

Attribute Registry Overview

Version 1.1 of the Attribute Registry is the latest release of one of the early deliverables from the Scalable Privacy project.

The core data elements are attributes, each of which comes from one of a defined set of specifications or standards. The images in this overview were taken directly from the ontology tool, Protégé, used to maintain the registry. A web-accessible version of the registry is available at <http://webprotege.stanford.edu/#Edit:projectId=623e0196-844a-4d86-a65b-b4d2f923ab97>

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Specifications

The screenshot displays the Protégé ontology editor interface. On the left, the 'Class hierarchy: Specification' pane shows a tree structure with 'Thing' as the root, followed by 'Attribute', 'AttributeClass', and 'Specification' (highlighted in blue). The main workspace is divided into two panes: 'Annotations: Specification' (empty) and 'Description: Specification'. The 'Description: Specification' pane lists several relationships: 'Equivalent To', 'SubClass Of', and 'SubClass Of (Anonymous Ancestor)'. Below these, the 'Members' section lists 13 specifications, each with a diamond icon and three control buttons (question mark, at-sign, and X):

Specification	Control Buttons
eduCourse	? @ X
eduMember	? @ X
eduPerson	? @ X
FICAM	? @ X
IMS_Person	? @ X
OpenID_Connect	? @ X
OpenSocial	? @ X
RFC4524	? @ X
Schac	? @ X
SCIM_Core	? @ X
VA_EDM	? @ X
X.520	? @ X

Each attribute of the 715 attributes currently in the registry is associated with the specification that defines it. For example, the OpenID Connect specification covers the following attributes:

Class hierarchy: Sp

- Thing
 - Attribute
 - AttributeClass
 - Specification

Annotations: OpenID_Connect

Annotations +

Description: OpenID_Conn

Types +

- Specification ? @ x o

Same Individual As +

Different Individuals +

Property assertions: OpenID_Connect

Object property assertions +

specifies	oidc-website	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-preferred_username	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-region	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-phone_number	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-formatted	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-middle_name	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-profile	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-nickname	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-gender	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-locality	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-family_name	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-zoneinfo	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-country	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-locale	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-address	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-name	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-picture	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-email_verified	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-user_id	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-street_address	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-email	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-given_name	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-updated_time	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-postal_code	? @ x o
specifies	oidc-birthday	? @ x o

Object property hierarchy

Object property hierarchy

- topObjectProperty
 - classifies
 - isClassifiedBy
 - isSpecifiedBy
 - specifies

Attributes

An example attribute entry in the registry appears as follows (this is the Profile attribute from OpenID Connect):

Description: oidc-profile

Property assertions: oidc-profile

Types +

- Attribute ? @ x o

Same Individual As +

Different Individuals +

Object property assertions +

isSpecifiedBy	OpenID_Connect	? @ x o
isClassifiedBy	Profile	? @ x o

Data property assertions +

AttributeName	"profile"^^string	? @ x o
SourceLocation	"http://openid.net/specs/openid-connect-basic-1_0.html#id_res"^^string	? @ x o
Syntax	"string"^^string	? @ x o
Section	"2.52"^^string	? @ x o
Definition	"URL of the End-User's profile page."^^string	? @ x o

Note the metadata (Object properties and Data properties) recorded in the registry for the Profile attribute. Version 1.0 contains a minimal set of metadata elements. Other types of metadata may be added to suit emerging needs in the attribute ecosystem work.

Another example attribute entry in the registry is eduPersonPrincipalName from the eduPerson specification:

Property assertions: eduPersonPrincipalName

Object property assertions +

- isClassifiedBy Identifier
- isSpecifiedBy eduPerson

Data property assertions +

- SourceLocation "http://macedir.org/specs/eduperson/#eduPersonPrincipalName"^^string
- AttributeName "eduPersonPrincipalName"^^string
- Oid "1.3.6.1.4.1.5923.1.1.1.6"^^string
- Definition "scoped identifier for a person. It should be represented in the form 'user@scope' where 'user' is a name-based identifier for the person and where 'scope' defines a local security domain. Each value of 'scope' defines a namespace within which the assigned identifiers MUST be unique. Given this rule, if two eduPersonPrincipalName (ePPN) values are the same at a given point in time, they refer to the same person"^^string
- Syntax "directoryString"^^string
- Section "2.2.8"^^string

Note the relatively full Definition element in this case. This is drawn from the specification itself.

