

```
{
  "resources": [
    {
      "type": "photo-api",
      "actions": [
        "read",
        "write",
        "dolphin"
      ],
      "locations": [
        "https://server.example.net/",
        "https://resource.local/other"
      ],
      "datatypes": [
        "metadata",
        "images"
      ]
    },
    "dolphin-metadata"
  ],
  "client": {
    "display": {
      "name": "My Client Display Name",
      "uri": "https://example.net/client"
    },
    "key": {
      "proof": "jwsd",
      "jwk": {
        "kty": "RSA",
        "e": "AQAB",
        "kid": "xyz-1",
        "alg": "RS256",
        "n": "kOB5rR4Jv0GMeL...."
      }
    }
  }
}
```
The request MUST be sent as a JSON object in the body of the HTTP POST request with Content-Type "application/json", unless otherwise specified by the signature mechanism.

2.1. Requesting Resources

If the RC is requesting one or more access tokens for the purpose of accessing an API, the RC MUST include a "resources" field. This field MUST be an array (for a single access token (Section 2.1.1)) or an object (for multiple access tokens (Section 2.1.3)), as described in the following sections.

2.1.1. Requesting a Single Access Token

When requesting an access token, the RC MUST send a "resources" field containing a JSON array. The elements of the JSON array represent rights of access that the RC is requesting in the access token. The requested access is the sum of all elements within the array.

The RC declares what access it wants to associated with the resulting access token using objects that describe multiple dimensions of access. Each object contains a "type" property that determines the type of API that the RC is calling.

- **type**: The type of resource request as a string. This field MAY define which other fields are allowed in the request object. This field is REQUIRED.

The value of this field is under the control of the AS. This field MUST be compared using an exact byte match of the string value against known types by the AS. The AS MUST ensure that there is no
collision between different authorization data types that it
supports. The AS MUST NOT do any collation or normalization of data
types during comparison. It is RECOMMENDED that designers of
general-purpose APIs use a URI for this field to avoid collisions
between multiple API types protected by a single AS.

While it is expected that many APIs will have its own properties, a
set of common properties are defined here. Specific API
implementations SHOULD NOT re-use these fields with different
semantics or syntax. The available values for these properties are
determined by the API being protected at the RS.

[[ Editor’s note: this will align with OAuth 2 RAR, but the details
of exactly how it aligns are TBD. Since RAR needs to work in the
confines of OAuth 2, RAR has to define how to interact with "scope",
"resource", and other existing OAuth 2 mechanisms that don’t exist in
GNAP. ]].

actions The types of actions the RC will take at the RS as an array
of strings. For example, an RC asking for a combination of "read"
and "write" access.

locations The location of the RS as an array of strings. These
strings are typically URIs identifying the location of the RS.

datatypes The kinds of data available to the RC at the RS’s API as
an array of strings. For example, an RC asking for access to raw
"image" data and "metadata" at a photograph API.

identifier A string identifier indicating a specific resource at the
RS. For example, a patient identifier for a medical API or a bank
account number for a financial API.

The following non-normative example shows the use of both common and
API-specific fields as part of two different access "type" values.
"resources": [ 
{
    "type": "photo-api",
    "actions": [
        "read",
        "write",
        "dolphin"
    ],
    "locations": [
        "https://server.example.net/",
        "https://resource.local/other"
    ],
    "datatypes": [
        "metadata",
        "images"
    ]
},
{
    "type": "financial-transaction",
    "actions": [
        "withdraw"
    ],
    "identifier": "account-14-32-32-3",
    "currency": "USD"
}
]

If this request is approved, the resulting access token (Section 3.2.1) will include the sum of both of the requested types of access.

2.1.2. Requesting Resources By Reference

Instead of sending an object describing the requested resource (Section 2.1.1), a RC MAY send a string known to the AS or RS representing the access being requested. Each string SHOULD correspond to a specific expanded object representation at the AS.

[[ Editor’s note: we could describe more about how the expansion would work. For example, expand into an object where the value of the "type" field is the value of the string. Or we could leave it open and flexible, since it’s really up to the AS/RS to interpret. ]]

"resources": [ 
    "read", "dolphin-metadata", "some other thing"
]
This value is opaque to the RC and MAY be any valid JSON string, and therefore could include spaces, unicode characters, and properly escaped string sequences. However, in some situations the value is intended to be seen and understood be the RC developer. In such cases, the API designer choosing any such human-readable strings SHOULD take steps to ensure the string values are not easily confused by a developer.

This functionality is similar in practice to OAuth 2’s "scope" parameter [RFC6749], where a single string represents the set of access rights requested by the RC. As such, the reference string could contain any valid OAuth 2 scope value as in Appendix D.2. Note that the reference string here is not bound to the same character restrictions as in OAuth 2’s "scope" definition.

A single "resources" array MAY include both object-type and string-type resource items.

"resources": [
    {
        "type": "photo-api",
        "actions": [
            "read",
            "write",
            "dolphin"
        ],
        "locations": [
            "https://server.example.net/",
            "https://resource.local/other"
        ],
        "datatypes": [
            "metadata",
            "images"
        ]
    }
]

"read",
"dolphin-metadata",
{
    "type": "financial-transaction",
    "actions": [
        "withdraw"
    ],
    "identifier": "account-14-32-32-3",
    "currency": "USD"
}

"some other thing"
2.1.3. Requesting Multiple Access Tokens

When requesting multiple access tokens, the resources field is a JSON object. The names of the JSON object fields are token identifiers chosen by the RC, and MAY be any valid string. The values of the JSON object fields are JSON arrays representing a single access token request, as specified in requesting a single access token (Section 2.1.1).

The following non-normative example shows a request for two separate access tokens, "token1" and "token2".
"resources": {
    "token1": [
        {
            "type": "photo-api",
            "actions": [
                "read",
                "write",
                "dolphin"
            ],
            "locations": [
                "https://server.example.net/",
                "https://resource.local/other"
            ],
            "datatypes": [
                "metadata",
                "images"
            ]
        }
    ],
    "dolphin-metadata"
},
"token2": [
    {
        "type": "walrus-access",
        "actions": [
            "foo",
            "bar"
        ],
        "locations": [
            "https://resource.other/"
        ],
        "datatypes": [
            "data",
            "pictures",
            "walrus whiskers"
        ]
    }
]

Any approved access requests are returned in the multiple access token response (Section 3.2.2) structure using the token identifiers in the request.
2.1.4. Signaling Token Behavior

While the AS is ultimately in control of how tokens are returned and bound to the RC, sometimes the RC has context about what it can support that can affect the AS’s response. This specification defines several flags that are passed as resource reference strings (Section 2.1.2).

Each flag applies only to the single resource request in which it appears.

Support of all flags is optional, such as any other resource reference value.

- **multi_token**: The RC wishes to support multiple simultaneous access tokens through the token rotation process. When the RC rotates an access token (Section 6.1), the AS does not invalidate the previous access token. The old access token continues to remain valid until such time as it expires or is revoked through other means.

- **split_token**: The RC is capable of receiving multiple access tokens (Section 3.2.2) in response to any single token request (Section 2.1.1), or receiving a different number of tokens than specified in the multiple token request (Section 2.1.3). The labels of the returned additional tokens are chosen by the AS. The client MUST be able to tell from the token response where and how it can use the each access tokens. [[Editor’s note: This functionality is controversial at best as it requires significantly more complexity on the client in order to solve one class of AS/RS deployment choices. ]]

- **bind_token**: The RC wants the issued access token to be bound to the key the RC used (Section 2.3.2) to make the request. The resulting access token MUST be bound using the same "proof" mechanism used by the client with a "key" value of "true", indicating the client’s presented key is to be used for binding. [[Editor’s note: should there be a different flag and mechanism for the client to explicitly indicate which binding method it wants to use, especially if the client wants to use a different method at the AS than the RS? ]]

The AS MUST respond with any applied flags in the token response (Section 3.2) "resources" section.

In this non-normative example, the requested access token is to be bound to the client’s key and should be kept during rotation.
"resources": [
  {
    "type": "photo-api",
    "actions": [
      "read",
      "write",
      "dolphin"
    ],
    "locations": [
      "https://server.example.net/",
      "https://resource.local/other"
    ],
    "datatypes": [
      "metadata",
      "images"
    ]
  }
],
"read",
"bind_token",
"multi_token"
]

Additional flags can be registered in a registry TBD (Section 12).

[[ Editor's note: while these reference values are "reserved", the ultimate decider for what a reference means is the AS, which means an AS could arguably decide that one of these values means something else. Also, this kind of reservation potentially steps on API namespaces, which OAuth 2 is careful not to do but common extensions like OIDC do with their own scope definitions. However, in OIDC, several "scope" values have behavior similar to what’s defined here, particularly "openid" turns on ID tokens in the response and "offline_access" signals for the return of a refresh token, and these can be used outside of OpenID Connect itself. However, to keep these flags out of the general API namespace, we could use a different syntax for sending them. In particular, they could be defined under a GNAP-specific "type" object, where all the flags are fields on the object.]}
resources: [
    {
        type: "gnap-flags",
        flag1: true,
        flag2: false,
        flag3: true ...
    },
    "reference1",
    "scope2", ...
]

Alternatively, all the flags could be sent in an array separate from
the rest of the request.

resources: [
    "reference1",
    "scope2",
    ["flag1", "flag2", "flag3"] ...
]

This whole thing might also belong in an extension, as it’s advanced
behavior signaling for very specific cases. However, it seems other
extensions would be likely to extend this kind of thing, like OIDC
did with "offline_access". ]

2.2. Requesting User Information

If the RC is requesting information about the RO from the AS, it
sends a "subject" field as a JSON object. This object MAY contain
the following fields (or additional fields defined in a registry TBD
(Section 12)).

sub_ids  An array of subject identifier subject types requested for
the RO, as defined by [I-D.ietf-secevent-subject-identifiers].

assertions An array of requested assertion formats. Possible values
include "id_token" for an [OIDC] ID Token and "saml2" for a SAML 2
assertion. Additional assertion values are defined by a registry
TBD (Section 12). [[ Editor’s note: These values are lifted from
[RFC8693]’s "token type identifiers" list, but is there a better
source?]]

"subject": {
    "sub_ids": [ "iss-sub", "email" ],
    "assertions": [ "id_token", "saml2" ]
}
The AS can determine the RO’s identity and permission for releasing this information through interaction with the RO (Section 4), AS policies, or assertions presented by the RC (Section 2.4). If this is determined positively, the AS MAY return the RO’s information in its response (Section 3.4) as requested.

Subject identifiers requested by the RC serve only to identify the RO in the context of the AS and can’t be used as communication channels by the RC, as discussed in Section 3.4. One method of requesting communication channels and other identity claims are discussed in Section 2.8.

The AS SHOULD NOT re-use subject identifiers for multiple different ROs.

[[ Editor’s Note: What we’re really saying here is that "even if the AS gives you an email address to identify the user, that isn’t a claim that this is a valid email address for that current user, so don’t try to email them." In order to get a workable email address, or anything that you can use to contact them, you’d need a full identity protocol and not just this. Also, subject identifiers are asserted by the AS and therefore naturally scoped to the AS. Would changing the name to "as_sub_ids" or "local_sub_ids" help convey that point? ]]

Note: the "sub_ids" and "assertions" request fields are independent of each other, and a returned assertion MAY omit a requested subject identifier.

[[ Editor’s note: we’re potentially conflating these two types in the same structure, so perhaps these should be split. There’s also a difference between user information and authentication event information. ]]

2.3. Identifying the RC

When sending a non-continuation request to the AS, the RC MUST identify itself by including the "client" field of the request and by signing the request as described in Section 8. Note that for a continuation request (Section 5), the RC instance is identified by its association with the request being continued and so this field is not sent under those circumstances.

When RC information is sent by value, the "client" field of the request consists of a JSON object with the following fields.

key The public key of the RC to be used in this request as described in Section 2.3.2. This field is REQUIRED.
class_id  An identifier string that the AS can use to identify the software comprising this instance of the RC. The contents and format of this field are up to the AS. This field is OPTIONAL.

display  An object containing additional information that the AS MAY display to the RO during interaction, authorization, and management. This field is OPTIONAL.

"client": {
  "key": {
    "proof": "httpsig",
    "jwk": {
      "kty": "RSA",
      "e": "AQAB",
      "kid": "xyz-1",
      "alg": "RS256",
      "n": "kOB5rR4Jv0GMeLaY6_It_r3ORwdf8ci_JtffXyaSx8xY..."
    },
    "cert": "MIIEHDCCAwSgAwIBAgIBATANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsFA..."
  },
  "class_id": "web-server-1234",
  "display": {
    "name": "My Client Display Name",
    "uri": "https://example.net/client"
  }
}

Additional fields are defined in a registry TBD (Section 12).

The RC MUST prove possession of any presented key by the "proof" mechanism associated with the key in the request. Proof types are defined in a registry TBD (Section 12) and an initial set of methods is described in Section 8.

Note that the AS MAY know the RC’s public key ahead of time, and the AS MAY apply different policies to the request depending on what has been registered against that key. If the same public key is sent by value on subsequent access requests, the AS SHOULD treat these requests as coming from the same RC software instance for purposes of identification, authentication, and policy application. If the AS does not know the RC’s public key ahead of time, the AS MAY accept or reject the request based on AS policy, attestations within the client request, and other mechanisms.
[[ Editor’s note: additional client attestation frameworks will eventually need to be addressed here. For example, the organization the client represents, or a family of client software deployed in a cluster, or the posture of the device the client is installed on. These all need to be separable from the client’s key and potentially the instance identifier. ]]}

2.3.1. Identifying the RC Instance

If the RC has an instance identifier that the AS can use to determine appropriate key information, the RC can send this value in the "instance_id" field. The instance identifier MAY be assigned to an RC instance at runtime through the Section 3.5 or MAY be obtained in another fashion, such as a static registration process at the AS.

*instance_id* An identifier string that the AS can use to identify the particular instance of this RC. The content and structure of this identifier is opaque to the RC.

```
"client": {
    "instance_id": "client-541-ab"
}
```

If there are no additional fields to send, the RC MAY send the instance identifier as a direct reference value in lieu of the object.

```
"client": "client-541-ab"
```

When the AS receives a request with an instance identifier, the AS MUST ensure that the key used to sign the request (Section 8) is associated with the instance identifier.

If the "instance_id" field is sent, it MUST NOT be accompanied by other fields unless such fields are explicitly marked safe for inclusion alongside the instance identifier.

[[ Editor’s note: It seems clear that an instance identifier is mutually exclusive with most of the fields in the request (eg, we don’t want an attacker being able to swap out a client’s registered key just by accessing the identifier). However, some proposed concepts might fit alongside an instance identifier that change at runtime, such as device posture or another dynamic attestation. Should these be sent in the "client" block alongside the instance identifier, should there be a separate top-level block for runtime attestations, or some other mechanism? ]]

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If the AS does not recognize the instance identifier, the request MUST be rejected with an error.

