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# Message Authentication

This chapter defines how message processing runtimes invoke authentication modules to secure or validate request and response messages. It describes the interactions that occur between message processing runtimes and authentication modules to cause security guarantees to be enforced on request and response messages.

The subsections of this chapter establish the common requirements that pertain to the use of this specification in a generic message processing context. Profiles are expected to be defined to establish the specific requirements pertaining to the use of this specification in a particular message processing context.

The API defined by this specification is intended to have more general applicability than the contexts of use defined in this specification. To that end, a runtime that provides compatible Java definitions of the interfaces defined by this specification and compatible Java implementations of the defined classes satisfies the baseline compatibility requirements of this specification.

## 2.1 Authentication

As defined in Section 1.2, “Typical Runtime Use Model,” a message processing runtime’s interaction with the interfaces defined by this specification is divided into the following five phases:

1. **Acquire AuthConfigProvider** – Runtime acquires a provider of authentication context configuration objects for the relevant messaging layer and application identifier.
2. **Acquire AuthConfig** – Runtime acquires the authentication context configuration object for the application from the provider.
3. **Acquire AuthContext Identifier** – Runtime acquires the authentication context identifier corresponding to the messages to be processed.
4. **Acquire Authentication Context** – Runtime uses the context identifier to obtain the corresponding authentication context.
5. **Process Message(s)** – Runtime uses the authentication context to process the messages.

The remaining sections of this chapter define the requirements that must be satisfied by messaging runtimes and providers in support of each of the five interactions identified above.