

**Link relationship types for authentication**  
**draft-pot-authentication-link-00**

Abstract

This specification defines a set of relationships that may be used to indicate where a user may authenticate, log out, register a new account or find out who is currently authenticated.

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## **1. Introduction**

[RFC8288] defines a framework and registry for Link Relationships types. This specification defines a set of new relationship types to aid clients in discovering endpoints for authentication and registration: "authenticate", "authenticated-as", "logout" and "register-user".

## **2. authenticate**

The "authenticate" can be used to link to a resource that hosts a page where a user can authenticate itself for the current resource.

For example, this link might refer to a HTML login page.

Example:

```
<a href="/login" rel="authenticate">Login</a>
```

This specification doesn't define the authentication protocol. For example, the link could refer to an OAuth2 authorization endpoint.

## **3. authenticated-as**

The "authenticated-as" link refers to a resource that describes the effective authenticated user for a HTTP response.

Following this link might allow a client to answer the question 'who am I?'. This might link to a user profile page, or it might link to an API that returns a JSON response with user information.

Example:

Link: <https://api.example.org/users/123-abc>; rel="authenticated-as"

## **4. logout**

The "logout" refers to a resource where an authenticated user might end their session.

In a browser this might clear cookies, or in the case of OAuth2 it could revoke any active authentication tokens.

## **5. register-user**

The "register-user" Link Relation refers to a resource where a user might sign up for a service for the context URI.

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The linked resource might contain a HTML registration form, or otherwise instructions that allow a client to find out how to sign up for the service.

## **6. IANA considerations**

This document defines "authenticate", "authenticated-as", "logout" and "register-user" link relation types and adds them to the "Link Relations" registry:

### **6.1. authenticate link relation**

- o Relation name: authenticate
- o Description: Refers to a resource where a client may authenticate for the the context URI.
- o Reference: TBD

### **6.2. authenticated-as link relation**

- o Relation name: authenticated-as
- o Description: Refers to a resource that describes the authenticated entity for the HTTP response.
- o Reference: TBD

### **6.3. logout link relation**

- o Relation name: logout
- o Description: Refers to an endpoint where a client may invalidate the current authentication session.
- o Reference: TBD

### **6.4. register-user link relation**

- o Relation name: register-user
- o Description: Refers to a resource where a client may create a new user account for the context URI.
- o Reference: TBD



## **7. Normative References**

[RFC8288] Nottingham, M., "Web Linking", [RFC 8288](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC8288, October 2017, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8288>>.

## **Appendix A. Changelog**

### **A.1. Changes since -00**

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