

nehta

Qualified Identifiers

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Preface

Document Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe how identifiers are represented as Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI).

Scope

This document only covers identifying parties in NEHTA specifications that use the XML format to represent data. In particular, this includes data in NEHTA Web services specifications.

Intended Audience

This is a technical document.

This document should be read and understood by:

- Solution Architect:
 - To understand how qualified identifiers are represented.
- Developer:
 - To implement qualified identifiers.
- Tester:
 - To evaluate whether an implementation conforms to qualified identifiers.

The reader is expected to understand URI, URL and URNs.

Document status

This document is a draft and has been released for comment and feedback purposes.

Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

For a lists of abbreviations, acronyms and abbreviations, see the [Definitions section](#) at the end of the document, on page 3.

References and Related Documents

For a list of all referenced documents, see the [References](#) at the end of the document, on page 4.

Conformance

The keywords **MUST**, **MUST NOT**, **SHOULD**, **SHOULD NOT**, and **MAY** in this document are to be interpreted as described in IETF's RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

1 Qualified Identifiers

1.1 Background

There are a wide variety of identifiers that can be used.

When a particular identifier is used, the type of identifier needs to be known to properly interpret it. An identifier would be incorrectly used if it is treated as a different type of identifier.

A *qualified identifier* is defined as a qualifier and an identifier. The qualifier uniquely identifies the type of identifier being used.

1.2 Qualified identifiers as URIs

1.2.1 Syntax

A qualified identifier **MUST** be a URI-reference as defined in section 4 of [RFC2329].

A qualified identifier URI **MUST** be based on an absolute URI.

A qualified identifier URI **MUST NOT** be based on a relative URI.

A qualified identifier URI **MUST** always contain a fragment identifier.

That is, a qualified identifier comprises of an absoluteURI, the “#” character, and a fragment identifier. The terms “absoluteURI” and “fragment identifier” are defined in the specification of URI [RFC2329].

The absoluteURI part of the URI **MUST** be the qualifier for the type of identifier being used.

The fragment identifier part of the URI **MUST** be the identifier value.¹

1.2.2 Qualifiers

This document does not define any qualifiers.

Qualifiers will be defined in other specification documents.

1.2.3 Examples

For example, if a particular identifier type was assigned the qualifier:

```
http://ns.nehta.gov.au/Id/Const/UhiHpio/1.0
```

and a particular entity was assigned the identifier:

```
8036000000000001
```

Then the qualified identifier would be:

```
http://ns.nehta.gov.au/Id/Const/UhiHpio/1.0#8036000000000001
```

A different identifier type would be assigned a different qualifier, for example:

```
http://ns.nehta.gov.au/Id/Const/UhiIhi/1.0
```

and a different entity is assigned the identifier:

```
8036000000000001
```

¹ The use of fragment identifiers is not permitted by the Uniform Resource Name (URN) specification [RFC2141], even though it is permitted in URIs [RFC2329] and a URN is a type of URI. In NEHTA specifications, this is not a problem because NEHTA uses URLs as qualifiers, where the fragment identifier is permitted.

Then the qualified identifier would be:

<http://ns.nehta.gov.au/Id/Const/UhiIhi/1.0#8036000000000001>

Note that the identifier (the number) is the same in both examples, but the qualified identifiers are different because they are different types of identifiers.

Definitions

This section explains the specialised terminology used in this document.

Shortened Terms

This table lists abbreviations and acronyms in alphabetical order.

Term	Description
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
URN	Uniform Resource Name

Glossary

This table lists specialised terminology in alphabetical order.

Term	Description
Identifier	A value used to refer to an entity. The identifier only has meaning within the scope of the type of identifier that was issued.
Qualified identifier	A globally unique identifier that is made up of a qualifier and an identifier.

References

Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- [RFC2119] IETF, *RFC 2119: Keywords for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels*, S. Bradner, March 1997, <http://ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>
- [RFC2141] IETF, *RFC 2141: URN Syntax*, R. Moats, May 1997, <http://ietf.org/rfc/rfc2141.txt>
- [RFC2396] IETF, *RFC 2396: Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax*, T. Berners-Lee, R. Fielding, U. C. Irvine, L. Masinter, August 1998, <http://ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt>