

The logo icon consists of a grey circular arrow pointing right, with a blue vertical bar and a grey arrow pointing right from its center.

OpenID **Connect**

explained

**What is
OpenID Connect?**

OpenID Connect is an internet standard for

**Single
Sign-On
(SSO)**

**Identity
Provision
(IdP)**

OpenID Connect supports

**web
clients**

**mobile / native
clients**

The OpenID Connect protocol distilled

1. Need to authenticate a user?
2. Send user to their OpenID provider
(via browser / HTTP 302 redirect)
3. Retrieve identity token

The key OpenID Connect object



A client application receives an ID token from the OpenID Provider

The ID token



The ID token resembles the concept of an **identity card**, in a standard digital format that clients can verify

- Asserts the **user's identity**.
- Has an **issuing authority** (the IdP).
- May specify **how** (strength, factors) and **when** the user was authenticated.
- Is generated for a particular **audience** (client).
- Has an **issue** and an **expiration** date.
- May contain **details** such as the user's name, email address and other profile information.
- Is **digitally signed**, so the intended recipients can verify it.
- May optionally be **encrypted** for confidentiality.

The ID token internals

```
{  
  "iss"   : "https://c2id.com",  
  "sub"   : "alice",  
  "aud"   : "s6BhdRkqt3",  
  "nonce" : "n-0S6_WzA2Mj",  
  "exp"   : 1311281970,  
  "iat"   : 1311280970,  
  "acr"   : "https://loa.c2id.com/high",  
  "amr"   : [ "mfa", "pwd", "otp" ]  
}
```

- Encoded as a JSON Web Token (**JWT**).
- The claims about the authenticated end-user (subject) are packaged in a simple **JSON object**.
- Digitally signed with the OpenID Provider's **RSA** or **EC key**.
- **URL-safe**.

How to obtain an ID token?

**Via the OAuth 2.0
protocol flows**

Choose an OAuth 2.0 flow to suit your app

- **Authorisation code flow** (recommended)
 - for typical web and mobile apps
 - allows authentication of the client
 - tokens retrieved via back channel
- **Implicit flow**
 - for JavaScript applications that run in the browser
 - the client is **not** authenticated
 - tokens returned via front-channel, revealed to browser
- **Hybrid flow**
 - allows app front-end and back-end to receive tokens independently
 - rarely used

http://openid.net/specs/openid-connect-core-1_0.html#Authentication

The OpenID auth request (code flow)

Send the user to the OpenID provider with an authentication request:

```
https://openid.provider.com/authorize?  
  response_type=code  
  &scope=openid  
  &client_id=s6BhdRkqt3  
  &state=af0ifjsldkj  
  &redirect_uri=https%3A%2Fclient.example.org%2Fcb
```

The OpenID auth response (code flow)

If the user is successfully authenticated the OpenID provider will redirect the browser back to the client with an authorisation code:

```
https://client.example.org/cb?  
code=SpIxIOBeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA  
&state=af0ifjsldkj
```

The OpenID auth response (code flow)

If the authentication request cannot be fulfilled for some reason the OpenID provider may return an error code:

```
https://client.example.org/cb?  
error=access_denied  
&state=af0ifjsldkj
```

Exchange code for ID token (code flow)

Makes a back channel request to exchange the code for an ID token. The client authenticates itself to the server.

POST /token HTTP/1.1

Host: openid.provider.com

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Authorization: Basic czZCaGRSa3F0MzpnWDFmQmF0M2JW

grant_type=authorization_code

&code=SpIxIOBeZQQYbYS6WxSbIA

&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclient.example.org%2Fcb

UserInfo

```
{  
  "sub"           : "alice",  
  "name"          : "Alice Adams",  
  "given_name"    : "Alice",  
  "family_name"   : "Adams",  
  "email"         : "alice@wonderland.net",  
  "email_verified" : true,  
  "phone_number"  : "+359 (99) 88200305",  
  "profile"       : "https://c2id.com/users/alice",  
  "ldap_groups"   : [ "audit", "admin" ]  
}
```

OpenID Connect defines an extensible JSON schema for releasing consented user details to client applications

Requesting UserInfo with the OpenID auth request

Send user to OpenID provider with auth request:

```
https://openid.provider.com/authorize?  
  response_type=code  
  &scope=openid%20profile%20email  
  &client_id=s6BhdRkqt3  
  &state=af0ifjsldkj  
  &redirect_uri=https%3A%20%2Fclient.example.org%2Fcb
```

The access token



Resembles the concept of a physical **token** or **ticket**. Permits bearer access to a resource or service. Has an expiration and other attributes associated with it.

- **OAuth 2.0 access tokens** are employed in OpenID Connect to allow the client application to retrieve consented **user details** from a **UserInfo endpoint**.
- The server may extend the access token **scope** to allow the client access to other attributes and resources.
- The client treats the access token as a **simple opaque string** to be passed with the HTTP request to the protected resource.

