

Network Working Group
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: Dec 08, 2007

S. Harhalakis
TEI of Thessaloniki
Jun 9, 2007

Timezone Information in HTTP
draft-sharhalakis-httpz-02.txt

Status of this Memo

Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

By submitting this Internet-Draft, each author represents that any applicable patent or other IPR claims of which he or she is aware have been or will be disclosed, and any of which he or she becomes aware will be disclosed, in accordance with [Section 6 of BCP 79](#).

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), its areas, and its working groups. Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

The list of current Internet-Drafts can be accessed at
<http://www.ietf.org/lid-abstracts.html>

The list of Internet-Draft Shadow Directories can be accessed at
<http://www.ietf.org/shadow.html>.

This Internet-Draft will expire on December 8, 2007.

Discussion about this document takes place in http-wg mailing list (ietf-http-wg@w3.org).

Copyright Notice

Copyright (C) The IETF Trust (2007).

Abstract

This document defines a HTTP header for clients to provide timezone information to web servers. An ABNF description of the corresponding header is provided.

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

Many web based applications could benefit from knowing the timezone of their visiting clients. Most of the dynamic content provider applications depend on user accounts to display time and date in the client's native timezone. Even this is not always enough since people may travel across timezone boundaries and they currently need to update their web accounts to reflect their actual timezone information.

This document addresses this need by describing a header to be used by HTTP [[RFC2616](#)] so that interested clients may provide their current timezone information to web servers and thus to web based applications.

1.2. Requirements

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 [RFC 2119](#).

An implementation is not compliant if it fails to satisfy one or more of the MUST or REQUIRED level requirements. An implementation that satisfies all the MUST or REQUIRED level and all the SHOULD level requirements is said to be "unconditionally compliant"; one that satisfies all the MUST level requirements but not all the SHOULD level requirements is said to be "conditionally compliant".

1.3. Terminology

This document uses the following terms:

HTTP client

Every client of the HTTP protocol. Commonly referred to as a web browser.

timezone

A timezone string as described in [[RFC3339](#)].

HTTP header

A HTTP header as described in [[RFC2616](#)].

The HTTP header specification of this document is presented in the augmented Backus-Naur Form that is described in [[RFC2616](#)].

2. Definition

2.1. Client support

Harhalakis

Expires Dec 08, 2007

FORMFEED[Page 2]

HTTP clients MAY provide local timezone information to visiting web sites. This information is sent using the client-timezone HTTP header:

```
client-timezone = "Timezone" ":" time-zone
```

Where 'time-zone' is in the format specified in [appendix A of \[RFC3339\]](#).

[2.2.](#) Server support

Compliant servers MAY validate the format of the provided information. Timezone strings that are not in a valid format MAY not be accepted. Validity checking MUST NOT be performed on the content of the timezone string by servers. Only the format of the string may be checked. This way outdated servers will not filter out proper information.

[2.3.](#) Proxy considerations

HTTP proxy servers MUST NOT alter this information.

Server side scripts that produce customized results based on the timezone information MUST return an appropriate "Vary" header as specified in paragraph 14.44 of [\[RFC2616\]](#).

[3.](#) Security Considerations

[3.1.](#) Client Side

Timezone information may consist personal information regarding the location of a person. HTTP clients MUST NOT provide this information without letting the user prevent it. Clients must either ask users or provide an option for enabling/disabling this feature. The later is RECOMMENDED.

[3.2.](#) Server Side

Web based applications MUST treat this information as user input that can be either valid or invalid.

[4.](#) IANA Considerations

This specification requires registration of a Message Header Field for HTTP [\[RFC3864\]](#).

Header field: Timezone
Applicable protocol: http

Harhalakis

Expires Dec 08, 2007

FORMFEED[Page 3]

Status: experimental
Author/change controller:
 IETF (iesg@ietf.org)
 Internet Engineering Task Force
Specification document(s):
 [this document]

5. Acknowledgements

It should be mentioned that the timezone information in HTTP was also proposed by David Robinson in an email at HTTP Working Group back in 1995 but the replies he got were negative. It was believed that timezone information should be handled by CGI scripts and not by the Hypertext Transfer Protocol. The discussion can be found at http-wg mailing list archives:

<http://www.hpl.hp.com/personal/ange/archives/archives-95/http-wg-archive/0521.html>.

This document was properly formed thanks to the remarks of Julian Reschke.

6. References

6.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC2616] Fielding, R., Gettys, J., Mogul, J., Frystyk, H., Masinter, L., Leach, P., and T. Berners-Lee, "Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1", [RFC 2616](#), June 1999.
- [RFC3339] Klyne, G. and C. Newman, "Date and Time on the Internet: Timestamps", [RFC 3339](#), July 2002.
- [RFC3864] Klyne, G., Nottingham, M., and J. Mogul, "Registration Procedures for Message Header Fields", [BCP 90](#), [RFC 3864](#), September 2004.

6.2. Informative References

- [2223BIS] Reynolds, J. and R. Braden, "Instructions to Request for Comments (RFC) Authors", [draft-rfc-editor-rfc2223bis-08.txt](#), August 2004.
- [RFC4234] Crocker, D. and P. Overell, "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", [RFC 4234](#), October 2005.

Harhalakis

Expires Dec 08, 2007

FORMFEED[Page 4]

Author's Address

Stefanos Harhalakis
Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki
Department of Information Technology
Thessaloniki, Greece

EMail: v13@it.teithe.gr, v13@priest.com

Full Copyright Statement

Copyright (C) The IETF Trust (2007)

This document is subject to the rights, licenses and restrictions contained in [BCP 78](#), and except as set forth therein, the authors retain all their rights.

This document and the information contained herein are provided on an "AS IS" basis and THE CONTRIBUTOR, THE ORGANIZATION HE/SHE REPRESENTS OR IS SPONSORED BY (IF ANY), THE INTERNET SOCIETY, THE IETF TRUST, AND THE INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY THAT THE USE OF THE INFORMATION HEREIN WILL NOT INFRINGE ANY RIGHTS OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

Intellectual Property

The IETF takes no position regarding the validity or scope of any Intellectual Property Rights or other rights that might be claimed to pertain to the implementation or use of the technology described in this document or the extent to which any license under such rights might or might not be available; nor does it represent that it has made any independent effort to identify any such rights. Information on the procedures with respect to rights in RFC documents can be found in [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

Copies of IPR disclosures made to the IETF Secretariat and any assurances of licenses to be made available, or the result of an attempt made to obtain a general license or permission for the use of such proprietary rights by implementers or users of this specification can be obtained from the IETF on-line IPR repository at <http://www.ietf.org/ipr>.

The IETF invites any interested party to bring to its attention any copyrights, patents or patent applications, or other proprietary rights that may cover technology that may be required to implement this standard. Please address the information to the IETF at ietf-ipr@ietf.org.

Harhalakis

Expires Dec 08, 2007

FORMFEED[Page 6]