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**LDAP Administrator Address Attribute  
draft-wahl-ldap-adminaddr-02**

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## Abstract

Organizations running multiple directory servers need an ability for administrators to determine who is responsible for a particular server. An attribute, conceptually similar to the 'sysContact' object of SNMP, is defined which can be retrieved from the directory server using the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

## **1. Introduction**

This document defines an optional attribute for use in LDAP [[1](#)].

This attribute was originally defined in the mid-1990s for inclusion in the LDAPv3 data model, but was omitted from the LDAPv3 root DSE specification as there was only one implementation of a server supporting that attribute at that time.

The words "MUST", "SHOULD" and "MAY" are used as defined in [RFC 2119](#) [[2](#)].

Please send comments to the author at [mark.wahl@informed-control.com](mailto:mark.wahl@informed-control.com).

## **2. The administratorsAddress attribute**

This attribute allows a server administrator to provide the contact information of the responsible party for an LDAP server or naming context. This can be used by management clients which are, for example, checking the state of a replication or referral topology, to provide a way for the user of the management client to send email to manager of a particular server.

The attribute is defined as follows (with lines wrapped for readability):

```
( 1.3.6.1.4.1.1466.101.120.1 NAME 'administratorsAddress'
  SYNTAX 1.3.6.1.4.1.1466.115.121.1.26
  USAGE directoryOperation )
```

This attribute can contain one or more values, and each value is a URI [\[3\]](#). Each URI is encoded using the IA5 string syntax [\[5\]](#).

Unlike the labeledURI attribute [\[6\]](#), these values do not have a label.

This document only specifies how a client can read this attribute. Some servers MAY support updating this attribute over protocol, subject to access control, however for many servers it is anticipated that the values of this attribute would be configured through the server's out-of-band management interface, such as in a configuration file.

In existing practice, this URI is commonly of the 'mailto:' form identifying a role mail address, such as "mailto:helpdesk@example.com".

To obtain the responsible party for a directory server, the attribute is read from the root DSE, using a baseObject search as described in [RFC 4512](#) [\[4\]](#).

To obtain the responsible party for a naming context, the attribute is read from the entry at the base of the naming context. Note that these addresses need not be the same as that of the directory server administrator, or of a data administrator.



### **3. Security Considerations**

The server's access control policy SHOULD allow this information to be visible to any suitable administrator in the same organization. Since one use of this attribute is to find who is responsible if the server is not making authentication decisions properly, it MAY be visible to all users who are permitted to access the directory server. The administrator SHOULD choose addresses for use in this attribute that are already publically known within the organization, and SHOULD NOT encode passwords or other secret information within the URIs.



#### **4. IANA Considerations**

This attribute will be registered as follows:

Subject: Request for LDAP Descriptor Registration

Descriptor: administratorsAddress

Object Identifier: 1.3.6.1.4.1.1466.101.120.1

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Mark Wahl <Mark.Wahl@informed-control.com>

Usage: attribute type

Specification: (I-D) RFC XXXX

Author/Change Controller: Mark Wahl





## **5. Acknowledgments**

The contents of this document is based on earlier work of the ASID Working Group of the IETF. The contributions of its members is greatly appreciated.

## **6. References**

### **6.1. Normative References**

- [1] Zeilenga, K., "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): Technical Specification Road Map", [RFC 4510](#), June 2006.
- [2] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [RFC 2119](#), [BCP 14](#), March 1997.
- [3] Berners-Lee, T., "Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax", [RFC 1738](#), STD 66, January 2005.
- [4] Zeilenga, K., "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): Directory Information Models", [RFC 4512](#), June 2006.
- [5] Legg, S., "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): Syntaxes and Matching Rules", [RFC 4517](#), June 2006.

### **6.2. Informative References**

- [6] Smith, M., "Definition of an X.500 Attribute Type and Object Class to Hold Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs)", [RFC 2079](#).



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