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**IMAP METADATA Extension**  
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Abstract

The METADATA extension to the Internet Message Access Protocol permits clients and servers to maintain "annotations" or "meta data" on IMAP servers. It is possible to have annotations on a per-mailbox basis or on the server as a whole. For example, this would allow comments about the purpose of a particular mailbox to be "attached" to that mailbox, or a "message of the day" containing server status information to be made available to anyone logging in to the server.

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## **1. Introduction and Overview**

The goal of the METADATA extension is to provide a means for clients to set and retrieve "annotations" or "meta data" on an IMAP server. The annotations can be associated with specific mailboxes or the server as a whole. The server can choose to support only server annotations or both server and mailbox annotations.

A server that supports both server and mailbox annotations indicates the presence of this extension by returning "METADATA" as one of the supported capabilities in the CAPABILITY command response.

A server that supports only server annotations indicates the presence of this extension by returning "METADATA-SERVER" as one of the supported capabilities in the CAPABILITY command response.

A server that supports unsolicited annotation change responses **MUST** support the "ENABLE" [[RFC5161](#)] extension to allow clients to turn that feature on.

The METADATA extension adds two new commands and one new untagged response to the IMAP base protocol.

This extension makes the following changes to the IMAP protocol:

- o adds a new SETMETADATA command
- o adds a new GETMETADATA command
- o adds a new METADATA untagged response
- o adds a new METADATA response code

The rest of this document describes the data model and protocol changes more rigorously.

## **2. Conventions Used in This Document**

In examples, "C:" and "S:" indicate lines sent by the client and server respectively.

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 [[RFC2119](#)].

Whitespace and line breaks have been added to the examples in this document to promote readability.

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### **3. Data Model**

#### **3.1. Overview**

Mailboxes or the server as a whole may have zero or more annotations associated with them. An annotation contains a uniquely named entry each of which has a value. Annotations can be added to mailboxes when a mailbox name is provided as the first argument to the SETMETADATA command, or to the server as a whole when the empty string is provided as the first argument to the command.

For example, a general comment being added to a mailbox may have an entry name of `"/comment"` and a value `"Really useful mailbox"`.

The protocol changes to IMAP described below allow a client to access or change the values of any annotation entry, assuming it has sufficient access rights to do so.

#### **3.2. Namespace of entries**

Each annotation is an entry that has a hierarchical name, with each component of the name separated by a slash (`"/"`). An entry name **MUST NOT** contain two consecutive `"/"` characters and **MUST NOT** end with a `"/"` character.

The value of an entry is NIL (has no value), or a string or binary data of zero or more octets. A string **MAY** contain multiple lines of text. Clients **MUST** use the CRLF (`0x0D 0x0A`) character octet sequence to represent line ends in a multi-line string value.

Entry names **MUST NOT** contain asterisk (`"*"`) or percent (`"%"`) characters and **MUST NOT** contain non-ASCII characters or characters with octet values in the range `0x00` to `0x19`. Invalid entry names result in a BAD response in any IMAP commands where they are used.

Entry names are case-insensitive.

Use of control or punctuation characters in entry names is strongly discouraged.

This specification defines an initial set of entry names available for use with mailbox and server annotations. In addition an extension mechanism is described to allow additional names to be added for extensibility.

The first component in entry names defines the scope of the annotation. Currently only the prefixes `"/private"` or `"/shared"` are defined. These prefixes are used to indicate whether an annotation

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is stored on a per-user basis ("/private") and not visible to other users, or whether an annotation is shared between authorized users ("/shared") with a single value that can be read and changed by authorized users with appropriate access. See [Section 3.3](#) for details.

Entry names can have any number of components starting at 2, unless they fall under the vendor namespaces (i.e., have /shared/vendor/<vendor-token> or /private/vendor/<vendor-token> prefix as described below), in which case they have at least 4 components.

