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The Multipart/Report Content Type  
for the Reporting of  
Mail System Administrative Messages

[<draft-ietf-notary-mime-report-03.txt>](#)

1. Status of this Memo

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2. The Multipart/Report MIME content-type

The Multipart/Report MIME content-type is a general "family" or "container" type for electronic mail reports of any kind. Although this memo defines only the use of the Multipart/Report content-type with respect to delivery status reports, mail processing programs will benefit if a single content-type is used to for all kinds of reports.

The Multipart/Report content-type is defined as follows:

MIME type name: multipart  
MIME subtype name: report  
Required parameters: boundary, report-type  
Optional parameters: none  
Encoding considerations: 7bit should always be adequate  
Security considerations: see [section 5](#) of this memo.

The syntax of Multipart/Report is identical to the Multipart/Mixed content type defined in [[MIME](#)]. When used to send a report, the Multipart/Report content-type must be the top-level MIME content type for any report message. The report-type parameter identifies the type of report. The parameter is the MIME content sub-type of the second body part of the Multipart/Report.

User agents and gateways must be able to automatically determine that a message is a mail system report and should be processed as



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### 3. The Text/RFC822-Headers MIME content-type

The Text/RFC822-Headers MIME content-type provides a mechanism to label and return only the [RFC 822](#) headers of a failed message. These headers are not the complete message and should not be returned as a Message/RFC822. The returned headers are useful for correlating the erred message and for diagnostics based on the received: lines.

The Text/RFC822-Headers content-type is defined as follows:

MIME type name: Message

MIME subtype name: [RFC822](#)-Headers

Required parameters: None

Optional parameters: none

Encoding considerations: 7 bit is sufficient for normal [RFC822](#) headers, however, if the headers are broken and require encoding, they may be encoded in quoted-printable.

Security considerations: see [section 5](#) of this memo.

The Text/RFC822-headers body part should contain all the [RFC822](#) header lines from the message which caused the report. The [RFC822](#) headers include all lines prior to the blank line in the message. They include the MIME-Version and MIME Content- headers.

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#### [4.](#) References

[DSN] Moore, K., Vaudreuil, G., "An Extensible Message Format for Delivery Status Reports", Internet-Draft.

[RFC822] Crocker, D., "Standard for the format of ARPA Internet Text Messages", STD 11, [RFC 822](#), UDEL, August 1982.

[MIME] Borenstein, N., Freed, N., "Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions", [RFC 1521](#), Bellcore, Innosoft, June 1992.

[DRPT] Moore, K., "SMTP Service Extension for Delivery Status Notifications", Internet Draft.

#### [5.](#) Security Consideration

Automated use of report types without authentication presents several security issues. Forging negative reports presents the opportunity for denial-of-service attacks when the reports are used for automated maintenance of directories or mailing lists. Forging positive reports may cause the sender to incorrectly believe a message was delivered when it was not.

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