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OAuth 2.0 Token Binding

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Abstract

This specification enables OAuth 2.0 implementations to apply Token Binding to Access Tokens, Authorization Codes, and Refresh Tokens. This cryptographically binds these tokens to a client's Token Binding key pair, possession of which is proven on the TLS connections over which the tokens are intended to be used. This use of Token Binding protects these tokens from man-in-the-middle and token export and replay attacks.

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1. Introduction

This specification enables OAuth 2.0 [RFC6749] implementations to apply Token Binding (TLS Extension for Token Binding Protocol Negotiation [I-D.ietf-tokbind-negotiation], The Token Binding Protocol Version 1.0 [I-D.ietf-tokbind-protocol] and Token Binding over HTTP [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https]) to Access Tokens, Authorization Codes, and Refresh Tokens. This cryptographically binds these tokens to a client's Token Binding key pair, possession of which is proven on the TLS connections over which the tokens are intended to be used. This use of Token Binding

protects these tokens from man-in-the-middle and token export and replay attacks.

1.1. Requirements Notation and Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [RFC2119].

1.2. Terminology

This specification uses the terms "Access Token", "Authorization Code", "Authorization Endpoint", "Authorization Server", "Client", "Protected Resource", "Refresh Token", and "Token Endpoint" defined by [OAuth 2.0](#) [RFC6749], the terms "Claim" and "JSON Web Token (JWT)" defined by [JSON Web Token \(JWT\)](#) [JWT], the term "User Agent" defined by [RFC 7230](#) [RFC7230], and the terms "Provided", "Referred", "Token Binding" and "Token Binding ID" defined by [Token Binding over HTTP](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https].

2. Token Binding for Refresh Tokens

Token Binding of refresh tokens is a straightforward first-party scenario, applying term "first-party" as used in [Token Binding over HTTP](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https]. It cryptographically binds the refresh token to the client's Token Binding key pair, possession of which is proven on the TLS connections between the client and the token endpoint. This case is straightforward because the refresh token is both retrieved by the client from the token endpoint and sent by the client to the token endpoint. Unlike the federated scenarios described in Section 4 (Federation Use Cases) of [Token Binding over HTTP](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https] and the access token case described in the next section, only a single TLS connection is involved in the refresh token case.

Token Binding a refresh token requires that the authorization server do two things. First, when refresh token is sent to the client, the authorization server needs to remember the Provided Token Binding ID and remember its association with the issued refresh token. Second, when a token request containing a refresh token is received at the token endpoint, the authorization server needs to verify that the Provided Token Binding ID for the request matches the remembered Token Binding ID associated with the refresh token. If the Token Binding IDs do not match, the authorization server should return an error in response to the request.

How the authorization server remembers the association between the refresh token and the Token Binding ID is an implementation detail that beyond the scope of this specification. Some authorization servers will choose to store the Token Binding ID (or a cryptographic hash of it, such a SHA-256 hash [[SHS](#)]) in the refresh token itself, provided it is integrity-protected, thus reducing the amount of state to be kept by the server. Other authorization servers will add the Token Binding ID value (or a hash of it) to an internal data structure also containing other information about the refresh token, such as grant type information. These choices make no difference to the client, since the refresh token is opaque to it.

2.1. Example Token Binding for Refresh Tokens

This section provides an example of what the interactions around a Token Bound refresh token might look like, along with some details of the involved processing. Token Binding of refresh tokens is most useful for native application clients so the example has protocol elements typical of a native client flow. Extra line breaks in all examples are for display purposes only.

A native application client makes the following access token request with an authorization code using a TLS connection where Token Binding has been negotiated. A PKCE code_verifier is included because use the of PKCE is considered best practice for native application clients [[I-D.ietf-oauth-native-apps](#)]. The base64url-encoded representation of the exported keying material (EKM) from that TLS connection is p6ZuSwfl6ple8es5KyeV76T4swZmQp0_awd27jHfrbo, which is needed to validate the Token Binding Message.

```
POST /as/token.oauth2 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Sec-Token-Binding: AlkAAgBBQGto7hHRR0Y5nkOWqc9KNfwW95dEFmSI_tCZ_Cbl
```

```
7LWlt6Xjp3DbjiDJavGFikP2HV_2JSE42VzmKOVVV8m7eqAAQOKiDK1Oi0z6v4X5B
P7uc0pFestVZ42TTOdJmoHppi06Qq3jsCiCRSJx9ck2fWJYx8tLVXRZPATB3x6c24
aY0ZEAAA
```

```
grant_type=authorization_code&code=4bwcZesc7Xacc330ltc66Wxk8EAfP9j2
&code_verifier=2x6_yIS390-8V7jaT9wj.8qP9nKmYcf.V-rD9O4r_1
&client_id=example-native-client-id
```

Figure 1: Initial Request with Code

A refresh token is issued in response to the prior request. Although it looks like a typical response to the client, the authorization server has bound the refresh token to the Provided Token Binding ID from the encoded Token Binding message in the Sec-Token-Binding header of the request. In this example, that binding is done by saving the Token Binding ID alongside other information about the refresh token in some server side persistent storage. The base64url-encoded representation of that Token Binding ID is AgBBQGto7hHRR0Y5nkOWqc9KNfwW95dEFmSI_tCZ_Cbl7LWlt6Xjp3DbjiDJavGFikP2HV_2JSE42VzmKOVVV8m7eqA.

