Webfinger

• Discover information about people and other addressable entities on the Internet
• Builds on the existing Web Host Metadata (RFC 6415) and Web Linking (RFC 5988) specifications
• Introduces additional requirements, most notably a requirement to support JSON (whereas it was optional before)
• Includes example (non-normative) Webfinger message flows
Webfinger (continued)

• Specifies the “acct” URI scheme
  – Used on the Internet for Webfinger today
  – Identifies a person’s account at a given domain
  – Example: acct:alice@example.com

• Introduces an “acct” link relation
  – Allows users to cross-reference accounts
  – Reduces need to replicate information across accounts
  – Provides a convenient means of pointing to one’s primary account
  – Example:
    <Link rel="acct" href="acct:alice@example.com" />
Webfinger (continued)

• Introduces the "resource" parameter for host-meta
  – Example:
    GET /well-known/host-meta.json?resource=acct%3Abob%40example.com HTTP/1.1
  – Equal to querying host-meta and processing all resource-specific links (e.g., LRDD) all on one query
  – This is optional to support

• Mandates use of Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)
  – Requested by many people
  – Concerns exist with respect to the fact that the specification is not yet a W3C Recommendation
  – Guidance sought from the Working Group: keep or drop?