draft-ietf-sml-structured-vacation-notices-01

IETF 123, Madrid

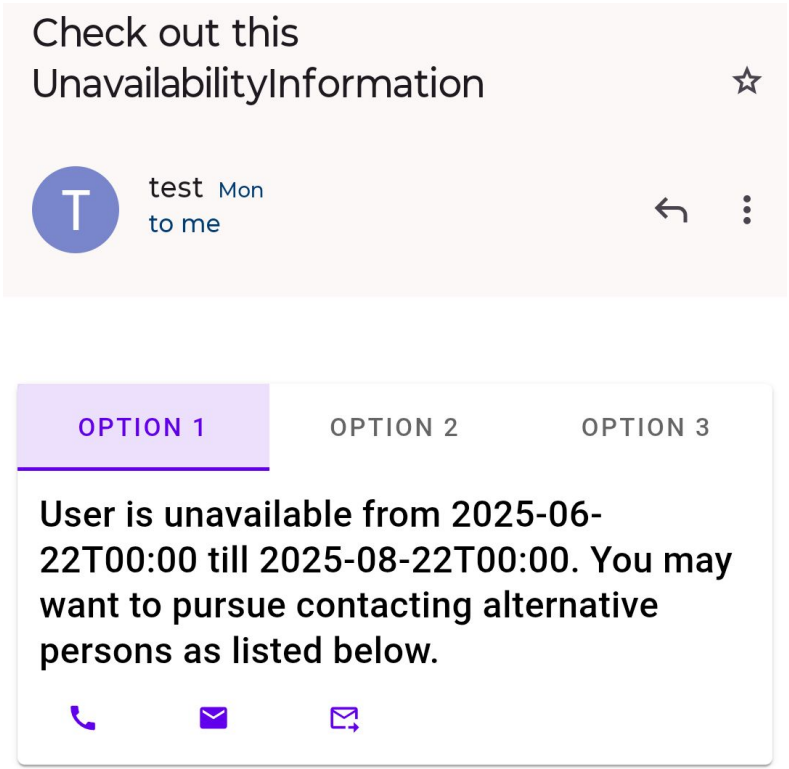
Status

- Scope: “Vacation notices” aka “Out-of-office replies”
  - One particular example use case for SML
  - Illustrating an “email-specific” use case

- Example implementations
  - Roundcube (https://github.com/audriga/roundcube-structured-vacation-notice/) (send and receive)
  - Thunderbird Mobile fork 🌟 (receive-only) (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.audriga.yatagarasu.android.debug)

- Updates since IETF 122
  - New draft revision

Thunderbird Mobile fork



Agenda

- Vacation notices for services
- Mailbox status information
- Examples

Vacation notices for services

- Created new section 3 (“scope”) for elaboration

- Re-use Schema.org Person/Organization type for “replacement”
  - Use case: doctor referring to other doctor(s) on duty (may include address etc.)
  - Standard user can restrict to minimal properties for replacement persons

- Allow for optional “openingHours”
  - Use case: regular office times (useful for individuals as well)
  - Using https://schema.org/openingHours ("Mo,Tu,We,Th 09:00-12:00")

Data model

- Green = changes
- Renamed type
  - “OutOfOffice”→ “UnavailabilityInformation”
- Renamed property
  - “topic” → “description”
- Open issue
  - Format of start/end date

```
{
  "@context": "https://draft.iana.org",
  "@type": "UnavailabilityInformation ",
  "unavailabilityType”: "temporary",
  "start": "2025-03-15",
  "end": "2025-03-22",
  "openingHours": "Mo,Tu,We,Th 09:00-12:00",
  "isForwarded": false,
  "replacement": [
     {
       "@type": "Replacement",
       "description": "Project A",
       "replacedBy": {
           "@type": "http://schema.org/Person",
           "name": "John Doe",
           "email": "john@doe.com",
           "phone": "+1234567890"
       }
   ],
   "note": "I am currently on vacation."
}
```

Mailbox status information (I)

- Use cases with automated responses (related to classic vacation notices)
  - Messages returned for permanently unavailable mailboxes
    - “I left the organization 2025-02-28. Please contact Mrs. Foo in case of inquiries”
    - “Our doctor’s office is closed permanently. Please consider the following alternative practitioners…”
    - “Our doctor’s office has been succeeded by Doctor Foo: doctor.foo@foo.med”
  - Messages returned by “NoReply” addresses → not standardized as of now (?)
    - vs. preemptive vacation notice!

- In all those cases, structured information (e.g., replacement) can be helpful

Mailbox status information (II)

- Added a property “unavailabilityType”
  - “temporary” → classical vacation notice / absence (implicit default value)
  - “permanent” → “infinite absence”
  - “noreply” → unattended/send-only mailbox
  - “moved” → new address

Minimum viable “NoReply” example

- JSON-LD:

```
{
  "@context": "https://draft.iana.org",
  "@type": "UnavailabilityInformation",
  "unavailabilityType”: "noreply"
}
```

- Various other examples in updated draft
  -

Next steps

- Finalize specification
  - Provide documentation / examples for more implementations
  - Align dependencies with core draft
  - (Renaming draft?)

- Further feedback / input / co-authors?