

vcarddav
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vCard Format Extension : To Represent the Social Network Information of
an Individual

[draft-ietf-vcarddav-social-networks-00](#)

Abstract

This document defines an extension to the vCard data format for representing and exchanging a variety of social network information.

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1. Introduction

[[anchor1: Barry: This version is still very incomplete. I have included some comments in the appropriate places with the XML "cref" element, so they will show up within "[[]]", as this one does. I am still working on these, and I also want to put in a lot more properties (see Peter's comment, below).]]

As social networking has become common, it has become clear that users would like to include information in their vCards [[RFC6350](#)] about their social networks. Well organized social network information allows the vCard owner to share his profile information and to import or subscribe to profile information of others on joining a new network.

This extension takes some property definitions from the vCard OMA CAB Extensions [[I-D.ietf-vcarddav-oma-cab-extensions](#)], and that document should be considered as a prerequisite to this one.

1.1. Terminology Used in This Document

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 [[RFC2119](#)]. These terms take their normative meaning only when presented in ALL CAPS.

Syntax specifications shown here use the augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF) as described in [[RFC5234](#)], and are specified as in the base vcard specification [[RFC6350](#)].

2. Social Network Properties

These properties are related to sharing social-network information. The basis for some of these properties came from the "Friend of a Friend" specification [[FOAF](#)], and we thank the authors of that

document for their work.

[[anchor2: Barry: Are there more FoaF items we want to include?]]

[[anchor3: Peter StA: There are many "social networking" properties outside of FOAF, so using only what's currently in FOAF is somewhat limiting. Borrowing from <http://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0154.html> I'd mention at least the following...]]

[[anchor4: a. URLs for avatar (or actual avatar data), biography, online status or presence, publication list, photo site, resume / CV, weblog, wishlist]]

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[[anchor5: b. personal attributes like eye color, hair color, height, weight, marital status, smoker / non-smoker, zodiac sign (both Chinese and Western), psychological profile (e.g., Myers-Briggs Type Indicator)]]

[[anchor6: c. other interesting facts such as areas of expertise, clubs of which the object is a member, charitable organizations supported, dietary preferences, hobbies, interests, profession, religious affiliation]]

[[anchor7: d. various favorite things, such as activities, authors, individual athletes as well as sports teams, beverages, charitable organizations, chatrooms / IRC channels / forums, foods, games, movies, music, places, quotes, TV shows, weblogs, websites]]

[[anchor8: e. places lived, schools attended, conferences attended (complete list of all IETF meetings you've been to?), etc.]]

[[anchor9: The list goes on!]]

[[anchor10: Clearly there is a *lot* of information that one could include under the "social networking" umbrella. I don't know how much of that possible universe the authors wish to represent here.]]

[[anchor11: (Personally I'd be willing to help define a broader set of properties than the few already included here, since I did quite a bit of thinking about the topic several years ago when working on XEP-0154.)]]

[2.1.](#) Property: OPENID

[[anchor12: Barry: Maybe this should be something like "authentication;type=openid:" instead? That would allow for other authentication types.]]

Namespace:

Property name: OPENID

Purpose: OpenID is an open, decentralized user identification standard, allowing users to log onto many services with the same digital identity. Inclusion of an OpenID URI in a vCard lets others add the vCard owner's ID to their authorization lists. [[anchor13: Barry: We should add an informative reference to OpenID.]]

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Value type: A single URI value.

Cardinality: *

Property parameters: (none)

Description:

Format definition:

OPENID-param = pid-param / pref-param /
 any-param
OPENID-value = uri

Example:

OPENID:http://www.alice.openid.example.org

[2.2.](#) Property: SOCIALPROFILE

[[anchor14: Dany: SERVICE in OMA-CAB and SOCIALPROFILE here seem very similar and both need more details on LABEL for SERVICE or on TYPE for SOCIALPROFILE. To me, SERVICE (in OMA-CAB) is more complete.]]

[[anchor15: Simon: I see significant overlap among the following: SOCIALPROFILE (from here), SERVICE (from OMA-CAB), SERVICE-TYPE (from [draft-daboo-vcard-service-type](#)). I would expect the authors to work amongst themselves on merging those proposals, or at least eliminating the overlap (e.g. reusing parts defined in another draft).]]

