

2 **Forwarding Service V1.0**

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21 **Abstract:**

22 This document contains the normative specifications for XRI forwarding service – a  
23 means of creating and managing XRIs that persistently identify a resource and forward to  
24 the current URI for the resource.

25 **Status:**

26 This document is a Working Draft and may be subject to further revision at any time.  
27 Subsequent versions will be identified by a new version identifier and date (reflected in a  
28 new document i-name and i-number).

29 Comments should be posted to the appropriate page of the XDI.org I-Services  
30 Specifications (ISS) wiki at <http://iss.xdi.org>, or submitted to the ISS Comment mailing list  
31 at <http://lists.xdi.org/listinfo.cgi/iss-comment-xdi.org>.

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## 67 1 Introduction

68 The purpose of this specification is to define a service for creating and managing XRIs, called  
69 Forwarding XRIs, that persistently identify a resource and forward to a specific URI, called a  
70 Target URI, that represents the current network location of the resource.

71 Forwarding XRIs serve several purposes:

- 72 • *Maintaining persistent links to resources whose semantic names or network locations*  
73 *may change over time.* For example, the Forwarding XRI for a blog could always remain  
74 the same even if the blog was moved to different hosting companies or DNS domains  
75 over its lifetime.
- 76 • *Simplifying discovery of a resource by identifying it with a well-known i-name or i-number.*  
77 For example, the well-known i-name `+blog` could be used by any personal or business i-  
78 name registrant to create a Forwarding XRI that identifies and forwards to their default  
79 blog, e.g., `=person/(+blog)` or `@company/(+blog)`. The use of i-name dictionaries  
80 for standard resource names makes it trivial for people to remember and compose the  
81 XRI they need to reach a resource.
- 82 • *Simplifying online resource management.* One set of Forwarding XRIs, managed via one  
83 i-name account at an i-broker, can be used to unify digital assets spread across any  
84 number of DNS domains and websites.

### 85 1.1 Related Specifications

86 This specification has a dependency on the following specifications.

- 87 • *The OASIS XRI Specifications* specified by the OASIS XRI Technical Committee,  
88 including XRI Syntax 2.0 [[XRISyntax](#)], XRI Resolution 2.0 [[XRIResolution](#)], and XRI  
89 Metadata 2.0 [[XRIMetadata](#)]. These specifications govern the technical interoperability of  
90 XRI identifiers and resolution protocols.
- 91 • *The XDI.org OpenID Authentication Service Specification* as defined on the XDI.org ISS  
92 website at [[XDI.orgISS](#)].
- 93 • *The XDI.org SAML Authentication Service Specification* as defined on the XDI.org ISS  
94 website at [[XDI.orgISS](#)].

### 95 1.2 Terminology and Notation

#### 96 1.2.1 Definitions

97 All terms used in this specification as First Letter Uppercase or as an all-uppercase abbreviation  
98 are defined in Appendix A. This specification also includes by reference the XRI glossary as  
99 specified in Appendix C of [[XRISyntax](#)] and the XDI.org Global Services Specifications  
100 Definitions as specified in Appendix A of [[XDI.orgGSS](#)].

#### 101 1.2.2 Keywords

102 The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD  
103 NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as  
104 described in [[RFC2119](#)]. When these words are not capitalized in this document, they are meant  
105 in their natural language sense.

### 106 **1.2.3 ABNF Notation**

107 | All ABNF (Augmented Backus-Naur Form) in the GSS uses the notation defined in [\[RFC2234\]](#).  
108 | Note that a number of standard ABNF productions, including the HEXDIG production, are also  
109 | defined in RFC 2234.  
110 | ABNF productions are in indented green text as shown below.

111 | `example = this is an example production`

### 112 **1.2.4 Examples**

113 | Example XRIs or XML documents in this specification are in indented grey text as shown below.

114 | `xri://example.xri.authority/(+example.path)`

### 115 **1.2.5 Variables**

116 | All items that appear inside squiggly brackets "{}" are variables that do *not* include the squiggly  
117 | brackets.