### **[3.2.1.](#) Entry Names**

Entry names MUST be specified in a standards track or IESG approved experimental RFC, or fall under the vendor namespace. See [Section 6.1](#) for the registration template.

#### **[3.2.1.1.](#) Server Entries**

These entries are set or retrieved when the mailbox name argument to the new SETMETADATA or GETMETATDATA commands is the empty string.

/shared/comment

Defines a comment or note associated with the server shared with authorized users of the server.

/shared/admin

Indicates a method for contacting the server administrator. The value MUST be a URI (e.g., a mailto: or tel: URL). This entry is always read-only - clients cannot change it. It is visible to authorized users of the system.

/shared/vendor/<vendor-token>

Defines the top-level of shared entries associated with the server as created by a particular product of some vendor. This entry can be used by vendors to provide server or client specific annotations. The vendor-token MUST be registered with IANA, using the ACAP [[RFC2244](#)] vendor subtree registry.

/private/vendor/<vendor-token>

Defines the top-level of private entries associated with the server as created by a particular product of some vendor. This entry can be used by vendors to provide server or client specific annotations. The vendor-token MUST be registered with IANA, using the ACAP [[RFC2244](#)] vendor subtree registry.



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### **3.2.1.2. Mailbox Entries**

These entries are set or retrieved when the mailbox name argument to the new SETMETADATA or GETMETADATA commands is not the empty string.

`/shared/comment`

Defines a shared comment or note associated with a mailbox.

`/private/comment`

Defines a private (per-user) comment or note associated with a mailbox.

`/shared/vendor/<vendor-token>`

Defines the top-level of shared entries associated with a specific mailbox as created by a particular product of some vendor. This entry can be used by vendors to provide client specific annotations. The vendor-token MUST be registered with IANA, using the ACAP [[RFC2244](#)] vendor subtree registry.

`/private/vendor/<vendor-token>`

Defines the top-level of private entries associated with a specific mailbox as created by a particular product of some vendor. This entry can be used by vendors to provide client specific annotations. The vendor-token MUST be registered with IANA, using the ACAP [[RFC2244](#)] vendor subtree registry.

### **3.3. Private versus Shared and Access Control**

In the absence of the ACL extension [[RFC4314](#)], users can only set and retrieve private or shared mailbox annotations on a mailbox which exists and is returned to them via a LIST or LSUB command, and on which they have either read or write access to the actual message content of the mailbox (as determined by the READ-ONLY and READ-WRITE response codes as described in [Section 5.2 of \[RFC4314\]](#)).

When the ACL extension [[RFC4314](#)] is present, users can only set and retrieve private or shared mailbox annotations on a mailbox on which they have the "l" right, and any one of the "r", "s", "w", "i" or "p" rights.

If a client attempts to set or retrieve annotations on mailboxes which do not satisfy the conditions above, the server MUST respond with a NO response.

Users can always retrieve private or shared server annotations if they exist. Servers MAY restrict the creation of private or shared server annotations as appropriate. When restricted, the server MUST return a NO response when the SETMETADATA command is used to try and

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create a server annotation.

If the METADATA extension is present, support for shared annotations is REQUIRED, whilst support for private annotations is OPTIONAL. This recognizes the fact that support for private annotations may introduce significantly more complexity to a server in terms of tracking ownership of the annotations, how quota is determined for users based on their own annotations etc.

## **4. IMAP Protocol Changes**

### **4.1. General Considerations**

The new SETMETADATA command and the METADATA response each have a mailbox name argument. An empty string is used for the mailbox name to signify server annotations. A non-empty string is used to signify mailbox annotations attached to the corresponding mailbox.

Servers SHOULD ensure that mailbox annotations are automatically moved when the mailbox they refer to is renamed, i.e., the annotations follow the mailbox. This applies to a rename of the INBOX, with the additional behavior that the annotations are copied from the original INBOX to the renamed mailbox. i.e., mailbox annotations are preserved on the INBOX when it is renamed.

