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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 made with respect to the 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 the 'disclosure' link relation type. It designates a list of patent disclosures made with respect to the material for which such relation type is specified. Please note that the term "IPR disclosure" should be considered to be synonymous to "patent disclosure" for the purposes of 'disclosure' link relation type semantics.

The 'disclosure' link relation type has been in active use of W3C, which requires all the W3C documents to contain a link to a list of patent disclosures referenced with the relation type being defined. However, it has long been used with no proper specification and registration. This document is to accomplish this gap. It formally specifies the existing practice of use of 'disclosure' link relation type and registers it in the registry created by RFC 5988.

Please note that 'disclosure' relation type designates a different resource that 'copyright' type does; the latter refers to the copyright statement while the former is used to reference patent disclosure. Please visit RFC 5988 [RFC5988] for more information on 'copyright' relation type.

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 type is used, the target IRI [RFC5988] MUST refer to a list of patent disclosures (IPR disclosures) made with respect to the material referenced by context IRI. This also covers the case of empty list and a list containing

one entry.

2.1. Examples

This section provides an example 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-list" 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 and spaces after 'rel' parameter.)

3. 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.

4. 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:

- Relation name: disclosure

- Description: refers to a list of patent disclosures made with respect to material for which 'disclosure' relation is specified

- Reference: RFC xxxx

5. 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.

Appendix A. Acknowledgments

Thanks to Bjoern Hoehrmann for noticing that 'disclosure' relation is not properly specified and, correspondingly, initiating this work. The author would also like to acknowledge the contributions of (in alphabetical order) Bjoern Hoehrmann, John Klensin, Subramanian Moonesamy, Julian Reschke, Thomas Roessler, Martin Thomson, and Juergen Quittek to this document.

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