

National Identity Exchange Federation

Attribute Profile

Version 1.1

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1. Target Audience and Purpose

This document specifies technical interoperability requirements for connection to operational endpoints in the National Identity Exchange Federation (NIEF). The target audience includes technical representatives of organizations that intend to participate in NIEF as Identity Provider Organizations (IDPOs), Service Provider Organizations (SPOs), Service Consumer Organizations (SCOs), Attribute Provider Organizations (APOs), or some combination of these roles.¹ It also includes vendors, contractors, and consultants who, as part of their project or product implementation, have a requirement to establish technical interoperability with NIEF endpoints.

This document focuses only on issues of technical interoperability. It does not cover governance, policy, or other nontechnical interoperability requirements. For more information about those topics, see [NIEF Bylaws] and [NIEF OPP].

2. NIEF Identity Trust Framework and Terminology

This document is one component of the NIEF Identity Trust Framework. See [NIEF OPP] for more information about the full NIEF Identity Trust Framework.

This document contains language that uses technical terms related to federations, identity management, Web services, and other related technologies. To minimize confusion for readers, it is important that each technical term have a precise definition. Accordingly, all technical terms in this document are to be interpreted as described in [NIEF Terms].

3. References

Table 1 contains a list of references used within this document.

References	
Document ID	Document Name and URL if Applicable
NIEF Terms	NIEF Terminology Reference
NIEF Bylaws	NIEF Center Bylaws
NIEF OPP	NIEF Center Operational Policies and Procedures
RFC 2119	Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels

Table 1: References

4. Notation for Normative Content

This document contains both normative and non-normative content. Sections containing normative content are marked appropriately. In those sections, the key words “MUST,” “MUST NOT,” “REQUIRED,” “SHALL,” “SHALL NOT,” “SHOULD,” “SHOULD NOT,” “RECOMMENDED,” “MAY,” and “OPTIONAL” are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119].

¹ See [NIEF Terms] for terminology related to various organizational and technical roles in NIEF.

5. NIEF Attribute Profile

This *NIEF Attribute Profile* specifies the following constraints on NIEF Identity Provider Organizations (IDPOs) regarding assertion of attributes from the NIEF Attribute Registry.² Note that a requirement to support a particular attribute does NOT imply a requirement to assert a particular attribute in every assertion for a user.

1. Support for user attributes in the “NIEF-Mandatory” attribute bundle is MANDATORY. Every NIEF IDPO MUST be able to assert them on behalf of its users, when requested by NIEF Service Provider Organizations (SPOs). For the full list of attributes currently in this bundle, see the “NIEF-Mandatory” attribute bundle in the NIEF Attribute Registry at the following URL.

<https://nief.gfipm.net/attribute-registry/bundles/NIEF-Mandatory/>

2. Support for user attributes in the “NIEF-Highly-Recommended” attribute bundle is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, as they are required for access by two or more NIEF resources. Every NIEF IDPO SHOULD be able to assert them on behalf of its users, when requested by NIEF Service Provider Organizations (SPOs). For the full list of attributes currently in this bundle, see the “NIEF-Highly-Recommended” attribute bundle in the NIEF Attribute Registry at the following URL.

<https://nief.gfipm.net/attribute-registry/bundles/NIEF-Highly-Recommended/>

3. Support for user attributes in the “NIEF Recommended” attribute bundle is RECOMMENDED, as they are required for access by at least one NIEF resource. Every NIEF IDPO is encouraged to be able to assert them on behalf of users, when requested by NIEF Service Provider Organizations (SPOs). For the full list of attributes currently in this bundle, see the “NIEF Recommended” attribute bundle in the NIEF Attribute Registry at the following URL.

<https://nief.gfipm.net/attribute-registry/bundles/NIEF-Recommended/>

² The NIEF Attribute Registry is available online at <https://nief.gfipm.net/attribute-registry/>.