SP User Interface Elements

User Interface Elements in SP Metadata

This page describes how an SP metadata administrator adds user interface elements to metadata. These elements are used by IdP implementations to enhance their user interfaces. See the section on software support for a complete list of supported applications. As of the introduction of Baseline Expectations for Trust in Federation in 2018, all user interface elements are required, except where noted.

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Updating SP Metadata

Log into the Federation Manager as usual. In the SA Dashboard, click the "Update" link next to the SP you wish to edit in the "Existing Service Providers" table. Scroll to "User Interface Elements and Requested Attributes" and click the (Edit) link. A web form to enter the new elements will appear.

Add and edit any needed UI elements. When you click "Save," an `<mdui:UIInfo>` extension element is inserted into your metadata. From that point forward, you manage these elements the same as you would any other metadata element.

User Interface Elements

All of the input fields below except Display Name are optional for SPs.

SP Display Name

The *SP Display Name* is a user friendly name for the service (not the organization). Typically, the value of the *SP Display Name* field will appear on login and error pages at the IdP, and also on the consent page. If the corresponding element `<mdui:DisplayName>` does not exist in metadata, some applications fall back on the `<md:OrganizationDisplayName>` element, which typically does **not** reflect the service but rather the organization that runs the service. Such an organization may in fact run multiple SP services, so the organization name is a poor choice to use on a user interface.

> **SP Display Name**
>
> Choose a *user friendly name* for your service. Do **not** use a host name, and above all, do **not** forget to supply a *Display Name* since some applications fall back on the SP's `entityID`, which is guaranteed to confuse the user.

According to the spec, the `<mdui:DisplayName>` element is an optional child element of the `<mdui:UIInfo>` extension element but InCommon SP operators are **required** to supply this information.

SP Description

A brief *SP Description* (140 characters or less) of the service may be provided. On computers that support a pointing device (such as a mouse, e. g.), the description will pop up when the user hovers over the *SP Display Name*.

SP Description is optional, but recommended.

SP Information URL

The *SP Information URL* is used to create a link to a service information page. The content of this page should expand on the content of the *SP Description* field. The Information URL is often presented to the user on the IdP's login page or perhaps the consent page.

SP Information URL is optional, but recommended.

SP Privacy Statement URL

The *SP Privacy Statement URL* is used to create a link to a Privacy Statement targeted at end users. Like the Information URL, the Privacy Statement URL is often presented to the user on the IdP's login page or consent page.

Please consider content that will be helpful to users, such as detailing the information released to each service. Here are links from GÉANT (the pan-European network) and REFEDS (the international collaboration of federation operators) with some suggestions and guidelines.

- https://wiki.geant.org/display/eduGAIN/How+to+write+the+Privacy+Policy
- https://wiki.refeds.org/display/CODE/Privacy+policy+guidelines+for+Service+Providers

The CTAB provides the following ideas for what you might include:

- If you previously provided a link to a privacy policy in your Participant Operational Practices (POP - now deprecated), provide this link for your *SP Privacy Statement URL.*
- Refer to privacy policies available through the EDUCAUSE Higher Education Information Security Council (HEISC):
  - HEISC Information Security Guide: https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/2014infosecurityguide/Privacy
- Develop a web page that links to established organizational policies related to privacy and include that URL in your metadata. These policies can include data sharing, FERPA release, acceptable use policy (AUP), among others.

SP Logo URL

The *SP Logo URL* is a service logo for building graphical user interfaces. There are applications that can leverage this element in metadata. A consent interface, for example, may use a visual cue (i.e., a logo) instead of or in addition to the *SP Display Name*.

SP operators are encouraged to provide an *SP Logo URL* that satisfies the following requirements:

- the *SP Logo URL* must be specified using an HTTPS URL
- the resource at the *SP Logo URL* must be a public image resource
- the host in the *SP Logo URL* must reside in a domain owned by the SP

The first two are technical requirements whereas the latter is a policy requirement. These are the only strict requirements of a *SP Logo URL* in metadata.

> **Logo HTTPS URL**
>
> The server that serves the logo resource should be protected with an SSL/TLS certificate trusted by the browser (i.e., **not** a self-signed certificate), otherwise the logo may not appear on a dynamically generated web page.

The actual size of the logo may vary. You will be asked to enter the actual width and height of the logo (in pixels). A typical application expects a maximum height of 150 pixels, and if need be, will scale the logo proportionally based on the actual width and height entered into metadata.

Generally useful logos will have the following characteristics:

- The logo should have a transparent background
- The logo should have a landscape orientation (width > height)
- The logo should have a minimum width of 100 pixels
- The logo should have a minimum height of 75 pixels and a maximum height of 150 pixels (or the application will scale it proportionally)
- Contrast should be considered carefully and logos should have enough contrast to support presentation on a white background (e.g., avoid a situation where your logo could be presented as white foreground on on white background)

Logos that meet the minimum width and height requirements can be scaled down by the application as needed. Logos that do not meet the minimum width and height requirements may be ignored by applications.

There is no consensus as to what constitutes an *optimal* aspect ratio. For some applications, an aspect ratio between 4:3 and 16:9 is considered optimal. Other applications will have a page layout such that an approximate 2.5 aspect ratio is optimal. A future version of the administrative interface will accept multiple logo URLs so that sites may provide a variety of logos.

Software Support

The InCommon Federation entity information pages display the values of all user interface elements in metadata. The information pages are refreshed daily, in parallel with InCommon metadata.

Shibboleth IdP 2.3 (and later) and uApprove 2.2 (and later) support the `<mdui:UIInfo>` element in SP metadata. If you know of other software applications that support `<mdui:UIInfo>`, please share this information with the community.