Servers SHOULD delete annotations for a mailbox when the mailbox is deleted, so that a mailbox created with the same name as a previously existing mailbox does not inherit the old mailbox annotations.

Servers SHOULD allow annotations on all 'types' of mailbox, including ones reporting \Noselect for their LIST response. Servers can implicitly remove \Noselect mailboxes when all child mailboxes are removed, and as such any annotations associated with the \Noselect mailbox SHOULD be removed.

The server is allowed to impose limitations on the size of any one annotation or the total number of annotations for a single mailbox or for the server as a whole. However, the server MUST accept an annotation data size of at least 1024 bytes, and an annotation count per server or mailbox of at least 10.

Some annotations may be "read-only" - i.e., they are set by the server and cannot be changed by the client. Also, such annotations may be "computed" - i.e., the value changes based on underlying properties of the mailbox or server. For example, an annotation reporting the total size of all messages in the mailbox would change as messages are added or removed. Or, an annotation containing an



IMAP URL for the mailbox would change if the mailbox was renamed.

Servers MAY support sending unsolicited responses for use when annotations are changed by some "third-party" (see [Section 4.4](#)). In order to do so servers MUST support the ENABLE command [[RFC5161](#)] and MUST only send unsolicited responses if the client uses the ENABLE command [[RFC5161](#)] extension with the capability string "METADATA" or "METADATA-SERVER" earlier in the session, depending on which of those capabilities is supported by the server.

#### [4.2](#). GETMETADATA Command

This extension adds the GETMETADATA command. This allows clients to retrieve server or mailbox annotations.

This command is only available in authenticated or selected state [[RFC3501](#)].

Arguments: mailbox-name  
          options  
          entry-specifier

Responses: required METADATA response

Result: OK - command completed  
        NO - command failure: can't access annotations on  
            the server  
        BAD - command unknown or arguments invalid

When the mailbox name is the empty string, this command retrieves server annotations. When the mailbox name is not empty, this command retrieves annotations on the specified mailbox.

Options MAY be included with this command and are defined below.

Example:

```
C: a GETMETADATA "" /shared/comment
S: * METADATA "" (/shared/comment "Shared comment")
S: a OK GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, the contents of the value of the "/shared/comment" server entry is requested by the client and returned by the server.

Example:



```
C: a GETMETADATA "INBOX" /private/comment
S: * METADATA "INBOX" (/private/comment "My own comment")
S: a OK GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, the contents of the value of the "/private/comment" mailbox entry for the mailbox "INBOX" is requested by the client and returned by the server.

Entry specifiers can be lists of atomic specifiers, so that multiple annotations may be returned in a single GETMETADATA command.

Example:

```
C: a GETMETADATA "INBOX" (/shared/comment /private/comment)
S: * METADATA "INBOX" (/shared/comment "Shared comment"
                      /private/comment "My own comment")
S: a OK GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, the values of the two server entries "/shared/comment" and "/private/comment" on the mailbox "inbox" are requested by the client and returned by the server.

#### **4.2.1. MAXSIZE GETMETADATA Command Option**

When MAXSIZE option is specified with the GETMETADATA command, it restricts which entry values are returned by the server. Only entry values which are less than or equal in octet size to the specified MAXSIZE limit are returned. If there are any entries with values larger than the MAXSIZE limit, the server MUST include the METADATA LONGENTRIES response code in the tagged OK response for the GETMETADATA command. The METADATA LONGENTRIES response code returns the size of the biggest entry value requested by the client which exceeded the MAXSIZE limit.

Example:

```
C: a GETMETADATA "INBOX" (MAXSIZE 1024)
                      (/shared/comment /private/comment)
S: * METADATA "INBOX" (/private/comment "My own comment")
S: a OK [METADATA LONGENTRIES 2199] GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, the values of the two server entries "/shared/comment" and "/private/comment" on the mailbox "inbox" are requested by the client which wants to restrict the size of returned values to 1024 octets. In this case the "/shared/comment" entry value is 2199 octets and is not returned.





