OpenPeppol Service Provider Identification Scheme (SPIS)

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1 Introduction

This document describes an Identification Scheme for Peppol Service Providers (SP), called the "Service Provider Identification Scheme" (SPIS).

The document starts with a section on the status, followed by goals and non-goals as well as the description of the new Identification Scheme.

The SPIS can be used in, but is not limited to, the following scenarios:

- Use as an identifier in X.509 Certificate Subject Common Names (CN)

- Use as an identifier of Service Providers in Reporting towards OpenPeppol

- Use as an identifier to send and receive messages between Peppol Service Providers via the Peppol Network

- Use to identify different Peppol domains for the same use case

1.1 References

[PFUOI]   Peppol Policy for use of Identifiers, https://docs.peppol.eu/edelivery/

1.2 State of play

Currently Peppol Service Providers are assigned a unique 6-digit number that is used in combination with an abbreviation of the Peppol Authority (PA) they have a Peppol Agreement with. These two elements are combined into something referred to as the "Peppol Seat ID" and looks like this example:

POP000270

The first character is always an uppercase 'P' (for Peppol), followed by the 2-letter abbreviation of the PA ('OP' stands for OpenPeppol) and 000270 is the unique number with leading zeroes.

This layout also implies, that if a SP changes the PA it has a Peppol Agreement with, this Seat ID also changes. If, for example, the owner would sign with the Belgian PA instead, the Seat ID would change to "PBE000270". It is important to note that the 6-digit part of the Seat ID is unique across all the Peppol Service Provides.

The Peppol Seat ID is currently used inside the "CN" element of the "Subject" field of the Peppol AP and Peppol SMP X.509 certificates.

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2 Goals

2.1 Goals for the new Identification Scheme

The new Identification Scheme is targeted exclusively for OpenPeppol Service Providers (being corner 2 and corner 3 in the 4-corner model).

The Identification Scheme should be both backward compatible to the currently used Identification Scheme (Peppol Seat ID) and forward looking to potential future use cases.

It should contain all the data necessary to make it eligible for a potential registration to the ISO 6523 ICD list.

3 Service Provider Identification Scheme

The OpenPeppol Service Provider Identification Scheme (SPIS) is based on the existing 6-digit number contained in the Peppol Seat ID.

The identification scheme consists of the following parts:

- The mandatory "Main ID"

- An optional "Peppol Use Case ID"

- An optional "Service Provider Suffix"

Identifiers based on this Identification Scheme should be referred to as "Service Provider ID" or "SPID".

3.1 Main ID

The Main ID is a 6-digit number and reflects the Service Provider unique identifier.

A Main ID MUST represent either an OpenPeppol Service Provider, a Peppol Authority or OpenPeppol.

Main IDs that have been used once, MUST NOT be reused at a later point in time for a different entity.

3.1.1 Constraints

The Main ID MUST consist of exactly 6 digits.

The smallest assignable Main ID is 000001, the largest assignable Main ID is 999999.

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The Main ID representation MUST always contain eventually leading zeroes, so that the length of the representation is always 6 characters.

The allowed characters for the Main ID are only the digits '0' (ASCII 48) to '9' (ASCII 57).

3.1.2 Examples

Examples for syntactically valid Main IDs are:

* 000001

* 000270

* 010101

* 999999

3.1.3 Authority on Main ID

The Main ID must be assigned by OpenPeppol. OpenPeppol should maintain an authoritative list of the SPID Main IDs already assigned to entities.

3.2 Peppol Use Case ID

Sometimes it is not sufficient to solely identify a Service Provider, but a SP needs to be identified in a specific process context. The primary intention behind the Peppol Use Case ID is being able to constraint the activities of a Service Provider to a specific part of a bigger process.

Example: The reception of MLS messages can be differentiated between the capability to receive Peppol Network Reporting MLS messages compared to the capability to receive MLS messages for regular business document exchanges.

3.2.1 Each Peppol Use Case ID is common for all Service Providers and can therefore be appended to all SPID Main IDs.Constraints

The Peppol Use Case ID is a 3- to 12-character alphanumeric value.

The allowed characters for the Peppol Use Case ID are 'A' (ASCII 65) to 'Z' (ASCII 90), 'a' (ASCII 97) to 'z' (ASCII 122), '0' (ASCII 48) to '9' (ASCII 57) and underscore ('_', ASCII 95).

If a Peppol Use Case ID is used in combination with the Main ID, it MUST immediately follow the Main ID with a dash character ('-', ASCII 45) as a separator.

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If the Peppol Use Case ID and the Service Provider Suffix (see section 3.3) are used together, the Main ID MUST come first, the Peppol Use Case ID is second and the Service Provider Suffix comes last.

Note: The dash character ('-') is not part of the character sets used for the Main ID or the Peppol Use Case ID themselves but is used as a separator between them. It does not require encoding in either XML documents or URLs.

Note: The separator character is required solely to improve the readability of SPIDs for humans.

3.2.2 Examples

Examples for syntactically valid Peppol Use Case IDs are:

- AAA

- Rprtng_MLS

- 1234567

Examples for syntactically valid Main IDs in combination with a valid Peppol Use Case ID:

- 000001-AAA

- 000001-Rprtng_MLS

- 000270-1234567

3.2.3 Reviewer and Publisher of Peppol Use Case IDs

eDEC CMB will maintain an authoritative list of the SPID Peppol Use Case IDs. The list will be published by eDEC together with the other code lists.

3.3 Service Provider Suffix

The Service Provider Suffix is similar to the Peppol Use Case ID, except that it can be assigned by any Service Provider itself. This suffix is helpful to resolve similar problems as the Peppol Use Case ID but is focused on the areas were SPs need to resolve problems that are on a SP local level and not on a Peppol Network level. The Service Provider Suffix MUST only be used in combination with a Peppol Use Case ID.

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3.3.1 Constraints

The Service Provider Suffix is a 3- to 24-character value.

The allowed characters for the Service Provider Suffix are the ones defined in POLICY 1 of [PFUOI] for Participant Identifiers.

If a Service Provider Suffix is used, it MUST be the last part using a dot character ('.', ASCII 46) as a separator.

Note: The dot character ('.') is a character outside of the character ranges of the Main ID and the Peppol Use Case ID and does not require encoding in either XML documents or URLs.

Note: The separator character of the Service Provider Suffix is different from the separator character of the Use Case ID to distinguish them in parsing.

Note: The usage of the dot character as part of a Service Provider Suffix is explicitly allowed.

3.3.2 Examples

Examples for syntactically valid Service Provider Suffixes are:

- AAA

- Japan.123

- 1234567

Examples for syntactically valid Main IDs in combination with a valid Peppol Use Case ID and valid Service Provider Suffix:

- 000001-MLS.001

- 000001-001.1234567

- 000270-Rprtng_MLS.Japan.123

3.3.3 Management of Service Provider Suffix

Each Peppol Service Provider is responsible for managing its own Service Provider Suffix list.

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3.4 Lexical Representation

Valid SPID values need to follow this case-insensitive regular expression:

`[0-9]{6}(-[0-9A-Z_]{3,12}(\.[0-9A-Z\-\._~]{3,24})?)?`

Hence, the maximum length of the identifier is 44 characters (6 characters for the Main ID, 1 character for the dash as separator, 12 characters for the Peppol Use Case ID, 1 character for the dot as separator, 24 characters for the Service Provider Suffix).

Due to the limited character set used, it can be easily used with all major character sets - from ASCII to any Unicode character set.

Note: Peppol Participant Identifiers must be treated case insensitive.

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