# What does Presentation Exchange do and what parts of it do we actually need?

Mike Jones

OSW August 2023 London – Unconference Discussion

#### Background

- Presentation Exchange (PE) is a Swiss Army Knife of a specification
  - It can do many things supporting many different use cases
- OpenID for Verifiable Presentations uses it
  - https://openid.bitbucket.io/connect/openid-4-verifiable-presentations-1 0.html
- High Assurance Interoperability Profile requires a subset of PE
  - <a href="https://vcstuff.github.io/oid4vc-haip-sd-jwt-vc/draft-oid4vc-haip-sd-jwt-vc.html">https://vcstuff.github.io/oid4vc-haip-sd-jwt-vc/draft-oid4vc-haip-sd-jwt-vc.html</a>

- See the Presentation Exchange spec at
  - https://identity.foundation/presentation-exchange/spec/v2.0.0/

### Let's create a feature inventory together

Presentation Exchange Feature Description	Feature Name	HAIP
Request claims in presentation	constraints/fields/path	yes
Request claims within nested structures	path w/ JSONPath	yes
Request minimal disclosure	limit_disclosure	yes
Request presentation format	format	yes
Request proof type	format/proof_type	no
Request multiple presentations	input_descriptors array	yes
Specify multiple choices from groups (3 of A and 2 of B or 1 of C)	submission_requirements	parts
Regular expressions	filter/pattern	no
Abstract query syntax across credential formats	(PE design assumption)	implicitly
Response contains inventory of multiple presentations	presentation_submission/descriptor_map	yes

#### Notes from Wednesday Unconference Session

Brian: What use is the presentation\_submission? You have to validate the received credentials anyway.

Someone observed that the descriptor\_map can let you inventory what you received without looking inside the credentials.

Brian worried that developers could accept the map at face value and not validate the credentials.

Mike: Failures become opaque if the application just receives a "failed" error without saying what is missing Couldn't we just ask for one credential at a time?

Kristina: We can request multiple presentations without using presentation\_requirements just using an array.

Justin: Aren't you creating privacy-destroying oracle if you return detailed error information?

Isn't the wallet in a better position to give actionable error information than the application?

We can't assume good intentions in a query language.

Mike: We'll have a follow-up session tomorrow.

## Which functionality do we need & why?

Presentation Exchange Feature Description	Feature Name	Functionality Needed & Why?	
Request claims in presentation	constraints/fields/path	Yes – data minimization for verifier & privacy for end-user	
Request claims within nested structures	path w/ JSONPath	Yes, for credentialSubject claims	
Request minimal disclosure	limit_disclosure	Selective disclosure yes	
Request presentation format	format	Requesting credentials in formats useful	
Request proof type	format/proof_type	Negotiating algorithms needed – could be done with metadata	
Request multiple presentations	input_descriptors array	Combined requests can have better UX or it can be worse	
Specify multiple choices from groups (3 of A and 2 of B or 1 of C)	submission_requirements	Some use cases described	
Regular expressions	filter/pattern	No: Needs to be blocked for security	
Abstract query syntax across credential formats	(PE design assumption)	Alternative is format-specific query langs	
Response contains inventory of multiple presentations	<pre>presentation_submission/ descriptor_map</pre>	(Brian questioned this on Wednesday)	

#### Notes from Thursday Unconference Session (1 of 2)

Daniel: JSONPath should instead be JSON Pointer

Daniel: Can PE ask for everything in a structure or do you have to always request individual claims?

How does that interact with limit disclosure?

Yaron: Thinks it's useful to have the query language be format agnostic

There will be multiple competing credential formats

Mike: Credential formats are not self-describing

Brian: You have to understand a credential format to look inside of it

Daniel: You believe the issuer's statements about the credential format

Kristina: proof type only makes sense for Linked Data Proofs

Algorithms are separate

Mike: In OpenID and OAuth, we tend to do algorithm negotiation in metadata

\*\_signing\_algs\_supported, etc.

Brian: The issuer's algorithm and the presentation algorithm are different

Brian: Supported credential formats could be in metadata, rather than the query language

Kristina: You could also pre-agree to supported features and simply pass short feature set handles

Brian: Is there a way to indicate which issuers you're willing to accept credentials from?

Kristina: Yes - constraints on issuer values, for example - not just claims

Kristina: How you express issuer depends upon the credential format

mDOCs express the issuer with the issuer certificate

Kristina: Being able to specify the issuer important

#### Notes from Thursday Unconference Session (2 of 2)

Mike: Do we need to be able to ask for multiple things at once or can we ask for things in different requests?

Kristina: Multiple consents or QR code scans result in a really bad user experience

Brian: Combined requests can have better UX or can have worse UX - especially in error cases

Kristina: We could imagine requesting multiple credentials and returning them one-by-one

That could make the error conditions clearer

Kristina: Selecting one of mDL or another format useful

Kristina: Combinations of credential type and formats could be useful

Mark: Achieving a level assurance could require one strong or two medium

Mark: Transformed claims is a missing feature

Brian: You can't transform signed data

Kristina: Regular expressions need to be blocked for security reasons

Mike: We may need format-specific query languages under some circumstances

For instance, for binary formats with binary claim names

Some format-specific query languages already exist