If the RC instance is identified in this manner, the registered key for the RC MAY be a symmetric key known to the AS. The RC MUST NOT send a symmetric key by value in the request, as doing so would expose the key directly instead of proving possession of it.

[[ Editor’s note: In many ways, passing an instance identifier is analogous to OAuth 2′s "client_id" parameter [RFC6749], especially when coupled with a confidential client’s registration and authentication process. See Appendix D.2 for an example. Something like this is required to make things easier for client developers in the common case where the AS already knows the client’s key, and to allow symmetric keys. ]]

2.3.2. Identifying the RC Key

The RC key MUST be a public key in at least one supported format and MUST be applicable to the proofing mechanism used in the request. If the key is sent in multiple formats, all the keys MUST be the same. The key presented in this field MUST be the key used to sign the request.

proof  The form of proof that the RC will use when presenting the key to the AS. The valid values of this field and the processing requirements for each are detailed in Section 8. This field is REQUIRED.

jwk  Value of the public key as a JSON Web Key. MUST contain an "alg" field which is used to validate the signature. MUST contain the "kid" field to identify the key in the signed object.

cert  PEM serialized value of the certificate used to sign the request, with optional internal whitespace.

cert#256  The certificate thumbprint calculated as per OAuth-MTLS [RFC8705] in base64 URL encoding.

Additional key types are defined in a registry TBD (Section 12).

[[ Editor’s note: we will eventually want to have fetchable keys, I would guess. Things like DID for key identification are going to be important. ]]

This non-normative example shows a single key presented in multiple formats using a single proofing mechanism.
Continuation requests (Section 5) MUST use the same key (or its most recent rotation) and proof method as the initial request.

2.3.3. Providing Displayable RC Information

If the RC has additional information to display to the RO during any interactions at the AS, it MAY send that information in the "display" field. This field is a JSON object that declares information to present to the RO during any interactive sequences.

- **name**: Display name of the RC software
- **uri**: User-facing web page of the RC software
- **logo_uri**: Display image to represent the RC software

```
"display": {
    "name": "My Client Display Name",
    "uri": "https://example.net/client"
}
```

[[ Editor’s note: would we want to support pushing a display logo by value? On the upside it allows for more dynamic detached clients and doesn’t require the AS to fetch information. On the downside, this is harder for the AS to enforce a policy about and could lead to potential exploits caused by sending binary image files. ]]]

Additional display fields are defined by a registry TBD (Section 12).

The AS SHOULD use these values during interaction with the RO. The values are for informational purposes only and MUST NOT be taken as authentic proof of the RC’s identity or source. The AS MAY restrict display values to specific RC instances, as identified by their keys in Section 2.3.
2.3.4. Authenticating the RC

If the presented key is known to the AS and is associated with a single instance of the RC software, the process of presenting a key and proving possession of that key is sufficient to authenticate the RC to the AS. The AS MAY associate policies with the RC software identified by this key, such as limiting which resources can be requested and which interaction methods can be used. For example, only specific RCs with certain known keys might be trusted with access tokens without the AS interacting directly with the RO as in Appendix D.

The presentation of a key allows the AS to strongly associate multiple successive requests from the same RC with each other. This is true when the AS knows the key ahead of time and can use the key to authenticate the RC software, but also if the key is ephemeral and created just for this request. As such the AS MAY allow for RCs to make requests with unknown keys. This pattern allows for ephemeral RCs, such as single-page applications, and RCs with many individual instances, such as mobile applications, to generate their own key pairs and use them within the protocol without having to go through a separate registration step. The AS MAY limit which capabilities are made available to RCs with unknown keys. For example, the AS could have a policy saying that only previously-registered RCs can request particular resources, or that all RCs with unknown keys have to be interactively approved by an RO.

2.4. Identifying the User

If the RC knows the identity of the RQ through one or more identifiers or assertions, the RC MAY send that information to the AS in the "user" field. The RC MAY pass this information by value or by reference.

- sub_ids An array of subject identifiers for the RQ, as defined by [I-D.ietf-secevent-subject-identifiers].
- assertions An object containing assertions as values keyed on the assertion type defined by a registry TBD (Section 12). Possible keys include "id_token" for an [OIDC] ID Token and "saml2" for a SAML 2 assertion. Additional assertion values are defined by a registry TBD (Section 12). [[ Editor’s note: These keys are lifted from [RFC8693]’s "token type identifiers" list, but is there a better source? Additionally: should this be an array of objects with internal typing like the sub_ids? Do we expect more than one assertion per user anyway? ]]
Subject identifiers are hints to the AS in determining the RO and MUST NOT be taken as declarative statements that a particular RO is present at the RC and acting as the RQ. Assertions SHOULD be validated by the AS. [[editor’s note: is this a MUST? Assertion validation is extremely specific to the kind of assertion in place, what other guidance and requirements can we put in place here?]]

If the identified RQ does not match the RO present at the AS during an interaction step, the AS SHOULD reject the request with an error.

[[Editor’s note: we’re potentially conflating identification (sub_ids) and provable presence (assertions and a trusted reference handle) in the same structure, so perhaps these should be split. The security parameters are pretty different here.]]

If the AS trusts the RC to present verifiable assertions, the AS MAY decide, based on its policy, to skip interaction with the RO, even if the RC provides one or more interaction modes in its request.

2.4.1. Identifying the User by Reference

User reference identifiers can be dynamically issued by the AS (Section 3.5) to allow the RC to represent the same RQ to the AS over subsequent requests.

If the RC has a reference for the RQ at this AS, the RC MAY pass that reference as a string. The format of this string is opaque to the RC.

"user": "XUT2MFM1XBIKJKSDU8QM"

User reference identifiers are not intended to be human-readable user identifiers or structured assertions. For the RC to send either of these, use the full user request object (Section 2.4) instead.

[[Editor’s note: we might be able to fold this function into an unstructured user assertion reference issued by the AS to the RC. We could put it in as an assertion type of "gnap_reference" or something...]]
like that. Downside: it’s more verbose and potentially confusing to the client developer to have an assertion-like thing that’s internal to the AS and not an assertion. ]]

If the AS does not recognize the user reference, it MUST return an error.

2.5. Interacting with the User

Many times, the AS will require interaction with the RO in order to approve a requested delegation to the RC for both resources and direct claim information. Many times the RQ using the RC is the same person as the RO, and the RC can directly drive interaction with the AS by redirecting the RQ on the same device, or by launching an application. Other times, the RC can provide information to start the RO’s interaction on a secondary device, or the RC will wait for the RO to approve the request asynchronously. The RC could also be signaled that interaction has completed by the AS making callbacks. To facilitate all of these modes, the RC declares the means that it can interact using the "interact" field.

The "interact" field is a JSON object with keys that declare different interaction modes. A RC MUST NOT declare an interaction mode it does not support. The RC MAY send multiple modes in the same request. There is no preference order specified in this request. An AS MAY respond to any, all, or none of the presented interaction modes (Section 3.3) in a request, depending on its capabilities and what is allowed to fulfill the request. This specification defines the following interaction modes:

- redirect Indicates that the RC can direct the RQ to an arbitrary URL at the AS for interaction. Section 2.5.1
- app Indicates that the RC can launch an application on the RQ’s device for interaction. Section 2.5.2
- callback Indicates that the RC can receive a callback from the AS after interaction with the RO has concluded. Section 2.5.3
- user_code Indicates that the RC can communicate a human-readable short code to the RQ for use with a stable URL at the AS. Section 2.5.4
- ui_locales Indicates the RQ’s preferred locales that the AS can use during interaction, particularly before the RO has authenticated. Section 2.5.5
The following sections detail requests for interaction modes. Additional interaction modes are defined in a registry TBD (Section 12).

[[ Editor’s note: there need to be more examples (Appendix C) that knit together the interaction modes into common flows, like an authz-code equivalent. But it’s important for the protocol design that these are separate pieces to allow such knitting to take place. ]]

In this non-normative example, the RC is indicating that it can redirect (Section 2.5.1) the RQ to an arbitrary URL and can receive a callback (Section 2.5.3) through a browser request.

```
"interact": {
    "redirect": true,
    "callback": {
        "method": "redirect",
        "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
        "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
    }
}
```

In this non-normative example, the RC is indicating that it can display a use code (Section 2.5.4) and direct the RQ to an arbitrary URL of maximum length (Section 2.5.1.1) 255 characters, but it cannot accept a callback.

```
"interact": {
    "redirect": 255,
    "user_code": true
}
```

If the RC does not provide a suitable interaction mechanism, the AS cannot contact the RO asynchronously, and the AS determines that interaction is required, then the AS SHOULD return an error since the RC will be unable to complete the request without authorization.

The AS SHOULD apply suitable timeouts to any interaction mechanisms provided, including user codes and redirection URLs. The RC SHOULD apply suitable timeouts to any callback URLs.
2.5.1. Redirect to an Arbitrary URL

If the RC is capable of directing the RQ to a URL defined by the AS at runtime, the RC indicates this by sending the "redirect" field with the boolean value "true". The means by which the RC will activate this URL is out of scope of this specification, but common methods include an HTTP redirect, launching a browser on the RQ’s device, providing a scannable image encoding, and printing out a URL to an interactive console.

"interact": {
    "redirect": true
}

If this interaction mode is supported for this RC and request, the AS returns a redirect interaction response Section 3.3.1.

2.5.1.1. Redirect to an Arbitrary Shortened URL

If the RC would prefer to redirect to a shortened URL defined by the AS at runtime, the RC indicates this by sending the "redirect" field with an integer indicating the maximum character length of the returned URL. The AS MAY use this value to decide whether to return a shortened form of the response URL. If the AS cannot shorten its response URL enough to fit in the requested size, the AS SHOULD return an error. [[] Editor’s note: Or maybe just ignore this part of the interaction request? ]]

"interact": {
    "redirect": 255
}

If this interaction mode is supported for this RC and request, the AS returns a redirect interaction response with short URL Section 3.3.1.

2.5.2. Open an Application-specific URL

If the RC can open a URL associated with an application on the RQ’s device, the RC indicates this by sending the "app" field with boolean value "true". The means by which the RC determines the application to open with this URL are out of scope of this specification.

"interact": {
    "app": true
}
If this interaction mode is supported for this RC and request, the AS returns an app interaction response with an app URL payload Section 3.3.2.

[[ Editor’s note: this is similar to the "redirect" above today as most apps use captured URLs, but there seems to be a desire for splitting the web-based interaction and app-based interaction into different URIs. There’s also the possibility of wanting more in the payload than can be reasonably put into the URL, or at least having separate payloads. ]]

2.5.3. Receive a Callback After Interaction

If the RC is capable of receiving a message from the AS indicating that the RO has completed their interaction, the RC indicates this by sending the "callback" field. The value of this field is an object containing the following members.

uri  REQUIRED. Indicates the URI to send the RO to after interaction. This URI MAY be unique per request and MUST be hosted by or accessible by the RC. This URI MUST NOT contain any fragment component. This URI MUST be protected by HTTPS, be hosted on a server local to the RO’s browser ("localhost"), or use an application-specific URI scheme. If the RC needs any state information to tie to the front channel interaction response, it MUST use a unique callback URI to link to that ongoing state. The allowable URIs and URI patterns MAY be restricted by the AS based on the RC’s presented key information. The callback URI SHOULD be presented to the RO during the interaction phase before redirect.  
[[ Editor’s note: should we enforce the callback URI to be unique per request? That helps with some fixation attacks, but not with others, and it would be problematic for an AS that wants to lock down each client instance to a single callback instead of a family/pattern of callbacks. ]]

nonce  REQUIRED. Unique value to be used in the calculation of the "hash" query parameter sent to the callback URL, must be sufficiently random to be unguessable by an attacker. MUST be generated by the RC as a unique value for this request.

method  REQUIRED. The callback method that the AS will use to contact the RC. Valid values include "redirect" Section 2.5.3.1 and "push" Section 2.5.3.2, with other values defined by a registry TBD (Section 12).

hash_method  OPTIONAL. The hash calculation mechanism to be used for
the callback hash in Section 4.4.3. Can be one of "sha3" or "sha2". If absent, the default value is "sha3". [[ Editor's note: This should be expandable via a registry of cryptographic options, and it would be good if we didn’t define our own identifiers here. See also note about cryptographic functions in Section 4.4.3. ]] 

"interact": {
  "callback": {
    "method": "redirect",
    "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
    "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
  }
}

If this interaction mode is supported for this RC and request, the AS returns a nonce for use in validating the callback response (Section 3.3.3). Requests to the callback URI MUST be processed as described in Section 4.4, and the AS MUST require presentation of an interaction callback reference as described in Section 5.1.

[[ Editor’s note: There has been some call for a post-interaction redirect that is not tied to the underlying security model - specifically, sending the user over to a client-hosted page with client-specific instructions on how to continue. This would be something hosted externally to the client instance, so the client instance would never see this incoming call. We could accomplish that using this "callback" post-redirect mechanism but with "method": "static" or "nonce": false or some other signal to indicate that the client won’t see the incoming request. ]] 

[[ Editor’s note: The callback information could alternatively be combined with other methods like "redirect", essentially putting everything in the "callback" object into the field for the other objects. However, this would require each method to define its own set of rules about how callbacks can be used, and we would want them all to be consistent with each other with clear information about how the AS is supposed to respond to all of these. 

"interact": {
  "redirect": {
    "method": "redirect",
    "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
    "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
  }
}
So if the object is there, you do the redirect on completion, if the object isn’t there (it’s a boolean, like today), you don’t redirect when you’re done. Previous versions of this specification used this structure, but it was abandoned in favor of the current setup to allow for different combinations of user interaction methods at the same time while still keeping a consistent security model. OAuth 2’s "grant_type" model has proved to be limiting in unanticipated ways since it requires an entirely new grant type to be invented any time there is a new combination of aspects, or it requires each grant type to have many of the same optionalities. Combining these fields back into one, in this way, would allow a client to declare that it expects a callback in response to one kind of interaction method but not others, and include multiple combinations at once. For example, if a client wants to allow a user to redirect to the AS and back on the same device, or to use a usercode on a secondary device without a callback, and the client wants to offer both modes simultaneously. This could alternately be accomplished by allowing the client to "bundle" interaction parameters together, if desirable - for example, if "interact" were an array, the client would accept any combination represented by one object. This example binds the "callback" only to the first "redirect" method, and second (short) "redirect" and "user_code" method do not use a callback.

"interact": [
  {
    "redirect": true,
    "callback": {
      "method": "redirect",
      "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
      "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
    }
  },
  {
    "redirect": 255,
    "user_code": true
  }
]

It’s not clear what a response to such an array would be. Would the AS pick one of these bundles? Would it be allowed to respond to any or all of them? Could an AS use different URIs for each bundle? (This seems likely, at least.) Would there be a security problem if the AS used the same URI for both bundles, since one requires a front channel redirect and the other does not?
2.5.3.1. Receive an HTTP Callback Through the Browser

A callback "method" value of "redirect" indicates that the RC will expect a call from the RO’s browser using the HTTP method GET as described in Section 4.4.1.

"interact": {
    "callback": {
        "method": "redirect",
        "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
        "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
    }
}

Requests to the callback URI MUST be processed by the RC as described in Section 4.4.1.

