

multipart/form-data update

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History

- RFC 1867 File Upload (Experimental) 1995
 - multipart/form-data focus was file upload
- RFC 2388 Multipart/form-data (Proposed Standard) 1998
 - Split out multipart/form-data

Three primary roles

- Create a form
 - What: decide on form field types, input methods, names of form fields
 - Who: web site developer / developer tools maker
- “Fill out” a form (gather data requested)
 - Who: browser (usually, also form-data library)
 - What: create multipart/form-data
- Accept form data
 - Who: http server
 - What: parse form data, match against expected fields

Issue: Encoding non-ASCII field name

- RFC 2388 proposed, many browsers don't:
Field names originally in non-ASCII character sets may be encoded within the value of the "name" parameter using the standard method described in [RFC 2047](#).
- Lack of interoperability. My proposal:
https://www.w3.org/Bugs/Public/show_bug.cgi?id=16909#c8
 - Form designer:
 - SHOULD avoid problem, use only ASCII field names
 - Browser/encoder:
 - SHOULD use UTF8 + %hex to encode name (less ugly than 2047)
 - Form-data processor:
 - SHOULD try matching received field name against both 2047, UTF8 + %hex

Other minor issues

- Update references
- Review normative requirements

Out of scope:

- Inventing new encoding
e.g. use JSON and/or XML instead of MIME
multipart