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Media Type Registration for Common Alerting Protocol
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Abstract

This document registers the media type "application/
common-alerting-protocol+xml" for Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)
format .

Requirements Language

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

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1. Introduction

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) [cap] is an XML document format for exchanging emergency alerts and public warnings. This document registers a media type for CAP documents. The following is an example of a CAP message for a severe thunderstorm warning:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
```

```
<alert xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:emergency:cap:1.1">
  <identifier>KSTO1055887203</identifier>
  <sender>KSTO@NWS.NOAA.GOV</sender>
  <sent>2003-06-17T14:57:00-07:00</sent>
  <status>Actual</status>
  <msgType>Alert</msgType>
  <scope>Public</scope>
  <info>
    <category>Met</category>
    <event>SEVERE THUNDERSTORM</event>
    <urgency>Severe</urgency>
    <certainty>Likely</certainty>
    <senderName>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SACRAMENTO</senderName>
    <headline>SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING</headline>
    <description> AT 254 PM PDT...
      NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
      DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A SEVERE
      THUNDERSTORM OVER SOUTH CENTRAL ALPINE COUNTY...
      OR ABOUT 18 MILES SOUTHEAST OF
      KIRKWOOD... MOVING SOUTHWEST AT 5 MPH. HAIL...
      INTENSE RAIN AND STRONG DAMAGING WINDS
      ARE LIKELY WITH THIS STORM </description>
    <instruction> TAKE COVER IN A SUBSTANTIAL SHELTER
      UNTIL THE STORM PASSES </instruction>
    <contact>BARUFFALDI/JUSKIE</contact>
    <area>
      <areaDesc> EXTREME NORTH CENTRAL TUOLUMNE COUNTY
        IN CALIFORNIA, EXTREME NORTHEASTERN
```

```
        CALAVERAS COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA, SOUTHWESTERN
        ALPINE COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA </areaDesc>
    <polygon> 38.47,-120.14 38.34,-119.95 38.52,-119.74
        38.62,-119.89 38.47,-120.14 </polygon>
    </area>
</info>
</alert>
```

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[2.](#) IANA Considerations

[2.1.](#) Registration of the 'application/common-alerting-protocol+xml' media type

To: ietf-types@iana.org

Subject: Registration of MIME media type application/ common-alerting-protocol+xml

MIME media type name: application

MIME subtype name: common-alerting-protocol+xml

Required parameters: (none)

Optional parameters: charset; Indicates the character encoding of the enclosed XML. Default is UTF-8 [[RFC3629](#)].

Security considerations: Transmission of CAP payloads does not introduce new security risks

Interoperability considerations: CAP is widely used for emergency management.

Published specification: RFC XXX [Replace by the RFC number of this specification].

Applications which use this media type: Applications that convey

alerts and early warnings according to the CAP standard.

Additional information: OASIS has published the Common Alerting Protocol specification [[CAP](#)].

Person & email address to contact for further information: Hannes Tschofenig, hannes.tschofenig@nsn.com

Intended usage: Limited use

Author/Change controller: IETF ATOCA working group

Other information: This media type is a specialization of application/xml [[RFC3023](#)], and many of the considerations described there also apply to application/ common-alerting-protocol+xml.

[3.](#) Security Considerations

The introduction of the CAP MIME type does not present any new risks in itself. CAP messages are used to encode emergency alerts, which means that false CAP messages can have significant negative effects, such as the unnecessary evacuation of an area. Systems that process CAP messages will need to have mechanisms for integrity protection and origin authentication, in order to ensure either that end alert recipients do not receive false alerts or that they can distinguish valid alerts from false alerts.

[4.](#) Normative References

- [CAP] Botterell, A. and E. Jones, "ommon Alerting Protocol v1.1", October 2005.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC3023] Murata, M., St. Laurent, S., and D. Kohn, "XML Media Types", [RFC 3023](#), January 2001.

[RFC3629] Yergeau, F., "UTF-8, a transformation format of ISO 10646", STD 63, [RFC 3629](#), November 2003.

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