Since the incoming request to the callback URL is from the RO’s browser, this method is usually used when the RO and RQ are the same entity. As such, the RC MUST ensure the RQ is present on the request to prevent substitution attacks.

2.5.3.2. Receive an HTTP Direct Callback

A callback "method" value of "push" indicates that the RC will expect a call from the AS directly using the HTTP method POST as described in Section 4.4.2.

"interact": {
    "callback": {
        "method": "push",
        "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
        "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
    }
}

Requests to the callback URI MUST be processed by the RC as described in Section 4.4.2.

Since the incoming request to the callback URL is from the AS and not from the RO’s browser, the RC MUST NOT require the RQ to be present on incoming HTTP the request.

[[ Editor’s note: This post-interaction method can be used in advanced use cases like asynchronous authorization, or simply to signal the client that it should move to the next part of the protocol, even when there is no user present at the client. As such it can feel a little odd being inside the "interact" block of the Richer                      Expires 12 April 2021                [Page 41]
protocol, but it does align with the redirect-based "callback" method and it seems they really should be mutually-exclusive. Additionally, should there be a method for simply pushing the updated response directly to the client, instead? ]

2.5.4. Display a Short User Code

If the RC is capable of displaying or otherwise communicating a short, human-entered code to the RO, the RC indicates this by sending the "user_code" field with the boolean value "true". This code is to be entered at a static URL that does not change at runtime, as described in Section 3.3.4.

"interact": {
    "user_code": true
}

If this interaction mode is supported for this RC and request, the AS returns a user code and interaction URL as specified in Section 4.2.

2.5.5. Indicate Desired Interaction Locales

If the RC knows the RQ’s locale and language preferences, the RC can send this information to the AS using the "ui_locales" field with an array of locale strings as defined by [RFC5646].

"interact": {
    "ui_locales": ["en-US", "fr-CA"]
}

If possible, the AS SHOULD use one of the locales in the array, with preference to the first item in the array supported by the AS. If none of the given locales are supported, the AS MAY use a default locale.

2.5.6. Extending Interaction Modes

Additional interaction modes are defined in a registry TBD (Section 12).

[[ Editor’s note: we should have guidance in here about how to define other interaction modes. There’s already interest in defining message-based protocols like DIDCOMM and challenge-response protocols like FIDO, for example. ]]
2.6. Declaring RC Capabilities

If the RC supports extension capabilities, it MAY present them to the AS in the "capabilities" field. This field is an array of strings representing specific extensions and capabilities, as defined by a registry TBD (Section 12).

"capabilities": ["ext1", "ext2"]

2.7. Referencing an Existing Grant Request

If the RC has a reference handle from a previously granted request, it MAY send that reference in the "existing_grant" field. This field is a single string consisting of the "value" of the "access_token" returned in a previous request’s continuation response (Section 3.1).

"existing_grant": "80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSU"

The AS MUST dereference the grant associated with the reference and process this request in the context of the referenced one. The AS MUST NOT alter the existing grant associated with the reference.

[[ Editor’s note: this basic capability is to allow for both step-up authorization and downscoped authorization, but by explicitly creating a new request and not modifying an existing one. What’s the best guidance for how an AS should process this? What are the use cases that help differentiate this from modification of an existing request? ]]

2.8. Requesting OpenID Connect Claims

If the RC and AS both support OpenID Connect’s claims query language as defined in [OIDC] Section 5.5, the RC sends the value of the OpenID Connect "claims" authorization request parameter as a JSON object under the name "claims" in the root of the request.

"claims": {
    "id_token": {
        "email": { "essential": true },
        "email_verified": { "essential": true }
    },
    "userinfo": {
        "name": { "essential": true },
        "picture": null
    }
}
The contents of the "claims" parameter have the same semantics as they do in OpenID Connect's "claims" authorization request parameter, including all extensions such as [OIDC4IA]. The AS MUST process the claims object in the same way that it would with an OAuth 2 based authorization request.

Note that because this is an independent query object, the "claims" value can augment or alter other portions of the request, namely the "resources" and "subject" fields. This query language uses the fields in the top level of the object to indicate the target for any requested claims. For instance, the "userinfo" target indicates that a returned access token would grant access to the given claims at the UserInfo Endpoint, while the "id_token" target indicates that the claims would be returned in an ID Token as described in Section 3.4.

[[ Editor's note: in order to use the "claims" parameter as defined in OIDC, we have to violate the principle of orthogonality in Section 2.9. An alternative approach would be to split up the portions of the claims request, so that "id_token" claims would go into the "subject" field and "userinfo" claims would go into the "resources" request, but this violates the original field definition from OIDC and gets into the territory of defining an identity schema request. This approach would also invalidate extensions to the "claims" standard as each "target" would need to have its own separate mapping to some part of the GNAP protocol. ]]

[[ Editor's note: I'm not a fan of GNAP defining how OIDC would work at all and would rather that work be done by the OIDF in an extension. However, I think it is important for discussion to see this kind of thing in context with the rest of the protocol, for now. In the future, I would anticipate this would be defined by the OIDF as a relatively small but robust identity layer on top of GNAP. ]]

2.9. Extending The Grant Request

The request object MAY be extended by registering new items in a registry TBD (Section 12). Extensions SHOULD be orthogonal to other parameters. Extensions MUST document any aspects where the extension item affects or influences the values or behavior of other request and response objects.

[[ Editor's note: we should have more guidance and examples on what possible top-level extensions would look like. ]]

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3. Grant Response

In response to a RC’s request, the AS responds with a JSON object as the HTTP entity body. Each possible field is detailed in the sections below:

- **continue**: Indicates that the RC can continue the request by making an additional request using these parameters. Section 3.1

- **access_token**: A single access token that the RC can use to call the RS on behalf of the RO. Section 3.2.1

- **multiple_access_token**: Multiple named access tokens that the RC can use to call the RS on behalf of the RO. Section 3.2.2

- **interact**: Indicates that interaction through some set of defined mechanisms needs to take place. Section 3.3

- **subject**: Claims about the RO as known and declared by the AS. Section 3.4

- **instance_id**: An identifier this RC instance can use to identify itself when making future requests. Section 3.5

- **user_handle**: An identifier this RC instance can use to identify its current RQ when making future requests. Section 3.5

- **error**: An error code indicating that something has gone wrong. Section 3.6

In this example, the AS is returning an interaction URL (Section 3.3.1), a callback nonce (Section 3.3.3), and a continuation handle (Section 3.1).

```json
{
  "interact": {
    "redirect": "https://server.example.com/interact/4CF492MLVMSW9MKMXXKHO",
    "callback": "MBDOFXG4Y5CVJCX821LH"
  },
  "continue": {
    "access_token": {
      "value": "80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSU",
      "key": true
    },
    "uri": "https://server.example.com/tx"
  }
}
```
In this example, the AS is returning a bearer access token (Section 3.2.1) with a management URL and a subject identifier (Section 3.4) in the form of an email address.

```
{
  "access_token": {
    "value": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7O2B8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
    "key": false,
    "manage": "https://server.example.com/token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1L"
  },
  "subject": {
    "sub_ids": [ {
      "subject_type": "email",
      "email": "user@example.com"
    } ]
  }
}
```

3.1. Request Continuation

If the AS determines that the request can be continued with additional requests, it responds with the "continue" field. This field contains a JSON object with the following properties.

uri REQUIRED. The URI at which the RC can make continuation requests. This URI MAY vary request, or MAY be stable at the AS if the AS includes an access token. The RC MUST use this value exactly as given when making a continuation request (Section 5).

wait RECOMMENDED. The amount of time in integer seconds the RC SHOULD wait after receiving this continuation handle and calling the URI.

access_token RECOMMENDED. A unique access token for continuing the request, in the format specified in Section 3.2.1. This access token MUST be bound to the RC’s key used in the request and MUST NOT be a "bearer" token. This access token MUST NOT be usable at resources outside of the AS. [[ Editor’s note: Is this a restriction we want to enforce? ]] If the AS includes an access token, the RC MUST present the access token in all requests to the continuation URI as described in Section 7.
The RC can use the values of this field to continue the request as described in Section 5. Note that the RC MUST sign all continuation requests with its key as described in Section 8. If the AS includes an "access_token", the RC MUST present the access token in its continuation request.

This field SHOULD be returned when interaction is expected, to allow the RC to follow up after interaction has been concluded.

[[ Editor’s note: The AS can use the optional "access_token" as a credential for the client to manage the grant request itself over time. This is in parallel with access token management as well as RS access in general. If the AS uses the access token, the continuation URL can be static, and potentially even the same as the initial request URL. If the AS does not use an access token here, it needs to use unique URLs in its response and bind the client’s key to requests to those URLs - or potentially only allow one request per client at a time. The optionality adds a layer of complexity, but the client behavior is deterministic in all possible cases and it re-uses existing functions and structures instead of inventing something special just to talk to the AS. The optional access token represents a design compromise, but the working group can decide to either require the access token on all requests or to remove the access token functionality and require the security of the continuation requests be based on unique URLs. ]]

3.2. Access Tokens

If the AS has successfully granted one or more access tokens to the RC, the AS responds with either the "access_token" or the "multiple_access_token" field. The AS MUST NOT respond with both the "access_token" and "multiple_access_token" fields.

[[ Editor’s note: I really don’t like the dichotomy between "access_token" and "multiple_access_tokens" and their being mutually exclusive, and I think we should design away from this pattern toward something less error-prone. ]]

3.2.1. Single Access Token

If the RC has requested a single access token and the AS has granted that access token, the AS responds with the "access_token" field. The value of this field is an object with the following properties:

- **value** REQUIRED. The value of the access token as a string. The value is opaque to the RC. The value SHOULD be limited to ASCII characters to facilitate transmission over HTTP headers within other protocols without requiring additional encoding.

- **manage** OPTIONAL. The management URI for this access token. If provided, the RC MAY manage its access token as described in Section 6. This management URI is a function of the AS and is separate from the RS the RC is requesting access to. This URI MUST NOT include the access token value and SHOULD be different for each access token issued in a request.

- **resources** RECOMMENDED. A description of the rights associated with this access token, as defined in Section 3.2.1. If included, this MUST reflect the rights associated with the issued access token. These rights MAY vary from what was requested by the RC.

- **expires_in** OPTIONAL. The number of seconds in which the access will expire. The RC MUST NOT use the access token past this time. An RS MUST NOT accept an access token past this time. Note that the access token MAY be revoked by the AS or RS at any point prior to its expiration.

- **key** REQUIRED. The key that the token is bound to. If the boolean value "true" is used, the token is bound to the key used by the RC (Section 2.3.2) in its request for access. If the boolean value "false" is used, the token is a bearer token with no key bound to it. Otherwise, the key MUST be an object or string in a format described in Section 2.3.2, describing a public key to which the RC can use the associated private key. The RC MUST be able to dereference or process the key information in order to be able to sign the request.

The following non-normative example shows a single bearer token with a management URL that has access to three described resources.
"access_token": {
    "value": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
    "key": false,
    "manage": "https://server.example.com/token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1L",
    "resources": [
        {
            "type": "photo-api",
            "actions": [
                "read",
                "write",
                "dolphin"
            ],
            "locations": [
                "https://server.example.net/",
                "https://resource.local/other"
            ],
            "datatypes": [
                "metadata",
                "images"
            ]
        },
        "read", "dolphin-metadata"
    ]
}

The following non-normative example shows a single access token bound to the RC’s key, which was presented using the detached JWS (Section 8.1) binding method.

"access_token": {
    "value": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
    "key": true,
    "resources": [
        "finance", "medical"
    ]
}

If the RC requested multiple access tokens (Section 2.1.3), the AS MUST NOT respond with a single access token structure unless the RC sends the "split_token" flag as described in Section 2.1.4.

[[ Editor’s note: There has been interest in describing a way for the AS to tell the client both how and where to use the token. This kind of directed access token could allow for some interesting deployment patterns where the client doesn’t know much]]
3.2.2. Multiple Access Tokens

If the RC has requested multiple access tokens and the AS has granted at least one of them, the AS responds with the "multiple_access_tokens" field. The value of this field is a JSON object, and the property names correspond to the token identifiers chosen by the RC in the multiple access token request (Section 2.1.3). The values of the properties of this object are access tokens as described in Section 3.2.1.

In this non-normative example, two bearer tokens are issued under the names "token1" and "token2", and only the first token has a management URL associated with it.

"multiple_access_tokens": {
    "token1": {
        "value": "0S9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BWP7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
        "key": false,
        "manage": "https://server.example.com/token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0"
    },
    "token2": {
        "value": "UFGLO2FDAFG7VGZZPJ3IZEMN21EVU71FHCARP4J1",
        "key": false
    }
}

Each access token corresponds to the named resources arrays in the RC’s request (Section 2.1.3).

The multiple access token response MUST be used when multiple access tokens are requested, even if only one access token is issued as a result of the request. The AS MAY refuse to issue one or more of the requested access tokens, for any reason. In such cases the refused token is omitted from the response and all of the other issued access tokens are included in the response the requested names appropriate names.

If the RC requested a single access token (Section 2.1.1), the AS MUST NOT respond with the multiple access token structure unless the RC sends the "split_token" flag as described in Section 2.1.4.

Each access token MAY have different proofing mechanisms. If management is allowed, each access token SHOULD have different management URIs.

[[Editor’s note: Do we need to specify that the management URIs are different if we require the token to be presented? ]]

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3.3. Interaction Modes

If the RC has indicated a capability to interact with the RO in its request (Section 2.5), and the AS has determined that interaction is both supported and necessary, the AS responds to the RC with any of the following values in the "interact" field of the response. There is no preference order for interaction modes in the response, and it is up to the RC to determine which ones to use. All supported interaction methods are included in the same "interact" object.

**redirect** Redirect to an arbitrary URL. Section 3.3.1

**app** Launch of an application URL. Section 3.3.2

**callback** Callback to an RC URL after interaction is completed. Section 3.3.3

**user_code** Display a short user code. Section 3.3.4

Additional interaction mode responses can be defined in a registry TBD (Section 12).

The AS MUST NOT respond with any interaction mode that the RC did not indicate in its request. The AS MUST NOT respond with any interaction mode that the AS does not support. Since interaction responses include secret or unique information, the AS SHOULD respond to each interaction mode only once in an ongoing request, particularly if the RC modifies its request (Section 5.3).

3.3.1. Redirection to an arbitrary URL

If the RC indicates that it can redirect to an arbitrary URL (Section 2.5.1) and the AS supports this mode for the RC’s request, the AS responds with the "redirect" field, which is a string containing the URL to direct the RQ to. This URL MUST be unique for the request and MUST NOT contain any security-sensitive information.

```json
"interact": {
  "redirect": "https://interact.example.com/4CF492MLVMSW9MKMXKHQ"
}
```

The interaction URL returned represents a function of the AS but MAY be completely distinct from the URL the RC uses to request access (Section 2), allowing an AS to separate its user-interactive functionality from its back-end security functionality.
The RC sends the RQ to the URL to interact with the AS. The RC MUST NOT alter the URL in any way. The means for the RC to send the RQ to this URL is out of scope of this specification, but common methods include an HTTP redirect, launching the system browser, displaying a scannable code, or printing out the URL in an interactive console.

