DISPATCH
@IETF123

AI Agents Interoperability: Addressing & Discovery

draft-narvaneni-agent-uri-01

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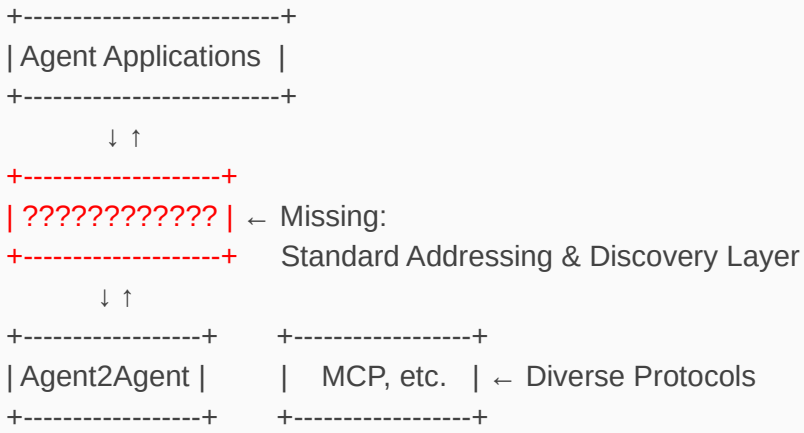
Motivation

- AI Agents rapidly creating islands of functionality.
- Emerging protocols from Google (*A2A*), Anthropic (*MCP*), Cisco (*Agntcy*), etc., lack a standardized addressing and discovery layer.
- **Real-world scenario**: A user's "*Travel Agent*" seamlessly discovering and delegating to an airline's "*Booking Agent*" is not possible today without proprietary glue code.
- The **IETF** can provide the critical infrastructure for an open, interoperable agent ecosystem.



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Background

The Ecosystem is Mobilizing at IETF 123

Recent Key Drafts:

- `draft-rosenberg-ai-protocols-00` (Framework and requirements)
- `draft-narajala-ans-00` (DNS-based "Agent Name Service")
- `draft-stephan-ai-agent-6g-00` (Telco/6G use-cases)

Active Community Venues:

- agent2agent@ietf.org mailing list (established April 2025)
- "AI Agent Protocol" Side Meeting (at IETF123)

Conclusion:

- The community is ready to act. The question is how to best structure the work?

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The Path Forward – A Layered, Complementary Approach

The *`agent://`* proposal is designed as the missing "glue":

- An Addressing Layer, not a Messaging Protocol:
  - Helps find the agent and learn how to talk to it
    - URI Scheme (***agent://***) and well known (***.well-known/agent.json***)
  - The actual conversation still uses protocols like A2A or MCP

Reference Implementation: https://github.com/agent-uri/agent-uri

Complements Other Proposals:

- **Rosenberg's Framework**: Fulfills requirements for standardized discovery and routing.
- **Agent Name Service (ANS):** Could act as backend resolver for agent:// URIs.
- **A2A/MCP:** Bootstraps connections by providing a stable addressing layer.

Role in Ecosystem:
`agent://` unifies discovery respecting protocol diversity.

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Proposed DISPATCH outcomes

Need a formal home to coordinate this work and propose the following paths:

Preferred: Recommendation for a BOF at IETF 124

- **Why**: The AI Agents space is evolving and is broad. A BOF is the best venue to build a shared charter for a new Working Group.
- **Topic**: "Standard Protocols for AI Agent Interoperability"

Pragmatic Next Step: Adopt as an ART Area Task (AD-Sponsored)

- **Why**: If WG is premature, AD sponsorship can provide an official home for the core addressing work (`*agent://*`) as broader requirements are developed on the mailing list.

Status Quo: Continued Community Development

- **Action**: Formally direct all discussion to the `*agent2agent@ietf.org*` mailing list to further refine before returning to Dispatch.

Goal: Establish an open, interoperable standard for Agentic Web

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