Privileges for Manipulating a Conference Policy
draft-ietf-xcon-conference-policy-privileges-01

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Abstract

The Conference Policy is defined as the complete set of rules for a particular conference manipulated by the conference policy server. The Conference Policy Control Protocol (CPCP) is the protocol used by client to manipulate the conference policy. This document specifies an Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema that enumerates the conference policy meta data that enable a user to assign privileges to users that enables them to read and/or manipulate parts of or the
entire conference policy.

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1. Introduction

The Conference Policy Control Protocol (CPCP) [1] specifies an Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema that enumerates the conference policy data elements that enable a user to define a conference policy. It, however, does not define user privileges (who is allowed to read or modify certain parts or all of a conference policy).

In many cases, the creator of the conference policy is the sole user with access rights to the conference policy and other users do not have any rights to view or modify the document. However, there is a need for different privileges to exist where users can modify certain parts of the conference policy XML document. This document specifies an Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema that enumerates the conference policy meta data that enable such privileges to exist.

2. Conventions Used in This Document

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [3].

3. Terminology

This document uses terminology from [13]. Some additional definitions are introduced in [1], including the definition of a privileged user.


The conference policy privileges document is an XML [4] document that MUST be well-formed and MUST be valid according to schemas, including extension schemas, available to the validator and applicable to the XML document. The Conference policy privileges documents MUST be based on XML 1.0 and MUST be encoded using UTF-8. This specification makes use of XML namespaces for identifying conference policy privileges documents and document fragments. The namespace URI for elements defined by this specification is a URN [6], using the namespace identifier ‘ietf’ defined by [7] and extended by [8]. This URN is:

\texttt{urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges}

4.1 MIME Type for CPCP XML Document

The MIME type for the CPCP XML document is
"application/privileges+xml".

4.2 Privileges Root

A conference policy privileges document begins with the root element tag `<privileges>`. Other elements from different namespaces MAY be present for the purposes of extensibility. Elements or attributes from unknown namespaces MUST be ignored.

A user may create a new conference policy privileges at the CPS by placing a new conference policy document at the CPS. Depending on server policy and user privileges, the CPS may accept the creation. Only the creator of the conference can create a conference policy privileges document for that conference policy.

A conference that exists without a conference policy privileges document allows all privileges to the creator of the conference policy only. A conference policy privileges document can be deleted permanently by removing the conference policy document from the CPS. When the user deletes a conference policy document, the user SHOULD also delete the conference policy privileges document associated with the deleted conference. A CPS may apply local policy in determining when and if to delete the conference policy privileges document if it has not been removed after a the conference policy document was deleted.

4.3 XML Document Description

4.3.1 Conference Policy Privileges

One of the key components of the conference policy privileges document is the set of authorization rules that specify who is allowed to read and manipulate a conference policy. The unordered list of authorization rules together define the conference policy privileges in the form of an authorization policy.

The `<uri>` element appears after the root element and contains the URI of the conference policy document that the privileges defines within it apply to. This is followed by the `<ruleset>` element which carry the rules defining the actual privileges.

The conference policy privileges are enclosed in the `<ruleset>` element are formatted according to the XML schema defined in the common policy framework [2]. In the `<ruleset>` element, there can be multiple rules, each rule is represented by the `<rule>` element, each of which consist of three parts: conditions, actions and transformations. Conditions determine whether a particular rule applies to a request. Each action or transformation in the applied
rule is a positive grant of permission to the conference policy user. The details of each specific element and attribute is described in [2].

Asking the conference policy server to allow certain users to manipulate the conference policy is achieved by modifying an existing authorization rule or creating a new one.

If the conference is long-lasting, it is possible that new rules are added all the time but old rules are almost never removed (some of them are overwritten, though). This leads easily to the situation that the conference policy meta data contains many unnecessary rules which are not really needed anymore. Therefore, there is a need to delete rules. This can be achieved by removing that portion of the policy.

Conflicting rules may exist (for example, both allowed and blocked action is defined for same target). The common policy directives [2] dictate the behaviour in such situations.

This section outlines the new conditions, actions and transformations for conference policy privileges.

4.3.1.1 Conditions

4.3.1.1.1 Validity

The <validity> element, as defined in the common policy framework [2], expresses the rule validity period by two attributes, a starting and an ending time. Times are expressed in XML dateTime format. Expressing the lifetime of a rule implements a garbage collection mechanism. A rule maker might not have always access to the conference policy server to remove some rules which grant permissions. Hence this mechanisms allows to remove or invalidate granted permissions automatically without further interaction between the rule maker and the conference policy server.