Attribute Class

At the top of the eduPersonPrincipalName example above, there is the object property "isClassifiedBy" with the value "Identifier". This is an example of a metadata element meant to categorize attributes across specifications into a defined set of types. This metadata element is called "Attribute Class". Here is the first part of a listing of the currently defined attribute classes:

Class hierarchy: Attr

- Thing
 - Attribute
 - AttributeClass
 - Specification

Annotations: AttributeClass

Annotations +

Description: AttributeClass

Members +

- Account
- Address
- Affiliation
- Application
- Assurance
- Birthdate
- BirthPlace
- Citizenship
- Contact
- Country
- Date

A couple examples will clarify the notion of attribute class. Take the example of attributes relating to preferences.

The screenshot shows two panels for the 'Preference' class. The left panel, titled 'Description: Preference', shows the class is of type 'AttributeClass'. The right panel, titled 'Property assertions: Preference', lists three object property assertions: 'classifies osoc-emails-primary', 'classifies osoc-contactPreference', and 'classifies r4524-drink'. Each assertion has control icons (question mark, at-sign, x, circle) to its right. There are also sections for data property assertions, negative object property assertions, and negative data property assertions, all currently empty.

The Open Social specification (attributes whose prefix is "osoc") contains two attributes in the class "preference". The LDAP specification (currently RFC4524) contains an attribute "drink" which indicates personal preference as well. Here is the preference attribute, osoc-emails-primary:

The screenshot shows two panels for the 'osoc-emails-primary' attribute. The left panel, titled 'Description: osoc-emails-', shows the attribute is of type 'Attribute'. The right panel, titled 'Property assertions: osoc-emails-primary', lists several property assertions. Under 'Object property assertions', there are 'isClassifiedBy Preference' and 'isSpecifiedBy OpenSocial'. Under 'Data property assertions', there are 'AttributeName "emails-primary"^^string', 'Definition "A Boolean value indicating whether this instance of the Plural Field is the primary or preferred value of for this field, e.g. the preferred mailing address or primary e-mail address. Service Providers MUST NOT mark more than one instance of the same Plural Field as primary='true', and MAY choose not to mark any fields as primary, if this information is not available. For efficiency, Service Providers SHOULD NOT mark all non-primary fields with primary='false', but should instead omit this sub-field for all non-primary instances."^^string', 'Syntax "Boolean"^^string', 'SourceLocation "http://opensocial-resources.googlecode.com/svn/spec/trunk/Social-Data.xml#Person"^^string', and 'Section "2.14"^^string'. Each assertion has control icons to its right.

Another example of the attribute class metadata is "role". Several specifications (SCIM, SCHAC, LDAP and X.520) contain attributes meant to carry some definition of a person's role:

Future Work

Going forward, attributes from additional specifications and standards will be added (including schema from additional national federations in Norway and Australia). One open issue is whether the current list of attribute metadata is adequate or whether there would be value in carrying additional metadata elements in a general purpose registry of this sort.

Reference: The Currently Defined Set of Sixty-one Attribute Classes

- AccessibilityProfile, Account, Address, Affiliation, Age, Anniversary, Application, Assurance
- Birthdate, BirthPlace
- Certification, Citizenship, Clearance, Contact, Country, Course
- DN, Date, DeathDate, Description
- Email, EmailMetadata, Entitlement, Ethnicity
- Format
- Gender, Group
- HostName
- Identifier
- Jurisdiction
- Language, Link, Locale, Location
- Manager
- Name, Note
- Operational, Organization
- Password, Phone, Photo, PhysicalCharacteristic, Pointer, Position, Preference, Presence, Privacy, Profile
- Relationship, Residency, Role
- Salutation, Search, StateOrProvince, StatusMessage, SuperiorNode
- Tag, Timezone
- URL
- VitalEvent