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A Media Type for Reputation Interchange
draft-ietf-repute-media-type-01

Abstract

This document defines a media type for exchanging reputation information about an arbitrary class of object.

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1. Introduction

This memo defines a media type for use when answering a reputation query using the "long form" query defined in [[I-D.REPUTE-QUERY-HTTP](#)], which uses [[HTTP](#)]. It is part of a series defining the overall reputation query/response structure as well as the concept of reputation "vocabularies" for particular applications.

Also included is the specification for an IANA registry to contain definitions and symbolic names for known reputation vocabularies.

2. Terminology and Definitions

This section defines terms used in the rest of the document.

2.1. Keywords

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[KEYWORDS](#)].

2.2. Other Definitions

Other terms of importance in this memo are defined in [[I-D.REPUTE-MODEL](#)], the base memo in this document series.

3. Description

A new media type, "application/reputon", is defined for the representation of reputational data, typically in response to a client making a request for such data about some subject. This media type has one optional parameter, "app", which conveys the specific application of reputation data in use, and may extend the set of data values that can be included in the media object itself.

The body of the media type consists of an Extended Markup Language (XML) document that contains the reputation information requested. An XML schema is included in a later section of this document.

The key pieces of data found in a reputon for all reputation applications are defined as follows:

RATER: The identity of the entity providing the reputation information, generally expressed as a DNS domain name.

ASSERTION: A keyword indicating the specific assertion or claim being rated. In the absence of an "app" parameter, the reputon can only indicate generic goodness, with the default assertion "IS-GOOD," but each application is expected to define additional ASSERTIONS.

RATED: The identity of the entity being rated.

RATING: The overall rating score for that entity, expressed as a floating-point number between 0.0 and 1.0 inclusive. See [Section 4](#) for discussion.

The following are OPTIONAL for all applications, to be used in contexts where they are appropriate:

CONFIDENCE: The level of confidence the reputation provider has in the value presented being accurate, expressed as a floating-point number between 0.0 and 1.0 inclusive.

EXTENSION: Contains application-specific extension data. It MUST NOT be present unless the reputon was introduced using the "app" parameter to identify a specific reputation application. Valid values are established by registration of application-specific extensions with IANA (see [Section 5.2](#)).

RATER-AUTHENTICITY: The level of confidence in that identity being genuine, expressed as a floating-point number between 0.0 and 1.0 inclusive.

SAMPLE-SIZE: The number of data points used to compute that score, possibly an approximation. Expressed as an unsigned 64-bit integer. The units are deliberately not specified, since not all reputation service providers will collect data the same way. Consumers will need to determine out-of-band the units being reported and apply this value accordingly within their local policies.

UPDATED: A timestamp indicating when this value was generated. Expressed as the number of seconds since January 1, 1970 00:00 UTC.

A particular application that registers itself with IANA MAY also define extension attribute/value pairs beyond these standard ones.

Thus, the following simple example (using simple text rather than XML for brevity):

Content-type: application/reputon

RATER: RatingsRUs.example.com
RATER-AUTHENTICITY: 1.0
ASSERTION: IS-GOOD
RATED: Alex Rodriguez
RATING: 0.99
SAMPLE-SIZE: 50000

...indicates we are absolutely sure (1.0) that the entity "RatingsRUs.example.com" consolidated 50000 data points (perhaps from everyone in Yankee Stadium) and concluded that Alex Rodriguez is very very good (0.99) at something. It doesn't tell us what he's good at, and while it might be playing baseball, it could just as well be paying his taxes on time.

A more sophisticated usage would define a baseball application with a vocabulary of specific assertions, so that this example:

Content-type: application/reputon; app="baseball"

RATER: baseball-reference.example.com
RATER-AUTHENTICITY: 1.0
ASSERTION: HITS-FOR-POWER
RATED: Alex Rodriguez
RATING: 0.99
SAMPLE-SIZE: 50000

...would indicate that 50000 fans polled by the entity baseball-reference.example.com rate A-Rod very highly in hitting for power, whereas this example:

Content-type: application/reputon; app="baseball"

RATER: baseball-reference.example.com
RATER-AUTHENTICITY: 1.0
ASSERTION: CLUTCH-HITTER
RATED: Alex Rodriguez
RATING: 0.4
SAMPLE-SIZE: 50000

...would indicate that a similar poll indicated a somewhat weaker consensus that A-Rod tends to choke in critical baseball situations.