Namespace:

Property name: SOCIALPROFILE

Purpose: Designates the vCard owner's profile page on a particular social network.

Value type: A single URI value.

Cardinality: *

Property parameters: TYPE

Description: This property SHOULD include the parameter "TYPE" to specify the name of the social network that it refers to. Usually, that will also be discernible from the URI, which is why it's optional. But it can be helpful to have it specified explicitly.

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Format definition:

SOCIALPROFILE-param = pid-param / pref-param /
any-param
SOCIALPROFILE-value = uri

Examples:

SOCIALPROFILE;type=linkedin:http://www.linkedin.com/in/barryleiba

SOCIALPROFILE;type=facebook:http://www.facebook.com/barackobama

[2.3.](#) Property: ALBUM

Namespace:

Property name: ALBUM

Purpose: Designates an online album, such as a photo album or video album.

Value type: A single URI value.

Cardinality: *

Property parameters: TYPE

Description: This property SHOULD include the parameter "TYPE" to specify the type of album that it refers to. Usually, that will also be discernible from the URI, which is why it's optional. But it can be helpful to have it specified explicitly.

Format definition:

```
ALBUM-param = pid-param / pref-param /  
              any-param  
ALBUM-value = uri
```

Example:

```
ALBUM;type=photo:http://picasaweb.google.com/barryleiba  
ALBUM;type=video:http://www.youtube.com/user/barryleiba
```

[2.4.](#) Property: DEPICTION

[[anchor16: Barry: After reading the FoaF description of "depiction", I get the point now, I think. I've re-written this to take a stab at it. I've included a reference to a corporate logo, but Simon points out that we also have LOGO in the base, so maybe that part shouldn't be here.]]

Namespace:

Property name: DEPICTION

Purpose: To note that the referenced URI depicts, in come way, the entity represented by this vCard.

Value type: A single URI value.

Cardinality: *

Property parameters:

Description: DEPICTION can be used to point to images in online photo galleries, specifying which ones include the subject of this vCard (perhaps in addition to other people or things).

DEPICTION might also be used to refer to videos, icons, avatars, or the like. Consider someone's avatars in virtual worlds, or one or more corporate logos in a vCard representing a company.

This is distinct from the PHOTO property, in that the latter is meant to define a specific representation of the vCard subject (a "profile photo", or a publicity headshot, say), while DEPICTION might often be used to say that the subject appears in a group photo or in a photo that is primarily a picture of something or someone else.

Format definition:

```
DEPICTION-param =  pid-param / pref-param /  
                    any-param  
DEPICTION-value =  uri
```

Example: Suppose a gallery contains the following photos:

```
IMG_001.jpg: Alexey and Barry at a reception.  
IMG_002.jpg: Alexey, Chris, and Dave having a conversation.  
IMG_003.jpg: Barry making a comment in the plenary session.  
IMG_004.jpg: A meeting session that Alexey, Barry, Chris,  
Dave, and Eric are all attending.
```

Barry's vCard might include the following:

```
DEPICTION:http://www.example.com/pub/photos/IMG_001.jpg  
DEPICTION:http://www.example.com/pub/photos/IMG_003.jpg  
DEPICTION:http://www.example.com/pub/photos/IMG_004.jpg
```


[[anchor17: Simon: The use of the TYPE parameter here is underspecified. It isn't clear whether the TYPE value is a free-form string or if it needs to be registered somewhere. Will it be displayed to the user?]]

Namespace:

Property name: SOCIALCODE

Purpose: Description of the vCard owner, in the form of a "social code", such as the "geek code" (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geek_code). Social codes are popularly used to exchange a large amount of social information in a compact way, and provide a somewhat frivolous and willfully obscure "fun" mechanism for characterizing technical expertise, interests, and habits.

Value type: A single text value.

Cardinality: *

Property parameters: TYPE

Description: This property MUST include the parameter "TYPE" to specify the type of social network code being used. There are no predefined values for "TYPE", here -- the types will be understood (or not) by the vCard users.

Implementations need to be especially careful with character quoting in this property, because these codes tend to use odd characters, and many might require quoting [[RFC6350](#)].

Format definition:

SOCIALCODE-param = pid-param / pref-param /
 any-param
SOCIALCODE-value = text

Example:

SOCIALCODE;type=geek:"s: a--"

[Which means "I'm average size, and my age is 20-24."]