UserInfo request with access token

Put the obtained bearer token in the authorization header of your outgoing HTTPS request:

```
GET /userinfo HTTP/1.1  
Host: server.example.com  
Authorization: Bearer SIAV32hkKG
```

UserInfo response

Sample response from the UserInfo endpoint, with the consented details (claims / assertions) about the user:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: application/json

```
{
  "sub"           : "alice",
  "name"         : "Alice Adams",
  "email"        : "alice@wonderland.net",
  "email_verified" : true,
  "phone_number" : "+359 (99) 100200305",
  "https://c2id.com/groups" : [ "audit", "admin" ]
}
```

The two OpenID Connect tokens summed up

ID Token



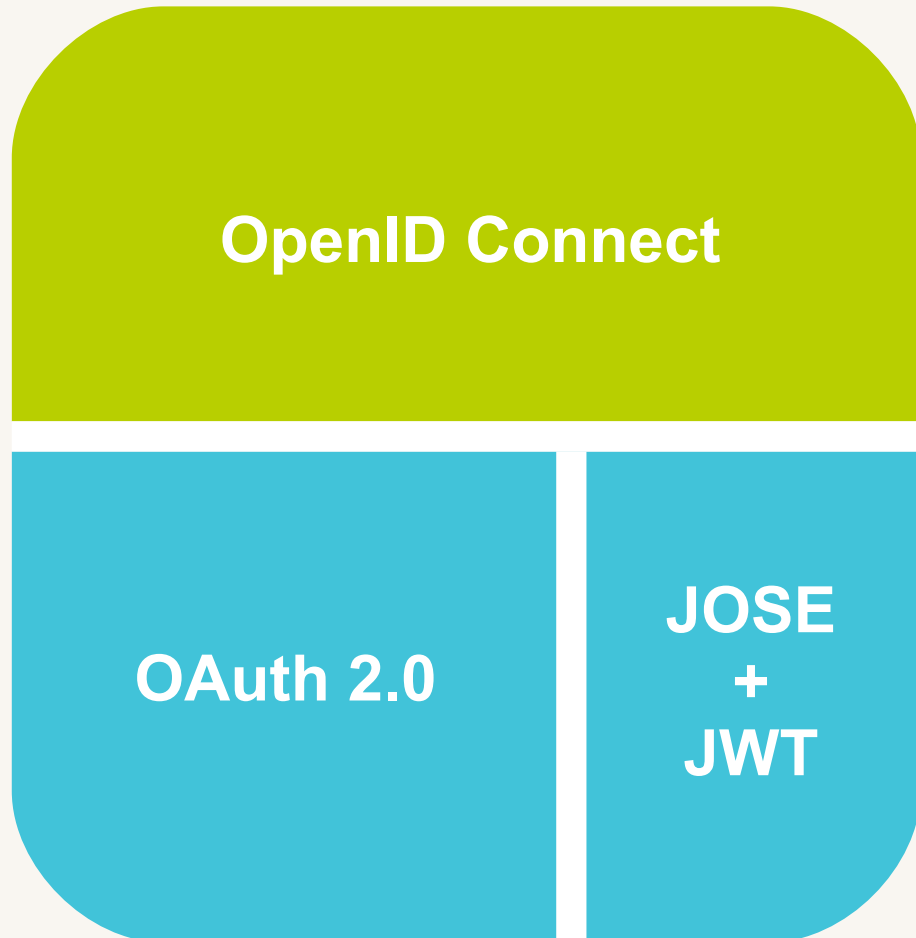
asserts the user's identity
(user ID)

Access Token



optional, to retrieve
consented UserInfo

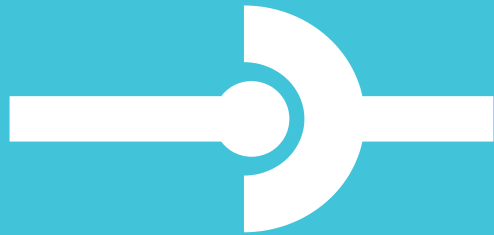
OpenID Connect rides on top of OAuth 2.0



- User identity is asserted by means of [JSON Web Tokens](#) (JWT)
- Clients use standard [OAuth 2.0](#) flows to obtain ID tokens
- Guiding mantra: [Simple clients](#), complexity absorbed by the server
- Any method for [authenticating users](#) – password, FIDO, 3rd party, etc.
- JSON schema for [UserInfo](#)
- Supports optional OpenID provider [discovery](#), dynamic client [registration](#) and [session management](#).
- [Extensible](#) to suit many use cases.
- [Federation](#) is possible.

