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Additional Media Type Structured Syntax Suffixes
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Abstract

A content media type name sometimes includes partitioned meta-information distinguish by a Structured Syntax, to permit noting an attribute of the media as a suffix to the name. This document defines several Structured Syntax Suffixes for use with media type registrations. In particular, it defines and registers the "+json", "+ber", "+der", "+fastinfoset", "+wbxml" and "+zip" Structured Syntax Suffixes, and updates the "+xml" Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration.

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[1.](#) Introduction

[RFC3023] created the +xml suffix convention that can be used when defining names for media types whose representation uses XML underneath. That is, they could have been successfully parsed as if the media type had been application/xml in addition to their being parsed as their media type that is using the +xml suffix. [I-D.ietf-appsawg-media-type-regs] defines the Message Type Structured Syntax Suffixes registry to be used for such Structured Syntax Suffixes.

A variety of Structured Syntax Suffixes have already been used in some media type registrations, in particular "+json", "+der", "+fastinfoiset" and "+wbxml". This document defines and registers these Structured Syntax Suffixes in the Structured Syntax Suffix registry, along with "+ber" and "+zip". In addition, this document updates the "+xml" Structured Syntax Suffix registration.

Discussion of this document should occur in the Apps Area Working Group (apps-discuss@ietf.org). [RFC Editor note: remove this paragraph.]

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](#)].

[2.](#) When to Use these Structured Syntax Suffixes

Each of the Structured Syntax Suffixes defined in this document is appropriate for use when the media type identifies the semantics of the protocol payload. That is, knowing the semantics of the specific media type provides for more specific processing of the content than that afforded by generic processing of the underlying representation.

At the same time, using the suffix allows receivers of the media types to do generic processing of the underlying representation in cases where

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they do not need to perform special handling of the particular semantics of the exact media type, and,

there is no special knowledge needed by such a generic processor in order to parse that underlying representation other than what would be needed to parse any example of that underlying representation.

[3.](#) Initial Structured Syntax Suffix Definitions

[3.1.](#) The +json Structured Syntax Suffix

[RFC4627] defines the "application/json" media type. The suffix "+json" MAY be used with any media type whose representation follows that established for "application/json". The Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration form follows. See [I-D.ietf-appsawg-media-type-regs] for definitions of each of the registration form headings.

Name: JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)

+suffix: +json

References: [\[RFC4627\]](#)

Encoding considerations: Per [\[RFC4627\]](#), JSON is allowed to be represented using UTF-8, UTF-16, or UTF-32. When JSON is written in UTF-8, JSON is 8bit compatible ([\[RFC2045\]](#)). When JSON is written in UTF-16 or

UTF-32, JSON is binary ([\[RFC2045\]](#)).

Fragment identifier considerations: Media types using "+json" SHOULD process any fragment identifiers defined for "application/json" in the same way as defined for that media type. (At publication of this document, there is no fragment identification syntax defined for "application/json".) Specific media types using "+json" MAY identify additional fragment identifier considerations, MAY define processing for fragment identifiers that are classed as errors for "application/json" and MAY designate fragment identifiers defined for "application/json" that SHOULD NOT be used.

Interoperability considerations: n/a

Security considerations: See [\[RFC4627\]](#)

Contact: Apps Area Working Group (apps-discuss@ietf.org)

Author/Change controller: The Apps Area Working Group has change control over this registration.

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[3.2.](#) The +ber Structured Syntax Suffixes

The ITU defined the Basic Encoding Rules (BER) message transfer syntax in [\[ITU.X690.2008\]](#). The suffix "+ber" MAY be used with any media type whose representation follows the BER message transfer syntax. The Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration form for +ber follows:

Name: Basic Encoding Rules (BER) message transfer syntax

+suffix: +ber

References: [\[ITU.X690.2008\]](#)

Encoding considerations: BER is a binary encoding.