### 118 **1.2.6 XRIs and HXRIs**

119 | All XRIs used in this specification are shown in XRI-normal form as defined in [\[XRISyntax\]](#). All  
120 | such XRIs can be converted to the equivalent IRI-normal form or URI-normal form as defined in  
121 | [\[XRISyntax\]](#). In addition, all such XRIs may be expressed in an HTTP URI format (called an  
122 | *HXR*) by prefixing the the URI-normal form of the XRI string (called the query XRI or *QXR*) with  
123 | the address of the XDI.org XRI proxy resolver `http://xri.net` or any other valid XRI proxy  
124 | resolver address. Note that QXRIs SHOULD NOT use the prefix `xri://`. Following are two  
125 | example HXRIs.

126 | `http://xri.net/=example.person`  
127 | `http://xri.net/@example*xri*authority/(+example.path)`

## 128 2 Forwarding Service Endpoints

### 129 2.1 Forwarding Service Endpoint Metadata

130 | [Table 1](#) defines the requirements for a Forwarding Service Endpoint conforming to this  
 131 | specification. This information is also published on  
 132 | <http://iss.xdi.org/moin.cgi/ServiceEndpointDefinitions>, however [Table 1](#) is authoritative.

Element	Required/Optional	Element Value	Attribute Value
ProviderID	See note 1	I-Number of Forwarding Service Provider	N/A
Type #1	Required	xri://+i-service*(+forwarding)*(\$v*1.0)	select="true"
Type #2	See note 2	Empty element	match="null"
Media Type	See note 3	Empty element	match="default"
Path #1	<a href="#">Optional – see note 4</a>	(+index)	select="true"
Path #2	<a href="#">See note 4</a>	Empty element	match="default"
URI	Required – see sec 2.2	URI to forwarding service (see notes <a href="#">5</a> and <a href="#">6</a> )	append="qxri"

133 | Table 1: Requirements for a Forwarding Service Endpoint conforming to this specification.

134 | Notes:

- 135 | 1. XDI.org-Accredited I-Brokers and their authorized resellers are REQUIRED to have a  
 136 | ProviderID in the form of a valid global or community i-number as defined in section 4.3.1  
 137 | of [\[XDI.orgGSS\]](#). This value SHOULD be used as the ProviderID for a Forwarding  
 138 | Service Endpoint for which the XDI.org-Accredited I-Broker or authorized reseller is the  
 139 | Forwarding Service Provider. (It is anticipated that in future versions of this specification,  
 140 | this ProviderID value will be REQUIRED for trust verification purposes.) Other trust  
 141 | networks may set their own requirements for this element.
- 142 | 2. This setting is RECOMMENDED in order to make Forwarding Service the default service  
 143 | endpoint if [no service type is specified in the resolution request](#). See the service endpoint  
 144 | selection rules in section 8 of [\[XRIResolution\]](#).
- 145 | 3. The Media Type element is only required if another Media Type element is also specified  
 146 | for this endpoint; otherwise it is optional because the implied value of the match attribute  
 147 | if no Media Type element is present is match="default".
- 148 | 4. [The inclusion of a Path element with the contents \(+index\) is RECOMMENDED but not](#)  
 149 | [required. If present, this path MUST forward to a Forwarding Index Page as defined in](#)  
 150 | [section 6. Also, if any non-empty Path element is included, at least one Path element](#)  
 151 | [must include the attribute match="default" in order for this service endpoint to be](#)  
 152 | [selected for other non-matching QXRI path values.](#)
- 153 | 5. Use of an HTTPS URI is OPTIONAL but RECOMMENDED.
- 154 | 6. For Forwarding Service Providers, the RECOMMENDED third-level DNS hosting name  
 155 | for Contact Service is forwarding, e.g. forwarding.example.com.

Deleted: Required  
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Deleted: the QXRI has a path that is not matched by another service endpoint

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering  
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### 156 2.2 Use of the URI Append Attribute

157 | Forwarding Service depends on the value of the URI append attribute being set to  
 158 | append="qxri" because this enables the Forwarding Service to receive the original QXRI  
 159 | given to an XRI resolver (the Forwarding XRI) and do the mapping to the Target URI selected by  
 160 | the Forwarding Service Subscriber.

