Configure Single Sign-on (SSO) with Okta

Set up Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise for SAML authentication with Okta.

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PDF VERSION

Tags | **SAML** | **Authentication** | **SSO** | **Okta** |

Applies to: Free Basic Business **Enterprise**

ADMIN PRIVILEGES REQUIRED

*This documentation is for **Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise**. Free, Basic, and Business users can access their documentation here. Find your plan.*

Overview

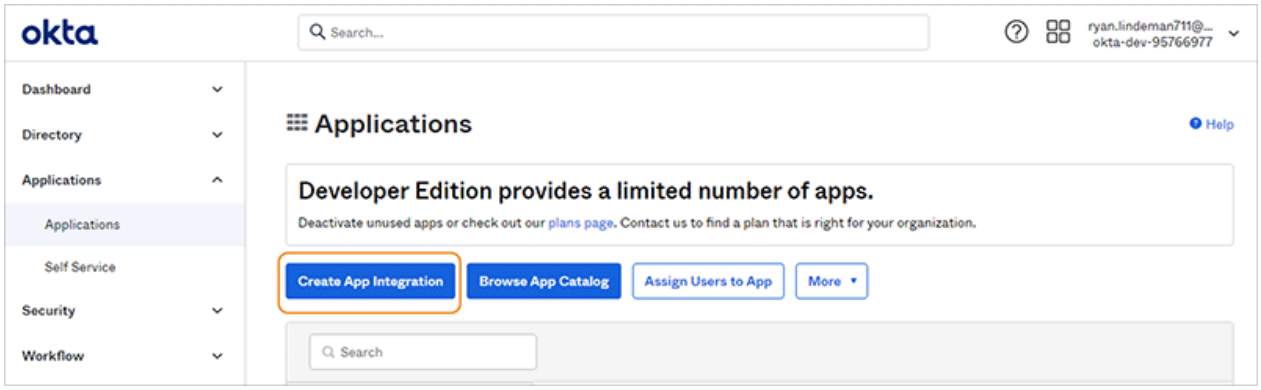
These instructions describe how to integrate your Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise (SOE) site with Okta as your Identity Provider (IdP) for authentication. Once configured, your users will be able to use Okta and the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) for Single Sign-on (SSO) authentication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

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

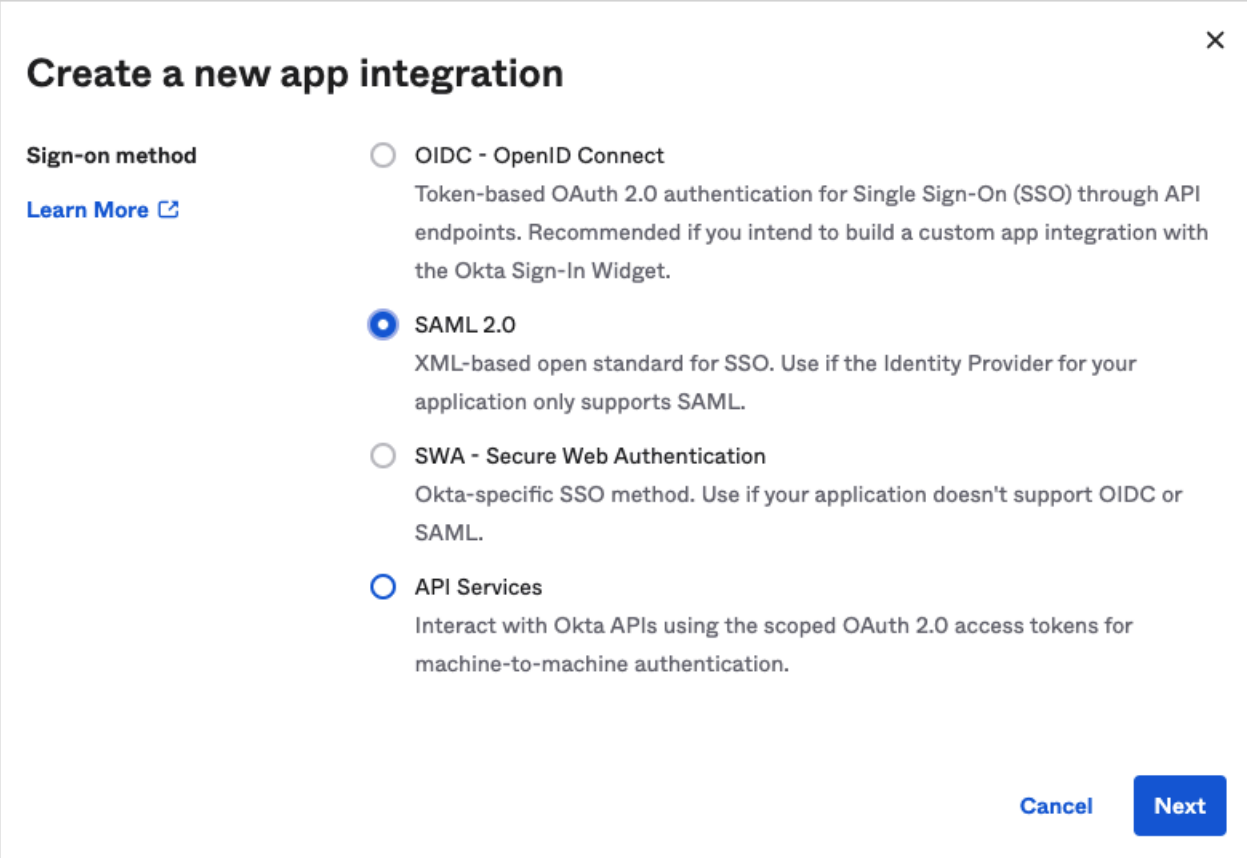
THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO STACK OVERFLOW FOR TEAMS ENTERPRISE ONLY.
Other Stack Overflow for Teams users should read this article instead. Find your plan.

