

**Additional Link Relations and the urn:social Namespace
draft-snell-more-link-relations-01**

Abstract

This specification defines a number of additional Link Relation Types that can be used for a variety of purposes..

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[1.](#) Introduction

This specification defines and adds the following additional link relation types to the IANA Registry of Link Relations established by [\[RFC5988\]](#): to, bto, cc, bcc, from, bfrom, source, generator, provider, location, alias and mentionedBy. Further, this specification proposes a new 'social' URN namespace.

Note that this document is a work-in-progress draft specification that does not yet represent a "standard". It is the intention of this specification to propose a few new ideas and openly solicit feedback on their definition and use. While this document might eventually evolve into an RFC the ideas described herein have not yet been broadly implemented and have definitions that may evolve through successive iterations of this draft.

[2.](#) The 'social' URN Namespace

This specification defines the 'social' URN namespace having the following structure:

urn:social:{NSS}

The Namespace Specific String (NSS) MUST be one of:

- o everyone
- o direct

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- o extended
- o peer
- o subordinate
- o superior
- o common
- o interested
- o self

Within any given social networking system, there is an available population of entities. Each NSS term represent specific subsets of this population and are defined in terms of these subsets relative to a fixed context. For example, if the fixed content is a person, the "urn:social:direct" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is directly connected to the context person within the social graph, while the "urn:social:extended" URN identifies the subset that is directly or indirectly connected to the context person.

The 'social' URN namespace is defined to be intentionally ambiguous and contextually dependent. The specific interpretation of each NSS depends entirely on how and where the NSS is being used.

2.1. urn:social:everyone

The "urn:social:everyone" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is visible to the context.

2.2. urn:social:direct

The "urn:social:direct" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is both visible to and directly connected to the context.

2.3. urn:social:extended

The "urn:social:extended" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is visible to and connected either directly or indirectly to the context.

2.4. urn:social:peer

The "urn:social:peer" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is both visible to the context and considered to be a "peer".

Peer relationships exist only within populations in which there exists a hierarchical division of members in the population. An example of such a network would be a company or similarly structured organization. Peers might be directly or indirectly connected to the target resource but are considered to share the same hierarchical position.

2.5. urn:social:subordinate

The "urn:social:subordinate" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is both visible to the context and considered to be "subordinate" to the context.

Subordinate relationships exist only within populations in which there exists a hierarchical division of members in the population. An example of such a network would be a company or similarly structured organization. Subordinates might be directly or indirectly connected to the target resource but are considered to share a lower hierarchical position.

2.6. urn:social:superior

The "urn:social:superior" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is both visible to the context and considered to be "superior" to the context.

Superior relationships exist only within populations in which there exists a hierarchical division of members in the population. An example of such a network would be a company or similarly structured organization. Superiors might be directly or indirectly connected to the target resource but are considered to have a higher hierarchical position.

2.7. urn:social:common

The "urn:social:common" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is both visible to the context and is determined to share the same common attributes as the context.

Determination of "common attributes" is dependent entirely on the application. For example, an application might choose to use shared interests in a given topic as the "common attribute" binding a particular grouping of members.

[2.8.](#) urn:social:interested

The "urn:social:interested" URN identifies the subset of the total population that is both visible to the context and has an express interest in the context. Examples of members of the "interested" subset are those who have elected to "follow" the activity of the context resource.

[2.9.](#) urn:social:self

The "urn:social:self" URN identifies the context resource itself as a member of the total population.

[3.](#) IANA Considerations

The following Link Relations are added to the IANA Registry of Link Relations.

Name	Description
to	Refers to a resource that is considered to be part of the public primary audience of the link's context.
bto	Refers to a resource that is considered to be part of the private primary audience of the link's context.
cc	Refers to a resource that is considered to be part of the public secondary audience of the link's context.
bcc	Refers to a resource that is considered to be part of the private secondary audience of the link's context.
from	Refers to a resource that is publicly considered to be the originator of the link's context.
bfrom	Refers to a resource that is privately considered to be the originator of the link's context.
source	Refers to the original source of information contained by the context resource.
provider	Refers to the resource that provided the context resource. Typically, this would be used to identify the entity publishing the resource.
generator	Refers to the resource that generated the context resource. Typically, this would be used to identify the software application that created the context resource.
mentionedBy	Refers to a resource that mentions the context resource in some fashion. This, for example,

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		would be used when an article mentions another	
		article, or a social status update mentions a	
		particular user, etc.	
location		References a URI/IRI that represents a physical	
		or logical location with which the context	
		resource is associated.	
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+			

4. Security Considerations

There are no additional security concerns introduced by this document.

5. Informative References

[RFC5988] Nottingham, M., "Web Linking", [RFC 5988](#), October 2010.

[Appendix A](#). Examples

Using targeting link relations and the urn:social namespace:

```
POST /alerts HTTP/1.1
Host: example.org
Content-Type: text/plain
Authorization: Basic {Base64 Credentials}
Link: <urn:social:everyone>; rel="to"
Link: <urn:social:extended>; rel="cc"
Link: <urn:social:self>; rel="bfrom"
```

Test message

Using publication link relations:


```
<html>
  <head>
    ...
    <link
      rel="source"
      href="http://example.net/post/1" />
    <link
      rel="provider"
      href="http://example.org" />
    <link
      rel="generator"
      href="http://example.com/software/app/1.1" />
    ...
  </head>
  <body>...</body>
</html>
```

Using the alias and location relations:

Link: <geo:37.786971,-122.399677>; rel="location"

Using the mentionedBy relation:

LINK /articles/1 HTTP/1.1
Host: example.org
Link: <articles/2>; rel="mentionedBy"

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