161 Note that because the entire QXRI is passed, a Forwarding Service can map Forwarding XRIs  
162 that contain the same path to different Target URIs if the Forwarding XRIs use different i-names,  
163 even if these i-names or i-numbers are registered to the same XRI authority. For example, the  
164 following two Forwarding XRIs could forward to different blogs even though  
165 =example.professional.name and =example.personal.nickname are i-name  
166 synonyms that represent the same person.

```
167 http://xri.net/=example.professional.name/(+blog)  
168 http://xri.net/=example.personal.nickname/(+blog)
```

## 169 2.3 Examples

170 | [Figure 1](#) is an example of a Forwarding Service Endpoint that offers both http and https URIs. It  
171 has a single Path element where match="default" so it will service any QXRI that has a path  
172 component (and which does not match another service endpoint).

```
173 <Service>  
174   <Type select="true">  
175     xri://+i-service*(+forwarding)*($v*1.0)  
176   </Type>  
177   <Type match="null"/>  
178   <MediaType match="default">  
179     <Path>(+index)</Path>  
180   <Path match="default"/>  
181   <URI append="qxri">http://forwarding.example.com/</URI>  
182   <URI append="qxri">https://forwarding.example.com/</URI>  
183 </Service>
```

184 Figure 1: Example Forwarding Service Endpoint #1.

185 | If [Figure 1](#) were the Forwarding Service Endpoint for the XRI =example, then the following  
186 Forwarding XRI...

```
187 =example/(+blog)
```

188 ...would be transformed by an XRI resolver into the following URI set:

```
189 http://forwarding.example.com/=example/(+blog)  
190 https://forwarding.example.com/=example/(+blog)
```

191 | [Figure 2](#) is an example of a Forwarding Service Endpoint that includes two explicit Path elements.  
192 This approach allows a Forwarding Service Provider to create different Forwarding Service  
193 Endpoints to service specific “subtrees” of Forwarding XRIs that all begin with the same path—in  
194 this case, the plain text string seattle or the XRI cross-reference (+seattle).

```
195 <Service>  
196   <Type select="true">  
197     xri://+i-service*(+forwarding)*($v*1.0)  
198   </Type>  
199   <Type match="null"/>  
200   <MediaType match="default">  
201     <Path>seattle</Path>  
202     <Path>(+seattle)</Path>  
203   <URI append="qxri">  
204     http://forwarding.example.com/tours/  
205   </URI>  
206 </Service>
```

207 Figure 2: Example Forwarding Service Endpoint #2.

208 | If [Figure 2](#) were the Forwarding Service Endpoint for the XRI =example, then the following  
209 Forwarding XRI...

210 `=example/seattle/sightseeing`

211 ...would be transformed by an XRI resolver into the following URI:

212 `http://forwarding.example.com/tours/=example/seattle/sightseeing`

213

---

### 3 Redirecting Forwarding XRIs to Target URIs

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215

The primary function of Forwarding Service is to redirect Forwarding XRIs to Target URIs. The requirements for performing this service are:

216  
217  
218

1. When a Forwarding Service receives an HTTP or HTTPS GET request for a Forwarding XRI (passed as the QXRI as described in section 2.2), it MUST determine if it has a mapping to a Target URI.

219

2. If the mapping exists, it MUST return an HTTP or HTTPS 3XX redirect to the Target URI.

220

3. If the mapping does not exist, it MAY return either:

221

- An HTTP error message indicating that the resource was not found.

222

- A Forwarding Error Page (see section 0).



223

---

## 4 Forwarding Dictionaries

224  
225  
226  
227

After persistent linking, the second key benefit of Forwarding XRIs is simplified resource discovery and naming. This is provided via XRI dictionary services—collections of i-names and i-numbers that use the XRI global context symbol “+” to indicate that they represent generic dictionary concepts for the express purpose of establishing shared semantics.

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229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234

Part of XDI.org’s charter [\[XDI.org\]](http://XDI.org) is the establishment of internationalized XRI dictionary services for the general public—see section 9. Until these + registry services are operational and can be queried dynamically, however, it is RECOMMENDED that Forwarding Service Providers enable Forwarding Service Subscribers to automatically construct Forwarding XRIs from the +names on the following dictionary lists of English language terms. For example, a Forwarding Service configuration interface could provide drop-down lists for each dictionary type to enable a Manager to simply select a name from the dictionary in order to compose a Forwarding XRI.

235

### 4.1 Personal Dictionary

236  
237

It is RECOMMENDED to use this dictionary list as the default English dictionary for personal i-names (=names at all levels of delegation).

