Microsoft and Sun Microsystems

Web Single Sign-On Metadata Exchange Protocol and Web Single Sign-On Interoperability Profile

Fact Sheet
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Microsoft Corp. and Sun Microsystems Inc. have moved forward in improving interoperability for customers using Liberty and WS-* Web service architectures. The companies have co-authored two specifications, Web Single Sign-On Metadata Exchange Protocol (Web SSO MEX) and Web Single Sign-On Interoperability Profile (Web SSO Interop Profile), which enable Web single sign-on (SSO) between security domains that use Liberty ID-FF and WS-Federation.

Quick Facts	
Web SSO Specifications	• Web Single Sign-On Metadata Exchange Protocol (Web SSO MEX) • Web Single Sign-On Interoperability Profile (Web SSO Interop Profile).
What Web SSO Does	Web SSO enables cross-domain (or federated) browser-based, single sign-on between environments whose primary sign-on protocols are WS-Federation or and Liberty ID-FF.
Products That Will Support Specifications	• Microsoft Windows Server • Sun Java Enterprise System
How These Specifications Will Help Customers	Large organizations that have invested or plan to invest in Liberty ID-FF and WS-Federation will be able to use products from Microsoft, Sun and others that support these two new specifications, to provide users with cross-domain (or federated), browser-based single sign-on between the two environments.

The Web SSO MEX Protocol provides a foundation for interoperability across environments that use Liberty or WS-Federation for browser-based Web SSO. Products that support the Web SSO MEX Protocol and the Web SSO Interop Profile will enable companies to provide users with an improved SSO experience from their Web browsers. For example, if a company implements an employee portal using Sun Java™ Enterprise System, and the company's benefits provider deploys a Web-based application using Microsoft® Windows Server™, then an employee will be able to access the benefits application from the portal without having to log in separately.

As part of the companies' ongoing commitment to improving interoperability across their respective product lines, Microsoft and Sun also plan to support the new specifications within their product portfolios, including Microsoft Windows Server and Sun Java Enterprise System; these products will make it easier for customers to achieve browser-based Web SSO across security domains.

Microsoft and Sun welcome participation in the further development of these draft specifications through the Web services protocol workshop process, and ultimately will submit them to a standards organization for finalization and ratification as industry standards. Drafts of the new specifications are available on Microsoft's Web site at http://msdn.microsoft.com/webservices/understanding/specs/default.aspx?pull=/library/en-us/dnglobspec/html/wssecurspecindex.asp and Sun's Web site at at http://developers.sun.com/techtopics/identity/interop/index.html for anyone to review and comment on.

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Microsoft Contacts:

Media Only**:**

Rapid Response Team, Waggener Edstrom, (503) 443-7070, rrt@wagged.com

Financial Analysts Only:

Curt Anderson, Microsoft Investor Relations, (425) 706-3703

Sun Microsystems Contacts:

Media Only:

Russ Castronovo, Sun Microsystems, (650) 257-4460, russ.castronovo@sun.com
Jacki DeCoster, Sun Microsystems, (415) 294-4482, jacki.decoster@sun.com

Broadcast Media Only:

Karen Arena, Sun Microsystems, (732) 656-7861

Financial Analysts Only:

Paul Ziots, Sun Investor Relations, (650) 786-0411