

SimpleContact

draft-newton-regex-rdap-simple-contact

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The Problem: Dogfood does not taste very good

The original concept of RDAP did not use jCard. jCard was introduced to RDAP as an instance of the IETF “eating its own dogfood.”

jCard is structured as arrays of arrays and is unlike other JSON in RDAP. Making mistakes with jCard is easy and there is little support from 3rd party libraries, making it onerous on servers and especially clients.

JSContact has the same issues but in different ways.

Business Cards are not Registration Data

Both jCard and JSContact are attempts at being virtual business cards or contact cards. But registering domain names or IP addresses doesn't require a registrant to disclose that they are a Senior Vice President (org title) or have a wedding anniversary on July 26.

Side note: The dominant virtual business card format appears to be vCard, not jCard or JSContact.

Can we create an RDAP specific contact model?

Now that the community has significant deployment experience, there is guidance that can be used to determine this:

- RFC 7495 “Inventory and Analysis of WHOIS Registration Objects”
- RFC 5733 “EPP Contact Mapping”
- ICANN gTLD RDAP Response Profile
- NRO RDAP Profile
- CENTR’s Registration Data Accuracy whitepaper
- And “thoughtful reduction”. If it isn’t being collected, it cannot be published in RDAP.

SimpleContact is simple

JSON is modeled in the same style as the rest of RDAP. It only has these high-level JSON members:

- kind
- individualNames
- roleNames
- organizationNames
- postalAddresses
- emails
- voicePhones
- faxPhones
- webContacts
- geo

Other Things

- No UID (JSContact) or FN (jCard) to work around
- A noJCard extension identifier to signal jCard is not desired by the client (see RDAP-X).
- Addresses the usage of EPP Int/Loc contact data explicitly.
- Uses the RDAP's "lang" for I18N.

Feedback so far

- Many +1s (h/t to Gavin Brown for 2019 thread on this).
- Structured names are necessary (Mario).
- Needs support for registrant date of birth and national IDs such as SSN (Mario).
- SimpleContact is unlikely to be less complex than JSContact (Mario).
- Styling issues with grouping vs using “lang” per JSON member (Mario).
- Need differentiation between a work phone and a home phone (Mario).
- Emails need to take into consideration SMTPUTF8/EAI (Mario).
- The document needs many more examples (Mario).
- Need support for non-western postal addresses (George).
- jCard is here to stay (Marc).