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store

{
  "access_token": "EdRs7qMrLb167Z9fV2dcwoLTC",
  "refresh_token": "ACCIZEIQTjW9arT9GOJGGd7QNwqOMmUYfsJTiv8his4",
  "token_type": "Bearer",
  "expires_in": 3600
}
```

Figure 2: Successful Response

When the access token expires, the client requests a new one with a refresh request to the token endpoint. In this example, the request is made on a new TLS connection so the EKM (base64url-encoded: va-84Ukw4Zqfd7uWOtFrAJda96WwgbdaPDX2knoOiAE) and signature in the Token Binding Message are different than in the initial request.

```
POST /as/token.oauth2 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Sec-Token-Binding: AlkAAgBBQGto7hHRR0Y5nkOWqc9KNfwW95dEFmSI_tCZ_Cbl
  7LWlt6Xjp3DbjiDJavGFikP2HV_2JSE42VzmKOVVV8m7eqAAQCpGbaG_YRf27qOra
  L0UT4fsKKjL6PukuOT00qzamoAXxOq7m_id7O3mLpnb_sM7kwSxLi7iNHzzDgCAkP
  t3IHwAAA

refresh_token=ACCIZEIQTjW9arT9GOJGGd7QNwqOMmUYfsJTiv8his4
&grant_type=refresh_token&client_id=example-native-client-id
```

Figure 3: Refresh Request

However, because the Token Binding ID is long-lived and may span multiple TLS sessions and connections, it is the same as in the initial request. That Token Binding ID is what the refresh token is bound to, so the authorization server is able to verify it and issue a new access token.

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store

{
  "access_token": "bwcESCwC4yOCQ8iPsgcn117k7",
```

```
"token_type":"Bearer",
"expires_in":3600
}
```

Figure 4: Successful Response

3. Token Binding for Access Tokens

Token Binding for access tokens cryptographically binds the access token to the client's Token Binding key pair, possession of which is proven on the TLS connections between the client and the protected resource. Token Binding is applied to access tokens in a similar manner to that described in Section 4 (Federation Use Cases) of [Token Binding over HTTP](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https]. It also builds upon the mechanisms for Token Binding of ID Tokens defined in [OpenID Connect Token Bound Authentication 1.0](#) [OpenID.TokenBinding].

In the OpenID Connect [\[OpenID.Core\]](#) use case, HTTP redirects are used to pass information between the identity provider and the relying party; this HTTP redirect makes the Token Binding ID of the relying party available to the identity provider as the Referred Token Binding ID, information about which is then added to the ID Token. No such redirect occurs between the authorization server and the protected resource in the access token case; therefore, information about the Token Binding ID for the TLS connection between the client and the protected resource needs to be explicitly communicated by the client to the authorization server to achieve Token Binding of the access token.

This information is passed to the authorization server using the Referred Token Binding ID, just as in the ID Token case. The only difference is that the client needs to explicitly communicate the Token Binding ID of the TLS connection between the client and the protected resource to the Token Binding implementation so that it is sent as the Referred Token Binding ID in the request to the authorization server. This functionality provided by Token Binding implementations is described in Section 5 (Implementation Considerations) of [Token Binding over HTTP](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https].

Note that to obtain this Token Binding ID, the client may need to establish a TLS connection between itself and the protected resource prior to making the request to the authorization server so that the Provided Token Binding ID for the TLS connection to the protected resource can be obtained. How the client retrieves this Token Binding ID from the underlying Token Binding API is implementation and operating system specific. An alternative, if supported, is for the client to generate a Token Binding key to use for the protected resource, use the Token Binding ID for that key, and then later use that key when the TLS connection to the protected resource is established.

3.1. Access Tokens Issued from the Authorization Endpoint

For access tokens returned directly from the authorization endpoint, such as with the implicit grant defined in Section 4.2 of [OAuth 2.0](#) [RFC6749], the Token Binding ID of the client's TLS channel to the protected resource is sent with the authorization request as the Referred Token Binding ID in the Sec-Token-Binding header, and is used to Token Bind the access token.