Create a new Okta SAML application

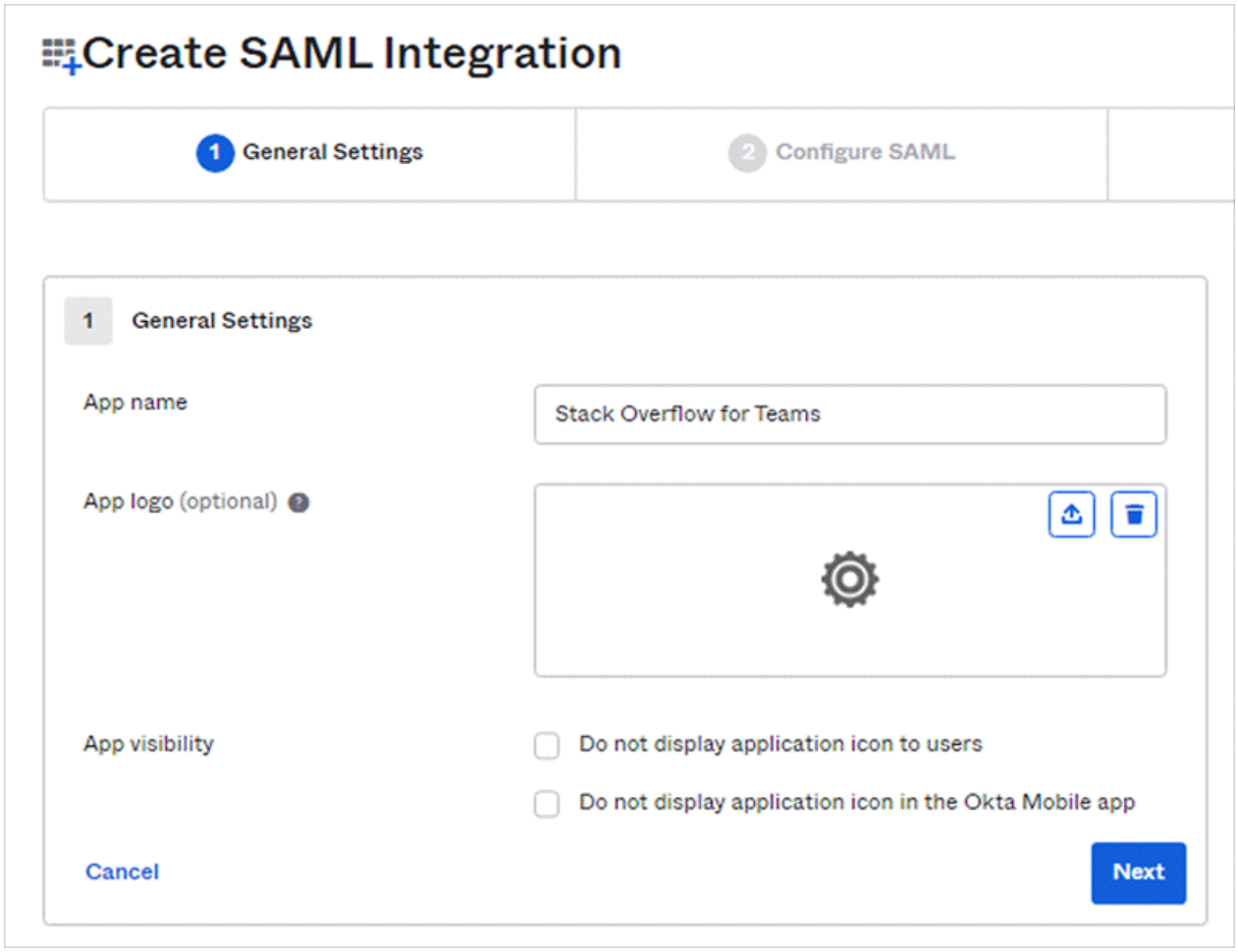
1. From the Applications page in Okta, click **Create App Integration**. Add a new custom Application.



