

Drafting *authority.*

The body of IETF individual-submission drafts proposing how human authority delegates to AI agents — what they build on, where they overlap, and where the field is converging.

32

INDIVIDUAL DRAFTS

5

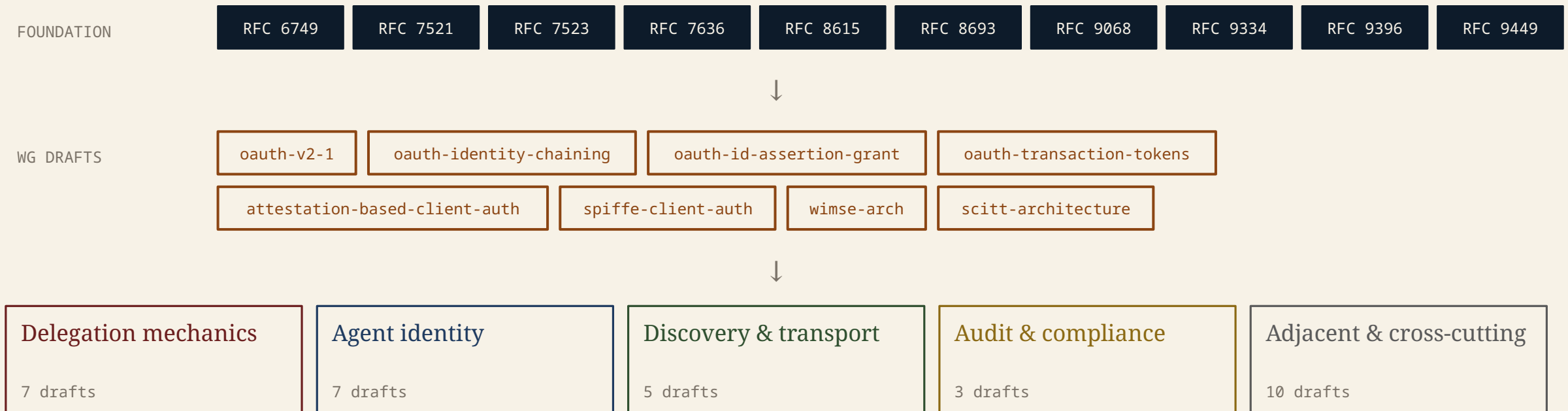
THEMATIC CLUSTERS

17+

FOUNDATION SPECS

Everything builds on something.

Every individual draft inherits from a layer of settled RFCs and a layer of in-flight working-group drafts. The whole field of agent authorization is a thin upper crust on a deep stack.



Delegation mechanics.

How authority moves down a chain of actors. The cluster's defining tension is between drafts that extend RFC 8693 (adding profiled claims and validation rules) and drafts that route around its weaknesses — chain splicing, informational-only actor lineage — with new primitives.

`draft-mcguinness-oauth-actor-profile`

OAuth Actor Profile for Delegation

`draft-mw-oauth-actor-chain`

Cryptographically Verifiable Actor Chains for OAuth 2.0 Token Exchange

`draft-niyikiza-oauth-attenuating-agent-tokens`

Attenuating Authorization Tokens for Agentic Delegation Chains

`draft-mishra-oauth-agent-grants`

Delegated Agent Authorization Protocol (DAAP)

`draft-araut-oauth-transaction-tokens-for-agents`

Transaction Tokens For Agents

`draft-oauth-ai-agents-on-behalf-of-user`

On-Behalf-Of User Authorization for AI Agents

`draft-li-oauth-delegated-authorization`

OAuth 2.0 Delegated Authorization

Agent identity.

Who is the agent? Most drafts here are full identity frameworks rather than narrow protocols. Three claim the same short name ("AIP"), which is itself a structural observation about how fast the field is moving.

`draft-klrc-aiagent-auth`

AI Agent Authentication and Authorization

`draft-ni-wimse-ai-agent-identity`

WIMSE Applicability for AI Agents

`draft-mcguinness-oauth-client-instance-assertion`

OAuth Client Instance Assertion

`draft-singla-agent-identity-protocol`

AIP: Decentralized Identity and Delegation for AI Agents

COLLISION

`draft-prakash-aip`

AIP: Verifiable Delegation for AI Agent Systems

COLLISION

`draft-aip-agent-identity-protocol`

AIP: Agentic Authentication and Authorized Policy Enforcement

COLLISION

`draft-sharif-agent-identity-framework`

Agent Identity Framework: Trust and Identity for Autonomous AI Agents

Discovery & transport.

