

The auth URI scheme

draft-soni-auth-uri

Soni Lasso Terense

Motivation

Userinfo behavior is completely inconsistent across software:

- *Silently stripping it*
- *Warning on it*
- *Failing to parse it (bug)*
- *Refusing to parse it (deliberate)*
- *Requiring it (databases, mostly)*
 - *Bad API: inflexible, only username/password*

This work is intended as the first step towards removing the userinfo syntax altogether, and as such must recognize where userinfo is still used (read: required) today and build an alternative for it. We do not believe the userinfo syntax can be salvaged at this point.

Background

We attempted to repurpose userinfo syntax for purposes unrelated to authentication and authorization, outside of the IETF, and promptly got bitten by the previously mentioned inconsistencies.

We have brought up draft-soni-auth-uri on the ART mailing list, but not much discussion ensued.

Hoped dispatching outcome

There are still some details to work out: it would be particularly useful to have some sort of integration with credential storage, be it system-wide (often referred to by names such as "system wallet" or "password vault"), application-specific (a "password manager" as is commonly found in browsers), or part of a language runtime (or all of the above). We believe such work would be best suited for a WG.