3.3.2. Launch of an application URL

If the RC indicates that it can launch an application URL (Section 2.5.2) and the AS supports this mode for the RC’s request, the AS responds with the "app" field, which is a string containing the URL to direct the RQ to. This URL MUST be unique for the request and MUST NOT contain any security-sensitive information.

```json
"interact": {
  "app": "https://app.example.com/launch?tx=4CF492MLV"
}
```

The RC launches the URL as appropriate on its platform, and the means for the RC to launch this URL is out of scope of this specification. The RC MUST NOT alter the URL in any way. The RC MAY attempt to detect if an installed application will service the URL being sent before attempting to launch the application URL.

[[ Editor’s note: This will probably need to be expanded to an object to account for other parameters needed in app2app use cases, like addresses for distributed storage systems, server keys, and the like. Details TBD as people build this out. ]]}

3.3.3. Post-interaction Callback to an RC URL

If the RC indicates that it can receive a post-interaction callback on a URL (Section 2.5.3) and the AS supports this mode for the RC’s request, the AS responds with a "callback" field containing a nonce that the RC will use in validating the callback as defined in Section 4.4.1.

```json
"interact": {
  "callback": "MBDOFXG4Y5CVJX821LH"
}
```

[[ Editor’s note: This is fairly parallel to the request but it kinda hides the fact that this is a nonce from the AS, not the client. ]]}

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When the RO completes interaction at the AS, the AS MUST call the RC’s callback URL using the method indicated in the callback request (Section 2.5.3) as described in Section 4.4.1.

If the AS returns a "callback" nonce, the RC MUST NOT continue a grant request before it receives the associated interaction reference on the callback URI.

### 3.3.4. Display of a Short User Code

If the RC indicates that it can display a short user-typeable code (Section 2.5.4) and the AS supports this mode for the RC’s request, the AS responds with a "user_code" field. This field is an object that contains the following members.

- **code** REQUIRED. A unique short code that the user can type into an authorization server. This string MUST be case-insensitive, MUST consist of only easily typeable characters (such as letters or numbers). The time in which this code will be accepted SHOULD be short lived, such as several minutes. It is RECOMMENDED that this code be no more than eight characters in length.

- **url** RECOMMENDED. The interaction URL that the RC will direct the RO to. This URL MUST be stable at the AS such that RCs can be statically configured with it.

```json
"interact": {
  "user_code": {
    "code": "A1BC-3DFF",
    "url": "https://srv.ex/device"
  }
}
```

The RC MUST communicate the "code" to the RQ in some fashion, such as displaying it on a screen or reading it out audibly. The "code" is a one-time-use credential that the AS uses to identify the pending request from the RC. When the RO enters this code (Section 4.2) into the AS, the AS MUST determine the pending request that it was associated with. If the AS does not recognize the entered code, the AS MUST display an error to the user. If the AS detects too many unrecognized codes entered, it SHOULD display an error to the user.

The RC SHOULD also communicate the URL if possible to facilitate user interaction, but since the URL should be stable, the RC should be able to safely decide to not display this value. As this interaction mode is designed to facilitate interaction via a secondary device, it is not expected that the RC redirect the RQ to the URL given here at runtime. Consequently, the URL needs to be stable enough that a RC
could be statically configured with it, perhaps referring the RQ to the URL via documentation instead of through an interactive means. If the RC is capable of communicating an arbitrary URL to the RQ, such as through a scannable code, the RC can use the "redirect" (Section 2.5.1) mode for this purpose instead of or in addition to the user code mode.

The interaction URL returned represents a function of the AS but MAY be completely distinct from the URL the RC uses to request access (Section 2), allowing an AS to separate its user-interactive functionality from its back-end security functionality.

[[ Editor’s note: This is one aspect where the AS might actually be two separate roles. Namely, a delegation server (back end) and interaction server (user-facing).]]

3.3.5. Extending Interaction Mode Responses

Extensions to this specification can define new interaction mode responses in a registry TBD (Section 12). Extensions MUST document the corresponding interaction request.

3.4. Returning User Information

If information about the RO is requested and the AS grants the RC access to that data, the AS returns the approved information in the "subject" response field. This field is an object with the following OPTIONAL properties.

- **sub_ids** An array of subject identifiers for the RO, as defined by [I-D.ietf-secevent-subject-identifiers]. [[ Editor’s note: privacy considerations are needed around returning identifiers. ]]

- **assertions** An object containing assertions as values keyed on the assertion type defined by a registry TBD (Section 12). [[ Editor’s note: should this be an array of objects with internal typing like the sub_ids? Do we expect more than one assertion per user anyway? ]]

- **updated_at** Timestamp in integer seconds indicating when the identified account was last updated. The RC MAY use this value to determine if it needs to request updated profile information through an identity API. The definition of such an identity API is out of scope for this specification.
"subject": {
    "sub_ids": [ {
      "subject_type": "email",
      "email": "user@example.com",
    },
    "assertions": {
      "id_token": "eyj...
    }
  }
}

The AS MUST return the "subject" field only in cases where the AS is sure that the RO and the RQ are the same party. This can be accomplished through some forms of interaction with the RO (Section 4).

Subject identifiers returned by the AS SHOULD uniquely identify the RO at the AS. Some forms of subject identifier are opaque to the RC (such as the subject of an issuer and subject pair), while others forms (such as email address and phone number) are intended to allow the RC to correlate the identifier with other account information at the RC. The RC MUST NOT request or use any returned subject identifiers for communication purposes (see Section 2.2). That is, a subject identifier returned in the format of an email address or a phone number only identifies the RO to the AS and does not indicate that the AS has validated that the represented email address or phone number in the identifier is suitable for communication with the current user. To get such information, the RC MUST use an identity protocol to request and receive additional identity claims. While Section 2.8 specifies one such method, other identity protocols could also be used on top of GNAP to convey this information and the details of an identity protocol and associated schema are outside the scope of this specification.

[[ Editor’s note: subject identifiers here are naturally scoped to the AS; even though using an external identifier like an email address or phone number implies a global namespace in use, the association of that identifier to the current user is still under the view of the AS. Would changing the name to "as_sub_ids" or "local_sub_ids" help convey that point? Would it also be desirable to have an identifier that’s globally unique by design? The "iss_sub" type almost gets us there by explicitly calling out the issuer URL, but tuples are hard to deal with in practice and so tend to get ignored in practice in the OIDC space. ]]
Extensions to this specification MAY define additional response properties in a registry TBD (Section 12).

3.5. Returning Dynamically-bound Reference Handles

Many parts of the RC’s request can be passed as either a value or a reference. The use of a reference in place of a value allows for a client to optimize requests to the AS.

Some references, such as for the RC instance’s identity (Section 2.3.1) or the requested resources (Section 2.1.2), can be managed statically through an admin console or developer portal provided by the AS or RS. The developer of the RC can include these values in their code for a more efficient and compact request.

If desired, the AS MAY also generate and return some of these references dynamically to the RC in its response to facilitate multiple interactions with the same software. The RC SHOULD use these references in future requests in lieu of sending the associated data value. These handles are intended to be used on future requests.

Dynamically generated handles are string values that MUST be protected by the RC as secrets. Handle values MUST be unguessable and MUST NOT contain any sensitive information. Handle values are opaque to the RC.

All dynamically generated handles are returned as fields in the root JSON object of the response. This specification defines the following dynamic handle returns, additional handles can be defined in a registry TBD (Section 12).

instance_id A string value used to represent the information in the "client" object that the RC can use in a future request, as described in Section 2.3.1.
user_handle  A string value used to represent the current user. The RC can use in a future request, as described in Section 2.4.1.

This non-normative example shows two handles along side an issued access token:

```
{
    "user_handle": "XUT2MF1XBIKJKSDU8QM",
    "instance_id": "7C7C4AZ9KHDR6X63AJAO",
    "access_token": {
        "value": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW70ZB8CDF0NP219RP1LT0",
        "key": false
    }
}
```

[[ Editor’s note: the ability to dynamically return reference handles allows for an inline version of dynamic registration without needing to go through a discrete registration step, for clients where that makes sense. Currently this is entirely up to the AS to decide when to issue these, but maybe the client should signal that it can receive these handles as part of the request? The new "token flags" construct in Section 2.1.4 almost gets at that, but for a different part of the request structure. Since the client is the component that will know if it’s in a position to make use of such reference handles in the future (like a mobile app) or if it’s just going to evaporate at the end of a session (like an SPA). Ultimately we need to deal with a range of dynamism, not just the "pre-registered" vs. "non-registered" use cases that OAuth forces us in to. ]]

[[ Editor’s note: The client-bound "instance_id" could serve as the hook we would need for RFC7592 style dynamic client management, including additional components like key rotation. If the AS returns an object instead of a string here, that could include everything that the client would need in order to make REST-style management calls, similar to token management.]

```
{
    "client": {
        "instance_id": "7C7C4AZ9KHDR6X63AJAO",
        "manage": "https://example.server.com/client/7C7C4AZ9KHDR6X63AJAO",
        "access_token": {
            "value": "4TB8N6BW70ZB8CDF0NP219RP1LT0OS9M2PMHKUR6",
            "key": true
        }
    }
}
```
The client would sign all requests with its key and use the presented access token. A "POST" or "PATCH" request would update client information, including having a method for key rotation using nested signatures. A "DELETE" request would un-register the client, etc. 

3.6. Error Response

If the AS determines that the request cannot be issued for any reason, it responds to the RC with an error message.

```json
{
    "error": "user_denied"
}
```

The error code is one of the following, with additional values available in a registry TBD (Section 12):

- user_denied: The RO denied the request.
- too_fast: The RC did not respect the timeout in the wait response.
- unknown_request: The request referenced an unknown ongoing access request.

[[ Editor’s note: I think we will need a more robust error mechanism, and we need to be more clear about what error states are allowed in what circumstances. Additionally, is the "error" parameter exclusive with others in the return? ]]

3.7. Extending the Response

Extensions to this specification MAY define additional fields for the grant response in a registry TBD (Section 12).

[[ Editor’s note: what guidance should we give to designers on this? ]]

4. Interaction at the AS

If the RC indicates that it is capable of driving interaction with the RO in its request (Section 2.5), and the AS determines that interaction is required and responds to one or more of the RC’s interaction modes, the RC SHOULD initiate one of the returned interaction modes in the response (Section 3.3).
When the RO is interacting with the AS, the AS MAY perform whatever actions it sees fit, including but not limited to:

* authenticate the current user (who may be the RQ) as the RO

* gather consent and authorization from the RO for access to requested resources and direct information

* allow the RO to modify the parameters of the request (such as disallowing some requested resources or specifying an account or record)

* provide warnings to the RO about potential attacks or negative effects of the requested information

[[ Editor’s note: there are some privacy and security considerations here but for the most part we don’t want to be overly prescriptive about the UX, I think. ]]

4.1.  Interaction at a Redirected URI

When the RO is directed to the AS through the "redirect" (Section 3.3.1) mode, the AS can interact with the RO through their web browser to authenticate the user as an RO and gather their consent. Note that since the RC does not add any parameters to the URL, the AS MUST determine the grant request being referenced from the URL value itself. If the URL cannot be associated with a currently active request, the AS MUST display an error to the RO and MUST NOT attempt to redirect the RO back to any RC even if a callback is supplied (Section 2.5.3).

The interaction URL MUST be reachable from the RO’s browser, though note that the RO MAY open the URL on a separate device from the RC itself. The interaction URL MUST be accessible from an HTTP GET request, and MUST be protected by HTTPS or equivalent means.

With this method, it is common for the RO to be the same party as the RQ, since the RC has to communicate the redirection URI to the RQ.

4.2.  Interaction at the User Code URI

When the RO is directed to the AS through the "user_code" (Section 3.3.4) mode, the AS can interact with the RO through their web browser to collect the user code, authenticate the user as an RO, and gather their consent. Note that since the URL itself is static, the AS MUST determine the grant request being referenced from the user code value itself. If the user code cannot be associated with a currently active request, the AS MUST display an error to the RO and
MUST NOT attempt to redirect the RO back to any RC even if a callback is supplied (Section 2.5.3).

The user code URL MUST be reachable from the RO’s browser, though note that the RO MAY open the URL on a separate device from the RC itself. The user code URL MUST be accessible from an HTTP GET request, and MUST be protected by HTTPS or equivalent means.

While it is common for the RO to be the same party as the RQ, since the RC has to communicate the user code to someone, there are cases where the RQ and RO are separate parties and the authorization happens asynchronously.

4.3. Interaction through an Application URI

When the RC successfully launches an application through the "app" mode (Section 3.3.2), the AS interacts with the RO through that application to authenticate the user as the RO and gather their consent. The details of this interaction are out of scope for this specification.

[[ Editor’s note: Should we have anything to say about an app sending information to a back-end to get details on the pending request? ]]

4.4. Post-Interaction Completion

Upon completing an interaction with the RO, if a "callback" (Section 3.3.3) mode is available with the current request, the AS MUST follow the appropriate method at the end of interaction to allow the RC to continue. If this mode is not available, the AS SHOULD instruct the RO to return to their RC software upon completion. Note that these steps still take place in most error cases, such as when the RO has denied access. This pattern allows the RC to potentially recover from the error state without restarting the request from scratch by modifying its request or providing additional information directly to the AS.
The AS MUST create an interaction reference and associate that reference with the current interaction and the underlying pending request. This value MUST be sufficiently random so as not to be guessable by an attacker. The interaction reference MUST be one-time-use.

The AS MUST calculate a hash value based on the RC and AS nonces and the interaction reference, as described in Section 4.4.3. The RC will use this value to validate the return call from the AS.

The AS then MUST send the hash and interaction reference based on the interaction finalization mode as described in the following sections.

4.4.1. Completing Interaction with a Browser Redirect to the Callback URI

When using the "callback" interaction mode (Section 3.3.3) with the "redirect" method, the AS signals to the RC that interaction is complete and the request can be continued by directing the RO (in their browser) back to the RC’s callback URL sent in the callback request (Section 2.5.3.1).

The AS secures this callback by adding the hash and interaction reference as query parameters to the RC’s callback URL.

hash  REQUIRED. The interaction hash value as described in Section 4.4.3.

interact_ref  REQUIRED. The interaction reference generated for this interaction.

The means of directing the RO to this URL are outside the scope of this specification, but common options include redirecting the RO from a web page and launching the system browser with the target URL.
When receiving the request, the RC MUST parse the query parameters to calculate and validate the hash value as described in Section 4.4.3. If the hash validates, the RC sends a continuation request to the AS as described in Section 5.1 using the interaction reference value received here.

4.4.2. Completing Interaction with a Direct HTTP Request Callback

When using the "callback" interaction mode (Section 3.3.3) with the "push" method, the AS signals to the RC that interaction is complete and the request can be continued by sending an HTTP POST request to the RC’s callback URL sent in the callback request (Section 2.5.3.2).