Upon receiving the Referred Token Binding ID in an authorization request, the authorization server associates (Token Binds) the ID with the access token in a way that can be accessed by the protected resource. Such methods include embedding the Referred Token Binding ID (or a cryptographic hash of it) in the issued access token itself, possibly using the syntax described at [Section 3.4](#), or through token introspection [\[RFC7662\]](#). The method for associating the referred token binding ID with the access token is determined by the authorization server and the protected resource, and is beyond the scope for this specification.

3.1.1. Example Access Token Issued from the Authorization Endpoint

This section provides an example of what the interactions around a Token Bound access token issued from the authorization endpoint might look like, along with some details of the involved processing. Extra line breaks in all examples are for display purposes only.

The client directs the user-agent to make the following HTTP request to the authorization endpoint. It is a typical authorization request that, because Token Binding was negotiated on the underlying TLS connection and the user-agent was signaled to reveal the Referred Token Binding, also includes the Sec-Token-Binding header with a Token

Binding Message that contains both a Provided and Referred Token Binding. The base64url-encoded EKM from the TLS connection over which the request was made is jI5UAYjs5XCPISUGQlWgcSrOIVIWq4fhLVIFTQ4nLxc.

```
GET /as/authorization.oauth2?response_type=token
&client_id=example-client-id&state=rM8pZxG1c3gKy6rEbsD8s
&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Eorg%2Fcb HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Sec-Token-Binding: ARIAAGBBQIEE8mSMtDy2dj9EEBdXaQT9W3Rq1NS-jW8ebPoF
6FyL0jlfATVE55zIircgOTZmEg1xeIrc3DsGegwjs4bhw14AQGKDIAXFFMyQkZegC
wlbTlqX3F9HTt-IJxFU_pi16ezka7qVRCpSF0BQLfSqlsxMbYfSSCJX1BDtrlL7PX
j__fUAAAECAEFA1BNUnP3te5WrwIEwiejEz0OpesmC5PEIWc7kZ5nLSqQTj1cilp
5vQ30LLUCyM_a2BYTUPKtd5EdS-PaIT4t6ABADgeizRa5NkTMuX4zOdC-R4cLNWVV
O8lLu2Psko-UJLR_XAH4Q0H7-m0_nQR1zBN78nYMKPvHsz8L3zWKRvYXegAA
```

Figure 5: Authorization Request

The authorization server issues an access token and delivers it to the client by redirecting the user-agent with the following HTTP response:

```
HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Location: https://client.example.org/cb#state=rM8pZxG1c3gKy6rEbsD8s
&expires_in=3600&token_type=Bearer
&access_token=eyJhbGciOiJIJFUiIj8xy5W5sQ
```

Figure 6: Authorization Request

The access token is bound to the Referred Token Binding ID from the authorization request, which when represented as a JWT, as described in [Section 3.4](#), contains the SHA-256 hash of the Token Binding ID as the value of the `tbh` (token binding hash) member of the `cnf` (confirmation) claim. The confirmation claim portion of the JWT Claims Set is shown in the following figure.

```
{
  ...other claims omitted for brevity...
  "cnf":{
    "tbh": "vowQESa_MgbGJwIXaFm_BTN2QDPwh8PhuBm-EtUAqxc"
  }
}
```

Figure 7: Confirmation Claim

3.2. Access Tokens Issued from the Token Endpoint

For access tokens returned from the token endpoint, the Token Binding ID of the client's TLS channel to the protected resource is sent as the Referred Token Binding ID in the `Sec-Token-Binding` header, and is used to Token Bind the access token. This applies to all the grant types from OAuth 2.0 [\[RFC6749\]](#) using the token endpoint, including, but not limited to the refresh and authorization code token requests, as well as some extension grants, such as JWT assertion authorization grants [\[RFC7523\]](#).

Upon receiving the Referred Token Binding ID in a token request, the authorization server associates (Token Binds) the ID with the access token in a way that can be accessed by the protected resource. Such methods include embedding the Referred Token Binding ID (or a cryptographic hash of it) in the issued access token itself, possibly using the syntax described at [Section 3.4](#), or through token introspection [\[RFC7662\]](#). The method for associating the referred token binding ID with the access token is determined by the authorization server and the protected resource, and is beyond the scope for this specification.

Note that if the request results in a new refresh token being generated, it can be Token bound using the Provided Token Binding ID, per [Section 2](#).

3.2.1. Example Access Token Issued from the Token Endpoint

This section provides an example of what the interactions around a Token Bound access token issued from the token endpoint might look like, along with some details of the involved processing. Extra line breaks in all examples are for display purposes only.