To give a real life example, there are often meetings where users can have access to modify the dial-out list from 10 minutes before the conference starts until 10 munities after the conference starts. One rules can be set in this scenario. The following example demonstrates this. The meeting starts at 9:30 and ends at 12:30. A manager with identity "manager@example.com" can read and modify the dial-out list between 8:50 and 9:40. After that time until the conference ends, the manager can only read the dial-out-list...
<rule id="1">
  <conditions>
    <validity>
      <from>2004-12-17T08:50:00-05:00</from>
      <to>2004-12-17T09:40:00-05:00</to>
    </validity>
    <identity>
      <id>manager@example.com</id>
    </identity>
  </conditions>
  <actions>
    <allow-modify-dol>allow</allow-modify-dol>
  </actions>
  <transformations/>
</rule>

<rule id="2">
  <conditions>
    <identity>
      <id>manager@example.com</id>
    </identity>
  </conditions>
  <actions>
    <allow-read-dol>allow</allow-read-dol>
  </actions>
  <transformations/>
</rule>
...

<time>
  <occurrence>
    <mixing-start-time required-participant="participant">
      2004-12-17T09:30:00-05:00</mixing-start-time>
    <mixing-stop-time required-participant="none">
      2004-12-17T12:30:00-05:00</mixing-stop-time>
  </occurrence>
</time>

4.3.1.1.2 Identity

The <identity> element is already defined in the common policy framework [2]. The presence of the <identity> element is a condition that requires any identity within it to be authenticated before a rule is applied to it. This includes the <id> element (Section 4.3.1.1.2.1), the <any> element (Section 4.3.1.1.3.1), the <external-list> element (Section 4.3.1.1.3.2), their exceptions, and any future extension that carries an identity. The absence of the <identity> element within a condition indicates that the rule applies to all unauthenticated
identities. That is participants that have provided no authenticated identity to the conference focus.

4.3.1.1.2.1 Interpreting the <id> Element

As earlier indicated, the <identity> element is already defined in the common policy framework [2]. However, the rules for interpreting the identities in <id> elements are left for each application to define separately. This document, however, does not define the rules for interpreting identities in <id> elements in conferencing applications since those interpretation rules are signalling protocol specific.

OPEN ISSUE: Do we need to state more than this? How are identities derived from users that join using POTS, H.323, etc.?

4.3.1.1.3 Conference Policy Identity

4.3.1.1.3.1 Matching Any Identity

The <any> element is used to match any participant. This allows a conference privileges to be open to any authenticated user. Just as for the <domain> element in <identity> element, The <any> element contains a list of <except> elements and allows to implement a simple blacklist mechanism. The <except> element contains the identity. It differs from the <domain> element in that the domain part is needed in the identity since it has not domain to refer to.

4.3.1.1.3.2 Matching Identities in External Lists

The <external-list> element can be used to match those participants that are part of a resource list that is created externally. The use of <external-list> is similar to that defined in Section x of [1].

4.3.1.1.4 Sphere

The <sphere> element has no meaning in the context of conference policy and MUST be ignored if present.

4.3.1.2 Actions

4.3.1.2.1 Modifying Conference setting

The <allow-modify-settings> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference settings in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the conference settings are rejected.
If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.2 Modifying Conference Information

The <allow-modify-information> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference information in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the conference information are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.3 Modifying Conference Time

The <allow-modify-time> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference time in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the conference time are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.4 Modifying Authorization rules

The <allow-modify-authorization-rules> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the authorization rules of a conference in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.5 Modifying Conference Dial-out List

The <allow-modify-dol> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference dial-out list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the dial-out list are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.6 Modifying Conference Refer List

The <allow-modify-rl> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference refer list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the refer list are rejected.
If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.7 Modifying Conference media streams

The <allow-modify-ms> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference media streams in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the media streams are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.8 Creating Sidebars

The <allow-modify-sidebar> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to create and manipulate a sidebar by creating and modifying a <sidebar> element in a conference policy. If set to FALSE, any sidebar creation and manipulation is rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.9 Modifying Conference Dial-in List

The conference dial-in list is virtual and is not represented by a physical list in the conference policy. It is rather a collection of authorization rules that allow users to join a conference. The <allow-modify-dil> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to create an authorization rule in the conference policy that give a user a join handling of "allow". If set to FALSE, any modifications to authorization rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.10 Reading Conference setting

The <allow-read-settings> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference settings in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the conference settings are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.
4.3.1.2.11 Reading Conference Information

The <allow-read-information> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference information in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the conference information are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.12 Reading Conference Time

The <allow-read-time> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference time in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the conference time are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.13 Reading Authorization rules

The <allow-read-authorization-rules> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the authorization rules of a conference in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.14 Reading Conference Dial-out List

The <allow-read-dol> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference dial-out list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the dial-out list are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.15 Reading Conference Refer List

The <allow-read-rl> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference refer list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the refer list are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the
4.3.1.2.16 Reading Conference media streams Information

The <allow-read-ms> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference media streams information in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the media streams information are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.17 Reading Sidebar Information

The <allow-read-sidebar> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read side bar information in the conference policy, indicating how many sidebars are currently in a conference. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read sidebar information are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

4.3.1.2.18 Reading Conference Dial-in List

The Dial-in List is defined in Section 4.3.1.2.9. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read authorizations rule in the conference policy that give a user a join handling of “allow”. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read such rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

4.3.1.3 Transformations

No transformations are defined at this time.