#### **4.2.2. DEPTH GETMETADATA Command Option**

When DEPTH option is specified with the GETMETADATA command, it extends the list of entry values returned by the server. For each entry name specified in the GETMETADATA command, the server returns the value of the specified entry name (if it exists), plus all entries below the entry name up to the specified DEPTH. Three values are allowed for DEPTH:

"0" - no entries below the specified entry are returned

"1" - only entries immediately below the specified entry are returned

"infinity" - all entries below the specified entry are returned

Thus, "depth 1" for an entry "/a" will match "/a" as well as its children entries (e.g., "/a/b"), but will not match grandchildren entries (e.g., "/a/b/c").

If the DEPTH option is not specified, this is the same as specifying "DEPTH 0".

Example:

```
C: a GETMETADATA "INBOX" (DEPTH 1)
                               (/private/filters/values)
S: * METADATA "INBOX" (/private/filters/values/small
    "SMALLER 5000" /private/filters/values/boss
    "FROM \"boss@example.com\"")
S: a OK GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, 2 entries below the /private/filters/values entry exist on the mailbox "INBOX": "/private/filters/values/small" and "/private/filters/values/boss".

#### **4.3. SETMETADATA Command**

This extension adds the SETMETADATA command. This allows clients to set annotations.

This command is only available in authenticated or selected state [[RFC3501](#)].



Arguments: mailbox-name  
          entry  
          value  
          list of entry, values

Responses: no specific responses for this command

Result: OK - command completed  
      NO - command failure: can't set annotations,  
          or annotation too big or too many  
      BAD - command unknown or arguments invalid

This command sets the specified list of entries by adding or replacing the specified values provided, on the specified existing mailboxes or on the server (if the mailbox argument is the empty string). Clients can use NIL for the value of entries it wants to remove. The server SHOULD NOT return a METADATA response containing the updated annotation data. Clients MUST NOT assume that a METADATA response will be sent, and MUST assume that if the command succeeds then the annotation has been changed.

If the server is unable to set an annotation because the size of its value is too large, the server MUST return a tagged NO response with a "[METADATA MAXSIZE NNN]" response code when NNN is the maximum octet count that it is willingly to accept.

If the server is unable to set a new annotation because the maximum number of allowed annotations has already been reached, the server MUST return a tagged NO response with a "[METADATA TOOMANY]" response code.

If the server is unable to set a new annotation because it does not support private annotations on one of the specified mailboxes, the server MUST return a tagged NO response with a "[METADATA NOPRIVATE]" response code.

When any one annotation fails to be set, resulting in a tagged NO response from the server, then the server MUST NOT change the values for other annotations specified in the SETMETADATA command.

Example:

```
C: a SETMETADATA INBOX (/private/comment {33}
S: + ready for data
My new comment across
two lines.
)
S: a OK SETMETADATA complete
```



In the above example, the entry `"/private/comment"` for the mailbox `"INBOX"` is created (if not already present) and the value set to a multi-line string.

Example:

```
C: a SETMETADATA INBOX (/private/comment NIL)
S: a OK SETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, the entry `"/private/comment"` is removed from the mailbox `"INBOX"`.

Multiple entries can be set in a single SETMETADATA command by listing entry-value pairs in the list.

