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Standard**

**ISO/IEC 26137**

**Information technology — OpenID  
connect — OpenID connect back-  
channel logout 1.0 incorporating  
errata set 1**

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This document was prepared by the OpenID Foundation (OIDF) (as OpenID Connect Back-Channel Logout 1.0 incorporating errata set 1) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

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## Abstract

OpenID Connect 1.0 is a simple identity layer on top of the OAuth 2.0 protocol. It enables Clients to verify the identity of the End-User based on the authentication performed by an Authorization Server, as well as to obtain basic profile information about the End-User in an interoperable and REST-like manner.

This specification defines a logout mechanism that uses direct back-channel communication between the OP and RPs being logged out; this differs from front-channel logout mechanisms, which communicate logout requests from the OP to RPs via the User Agent.

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# Information technology — OpenID Connect — OpenID Connect Back-Channel Logout 1.0 incorporating errata set 1

## 1. Introduction

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OpenID Connect 1.0 is a simple identity layer on top of the OAuth 2.0 [\[RFC6749\]](#) protocol. It enables Clients to verify the identity of the End-User based on the authentication performed by an Authorization Server, as well as to obtain basic profile information about the End-User in an interoperable and REST-like manner.

This specification defines a logout mechanism that uses direct back-channel communication between the OP and RPs being logged out; this differs from front-channel logout mechanisms, which communicate logout requests from the OP to RPs via the User Agent.

An upside of back-channel communication is that it can be more reliable than communication through the User Agent, since in the front-channel, the RP's browser session must be active for the communication to succeed. (If the RP's browser tab was subsequently used to navigate to an unrelated page, the RP session will be active unless the user uses the back button to return to it.) Both the [OpenID Connect Session Management 1.0](#) [OpenID.Session] and [OpenID Connect Front-Channel Logout 1.0](#) [OpenID.FrontChannel] specifications use front-channel communication, which communicate logout requests from the OP to RPs via the User Agent.

A downside of back-channel communication is that the session state maintained between the OP and RP over the front-channel, such as cookies and HTML5 local storage, are not available when using back-channel communication. As a result, all needed state must be explicitly communicated between the parties. Furthermore, RPs must implement an application-specific method of terminating RP sessions with the OP upon receiving back-channel logout requests; this can be more complicated than simply clearing cookies and HTML5 local storage state, which is often all that has to happen to implement logout in response to front-channel logout requests.

Another significant limitation of back-channel logout is that the RP's back-channel logout URI must be reachable from all the OPs used. This means, for instance, that the RP cannot be behind a firewall or NAT when used with public OPs.

The [OpenID Connect RP-Initiated Logout 1.0](#) [OpenID.RPInitiated] specification complements these specifications by defining a mechanism for a Relying Party to request that an OpenID Provider log out the End-User.

This specification can be used separately from or in combination with OpenID Connect RP-Initiated Logout 1.0, OpenID Connect Session Management 1.0, and/or OpenID Connect Front-Channel Logout 1.0.

The previous version of this specification is:

- [OpenID Connect Back-Channel Logout 1.0 \(final\)](#) [OpenID.BackChannel.Final]

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## 1.1. Requirements Notation and Conventions

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The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [RFC2119].

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