Fragment identifier considerations: n/a

Interoperability considerations: n/a

Security considerations: There are no security considerations inherent in BER. Each individual media type registered with a +ber suffix can have additional security considerations.

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Author/Change controller: The Apps Area Working Group has change control over this registration.

[3.3.](#) The +der Structured Syntax Suffixes

The ITU defined the Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) message transfer syntax in [[ITU.X690.2008](#)]. The suffix "+der" MAY be used with any media type whose representation follows the DER message transfer syntax. The Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration form for +der follows:

Name: Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) message transfer syntax

+suffix: +der

References: [[ITU.X690.2008](#)]

Encoding considerations: DER is a binary encoding.

Fragment identifier considerations: n/a

Interoperability considerations: n/a

Security considerations: There are no security considerations inherent in DER. Each individual media type registered with a +der suffix can have additional security considerations.

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Author/Change controller: The Apps Area Working Group has change control over this registration.

[3.4.](#) The +fastinfoset Structured Syntax Suffix

The ITU defined the Fast Infoset document format as a binary representation of the XML Information Set in [[ITU.X891.2005](#)]. These documents further define the "application/fastinfoset" media type. The suffix "+fastinfoset" MAY be used with any media type whose representation follows that established for "application/fastinfoset". The Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration form follows:

Name: Fast Infoset document format

+suffix: +fastinfoset

References: [[ITU.X891.2005](#)]

Encoding considerations: Fast Infoset is a binary encoding. The binary, quoted-printable and base64 content-transfer-encodings are suitable for use with Fast Infoset.

Fragment identifier considerations: Media types using "+fastinfoset" SHOULD process any fragment identifiers defined for "application/fastinfoset" in the same way as defined for that media type. (At publication of this document, there is no fragment identification syntax defined for "application/fastinfoset".) Specific media types using "+fastinfoset" MAY identify additional fragment identifier considerations, MAY define processing for fragment identifiers that are classed as errors for "application/fastinfoset" and MAY designate fragment identifiers defined for "application/fastinfoset" that SHOULD NOT be used.

Interoperability considerations: n/a

Security considerations: There are no security considerations

inherent in Fast Infoset. Each individual media type registered with a +fastinfoset suffix can have additional security considerations.

Contact: Apps Area Working Group (apps-discuss@ietf.org)

Author/Change controller: The Apps Area Working Group has change control over this registration.

[3.5.](#) The +wbxml Structured Syntax Suffix

The WAP Forum has defined the WAP Binary XML (WBXML) document format as a binary representation of XML in [\[WBXML\]](#). This document further defines the "application/vnd.wap.wbxml" media type. The suffix "+wbxml" MAY be used with any media type whose representation follows that established for "application/vnd.wap.wbxml". The Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration form follows:

Name: WAP Binary XML (WBXML) document format

+suffix: +wbxml

References: [\[WBXML\]](#)

Encoding considerations: WBXML is a binary encoding.

Fragment identifier considerations: Media types using "+wbxml" SHOULD process any fragment identifiers defined for "application/vnd.wap.wbxml" in the same way as defined for that media type. (At publication of this document, there is no fragment identification syntax defined for "application/vnd.wap.wbxml".) Specific media types using "+wbxml" MAY identify additional fragment identifier considerations, MAY define processing for fragment identifiers that are classed as errors for "application/vnd.wap.wbxml" and MAY designate fragment identifiers defined for "application/vnd.wap.wbxml" that SHOULD NOT be used.

Interoperability considerations: n/a

Security considerations: There are no security considerations inherent in WBXML. Each individual media type registered with a +wbxml suffix can have additional security considerations.

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control over this registration.

[3.6.](#) The +zip Structured Syntax Suffix

The ZIP format is a public domain, cross-platform, interoperable file storage and transfer format, originally defined by PKWARE, Inc.; it supports compression and encryption and is used as the underlying representation by a variety of file formats. The media type "application/zip" has been registered for such files. The suffix "+zip" MAY be used with any media type whose representation follows that established for "application/zip". The Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration form follows:

Name: ZIP file storage and transfer format

+suffix: +zip

References: [[ZIP](#)]

Encoding considerations: ZIP is a binary encoding.

