Ticket #46
Clarify error responses and allow non-HTTP error codes
General Recommendations for REST

• Include the HTTP status code for clients that can't read this from the response.
• Include a provider specific error code for more granular error information.
• Include a human-readable error that can be presented to an end user.
• Include a detailed error that can be used by a developer to diagnose the problem.
• Include links to online resources with more information about the error.

http://soabits.blogspot.com/2013/05/error-handling-considerations-and-best.html
Recommendation: Use Problem Details

• Pros
  – Includes user and developer information in title (required) and detail (optional) fields.
  – Includes HTTP status code (optional) in httpStatus field.
  – Includes provider-specific status code (required) in problemType field.
Recommendation: Use Problem Details

• Cons
  – SCIM requires HTTP status code, but this is optional in Problem Details.
    • SCIM may wish to dictate that this is required.
  – The problemType field is required and is defined as:
    "An absolute URI [RFC3986] that identifies the problem type. When dereferenced, it SHOULD provide human-readable documentation for the problem type (e.g., using HTML)."
    • It is a nice feature to make this dereferenceable, but could be seen as an imposition on some service providers.
Example

HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized
Content-Type: application/api-problem+json
Content-Language: en

{
  "problemType": "http://example.com/errors/insufficient-access",
  "title": "You do not have the required permissions to create a new user.",
  "detail": "Creating a user requires RIGHT_CREATE_USER."
}

Note: This is now single-valued instead of multi-valued. Multi-valued errors are typically used to communicate errors per field in a request.