The plumbing that happens before authentication. Discovery answers "what's out there and what does it support"; transport answers "how do agents talk to each other across organizational boundaries." Tightly coupled to the well-known URI substrate (RFC 8615).

draft-king-dawn-requirements

Requirements for Discovery of Agents, Workloads, and Named Entities (DAWN)

draft-sharif-attp

ATTP: Agent Trust Transport Protocol

draft-serra-mcp-discovery-uri

The mcp:// URI Scheme and MCP Server Discovery

draft-sharif-agent-transport-protocol

Agent Transport Protocol (ATP): Async Store-and-Forward

draft-aiendpoint-ai-discovery

The AI Discovery Endpoint

Audit & compliance.

The newest cluster — and the one that gives the OAuth/WIMSE work its compliance-grade ending. Built around the proposition that the agent itself is the auditable object, so no agent's self-report alone can satisfy regulators (SOX, PSD2, EU AI Act).

draft-kuehlewind-audit-architecture

HUB

Architecture for Auditing AI Agent Delegation and Interactions

draft-birkholz-verifiable-agent-conversations

Verifiable Agent Conversation Records

draft-sharif-agent-audit-trail

Agent Audit Trail (AAT): Standard Logging Format for Autonomous AI Systems

Adjacent & cross-cutting.

Drafts that don't fit cleanly into the four clusters above — clean-sheet protocols, framework documents, vertical-specific applicability statements, and orphans of supersession. Mixed maturity and intent.

draft-hardt-aauth-protocol

AAuth Protocol

draft-kahrer-oauth-client-challenge-protocol

OAuth Client Challenge Protocol

draft-goswami-agentic-jwt

Secure Intent Protocol: JWT-Compatible Agentic Identity

draft-chen-oauth-roadmap

Comprehensive Roadmap for OAuth 2.0 Standards and Drafts

draft-rosenberg-aiproto-framework

Framework, Use Cases and Requirements for AI Agent Protocols

OUTLIER

draft-rosenberg-aiproto-cheq

CHEQ: A Protocol for Confirmation of AI Agent Decisions (HITL)

draft-ni-a2a-ai-agent-security-requirements

Security Requirements for AI Agents

draft-stephan-ai-agent-6g

AI Agent Protocols for 6G Systems

draft-jimenez-t2trg-iot-agent

Agentic AI Operation of Constrained RESTful Environments

draft-sharif-agent-payment-trust

Trust Scoring and Identity Verification for AI Agent Payment Transactions

SUPERSEDED

The "AIP" name is contested by three independent drafts.

"AIP" is claimed simultaneously by three drafts with completely different designs — decentralized identity (Singla), Biscuit-based capability tokens (Prakash), and YAML policy enforcement (the aip-agent-identity-protocol group). The conflict is a structural indicator: the agent-identity problem is being attacked from many directions at once, faster than IETF naming hygiene can keep up.

singla-agent-identity-protocol

prakash-aip

aip-agent-identity-protocol

Re-slugging is the new normal.

As drafts move closer to WG attention, they're being re-named under individual-author handles ahead of the OAuth WG recharter going to IESG on 4 June 2026. The pattern is well-formed: draft-oauth-transaction-tokens-for-agents → draft-araut-...; draft-mw-spice-actor-chain → draft-mw-oauth-actor-chain; sharif-payment-trust → sharif-attp. Reading-list maintenance requires watching for these moves.

→ araut-transaction-tokens-for-agents

→ mw-oauth-actor-chain

→ sharif-attp

Kühlewind is the integrator. Hardt is the principled outlier.

Two poles. Kühlewind/Birkholz's audit architecture composes ten other specs — McGuinness Actor Profile, mw-actor-chain, Transaction Tokens, identity-chaining, ID-JAG, WIMSE, RATS, SCITT, verifiable-conversations — into a single cross-layer compliance story. Dick Hardt's AAuth deliberately depends on none of them, arguing PoP-by-default + resource-signed challenges + AS-to-AS federation are architectural changes, not extensions. The corpus needs both.

kuehlewind-audit-architecture (10+ deps)

hardt-aauth-protocol (0 OAuth deps)

Drafting *authority*.

A research corpus on delegated authorization for AI agents, May 2026.

COMPANION ARTIFACTS

`delegated_authorization_research.xlsx`

91-source bibliography across 7 tabs

`IETF_individual_drafts_infographic.html`

Editorial broadsheet, mobile-first

`agent_authz_graph.json`

Self-describing knowledge-graph data, RAG-ready

`agent_authz_graph.html`

Interactive D3 force-directed visualization

METHOD

32 IETF individual-submission drafts surveyed via the IETF Datatracker and the open-source ZeroID/OVID reference implementations. WG drafts and published RFCs appear here only as dependency context, not as primary subjects of the survey. Set in Georgia and Cambria.