Example:

```
C: a SETMETADATA INBOX (/private/comment "My new comment"
                        /shared/comment "This one is for you!")
S: a OK SETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, the entries `"/private/comment"` and `"/shared/comment"` for the mailbox `"INBOX"` are created (if not already present) and the values set as specified.

Example:

```
C: a SETMETADATA INBOX (/private/comment "My new comment")
S: a NO [METADATA TOOMANY] SETMETADATA failed
```

In the above example, the server is unable to set the requested (new) annotation as it has reached the limit on the number of annotations it can support on the specified mailbox.

#### **4.4. METADATA Response**

The METADATA response displays results of a GETMETADATA command, or can be returned as an unsolicited response at anytime by the server in response to a change in a server or mailbox annotation.

When unsolicited responses are activated by the ENABLE [[RFC5161](#)] command for this extension, servers MUST send unsolicited METADATA responses if server or mailbox annotations are changed by a third-party, allowing servers to keep clients updated with changes.

Unsolicited METADATA responses MUST only contain entry names, not the values. If the client wants to update any cached values it must explicitly retrieve those using a GETMETADATA command.



The METADATA response can contain multiple entries in a single response, but the server is free to return multiple responses for each entry or group of entries if it desires.

This response is only available in authenticated or selected state [[RFC3501](#)].

#### **4.4.1. METADATA response with values**

The response consists of a list of entry-value pairs.

Example:

```
C: a GETMETADATA "" /shared/comment
S: * METADATA "" (/shared/comment "My comment")
S: a OK GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, a single entry with its value is returned by the server.

Example:

```
C: a GETMETADATA "INBOX" /private/comment /shared/comment
S: * METADATA "INBOX" (/private/comment "My comment"
                      /shared/comment "Its sunny outside!")
S: a OK GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, two entries and their values are returned by the server.

Example:

```
C: a GETMETADATA "INBOX" /private/comment /shared/comment
S: * METADATA "INBOX" (/private/comment "My comment")
S: * METADATA "INBOX" (/shared/comment "Its sunny outside!")
S: a OK GETMETADATA complete
```

In the above example, the server returns two separate responses for each of the two entries requested.

#### **4.4.2. Unsolicited METADATA response without values**

The response consists of a list of entries, each of which have changed on the server or mailbox.

Example:





```
C: a NOOP
S: * METADATA "" /shared/comment
S: a OK NOOP complete
```

In the above example, the server indicates that the "/shared/comment" server entry has been changed.

Example:

