

PRECIS Framework

draft-ietf-precis-framework-04

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Activity Since IETF 83

- Added OtherLetterDigits category {Lt, Nl, No, Me}
- Completed first draft of codepoint table (note: manually generated!)
- Specified two more IANA registries, for base classes and subclasses
- Recommended “SubclassBaseClass” format for subclass names

Processing Order

- IDNA2008: validation, then normalization
- PRECIS (now): normalization, then check string validity
- Some inconsistent results (e.g., in Hangul)
- Change order in PRECIS to be consistent with IDNA2008?

Space: Problem

- All whitespace characters (even U+0020) are prohibited in NameClass
- NameClass is used for usernames
- But in SASL (and LDAP?), usernames might be full names with spaces (e.g., “Peter Saint-André”)
- (Note: we don’t know how common this is in deployments of SASL)

Space: Concerns

- In some locales, input methods don't generate U+0020 (e.g., space bar => Zero Width Joiner)
- Spaces are not always perceptible in user interfaces
- Many characters are confusable with U+0020 (e.g., U+180E, U+2028, U+2029, U+2000..U+200A)
- Basic concern seems to be violating the principle of least user surprise

Space: Solutions?

- PRECIS base class “CompoundNameClass” that allows U+0020 (but not any other Zs codepoint)
- Application-layer re-use of NameClass, e.g.,
compound = name [1*(SP name)]
- Escaping, e.g., “Peter%20Saint-Andre”
- Tell SASL and LDAP to stop supporting spaces
- Other?

Remaining Tasks

- Close the processing order issue
- Find a solution to the space problem
- Finish code for automated generation of the codepoint table
- Check usage in XMPP, SASL, etc.
- Gather more implementation experience