IMAP4 revision 2

draft-melnikov-imap4rev2-07.txt

Short History of IMAP

- RFC 1730 (IMAP4) published in 1994

- RFC 3501 (IMAP4rev1) published in 2003

- Many IMAP extensions added since 1994

  - Some of them are pretty universally deployed, e.g. LITERAL+, UIDPLUS, NAMESPACE

- Mark Crispin passed away several years ago

- More implementation (especially clients) were written recently

  - Many don't show up in IETF

- There is an active community of client and server developers

Goals - general

- Make life easier for <u>client</u> developers who would be able to only implement IMAP4rev2 in the future

  - But try not to boil the ocean in the process

- Easy to implement for IMAP4rev1 server implementors, as they do most of the new things included in IMAP4rev2 already

- IMAP4rev2 can co-exist with IMAP4rev1 on the same port

Changes so far (1 of 2)

- Included errata for RFC 3501

- Updated TLS recommendations (as per UTA WG)

- Added RFC 5530 (IMAP Response Codes), pieces of ABNF for extending IMAP from RFC 4466.

Changes so far - improvements (2 of 2)

- Merged in "popular" IMAP extensions which

  - Make the protocol more symmetrical (UNSELECT, UIDPLUS, CLOSED response code)

  - Avoid the need for clients to guess server configuration (NAMESPACE, SPECIAL-USE, bits of LIST-EXTENDED)

  - Make responses more compact/less chatty (ESEARCH)

  - Use ENABLE

  - Other optimizations (SASL-IR, LITERAL+)

  - IDLE

- See Appendix B in the draft for the full list

Future directions - add/ clarify (1of 2)

- Clarify the most problematic areas, such as

  - BODYSTRUCTURE (parsed MIME structure) is still quite buggy in some implementations

- Support for $MDNSent and $Forwarded as a part of base specification

- Combine frequently used operations (STATUS + LIST)

Future directions - cleanup (2 of 2)

- Get rid of UTF-7 encoded Unicode mailbox names

- Get rid of \Recent flag

  - Multiclient access to the same mailbox made this obsolete

- Get rid of reporting of the first unseen message in a mailbox being opened?

  - Who cares, if you have 60000 messages in your mailbox?

  - Extra work for servers, hardly ever needed by clients

- **Anything else?**

Open Issues

- Get rid of LSUB (use extended LIST)?

- Add BINARY?

Next steps

- Ready for adoption by EXTRA WG?

- Help co-editing?