EMAILCORE WG
IETF 114, Philadelphia
July 2022

Chairs:
Alexey Melnikov <alexey.melnikov@isode.com>
Todd Herr <todd.herr@valimail.com>

Note Well

- This is a reminder of IETF policies in effect on various topics such as patents or code of conduct. It is only meant to point you in the right direction. Exceptions may apply. The IETF's patent policy and the definition of an IETF "contribution" and "participation" are set forth in BCP 79; please read it carefully.

- As a reminder:

  - By participating in the IETF, you agree to follow IETF processes and policies.

  - If you are aware that any IETF contribution is covered by patents or patent applications that are owned or controlled by you or your sponsor, you must disclose that fact, or not participate in the discussion.

  - As a participant in or attendee to any IETF activity you acknowledge that written, audio, video, and photographic records of meetings may be made public.

  - Personal information that you provide to IETF will be handled in accordance with the IETF Privacy Statement.

  - As a participant or attendee, you agree to work respectfully with other participants; please contact the ombudsteam (https://www.ietf.org/contact/ombudsteam/) if you have questions or concerns about this.

Note Well
(continued)

- Definitive information is in the documents listed below and other IETF BCPs. For advice, please talk to WG chairs or ADs:

  - BCP 9 (Internet Standards Process)

  - BCP 25 (Working Group processes)

  - BCP 25 (Anti-Harassment Procedures)

  - BCP 54 (Code of Conduct)

  - BCP 78 (Copyright)

  - BCP 79 (Patents, Participation)

  - https://www.ietf.org/privacy-policy/ (Privacy Policy)

IETF Code Of Conduct Guidelines RFC 7154

- Treat colleagues with respect

- Speak slowly and limit the use of slang

- Dispute ideas by using reasoned argument

- Use best engineering judgment

- Find the best solution for the whole Internet

- Contribute to the ongoing work of the group and the IETF

Administrivia

- This session is being recorded

- Meetecho:

  - https://wws.conf.meetecho.com/conference/?group=emailcore

- Jabber room (discussions/back channel):

  - emailcore@jabber.ietf.org

- Shared note taking:

  - https://notes.ietf.org/notes-ietf-114-emailcore

- **In room participants: please use masks**

- ***Note taker**?*

Agenda (1 of 3)

- Agenda bashing, administrivia, note well (chairs) - 5 mins

- Tickets for the SMTP draft:

- #55 (G.14. The FOR Clause in Received header field: Semantics, Security Considerations, and Other Issues) ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/55***

- #56 (Relax IANA registration policy for SMTP extensions) ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/56***

- Quickly review other remaining tickets. Suggestion to close them with no further action.

Agenda (2 of 3)

- Tickets for the A/S draft:

- #54 (G.7.17 Hop-by-hop Authentication and/or Encryption) ***https:// github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/54***

- *#38 (Possible clarification of 78 octet limit versa the 998 line length limit)*

- ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/38***

- *#35 (Erratum 3135: quoted-string definition allows for semantically invalid empty strings)*

- ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/35***

- *#51 (AS should cover the use of message format elements in web forms)*

- ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/51***

Agenda (3 of 3)

- Tickets for the A/S draft:

- *#19 (G.7.6. Requirements for domain name and/or IP address in EHLO)*

- ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/19***

- *#1 (G.1. IP address literals in EHLO)*

- ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/1***

- *#16 - Review Timeout Specifications*

- ***https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/16***

Ned Freed

We lost a friend...

RFC 5321

G.14. The FOR Clause in Received header field: Semantics, Security Considerations, and Other Issues

https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/55

- What is FOR for?
  - Surprisingly RFC 821 does not say
  - Optional; Just gives syntax for a mailbox name
  - Like all components of trace fields, intended use is debugging (including message tracing)
  - Value is generally assumed to be mailbox or intended recipient
- What is the problem?
  - Never been clear what to do with multiple RCPT commands
  - Can easily disclose info intended to be private, like "bcc" mailboxes

RFC 5321

G.14. The FOR Clause in Received header field: Semantics, Security Considerations, and Other Issues

- Solution in 5321bis-11
  - General warning about accidental information disclosure in trace fields, especially for sites with special circumstances
  - Advice against providing FOR when there is more than one recipient addresses (RCPT command)
    - That statement was badly written and should be cleaned up if it is to be retained
- The rest of the problem
  - If our goal is to prevent disclosure of potentially sensitive information, there are other cases
  - We need to rethink FOR, when it should be provided, at at what stages

RFC 5321

G.14. The FOR Clause in Received header field: Semantics,
Security Considerations, and Other Issues