The client makes an access token request to the token endpoint and includes the Sec-Token-Binding header with a Token Binding Message that contains both Provided and Referred Token Binding IDs. The Provided Token Binding ID is used to validate the token binding of the refresh token in the request (and to Token Bind a new refresh token, if one is issued), and the Referred Token Binding ID is used to Token Bind the access token that is generated. The base64url-encoded EKM from the TLS connection over which the access token request was made is 4jTc5e1QpocqPTZ5l6jsb6pRP18IFKdwwPvasYjn1-E.

```
POST /as/token.oauth2 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Sec-Token-Binding: ARIAAgBBQJFXJir2w4gbJ7grBx9uTYWlrs9V50-PW4ZijegQ
  0LUM-_bGnGT6DizxUK-m5n3dQUikeH7ybn6wb1C5dGyV_IAAQDDFTofrHt41Zppq7
  u_SEMF_E-KimAB-HewWI2MvZzAQ9QKoWiJCLFiCkjgtr1RrA2-jaJvoB8o51DTGXQ
  ydWYkAAAECAEFauC1GIYU83rqTGHEau1oqvNwy0fDsdXzlyT_4x1FcldsMxjFkJac
  IBJFGuYcccvnCak_duFi3QKFENuwxql-H9ABAMcU7IjJOUA4lyE6YoEcfz9BMPQqw
  M5M6hw4RZNQd58fsTCCsIQE_NmNCI9JXy4NkdkEZBxqvZGPr0y8QZ_bmAwAA

refresh_token=gZR_ZI8EAhLgWR-gWxBimbgZRZi_8EAhLgWRgWxBimbf
&grant_type=refresh_token&client_id=example-client-id
```

Figure 8: Access Token Request

The authorization server issues an access token bound to the Referred Token Binding ID and delivers it in a response the client.

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store

{
  "access_token": "eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsImtpIjpb...omitted...]1cs29j5c3",
  "token_type": "Bearer",
  "expires_in": 3600
}
```

Figure 9: Authorization Request

The access token is bound to the Referred Token Binding ID of the access token request, which when represented as a JWT, as described in [Section 3.4](#), contains the SHA-256 hash of the Token Binding ID as the value of the `tbh` (token binding hash) member of the `cnf` (confirmation) claim. The confirmation claim portion of the JWT Claims Set of the access token is shown in the following figure.

```
{
  ...other claims omitted for brevity...
  "cnf": {
    "tbh": "7NRBu9iDdJIYCTOqyeYuLxXv0blEA-yTpmGlrAwKAws"
  }
}
```

Figure 10: Confirmation Claim

3.3. Protected Resource Token Binding Validation

Upon receiving a token bound access token, the protected resource validates the binding by comparing the Provided Token Binding ID to the Token Binding ID for the access token. Alternatively, cryptographic hashes of

these Token Binding ID values can be compared. If the values do not match, the resource access attempt MUST be rejected with an error.

3.3.1. Example Protected Resource Request

For example, a protected resource request using the access token from [Section 3.2.1](#) would look something like the following. The base64url-encoded EKM from the TLS connection over which the request was made is 7LsNP3BT1aHHdXdk6meEWjtSkiPVLb7YS6iHp-JXmuE. The protected resource validates the binding by comparing the Provided Token Binding ID from the Sec-Token-Binding header to the token binding hash confirmation of the access token. Extra line breaks in the example are for display purposes only.

```
GET /api/stuff HTTP/1.1
Host: resource.example.org
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Sec-Token-Binding: AIkAAgBBQLgtRpWFPN66kxhxGrtAKrzcMtHw7HV8yMk_-Mdr
  XJXbDMYxZCWnCASRRmHHHL5wmpP3bhYt0ChRDbsMapfh_QAQN1He3Ftj4Wa_S_fz
  ZVns4saLfj6aBoMSQW6rLs19IlvHze7LrGjKyCfPTKXjajebxp-TLPFZCc0JTqTY5
  _0MBAAAA
```

Figure 11: Protected Resource Request

3.4. Representing Token Binding in JWT Access Tokens

If the access token is represented as a JWT, the token binding information SHOULD be represented in the same way that it is in token bound OpenID Connect ID Tokens [\[OpenID.TokenBinding\]](#). That specification defines the new JWT Confirmation Method [RFC 7800](#) [RFC7800] member `tbh` (token binding hash) to represent the SHA-256 hash of a Token Binding ID in an ID Token. The value of the `tbh` member is the base64url encoding of the SHA-256 hash of the Token Binding ID.

The following example demonstrates the JWT Claims Set of an access token containing the base64url encoding of the SHA-256 hash of a Token Binding ID as the value of the `tbh` (token binding hash) element in the `cnf` (confirmation) claim:

```
{
  "iss": "https://server.example.com",
  "aud": "https://resource.example.org",
  "sub": "brian@example.com"
  "iat": 1467324320,
  "exp": 1467324920,
  "cnf": {
    "tbh": "7NRBu9iDdJIYCTOqyeYuLxXv0bIEA-yTpmGlrAwKAws"
  }
}
```

Figure 12: JWT with Token Binding Hash Confirmation Claim

4. Token Binding for Authorization Codes

There are two variations for Token Binding of an authorization code. One is appropriate for native application clients and the other for web server clients. The nature of where the various components reside for the different client types demands different methods of Token Binding the authorization code so that it is bound to a Token Binding key on the end user's device. This ensures that a lost or stolen authorization code cannot be successfully utilized from a different device. For native application clients, the code is bound to a Token Binding key pair that the native client itself possesses. For web server clients, the code is bound to a Token Binding key pair on the end user's browser. Both variations utilize the extensible framework of [Proof Key for Code Exchange \(PKCE\)](#) [RFC7636], which enables the client to show possession of a certain key when exchanging the authorization code for tokens. The following subsections individually describe each of the two PKCE methods respectively.

4.1. Native Application Clients

This section describes a PKCE method suitable for native application clients that cryptographically binds the authorization code to a Token Binding key pair on the client, which the client proves possession of on the TLS connection during the access token request containing the authorization code. The authorization code is bound to the Token Binding ID that the native application client uses to resolve the authorization code at the token endpoint. This binding ensures that the client that made the authorization request is the same client that is presenting the authorization code.

4.1.1. Code Challenge

As defined in [Proof Key for Code Exchange](#) [RFC7636], the client sends the code challenge as part of the OAuth 2.0 authorization request with the two additional parameters: `code_challenge` and `code_challenge_method`.

For this Token Binding method of PKCE, TB-S256 is used as the value of the `code_challenge_method` parameter.

The value of the `code_challenge` parameter is the base64url encoding (per Section 5 of [RFC4648](#)) with all trailing padding (=) characters omitted and without the inclusion of any line breaks or whitespace) of the SHA-256 hash of the Provided Token Binding ID that the client will use when calling the authorization server's token endpoint. Note that, prior to making the authorization request, the client may need to establish a TLS connection between itself and the authorization server's token endpoint in order to establish the appropriate Token Binding ID.

When the authorization server issues the authorization code in the authorization response, it associates the code challenge and method values with the authorization code so they can be verified later when the authorization code is presented in the access token request.

4.1.1.1. Example Code Challenge

For example, a native application client sends an authorization request by sending the user's browser to the authorization endpoint. The resulting HTTP request looks something like the following (with extra line breaks for display purposes only).

```
GET /as/authorization.oauth2?response_type=code
  &client_id=example-native-client-id&state=oUC2jyYtzRCrMyWrVnGj
  &code_challenge=rBlgOyMY4teiuJMDgOwkrpsAjPyI07D2WsEM-dnq6eE
  &code_challenge_method=TB-S256 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
```

Figure 13: Authorization Request

4.1.2. Code Verifier

Upon receipt of the authorization code, the client sends the access token request to the token endpoint. The [Token Binding Protocol](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-protocol] is negotiated on the TLS connection between the client and the authorization server and the Sec-Token-Binding header, as defined in [Token Binding over HTTP](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https], is included in the access token request. The authorization server extracts the Provided Token Binding ID from the header value, hashes it with SHA-256, and compares it to the `code_challenge` value previously associated with the authorization code. If the values match, the token endpoint continues processing as normal (as defined by [OAuth 2.0](#) [RFC6749]). If the values do not match, an error response indicating "invalid_grant" MUST be returned.

The Sec-Token-Binding header contains sufficient information for verification of the authorization code and its association to the original authorization request. However, [PKCE](#) [RFC7636] requires that a `code_verifier` parameter be sent with the access token request, so the static value `provided_tb` is used to meet that requirement and indicate that the Provided Token Binding ID is used for the verification.

4.1.2.1. Example Code Verifier

An example access token request, correlating to the authorization request in the previous example, to the token

endpoint over a TLS connection for which Token Binding has been negotiated would look like the following (with extra line breaks for display purposes only). The base64url-encoded EKM from the TLS connection over which the request was made is pNVKtPuQFvyINYN00QowWrQKoeMkeX9H32hVuU71Bs.

```
POST /as/token.oauth2 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Sec-Token-Binding: AlkAAgBBQEOO9GRFP-LM0hoWw6-2i318BsuuUum5AL8bt1sz
lr1EFfp5DMXMNW3O8WjcIXr2DKJnI4xnuGsE6GywQd9RbD0AQJDb3xyo9PBxj8M6Y
jLt-6OaxgDkyoBoTkymNbLc8tJQ0JtXomKzBbj5qPtHDduXc6xz_lzvNpxSPxi42
8m7wkAAA