6.4 XML Schema

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
  <!-- This import brings in the XML language attribute xml:lang-->
  <!-- This import brings in the common-policy-->
</xs:schema>
<xs:sequence>
  <xs:element name="uri" type="xs:string"/>
  <xs:element ref="cr:ruleset"/>
</xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="cp-identity" substitutionGroup="cr:condition">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:choice>
      <xs:sequence name="any"/>
      <xs:sequence minOccurs="0">
        <xs:element name="except" type="xs:string" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:sequence>
    <xs:sequence name="external-list" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:sequence minOccurs="0">
      <xs:element name="except" type="xs:string" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:choice>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-settings" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-information" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-time" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-authorization-rules" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-dol" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-rl" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-ms" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-modify-sidebar" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-settings" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-information" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-time" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-authorization-rules" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-dol" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-rl" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-ms" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
<xs:element name="allow-read-sidebar" type="xs:boolean" substitutionGroup="cr:action"/>
</xs:schema>

5. Examples
5.1 A Simple Conference Policy Privileges Document

The following document dictates that Bob and Alice are allowed to read and modify the conference settings at "http://xcap.example.com/services/conferences/users/Alice/conference.xml" why John can only read the dial-out list.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
xmlns:cr="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:common-policy">
  <uri>http://xcap.example.com/services/conferences/users/Alice/conference.xml"</uri>
  <cr:ruleset>
    <cr:rule id="1">
      <cr:conditions>  
        <cr:identity>  
          <cr:id>bob@example.com</cr:id>  
          <cr:id>alice@example.com</cr:id>  
        </cr:identity>  
      </cr:conditions>  
      <cr:actions>  
        <allow-modify-settings>true</allow-modify-settings>  
        <allow-read-settings>true</allow-read-settings>  
      </cr:actions>  
    </cr:rule>
    <cr:rule id="2">
      <cr:conditions>  
        <cr:identity>  
          <cr:id>john@example.com</cr:id>  
        </cr:identity>  
      </cr:conditions>  
      <cr:actions>  
        <allow-read-dol>true</allow-read-dol>  
      </cr:actions>  
    </cr:rule>
  </cr:ruleset>
</privileges>
```

6. Security Considerations

A conference policy privileges document may contain information that is highly sensitive. Its delivery to the conference server needs to
happen strictly, paying special attention to integrity and confidentiality. Reading the document is also a security concern since the conference policy privileges document contains sensitive information like who is allowed to modify certain parts of a conference policy document.

A malicious user can manipulate parts of the conference policy privileges document giving themselves and others privileges to manipulate the conference policy, including the dial-out list and the ruleset. Those authorization rules carry the privileges that certain identities have. If an unauthorized user gets access to this document (pretending to be someone else), s/he can manipulate those rules giving himself and other unauthorized users access to the conference policy. Some of the things that a malicious user can do include: denying users certain privileges, removing rules for certain identities and giving privileges to other malicious users. Therefore, it is very important that only authorized clients are able to manipulate the conference policy privileges document. Any conference policy privileges document transport protocol MUST provide authentication, confidentiality and integrity.

7. IANA Considerations

7.1 application/privileges+xml MIME TYPE

MIME media type: application

MIME subtype name: privileges+xml

Mandatory parameters: none

Optional parameters: Same as charset parameter application/xml as specified in RFC 3023 [5].

Encoding considerations: Same as encoding considerations of application/xml as specified in RFC 3023 [5].

Security considerations: See section 10 of RFC 3023 [5] and section Section 7 of this document.

Interoperability considerations: none.

Published specification: This document.

Applications which use this media type: This document type has been used to support conference policy manipulation for SIP based conferencing.
Additional information:

Magic number: None

File extension: .cl or .xml

Macintosh file type code: "TEXT"

Personal and email address for further information: Hisham Khartabil
(hisham.khartabil@nokia.com)

Intended Usage: COMMON

Author/change controller: The IETF

7.2 URN Sub-Namespace Registration for
urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges

This section registers a new XML namespace, as per guidelines in URN
document [8].

URI: The URI for this namespace is urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges.

Registrant Contact: IETF, XCON working group, Hisham Khartabil
(hisham.khartabil@nokia.com)

XML:

BEGIN
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML Basic 1.0//EN"
 "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-basic/xhtml-basic10.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
<meta http-equiv="content-type"
 content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1"/>
<title>Conference Policy Namespace</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1>Namespace for Conference Policy</h1>
<h2>application/conference-policy+xml</h2>
<p>See <a href="[[URL of published RFC]]">RFCXXXX</a>.</p>
</body>
</html>
END
8. Acknowledgements

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9 Normative References


draft-ietf-simple-xcap-list-usage-02 (work in progress), February 2004.


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