2. Choose **SAML 2.0** as **Sign-on method**.

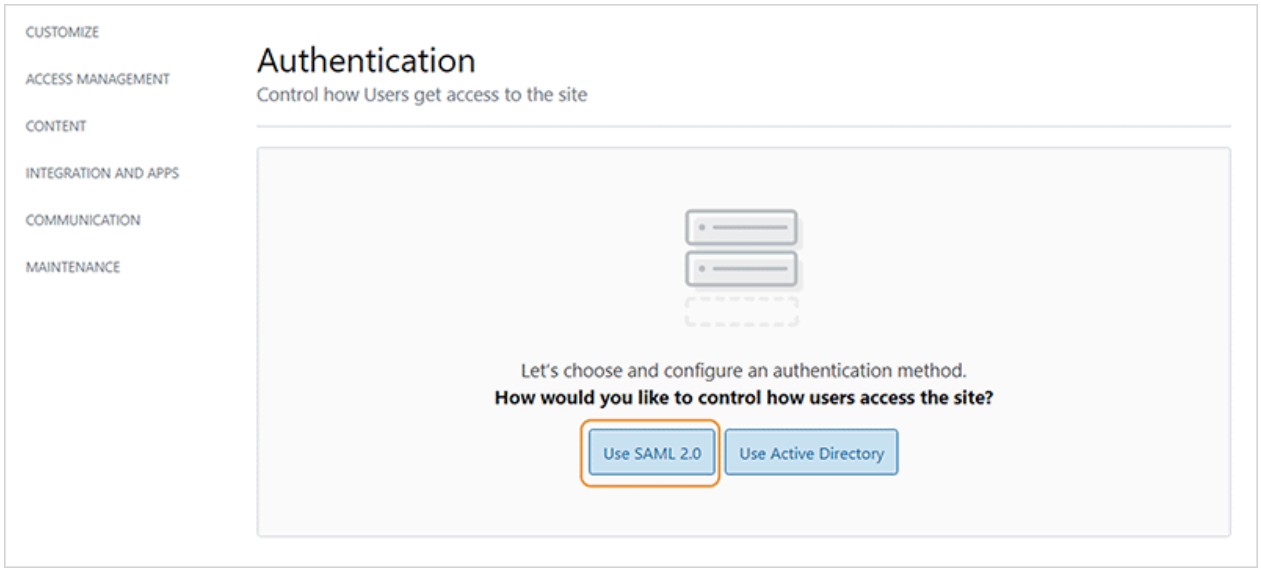


3. For General Settings choose any **App name** and **App logo** (optional) that makes sense for your organization.



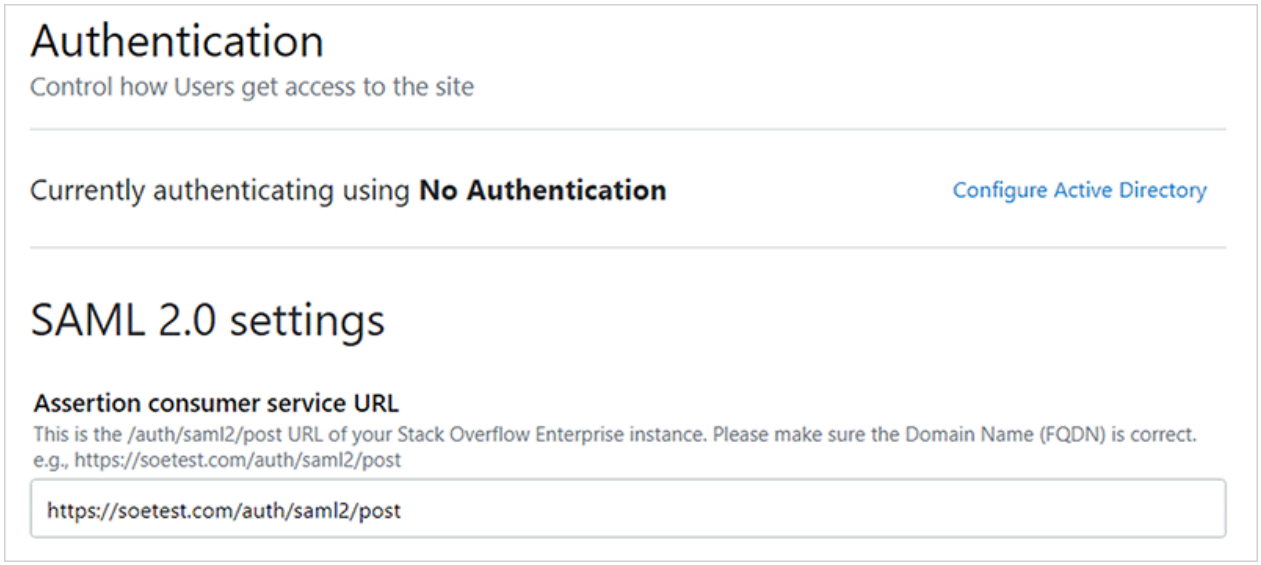
Configure Okta SAML settings

1. In a new browser window or tab, open your SOE site and click **Admin settings** in the left-hand menu. Click **Authentication**, then **Configure SAML 2.0**.

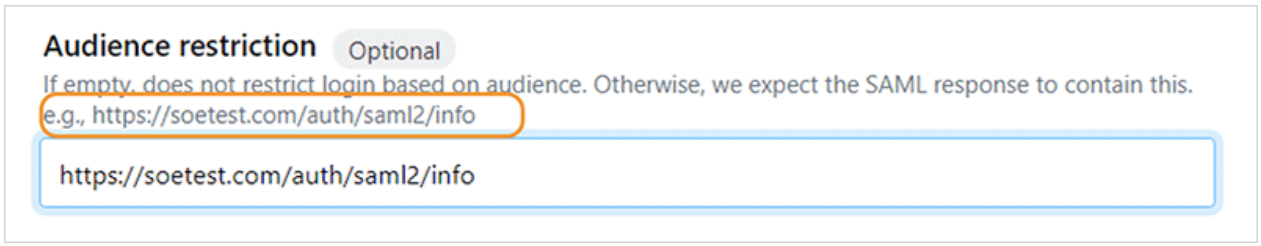


2. Return to the SAML Settings for Okta and add the following information.

    - **Single sign-on URL** This is the */auth/saml2/post* URL of your SOE instance. This is also your **Assertion consumer service URL** on SOE.



