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## **vCard Format Extension for JSContact**

### **Abstract**

This document defines a set of new properties for vCard and extends the use of existing ones. Their primary purpose is to align the same set of features between the JSContact and vCard formats, but the new definitions also aim to be useful within just the vCard format.

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### 1. Preface

This document is a work in progress. The list of new or updated properties and parameters is likely to be incomplete. This section is removed from the document before publication.

### 2. Introduction

The JSContact [[ref-jscontact](#)] format aims to be an alternative to the vCard [[RFC6350](#)] format for representation of contact and addressbook data. As such, it introduces new semantics that are not covered in the current definition of vCard and its various extensions. Converting contact data between the two formats is defined in [[ref-jscontact-vcard](#)] with the goal of not losing any semantics during conversion. In order to do so, this document defines a new set of properties for vCard and extends existing definitions.

#### 2.1. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

### 3. New Properties

#### 3.1. CREATED Property

Property name: CREATED

**Purpose:**

This property defines the date and time when the vCard was created

**Value type:** A single timestamp value.

**Cardinality:** \*1

**Property parameters:** VALUE

**Description:** This is the time stamp when the vCard was created.

Copying the vCard across systems does not count as a new creation, nor does a new revision. Instead, the time stamp value typically stays unchanged for the existence of the vCard.

**Format definition:** This property is defined by the following notation:

```
created          = "CREATED" createdparam
                  ":" timestamp CRLF

createdparam     = *(
                  ;
                  ; The following is OPTIONAL,
                  ; but MUST NOT occur more than once.
                  ;
                  (";" "VALUE" "=" "TIMESTAMP") /
                  ;
                  ; The following is OPTIONAL,
                  ; and MAY occur more than once.
                  ;
                  (";" any-param)
                  ;
                  )
```

**Example(s):** CREATED:20220705093412Z  
CREATED;VALUE=TIMESTAMP:20211022T140000-05

### 3.2. GRAMMATICAL-GENDER Property

**Property name:** GRAMMATICAL-GENDER

**Purpose:** This property defines the grammatical gender that shall be used to address the entity represented by this vCard.

**Value type:** A single text value, restricted to an enumerated list of allowed values.

**Cardinality:** \*

**Property parameters:** LANG

**Description:** This property defines the grammatical gender that the contact prefers to be addressed by or referred at. Many human languages use grammatical genders in salutations and other language constructs. For example, the German language typically distinguishes between the gender of the recipient in both formal and informal salutations. The allowed values for this property aim to cover grammatical genders for the the majority of human languages. Future RFCs **MAY** define additional values if the current selection is found to be inadequate.

**Format definition:** This property is defined by the following notation:

```
gram-gender      = "GRAMMATICAL-GENDER" gram-gender-param
                  ":" gram-gender-value CRLF
```

```
gram-gender-param =
    *(
      ;
      ; The following is OPTIONAL,
      ; but MUST NOT occur more than once.
      ;
      (";" language-param) /
      ;
      ; The following is OPTIONAL,
      ; and MAY occur more than once.
      ;
      (";" any-param)
      ;
    )
```

```
gram-gender-value = "ANIMATE" /
                    "FEMALE" /
                    "INANIMATE" /
                    "MALE" /
                    "NEUTER" /
                    x-value
```

**Example(s):** GRAMMATICAL-GENDER:NEUTER

### 3.3. LOCALE Property

**Property name:** LOCALE

**Purpose:** This property defines the default locale that human-readable text values in this vCard should be assumed written in.

**Value type:** A single text value, that **MUST** be a valid language-tag (see [[RFC5646](#)]).

**Cardinality:** \*1

**Property parameters:** The LANG parameter **MUST NOT** be assigned to this property.

**Description:** Properties with value type text often contain information that is written in one of the many human languages. In order to indicate which language it was written in, implementations can assign the already-existing LANG parameter to

the property. In absence of this parameter, implementations need to attempt detecting the language by text analysis. The LOCALE property allows to define a default locale in which such property values can be assumed to be written in.

**Format definition:** This property is defined by the following notation:

```
locale          = "LOCALE" any-param  
                  ":" lang-tag CRLF  
  
lang-tag       = TEXT ; MUST be a valid Language-Tag value as  
                  ; specified in section 2.1 RFC5646
```

**Example(s):** CREATED:20220705093412Z  
CREATED;VALUE=TIMESTAMP:20211022T140000-05

### 3.4. PRONOUNS Property

**Property name:** PRONOUNS

**Purpose:** This property defines the gender pronouns that shall be used to refer to the entity represented by this vCard.

**Value type:** A single text value.

**Cardinality:** \*

**Property parameters:** LANG

**Description:** This property contains as a free-form text the gender pronouns that the contact chooses to use for themselves. They shall be used when addressing or referring to the contact. Multiple occurrences of this property **MAY** define pronouns for multiple languages.

**Format definition:** This property is defined by the following notation:

```
pronouns      = "PRONOUNS" pronouns-param
                ":" text CRLF

pronouns-param =
    *(
        ;
        ; The following is OPTIONAL,
        ; but MUST NOT occur more than once.
        ;
        (";" language-param) /
        ;
        ; The following is OPTIONAL,
        ; and MAY occur more than once.
        ;
        (";" any-param)
        ;
    )
```

**Example(s):** PRONOUNS=they/them  
PRONOUNS;LANG=de:sie  
PRONOUNS:xe/xir

## 4. New Parameters

### 4.1. PROP-ID Parameter

**Parameter name:** PROP-ID

**Purpose:** This parameter identifies a property among all its siblings of the same type.

**Description:** This parameter uniquely identifies a property among all of its siblings with the same name within a calendar component. A valid PROP-ID value must be of 1 and a maximum of 255 octets in size, and it **MUST** only contain the ASCII alphanumeric characters (A-Za-z0-9), hyphen (-), and underscore (\_). The identifier only has the purpose to uniquely identify siblings, its value has no other meaning. If an application makes use of PROP-ID it **SHOULD** assign a unique identifier to each sibling property of the same name within their embedding component. The same identifier **MAY** be used for properties of a different name, and it **MAY** also be assigned to a same-named property that is not a sibling.

Resolving duplicate identifier conflicts is specific to the application. Similarly, handling properties where some but not all siblings have a PROP-ID is assigned, is application-specific.

**Format definition:**

```
prop-id-param = "PROP-ID" "=" 1*255(ALPHA / DIGIT / "-" / "_")
```

**Example(s):**

```
PHOTO;PROP-ID=p827:  
<...remainder of base64-encoded data...>
```

## 5. IANA Considerations

This section will be filled at a later stage.

## 6. Security Considerations

This section will be filled at a later stage.

## 7. References

### 7.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>>.
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- [RFC6350] Perreault, S., "vCard Format Specification", RFC 6350, DOI 10.17487/RFC6350, August 2011, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6350>>.
- [RFC8174] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words", BCP 14, RFC 8174, DOI 10.17487/RFC8174, May 2017, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8174>>.

### 7.2. Informative References

- [ref-jscontact] "JSContact: A JSON representation of contact data", <<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-calext-jscontact/>>.



[ref-jscontact-vcard]

"JSContact: Converting from and to vCard",  
<<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-calext-jscontact-vcard/>>.

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