draft-pep-sml-auto-processing-marker-00

SML @ IETF-118 2023-11-06 (Prague) By Bernie Hoeneisen

Motivation

- No clear specification on which email parts include Structured Content
 - So far unclear logic needs to detect Structured Content
 - Structured Content can even be embedded in HTML representation of email
- No means to "hide" content (or whole emails) meant for auto-processing
 - Avoid confusion of human recipients
- Some email systems bounce emails with "unknown" attachments

Note: draft-pep-sml-auto-processing-marker-00 is an early draft with the purpose to provide first ideas for discussion (i.e., nothing is carved in stone at this point in time)

Scope / Use Cases

- Any SML message
 - Dedicated MIME node for SML
 - SML embedded in additional structure (e.g. HTML)
 [if this will be in scope SML WG]
- Further "Structured Messages" (existing implementations)
 - Sent to other users, e.g.
 - Attachment with PGP Key
 - Key Reset messages (pEp KeyReset)
 - Exchanged between clients of the same user, e.g.
 - Private Key Synchronization messages (pEp KeySync)

Requirements

- 1) Mark the whole email message for automatic processing
- 2) Mark a MIME entity for automatic processing
- 3) Mark SML embedded in some another structure (e.g. HTML) for automatic processing [TBD]
- 4) Specify automatic processing as required or optional [TBD]
- 5) Provide a SML type of the marked content for automatic processing such as public key, calendar data, etc. [TBD]
- 6) Provide a means to suggest hiding of marked content [TBD]

Example (R1)

- Mark whole Message (Header and Body) meant for automatic processing (Note: Typically such messages are hidden from human recipients)
 - New Header Field (to Header Section of Email):

```
Message-Context: structured; auto-processing
```

Examples (R2)

- Mark MIME node meant for automatic processing (Full Representation)
 - New MIME Header Field (to concerning MIME Header Section):

```
Content-Disposition: structured; auto-processing
```

```
Content-Disposition: attachment;
filename="pEpkey.asc"; auto-processing
```

Some of the Open Issues

- Decide which requirements are needed, including
 - Marker for embedded SML content
 - Hiding vs. automatic processing
- Need to cover more use cases?
- Mark only MIME leafs or also MIME branches?
- Suggested syntax suitable?
- Implications of Email Forwarding / Replies
- Rendering considerations (human recipients)
- Fine tuning / enhancement / improvement in most sections

Questions?

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