    - **Audience URI** This is something you can make up. On the SOE authentication settings, this will be used as the **Audience Restriction**. A good suggestion is to use the sample URL provided on the SOE athentication settings page.



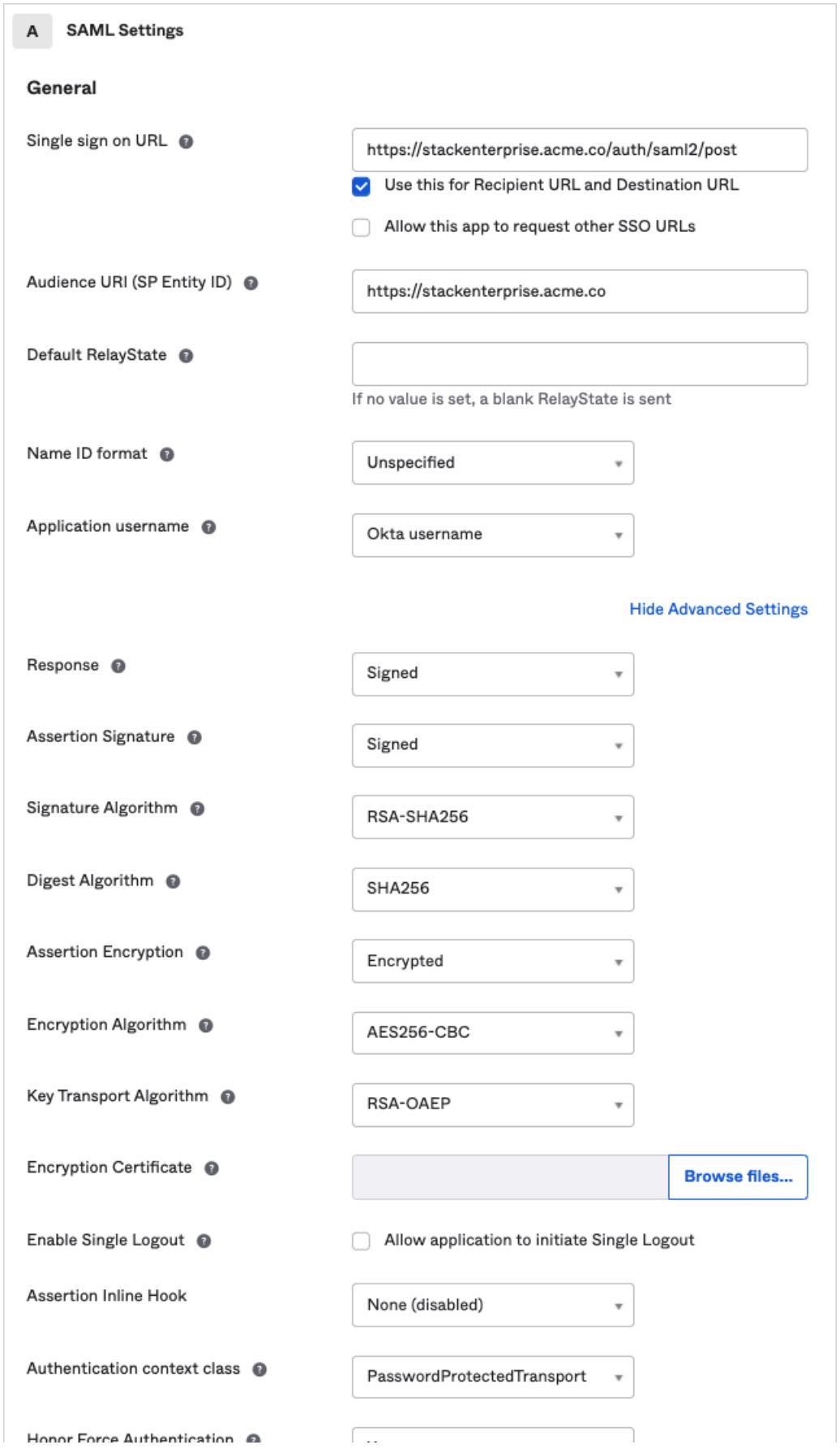
    - **Default Relay State** Leave this blank.
    - **Name ID Format** Choose **Unspecified**.
    - **Application Username** Use a value that will be static for users. Okta username will work.

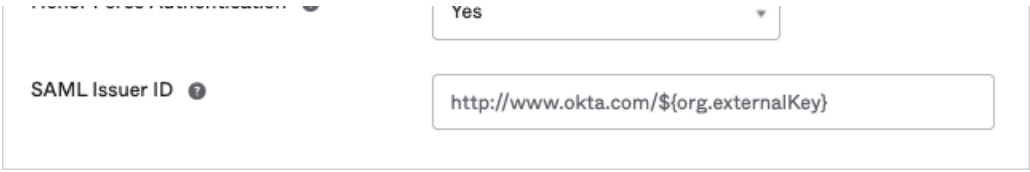
3. Click **Show Advanced Settings** and check the following settings.

    - Set **Response** to **Signed**. Stack Overflow Enterprise will not accept unsigned responses.
    - Leave **Assertion Encryption** as **Unencrypted**.

