

Configure Single Sign-on (SSO) with Google

How to set up Stack Overflow for Teams for SAML SSO authentication with Google.

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[PDF VERSION](#)

Tags | [Authentication](#) | [SSO](#) | [SAML](#) | [Google](#) |

ADMIN PRIVILEGES REQUIRED

Applies to: Free Basic Business Enterprise

Enterprise users can access their documentation [here](#). [Find your plan](#).

Overview

These instructions describe how to integrate your Stack Overflow for Teams Basic or Business site with Google as your Identity Provider (IdP) for authentication. Once configured, your users will be able to use Google and the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) for Single Sign-on (SSO) authentication into your site. You can learn more about SAML in our [SAML 2.0 Authentication Overview](#) document.

NOTE: Stack Overflow for Teams Free does not support SSO.

When setting up SAML authentication, you'll configure your Stack Overflow for Teams site and the Google IdP in a back-and-forth process. We recommend having a browser tab open to each site.

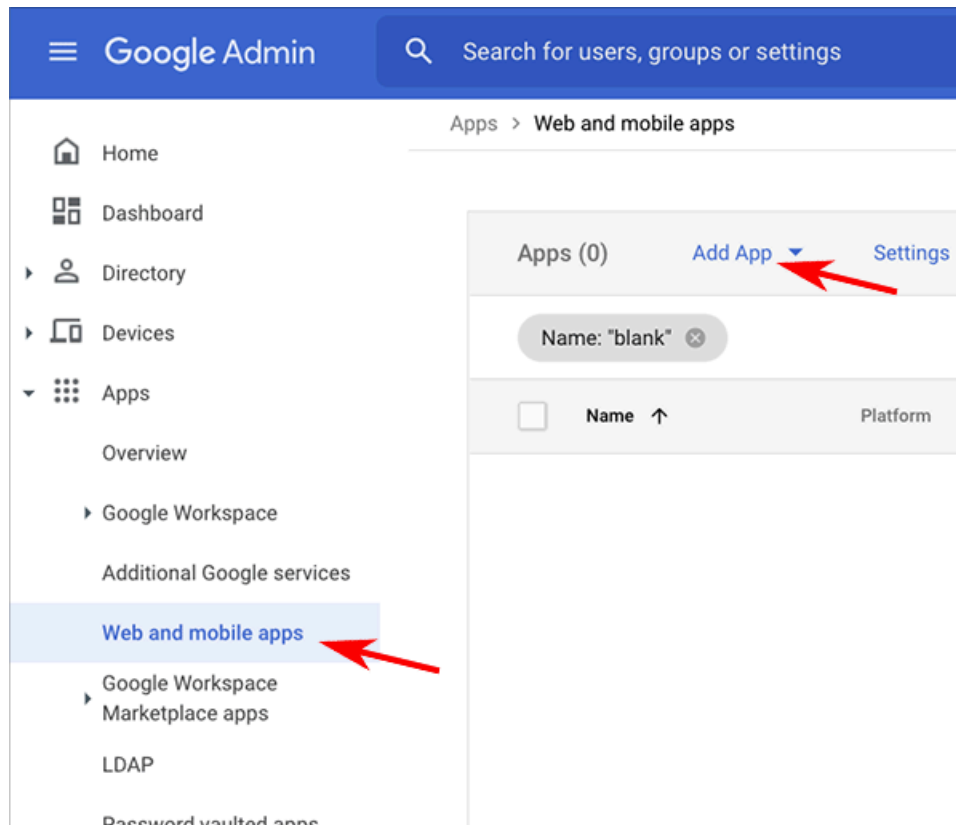
THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO STACK OVERFLOW FOR TEAMS BASIC AND BUSINESS ONLY.

Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise users should read [this article](#) instead. [Find your plan](#).

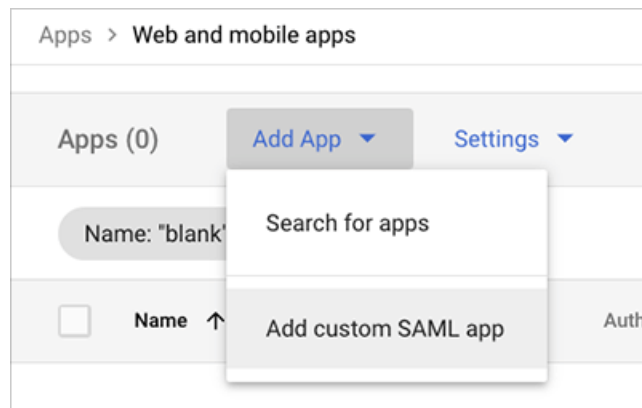
Create a Google SAML application

To configure SSO with Google, start by creating a SAML application within your Google Workspace.

