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**vCard: Service Type Parameter**  
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Abstract

This document defines a "Service Type" parameter for use on various vCard properties to help clients distinguish between different types of communication services that may be using the same protocol, yet are distinct.

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## Table of Contents

<a href="#">1.</a>	Introduction and Overview . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">2.</a>	Open Issues . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">3.</a>	Conventions . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">4.</a>	SERVICE-TYPE Parameter . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">5.</a>	Security Considerations . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">6.</a>	IANA Consideration . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">7.</a>	Acknowledgments . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">8.</a>	References . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">8.1.</a>	Normative References . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">8.2.</a>	Informative References . . . . .	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Appendix A.</a>	Common Service Types . . . . .	<a href="#">5</a>
	Author's Address . . . . .	<a href="#">5</a>



## **1. Introduction and Overview**

The vCard 4.0 [[I-D.ietf-vcarddav-vcardrev](#)] specification defines a data format for contact information. It includes an "IMPP" property that is used to list instant messaging and presence information for the entity represented by the vCard. One problem with this is that instant messaging systems on the internet today use a wide variety of protocols (XMPP, AIM, IRC, etc). In addition, two service providers using the same protocol may not allow communication between users on their separate systems. As a result, when one user needs to communicate with another, they need knowledge of which service providers, or service types, exist for the other user's "IMPP" properties, so that they can match that with an equivalent one that they have.

This specification adds a new "SERVICE-TYPE" property parameter to the "IMPP" property in vCard 4.0. This property contains a text token indicating the service information for use of the "IMPP" address value.

## **2. Open Issues**

1. Should service type values be in a registry?
2. What about localization of names?
3. Should we state that service type can be used with other properties (e.g. TEL, EMAIL)?

## **3. Conventions**

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](#)].

## **4. SERVICE-TYPE Parameter**

Parameter Name: SERVICE-TYPE

Purpose: Provides a text token to help distinguish between different types of instant message and presence services.



Description: This parameter allows different types of instant message and presence services to be differentiated when used with the "IMPP" property.

Format Definition:

```
service-param = "SERVICE-TYPE=" param-value
```

Example(s):

```
IMPP;SERVICE-TYPE=EXAMPLE-TALK:xmpp:cyrus@talk.example.com
IMPP;SERVICE-TYPE=CHATTYBOX:xmpp:cdaboo@chatty.example.org
```

## 5. Security Considerations

This specification does not introduce any addition security considerations beyond those in [[I-D.ietf-vcarddav-vcardrev](#)].

## 6. IANA Consideration

This document defines the following new vCard parameters to be added to the registry defined in Section 10.2 of [[I-D.ietf-vcarddav-vcardrev](#)]:

Parameter	Status	Reference
DISPLAY	Current	RFCXXXX, <a href="#">Section 4</a>

## 7. Acknowledgments

## 8. References

### 8.1. Normative References

- [I-D.ietf-vcarddav-vcardrev]  
Perreault, S. and P. Resnick, "vCard Format Specification", [draft-ietf-vcarddav-vcardrev-09](#) (work in progress), October 2009.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.



## 8.2. Informative References

[RFC4151] Kindberg, T. and S. Hawke, "The 'tag' URI Scheme", [RFC 4151](#), October 2005.

## Appendix A. Common Service Types

The table below provides a suggested set of service types that clients can use for the "SERVICE-TYPE" parameter when used with the "IMPP" property. Also listed are the expected URI schemes used for the "IMPP" property value. Where there is no formal protocol or scheme known for a particular service, the "tag" URI scheme [[RFC4151](#)] is listed instead as a suggested way to indicate the identifier needed for the service.

Service Type	Value URI scheme
AIM	aim
Facebook	xmpp
Gadu-Gadu	tag
GoogleTalk	xmpp
ICQ	aim
Jabber	xmpp
MSN	msnim
MySpace	tag
QQ	tag
Skype	skype
Twitter	tag
Yahoo	ymsg

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