    Encrypt assertions (optional)
    You can also encrypt the assertion if desired. In that case, you need to upload the public key of your signing certificate to Okta. Your SOE instance also needs both the private and public keys, and how you'll provide those depends on your deployment type.

    - For on-premise deployments, you need to provide the certificate into the Windows Certificate Store at **Local Machine** -> **Personal**. You must do this on all web servers running SOE.
    - For cloud-hosted deployments, reach out to Stack Overflow support with your certificates and we'll upload them to your SOE site.

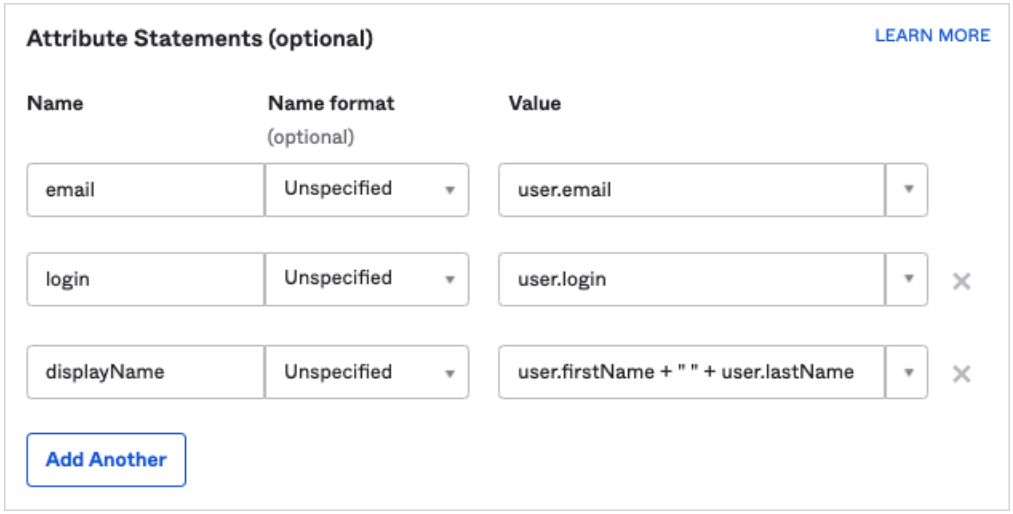

A
SAML Settings
General
Single sign on URL
https://stackenterprise.acme.co/auth/saml2/post
Use this for Recipient URL and Destination URL
Allow this app to request other SSO URLs
Audience URI (SP Entity ID)
https://stackenterprise.acme.co
Default RelayState
If no value is set, a blank RelayState is sent
Name ID format
Unspecified
Application username
Okta username
Hide Advanced Settings
Response
Signed
Assertion Signature
Signed
Signature Algorithm
RSA-SHA256
Digest Algorithm
SHA256
Assertion Encryption
Encrypted
Encryption Algorithm
AES256-CBC
Key Transport Algorithm
RSA-OAEP
Encryption Certificate
Browse files...
Enable Single Logout
Allow application to initiate Single Logout
Assertion Inline Hook
None (disabled)
Authentication context class
PasswordProtectedTransport



4. Set attribute statements.

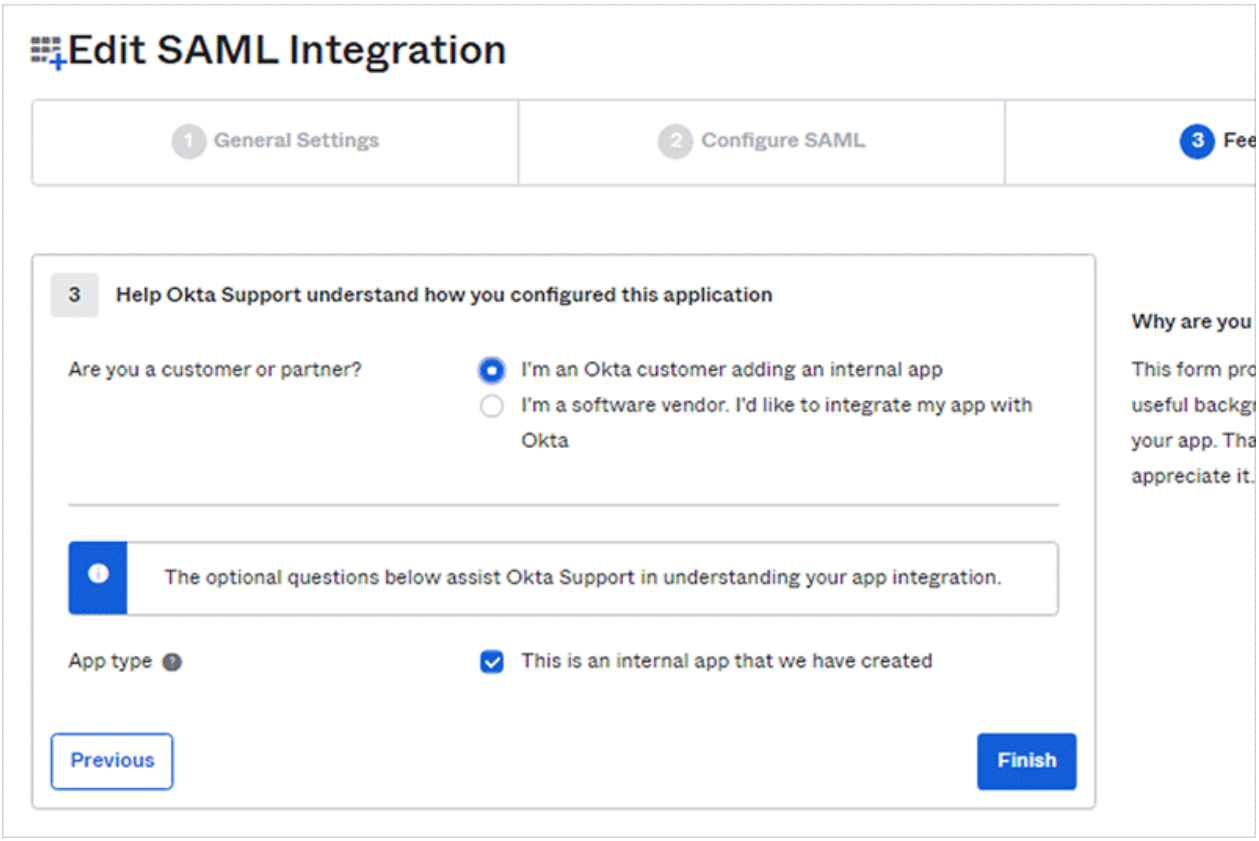
   Minimum requirements for SAML Assertion:

   - **Email Address**
   - **Display Name**
   - **Unique user identifier** This should never change for a user (e.g., Okta offers an "employee number" field, but you need to populate this for every user—it cannot be empty).



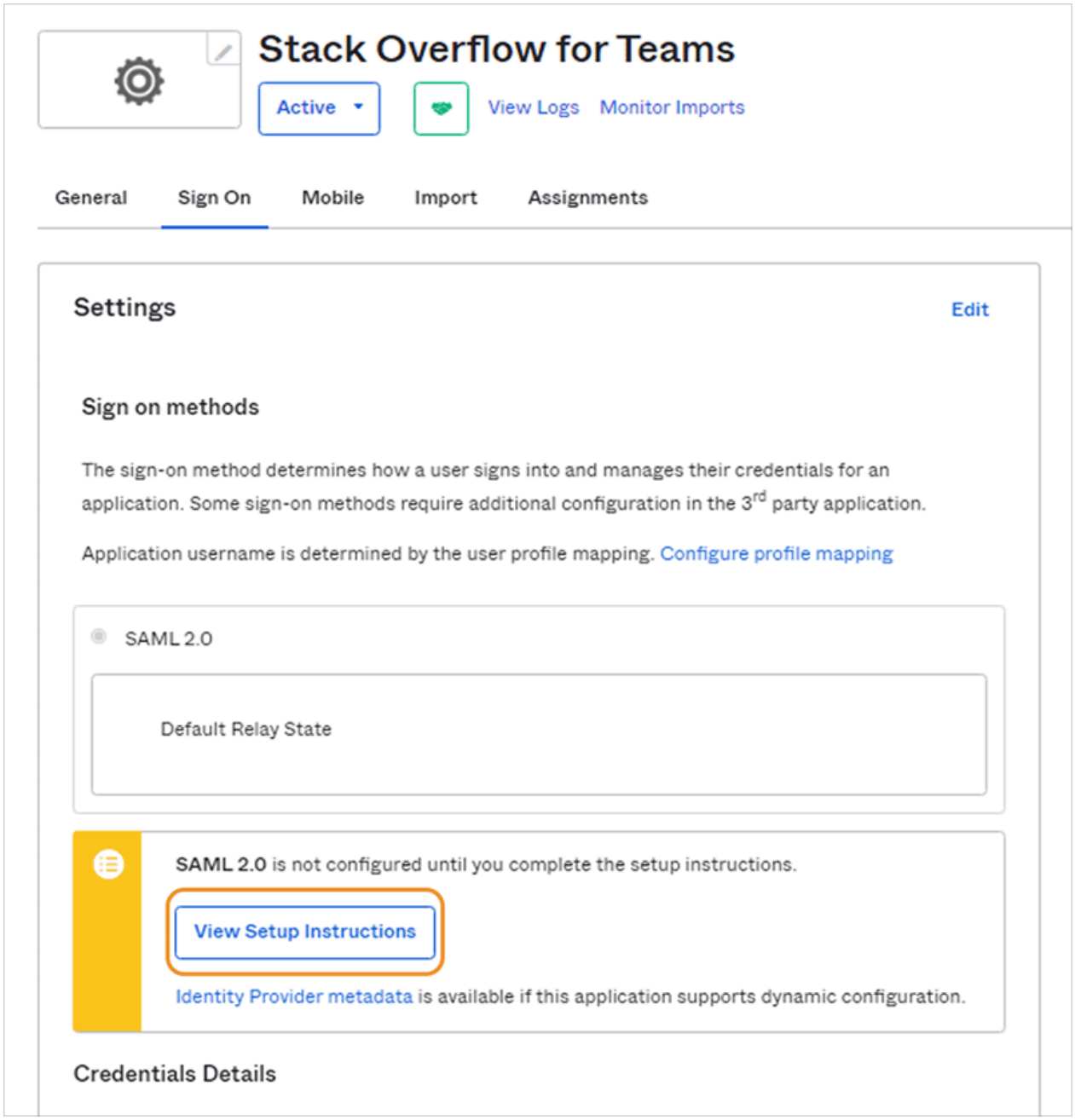
5. Finish Okta setup.