1. Go to your Google Admin panel.
2. Click **Apps**, then **Web and mobile apps**.
3. Click **Add App** at the top of the screen.



4. Click **Add custom SAML app**.



Configure the SAML Application

Configure the following settings in your new SAML app.

App details

Give your app any name (for example: Stack Overflow for Teams). Click **CONTINUE**.

App details


Enter details for your custom SAML app. This information is shared with app users. [Learn more](#)

App name

Stack Overflow for Teams

App icon

Attach an app icon. Maximum upload file size: 4 MB



CANCEL CONTINUE

Make no changes under the "Google Identity Provider details" tab. You'll retrieve these details in a later step.

Service provider details

On the "Service provider details" tab, you'll enter the **Assertion Consumer Service URL** from your Stack Overflow for Teams authentication settings page. To get your site's Assertion Consumer Service URL:

1. Click **Authentication** in your Stack Overflow for Teams site's left-hand menu (under the "MANAGE" heading).
2. Click **Single sign-on (SSO)**. Additional fields will appear.
3. Copy the **Assertion Consumer Service URL** to your clipboard.

Authentication

Setup your Team's authentication method. This determines how users

Single sign-on (SSO)

This is the safest and most efficient option for members to join and login to your team.

[Learn more about SSO](#)

RECOMMENDED

Email domain

Anyone with your organization's verified email domain will be able to join.

You will still be able to invite members manually.

Identity provider (IdP) settings

Making any changes on this page may cause breaking authentication method for all your Team members and revoke their access. If you'd like help making changes, [contact Customer Support](#).

Assertion Consumer Service URL

This setting cannot be changed and is for informational purposes.

`https://sso.stackoverflow.com/c/your_team/auth/saml2/post`



In the Google IdP, paste the **Assertion Consumer Service URL** value from your Stack Overflow for Teams site into the **ACS URL** field.

Configure these additional settings on the Google "Service provider details" tab:

- **Entity ID** This can be any value you wish (for example: StackOverflow). You'll use this value at a later step, entering it into your Stack Overflow for Teams site's authentication settings as **Issuer**.
- **Start URL** Leave this value blank.
- **Name ID format** We recommended setting this field to **EMAIL**. Of the three options Google allows (Email, FirstName or LastName), email is most likely to be unique across all users.
- **Name ID** Set to **Basic Information > Primary email**.

Service provider details

To configure single sign on, add service provider details such as ACS URL and entity ID. [Learn more](#)

ACS URL

Entity ID

Start URL (optional)

Signed response

Name ID

Defines the naming format supported by the identity provider. [Learn more](#)

Name ID format

Name ID

BACK CANCEL

Update attribute mapping

Now you'll configure the user data Google returns with the SAML response. You need to specify at least one SAML attribute for the user display name and one for the user email. Click **ADD MAPPING** to map Google user data to the returned SAML attributes. The SAML protocol returns the attributes you configure as assertions.

Here's one recommended way to set up your attribute mapping:

Google Directory attributes		App attributes	
Basic Information > Primary email	▼ →	email	✕
Basic Information > First name	▼ →	displayName	✕

ADD MAPPING

NOTE: Full name would be a better choice for the `displayName` attribute, but Google doesn't offer this as a default field. To learn more about creating custom attributes (like full name), see the Google [custom attributes guide](#).

You can also add the following optional SAML attributes:

- Job title (as `jobTitle`)
- Department (as `department`)

Employee Details > Title	▼ →	jobTitle	✕
Employee Details > Department	▼ →	department	✕

ADD MAPPING

When Google includes `jobTitle` and `department` in the SAML response, your Stack Overflow for Teams site automatically updates these user data fields on login. It will then display these fields on the user profile page.

Configure authentication settings in Stack Overflow

Next, you'll copy the configuration values from your new Google SAML application into your Stack Overflow for Teams site.

Metadata

In Google, click **DOWNLOAD METADATA** to retrieve configuration values. You don't need to download the file. Instead, you'll copy and paste the information into your Stack Overflow for Teams site.

Download metadata

OR

Option 2: Copy the SSO URL, entity ID, and certificate

SSO URL

https://accounts.google.com/o/saml2/idp?idpid=C02od6om0

Entity ID

https://accounts.google.com/o/saml2?idpid=C02od6om0

Certificate

Google_2025-12-3-171720_SAML2_0 📄 ⬇️

Expires Dec 4, 2025

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
 MIIDdDCCAlYgAwIBAgIGAXYweY7QMA0GCsqGSib3DQEBcWUAMHsxFDASBgNVBAoTC0dvb2dsZSBJbmMuMRYwFAYDVQQHEw1Nb3VudGFpbWV3MQ8wDQYDVQQDE

SHA-256 fingerprint

3A:98:F4:2A:5E:EB:F1:8C:B4:AF:1E:CD:C0:26:7E:5A:FC:CB: 📄

[CLOSE](#)

In your Stack Overflow for Teams site authentication settings, enter the following fields:

- **Single Sign-On service URL** This is the **SSO URL** from the Google metadata box.
- **Single Sign-On service protocol binding** Leave this set to **POST**.
- **Issuer** This is the **Entity ID** you created in the "Configure the SAML Application" step above.
- **Audience Restriction** Set this to the same value as **Issuer**.

