



# IETF 91 - "Basic" authentication scheme

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## **Status**

- Specification has been rewritten to be consistent with RFC 7235, and now includes the definition of the "charset" parameter

## **Things Done Lately**

- Rewritten scheme syntax definition not to use ABNF (which was misleading anyway)
- Attempted to clarify text that talks about re-using credentials based on URI hierarchy
- Added note about UAs happily sending colons in userids

## **Things Left To Do**

- Review of new text / spec organization
- Review of existing security considerations (they really haven't changed from RFC 2617)

## Extensibility

- MUST ignore unknown parameters
- One auth param was defined before: "realm"
- We are adding a new one: "charset"
- One more was suggested on the mailing list: "username"

So what should the extensibility model be?

- Unspecified (RFC 2617)?
- Update the specification (current draft)?
- IANA registry?

Also: what about I18N in "realm" and "username"? Invoke RFC 5987?

## Character Repertoire

PRECIS (draft-ietf-precis-saslprepbis) defines mappings/repertoires (?) for userids/passwd. It's unclear however whether we can restrict what Basic authentication supports (it's a legacy scheme that needs to work with many existing identity systems).

## Links

[draft-ietf-httpauth-basicauth-update-02](#) (HTML)

Obsolete: [draft-ietf-httpauth-basicauth-enc-04](#) (HTML)

[httpauth WG SVN @ tools.ietf.org](#)

[Test cases related to parsing WWW-Authenticate](#)

[Test cases related to character encoding](#)