

The 'disclosure' Link Relation Type
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Abstract

This document specifies the 'disclosure' Link Relation Type. It designates a list of patent disclosures or a particular patent disclosure itself made with respect to material for which such relation type is specified.

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[1.](#) Introduction

[RFC 5988](#) [[RFC5988](#)] defined a way of indicating relationships between resources on the Web. This document specifies a new type of such relationship - 'disclosure' Link Relation Type. It designates a list of patent disclosures or a particular patent disclosure itself made with respect to material for which such relation is specified.

Active use of 'disclosure' relation type has been identified. The current version of W3C Publication Rules [[W3C-PUBRULES](#)], Bullet 36 of [Section 5](#), defines that each W3C document must have the boilerplate referring to the page where one may find patent disclosures made with regard to such document. As W3C Publication Rules are applied to many documents, that might be under different patent policies, a number of variants of the mentioned boilerplate exist. However, the phrase "W3C maintains a public list of any patent disclosures made in connection with the deliverables of the group; that page also includes instructions for disclosing a patent." can be found in each of these variants. Publication Rules specify that, in the source code, it must look like:

```
W3C maintains a <a rel="disclosure" href="...">public list of any
patent disclosures</a> made in connection with the deliverables of
the group; that page also includes instructions for disclosing a
patent.
```

Such provisions existed in previous versions of Publication Rules as well, so such source text is often found in different W3C documents that predated publication of [RFC 5988](#) significantly. However, 'disclosure' relation type has not been mentioned in [RFC 5988](#) when creating the registry for relation types; nor was it registered separately.

This document is to formally register the 'disclosure' Link Relation Type with IANA and provide a permanent record on it for the Internet community. Additionally, it expands the sphere of this relation type to allow its use when referring to separate patent disclosures.

1.1. Terminology

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](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

2. 'disclosure' Link Relation Type

Whenever the 'disclosure' relation is defined, the target IRI MUST either

- (1) designate a list of patent disclosures, or
- (2) refer to a particular patent disclosure made with respect to the material being referenced by context IRI.

3. Examples

This section provides several examples of possible use of 'disclosure' relation type.

If the page <<http://example.org/ipr/meta-spec/>> contains a list of patent disclosures made with respect to the specification found at <<http://example.org/specs/meta-spec/spec.html>>, the latter would have the following fragment of HTML source code:

```
<html>
...
Please visit
<a rel="disclosure" href="http://example.org/ipr/meta-spec/"> the
  IPR page</a> for the list of patent disclosures made with respect
  to this specification.
...
</html>
```

Or, in the case of Link header field, the HTTP response would contain the following header field:

```
Link: <http://example.org/ipr/meta-spec/>; rel="disclosure";
      title="Patent Disclosures List"
```

(Please note that the actual header field will not contain the line break after 'rel' parameter.)

In the case of separate patent disclosures, the HTML source code may look like this:

```
<html>
...
The following are the patent disclosures known at present made
with respect to this specification:
<ul><a rel="disclosure" href="http://patent.gov/8546987">
U.S. Patent No. 8546987</a></ul>
<ul><a rel="disclosure" href="http://ipr.su/pat/98745-6">
U.S.S.R. Patent No. 98745-6</a></ul>
<ul><a rel="disclosure" href="ftp://ftp.legal.va/a/patent3.pdf">
Vatical City State Patent No. 3</a></ul>
...
</html>
```

(The element is used to introduce an unordered, bulleted list in HTML.)

4. Security Considerations

The 'disclosure' relation type is truly believed not to raise any new security issues which are not discussed in [RFC 5988](#) for generic use of Web linking mechanism.

5. IANA Considerations

IANA is asked to register the 'disclosure' link relation type in the corresponding registry, with reference to this document, using the following template:

- o Relation name: disclosure
- o Description: refers to a list of patent disclosures or a particular patent disclosure itself made with respect to material for which 'disclosure' relation is specified
- o Reference: RFC xxxx

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

6.2. Informative References

[W3C-PUBRULES]

I. Jacobs, Ed., "Technical Report Publication Policy (Pubrules)", W3C Publication Policies, July 2005, <<http://www.w3.org/2005/07/13-pubrules-src.html>>

Appendix A. Acknowledgments

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Authors' Addresses

Mykyta Yevstifeyev
8 Kuzovkov St., Apt. 25
Kotovsk
Ukraine

EMail: evnikita2@gmail.com

