

**Atom Syndication Format Person Extensions**  
**draft-snell-atompub-author-extensions-00.txt**

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Abstract

This specification defines extensions to the Atom Syndication Format Person Construct.

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## **1. Introduction**

The Atom Person construct provides a limited set of metadata elements for describing individuals or entities who have authored or contributed to a feed or entry. In addition to this core set of data, feed publishers may wish to provide richer descriptions of those individuals. The extensions defined by this specification provide mechanism for expressing rich user profile, identity and contribution roles for an individual author or contributor.

## **2. Notational Conventions**

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 [BCP 14](#), [[RFC2119](#)]

This specification uses XML Namespaces [[W3C.REC-xml-names-19990114](#)] to uniquely identify XML element names. It uses the following namespace prefix for the indicated namespace URI;

{Ed. Note: this namespace MUST be changed to a proper IETF namespace scheme prior to publication}

"pe": "http://purl.org/atompub/person-extensions/1.0"

## **3. Person Profiles**

### **3.1. The 'profile' Element**

Person Profiles are rich metadata descriptions about an individual author or contributor. Using the 'profile' element, Profiles may be included directly within an Atom Person Construct or referenced externally.

```
inlineTextProfile = element pe:profile {
  atomCommonAttributes,
  attribute scheme { atomURI }?,
  attribute type { "text" | "html" }?,
  (text)*
}

inlineXHTMLProfile = element pe:profile {
  atomCommonAttributes,
  attribute scheme { atomURI }?,
  attribute type { "xhtml" },
  xhtmlDiv
}

inlineOtherProfile = element pe:profile {
  atomCommonAttributes,
  attribute scheme { atomURI }?,
  attribute type { atomMediaType }?,
  (text|anyElement)*
}

outOfLineProfile = element pe:profile {
  atomCommonAttributes,
  attribute scheme { atomURI }?,
  attribute type { atomMediaType }?,
  attribute src { atomUri },
  empty
}

profile = inlineTextProfile
| inlineXHTMLProfile
| inlineOtherProfile
| outOfLineProfile
```

#### An in-line XHTML-based hCard Profile

```
<pe:profile type="xhtml"
  scheme="http://microformats.org/wiki/hcard">
  <div xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
    <div class="vcard">
      <a class="url fn" href="http://example.org/">
        John Doe
      </a>
      <div class="org">Example, Org</div>
    </div>
  </div>
</pe:profile>
```

An out-of-line FOAF Profile

```
<pe:profile type="application/rdf+xml"
  src="http://example.org/johndoe.foaf"
  scheme="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/" />
```

### **3.2. The 'type' attribute**

The 'profile' element 'type' attribute value MUST be either one of 'text', 'html', or 'xhtml' or a non-composite MIME media type. If neither the type or src attributes are provided, the value of the 'type' attribute MUST be assumed to be 'text'.

### **3.3. The 'src' attribute**

The 'profile' element MAY contain a 'src' attribute whose value is an IRI reference. If the 'src' attribute is present, the 'profile' element MUST be empty. Atom Processors MAY use the IRI to retrieve the profile and MAY choose to either ignore the remote profile or to present it in a manner different than a profile included directly within the Person Construct.

If the "src" attribute is present, the "type" attribute SHOULD be provided and MUST be a MIME media type [MIMEREG], rather than "text", "html", or "xhtml". The value is advisory; that is to say, when the corresponding URI (mapped from an IRI, if necessary) is dereferenced, if the server providing that content also provides a media type, the server-provided media type is authoritative.

### **3.4. The 'scheme' attribute**

The 'profile' element MAY contain a 'scheme' attribute whose value is an IRI that may be used to provide additional differentiation of the profile scheme.

### **3.5. Processing Model**

Processors MUST interpret the 'profile' element according to the first applicable rule.

1. If the value of "type" is "text", the content of 'profile' MUST NOT contain child elements. Such text MAY or MAY NOT be intended to be presented to humans in a readable fashion. Thus, Processors MUST NOT collapse white space (including line breaks) or apply any typographic techniques such as justification or proportional fonts.

2. If the value of "type" is "html", the content of 'profile' MUST NOT contain child elements and SHOULD be suitable for handling as HTML. The HTML markup MUST be escaped; for example, "<br>" as "&lt;br>". The HTML markup SHOULD be such that it could validly appear directly within an HTML <DIV> element. Processors that display the content MAY use the markup to aid in displaying it.
3. If the value of "type" is "xhtml", the content of 'profile' MUST be a single XHTML div element [XHTML] and SHOULD be suitable for handling as XHTML. The XHTML div element itself MUST NOT be considered part of the content of the profile. Processors that display the content MAY use the markup to aid in displaying it. The escaped versions of characters such as "&" and ">" represent those characters, not markup.
4. If the value of "type" is an XML media type [[RFC3023](#)] or ends with "+xml" or "/xml" (case insensitive), the content of 'profile' MAY include child elements and SHOULD be suitable for handling as the indicated media type. If the "src" attribute is not provided, this would normally mean that the 'profile' element would contain a single child element that would serve as the root element of the XML document of the indicated type.
5. If the value of "type" begins with "text/" (case insensitive), the content of 'profile' MUST NOT contain child elements.
6. For all other values of "type", the content of 'profile' MUST be a valid Base64 encoding, as described in [[RFC3548](#)], [section 3](#). When decoded, it SHOULD be suitable for handling as the indicated media type. In this case, the characters in the Base64 encoding MAY be preceded and followed in the 'profile' element by white space, and lines are separated by a single newline (U+000A) character.

