

draft-happel-structured-vacation-notices-00

IETF 118

# Scope

- Particular example use case for SML
- Illustrating an “email-specific” use case

# Vacation notices

- “I am out of office from 2023-11-04 till 2023-11-10 and won’t reply to email during that time.”
- Autoresponder function supported by many email systems
- Mostly used in business
- Not really standardized (RFC5230 - Sieve vacation notice)
  
- Typical data included (in plain text)
  - Period of absence
  - If email is forwarded to someone else
  - Replacement persons to contact (“For matters of project X, please check with Mary”)
  - ...?
  
- → Needs manual processing by the recipient

# Idea

- Allow absentees to include a machine-readable version of their vacation notice
  - Can be widely automated (Period of absence is already structured on absentee side)
  - Bonus: machine-readable version may even be attached to regular outgoing emails (even before actual leave)
- MUA of communication partner can make sense of vacation notice
  - Special highlighting
  - Quick action (“Compose forward message to Mary”)
  - Temporary storage to assist user (E.g. “warning on compose”)

# JSON-LD/Schema.org proposal

```
{
  "@context": "https://schema.org",
  "@type": "OutOfOffice",
  "start": "2023-08-15",
  "end": "2023-08-22",
  "isForwarded": false,
  "replacement": [
    {
      "@type": "OutOfOfficeReplacement",
      "name": "John Doe",
      "topic": "Project A",
      "email": "john@doe.com",
      "phone": "+1234567890"
    },
    {
      "@type": "OutOfOfficeReplacement",
      "name": "Jane Doe",
      "topic": "Project B",
      "email": "jane@doe.com",
      "phone": "+9876543210"
    }
  ],
  "note": "Some text"
}
```

# Next steps

- Privacy issues?
  - Vacation notices as such are a debatable practice (see also RFC6133/RFC6134)
- Reference implementation
  - Open Source Plugin for Roundcube Webmail
- Continue with this document?
  - Refine initial data model
  - Related case: employee left company
  - Further ideas?