

SIPPING  
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Rejecting Anonymous Requests in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)  
draft-rosenberg-sipping-acr-code-00

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Abstract

The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) allows for users to make anonymous calls. However, users receiving such calls have the right to reject them because they are anonymous. SIP has no way to indicate to the caller that the reason for call rejection was that the call was anonymous. Such an indication is useful to allow the call to be retried without anonymity. This specification defines a new SIP response code for this purpose.

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## 1. Introduction

The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) [[1](#)] allows for users to make anonymous calls. In [RFC 3261](#), this is done by including a From header field whose display name has the value of "Anonymous". Greater levels of anonymity were subsequently defined in [RFC 3323](#) [[2](#)], which introduces the Privacy header field. The Privacy header field allows a requesting UA to ask for various levels of anonymity, including user level anonymity, header level anonymity, and session level anonymity. [RFC 3325](#) [[3](#)] additionally defined the P-Asserted-ID header field, used to contain an asserted identity. [RFC 3325](#) also defined the 'id' value for the Privacy header field, which is used to request the network to remove the P-Asserted-ID header field.

Though users need to be able to make anonymous calls, users that receive such calls retain the right to reject the call because it is anonymous. SIP does not provide a response code that allows the UAS to explicitly indicate that the request was rejected because it was anonymous. The closest response code is 403 (Forbidden), which doesn't convey a specific reason. While it is possible to include a reason phrase in a 403 response that indicates to the human user that the call was rejected because it was anonymous, that reason phrase is not useful for automata. An indication that can be understood by an automata would allow for programmatic handling, including user interface prompts, automatic retries, or conversion to equivalent error codes in the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) when the client is a gateway.

To remedy this, this specification defines the 433 (Anonymity Disallowed) response code.

## 2. UAS Behavior

A UAS MAY generate a 433 (Anonymity Disallowed) response when it receives an anonymous request, and the UAS refuses to fulfill the request because the requestor is anonymous. A request is considered

anonymous when the identity of the originator of the request has been explicitly withheld by the originator. This occurs in several cases:

- o The From header field contains a display name of anonymous or a URI within the anonymous.invalid domain.
- o The request contained a Privacy header field whose value was 'id' [3] or 'user'. This explicitly excludes the 'header' and 'session' privacy services, since those do not directly convey the identity of the requestor.

- o The From or P-Asserted-ID header field contains a URI which has an explicit indication that it is anonymous. One such example of a mechanism that would meet this criteria is [4].

It is important to note that lack of a P-Asserted-ID header field, in and of itself, is not an indication of anonymity. Even though a Privacy header field value of 'id' will cause the removal of the P-Asserted-ID header field, there is no way to differentiate this case from one in which P-Asserted-ID was not supported by the originating domain. As a consequence, a request without a P-Asserted-ID is considered anonymous only when there is some other indication of this, such as a From header field with a display name of 'Anonymous'.

### [3.](#) UAC Behavior

A UAC receiving a 433 (Anonymity Disallowed) response MAY retry the request without requesting anonymity. It SHOULD only do so if it obtains confirmation that the user that this is desirable. Such confirmation could be obtained through the user interface, or by accessing user defined policy. The UAC SHOULD NOT retry the request if it continues to request anonymity.

A UAC that does not understand or care about the specific semantics of the 433 response will treat it as a 400 response.

### [4.](#) 433 (Anonymity Disallowed) Definition

This response indicates that the UAS refused to fulfill the request

because the requestor was anonymous. Its default reason phrase is "Anonymity Disallowed".

## [5.](#) IANA Considerations

This section registers a new SIP response code according to the procedures of [RFC 3261](#).

RFC Number: RFC XXXX [[NOTE TO IANA: Please replace XXXX with the RFC number of this specification]]

Response Code Number: 433

Default Reason Phrase: Anonymity Disallowed

## [6.](#) Security Considerations

The fact that an request was rejected because it was anonymous does

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reveal information about the called party - that they do not accept anonymous calls. This information may or may not be sensitive. If it is, a UAS SHOULD reject the request with a 403 instead.

## [7.](#) Acknowledgements

This draft was motivated based on the requirements in [\[6\]](#), and has benefitted from the concepts in [\[5\]](#).

## [8.](#) References

### [8.1](#) Normative References

- [1] Rosenberg, J., Schulzrinne, H., Camarillo, G., Johnston, A., Peterson, J., Sparks, R., Handley, M., and E. Schooler, "SIP: Session Initiation Protocol", [RFC 3261](#), June 2002.
- [2] Peterson, J., "A Privacy Mechanism for the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)", [RFC 3323](#), November 2002.
- [3] Jennings, C., Peterson, J., and M. Watson, "Private Extensions to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) for Asserted Identity

within Trusted Networks", [RFC 3325](#), November 2002.

## [8.2](#) Informative References

- [4] Rosenberg, J., "Identity Privacy in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)", [draft-rosenberg-sip-identity-privacy-00](#) (work in progress), July 2005.
- [5] Hautakorpi, J. and G. Camarillo, "Extending the Session Initiation Protocol Reason Header with Warning Codes", [draft-hautakorpi-reason-header-for-warnings-00](#) (work in progress), October 2005.
- [6] Jesske, R., "Input Requirements for the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) in support for the European Telecommunications Standards Institute", [draft-jesske-sipping-tispan-requirements-02](#) (work in progress), October 2005.

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