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**IMAP4 Extension for Returning MYRIGHTS Information in Extended LIST  
draft-ietf-extra-imap-list-myrights-02**

Abstract

This document defines an extension to the IMAP LIST command that allows the client to request the set of rights that the logged-in user has been granted on mailboxes, along with other information typically returned by the LIST command.

Status of This Memo

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## [1.](#) Introduction

IMAP clients typically fetch the set of rights granted on mailboxes so they can expose the allowed functionality to the logged-in user. In order to do that, the client is forced to issue a LIST or LSUB command to list all available mailboxes, followed by a MYRIGHTS command for each mailbox found. This document defines an extension to the IMAP LIST command that is identified by the capability string "LIST-MYRIGHTS". The LIST-MYRIGHTS extension allows the client to request the set of rights that the logged-in user has been granted on mailboxes, along with other information typically returned by the LIST command.

## [2.](#) Conventions Used in This Document

In examples, "C:" indicates lines sent by a client that is connected to a server. "S:" indicates lines sent by the server to the client.

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 [\[RFC2119\]](#).

## [3.](#) MYRIGHTS Return Option to LIST Command

[\[RFC4314\]](#) defines the MYRIGHTS command which is used by an IMAP client to determine the set of rights that the logged-in user has been granted on a given mailbox. Frequently, a client will have to



look up the rights for some or all of the mailboxes returned by the LIST command. Doing so in multiple MYRIGHTS commands wastes bandwidth and can degrade performance if the client does not pipeline the requests.

This document extends the LIST command with a new return option, "MYRIGHTS", which allows the client to request all of the desired information in a single command. For each listable mailbox matching the list pattern and selection options, the server MUST return an untagged LIST response followed by an untagged MYRIGHTS response containing the set of rights granted to the logged-in user.

If the server is unable to look up the set of rights for a given mailbox, it MAY drop the corresponding MYRIGHTS reply. In such a situation, the LIST command would still return a tagged OK reply.

Client authors ought to note that generating the MYRIGHTS responses for a large number of mailboxes may be an expensive operation for the server. Clients SHOULD use a suitable match pattern and/or selection option to limit the set of mailboxes returned to only those whose rights in which they are interested.

#### **4. Examples**

In this example the "bar" mailbox doesn't exist, so it has no MYRIGHTS reply.

```
C: A01 LIST "" % RETURN (MYRIGHTS)
S: * LIST () "." "INBOX"
S: * MYRIGHTS "INBOX" lrswipkxtecda
S: * LIST () "." "foo"
S: * MYRIGHTS "foo" lrs
S: * LIST (\NonExistent) "." "bar"
S: A01 OK List completed.
```

In this example the LIST reply for the "foo" mailbox is returned because it has matching children, but no MYRIGHTS reply is returned because "foo" itself doesn't match the selection criteria.

```
C: A02 LIST (SUBSCRIBED RECURSIVEMATCH) "" % RETURN (MYRIGHTS)
S: * LIST (\Subscribed) "." "INBOX"
S: * MYRIGHTS "INBOX" lrswipkxtecda
S: * LIST () "." "foo" (CHILDINFO ("SUBSCRIBED"))
S: A02 OK List completed.
```



## **5. Formal Syntax**

The following syntax specification uses the augmented Backus-Naur Form (BNF) as described in [[RFC5234](#)]. Terms not defined here are taken from [[RFC5258](#)].

```
return-option =/ "MYRIGHTS"
```

## **6. Security Considerations**

This extension makes it a bit easier for clients to overload the server by requesting MYRIGHTS information for a large number of mailboxes. However, as already noted in the introduction, existing clients already try to do that by generating a large number of MYRIGHTS commands for each mailbox in which they are interested. While performing MYRIGHTS information retrieval for big lists of mailboxes, a server implementation needs to make sure that it can still serve other IMAP connections and yield execution to other connections, when necessary.

## **7. Privacy Considerations**

This specification does not introduce any additional privacy concerns beyond those described in [[RFC4314](#)].

## **8. IANA Considerations**

### **8.1. Registration of IMAP capability LIST-MYRIGHTS**

This document defines the "LIST-MYRIGHTS" IMAP capability to be added to the registry defined in [Section 12 of \[RFC3501\]](#).

### **8.2. Registration of LIST-EXTENDED option MYRIGHTS**

This section registers the "MYRIGHTS" option to be added to the registry defined in [Section 9 of \[RFC5258\]](#).

LIST-EXTENDED option name: MYRIGHTS

LIST-EXTENDED option type: RETURN

LIST-EXTENDED option description: Causes the LIST command to return MYRIGHTS responses in addition to LIST responses.

Published specification: RFC XXXX, [Section 3](#)

Security considerations: RFC XXXX, [Section 6](#)



Intended usage: COMMON

Person and email address to contact for further  
information:

Kenneth Murchison <murch@fastmail.com>

Owner/Change controller: IESG <iesg@ietf.org>

## **9. Acknowledgments**

This document is based largely on [RFC5819]. The author would like to thank the authors of that document for providing both inspiration and some borrowed text for this document.

## **10. References**

### **10.1. 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>>.
- [RFC3501] Crispin, M., "INTERNET MESSAGE ACCESS PROTOCOL - VERSION 4rev1", [RFC 3501](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC3501, March 2003, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3501>>.
- [RFC4314] Melnikov, A., "IMAP4 Access Control List (ACL) Extension", [RFC 4314](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4314, December 2005, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4314>>.
- [RFC5234] Crocker, D., Ed. and P. Overell, "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, [RFC 5234](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5234, January 2008, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5234>>.
- [RFC5258] Leiba, B. and A. Melnikov, "Internet Message Access Protocol version 4 - LIST Command Extensions", [RFC 5258](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5258, June 2008, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5258>>.

### **10.2. Informative References**

- [RFC5819] Melnikov, A. and T. Sirainen, "IMAP4 Extension for Returning STATUS Information in Extended LIST", [RFC 5819](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5819, March 2010, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5819>>.





**Appendix A. Change History (To be removed by RFC Editor before publication)**

Changes from [draft-ietf-extra-imap-list-myrights-01](#):

- o Removed 'n' right from example.
- o Added advice to client authors regarding expense of calculating MYRIGHTS.
- o Replicated Security Considerations section from [RFC 5819](#).

Changes from [draft-ietf-extra-imap-list-myrights-00](#):

- o Corrected contact email address in IANA registration.
- o Fixed typos (extra SP) in examples.

Changes from [draft-murchison-imap-list-myrights-01](#):

- o Renamed document to be a work product of the EXTRA WG.
- o Updated authors' addresses.

Changes from [draft-murchison-imap-list-myrights-00](#):

- o Augmented Introduction with mention of "LIST-MYRIGHTS" capability string.
- o Minor editorial changes.

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