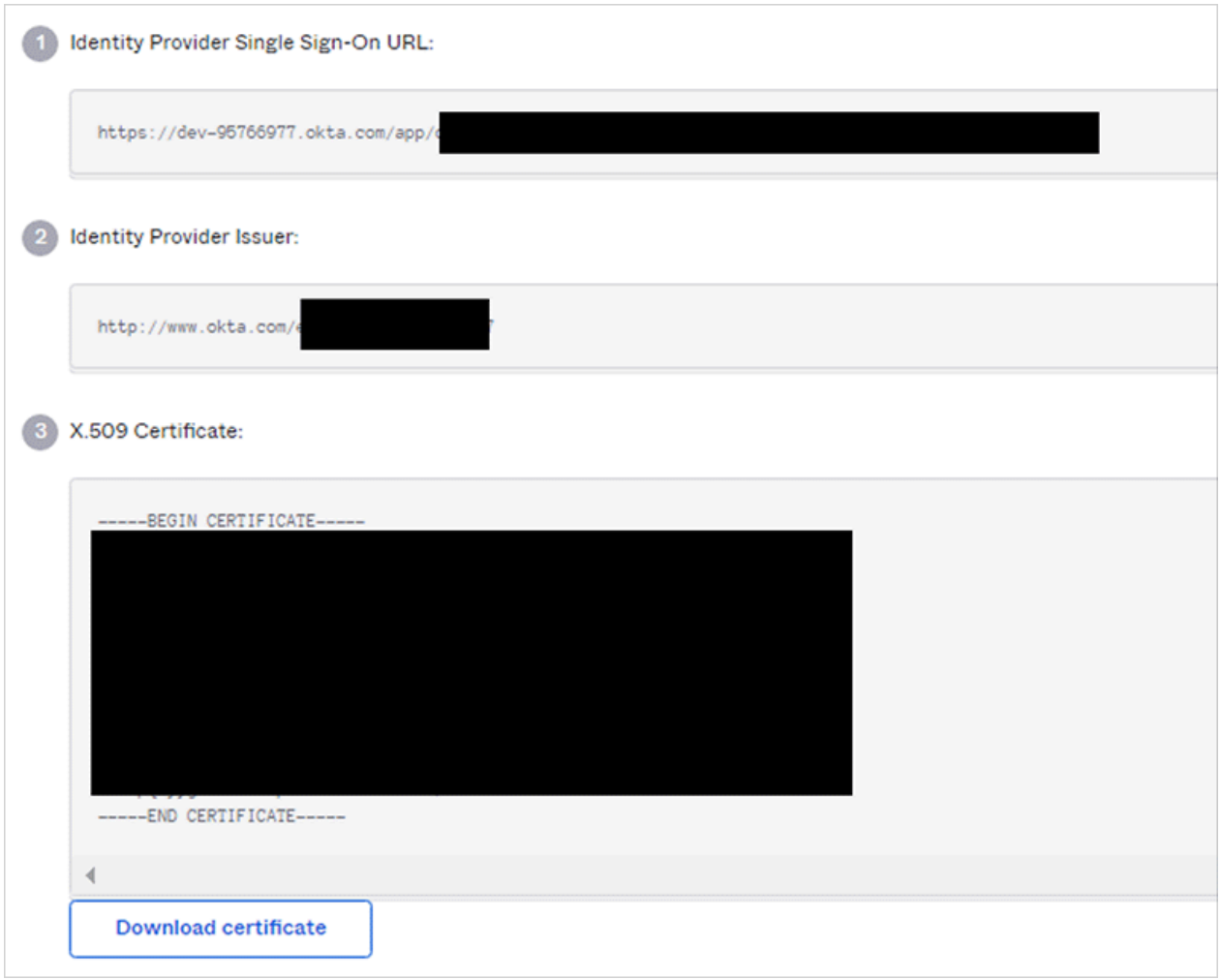
   - Select **I'm an Okta customer adding an internal app**.
   - For **App type**, check **This is an internal app that we have created**.



Configure SOE SAML settings

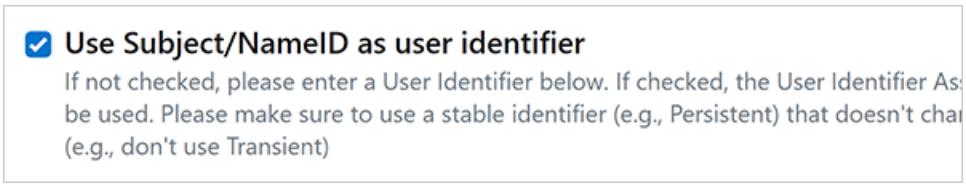
1. After you save the application, click the **Sign On** tab.
2. Click **View Setup Instructions** and open the link in a new browser window or tab. This page shows setup and configuration documentation, as well as the URLs you'll need to continue the setup.


