Universal Manifest v0.5 — Document Set

v0.5.0

v0.5.0. Published as tag v0.5.0 of UniversalManifest/universal-manifest, with the same wire files as release candidate 1 (v0.5.0-rc.1). It is a mechanism release, not a completed implementation or conformance qualification. Immutable versions in UniversalManifest/universal-manifest are normative; main is the working version. Earlier versions were reviewed in the OMA3 Technical Working Group, and publication asserts no OMA3 ratification.

8 November 2026

This document: /spec/v0.5/

Document set: Universal Manifest v0.5.0 · What changed in v0.5.0

Artifacts: JSON Schema · JSON-LD context

History: https://universalmanifest.net/spec/ (version index and changelog)

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v0.5.0. Published as tag `v0.5.0` of `UniversalManifest/universal-manifest`, with the same wire files as release candidate 1 (`v0.5.0-rc.1`). Wire version `0.5`; namespace `https://universalmanifest.net/ns/v0.5`; reading routes `/spec/v0.5/`. It is a mechanism release, not a completed implementation or conformance qualification. Feature-specific PREVIEW and conditional requirements remain in force.

Universal Manifest v0.5 — Document Set (Conformance-Tier Stack)

The v0.5 candidate is organized as a **conformance-tier stack**: a breadth-first Primer, a Tier-0/Tier-1 Base, four companion profiles that a conformance claim *adds* by tier or by optional feature, and a Cookbook of worked examples. The question that decides what you read and build is *"what level of assurance am I certifying to?"*

This is v0.5.0, published as tag `v0.5.0` and derived from the accepted v0.4 editorial set. Historical v0.3/v0.4 artifacts remain unchanged. The immutable canonical GitHub release is authoritative; the

website is a downstream view. See migration and release notes.

The documents

#	Document	Role	Words	Status
1	primer.md	**Primer** — breadth-first overview: what UM is, the shape of a manifest, the lifecycle, the core guarantees, a one-glance map of tiers + extensions. Informative; no MUSTs.	~2,300	Informative
2	core.md	**Base** — everything to build a conformant Tier-0/Tier-1 evaluator and holder, including a top-level manifest object/field map. Names advanced/optional features and points to the extensions for their mechanics.	~11,000	Production-candidate + PREVIEW-named
3	ext-t1.md	**EXT-T1** — Tier-1 binding mechanics: holder binding, presentation proof, liveness, Stage-2 sub-steps, the 7-step claim-proof path, v0.3 backwards compat.	~3,200	Normative (T1.3.1–T1.3.3 PREVIEW)
4	ext-t2.md	**EXT-T2** — Tier-2 ZKP proof profiles (2A/2B), the BBS+ selective-disclosure track, post-quantum migration.	~2,400	PREVIEW
5	ext-t3.md	**EXT-T3** — Tier-3 multi-party ceremony: model, attester-role taxonomy, threshold-protocol guidance.	~1,000	PREVIEW
6	ext-opt.md	**EXT-OPT** — tier-orthogonal optional features: abstract data model + CBOR-LD, statusRef protocol, receipts-as-class, bilateral sessions, federation, profile registration, scope registry, trustWeight/category trust, extended schemas, crypto summary, class registry.	~6,400	Mixed (PREVIEW-tagged per part)
7	cookbook.md	**Cookbook** — all 24 worked examples, by scenario, tagged by tier. Informative.	~2,600	Informative

How to read it, by what you are certifying to

- **Tier-0 (signature-only) evaluator** → Base only.
- **Tier-1 (attested / proof-backed) evaluator or holder** → Base + EXT-T1.
- **Tier-2 (Sybil-resistant cryptographic binding) deployment** → Base + EXT-T1 + EXT-T2.
- **Tier-3 (multi-party co-signed) deployment** → Base + EXT-T1 + EXT-T2 + EXT-T3.

- **Adding revocation, federation, sessions, CBOR-LD, a new manifest class, or other optional features** → Base + the relevant parts of EXT-OPT.
- **Just want concrete payloads** → Primer → Cookbook.

What this restructure does and does not do

Does: relocate and re-frame existing content into a tier-stack architecture; add three net-new artifacts (Primer, Cookbook, this index); apply a concision pass; preserve every normative requirement (moved/deferred, never silently dropped); keep the Base at "what conformance demands" altitude by *naming* advanced capabilities and *specifying* them in extensions — the same discipline that kept v0.3 digestible.

Version change: unlike the original tier-stack restructuring, this v0.5 candidate changes the signed version/namespace and Profile A acceptance predicate. It retains the inherited requirements and feature maturity. Each document owns its anchors and cross-citations; fixture/runtime/readers/publishing qualification remains outstanding.

Provenance

The inherited v0.4 set was restructured from its earlier single-file draft into the Conformance-Tier Stack architecture (the "Strategy B" layout) in June 2026. That historical restructuring relocated and re-framed content and added the Primer, Cookbook and index without changing wire shape. This v0.5 candidate retains that complete layout while making the separately stated version and signature-acceptance changes.