The entity message body is a JSON object consisting of the following two fields:

- hash REQUIRED. The interaction hash value as described in Section 4.4.3.
- interact_ref REQUIRED. The interaction reference generated for this interaction.

POST /push/554321 HTTP/1.1
Host: client.example.net
Content-Type: application/json

{
  "hash": "p28jsq0Y2KK3WS__a42tavNC641dgTbrywswxT4md_jZQ1r2HZTH0XYHcLmOboM7XHPAdJZmtkbsaraJ64A",
  "interact_ref": "4IFWWIKYBC2PQ6U56NL1"
}

When receiving the request, the RC MUST parse the JSON object and validate the hash value as described in Section 4.4.3. If the hash validates, the RC sends a continuation request to the AS as described in Section 5.1 using the interaction reference value received here.

4.4.3. Calculating the interaction hash

The "hash" parameter in the request to the RC’s callback URL ties the front channel response to an ongoing request by using values known only to the parties involved. This security mechanism allows the RC to protect itself against several kinds of session fixation and injection attacks. The AS MUST always provide this hash, and the RC MUST validate the hash when received.
To calculate the "hash" value, the party doing the calculation first takes the "nonce" value sent by the RC in the interaction section of the initial request (Section 2.5.3), the AS’s nonce value from the callback response (Section 3.3.3), and the "interact_ref" sent to the RC’s callback URL. These three values are concatenated to each other in this order using a single newline character as a separator between the fields. There is no padding or whitespace before or after any of the lines, and no trailing newline character.

VJLO6A4CAYLBXHTR0KRO
MBDOFXG4Y5CVJJCX821LH
4IFWIKYBC2PQ6U56NL1

The party then hashes this string with the appropriate algorithm based on the "hash_method" parameter of the "callback". If the "hash_method" value is not present in the RC’s request, the algorithm defaults to "sha3".

[[ Editor’s note: these hash algorithms should be pluggable, and ideally we shouldn’t redefine yet another crypto registry for this purpose, but I’m not convinced an appropriate one already exists. Furthermore, we should be following best practices here whether it’s a plain hash, a keyed MAC, an HMAC, or some other form of cryptographic function. I’m not sure what the defaults and options ought to be, but SHA512 and SHA3 were picked based on what was available to early developers. ]]

4.4.3.1. SHA3-512

The "sha3" hash method consists of hashing the input string with the 512-bit SHA3 algorithm. The byte array is then encoded using URL Safe Base64 with no padding. The resulting string is the hash value.

p28jsq0Y2KK3WS__a42tavNC641dGTBroywsWxT4md__jZQ1R2HZT8BOYHcLmObM7XHPAdJzTZMtkBsaraj64A

4.4.3.2. SHA2-512

The "sha2" hash method consists of hashing the input string with the 512-bit SHA2 algorithm. The byte array is then encoded using URL Safe Base64 with no padding. The resulting string is the hash value.
Continuing a Grant Request

While it is possible for the AS to return a Section 3 with all the RC’s requested information (including access tokens (Section 3.2) and direct user information (Section 3.4)), it’s more common that the AS and the RC will need to communicate several times over the lifetime of an access grant. This is often part of facilitating interaction (Section 4), but it could also be used to allow the AS and RC to continue negotiating the parameters of the original grant request (Section 2).

To enable this ongoing negotiation, the AS returns a "continue" field in the response (Section 3.1) that contains information the RC needs to continue this process with another request, including a URI to access as well as an optional access token to use during the continued requests.

When the RC makes any calls to the continuation URL, the RC MUST present proof of the most recent key associated with this ongoing request by signing the request as described in Section 8. The key in use will be either the key from the initial request (Section 2.3.2) or its most recent rotation. 

For example, here the RC makes a POST request and signs with detached JWS:

```
POST /continue/80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Detached-JWS: ejy0...
```

If the AS includes an "access_token" in the "continue" response in Section 3.1, the RC MUST include the access token the request as described in Section 7. Note that the access token is always bound to the RC’s presented key (or its most recent rotation).

For example, here the RC makes a POST request with the interaction reference, includes the access token, and signs with detached JWS:
POST /continue HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Authorization: GNAP 80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
  "interact_ref": "4IFWWIKYBC2P06U56NL1"
}

The AS MUST be able to tell from the RC’s request which specific ongoing request is being accessed. Common methods for doing so include using a unique, unguessable URL for each continuation response, associating the request with the provided access token, or allowing only a single ongoing grant request for a given RC instance at a time. If the AS cannot determine a single active grant request to map the continuation request to, the AS MUST return an error.

The ability to continue an already-started request allows the RC to perform several important functions, including presenting additional information from interaction, modifying the initial request, and getting the current state of the request.

If a "wait" parameter was included in the continuation response (Section 3.1), the RC MUST NOT call the continuation URI prior to waiting the number of seconds indicated. If no "wait" period is indicated, the RC SHOULD wait at least 5 seconds [[ Editor’s note: what’s a reasonable amount of time so as not to DOS the server?? ]]. If the RC does not respect the given wait period, the AS MUST return an error.

The response from the AS is a JSON object and MAY contain any of the fields described in Section 3, as described in more detail in the sections below.

If the AS determines that the RC can make a further continuation request, the AS MUST include a new "continue" response (Section 3.1). If the continuation was previously bound to an access token, the new "continue" response MUST include a bound access token as well, and this token SHOULD be a new access token. [[ Editor’s note: this used to be a MUST, but is it safe to back off that requirement? ]] If the AS does not return a new "continue" response, the RC MUST NOT make an additional continuation request. If a RC does so, the AS MUST return an error.

For continuation functions that require the RC to send a message body, the body MUST be a JSON object.
5.1. Continuing After a Completed Interaction

When the AS responds to the RC’s "callback" parameter as in Section 4.4.1, this response includes an interaction reference. The RC MUST include that value as the field "interact_ref" in a POST request to the continuation URI.

```
POST /continue/80UPRY5NM32OMUKMKSU HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
   "interact_ref": "4IFWWIKYBC2PQ6U56NL1"
}
```

Since the interaction reference is a one-time-use value as described in Section 4.4.1, if the RC needs to make additional continuation calls after this request, the RC MUST NOT include the interaction reference. If the AS detects an RC submitting the same interaction reference multiple times, the AS MUST return an error and SHOULD invalidate the ongoing request.

The Section 3 MAY contain any newly-created access tokens (Section 3.2) or newly-released subject claims (Section 3.4). The response MAY contain a new "continue" response (Section 3.1) as described above. The response SHOULD NOT contain any interaction responses (Section 3.3). [[Editor’s note: This last one might be overly restrictive, since some kinds of interaction could require multiple round trips. We need more examples and experience beyond redirect-based interaction here. ]]

For example, if the request is successful in causing the AS to issue access tokens and release subject claims, the response could look like this:
With this example, the RC can not make an additional continuation request because a "continue" field is not included.

[[ Editor’s note: other interaction methods, such as a challenge-response cryptographic protocol, would use a similar construct as here, but have different rules. Would it be reasonable to allow them to be combined? Could this be combined further with the "update" method in Section 5.3? ]]

5.2. Continuing During Pending Interaction

When the RC does not include a "callback" parameter, the RC will often need to poll the AS until the RO has authorized the request. To do so, the RC makes a POST request to the continuation URI as in Section 5.1, but does not include a message body.

POST /continue HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Authorization: GNAP 80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

The Section 3 MAY contain any newly-created access tokens (Section 3.2) or newly-released subject claims (Section 3.4). The response MAY contain a new "continue" response (Section 3.1) as described above. If a "continue" field is included, it SHOULD include a "wait" field to facilitate a reasonable polling rate by the RC. The response SHOULD NOT contain interaction responses (Section 3.3).
For example, if the request has not yet been authorized by the RO, the AS could respond by telling the RC to make another continuation request in the future. In this example, a new, unique access token has been issued for the call, which the RC will use in its next continuation request.

```
{
    "continue": {
        "access_token": {
            "value": "33OMUKMKSKU80UPRY5NM",
            "key": true
        },
        "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue",
        "wait": 30
    }
}
```

[[ Editor’s note: Do we want to be more precise about what’s expected inside the "continue" object? I think that at least the URI is required, access token required IF used, etc. This is even if they haven’t changed since last time, and the client will use whatever value comes back. ]]

[[ Editor’s note: extensions to this might need to communicate to the client what the current state of the user interaction is. This has been done in similar proprietary protocols, but the details of that information tend to be highly application specific. Like "user hasn’t logged in yet", "user has logged in but is still sitting at the page", or "user seems to have wandered off". We might be able to provide a decent framework for hanging this kind of stuff on. ]]]

If the request is successful in causing the AS to issue access tokens and release subject claims, the response could look like this example:

```
{
    "access_token": {
        "value": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
        "key": false,
        "manage": "https://server.example.com/token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0"
    },
    "subject": {
        "sub_ids": [ {
            "subject_type": "email",
            "email": "user@example.com",
        } ]
    }
}
```
5.3. Modifying an Existing Request

The RC might need to modify an ongoing request, whether or not tokens have already been issued or claims have already been released. In such cases, the RC makes an HTTP PATCH request to the continuation URI and includes any fields it needs to modify. Fields that aren’t included in the request are considered unchanged from the original request.

The RC MAY include the "resources" and "subject" fields as described in Section 2.1 and Section 2.2. Inclusion of these fields override any values in the initial request, which MAY trigger additional requirements and policies by the AS. For example, if the RC is asking for more access, the AS could require additional interaction with the RO to gather additional consent. If the RC is asking for more limited access, the AS could determine that sufficient authorization has been granted to the RC and return the more limited access rights immediately. [

Editor’s note: We could state something like "resources and subject MUST NOT be the same as in the initial or previous request" to enforce that this really is a change, but is there value in calling that out here? Somehow we do probably want to tell the AS to not let a client simply post the same request here to rotate access tokens now that we’ve got an explicit function for that, right? ]]

The RC MAY include the "interact" field as described in Section 2.5. Inclusion of this field indicates that the RC is capable of driving interaction with the RO, and this field replaces any values from a previous request. The AS MAY respond to any of the interaction responses as described in Section 3.3, just like it would to a new request.

The RC MAY include the "user" field as described in Section 2.4 to present new assertions or information about the RQ. [

Editor’s note: This would allow the client to do things like gather the user’s identifiers post-request, or gather an assertion from an on-device element that the AS can verify. It opens up potential avenues for trouble if the user here is different from the RO that’s already showed up at the AS or race conditions if the RQ’s identity changes mid-stream. But that said, this seems important for multi-log-in cases and the like, probably. ]]

The RC MUST NOT include the "client" section of the request. [

Editor’s note: We do not want the client to be able to get swapped out from underneath the user, especially post-consent. However, including this field in a PATCH update request might be the place to define key rotation for the grant request itself, but we’d need to be very careful of how that works. And it feels like it might have
consequences outside of the request, such as rotating the key for all
ongoing grants for a given client instance, which isn’t really
desirable here. We need a lot more discussion and engineering on
this before including it. ]]

The RC MAY include post-interaction responses such as described in
Section 5.1. [[ Editor’s note: it seems a little odd to include this
in a request but I can’t see a reason to not allow it. ]]

Modification requests MUST NOT alter previously-issued access tokens.
Instead, any access tokens issued from a continuation are considered
new, separate access tokens. The AS MAY revoke existing access
tokens after a modification has occurred. [[ Editor’s note: this
might be subject to the "multi_token" flag, but since we’re creating
a NEW access token and not rotating an existing one, this seems to be
a different use case. ]]

Modification requests MAY result in previously-issued access tokens
being revoked. [[ Editor’s note: there is a solid argument to be made
for always revoking old access tokens here, but we need more
discussion on the boundaries for such a requirement. If they stick
around, it does make a "read" request weird because now we’ve got
multiple access tokens sticking around associated with a grant
request and no good place to put them. ]]

If the modified request can be granted immediately by the AS, the
Section 3 MAY contain any newly-created access tokens (Section 3.2)
or newly-released subject claims (Section 3.4). The response MAY
contain a new "continue" response (Section 3.1) as described above.
If interaction can occur, the response SHOULD contain interaction
responses (Section 3.3) as well.

For example, an RC initially requests a set of resources using
references:
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
    "resources": [
        "read", "write"
    ],
    "interact": {
        "redirect": true,
        "callback": {
            "method": "redirect",
            "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
            "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
        }
    },
    "client": "987YHGRT56789IOLK"
}

Access is granted by the RO, and a token is issued by the AS. In its final response, the AS includes a "continue" field:

{
    "continue": {
        "access_token": {
            "value": "80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSU",
            "key": true
        },
        "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue",
        "wait": 30
    },
    "access_token": ...
}

This allows the RC to make an eventual continuation call. The RC realizes that it no longer needs "write" access and therefore modifies its ongoing request, here asking for just "read" access instead of both "read" and "write" as before.
The AS replaces the previous "resources" from the first request, allowing the AS to determine if any previously-granted consent already applies. In this case, the AS would likely determine that reducing the breadth of the requested access means that new access tokens can be issued to the RC. The AS would likely revoke previously-issued access tokens that had the greater access rights associated with them.

For another example, the RC initially requests read-only access but later needs to step up its access. The initial request could look like this example.
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
  "resources": [
    "read"
  ],
  "interact": {
    "redirect": true,
    "callback": {
      "method": "redirect",
      "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
      "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
    }
  },
  "client": "987YHGRT56789IOLK"
}

Access is granted by the RO, and a token is issued by the AS. In its final response, the AS includes a "continue" field:

{
  "continue": {
    "access_token": {
      "value": "80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSU",
      "key": true
    },
    "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue",
    "wait": 30
  },
  "access_token": ...
}

This allows the RC to make an eventual continuation call. The RC later realizes that it now needs "write" access in addition to the "read" access. Since this is an expansion of what it asked for previously, the RC also includes a new interaction section in case the AS needs to interact with the RO again to gather additional authorization. Note that the RC’s nonce and callback are different from the initial request. Since the original callback was already used in the initial exchange, and the callback is intended for one-time-use, a new one needs to be included in order to use the callback again.
[[ Editor’s note: the net result of this is that interaction requests are really only meant to be responded to exactly once by the AS. This isn’t spelled out explicitly, but could be included in Section 2.5 and/or Section 3.3. ]] 

PATCH /continue HTTP/1.1  
Host: server.example.com  
Content-type: application/json  
Authorization: GNAP 80UPRY5NM33OMUKMSKU  
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
   "resources": [  
      "read", "write"
   ],
   "interact": {
      "redirect": true,
      "callback": {
         "method": "redirect",
         "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/654321",
         "nonce": "K82FX4T4LKLTI25DQFZC"
      }
   }
}

From here, the AS can determine that the RC is asking for more than it was previously granted, but since the RC has also provided a mechanism to interact with the RO, the AS can use that to gather the additional consent. The protocol continues as it would with a new request. Since the old access tokens are good for a subset of the rights requested here, the AS might decide to not revoke them. However, any access tokens granted after this update process are new access tokens and do not modify the rights of existing access tokens.