NOTE: You won't use the **Entity ID** value from the Google metadata box. Instead, use the **Entity ID** you created in the "Configure the SAML Application" step (for example: StackOverflow).

Attributes and Certificate

Copy and paste the following values from the Google SAML "Attribute Mappings" tab and metadata box into the corresponding fields of your Stack Overflow for Teams site.

- **Display Name Assertion** Set this to the Google app attribute you specified for display name (for example: displayName).
- **Email Address Assertion** Set this to the Google app attribute you specified for email (for example: userEmail).
- **Job Title** (optional) Set this to the Google app attribute you specified for job title (for example: jobTitle).
- **Department** (optional) Set this to the Google app attribute you specified for department (for example: department).
- **Identity Provider Certificates** Enter the full **Certificate** value from the Google metadata box (including the "BEGIN CERTIFICATE" and "END CERTIFICATE" lines).

Don't use Subject/NameID as User Identifier

Don't use Subject/NameID as User Identifier is unchecked by default. The default unchecked setting allows the IdP to specify the user identifier based on your SAML app configuration. This is the recommended setting.

If you check this option, you can manually specify a user identifier assertion. Be sure to choose a user identifier that will never change (for example: login or user ID). Email address is not a good choice for user identifier, as email addresses can change.

e.g. `http://example.com/saml/identity/claims/department`

Don't use Subject/NameID as User Identifier

If you don't use Subject/NameID as User Identifier, please make sure to use a stable identifier that doesn't change between logins.

User Identifier Assertion


userID

Enforce 80 byte maximum RelavState length?

Assign users in Google

Only users (or user groups) assigned to your Google SAML app will be able to use SSO to log in to your Stack Overflow for Teams site. You can specify these users or groups in the "User access" section of your SAML app settings by clicking **View details**.

SAML


 **stack overflow**
teams

TEST SAML LOGIN

DOWNLOAD METADATA

User access

To make the managed app available to select users, choose a group or organization

[View details](#) 


ON for everyone

Service provider details

Certificate	ACS URL
Google_2025-12-2_171720_SAML2_0	https://app.stackoverflow.com/

You can also make your SAML application available to everyone within your Google workspace by setting **Service status** to **ON for everyone**.

Apps > Web and mobile apps > SOE > Service Status

 SOE

Showing settings for users in all organizational units

All users in this account

Groups ▾


Organizational Units ▾

Service status

Service status

ON for everyone

OFF for everyone

 Most changes take effect in a few minutes. [Learn more](#)

CANCEL SAVE

Test and save your SAML configuration


Validate your certificate by clicking **Validate Certificate**. You should see a green box with a success message.

To finish the SSO setup process, click **Authenticate and enable SSO**.

Identity Provider Certificates

Base64-encoded public keys used to verify SAML responses from the Identity Provider

```
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGS
ib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0G
CSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7QMA0GCSqGSib3DQ7Q
```

 **Validate certificate** Cancel

Add another certificate

Authenticate and enable SSO Debug SAML auth settings

[View SAML request](#)

When saving settings, your Stack Overflow for Teams site will first perform an authentication test. If the test succeeds, your site will apply your new authentication settings. Logged-in users stay logged in, as all active user sessions remain valid.

If the test fails, your Stack Overflow for Teams site will not apply the authentication settings. You'll stay on the SAML settings page so you can troubleshoot and correct problems.

This test acts as a safety net to keep invalid authentication settings from locking users (yourself included) out of your site. If you do find your users locked out of your site, reach out to Stack Overflow support for help.

You can also click **Debug SAML auth settings** and **View SAML request** to display technical details about your SAML authentication. You'll find these helpful for understanding what information your IdP and your Stack Overflow for Teams site exchange. This is also useful when troubleshooting.

Maintain SAML certificates

You should rotate (replace) your Google SAML certificate well before its expiration date, or if it becomes compromised. If you don't replace a certificate before it expires, users won't be able to use SSO to sign in to any SAML applications that use that expired certificate.

For more information about maintaining SAML certificates, check out this helpful [Google guide](#).

Need help? Submit an issue or question through our [support portal](#).