grant_type=authorization_code&code=mJAReTWKX7zI3oHUNd4o3PeNqNqxKGp6
&code_verifier=provided_tb&client_id=example-native-client-id
```

Figure 14: Authorization Request

4.2. Web Server Clients

This section describes a PKCE method suitable for web server clients, which cryptographically binds the authorization code to a Token Binding key pair on the browser. The authorization code is bound to the Token Binding ID that the browser uses to deliver the authorization code to a web server client, which is sent to the authorization server as the Referred Token Binding ID during the authorization request. The web server client conveys the Token Binding ID to the authorization server when making the access token request containing the authorization code. This binding ensures that the authorization code cannot successfully be played or replayed to the web server client from a different browser than the one that made the authorization request.

4.2.1. Code Challenge

As defined in [Proof Key for Code Exchange](#) [RFC7636], the client sends the code challenge as part of the OAuth 2.0 Authorization Request with the two additional parameters: `code_challenge` and `code_challenge_method`.

The client must send the authorization request through the browser such that the Token Binding ID established between the browser and itself is revealed to the authorization server's authorization endpoint as the Referred Token Binding ID. Typically, this is done with an HTTP redirection response and the `Include-Referred-Token-Binding-ID` header, as defined in [Section 5.3 of Token Binding over HTTP](#) [I-D.ietf-tokbind-https].

For this Token Binding method of PKCE, `referred_tb` is used for the value of the `code_challenge_method` parameter.

The value of the `code_challenge` parameter is `referred_tb`. The static value for the required PKCE parameter indicates that the authorization code is to be bound to the Referred Token Binding ID from the Token Binding Message sent in the `Sec-Token-Binding` header of the authorization request.

When the authorization server issues the authorization code in the authorization response, it associates the Token Binding ID (or hash thereof) and code challenge method with the authorization code so they can be verified later when the authorization code is presented in the access token request.

4.2.1.1. Example Code Challenge

For example, the web server client sends the authorization request by redirecting the browser to the authorization endpoint. That HTTP redirection response looks like the following (with extra line breaks for display purposes only).

```
HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Location: https://server.example.com?response_type=code
&client_id=example-web-client-id&state=P4FUFqYzs1ij3ffsYCP34d3
&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Eorg%2Fcb
&code_challenge=referred_tb&code_challenge_method=referred_tb
Include-Referred-Token-Binding-ID: true
```

Figure 15: Redirect the Browser

The redirect includes the Include-Referred-Token-Binding-ID response header field that signals to the user-agent that it should reveal, to the authorization server, the Token Binding ID used on the connection to the web server client. The resulting HTTP request to the authorization server looks something like the following (with extra line breaks for display purposes only). The base64url-encoded EKM from the TLS connection over which the request was made is 7gOdRzMHpEO-1YwZGmnVHyReN5vd2CxcS RBN69Ue4cl.

```
GET /as/authorization.oauth2?response_type=code
  &client_id=example-web-client-id&state=dryo8YFpWacbUPjhBf4Nvt51
  &redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Eorg%2Fcb
  &code_challenge=referred_tb
  &code_challenge_method=referred_tb HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Sec-Token-Binding: ARIAAGBBQB-XOPf5ePif7ikATiAFEGOS503IPmRfkyymzdWw
  HCxI0njjxC3D0E_OVfBNqrlQxzIfkF7tWby2ZfyaE6XpwTsAQBYqhFX78vMOgDX_F
  d_b2dlHyHIMmkIz8iMVBVY_reM98OUaJFz5IB7PG9nZ11j58LoG5QhmQol9NXYktKZ
  RXxrYAAAECAEFAdUFTnfQADkn1uDbQnvJEk6oQs38L92gv-KO-qlYadLoDIKe2h53
  hSiKwIP98iRj_unedkNkAMyg9e2mY4Gp7WwBAeDUOwaSXNz1e6gKohwN4SAZ5eNyx
  45Mh8VI4woL1BipLoqrJRok6dxFkWgHRMuBROcLGUj5PiOoxybQH_Tom3gAA
```

Figure 16: Authorization Request

4.2.2. Code Verifier

The web server client receives the authorization code from the browser and extracts the Provided Token Binding ID from the Sec-Token-Binding header of the request. The client sends the base64url-encoded (per Section 5 of [\[RFC4648\]](#) with all trailing padding ('=') characters omitted and without the inclusion of any line breaks or whitespace) Provided Token Binding ID as the value of the code_verifier parameter in the access token request to the authorization server's token endpoint. The authorization server compares the value of the code_verifier parameter to the Token Binding ID value previously associated with the authorization code. If the values match, the token endpoint continues processing as normal (as defined by [OAuth 2.0 \[RFC6749\]](#)). If the values do not match, an error response indicating "invalid_grant" MUST be returned.

4.2.2.1. Example Code Verifier

Continuing the example from the previous section, the authorization server sends the code to the web server client by redirecting the browser to the client's redirect_uri, which results in the browser making a request like the following (with extra line breaks for display purposes only) to the web server client over a TLS channel for which Token Binding has been established. The base64url-encoded EKM from the TLS connection over which the request was made is EzW60vyINbsb_tajt8ij3tV6cwy2KH-i8BdEMYXcNn0.