Stack Overflow for Teams
Active
View Logs
Monitor Imports
General
Sign On
Mobile
Import
Assignments
Settings
Edit
Sign on methods
The sign-on method determines how a user signs into and manages their credentials for an application. Some sign-on methods require additional configuration in the 3rd party application.
Application username is determined by the user profile mapping. Configure profile mapping
SAML 2.0
Default Relay State
SAML 2.0 is not configured until you complete the setup instructions.
View Setup Instructions
Identity Provider metadata is available if this application supports dynamic configuration.
Credentials Details



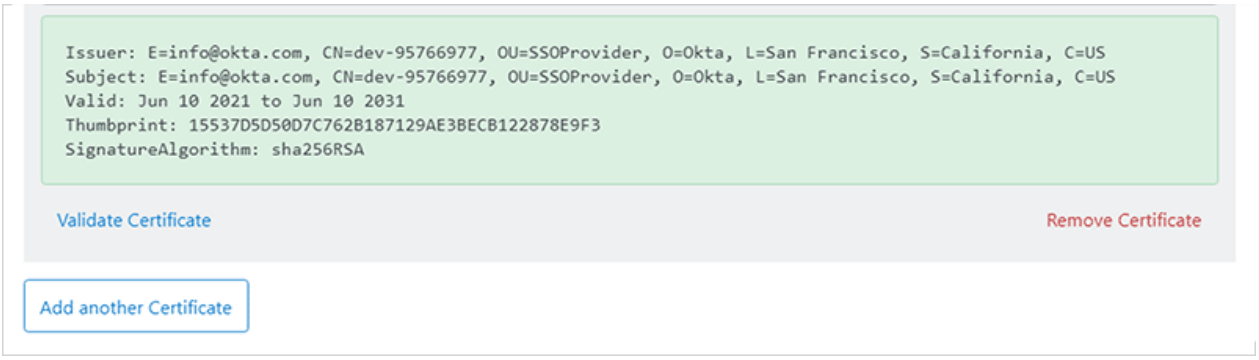
3. Add the following values to your SOE authentication settings.
    - **Identity Provider Single Sign-On URL** Copy this value to the SOE **Single Sign-On Service URL** field.
    - **Identity Provider Issuer** Copy this value to the SOE **Issuer** field.
    - **Audience Restriction** Enter the example value provided on SOE authentication settings.
    - **User Identifier Assertion** The value used on Okta for this (for example: login, UID, etc.).
    - **Display Name Assertion** Set to **displayName**.
    - **Email Address Assertion** Set to **email**.
    - **X.509 Certificate** Copy this value to the SOE **Identity Provider Certificate** field.
4. Set **Use Subject/NameID as User Identifier** field.

    Use Subject/NameID as user identifier is checked by default, which allows the IdP to specify the user identifier based on your SAML app configuration. This is the recommended setting.



If you uncheck this option, you can manually specify a **User identifier assertion** of your choice. 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.

5. Validate your certificate by clicking **Validate Certificate**. You should see a green box with a success message. If you don't, make sure you copied and pasted the full text of the certificate.



Save and test SOE SAML settings

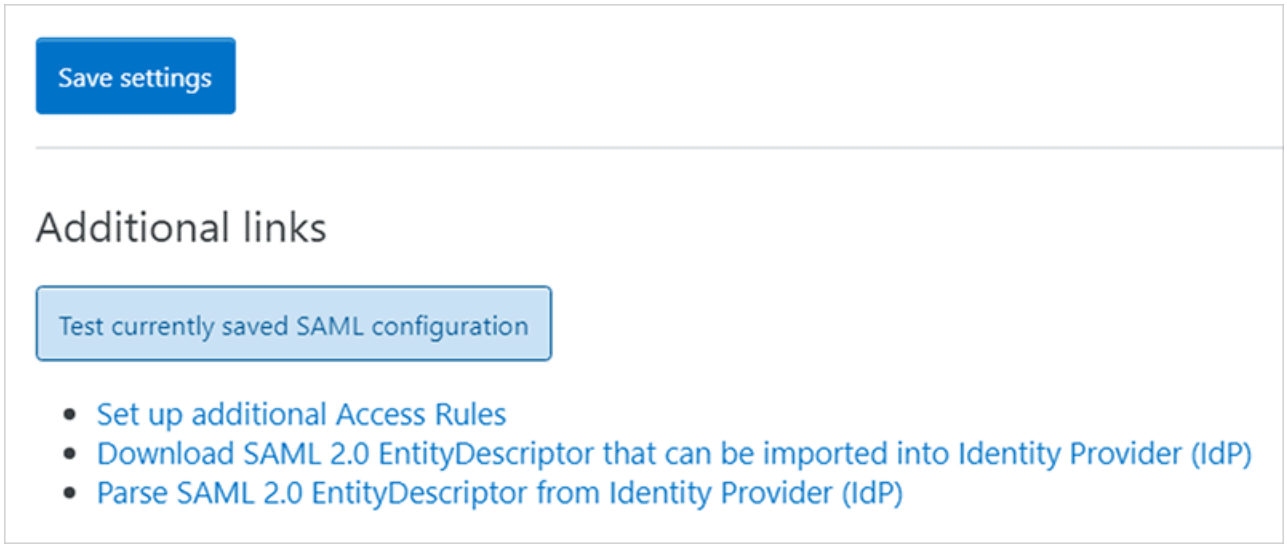
To complete the SSO setup, click **Save Settings**.

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

If the test fails, SOE 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 product support for help.

You can also click **Test currently saved SAML configuration** to display technical details about your SAML authentication. You'll find these helpful for understanding what information your IdP and SOE exchange. This is also useful when troubleshooting.



If you can't resolve the authentication errors, reach out to Stack Overflow support for help.