```
C: a NOOP
S: * METADATA "INBOX" /shared/comment /private/comment
S: a OK NOOP complete
```

In the above example, the server indicates a change to two mailbox entries.

## 5. Formal Syntax

The following syntax specification uses the Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF) notation as specified in [\[RFC5234\]](#).

Non-terminals referenced but not defined below are as defined by [\[RFC3501\]](#) with the new definitions in [\[RFC4466\]](#) superseding those in [\[RFC3501\]](#).

Except as noted otherwise, all alphabetic characters are case-insensitive. The use of upper or lower case characters to define token strings is for editorial clarity only. Implementations MUST accept these strings in a case-insensitive fashion.

capability	=/ "METADATA" / "METADATA-SERVER" ; defines the capabilities for this extension
command-auth	=/ setmetadata / getmetadata ; adds to original IMAP command
entries	= entry / "(" entry *(SP entry) ")" ; entry specifiers
entry	= astring ; slash-separated path to entry ; MUST NOT contain "*" or "%"
entry-value	= entry SP value
entry-values	= "(" entry-value *(SP entry-value) ")"

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entry-list = entry \*(SP entry)  
; list of entries used in unsolicited  
; METADATA response

getmetadata = "GETMETADATA" [SP getmetadata-options]  
SP mailbox SP entries  
; empty string for mailbox implies  
; server annotation.

getmetadata-options = "(" getmetadata-option  
\*(SP getmetadata-option) ")"

getmetadata-option = tagged-ext-label [SP tagged-ext-val]  
; tagged-ext-label, tagged-ext-val are  
; defined in [RFC4466](#).

maxsize-opt = "MAXSIZE" SP number  
; Used as a getmetadata-option

metadata-resp = "METADATA" SP mailbox SP  
(entry-values / entry-list)  
; empty string for mailbox implies  
; server annotation.

response-payload =/ metadata-resp  
; adds to original IMAP data responses

resp-text-code =/ "METADATA" SP "LONGENTRIES" SP number  
; new response codes for GETMETADATA

resp-text-code =/ "METADATA" SP ("MAXSIZE" SP number /  
"TOOMANY" / "NOPRIVATE")  
; new response codes for SETMETADATA  
; failures

scope-opt = "DEPTH" SP ("0" / "1" / "infinity")  
; Used as a getmetadata-option

setmetadata = "SETMETADATA" SP mailbox  
SP entry-values  
; empty string for mailbox implies  
; server annotation.

value = nstring / literal8



## **6. IANA Considerations**

All entries MUST have either `"/shared"` or `"/private"` as a prefix. Entry names MUST be specified in a standards track or IESG approved experimental RFC, or fall under the vendor namespace (i.e., use `/shared/vendor/<vendor-token>` or `/private/vendor/<vendor-token>` as the prefix).

Each entry registration MUST include a content-type that is used to indicate the nature of the annotation value. Where applicable a charset parameter MUST be included with the content-type.

### **6.1. Entry and Attribute Registration Template**

To: `iana@iana.org`  
Subject: IMAP METADATA Entry Registration

Type: [Either "Mailbox" or "Server"]

Name: [the name of the entry]

Description: [a description of what the entry is for]

Content-type: [MIME Content-Type and charset for the entry value]

RFC Number: [for entries published as RFCs]

Contact: [email and/or physical address to contact for additional information]

### **6.2. Server Entry Registrations**

The following templates specify the IANA registrations of annotation entries specified in this document.



#### **6.2.1. /shared/comment**

To: iana@iana.org  
Subject: IMAP METADATA Entry Registration

Type:           Server

Name:           /shared/comment

Description:    Defines a comment or note associated with the  
                  server shared with authorized users of the server.

Content-type: text/plain; charset=utf-8

RFC Number:     This RFC.

Contact:        IMAP Extensions <mailto:ietf-imapext@imc.org>

#### **6.2.2. /shared/admin**

To: iana@iana.org  
Subject: IMAP METADATA Entry Registration

Type:           Server

Name:           /shared/admin

Description:    Indicates a method for contacting the server  
                  administrator. The value MUST be a URI (e.g., a  
                  mailto: or tel: URL). This entry is always  
                  read-only - clients cannot change it. It is visible  
                  to authorized users of the system.

Content-type: text/plain; charset=utf-8

RFC Number:     This RFC.

Contact:        IMAP Extensions <mailto:ietf-imapext@imc.org>

### **6.3. Mailbox Entry Registrations**

The following templates specify the IANA registrations of annotation entries specified in this document.





#### **6.3.1. /shared/comment**

To: iana@iana.org  
Subject: IMAP METADATA Entry Registration

Type: Mailbox

Name: /shared/comment

Description: Defines a shared comment or note associated with a mailbox.