Obvious and Semi-obvious Options
1. Conclude FOR is just too dangerous in today's world and either
    1. Deprecate it in 5321bis   (these have slightly
       different
    2. Deprecate it in the A/s   implications)
2. Allow it only in Message Submission   (small scope problem)
3. Decide we do not care about those other cases, fix the bad
   sentence, and move on

Issues discussed at more length in draft-klensin-email-for-
clause-00

RFC 5321

G.14. The FOR Clause in Received header field: Semantics, Security Considerations, and Other Issues

If we pick the third option, the bad sentence is:
Also, the optional FOR clause should be supplied with caution or not at all when multiple recipients are involved lest it inadvertently disclose the identities of "blind copy" recipients to others.
The problems start with whatever "supplied with caution" means and go downhill
Suggestion:
 Also, the optional FOR clause should not be supplied when the same message is sent to multiple recipients in the same mail transaction in order not to inadvertently disclose the identities of "blind copy" recipients to others.

RFC 5321

Relax IANA registration policy for SMTP extensions

https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/56

Background:

SMTP extension registry registration procedure currently says:

Standards-Track or **Experimental** RFCs specifically approved by

the IESG for this purpose.

With the removal of restriction on extensions starting with "X", at least **IETF Informational** RFCs should be allowed. What about **non IETF stream Informational/Experimental**?

RFC 5321

Relax IANA registration policy for SMTP extensions

https://github.com/ietf-wg-emailcore/emailcore/issues/56

Chair's reading of the mailing list:

1. FCFS is not satisfactory for some people.

2. Proposal on the table is to use Expert Review, where Experts can advise, but can't block registrations. Many people said that they can live with it.

3. The discussion also branched off into discussing barriers for real world registrations and which ones we are trying to address. While it was an interesting discussion I don't think it has lots to do with this ticket.

The definition of compromise: "everybody is unhappy but everybody can live with the proposal". **Can we live with the proposal on the next 2 slides?**

RFC 5321

Relax IANA registration policy for SMTP extensions

Suggestion: try Expert Review in real world and see whether this is an improvement on current process. If it really isn't, let's fix after we have some running code.

NEW (beginning):

The first, "Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) Service Extensions"

[49], consists of SMTP service extensions with the associated

keywords, and, as needed, parameters and verbs. Entries may be made

only for service extensions (and associated keywords, parameters, or

verbs) that are documented and reviewed according to the **Specification**

Required policy in BCP 26 [RFC8126] Section 4.6.

RFC 5321

Relax IANA registration policy for SMTP extensions

NEW (continued):

The designated expert(s) will determine whether there is reliable access

to the specification. Reliable access means that the archive for the

specification has an established record of availability; issuance as an

RFC or IETF Internet-Draft is acceptable, but not required.

The expert(s) might separately offer advice for improving the

specification, including completeness and clarify, for interoperability,

usability, and utility. However the process of advice and possible

modification is separate from the process of creating the registration.

In the end, the importance of registering and documenting extensions

that are actually in use is paramount.

A/S

54 (G.7.17 Hop-by-hop Authentication and/or Encryption)

https://trac.ietf.org/trac/emailcore/ticket/54

Is this sufficiently baked that the issue can be closed?

As the proposed text was posted to the mailing list and commented on several times. It is too big to show on the slide. Proposal is to do a mini-WGLC on the mailing list on closing this issue.

A/S

Possible clarification of 78 octet limit versa the 998 line length limit

https://trac.ietf.org/trac/emailcore/ticket/38

rfc5322bis seems to be clear on this.

Should we add any clarifications or examples to A/S? For example "message bodies should always be folded at 78 octets, but longer lines in header fields are OK"?

A/S

Erratum 3135: quoted-string definition allows for semantically invalid empty strings

Current text:

The quoted-string ABNF non-terminal is used in various places in
rfc5322bis grammar. While it allows for empty quoted string, such
construct is going to cause interoperability issues when used in
certain header fields. In particular, use of empty quoted strings is
NOT RECOMMENDED in "received-token" (a component of a Received header
field), "keywords" (a component of a Keywords header field) and
"local-part" (left hand side of email addresses). Use of empty
quoted strings is in particular problematic in the "local-part". For
example, all of the following email addresses are non interoperable:

"".bar@example.com

foo.""@example.net

""@example.com

Use of empty quoted strings is fine in "display-name".

A/S

Erratum 3135: quoted-string definition allows for semantically invalid empty strings

https://trac.ietf.org/trac/emailcore/ticket/35

Suggestion to close this ticket as done.

