WebPush @ IETF 95

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The Past – IETF 94 Minutes

- webpush-03 milestone
  - Added explicit correlation to subscription sets
  - Added push message updates (message collapsing)

- webpush-04 milestone
  - Required Application Servers to include TTL header
  - Added push message urgency

- Closed Acknowledgement Data issue and pull request
The Present – IETF 95

- webpush-05 milestone
  - Issue 44 - Sender and Client Authentication

  Related agenda item: Voluntary Application Server Identification

- Issue 75 - Improve Security Considerations section
  - Informative reference to content encryption
  - Informative reference to vapid authentication (pending adoption)

  Related agenda item: Content Encoding Status
  Related agenda item: Voluntary Application Server Identification

- Issue 81 - Simplifying Acknowledgements
Simplifying Acknowledgements

Eliminates the :params:push:receipts link relation and its machinery
Subscribing to Messages (Before)

User Agent

// create message subscription
POST <configured-endpoint>

201 (Created)
urn:ietf:params:push
urn:ietf:params:push:receipts
urn:ietf:params:push:set
Location: my-messages

Push Service

Application Server(s)

Distribute: params:push and params:push:receipts

Location: my-messages
Subscribing to Messages (After)

User Agent

// create message subscription
POST <configured-endpoint>

201 (Created)
urn:ietf:params:push
urn:ietf:params:push:receipts
urn:ietf:params:push:set
Location : my-messages

Push Service

Distribute : params:push and params:push:receipts

Application Server(s)
Subscribing to Receipts (Before)

Push Service

// create a receipt subscription
POST :params:push:receipts

201 (Created)
Location: my-receipt

Application Server(s)
Subscribing to Receipts (After)

Push Service

// create a receipt subscription
POST: params: push: receipts

201 (Created)
Location: my-receipt

Application Server(s)
Publishing without Receipts (unchanged)

// request push message delivery + acknowledgement
POST :params:push

201 (Created)
Location: my-message
Publishing with Receipts (Before)

Push Service

// monitor for receipts
GET my-receipt

// request push message delivery + acknowledgement
POST :params:push
:params:push:receipt -> my-receipt

201 (Created)
Location: my-message

// receive receipt
204 (No Content)
:path = my-message

Application Server(s)
Publishing with Receipts (After)

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### Push Service

- GET: `my-receipt`

- POST: `params:push`
  
  `:params:push:receipt -> my-receipt`

  **Prefer: respond-async**

- **202 (Accepted)**
  
  **Location:** `my-message`

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### Application Server(s)

- GET: `:params:push:receipt`

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### Monitoring

- GET: `my-receipt`

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**Request Push Message Delivery + Acknowledgement**

**204 (No Content)**

**:path = my-message**
Requesting receipts with `Prefer: respond-async`

POST :params:push
Prefer: respond-async

The "respond-async" preference indicates that the client prefers the server to respond asynchronously to a response. For instance, in the case when the length of time it takes to generate a response will exceed some arbitrary threshold established by the server, the server can honor the "respond-async" preference by returning a 202 (Accepted) response.
Monitoring Status of receipts with :params:push:receipt

202 (Accepted)
Location: my-message
:params:push:receipt

The 202 (Accepted) status code indicates that the request has been accepted for processing, but the processing has not been completed ... The representation sent with this response ought to describe the request's current status and point to (or embed) a status monitor that can provide the user with an estimate of when the request will be fulfilled.
The `urn:ietf:params:push` link relation corresponds to and provides write access to a specific subscription for a specific User Agent. 

Assuming that the User Agent only distributes that `params:push` link to one Application Server ...

- The Push Service can return the same `urn:ietf:params:push:receipt` for message delivery requests from an Application Server to the same `urn:ietf:params:push`.

- The Application Server monitors one resource for receipts from a specific subscription for a specific User Agent.
“What would the :receipt link identify?”
- Martin Thomson

This is a resource that the application server would monitor for receipts. But that has the same problem we had with subscriptions that led to the creation of subscription sets, namely that the application server has to make a request for every push message it wants to track.

If this were to act like a subscription set rather than a subscription, ... this would be better. The only question then is how an application server causes its receipts to be correlated. The obvious answer is to create the subscription set in an initial request and use the inclusion of the link relation in the push message request as an indication that the application server wants to link receipts to an existing subscription.