

A Multilingual Content Type

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I-D: draft-tomkinson-slim-multilangcontent-02

Problems we are addressing

- Sending mail to recipients with unknown preferred languages especially where the poor results of machine translation is unacceptable. For example announcement emails to customers, clients and sales prospects.
- Single-language email conversations stifling collaborative communication in a team spanning multiple languages. Promote inclusivity in email.

Important points

- New Content-type: multipart/multilingual
- Multilingual preface for non-conforming email clients
- Email client selects the message part based on user's preferred language and translation type
- Translated subjects for list views eg. Inbox
- Optional language independent message part to show when there is no preferred language match

Example multiple language email. Select part based on user's preferred language and translation type (original/human/automated)

From: Nik

To: Nathaniel

Subject: Simple example multiple language message

Content-type: multipart/multilingual; boundary=aaaaa

--aaaaa

<English Preface explaining message format for non-conforming email client>

<Spanish Preface explaining message format for non-conforming email client>

--aaaaa

Content-Language: en; translation-type=original

Content-Type: text/plain

Subject: Simple example multiple language message

Hello, this message content is provided in your language.

--aaaaa

Content-Language: es; translation-type=human

Content-Type: text/plain

Subject: Ejemplo simple mensaje en varios idiomas

Hola, el contenido de este mensaje esta disponible en su idioma.

--aaaaa--

Status so far

- Near to completion but keen for more input
- FAQ at <https://trac.tools.ietf.org/wg/slim/trac/wiki>
- Discussion will be within SLIM working group on the slim@ietf.org list
- Trials of message format starting now, we just need volunteers. Please see the SLIM list for details.
- but there are some changes I have made to a new version to be submitted today