In practice, most usage of reputons is expected to make use of the "app" parameter to target an application-specific set of assertions.

3.1. XML Schema

The following XML schema describes the format of the reply:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?%gt;
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">

  <!-- definition of local types -->
  <xs:simpleType name="extttype">
    <xs:restriction base="xs:token">
      <xs:pattern value="\w+(-\w*)*:\s?[\w\p{P}]+"/>
    </xs:restriction>
  </xs:simpleType>

  <!-- definition of simple elements -->
  <xs:element name="rater" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:element name="rater-authenticity" type="xs:decimal"/>
  <xs:element name="assertion" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:element name="extension" type="extttype"/>
  <xs:element name="rated" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:element name="rating" type="xs:decimal"/>
  <xs:element name="confidence" type="xs:decimal"/>
  <xs:element name="sample-size" type="xs:positiveInteger"/>
  <xs:element name="updated" type="xs:positiveInteger"/>

  <!-- definition of complex elements -->
  <xs:complexType name="assertiontype">
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element ref="rater" minOccurs="1"/>
      <xs:element ref="rater-authenticity" minOccurs="1"/>
      <xs:element ref="assertion" minOccurs="1"/>
      <xs:element ref="extension"/>
      <xs:element ref="rated" minOccurs="1"/>
      <xs:element ref="rating" minOccurs="1"/>
      <xs:element ref="confidence" minOccurs="1"/>
      <xs:element ref="sample-size" minOccurs="1"/>
      <xs:element ref="updated" minOccurs="1"/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>

  <xs:complexType name="reporttype">
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element name="reputon" type="assertiontype"
        maxOccurs="unbounded" minOccurs="1"/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>

  <xs:element name="reputation" type="reporttype"/>
</xs:schema>
```



```
</xs:schema>
```

3.2. Example Reply

The following is an example reputon generated using this schema, including the media type definition line:

```
Content-Type: application/reputon; app="email"
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="US-ASCII"?>
```