```
GET /cb?state=dryo8YFpWacbUPjhBf4Nvt51&code=jwD3oOa5cQvvLc81bwc4CMw
Host: client.example.org
Sec-Token-Binding: AIAAGBBQHVBu530AA5J9bg20J7yRJOqELN_C_doL_ijvqpW
  GnS6AyCntoed4UoisCD_fIkY_7p3nZDZADMoPXtpmOBqe1sAQEwgC9Zpg7QFCDBib
  6GIZki3MhH32KNfLefLjC1vR1xE8I7OMfPLZHP2Woxh6rEtmgBcAABubEbTz7muNI
  Ln8uoAAA
```

Figure 17: Authorization Response to Web Server Client

The web server client takes the Provided Token Binding ID from the above request from the browser and sends it, base64url encoded, to the authorization server in the code_verifier parameter of the authorization code grant type request. Extra line breaks in the example request are for display purposes only.

```
POST /as/token.oauth2 HTTP/1.1
Host: server.example.com
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
```

```
Authorization: Basic b3JnLmV4YW1wbGUuY2xpZW50OmlldGY5OGNoaWNhZ28=
```

```
grant_type=authorization_code&code=jwD3oOa5cQvvLc81bwc4CMw  
&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient%2Eexample%2Eorg%2Fcb  
&client_id=example-web-client-id  
&code_verifier=AgBBQHVBu530AA5J9bg20J7yRJOqELN_C_doL_ijv  
qpWGnS6AyCntoed4UoisCD_flkY_7p3nZDZADMoPXtpmOBqe1s
```

Figure 18: Exchange Authorization Code

5. Phasing in Token Binding and Preventing Downgrade Attacks

Many OAuth implementations will be deployed in situations in which not all participants support Token Binding. Any of combination of the client, the authorization server, the protected resource, and the user agent may not yet support Token Binding, in which case it will not work end-to-end.

It is a context-dependent deployment choice whether to allow interactions to proceed in which Token Binding is not supported or whether to treat Token Binding failures at any step as fatal errors. Particularly in dynamic deployment environments in which End Users have choices of clients, authorization servers, protected resources, and/or user agents, it is RECOMMENDED that authorizations using one or more components that do not implement Token Binding be allowed to successfully proceed. This enables different components to be upgraded to supporting Token Binding at different times, providing a smooth transition path for phasing in Token Binding. However, when Token Binding has been performed, any Token Binding key mismatches MUST be treated as fatal errors.

If all the participants in an authorization interaction support Token Binding and yet one or more of them does not use it, this is likely evidence of a downgrade attack. In this case, the authorization SHOULD be aborted with an error. For instance, if the protected resource knows that the authorization server and the user agent both support Token Binding and yet the access token received does not contain Token Binding information, this is almost certainly a sign of an attack.

The authorization server, client, and protected resource can determine whether the others support Token Binding using the metadata values defined in the next section. They can determine whether the user agent supports Token Binding by whether it negotiated Token Binding for the TLS connection.

6. Token Binding Metadata

6.1. Token Binding Client Metadata

Clients supporting Token Binding that also support the [OAuth 2.0 Dynamic Client Registration Protocol](#) [RFC7591] use these metadata values to declare their support for Token Binding of access tokens and refresh tokens:

```
client_access_token_token_binding_supported
```

OPTIONAL. Boolean value specifying whether the client supports Token Binding of access tokens. If omitted, the default value is false.

```
client_refresh_token_token_binding_supported
```

OPTIONAL. Boolean value specifying whether the client supports Token Binding of refresh tokens. If omitted, the default value is false.

6.2. Token Binding Authorization Server Metadata

Authorization servers supporting Token Binding that also support [OAuth 2.0 Authorization Server Metadata](#) [OAuth.AuthorizationMetadata] use these metadata values to declare their support for Token Binding of access tokens and refresh tokens:

```
as_access_token_token_binding_supported
```

OPTIONAL. Boolean value specifying whether the authorization server supports Token Binding of access tokens. If omitted, the default value is false.

as_refresh_token_token_binding_supported

OPTIONAL. Boolean value specifying whether the authorization server supports Token Binding of refresh tokens. If omitted, the default value is false.

6.3. Token Binding Protected Resource Metadata

Protected resources supporting Token Binding that also support the [OAuth 2.0 Protected Resource Metadata](#) [OAuth.ResourceMetadata] use this metadata value to declare their support for Token Binding of access tokens:

resource_access_token_token_binding_supported

OPTIONAL. Boolean value specifying whether the protected resource supports Token Binding of access tokens. If omitted, the default value is false.

7. Security Considerations

If a refresh request is received by the authorization server containing a Referred Token Binding ID and the refresh token in the request is not itself token bound, then it is not clear that token binding the access token adds significant value. This situation should be considered an open issue for discussion by the working group.

8. IANA Considerations

8.1. OAuth Dynamic Client Registration Metadata Registration

This specification registers the following client metadata definitions in the IANA "OAuth Dynamic Client Registration Metadata" registry [[IANA.OAuth.Parameters](#)] established by [[RFC7591](#)]:

8.1.1. Registry Contents

- Client Metadata Name: client_access_token_token_binding_supported
- Client Metadata Description: Boolean value specifying whether the client supports Token Binding of access tokens
- Change Controller: IESG
- Specification Document(s): [Section 6.1](#) of [[this specification]]
- Client Metadata Name: client_refresh_token_token_binding_supported
- Client Metadata Description: Boolean value specifying whether the client supports Token Binding of refresh tokens
- Change Controller: IESG
- Specification Document(s): [Section 6.1](#) of [[this specification]]

8.2. OAuth Authorization Server Metadata Registration

This specification registers the following metadata definitions in the IANA "OAuth Authorization Server Metadata" registry established by [[OAuth.AuthorizationMetadata](#)]:

8.2.1. Registry Contents

- Metadata Name: as_access_token_token_binding_supported
- Metadata Description: Boolean value specifying whether the authorization server supports Token Binding of access tokens
- Change Controller: IESG
- Specification Document(s): [Section 6.2](#) of [[this specification]]
- Metadata Name: as_refresh_token_token_binding_supported

- Metadata Description: Boolean value specifying whether the authorization server supports Token Binding of refresh tokens
- Change Controller: IESG
- Specification Document(s): [Section 6.2](#) of [[this specification]]

8.3. OAuth Protected Resource Metadata Registration

This specification registers the following client metadata definition in the IANA "OAuth Protected Resource Metadata" registry established by [\[OAuth.ResourceMetadata\]](#):

8.3.1. Registry Contents

- Resource Metadata Name: resource_access_token_token_binding_supported
- Resource Metadata Description: Boolean value specifying whether the protected resource supports Token Binding of access tokens
- Change Controller: IESG
- Specification Document(s): [Section 6.3](#) of [[this specification]]

8.4. PKCE Code Challenge Method Registration

This specification requests registration of the following Code Challenge Method Parameter Names in the IANA "PKCE Code Challenge Methods" registry [\[IANA.OAuth.Parameters\]](#) established by [\[RFC7636\]](#).

8.4.1. Registry Contents

- Code Challenge Method Parameter Name: TB-S256
- Change controller: IESG
- Specification document(s): [Section 4.1.1](#) of [[this specification]]
- Code Challenge Method Parameter Name: referred_tb
- Change controller: IESG
- Specification document(s): [Section 4.2.1](#) of [[this specification]]

9. References

9.1. Normative References

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9.2. Informative References

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Appendix A. Acknowledgements

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Appendix B. Open Issues

- What should we do in the case that a refresh request for a token bound access token is received when the refresh token used in the request is not token bound?
- Should the scope of this document include standardizing or recommending how to convey token binding information of an access token via RFC 7662 OAuth 2.0 Token Introspection?
- Should the scope of this document include standardization or guidance on token binding of JWT Client Authentication and/or Authorization Grants from RFC 7523?
- The [Metadata](#) [Metadata] and [what can and cannot be reliably inferred from it](#) [Phasing] need additional evaluation and work. [OAuth 2.0 Protected Resource Metadata](#) [OAuth.ResourceMetadata] is no longer a going concern, but is currently referenced herein. Boolean values do not adequately convey Token Binding support, as different components may support different key parameters types. And successful negotiation likely doesn't provide the application layer info about all the supported key parameters types but rather just the one that was negotiated.

Appendix C. Document History

[[to be removed by the RFC Editor before publication as an RFC]]

- Added a section on Token Binding for authorization codes with one variation for native clients and one for web server clients.
- Updated language to reflect that the binding is to the token binding key pair and that proof-of-possession of that key is done on the TLS connection.
- Added a bunch of examples.
- Added a few Open Issues so they are tracked in the document.
- Updated the Token Binding and OAuth Metadata references.
- Added William Denniss as an author.

-01

- Changed Token Binding for access tokens to use the Referred Token Binding ID, now that the Implementation Considerations in the Token Binding HTTPS specification make it clear that implementations will enable using the Referred Token Binding ID.
- Defined Protected Resource Metadata value.
- Changed to use the more specific term "protected resource" instead of "resource server".

-00

- Created the initial working group version from draft-jones-oauth-token-binding-00.

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