OpenID Connect provider endpoints

HTTP Endpoints



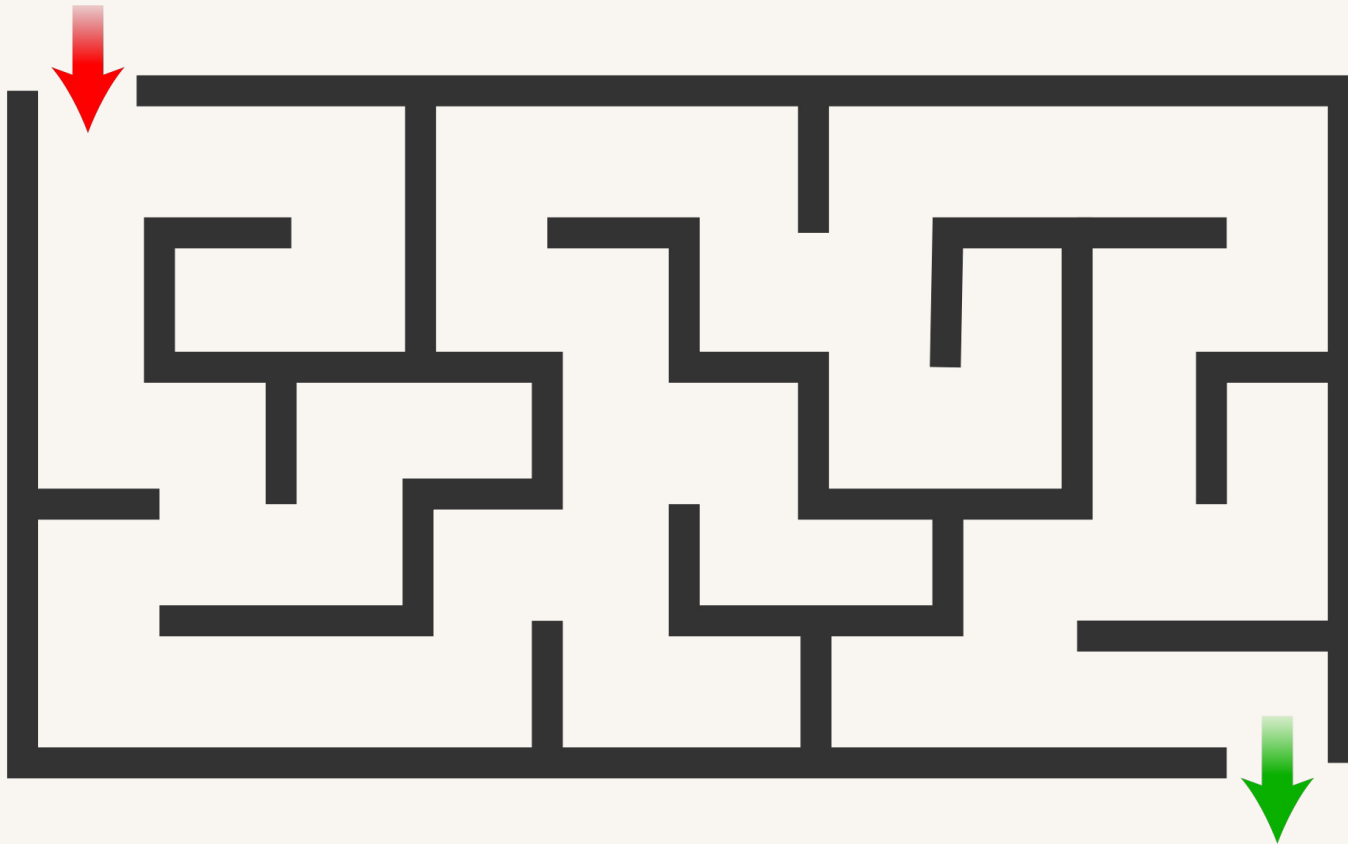
- Core provider endpoints:
 - [Authorisation](#) endpoint
 - [Token](#) endpoint
 - [UserInfo](#) endpoint
- Optional provider endpoints:
 - [WebFinger](#) endpoint
 - [Provider metadata](#) URI
 - [Provider JWK set](#) URI
 - [Client registration](#) endpoint
 - [Session management](#) endpoint
 - [End session](#) endpoint

Optional endpoints

- **WebFinger** : Enables dynamic discovery of the OpenID Connect provider for a user based on their email address.
- **Provider configuration URI** : Well-known URL of a JSON document advertising the endpoints and capabilities of the OpenID provider. Helps clients configure their OpenID Connect requests.
- **Provider JWK set URI** : JSON document containing the OpenID provider's public (typically RSA) keys in JSON Web Key (JWK) format. These keys are used to sign the issued ID tokens and other artefacts.
- **Client registration** : Enables client apps to register dynamically, then update their details or deregister. Registration may be open (public).
- **Session management** : Enables client apps to check if a logged in user has an active session with the OpenID provider. Also to signal logout.
- **End session** : Enables clients to ask the OpenID provider to log out a user.

The future: dynamic discovery + client registration

alice@wonderland.net



ID token for Alice

The specifications

- OpenID Connect: <http://openid.net/connect>
- OAuth 2.0 (RFC 6749): <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6749>
- OAuth 2.0 Bearer token (RFC 6750): <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6750>
- JSON Web Token: <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7519>
- JSON Web Signature: <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7515>
- JSON Web Encryption: <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7516>
- JSON Web Key: <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7517>

Thank You!

Q + A

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<https://connect2id.com/assets/oidc-explained.pdf>