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IMAP Conventions for Message Context

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Overview

This document defined conventions for the use of IMAP flags or annotations to indicate to a client the context of a message without downloading the headers of the message. One illustrative use is to enable a client to effeciently display an icon representing the message context when displaying a list of messages.

Please send comments on this document to the Lemonade working group mailing list <lemonade@ietf.org>

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Working Group Summary

This is a work item of the Lemonade working group.

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[1.](#) Abstract

This document defines one or more IMAP flags for the indication of message context.

2. The Beef

The name of the flag is to be determined.

The flag is set upon logical deposit into the mailbox. When using a server that provides context, a client requesting a list of messages may expect this flag to indicate the message context set by the sender in the message context header field defined in [Context].

A new IMAP capability is defined to communicate to clients at connection time that message context is available through the indicated flag.

The key operational innovation of this standard is the requirement that a message store populate a flag upon deposit. Up to now, flags have been set only by clients. It is anticipated that a number of useful deposit-time flags may be defined such as the sensitivity and importance indicators as defined by [VPIM].

It would be great if the WG would allow this extension to represent arbitrary message headers without requiring individual extensions. The set of useful deposit time flags can be expected to grow over time to include such proprietary innovations as spamassin(TM) header markings. The author desires assistance in identifying a scheme whereby the server can indicate a list of headers that are summarized as flags.

3. Security Considerations

This extension to IMAP does not create any new data not otherwise available in the system. It simply optimizes the access. As such, there are no anticipated security impacts.

4. IANA Considerations

This document may specify a registry of flags if the WG allows an arbitrary extension mechanism. Otherwise, this will simply register another extension to IMAP. (are IMAP extensions registered?)

5. Normative References

[IMAP]

[CONTEXT] Eric Burger, Emily Candell, Graham Klyne, Charles Elliott, "Message Context for Internet Mail", [RFC 3458](#), January 2003

[VPIM2] Vaudreuil, Greg, Parsons, Glen, "Voice Profile for Internet Mail, Version 2", [RFC 3801](#), June 2004.

6. Acknowledgments

It is assumed that several IMAP knowledgeable people will step forward to fill in the necessary protocol details as the enlisted author is a novice at all things IMAP.

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