238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247

- +blog
- +call
- +chat
- +email
- +home
- +links
- +photos
- +resume
- +songs
- +work

248

### 4.2 Business/Organizational Dictionary

249  
250  
251

It is RECOMMENDED to use this dictionary list as the default English dictionary for business/organizational i-names (@names) or delegated i-names (\*names) assigned in a community context.

252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261

- +about
- +account
- +blog
- +call
- +chat
- +customer.service
- +email
- +home
- +investor.relations
- +links

- 262 • +login
- 263 • +management
- 264 • +partners
- 265 • +products
- 266 • +services
- 267 • +technical.support

### 268 **4.3 Specifying a Context**

269 Some Forwarding XRIs may apply in multiple contexts. For example, a +call or +chat XRI may be  
270 narrowed to the context of a specific community or network, such as Skype, Yahoo, Google,  
271 MSN, etc. To specify this context, a Forwarding XRI MAY append the context as an @name  
272 following the dictionary +name. Examples:

```
273 http://xri.net/=example/+call@skype  
274 https://xri.net/=example/+chat@yahoo
```

275 Note that the path components of the examples above do not use valid XRI cross-reference  
276 syntax. XRI proxy resolvers MAY redirect these to syntactically valid XRIs as shown below.

```
277 http://xri.net/=example/(+call)*(@skype)  
278 https://xri.net/=example/(+chat)*(@yahoo)
```

279 Forwarding Service Providers SHOULD be prepared to accept both these forms as synonyms for  
280 the same Target URI.

281

---

## 5 Forwarding Error Pages

282

A Forwarding Service Provider MAY provide a Forwarding Error Page to be returned for any

283

Forwarding XRI request that does not currently map to a Target URI. This page MAY:

284

- Suggest alternative Forwarding XRIs.

285

- Include a link to the XRI registrant's contact page [\[ISS-Contact\]](#).

286

- Be a Forwarding Index Page (section 6) with a custom message explaining that the Forwarding XRI does not currently have a forwarding address and suggesting alternative Forwarding XRIs.

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288

289

- Provide other contextual information about the XRI registrant that helps the party activating the Forwarding XRI reach the intended resource.

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## 6 Forwarding Index Pages

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A Forwarding Service Subscriber may wish for all or a portion of their Forwarding XRIs to be publicly accessible via an (X)HTML page called a Forwarding Index Page. In the context of Forwarding Service, the dictionary XRI (+index) is reserved for this purpose. To request a Forwarding Index Page (if available), the path segment (+index) can be appended as the path after an XRI authority segment. For example, following is an HXRI for the Forwarding Index Page for the XRI authority =example:

298

```
http://xri.net/=example/(+index)
```

299

A Forwarding Index Page MAY present a collection of Forwarding XRIs in any manner desired, e.g., anything from a simple text list of HXRIs to a fully annotated graphical "My Links" page.

300

---

## 301 **7 Configuration**

302 The Forwarding Service Provider SHOULD provide a configuration interface that enables a  
303 Subscriber to easily create Forwarding XRIs and map them to Target URIs.

304 If a Web configuration interface is offered, the Forwarding Service Provider MUST allow the  
305 Subscriber to authenticate using one or more of the Subscriber's Authentication Service  
306 Endpoints as defined by [\[XDI.orgISS\]](#).

307 The configuration interface SHOULD at a minimum enable a Subscriber to:

- 308 • Create, edit, and delete Forwarding XRIs and Target URIs.
- 309 • Map a Forwarding XRI to a Target URI.
- 310 • Manage a Forwarding Error Page.

311 The configuration interface MAY enable a Subscriber to:

- 312 • Create and manage a Forwarding Error Page (see section 5).
- 313 • Create and manage a Forwarding Index Page (see section 6).
- 314 • Control the logging associated with processing forwarding requests.
- 315 • Control notifications associated with Forwarding Service activity.
- 316 • Display Forwarding XRIs within other i-services such as a Contact Page ([\[ISS-Contact\]](#)).

317 The configuration interface MAY include additional features and functions not specified here.

---

## 318 8 Activation and Confirmation

319 Activation of a i-service may be independent of the provisioning of the service endpoint by an i-  
320 broker, so existence of a service endpoint in an XRDS document does not necessarily mean that  
321 the i-service is active. To enable other service providers and applications to confirm activation of  
322 an i-service, a Forwarding Service Provider MUST support the following self-description interface.