Content-type: text/plain; charset=utf-8

RFC Number: This RFC.

Contact: IMAP Extensions <mailto:ietf-imapext@imc.org>

#### **6.3.2. /private/comment**

To: iana@iana.org  
Subject: IMAP METADATA Entry Registration

Type: Mailbox

Name: /private/comment

Description: Defines a private comment or note associated with a mailbox.

Content-type: text/plain; charset=utf-8

RFC Number: This RFC.

Contact: IMAP Extensions <mailto:ietf-imapext@imc.org>

### **7. Security Considerations**

The security considerations in [Section 11 of \[RFC3501\]](#) apply with respect to protecting annotations from snooping. Servers MAY choose to only support the METADATA and/or METADATA-SERVER extensions after a privacy layer has been negotiated by the client.

Annotations can contain arbitrary data of varying size. As such servers MUST ensure that size limits are enforced to prevent a user from using up all available space on a server and preventing use by others. Clients MUST treat annotation data values as an "untrusted"



source of data as it is possible for it to contain malicious content.

Annotations whose values are intended to remain private MUST be stored only in entries that have the "/private" prefix on the entry name.

Excluding the above issues the METADATA extension does not raise any security considerations that are not present in the base IMAP protocol, and these issues are discussed in [[RFC3501](#)].

## **8. Normative References**

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC2244] Newman, C. and J. Myers, "ACAP -- Application Configuration Access Protocol", [RFC 2244](#), November 1997.
- [RFC3501] Crispin, M., "INTERNET MESSAGE ACCESS PROTOCOL - VERSION 4rev1", [RFC 3501](#), March 2003.
- [RFC4314] Melnikov, A., "IMAP4 Access Control List (ACL) Extension", [RFC 4314](#), December 2005.
- [RFC4466] Melnikov, A. and C. Daboo, "Collected Extensions to IMAP4 ABNF", [RFC 4466](#), April 2006.
- [RFC5161] Gulbrandsen, A. and A. Melnikov, "The IMAP ENABLE Extension", [RFC 5161](#), March 2008.
- [RFC5234] Crocker, D. and P. Overell, "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, [RFC 5234](#), January 2008.

## **[Appendix A](#). Acknowledgments**

The ideas expressed in this document are based on the message annotation document that was co-authored by Randall Gellens. The author would like to thank the following individuals for contributing their ideas and support for writing this specification: Dave Cridland, Arnt Gulbrandsen, Dan Karp, Alexey Melnikov, Ken Murchison, Chris Newman, Michael Wener.

## **[Appendix B](#). Change History (to be removed prior to publication as an RFC)**



Changes from -16 to -17:

1. Removed "METADATA-UNSOLICITED" capability from ABNF.
2. Additional text added to Security Considerations to emphasize 3501 privacy statement.
3. Additional text added to clarify that multiple components can appear in entry names.
4. Changed /public prefix to /shared.
5. Fixed minor Gen-ART review issues.

Changes from -15 to -16:

1. Tweaked enable capability behavior.
2. Changed access control text to be more explicit about which ACL privileges are required.

Changes from -14 to -15:

1. Addressed minor issues from Gen-ART review on -12 version.
2. Removed comparator paragraph - no need to specify how the server does its comparisons.
3. Added MAXSIZE GETMETADATA option.
4. Added DEPTH GETMETADATA option.
5. Additional restriction on entry name octet values added.
6. Added text about access restrictions for server annotations.

Changes from -13 to -14:

1. Add statement that no annotations are set when any one fails in a single SETMETADATA command.
2. Make unsolicited responses a MUST when ENABLE is used, but make support for ENABLE METADATA optional so servers aren't required to do unsolicited responses. This required a new capability for the unsolicited behavior.
3. Re-ordered Security considerations paragraphs and added additional text about the possibility of malicious content in data values. [SECDIR suggestion]
4. Reworded "all users" to "authorized users" in appropriate places. [SECDIR suggestion]
5. Added additional text to Security considerations about the need for servers to keep /private annotations private to the user that created them. [SECDIR suggestion]
6. Added comment that string values can be multi-line and that CRLF must be the line end indicator. Also changes one example to be multi-line. [SECDIR suggestion]

Changes from -12 to -13:

1. Major changes to simplify things.
2. Removed dependency on LISTEXT - GETMETADATA now used to get annotations on mailboxes.

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3. Changed data model to remove attributes - annotations are now only entry-value pairs.
4. Removed all wildcard behavior on entry names.