5.4. Getting the Current State of a Grant Request

If the RC needs to get the current state of an ongoing grant request, it makes an HTTP GET request to the continuation URI. This request MUST NOT alter the grant request in any fashion, including causing the issuance of new access tokens or modification of interaction parameters.

The AS MAY include existing access tokens and previously-released subject claims in the response. The AS MUST NOT issue a new access token or release a new subject claim in response to this request.
GET /continue HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Authorization: GNAP 80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

The response MAY include any fields described Section 3 that are applicable to this ongoing request, including the most recently issued access tokens, any released subject claims, and any currently active interaction modes. The response MAY contain a new "continue" response (Section 3.1) as described above.

[[ Editor’s note: I’m a little dubious about the need for this particular function in reality, but including it for completeness sake. There are a lot of questions we need to answer, such as whether it’s safe to include access tokens and claims in the response of this kind of "read" at all, and whether it makes sense to include items like interaction nonces in the response. This discussion should be driven by the use cases calling for this "read" functionality. There have been similar functions within proprietary protocols where the client calls an endpoint at the AS to figure out where the user is in the interaction process at the AS, letting the client provide a smarter UI. It doesn’t seem like we could do that in depth here since it would be highly application specific, but that might be a good example of how to extend a response and give a client extra information. ]]

5.5. Canceling a Grant Request

If the RC wishes to cancel an ongoing grant request, it makes an HTTP DELETE request to the continuation URI.

DELETE /continue HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Authorization: GNAP 80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

If the request is successfully cancelled, the AS responds with an HTTP 202. The AS MUST revoke all associated access tokens, if possible.

6. Token Management

If an access token response includes the "manage" parameter as described in Section 3.2.1, the RC MAY call this URL to manage the access token with any of the actions defined in the following sections. Other actions are undefined by this specification.
The access token being managed acts as the access element for its own management API. The RC MUST present proof of an appropriate key along with the access token.

If the token is sender-constrained (i.e., not a bearer token), it MUST be sent with the appropriate binding for the access token (Section 7).

If the token is a bearer token, the RC MUST present proof of the same key identified in the initial request (Section 2.3.2) as described in Section 8.

The AS MUST validate the proof and assure that it is associated with either the token itself or the RC the token was issued to, as appropriate for the token’s presentation type.

[[ Editor’s note: Should we allow for "update" to an access token by the client posting new information from a "request"? It seems this might make things weird since an access token is generally considered an unchanging thing, and the client could always request a new access token if they’re allowed to continue the grant request post-issuance as in Section 5.3. There’s also a possibility of being able to "read" a token’s state with a GET, much like token introspection but using the token’s/client’s key instead of the RS key. But would a client need to "read" a token state after issuance? Is there a security risk to offering that functionality? Introspection is nearly always relegated to RS calls in practice since the client is focused on using the token at the RS. The client can always read the state of the grant itself, separately. ]]

6.1. Rotating the Access Token

The RC makes an HTTP POST to the token management URI, sending the access token in the appropriate header and signing the request with the appropriate key.

POST /token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1L HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: GNAP OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0
Detached-JWS: eyj0....

[[ Editor’s note: This could alternatively be an HTTP PUT verb, since we are telling the AS that we want to replace the token. However, we are not providing the information we want to replace the token with, and in fact that’s up to the AS entirely, not the client. For that reason, I think a POST still makes the most sense. ]]
The AS validates that the token presented is associated with the management URL, that the AS issued the token to the given RC, and that the presented key is appropriate to the token.

If the access token has expired, the AS SHOULD honor the rotation request to the token management URL since it is likely that the RC is attempting to refresh the expired token. To support this, the AS MAY apply different lifetimes for the use of the token in management vs. its use at an RS. An AS MUST NOT honor a rotation request for an access token that has been revoked, either by the AS or by the RC through the token management URI (Section 6.2).

If the token is validated and the key is appropriate for the request, the AS MUST invalidate the current access token associated with this URL, if possible, and return a new access token response as described in Section 3.2.1, unless the "multi_token" flag is specified in the request. [[Editor’s note: We could also use different verbs to signal whether or not the old token should be kept around or not, instead of using a token flag to do this.] The value of the access token MUST NOT be the same as the current value of the access token used to access the management API. The response MAY include an updated access token management URL as well, and if so, the RC MUST use this new URL to manage the new access token.

[[Editor’s note: the net result is that the client’s always going to use the management URL that comes back. But should we let the server omit it from the response if it doesn’t change? That seems like an odd optimization that doesn’t help the client.]]
{  
    "access_token": {  
        "value": "FP6A8H6HY37MH13CK76LBZ6Y1UADG6VEUPEER5H2",
        "key": false,
        "manage": "https://server.example.com/token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDP0NP219RP1L",
        "resources": [  
            {  
                "type": "photo-api",
                "actions": [  
                    "read",
                    "write",
                    "dolphin"
                ],
                "locations": [  
                    "https://server.example.net/",
                    "https://resource.local/other"
                ],
                "datatypes": [  
                    "metadata",
                    "images"
                ]
            },
            "read", "dolphin-metadata"
        ]
    }
}

[[ Editor’s note: If the client is using its own key as the proof, like with a bearer access token, the AS is going to need to know if the client’s key has been rotated. We don’t have a mechanism for rotating the token’s key or the client’s key yet either — so that could occur through this management function as well. ]]

6.2. Revoking the Access Token

If the RC wishes to revoke the access token proactively, such as when a user indicates to the RC that they no longer wish for it to have access or the RC application detects that it is being uninstalled, the RC can use the token management URI to indicate to the AS that the AS should invalidate the access token for all purposes.

The RC makes an HTTP DELETE request to the token management URI, presenting the access token and signing the request with the appropriate key.
DELETE /token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1L HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: GNAP OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0
Detached-JWS: eyj0....

If the key presented is associated with the token (or the RC, in the case of a bearer token), the AS MUST invalidate the access token, if possible, and return an HTTP 204 response code.

204 No Content

Though the AS MAY revoke an access token at any time for any reason, the token management function is specifically for the RC’s use. If the access token has already expired or has been revoked through other means, the AS SHOULD honor the revocation request to the token management URL as valid, since the end result is still the token not being usable.

7. Using Access Tokens

The method the RC uses to send an access token to the RS depends on the value of the "key" and "proof" parameters in the access token response (Section 3.2.1).

If the key value is the boolean "false", the access token is a bearer token sent using the HTTP Header method defined in [RFC6750].

Authorization: Bearer OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0

The form parameter and query parameter methods of [RFC6750] MUST NOT be used.

If the "key" value is the boolean "true", the access token MUST be sent to the RS using the same key and proofing mechanism that the RC used in its initial request.

If the "key" value is an object, the value of the "proof" field within the key indicates the particular proofing mechanism to use. The access token is sent using the HTTP authorization scheme "GNAP" along with a key proof as described in Section 8 for the key bound to the access token. For example, a "jwsd"-bound access token is sent as follows:

Authorization: GNAP OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0
Detached-JWS: eyj0....
8. Binding Keys

Any keys presented by the RC to the AS or RS MUST be validated as part of the request in which they are presented. The type of binding used is indicated by the proof parameter of the key section in the initial request Section 2.3.2. Values defined by this specification are as follows:

- jwsd  A detached JWS signature header
- jws  Attached JWS payload
- mtls  Mutual TLS certificate verification
- dpop  OAuth Demonstration of Proof-of-Possession key proof header
- httpsig  HTTP Signing signature header
- oauthpop  OAuth PoP key proof authentication header

Additional proofing methods are defined by a registry TBD (Section 12).

All key binding methods used by this specification MUST cover all relevant portions of the request, including anything that would change the nature of the request, to allow for secure validation of the request by the AS. Relevant aspects include the URI being called, the HTTP method being used, any relevant HTTP headers and values, and the HTTP message body itself. The recipient of the signed message MUST validate all components of the signed message to ensure that nothing has been tampered with or substituted in a way that would change the nature of the request.

When used in the GNAP delegation protocol, these key binding mechanisms allow the AS to ensure that the keys presented by the RC in the initial request are in control of the party calling any follow-up or continuation requests. To facilitate this requirement, all keys in the initial request Section 2.3.2 MUST be proved in all continuation requests Section 5 and token management requests.
Section 6, modulo any rotations on those keys over time that the AS knows about. The AS MUST validate all keys presented by the RC (Section 2.3.2) or referenced in an ongoing request for each call within that request.

[[ Editor’s note: We are going to need a way for a client to rotate its keys securely, even while an ongoing grant is in effect. ]]

When used to bind to an access token, the

8.1. Detached JWS

This method is indicated by "jwsd" in the "proof" field. A JWS [RFC7515] signature object is created as follows:

The header of the JWS MUST contain the "kid" field of the key bound to this RC for this request. The JWS header MUST contain an "alg" field appropriate for the key identified by kid and MUST NOT be "none". The "b64" field MUST be set to "false" and the "crit" field MUST contain at least "b64" as specified in [RFC7797]

To protect the request, the JWS header MUST contain the following additional fields:

htm The HTTP Method used to make this request, as an uppercase ASCII string.

htu The HTTP URI used for this request, including all path and query components.

ts A timestamp of the request in integer seconds

at_hash When to bind a request to an access token, the access token hash value. Its value is the base64url encoding of the left-most half of the hash of the octets of the ASCII representation of the "access_token" value, where the hash algorithm used is the hash algorithm used in the "alg" header parameter of the JWS’s JOSE Header. For instance, if the "alg" is "RS256", hash the "access_token" value with SHA-256, then take the left-most 128 bits and base64url encode them.

[[ Editor’s note: It’s not the usual practice to put additional information into the header of a JWS, but this keeps us from having to normalize the body serialization. Alternatively, we could add all these fields to the body of the request, but then it gets awkward for non-body requests like GET/DELETE. ]]

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The payload of the JWS object is the serialized body of the request, and the object is signed according to detached JWS [RFC7797].

The RC presents the signature in the Detached-JWS HTTP Header field. [[ Editor’s Note: this is a custom header field, do we need this? It seems like the best place to put this. ]]
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/json

Detached-JWS: eyJiNjQiOmZhbHNlLCJhcGkiOiJidWlkIiwibGV4IjoiU2Vzc2FnZSIsIm9ubHkiOjEwMTk4MzI1NjU0NTg5NDE1OTk2ODExIiwiaWF0IjoiYmV4dCBodG1sIiwiYXNzZXN0cyI6IjEwMDAzMDMwMTA2MjUwIiwib3JnZW5jZV90eXBlIjoiX0FkbWluIiwibG9naW4iOiJfX0==

{
  "resources": [
    "dolphin-metadata"
  ],
  "interact": {
    "redirect": true,
    "callback": {
      "method": "redirect",
      "uri": "https://client.foo",
      "nonce": "VJLO6A4CAYLBXHTR0KRO"
    }
  },
  "client": {
    "proof": "jwsd",
    "key": {
      "jwk": {
        "kty": "RSA",
        "e": "AQAB",
        "kid": "xyz-1",
        "alg": "RS256",
        "n": "xYJCNaOKNjn_Oz0YhdHbXTeWO5aoyspDWJbN5w_7bdWDxgpD-y6jnDlu9YhBOCWObNPFvpKTM8LC7sXGRKxzk8Me2r_gssYlyRpqvBly5-efjCywKRBfctRcnhTTGNgztbbDBUYD
SWmFMVCHe5mXIT4c10BwrZ5C6S-uu-LAq06aKwQOPwYOGOslK8WPmlyGdkaAluF_Fps6LS63WYPHi_Ap2B7_8wb4ttzBM5 domestically_dovuDagW8AAlp3fXFAHTRAcKw7rdI4_XIvn66hJxPe
kpdlWdiPQdQ6Y1cKZU3obvUg7w"
      }
    },
    "display": {
      "name": "My Client Display Name",
      "uri": "https://example.net/client"
    }
  }
}
If the request being made does not have a message body, such as an HTTP GET, OPTIONS, or DELETE method, the JWS signature is calculated over an empty payload.

When the server (AS or RS) receives the Detached-JWS header, it MUST parse its contents as a detached JWS object. The HTTP Body is used as the payload for purposes of validating the JWS, with no transformations.

[[ Editor’s note: this is a potentially fragile signature mechanism. It doesn’t protect arbitrary headers or other specific aspects of the request, but it’s simple to calculate and useful for body-driven requests, like the client to the AS. Additionally it is potentially fragile since a multi-tier system could parse the payload and pass the parsed payload downstream with potential transformations, making downstream signature validation impossible. We might want to remove this in favor of general-purpose HTTP signing, or at least provide guidance on its use. ]]

8.2. Attached JWS

This method is indicated by "jws" in the "proof" field. A JWS [RFC7515] signature object is created as follows:

The header of the JWS MUST contain the "kid" field of the key bound to this RC for this request. The JWS header MUST contain an "alg" field appropriate for the key identified by kid and MUST NOT be "none".

To protect the request, the JWS header MUST contain the following additional fields.

htm The HTTP Method used to make this request, as an uppercase ASCII string.

htu The HTTP URI used for this request, including all path and query components.

ts A timestamp of the request in integer seconds

at_hash When to bind a request to an access token, the access token hash value. Its value is the base64url encoding of the left-most half of the hash of the octets of the ASCII representation of the "access_token" value, where the hash algorithm used is the hash algorithm used in the "alg" header parameter of the JWS’s JOSE Header. For instance, if the "alg" is "RS256", hash the "access_token" value with SHA-256, then take the left-most 128 bits and base64url encode them.
The payload of the JWS object is the JSON serialized body of the request, and the object is signed according to JWS and serialized into compact form [RFC7515].

The RC presents the JWS as the body of the request along with a content type of "application/jose". The AS MUST extract the payload of the JWS and treat it as the request body for further processing.

POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/jose

eyJiNjQiOmZhbHNlLCJhNjBiMCtzaWdodG9yIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21lClN1c2VyIiA6dXN0b21l

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If the request being made does not have a message body, such as an HTTP GET, OPTIONS, or DELETE method, the JWS signature is calculated over an empty payload and passed in the "Detached-JWS" header as described in Section 8.1.

[[ Editor’s note: A downside to this method is that it requires the content type to be something other than application/json, and it doesn’t work against an RS without additional profiling since it takes over the request payload – plus a POST, for example. Additionally it is potentially fragile like a detached JWS since a multi-tier system could parse the payload and pass the parsed payload downstream with potential transformations. We might want to remove this in favor of general-purpose HTTP signing, or at least provide guidance on its use. ]]

8.3. Mutual TLS

This method is indicated by "mtls" in the "proof" field. The RC presents its client certificate during TLS negotiation with the server (either AS or RS). The AS or RS takes the thumbprint of the client certificate presented during mutual TLS negotiation and compares that thumbprint to the thumbprint presented by the RC application as described in [RFC8705] section 3.

POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/json

SSL_CLIENT_CERT: MIIEHDCCAwIBAgIBATANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsFADCBmje3MDUGA1UEAwwuQmVz

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8.4. Demonstration of Proof-of-Possession (DPoP)

This method is indicated by "dpop" in the "proof" field. The RC creates a Demonstration of Proof-of-Possession signature header as described in [I-D.ietf-oauth-dpop] section 2. In addition to the required fields, the DPoP body MUST also contain a digest of the request body:

digest Digest of the request body as the value of the Digest header defined in [RFC3230].

POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/json
DPOp: eyJ0eXAiOiJkcG9wK2p3dCIImFsZyI611JTJmju12Ii1iand1ij7p7tont1eSi11i JTQSi1mU0l1BUUFCl1wia21kIjole1H61LWnsaWVuCIS1mFsZyI611JTJmju12Iiwibi I61np31Q1Rfm2J41WdsYmJ1cmh1WXBE2cFjxaV5S1uRWFNU1bQb1jyswpDccZi2VteV RQntEREV01zaT4T0M32hqMS1XZ3hjUGRLTkdaeUlVSDNRWmVuMU1LeX1oUXBMSK cxLW9MTkxxbTdwWFh02F6IUROU8zLW9peXk4eWtFN1VeU5aclJS1BjaWwhUUNiTi 9QzshRdWtdZzly205ET1INxcHbkYU51YXMxb3Y5UHhZdnhxcmoxLTlhYTnda0QwMF1PQ1 hiYUIwNXVNYVvL2EnxLU9fV012WVhpY2c2STvQn1M0NFZOVTY1Vkj3ds1H1uVHeRZE 1BV1Ay114V125NnAzLd1Evpv3AzqWVRGvWdEVkRaOGxVWGtkx1rV5G5aG50sMdz2j NWaKrfbWFsTuM4LXRpCUs1TINEbEtuTzrDIOcWRHQ20tUG0zUSJ9fQ.ejYohrTwx1ldGhvzCI6I1BPUIQ1iLCjohRhw3VyaSi6I1m0dHa6XcC92Lzvh3c3Qz9gja2VylmudGV yBmpFsOj4kMrZCRL2FwaWwvYXNC13rYWszYWN0aW9uIiwiWF0IjoxNTcyNjQyNjEzLCJ qdGKio1Jiam91cmnphlI5QjR4N2pBNX15ryJ9.uAhftvfw2NoW3M7durkoptTeVONNg1 foZwBA1KNSLLOq1WdgfG39XUYnWwVw23QOBwe6tuyQ2UBB6k1PAfjHdJkDk8WHEAfifdN B-LzUzohDetdLq30yFzIpcebEBMLCjboDTESmadvxunNkEzFRL-Q-Cq0AXSFh57eAeqZV8 SYF4CQK9OU6fIWWxLDd3CtVtx8B3MgyCNNvFLg_HDyim1Xx-rrxV4ede1vd9Gebf6QWj iKE07vju1Apv32dsux67gY1Upjm0eWZprijGol0a789KLeK1XPjXgViEwEd1irUmpVv T9tyEYGrTfsmuatELgMls9sgSy929wo259elg

{ 
"resources": [ 
"dolphin-metadata" 
], 
"interact": {
"redirect": true,
"callback": {
"method": "redirect",
"uri": "https://client.foo",
"nonce": "VJLO6A4CAYLBXHTR0KRO"
} 
}
8.5. HTTP Signing

This method is indicated by "httpsig" in the "proof" field. The RC creates an HTTP Signature header as described in [I-D.ietf-httpbis-message-signatures] section 4. The RC MUST calculate and present the Digest header as defined in [RFC3230] and include this header in the signature.

POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 716
Signature: keyId="xyz-client", algorithm="rsa-sha256",
headers="(request-target) digest content-length",
signature="TkehmgK7GD/z4jGkmcHS67cjVRgm3zVQNIrnxW32Jv7d uOVNENI/IVdHe0WLHc93NP3ms9112WOW5r5B6qow6TNx/82/6W84p5jqF YuYfTkKZ69GbfgXxyV9gaT++d15vkZQjVkJkz+KZTIldpAzv8hdk9n087Xi rjrj7q2mdAE811Lc3vYlwXxuQh82as5xHqtNT1077fiDvSVYecled0UEm rWwErVgr7sijtbTohC4FJLuoJ0nG/KJUcIG/FTc8W9rd6HoBnlY43+3Dzj

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{  
  "resources": [  
    "dolphin-metadata"
  ],  
  "interact": {  
    "redirect": true,  
    "callback": {  
      "method": "push",  
      "uri": "https://client.foo",  
      "nonce": "VJLO6A4CAYLBXHTROKRO"
    }
  },  
  "client": {  
    "display": {  
      "name": "My Client Display Name",  
      "uri": "https://example.net/client"
    },  
    "proof": "httpsig",  
    "key": {  
      "jwk": {  
        "kty": "RSA",  
        "e": "AQAB",  
        "kid": "xyz-1",  
        "alg": "RS256",  
        "n": "kOB5R4Jv0GMeLaY6_It_r3ORwdf8ci_JtffXyaSx8xYJCCNa0KNJn_Oz0YhddHbXTeW0SOyoyspDlJ6YsY3b8bDvJ_0flK9dXWy3dXOFHMr271j1w87Hs_uQWeGtCJd1dEx80"  
      }
    }
  }
}

When used to present an access token as in Section 7, the Authorization header MUST be included in the signature.
8.6. OAuth Proof of Possession (PoP)

This method is indicated by "oauthpop" in the "proof" field. The RC creates an HTTP Authorization PoP header as described in [I-D.ietf-oauth-signed-http-request] section 4, with the following additional requirements:

* The at (access token) field MUST be omitted unless this method is being used in conjunction with an access token as in Section 7.
[[ Editor's note: this is in contradiction to the referenced spec which makes this field mandatory. ]]

* The b (body hash) field MUST be calculated and supplied, unless there is no entity body (such as a GET, OPTIONS, or DELETE request).

* All components of the URL MUST be calculated and supplied

* The m (method) field MUST be supplied

POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/json
PoP: eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IiIsImJhY2tJZCI6ImV1cmn0XzNieC1nbGJiSHJoO2l2a211RnF1cWpvmhmuX2EmNmdmYzVmpjEHx2hbeS10Ci1i9Z5a2Zb0Vh4iXw1JclG9mcmVuc2FjdGlvbi1mIiJdLCJuIjoiQ29udGVudC1uZXh0IiwiaCI6Inh0bnRlbmF0aW9uIiwibCI6Z2VuZXJvZ3JhbF9fT0M4cHdlbGFzc2V0ZS1zb3ZlL2xvY2F0aW9uLTQ4fQ.

{ "resources": [}
9. Discovery

By design, the protocol minimizes the need for any pre-flight discovery. To begin a request, the RC only needs to know the endpoint of the AS and which keys it will use to sign the request. Everything else can be negotiated dynamically in the course of the protocol.
However, the AS can have limits on its allowed functionality. If the RC wants to optimize its calls to the AS before making a request, it MAY send an HTTP OPTIONS request to the grant request endpoint to retrieve the server’s discovery information. The AS MUST respond with a JSON document containing the following information:

- **grant_request_endpoint** REQUIRED. The full URL of the AS’s grant request endpoint. This MUST match the URL the RC used to make the discovery request.

- **capabilities** OPTIONAL. A list of the AS’s capabilities. The values of this result MAY be used by the RC in the capabilities section (Section 2.6) of the request.

- **interaction_methods** OPTIONAL. A list of the AS’s interaction methods. The values of this list correspond to the possible fields in the interaction section (Section 2.5) of the request.

- **key_proofs** OPTIONAL. A list of the AS’s supported key proofing mechanisms. The values of this list correspond to possible values of the "proof" field of the key section (Section 2.3.2) of the request.

- **sub_ids** OPTIONAL. A list of the AS’s supported identifiers. The values of this list correspond to possible values of the subject identifier section (Section 2.2) of the request.

- **assertions** OPTIONAL. A list of the AS’s supported assertion formats. The values of this list correspond to possible values of the subject assertion section (Section 2.2) of the request.

The information returned from this method is for optimization purposes only. The AS MAY deny any request, or any portion of a request, even if it lists a capability as supported. For example, a given RC can be registered with the "mtls" key proofing mechanism, but the AS also returns other proofing methods, then the AS will deny a request from that RC using a different proofing mechanism.

### 10. Resource Servers

In some deployments, a resource server will need to be able to call the AS for a number of functions.

[[ Editor’s note: This section is for discussion of possible advanced functionality. It seems like it should be a separate document or set of documents, and it’s not even close to being well-baked. This also adds additional endpoints to the AS, as this is separate from the token request process, and therefore would require RS-facing...]]
discovery or configuration information to make it work. Also—also, it does presume the RS can sign requests in the same way that a client does, but hopefully we can be more consistent with this than RFC7662 was able to do. ]]

10.1. Introspecting a Token

When the RS receives an access token, it can call the introspection endpoint at the AS to get token information. [[ Editor’s note: this isn’t super different from the token management URIs, but the RS has no way to get that URI, and it’s bound to the RS’s keys instead of the RC’s or token’s keys. ]]

1. The RC calls the RS with its access token.

2. The RS introspects the access token value at the AS. The RS signs the request with its own key (not the RC’s key or the token’s key).

3. The AS validates the token value and the RC’s request and returns the introspection response for the token.

4. The RS fulfills the request from the RC.

The RS signs the request with its own key and sends the access token as the body of the request.

POST /introspect HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
   "access_token": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
}

The AS responds with a data structure describing the token’s current state and any information the RS would need to validate the token’s presentation, such as its intended proofing mechanism and key material.
10.2. Deriving a downstream token

Some architectures require an RS to act as an RC and request a derived access token for a secondary RS. This internal token is issued in the context of the incoming access token.

1. The RC calls RS1 with an access token.
2. RS1 presents that token to the AS to get a derived token for use at RS2. RS1 indicates that it has no ability to interact with the RO. RS1 signs its request with its own key, not the token’s key or the RC’s key.
3. The AS returns a derived token to RS1 for use at RS2.
4. RS1 calls RS2 with the token from (3).
5. RS2 fulfills the call from RS1.

6. RS1 fulfills the call from RC.

If the RS needs to derive a token from one presented to it, it can request one from the AS by making a token request as described in Section 2 and presenting the existing access token’s value in the "existing_access_token" field.

The RS MUST identify itself with its own key and sign the request.

[[ Editor’s note: this is similar to Section 2.7 but based on the access token and not the grant. We might be able to re-use that function: the fact that the keys presented are not the ones used for the access token should indicate that it’s a different party and a different kind of request, but there might be some subtle security issues there. ]]

```
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
  "resources": [
    {
      "actions": [
        "read",
        "write",
        "dolphin"
      ],
      "locations": [
        "https://server.example.net/",
        "https://resource.local/other"
      ],
      "datatypes": [
        "metadata",
        "images"
      ],
      "dolphin-metadata"
    },
    "client": "7C7C4AZ9KHRS6X63AJAO",
    "existing_access_token": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW70ZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0"
  }
}
```

The AS responds with a token as described in Section 3.
10.3. Registering a Resource Handle

If the RS needs to, it can post a set of resources as described in Section 2.1.1 to the AS’s resource registration endpoint.

The RS MUST identify itself with its own key and sign the request.

```
POST /resource HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
  "resources": [
    {
      "actions": [
        "read",
        "write",
        "dolphin"
      ],
      "locations": [
        "https://server.example.net/",
        "https://resource.local/other"
      ],
      "datatypes": [
        "metadata",
        "images"
      ]
    },
    "dolphin-metadata"
  ],
  "client": "7C7C4AZ9KHR56X63AJAO"
}
```

The AS responds with a handle appropriate to represent the resources list that the RS presented.

```
Content-type: application/json

{
  "resource_handle": "FWWIKYBQ6U56NL1"
}
```

The RS MAY make this handle available as part of a response (Section 10.4) or as documentation to developers.
[[ Editor’s note: It’s not an exact match here because the
"resource_handle" returned now represents a collection of objects
instead of a single one. Perhaps we should let this return a list of
strings instead? Or use a different syntax than the resource
request? Also, this borrows heavily from UMA 2’s "distributed
authorization" model and, like UMA, might be better suited to an
extension than the core protocol. ]]

10.4. Requesting a Resources With Insufficient Access

If the RC calls an RS without an access token, or with an invalid
access token, the RS MAY respond to the RC with an authentication
header indicating that GNAP. The address of the GNAP endpoint MUST
be sent in the "as_uri" parameter. The RS MAY additionally return a
resource reference that the RC MAY use in its resource request
(Section 2.1). This resource reference handle SHOULD be sufficient
for at least the action the RC was attempting to take at the RS. The
RS MAY use the dynamic resource handle request (Section 10.3) to
register a new resource handle, or use a handle that has been pre-
configured to represent what the AS is protecting. The content of
this handle is opaque to the RS and the RC.

WWW-Authenticate: GNAP as_uri=http://server.example/tx,resource=FWWIKYBQ6U56NL1

The RC then makes a call to the "as_uri" as described in Section 2,
with the value of "resource" as one of the members of a "resources"
array Section 2.1.1. The RC MAY request additional resources and
other information, and MAY request multiple access tokens.

[[ Editor’s note: this borrows heavily from UMA 2’s "distributed
authorization" model and, like UMA, might be better suited to an
extension than the core protocol. ]]

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12. IANA Considerations

[[ TBD: There are a lot of items in the document that are expandable through the use of value registries. ]]

13. Security Considerations

[[ TBD: There are a lot of security considerations to add. ]]

All requests have to be over TLS or equivalent as per [BCP195]. Many handles act as shared secrets, though they can be combined with a requirement to provide proof of a key as well.

14. Privacy Considerations

[[ TBD: There are a lot of privacy considerations to add. ]]

Handles are passed between parties and therefore should not contain any private data.

When user information is passed to the RC, the AS needs to make sure that it has the permission to do so.

15. Normative References


[I-D.ietf-httpbis-message-signatures]

[I-D.ietf-oauth-dpop]
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Appendix A. Document History

* -14

- Editorial clarification from design team meetings.
- Added "at_hash" to both JWS methods for use with an access token.
- Allow attached-JWS method to defer to detached-JWS method for presentation on a non-body request.

* -13

- Clarified that "subject" request and response aren't for identity claims, just identifiers.
- Reworked continuation definition in terms of endpoint actions.
- Defined concrete methods for updating an ongoing grant request using PATCH.
- Defined method for reading current status of grant request using GET.
- Expanded editorial comments and strawman examples for alternatives.

* -12

- Collapsed "key" and "display" fields into "client" field.
- Changed continuation to use optional access token.
- Defined flags for special behavior of tokens.
- Defined "key": true to mean access token is bound to client’s key.
- Defined "key": false to indicate an access token.
- Added "Elements" section to list and discuss non-role parts of the protocol.