323 To indicate that a specified i-service is active on a service endpoint URI, an HTTP GET request to  
324 the fully-constructed service endpoint URI (see section 8.4 of [\[XRIResolution\]](#)) with a Accept  
325 header value of `text/uri-list` MUST return:

- 326 1. An HTTP status of 200 OK (or a 3xx redirect that ultimately results in a 200 OK).
- 327 2. A valid, non-empty instance of a URI list [\[RFC2483\]](#) containing the URI identifying the  
328 service endpoint type as specified in [Table 1](#). (Note that the URI list MAY also contain  
329 additional URIs identifying other service types that are also active on this same endpoint.)

330 Any other response, including a 404 Not Found, a 406 Not Acceptable, an empty URI list,  
331 or a URI list that does not include the URI identifying the specified service type, indicates the  
332 specified service type is not active on the endpoint.

333

---

## 9 Security and Privacy Considerations

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### 9.1 Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

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When creating or configuring a Forwarding XRI or a Target URI, or a Forwarding Error Page or

336

Forwarding Index Page, a Forwarding Service Provider SHOULD take precautions to prevent

337

cross-site scripting attacks by filtering out the HTML metacharacters < and > and any other

338

characters that may cause XSS vulnerability. For more information see

339

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross\\_site\\_scripting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_site_scripting) and [http://www.cgisecurity.com/articles/xss-](http://www.cgisecurity.com/articles/xss-faq.shtml)

340

[faq.shtml](http://www.cgisecurity.com/articles/xss-faq.shtml).

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341 **10 Future Work**

342 **10.1 Dictionary Services**

343 | Part of XDI.org's charter [\[XDI.org\]](http://XDI.org) is the establishment of internationalized XRI dictionary  
344 services for the general public. When these services are available, Forwarding Service Providers  
345 will be able to provide Forwarding Service Subscribers with access and feedback mechanisms to  
346 dynamic global dictionary services that will simplify the process of developing shared semantics  
347 for resources of all types in all Unicode-supported languages.



348

## 11 References

349

### 11.1 Normative

350

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371 **[XRIMetadata]** D. Reed, *Extensible Resource Identifier (XRI) Metadata V2.0*,  
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373

### 11.2 Informative

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375 [open.org/committees/xri/faq.php](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/xri/faq.php), November 2005.

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376 **12 Links**

- 377 **[XDI.org]** <http://www.xdi.org>  
378 **[XDI.orgContact]** [http://xri.net/@xdi.org/\(+contact\)](http://xri.net/@xdi.org/(+contact))  
379 **[XDI.orgGSS]** <http://gss.xdi.org>  
380 **[XDI.orgISS]** <http://iss.xdi.org>  
381 **[OASISXRITC]** <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/xri>  
382 **[OASISXDITC]** <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/xdi>  
383

384

## Appendix A. Glossary

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In addition to the definitions provided below, the GSS also incorporates by reference the glossary definitions in the XRI Specifications (Appendix C of [\[XRISyntax\]](#) and the XDI.org Global Services Specifications (Appendix A of [\[XDI.orgGSS\]](#)).

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Authentication Service Endpoint	A service endpoint defined by an authentication service specification published by XDI.org on the <a href="#">[XDI.orgISS]</a> website.
Forwarding Service	The XRI identity service (i-service) defined in this specification—see section 1.
Forwarding Service Endpoint	An XRDS service endpoint containing the metadata defined in <a href="#">Table 1</a> of this specification.
Forwarding Service Provider	Generally, the real-world provider of Forwarding Service to a Forwarding Service Subscriber. Legally, an authorized representative of the legal entity identified by the ProviderID for the Forwarding Service Endpoint.
Forwarding Service Subscriber	The authority for an XRI that subscribes to a Forwarding Service for that XRI and creates and manages Forwarding XRIs.
Forwarding XRI	An XRI that calls Forwarding Service to be mapped to a Target URI.
I-Link	A market term for an HXRI of any kind (see section 1.2.6), and in particular an HXRI that serves as a Forwarding XRI.
Subscriber	See Forwarding Service Subscriber.
Target URI	The URI to which a Forwarding XRI is mapped. The target URI typically represents the current network location of a resource, however in special circumstances it may itself be an XRI.

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