A/S

AS should cover the use of message format elements in web forms

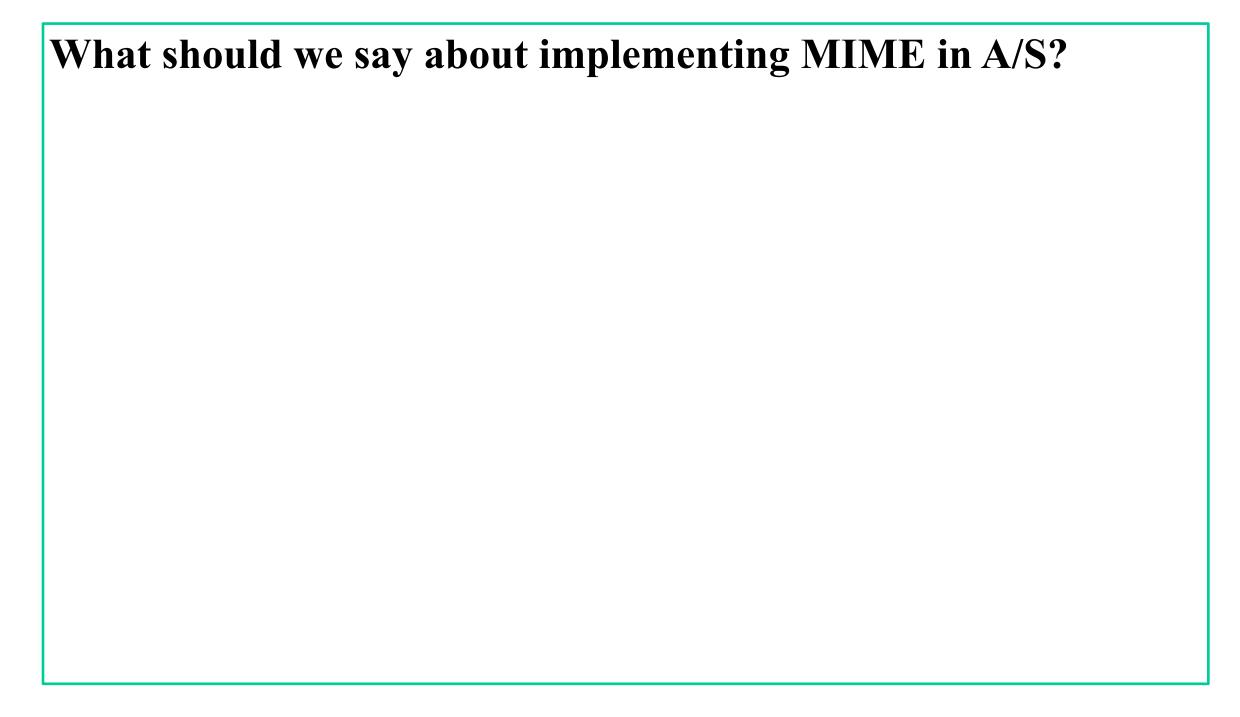https://trac.ietf.org/trac/emailcore/ticket/51

The ticket says:

Forms that accept email addresses are ubiquitous, but AFAIK we provide no guidance as to which of the various grammar elements defined in these specifications is appropriate for use as acceptance criteria for an email address. It would be helpful to clarify this, especially in regards to obsolete syntax.

Suggestion:

Add some text about which characters need to be accepted in web forms (based on the ABNF).

Thoughts?

A/S
MIME

What should we say about implementing MIME in A/S?

A/S

G.7.6. Requirements for domain name and/or IP address in EHLO

https://trac.ietf.org/trac/emailcore/ticket/19

Current text in A/S:

If the Domain argument to the EHLO command does not have an address record in the DNS that matches the IP address of the client, the SMTP server may refuse any mail from the client as part of established anti-abuse practice. Operational experience has demonstrated that the lack of a matching address record for the the domain name argument is at best an indication of a poorly-configured MTA, and at worst that of an abusive host.

Proposal is to close this ticket as Done.

A/S

G.1. IP address literals in EHLO

https://trac.ietf.org/trac/emailcore/ticket/1

Current text

The address-literal ABNF non-terminal is used in various places in [I-D.ietf-emailcore-rfc5321bis] grammar however, for SMTP connections over the public internet, an address-literal as the argument to EHLO command or the Domain part of the Mailbox argument to the MAIL FROM command is quite likely to result in the message being rejected as a matter of policy at many sites, since they are deemed to be signs of at best a misconfigured server, and at worst either a compromised host or a server that's intentionally configured to hide its identity.

Proposal is to close this ticket as Done.

A/S
Review Timeout Specifications

https://trac.ietf.org/trac/emailcore/ticket/16

Proposal is to close this ticket without any change. Any objections or counter proposals?