5. Cut down the registered annotations to only a few essential ones.

Changes from -11 to -12:

1. Allow server annotations to be used without mailbox annotations.
2. Require i;unicode-casemap when COMPARATOR is not present.
3. Use ENABLE to turn on unsolicited responses.
4. Use formal syntax elements from SORT/THREAD extensions to define the values for /sort and /thread entries.
5. Added a comment that use of IDLE is preferred even when /check is true.
6. Use formal syntax element from base spec for the /size value.
7. Removed IANA registration for attributes as we don't expect any more to be defined.
8. Tweaked IANA registration template to be more compact and add RFC Number reference.
9. Some minor re-phrasing was done.
10. Added text about handling of annotations on INBOX when it is renamed.
11. Require a BAD response when an unknown collation is used in LISTEXT selection option.

Changes from -10 to -11:

1. Added new paragraph to indicate that values may be read-only or computed.
2. /admin server annotation value now must be a URI.
3. Clarified that SORT and THREAD extensions are not required.
4. Fixed use of undefined entries in some examples.
5. Fixed many examples.
6. Added IANA registration for LIST-EXTENDED items.
7. Added match type and collation identifier to the LIST-EXTENDED selection option.
8. Made support for IMAP-I18N a requirement.
9. Minor text clarifications applied.
10. Remove mailbox list set atomicity requirement.
11. Clarified that annotations can only be set on mailboxes that actually exist.

Changes from -09 to -10:

1. Updated to [rfc 4466](#) reference.
2. Reworded data model description.
3. Reworked LIST-EXTENDED so that responses have metadata items after the mailbox info.
4. Various spelling fixes.

Changes from -08 to -09:



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1. Remove content-language attribute and reference.
2. Changed capability and command names.
3. Revised abstract.

Changes from -07 to -08:

1. Changed 'string' formal syntax to 'list-mailbox' and 'astring' for entry/attribute names.
2. Updated examples to match new astring syntax.
3. Changed CAPABILITY name due to incompatible syntax change.
4. Removed content-type attribute.
5. Added Content-type to IANA registration for entries.
6. Removed vendor attributes.
7. Fixed examples in [section 3.3](#) for multi-mailbox and multi-entry cases.
8. Removed wildcards for attributes.
9. Entry/attributes can now only be ASCII.
10. Tied up text wrt storing/fetching.
11. Added Conventions [section 12](#).
12. Entry/attributes MUST NOT contain consecutive or trailing '/' or '.'.
13. Changed to use IMAP ABNF extensions document for some formal syntax items.

Changes from -06 to -07:

1. Reworded /checkperiod item.
2. Clarified unsolicited response behavior.

Changes from -05 to -06:

1. Removed 'modifiedsince' attribute as there is currently no use for it.
2. Added content-language attribute.
3. Changed access to allow .priv and .shared on any mailbox returned by LIST/LSUB.
4. Added IANA registrations for items defined in this document.
5. Added latest IPR statement.
6. Updated references.

Changes from -04 to -05:

1. Fix for valid IMAP state of commands.
2. Fix formatting, ID nits etc.

Changes from -03 to -04:

1. Allow retrieval of shared annotations for READ-ONLY mailbox.
2. Clarification of annotation loss on implicit removal of \Noselect mailboxes.
3. Now requires roll-back of all changes to matching mailboxes if there is a partial failure in SETANNOTATION.

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Changes from -02 to -03:

1. Reworked entry naming scheme to split out mailbox name and use empty string for server items.

Changes from -01 to -02:

1. SETANNOTATION lists use (...).
2. Explicitly state behavior of unsolicited responses.
3. Adding SHOULD behavior for rename/delete of mailboxes.
4. Added statement about supporting annotations on \Noselect mailboxes.
5. Cleaned up formal syntax to use IMAP string type for entry and attributes, with requirements on how the string is formatted.
6. Use of ACAP vendor subtree registry for vendor tokens.

Changes from -00 to -01:

1. Multiple entry-att responses are now simply delimited by spaces in line with ANNOTATE spec. Adjusted examples to match.
2. Fixed entry-list formal syntax item to account for unsolicited parenthesized list of entries.
3. Removed setentries formal syntax item for simplicity since its only used once.
4. Removed reference to 'message annotation' in [section 5.1](#).
5. Changed formal syntax to restrict top level entries to /server and /mailbox/{...} only. Re-arranged entry names section to account for this change.
6. Added comment and example for ANNOTATION response to allow servers to return separate responses for each entry if desired.

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