Fragment identifier considerations: Media types using "+zip" SHOULD process any fragment identifiers defined for "application/zip" in the same way as defined for that media type. (At publication of this document, there is no fragment identification syntax defined for "application/zip".) Specific media types using "+zip" MAY identify additional fragment identifier considerations, MAY define processing for fragment identifiers that are classed as errors for "application/zip" and MAY designate fragment identifiers defined for "application/zip" that SHOULD NOT be used.

Interoperability considerations: n/a

Security considerations: ZIP files support two forms of encryption: Strong Encryption and AES 128-bit, 192-bit and 256-bit encryption; see the specification for further details. Each individual media type registered with a +zip suffix can have additional security considerations.

Contact: Apps Area Working Group (apps-discuss@ietf.org)

Author/Change controller: The Apps Area Working Group has change control over this registration.

4. IANA Considerations

See the Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration forms in [Section 3.1](#) - [Section 3.6](#).

The existing Structured Syntax Suffix registration for "+xml" is modified to include the following

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Fragment identifier considerations: Media types using "+xml" SHOULD process any fragment identifiers defined for "application/xml" in the same way as defined for that media type. (At publication of this document, the fragment identification syntax considerations for "application/xml" are defined in [\[RFC3023\]](#), sections [5](#) and [7](#).) Specific media types using "+xml" MAY identify additional fragment identifier considerations, MAY define processing for fragment identifiers that are classed as errors for "application/xml" and MAY designate fragment identifiers defined for "application/xml" that SHOULD NOT be used.

5. Security Considerations

See the Security considerations sections found in the Message Type Structured Syntax Suffix registration forms from [Section 3.1](#) - [Section 3.5](#).

6. References

6.1. Normative References

[RFC4627] Crockford, D., "The application/json Media Type for JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)", [RFC 4627](#), July 2006.

[ITU.X690.2008]
International Telecommunications Union, "Recommendation ITU-T X.690 | ISO/IEC 8825-1 (2008), ASN.1 encoding rules:

Specification of basic encoding Rules (BER), Canonical encoding rules (CER) and Distinguished encoding rules (DER)", ITU-T Recommendation X.690, November 2008.

[ITU.X891.2005]

International Telecommunications Union, "Recommendation ITU-T X.891 | ISO/IEC 24824-1 (2007), Generic applications of ASN.1: Fast infoset", ITU-T Recommendation X.891, May 2005.

[WBXML]

Open Mobile Alliance, "Binary XML Content Format Specification", OMA Wireless Access Protocol WAP-192-WBXML-20010725-a, July 2001.

[ZIP]

PKWARE, Inc., "APPNOTE.TXT - .ZIP File Format Specification", PKWARE .ZIP File Format Specification - Version 6.3.2, September 2007.

[RFC2045]

Freed, N. and N.S. Borenstein, "Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part One: Format of Internet Message Bodies", [RFC 2045](#), November 1996.

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[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.

[6.2.](#) Informative References

[I-D.ietf-appsawg-media-type-regs]

Freed, N., Klensin, J. and T. Hansen, "Media Type Specifications and Registration Procedures", Internet-Draft [draft-ietf-appsawg-media-type-regs-09](#), May 2012.

[Appendix A.](#) Change History

This section is to be removed before publication.

[draft-ietf-appsawg-media-type-suffix-regs-00](#) Added the fragment identifier consideration sections.
Added a note about +xml fragment identifier

considerations.

[draft-hansen-media-type-suffix-regs-02](#) Added +zip.
Fixed up the ISO document references.
Minor changes.

[draft-hansen-media-type-suffix-regs-01](#) Added +ber.
Minor changes.

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