Web Bot Auth – BoF

IETF 123 – Madrid – 2024-07

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Note Well

This session is being recorded

This is a reminder of IETF policies in effect on various topics such as patents or code of conduct. It is only meant to point you in the right direction. Exceptions may apply. The IETF's patent policy and the definition of an IETF "contribution" and "participation" are set forth in BCP 79; please read it carefully.

As a reminder:

- By participating in the IETF, you agree to follow IETF processes and policies.
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- Personal information that you provide to IETF will be handled in accordance with the IETF Privacy Statement.
- As a participant or attendee, you agree to work respectfully with other participants; please contact the ombudsteam (https://www.ietf.org/contact/ombudsteam/) if you have questions or concerns about this.

Definitive information is in the documents listed below and other IETF BCPs. For advice, please talk to WG chairs or ADs:
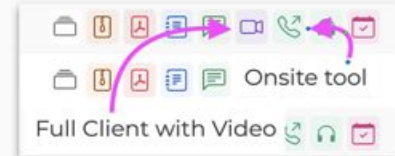
- BCP 9 (Internet Standards Process)
- BCP 25 (Working Group processes)
- BCP 25 (Anti-Harassment Procedures)
- BCP 54 (Code of Conduct)
- BCP 78 (Copyright)
- BCP 79 (Patents, Participation)
- https://www.ietf.org/privacy-policy/(Privacy Policy)

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2

IETF 118 Meeting Tips

In-person participants

- **Make sure to sign into the session using the Meetecho (usually the "Meetecho lite" client) from the Datatracker agenda**
- **Use Meetecho to join the mic queue**
- ***Keep audio and video off if not using the onsite version***

Remote participants

- **Make sure your audio and video are off unless you are chairing or presenting during a session**
- **Use of a headset is strongly recommended**

3

Agenda

Introduction – Chairs (5 min)

Background / Context – Mark Nottingham (10 min)

Use Cases

- **Cloudflare** – Thibault Meunier (10 min)
- **SPIRL / SPIFFE** – Pieter Kasselman (10 min)
- **BBC** – Chris Needham (10 min)
- **Vercel** – Casey Gowrie (10 min)
- **Google reCAPTCHA** – Chris Hamilton (10 min)
- **Google Search Crawler** – Gary Illyes / Martin Splitt (10 min)
- **OpenAI** - Eugenio Panero (10 min)

Charter Discussion – Chairs (20 min)

BoF Questions – Chairs (15 min)

Presentation of Use Cases

10 minutes is allocated for presentation and answering clarifying questions.

Charter Discussion

We will now review the charter text, split into 3 slides:

- In scope use case
- Out of scope use cases of the initial charter
- Deliverables

Charter Discussion – 1/3 – In Scope

- Crawlers for search indices
- Web archivers
- Tools such as link checkers and validators
- Crawlers for AI training
- AI agents retrieving or interacting with content on behalf of end users without identification of a specific end user

Charter Discussion – 2/3 – Out of Scope

- Authenticating access to content intended for clients other than browsers (e.g., HTTP APIs, agent-to-agent interfaces)
- Authenticating the end user of a non-browser client or agent
- Authentication over protocols other than HTTP
- Non-cryptographic authentication
- Defining a vocabulary for the intents of bots

Agentic use cases are in scope, but identifying bot+user is currently out of scope, though that will be added via recharter once other deliverables are sent to the IESG

Charter Discussion – 3/3 – Deliverables

- Standards track document(s) describing technique(s) for authenticating non-browser clients to Web sites intended for browsers
- Best current practice and/or Informational document(s) describing operational considerations such as lifecycle management, key management, deployment considerations, etc.
- A way to establish trust.

BoF Questions

1. Do you think that the problem statement is well-understood, solvable, and useful to solve?
2. Do you think the IETF is the right place to do this work?
3. Do you think the initial scope from the charter we just discussed is correct?
4. Do you think the initial deliverables from the charter we just discussed are correct?
5. Do you think a WG should be formed on this topic, with a charter based on the draft charter we just discussed?
6. Are you willing to help write and/or review drafts in this potential WG?