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Internet Media Type message/sipfrag
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Status of this Memo

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Abstract

This document registers the message/sipfrag MIME media type. This type is similar to message/sip , but allows fragments of well formed SIP messages to be used for the same tunelling purposes as message/sip. In addition to end-to-end security uses , message/sipfrag is used with the REFER method to tunnel information about the status of a referrenced request.

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1. message/sipfrag

This document registers the message/sipfrag MIME media type. This type is similar to message/sip as defined in [1], but allows fragments of well formed SIP messages to be used for the same tunelling purposes as message/sip. In addition to the end-to-end security uses discussed in [1], message/sipfrag is used in the REFER [2] to tunnel information about the status of a referrenced request.

The motivation and examples of usage of message/sip as a security mechanism in concert with S/MIME are given in seciton 23.4 of [1]. These apply equally to message/sipfrag, with the additional benefit of being able to choose which portions of the message to protect.

Motivation and examples of usage of message/sipfrag to carry the status of referrenced requests is provided in [2]. In particular, allowing only a portion of a SIP message to be carried allows information that could compromise privacy and confidentiality to be protected by removal.

Where a message/sip mime-part must be a complete well formed SIP message, a mime-part of type message/sipfrag can contain a subset of a SIP message. A valid message/sipfrag part is one that could be obtained by starting with some valid SIP message and deleting any of the following

- the entire start line
- one or more entire headers
- the body

If the message/sipfrag part contains a body, it must also contain a Content-Length header and the null-line separating headers from the body.

2. IANA Considerations

The message/sipfrag media type is defined by the following information:

```
Media type name: message
Media subtype name: sipfrag
Required parameters: none
Optional parameters: version
   version: The SIP-Version number of the enclosed message
     (e.g., "2.0"). If not present, the version defaults to "2.0".
Encoding scheme: SIP messages consist of an 8-bit header optionally
   followed by a binary MIME data object. As such, SIP messages
   must be treated as binary. Under normal circumstances SIP
   messages are transported over binary-capable transports, no
   special encodings are needed.
Security considerations: see below
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3. Security Considerations

A message/sip mime-part may contain sensitive information or information used to affect processing decisions at the receiver. When exposing that information or modifying it during transport would do harm its level of protection can be improved using the S/MIME mechanisms described in section 23 of , with the limitations described in section 26 of that document.

References

[1] PlaceHolder, A., "Placeholder", RFC 3261, May 2002.

[2] Sparks, R., "The REFER Method", draft-ietf-sip-refer-02 (work in progress), September 2001.

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