[2.6.](#) Property: INTEREST

[[anchor18: Dany: INTEREST is defined both here and in OMA-CAB. Both definitions have interesting parameters (INDEX and LEVEL in OMA-CAB and TYPE here). To me, these 2 definitions may be combined.]]

Namespace:

Property name: INTEREST

Purpose: Lists the vCard owner's interests (social, recreational, technical, etc.). This allows users to identify others with common interests.

Value type: A string value consisting of one or more text values separated by a COMMA character (ASCII decimal 44).

Cardinality: *

Property parameters: TYPE, LANGUAGE

Description: This property MAY include the parameter "TYPE" to group interests in categories. TYPE might be used to separate "business" interests from "social" interests, for example. There are no predefined values for "TYPE", here -- the types will be understood (or not) by the vCard users, and it's likely that an ad hoc taxonomy will develop, as has happened with social tagging.

[[anchor19: Simon: I think this is fine, but please specify whether this string is intended to be displayed to the user or not. (In the base spec, it is not intended to be displayed as-is. Instead, we expect the vCard app to understand the TYPE value and show something appropriate (either text or an icon). This is made possible because there is a registry of allowed values that defines their semantics.)]]

Format definition:

```
INTEREST-param = pid-param / pref-param /  
                  any-param  
INTEREST-value = text
```

Example:

```
INTEREST;type=business:Internet standards,consulting,job offers  
INTEREST;type=social:friends and family,new friends
```

INTEREST;type=hobby:model trains,reading Sci Fi,travel
INTEREST;type=music:classical,jazz,folk,opera

[2.7.](#) Property: XX

[[anchor20: Template for adding another property, because we expect to add more properties here. Remove this section before publishing.]] (This will also hold some references for the time being: [[RFC2425](#)] [[RFC2426](#)] [[RFC2739](#)] [[RFC4770](#)])

Namespace:

Property name:

Purpose:

Value type: A single text value.

Cardinality: *

Property parameters: VALUE, LANGUAGE

Description:

Format definition:

XX-param = pid-param / pref-param /
 any-param
XX-value = text

Example:

xx:zz

[3.](#) Security Considerations

This presents no security considerations beyond those in [section 9](#) of the base vcard specification [[RFC6350](#)].

[[anchor21: Barry: I'm quite sure there's more to say here, and that there are some real security (and privacy) considerations, so this is just a placeholder. We need to think about this seriously before

we're done.]]

4. IANA Considerations

The IANA is requested to add the following entries to the vCard Properties registry, defined in [\[RFC6350\] section 10.3.1](#).

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Namespace	Property	Reference
	OPENID	RFCXXXX, section 2.1
	SOCIALPROFILE	RFCXXXX, section 2.2
	ALBUM	RFCXXXX, section 2.3
	DEPICTION	RFCXXXX, section 2.4
	SOCIALCODE	RFCXXXX, section 2.5
	INTEREST	RFCXXXX, section 2.6

5. References

5.1. Normative References

- [I-D.ietf-vcarddav-oma-cab-extensions]
Cauchie, D., Leiba, B., and K. Li, "vCard Format extension : represent vCard extensions defined by the Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) Converged Address Book (CAB) group", [draft-ietf-vcarddav-oma-cab-extensions-00](#) (work in progress), October 2011.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC5234] Crocker, D. and P. Overell, "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, [RFC 5234](#), January 2008.
- [RFC6350] Perreault, S., "vCard Format Specification", [RFC 6350](#), August 2011.

5.2. Informative References

- [FOAF] Brickley, D. and L. Miller, "FOAF Vocabulary Specification 0.98", August 2010, <<http://xmlns.com/foaf/spec/>>.
- Namespace Document, Marco Polo Edition
- [RFC2425] Howes, T., Smith, M., and F. Dawson, "A MIME Content-Type for Directory Information", [RFC 2425](#), September 1998.
- [RFC2426] Dawson, F. and T. Howes, "vCard MIME Directory Profile", [RFC 2426](#), September 1998.
- [RFC2739] Small, T., Hennessy, D., and F. Dawson, "Calendar Attributes for vCard and LDAP", [RFC 2739](#), January 2000.

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