Basic security protocols for Web Services, such as XML Security, the WS-* series of proposals, SAML, and XACML are a basic set of technologies enabling Web Services and the nodes of GRID architectures to interoperate securely. While these building blocks are now firmly in place, a number of challenges are still to be met for Web services and GRID nodes to be fully secured and trusted, providing for secure communications between cross-platform and cross-language Web services. Also, the current trend toward designing and implementing business processes by means of Web services orchestration and choreography on Service Oriented Architectures (SOA) is fostering an evolutionary step of security models and languages, whose key issues include (i) dealing with inter-organizational (trusted partner) security issues and (ii) representing and enforcing high level business process policies in a SOA environment. The special issue will explore these challenges, ranging from the advancement and best practices of basic technologies such as XML and Web services security protocols to higher level issues such as business process security policies, trust establishment, risk management, and service assurance. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Web services and XML security models and languages
- Business process security compliance and protection quality
- Frameworks for managing, establishing and assessing inter-organizational trust relationships
- Web services exploitation of Trusted Computing
- Semantics-aware Web service security
- Privacy and digital identities support on SOA

Important Dates:
- Paper submissions due: March 15th, 2008
- Acceptance notifications: May 15th, 2008
- Camera-ready papers due: May 30th, 2008

Guest Editors:
Ernesto Damiani, Computer Technology Department, University of Milan, Italy.
Seth Proctor, Sun Microsystems Labs, US.

Submissions:
Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. All papers will be thoroughly refereed. A guide for authors, sample copies and other relevant information for submitting papers are available on the Papers Submission section of the Journal of Systems Architecture Web site (http://ees.elsevier.com/jsa/) under Author Guidelines. Submitted papers must be less than 20 pages long. Please notify your intention of submitting a paper via e-mail to Stefania Marrara (Marrara at dti.unimi.it), mentioning in the subject: “submission to JSA – Secure Web Services”.