```
<reputation>
  <reputon>
    <rater>rep.example.net</rater>
    <rater-authenticity>0.95</rater-authenticity>
    <assertion>SENDS-SPAM</assertion>
    <extension>IDENTITY: DKIM</extension>
    <rated>example.com</rated>
    <rating>0.0012</rating>
    <sample-size>16938213</sample-size>
    <updated>1317795852</updated>
  </reputon>
</reputation>
```

Here, reputation agent "rep.example.net" is asserting within the context of email that "example.com" appears to send spam 1.2% of the time, based on just short of 17 million messages analyzed or reported to date. The identity "example.com", the subject of the query, is extracted from the analyzed messages using the [\[DKIM\]](#) "d=" parameter for messages where signatures validate. The reputation agent is 95% confident of this result. (See [\[I-D.REPUTE-EMAIL-IDENTIFIERS\]](#) for details about the registered email identifiers vocabulary.)

4. Scores

The score presented as the value in the RATING parameter appears as a floating point value between 0.0 and 1.0 inclusive. The intent is that the definition of an assertion within an application will declare what the anchor values 0.0 and 1.0 specifically mean. Generally speaking, 1.0 implies full agreement with the assertion, while 0.0 indicates no support for the assertion.

The definition will also specify the type of scale in use when generating scores, to which all reputation service providers for that application space must adhere. This will allow a client to change which reputation service provider is being queried for a given without having to learn through some out-of-band method what the new

provider's values mean. For example, a registration might state that ratings are linear, which would mean a score of "x" is twice as strong as a value of "x/2".

5. IANA Considerations

This memo presents two actions for IANA, namely the creation of the new media type "application/reputon" and the creation of a registry for reputation application types. Another memo in this series creates an initial registry entry for the latter.

5.1. application/reputon Media Type Registration

This section provides the media type registration application from [\[MIME-REG\]](#) for processing by IANA:

To: ietf-types@iana.org

Subject: Registration of media type application/reputon

Type name: application

Subtype name: reputon

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters:

app: Names the reputation application in use within the reputon, which defines the valid assertions and any extensions that may also be valid (i.e., the vocabulary) for that application. These MUST be registered with IANA.

Encoding considerations: "7bit" encoding is sufficient and MUST be used to maintain readability when viewed by non-MIME mail readers.

Security considerations: See [Section 6](#) of [this document].

Interoperability considerations: Implementers MUST ignore any "app" values, attribute/value pairs, or vocabulary items they do not support.

Published specification: [this document]

Applications that use this media type: Any application that wishes to query a service that provides reputation data using the "long form" defined in [[I-D.REPUTE-QUERY-HTTP](#)]. The example application is one that provides reputation expressions about DNS domain names found in email messages.

Additional information: The value of the "app" parameter MUST also be registered with IANA.

Person and email address to contact for further information:

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Intended usage: COMMON

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Change controller: IESG

[5.2.](#) Reputation Applications Registry

IANA is requested to create the "Reputation Applications" registry. This registry will contain names of applications used with the application/reputon media type, as defined by this memo.

New registrations or updates MUST be published in accordance with the "Specification Required" guidelines as described in [[IANA-CONSIDERATIONS](#)].

New registrations and updates MUST contain the following information:

1. Name of the application being registered or updated
2. Short description of the application (i.e., the class of entity about which it reports reputation data)
3. The document in which the application is defined
4. New or updated status, which MUST be one of:

current: The application is in current use

deprecated: The application is in current use but its use is discouraged

historic: The application is no longer in current use

5. An optional table of query parameters that are specific to this application; each table entry must include:

Name: Name of the query parameter

Status: (as above)

Description: A short description of the purpose of this parameter

Syntax: A reference to a description of valid syntax for the parameter's value

Required: "yes" if the parameter is mandatory, "no" otherwise

A document creating a reputation application MUST include:

1. A list of one or more assertions registered within this application; each table entry must include:

Name: Name of the assertion

Description: A short description of the assertion, with specific meanings for values of 0.0 and 1.0

Scale: A short description of the scale used in computing the value (see [Section 4](#) of this memo)

[6.](#) Security Considerations

This memo describes security considerations introduced by the media type defined here.

[TBD]

[7.](#) References

7.1. Normative References

[I-D.REPUTE-MODEL]

Borenstein, N. and M. Kucherawy, "A Model for Reputation Interchange", I-D [draft-kucherawy-reputation-model](#), June 2011.

[I-D.REPUTE-QUERY-HTTP]

Borenstein, N. and M. Kucherawy, "Reputation Data Interchange using HTTP and XML", I-D [draft-ietf-repute-query-http](#), November 2011.

[KEYWORDS]

Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.

7.2. Informative References

[DKIM] Crocker, D., Ed., Hansen, T., Ed., and M. Kucherawy, Ed., "DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) Signatures", [RFC 6376](#), September 2011.

[HTTP] Fielding, R., Gettys, J., Mogul, J., Frystyk, H., Masinter, L., Leach, P., and T. Berners-Lee, "Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1", [RFC 2616](#), June 1999.

[I-D.REPUTE-EMAIL-IDENTIFIERS]

Borenstein, N. and M. Kucherawy, "A Reputation Vocabulary for Email Identifiers", I-D [draft-ietf-repute-email-identifiers](#), November 2011.

[IANA-CONSIDERATIONS]

Narten, T. and H. Alvestrand, "Guidelines for Writing an IANA Considerations Section in RFCs", [RFC 5226](#), May 2008.

[MIME-REG]

Freed, N. and J. Klensin, "Media Type Specifications and Registration Procedures", [RFC 4288](#), December 2005.

Appendix A. Acknowledgments

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Appendix B. Public Discussion

Public discussion of this suite of memos takes place on the domainrep@ietf.org mailing list. See <https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/domainrep>.

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