

Internet Draft: IMAP UNSELECT command
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IMAP UNSELECT command

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A revised version of this draft document will be submitted to the RFC editor as a Proposed Standard for the Internet Community. Discussion and suggestions for improvement are requested, and should be sent to the IMAPEXT Mailing list ietf-imapext@imc.org. Distribution of this draft is unlimited.

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Abstract

Certain types of IMAP clients need to release resources associated with the selected mailbox without selecting a different mailbox. While [\[IMAP4\]](#) provides this functionality (via a SELECT command with an invalid argument or reselecting the same mailbox with EXAMINE command), a more clean solution is desirable.

[\[IMAP4\]](#) defines the CLOSE command that closes the selected mailbox as well as permanently removes all messages with the \Deleted flag set.

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However [[IMAP4](#)] lacks a command that simply closes the mailbox without expunging it. This document defines the UNSELECT command for this purpose.

A server which supports this extension indicates this with a capability name of "UNSELECT".

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[1.](#) Conventions Used in this Document

"C:" and "S:" in examples show lines sent by the client and server respectively.

The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", and "MAY" in this document when typed in uppercase are to be interpreted as defined in "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels" [[KEYWORDS](#)].

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[2.](#) UNSELECT Command

Arguments: none

Responses: no specific responses for this command

Result: OK - unselect completed, now in authenticated state
BAD - no mailbox selected, or argument supplied but none permitted

The UNSELECT command frees server's resources associated with the selected mailbox and returns the server to the authenticated state. This command performs the same actions as CLOSE, except that no messages are permanently removed from the currently selected mailbox.

Example: C: A341 UNSELECT
S: A341 OK Unselect completed

[3.](#) Security Considerations

It is believed that this extension doesn't raise any additional security concerns not already discussed in [\[IMAP4\]](#).

[4.](#) Formal Syntax

The following syntax specification uses the augmented Backus-Naur Form (BNF) notation as specified in [\[RFC-822\]](#) as modified by [\[IMAP4\]](#). Non-terminals referenced but not defined below are as defined by [\[IMAP4\]](#).

Except as noted otherwise, all alphabetic characters are case-insensitive. The use of upper or lower case characters to define

token strings is for editorial clarity only. Implementations MUST accept these strings in a case-insensitive fashion.

command-select /= "UNSELECT"

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5. Acknowledgments

UNSELECT command was originally implemented by Tim Showalter in Cyrus IMAP server.

Also, the author of the document would like to thank Vladimir Butenko and Mark Crispin for reminding that UNSELECT has to be documented. Also thanks to Simon Josefsson for pointing out that there are multiple ways to implement UNSELECT.

6. Normative References

[KEYWORDS] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.

[IMAP4] Crispin, M., "Internet Message Access Protocol - Version 4rev1", [RFC 2060](#), University of Washington, December 1996.

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