* -11

- Updated based on Design Team feedback and reviews.
- Removed oidc_ prefix from several values and used RFC8693 assertion types.
- Changed "client" to "RC" throughout.
- Changed "user" to "RQ" or "RO" as appropriate.
- Added expansions for request and response section introductions.
- Added refresh examples.
- Added diagrams to RS examples.
- Added ui_locales hint to interaction block.
- Added section on JSON polymorphism.
- Added numerous editorial notes to describe why elements are in place.
- Added discussion on composition of roles.
- Added requirements for signature methods to cover all aspects of request and mechanisms to do so.

* -10
- Switched to xml2rfc v3 and markdown source.
- Updated based on Design Team feedback and reviews.
- Added acknowledgements list.
- Added sequence diagrams and explanations.
- Collapsed "short_redirect" into regular redirect request.
- Separated pass-by-reference into subsections.
- Collapsed "callback" and "pushback" into a single mode-switched method.
- Add OIDC Claims request object example.

* -09
- Major document refactoring based on request and response capabilities.
- Changed from "claims" language to "subject identifier" language.
- Added "pushback" interaction capability.
- Removed DIDCOMM interaction (better left to extensions).
- Excised "transaction" language in favor of "Grant" where appropriate.
- Added token management URLs.
- Added separate continuation URL to use continuation handle with.
- Added RS-focused functionality section.
- Added notion of extending a grant request based on a previous grant.
- Simplified returned handle structures.

* -08
- Added attached JWS signature method.
- Added discovery methods.

* -07
- Marked sections as being controlled by a future registry TBD.

* -06
- Added multiple resource requests and multiple access token response.

* -05
- Added "claims" request and response for identity support.
- Added "capabilities" request for inline discovery support.

* -04
- Added crypto agility for callback return hash.
- Changed "interaction_handle" to "interaction_ref".

* -03
- Removed "state" in favor of "nonce".
- Created signed return parameter for front channel return.
- Changed "client" section to "display" section, as well as associated handle.
- Changed "key" to "keys".
- Separated key proofing from key presentation.
- Separated interaction methods into booleans instead of "type" field.
Appendix B. Component Data Models

While different implementations of this protocol will have different realizations of all the components and artifacts enumerated here, the nature of the protocol implies some common structures and elements for certain components. This appendix seeks to enumerate those common elements.

TBD: Client has keys, allowed requested resources, identifier(s), allowed requested subjects, allowed

TBD: AS has "grant endpoint", interaction endpoints, store of trusted client keys, policies

TBD: Token has RO, user, client, resource list, RS list,

Appendix C. Example Protocol Flows

The protocol defined in this specification provides a number of features that can be combined to solve many different kinds of authentication scenarios. This section seeks to show examples of how the protocol would be applied for different situations.

Some longer fields, particularly cryptographic information, have been truncated for display purposes in these examples.
C.1. Redirect-Based User Interaction

In this scenario, the user is the RO and has access to a web browser, and the client can take front-channel callbacks on the same device as the user. This combination is analogous to the OAuth 2 Authorization Code grant type.

The client initiates the request to the AS. Here the client identifies itself using its public key.
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
    "resources": [
        {
            "actions": [
                "read",
                "write",
                "dolphin"
            ],
            "locations": [
                "https://server.example.net/",
                "https://resource.local/other"
            ],
            "datatypes": [
                "metadata",
                "images"
            ]
        }
    ],
    "client": {
        "key": {
            "proof": "jwsd",
            "jwk": {
                "kty": "RSA",
                "e": "AQAB",
                "kid": "xyz-1",
                "alg": "RS256",
                "n": "kOB5rR4Jv0GMeLaY6_It_r3ORwdf8ci_JtffXyaSx8xY..."
            }
        }
    },
    "interact": {
        "redirect": true,
        "callback": {
            "method": "redirect",
            "uri": "https://client.example.net/return/123455",
            "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
        }
    }
}
The AS processes the request and determines that the RO needs to interact. The AS returns the following response giving the client the information it needs to connect. The AS has also indicated to the client that it can use the given instance identifier to identify itself in future requests (Section 2.3.1).

```
Content-type: application/json

{
  "interact": {
    "redirect": "https://server.example.com/interact/4CF492MLVMSW9MKMXKHQ",
    "callback": "MBDOFXG4Y5CVJCX821LH"
  },
  "continue": {
    "access_token": {
      "value": "80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSU",
      "key": true
    },
    "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue"
  },
  "instance_id": "7C7C4A29KHRS6X63AJAO"
}
```

The client saves the response and redirects the user to the interaction_url by sending the following HTTP message to the user’s browser.

```
HTTP 302 Found
Location: https://server.example.com/interact/4CF492MLVMSW9MKMXKHQ
```

The user’s browser fetches the AS’s interaction URL. The user logs in, is identified as the RO for the resource being requested, and approves the request. Since the AS has a callback parameter, the AS generates the interaction reference, calculates the hash, and redirects the user back to the client with these additional values added as query parameters.

```
HTTP 302 Found
Location: https://client.example.net/return/123455
?hash=p28jsq0Y2KK3WS__a42tavNC641dTBoyysWouxT4md__jZQ12H78BOWYrHcLmObM7XHPAdJzT
ZMtKBsaraJ64A
&interact_ref=4IFWWIKYBC2FOPQ6U56NLL1
```
The client receives this request from the user’s browser. The client ensures that this is the same user that was sent out by validating session information and retrieves the stored pending request. The client uses the values in this to validate the hash parameter. The client then calls the continuation URL and presents the handle and interaction reference in the request body. The client signs the request as above.

POST /continue HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Authorization: GNAP 80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
   "interact_ref": "4IFWWIKYBC2PQ6U56NL1"
}

The AS retrieves the pending request based on the handle and issues a bearer access token and returns this to the client.
Content-type: application/json

{
  "access_token": {
    "value": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
    "key": false,
    "manage": "https://server.example.com/token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW7OZB8CDFONP219RP1L",
    "resources": [{
      "actions": [
        "read",
        "write",
        "dolphin"
      ],
      "locations": [
        "https://server.example.net/",
        "https://resource.local/other"
      ],
      "datatypes": [
        "metadata",
        "images"
      ]
    }]
  },
  "continue": {
    "access_token": {
      "value": "80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU",
      "key": true
    },
    "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue"
  }
}

C.2. Secondary Device Interaction

In this scenario, the user does not have access to a web browser on
the device and must use a secondary device to interact with the AS.
The client can display a user code or a printable QR code. The client prefers a short URL if one is available, with a maximum of 255 characters in length. The is not able to accept callbacks from the AS and needs to poll for updates while waiting for the user to authorize the request.

The client initiates the request to the AS.
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
  "resources": [
    "dolphin-metadata", "some other thing"
  ],
  "client": "7C7C4AZ9KPHS6X63AJAO",
  "interact": {
    "redirect": 255,
    "user_code": true
  }
}

The AS processes this and determines that the RO needs to interact. The AS supports both long and short redirect URIs for interaction, so it includes both. Since there is no "callback" the AS does not include a nonce, but does include a "wait" parameter on the continuation section because it expects the client to poll for results.

Content-type: application/json

{
  "interact": {
    "redirect": "https://srv.ex/MXKHQ",
    "user_code": {
      "code": "A1BC-3DFF",
      "url": "https://srv.ex/device"
    }
  },
  "continue": {
    "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue/80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSU",
    "wait": 60
  }
}

The client saves the response and displays the user code visually on its screen along with the static device URL. The client also displays the short interaction URL as a QR code to be scanned.

If the user scans the code, they are taken to the interaction endpoint and the AS looks up the current pending request based on the incoming URL. If the user instead goes to the static page and enters the code manually, the AS looks up the current pending request based on the value of the user code. In both cases, the user logs in, is
identified as the RO for the resource being requested, and approves the request. Once the request has been approved, the AS displays to the user a message to return to their device.

Meanwhile, the client periodically polls the AS every 60 seconds at the continuation URL. The client signs the request using the same key and method that it did in the first request.

```
POST /continue/80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSU HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Detached-JWS: ejy0...
```

The AS retrieves the pending request based on the handle and determines that it has not yet been authorized. The AS indicates to the client that no access token has yet been issued but it can continue to call after another 60 second timeout.

```
Content-type: application/json

{
  "continue": {
    "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue/BI9QNW6V9W3XFJK4R02D",
    "wait": 60
  }
}
```

Note that the continuation URL has been rotated since it was used by the client to make this call. The client polls the continuation URL after a 60 second timeout using the new handle.

```
POST /continue/BI9QNW6V9W3XFJK4R02D HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: GNAP
Detached-JWS: ejy0...
```

The AS retrieves the pending request based on the URL, determines that it has been approved, and issues an access token.
Appendix D. No User Involvement

In this scenario, the client is requesting access on its own behalf, with no user to interact with.

The client creates a request to the AS, identifying itself with its public key and using MTLS to make the request.

POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json

{
    "resources": [
        "backend service", "nightly-routine-3"
    ],
    "client": {
        "key": {
            "proof": "mtls",
            "cert#S256": "bwcK0esc3ACC3DB2Y5_lESsXE8o9ltc05089jdN-dg2"
        }
    }
}

The AS processes this and determines that the client can ask for the requested resources and issues an access token.
D.1. Asynchronous Authorization

In this scenario, the client is requesting on behalf of a specific RO, but has no way to interact with the user. The AS can asynchronously reach out to the RO for approval in this scenario.

The client starts the request at the AS by requesting a set of resources. The client also identifies a particular user.
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
  "resources": [
    {
      "type": "photo-api",
      "actions": [
        "read",
        "write",
        "dolphin"
      ],
      "locations": [
        "https://server.example.net/",
        "https://resource.local/other"
      ],
      "datatypes": [
        "metadata",
        "images"
      ]
    },
    "read", "dolphin-metadata",
    {
      "type": "financial-transaction",
      "actions": [
        "withdraw"
      ],
      "identifier": "account-14-32-32-3",
      "currency": "USD"
    },
    "some other thing"
  ],
  "client": "7C7C4AZ9KHS6X63AJAO",
  "user": {
    "sub_ids": [
      {
        "subject_type": "email",
        "email": "user@example.com"
      }
    ]
  }
}

The AS processes this and determines that the RO needs to interact. The AS determines that it can reach the identified user asynchronously and that the identified user does have the ability to approve this request. The AS indicates to the client that it can poll for continuation.
Content-type: application/json

{

   "continue": {
      "access_token": {
         "value": "80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU",
         "key": true
      },
      "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue",
      "wait": 60
   }
}

The AS reaches out to the RO and prompts them for consent. In this example, the AS has an application that it can push notifications in to for the specified account.

Meanwhile, the client periodically polls the AS every 60 seconds at the continuation URL.

POST /continue HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Authorization: GNAP 80UPRY5NM33OMUKMKSKU
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

The AS retrieves the pending request based on the handle and determines that it has not yet been authorized. The AS indicates to the client that no access token has yet been issued but it can continue to call after another 60 second timeout.

Content-type: application/json

{

   "continue": {
      "access_token": {
         "value": "BI9QNW6V9W3XFJK4R02D",
         "key": true
      },
      "uri": "https://server.example.com/continue",
      "wait": 60
   }
}

Note that the continuation handle has been rotated since it was used by the client to make this call. The client polls the continuation URL after a 60 second timeout using the new handle.
The AS retrieves the pending request based on the handle and determines that it has been approved and it issues an access token.

Content-type: application/json

```
{
   "access_token": {
      "value": "OS9M2PMHKUR64TB8N6BW70ZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
      "key": false,
      "manage": "https://server.example.com/token/PRY5NM33OM4TB8N6BW70ZB8CDFONP219RP1LT0",
      "resources": [
         "dolphin-metadata", "some other thing"
      ]
   }
}
```

D.2. Applying OAuth 2 Scopes and Client IDs

While the GNAP protocol is not designed to be directly compatible with OAuth 2 [RFC6749], considerations have been made to enable the use of OAuth 2 concepts and constructs more smoothly within the GNAP protocol.

In this scenario, the client developer has a "client_id" and set of "scope" values from their OAuth 2 system and wants to apply them to the new protocol. Traditionally, the OAuth 2 client developer would put their "client_id" and "scope" values as parameters into a redirect request to the authorization endpoint.

HTTP 302 Found
Location: https://server.example.com/authorize
?client_id=7C7C4AZ9KHRS6X63AJAO
&scope=read%20write%20dolphin
&redirect_uri=https://client.example.net/return
&response_type=code
&state=123455

Now the developer wants to make an analogous request to the AS using the new protocol. To do so, the client makes an HTTP POST and places the OAuth 2 values in the appropriate places.
POST /tx HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-type: application/json
Detached-JWS: ejy0...

{
    "resources": [
        "read", "write", "dolphin"
    ],
    "client": "7C7C4AZ9KHS6X63AJAO",
    "interact": {
        "redirect": true,
        "callback": {
            "method": "redirect",
            "uri": "https://client.example.net/return?state=123455",
            "nonce": "LKLTI25DK82FX4T4QFZC"
        }
    }
}

The client_id can be used to identify the client’s keys that it uses for authentication, the scopes represent resources that the client is requesting, and the "redirect_uri" and "state" value are pre-combined into a "callback" URI that can be unique per request. The client additionally creates a nonce to protect the callback, separate from the state parameter that it has added to its return URL.

From here, the protocol continues as above.

Appendix E. JSON Structures and Polymorphism

The GNAP protocol makes use of polymorphism within the JSON [RFC8259] structures used for the protocol. Each portion of this protocol is defined in terms of the JSON data type that its values can take, whether it’s a string, object, array, boolean, or number. For some fields, different data types offer different descriptive capabilities and are used in different situations for the same field. Each data type provides a different syntax to express the same underlying semantic protocol element, which allows for optimization and simplification in many common cases.

Even though JSON is often used to describe strongly typed structures, JSON on its own is naturally polymorphic. In JSON, the named members of an object have no type associated with them, and any data type can be used as the value for any member. In practice, each member has a semantic type that needs to make sense to the parties creating and consuming the object. Within this protocol, each object member is defined in terms of its semantic content, and this semantic content...
might have expressions in different concrete data types for different specific purposes. Since each object member has exactly one value in JSON, each data type for an object member field is naturally mutually exclusive with other data types within a single JSON object.

For example, a resource request for a single access token is composed of an array of resource request descriptions while a request for multiple access tokens is composed of an object whose member values are all arrays. Both of these represent requests for access, but the difference in syntax allows the RC and AS to differentiate between the two request types in the same request.

Another form of polymorphism in JSON comes from the fact that the values within JSON arrays need not all be of the same JSON data type. However, within this protocol, each element within the array needs to be of the same kind of semantic element for the collection to make sense, even when the data types are different from each other.

For example, each aspect of a resource request can be described using an object with multiple dimensional components, or the aspect can be requested using a string. In both cases, the resource request is being described in a way that the AS needs to interpret, but with different levels of specificity and complexity for the RC to deal with. An API designer can provide a set of common access scopes as simple strings but still allow RC developers to specify custom access when needed for more complex APIs.

Extensions to this specification can use different data types for defined fields, but each extension needs to not only declare what the data type means, but also provide justification for the data type representing the same basic kind of thing it extends. For example, an extension declaring an "array" representation for a field would need to explain how the array represents something akin to the non-array element that it is replacing.

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