## **4. Identity**

### **4.1. The 'identity' Element**

The 'identity' element is used to associate an identity token with an Atom Person Construct.

```
inlineIdentity = element pe:identity {
  atomCommonAttributes,
  attribute scheme { atomURI }?,
  attribute type { atomMediaType },
  (text)*
}

outOfLineIdentity = element pe:identity {
  atomCommonAttributes,
  attribute scheme { atomURI }?,
  attribute type { atomMediaType },
  attribute src { atomURI },
  empty
}

identity = inlineIdentity
| outOfLineIdentity
```

An out-of-line OpenID Identity

```
<pe:identity
  scheme="http://openid.net"
  href="http://www.example.org" />
```

An in-line, Base64-encoded X.509 Identity

```
<pe:identity
  type="application/x509-user-cert">
  {base64 encoded binary data}
</pe:identity>
```

#### **4.2. The 'type' attribute**

The 'identity' element 'type' attribute value MUST be a non-composite MIME media type.

#### **4.3. The 'scheme' attribute**

The 'identity' element MAY contain a 'scheme' attribute whose value is an IRI that may be used to provide additional differentiation of the identity scheme.

#### **4.4. The 'src' attribute**

The 'identity' element MAY contain a 'src' attribute whose value is an IRI reference. If the 'src' attribute is present, the 'identity' element MUST be empty. Atom Processors MAY use the IRI to retrieve the identity token and MAY choose to either ignore the remote

identity or to present it in a manner different than an identity included directly within the Person Construct.

If the "src" attribute is present, the value of the "type" attribute is advisory; that is to say, when the corresponding URI (mapped from an IRI, if necessary) is dereferenced, if the server providing that content also provides a media type, the server-provided media type is authoritative.

#### **4.5. Processing Model**

Processors MUST interpret the 'identity' element according to the first applicable rule.

1. If the value of "type" is an XML media type [[RFC3023](#)] or ends with "+xml" or "/xml" (case insensitive), the content of 'profile' MAY include child elements and SHOULD be suitable for handling as the indicated media type. If the "src" attribute is not provided, this would normally mean that the 'profile' element would contain a single child element that would serve as the root element of the XML document of the indicated type.
2. If the value of "type" begins with "text/" (case insensitive), the content of 'profile' MUST NOT contain child elements.
3. For all other values of "type", the content of 'profile' MUST be a valid Base64 encoding, as described in [[RFC3548](#)], [section 3](#). When decoded, it SHOULD be suitable for handling as the indicated media type. In this case, the characters in the Base64 encoding MAY be preceded and followed in the 'profile' element by white space, and lines are separated by a single newline (U+000A) character.

### **5. Contribution Roles**

#### **5.1. The 'role' Element**

The 'role' element may be used to associate a specific contribution role with an Atom Person Construct. Contribution roles are useful to differentiating the different types of contributions (e.g. author, editor, translator, etc) an individual entity may have made to the creation of a feed or entry.

```
role = element pe:role {
  atomCommonAttributes,
  attribute scheme { atomURI }?,
  attribute term { atomURI },
  attribute label { text }?,
  empty
```



```
}
```

Example atom:contributors using Library of Congress MARC role codes

```
<contributor>
  <name>John Doe</name>
  <pe:role scheme="http://www.loc.gov/marc"
    term="aqt"
    label="Cited author" />
</contributor>
<contributor>
  <name>Jane Doe</name>
  <pe:role scheme="http://www.loc.gov/marc"
    term="edt"
    label="Editor" />
</contributor>
<contributor>
  <name>Joe Smith</name>
  <pe:role scheme="http://www.loc.gov/marc"
    term="trc"
    label="Transcriber" />
</contributor>
```

### **5.2. The 'scheme' attribute**

The 'scheme' attribute is an IRI that identifies a role classification scheme.

### **5.3. The 'term' attribute**

The 'term' attribute is a string that identifies the role associated with the Person construct.

### **5.4. The 'label' attribute**

The 'label' attribute provides a language-sensitive, human-readable label for display in end-user applications. Entities such as "&" and "<" represent their corresponding characters ("&" and "<", respectively), not markup.

## **6. Security Considerations**

TBD

## **7. IANA Considerations**

There are no IANA considerations introduced by this specification.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

The author gratefully acknowledges the feedback from the members of the Atom Publishing Format and Protocol working group during the development of this specification. In order to maintain structural and semantic alignment with the Atom Syndication Format specification, some portions of the Atom Format specification were copied near verbatim within this specification and adapted to the specific elements defined herein.

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## Acknowledgment

Funding for the RFC Editor function is currently provided by the Internet Society.