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LDAP: Technical Specification Road Map
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Status of this Memo

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Abstract

The Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) is an Internet protocol for accessing distributed directory services which act in accordance with X.500 data and service models. This document provides a roadmap of the LDAP Technical Specification.

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 [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

1. The LDAP Technical Specification

The technical specification detailing version 3 of the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP), an Internet Protocol, consists of this document and the following documents:

- LDAP: Directory Information Models [[Models](#)],
- LDAP: The Protocol [[Protocol](#)],
- LDAP: Authentication Methods and Connection Level Security Mechanisms [[AuthMeth](#)],
- LDAP: String Representation of Distinguished Names [[LDAPDN](#)],
- LDAP: String Representation of Search Filters [[Filters](#)],
- LDAP: Uniform Resource Locator [[LDAPURL](#)],
- LDAP: Syntaxes [[Syntaxes](#)], and
- LDAP: User Schema [[Schema](#)].

The terms "LDAP" and "LDAPv3" are commonly used to informally refer to the protocol specified by this technical specification. The LDAP protocol suite, as defined here, should be formally identified in other documents by a normative reference to this document.

Extensions to LDAP may be specified in other documents. Nomenclature denoting such combinations of LDAP-plus-extension(s) is not defined by this document but may be defined in some future document(s).

IANA considerations for LDAP [[LDAPIANA](#)] apply fully to this revision of the LDAP technical specification.

2. Relationship to X.500

This technical specification defines LDAP in terms of [[X.500](#)] as an X.500 access mechanism. An LDAP server MUST act in accordance with X.500(1993) series of ITU recommendations when providing the service. However, it is not required that an LDAP server make use of any X.500 protocols in providing this service, e.g. LDAP can be mapped onto any other directory system so long as the X.500 data and service model as used in LDAP is not violated in the LDAP interface.

3. Security Considerations

LDAP security considerations are discussed in each document comprising the technical specification.

4. Relationship to Obsolete Specifications

This technical specification, as defined in [Section 1](#), obsoletes entirely the previously defined LDAP technical specification [[LDAPTS](#)] (which consists of [RFC 2251](#)-2256, [RFC 2829](#)-2830 and [[LDAPTS](#)] itself). The technical specification was significantly reorganized.

This document replaces [[LDAPTS](#)] as well as Section 3.3 of [RFC 2251](#). [[Models](#)] replaces portions of [RFC 2251](#), [RFC 2252](#) and [RFC 2256](#). [[Protocol](#)] replaces the majority [RFC 2251](#) and portions of [RFC 2252](#). [[AuthMeth](#)] replaces [RFC 2829](#), [RFC 2830](#), and portions of [RFC 2251](#). [Syntax] replaces the majority of [RFC 2252](#) and portions of [RFC 2256](#). [[Schema](#)] replaces the majority of [RFC 2256](#). [[LDAPDN](#)] replaces [RFC 2253](#). [[Filters](#)] replaces [RFC 2254](#). [[LDAPURL](#)] replaces [RFC 2255](#).

Each document of this specification contains appendices detailing changes to all sections of the specifications they replace. [Appendix A.1](#) of this document details changes made to [[LDAPTS](#)]. [Appendix A.2](#) of this document details changes made to [Section 3.3 of RFC 2251](#).

5. Acknowledgments

This document is based largely on [[LDAPTS](#)] by J. Hodges and R. Morgan, a product of the LDAP Extensions Working Group. The document also borrows from [[RFC2251](#)] by M. Wahl, T. Howes, and S. Kille, a product of the ASID Working Group.

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7. References

7.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] S. Bradner, "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [Models] K. Zeilenga (editor), "LDAP: Directory Information Models", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-models-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.

- [Protocol] J. Sermersheim (editor), "LDAP: The Protocol", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-protocol-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.
- [AuthMeth] R. Harrison (editor), "LDAP: Authentication Methods and Connection Level Security Mechanisms", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-authmeth-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.
- [LDAPDN] K. Zeilenga (editor), "LDAP: String Representation of Distinguished Names", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-dn-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.
- [Filters] M. Smith (editor), LDAPbis WG, "LDAP: String Representation of Search Filters", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-filter-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.
- [LDAPURL] M. Smith (editor), "LDAP: Uniform Resource Locator", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-url-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.
- [Syntaxes] K. Dally (editor), "LDAP: Syntaxes", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-syntaxes-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.
- [Schema] K. Dally (editor), "LDAP: User Schema", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-user-schema-xx.txt](#), a work in progress.
- [LDAPIANA] K. Zeilenga, "IANA Considerations for LDAP", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-xx.txt](#) (a work in progress).
- [X.500] ITU-T Rec. X.500, "The Directory: Overview of Concepts, Models and Service", 1993.
- [X.501] ITU-T Rec. X.501, "The Directory: Models", 1993.
- [X.511] ITU-T Rec. X.511, "The Directory: Abstract Service Definition", 1993.

7.2. Informative References

- [RFC2251] M. Wahl, T. Howes, S. Kille, "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (v3)", [RFC 2251](#), December 1997.
- [LDAPTS] J. Hodges, R.L. Morgan, "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (v3): Technical Specification", [draft-ietf-ldapbis-ldapv3-ts-xx.txt](#).

Appendix A. Changes to Previous Documents

This appendix outlines changes this document makes relative to the documents it replaces (in whole or in part).

[Appendix A.1. Changes to \[LDAPTS\]](#)

This document is nearly a complete rewrite of [\[LDAPTS\]](#) as much of the material of [\[LDAPTS\]](#) is no longer applicable. These changes include defining the term "LDAP" in addition to "LDAPv3" and using "LDAP" in favor of "LDAPv3" for consistency with the remainder of the technical specification.

[Appendix A.2. Changes to \[Section 3.3 of RFC 2251\]\(#\)](#)

The section was modified slightly (the word "document" was replaced with "technical specification") to clarify that it applies to the entire LDAP technical specification.

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