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The application/atom+xml Type Parameter
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Abstract

The Atom Syndication Format (RFC 4287) defines the 'application/atom+xml' media type to identify both Atom Feed and Atom Entry Documents. This document defines an optional 'type' parameter used to differentiate the two types of Atom documents.

Editorial Note

To provide feedback on this Internet-Draft, join the atom-protocol mailing list (http://www.imc.org/atom-protocol/index.html) [1].

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1. Introduction

The Atom Syndication Format [RFC4287] defines two types of documents that can be identified using the 'application/atom+xml' media type. Implementation experience has demonstrated, however, that Atom Feed and Entry Documents can have different processing models and there are situations where they need to be differentiated.

2. Notational 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].

3. The 'type' parameter

This document defines a new "type" parameter for use with the 'application/atom+xml' media type.
type = "entry" / "feed"

Neither the parameter name nor its value are case sensitive.

The value 'entry' indicates that the media type identifies an Atom Entry Document. The root element of the document MUST be atom:entry.

The value 'feed' indicates that the media type identifies an Atom Feed Document. The root element of the document MUST be atom:feed.

If not specified, the type is assumed to be unspecified, requiring Atom processors to examine the root element to determine the type of Atom document.

4. Conformance

New specifications MAY require that the type parameter be used to identify the Atom Document type. Producers of Atom Entry Documents SHOULD use the type parameter regardless of whether or not it is required. Producers of Atom Feed Documents MAY use the parameter.

Atom processors that do not recognize the 'type' parameter MUST ignore its value and examine the root element to determine the document type.

Atom processors that do recognize the parameter SHOULD detect and report inconsistencies between the parameter's value and the actual

type of the document's root element.

5. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to add a reference to this specification in the 'application/atom+xml' media type registration.

6. Security Considerations

The security considerations discussed in Section 8 of [RFC4287] apply.

7. Normative References

[RFC2046] Freed, N. and N. Borenstein, "Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part Two: Media Types", RFC 2046, November 1996.

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.

[RFC4287] Nottingham, M., Ed. and R. Sayre, Ed., "The Atom Syndication Format", RFC 4287, December 2005.

[1] <http://www.imc.org/atom-protocol/index.html>

Appendix A. Contributors

The content and concepts within are a product of the Atom community and the Atompub Working Group.

[[anchor9: chairs to compile a contribution list for 1.0 --snell]]

Appendix B. Revision History

draft-ietf-atompub-typeparam-00: Initial Draft

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