

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
Request for Comments: 6132
Category: Standards Track
ISSN: 2070-1721

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July 2011

Sieve Notification Using Presence Information

Abstract

This is a further extension to the Sieve mail filtering language Notification extension, defining presence information that may be checked through the `notify_method_capability` feature.

Status of This Memo

This is an Internet Standards Track document.

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1. Terminology Used in This Document	2
2. Testing Presence Information	2
3. Examples	4
4. Security Considerations	6
5. IANA Considerations	6
6. Acknowledgments	7
7. References	7
7.1. Normative References	7
7.2. Informative References	8

1. Introduction

Sometimes, it's desirable to tailor Sieve [RFC5228] notifications to a user's current situation. Presence information provides some information about the user that would be useful to have access to in these cases. The Notification extension [RFC5435] defines a mechanism to test for presence (the `notify_method_capability` feature), and defines one test for presence (the "online" notification-capability, described in Section 5 of RFC 5435). This extension defines more presence tests by registering additional notification-capability parameters in the IANA registry, allowing testing of a wider variety of presence information.

1.1. Terminology Used in This Document

The upper-case key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

2. Testing Presence Information

This extension uses the `notify_method_capability` test, as defined in the Sieve [RFC5228] Notify extension [RFC5435], to test presence information. When a Sieve event occurs (mail arrives) for a user, a Sieve script running on behalf of that user can present the user's presence URI (in the "notification-uri" parameter) and test a specific item of notification presence as defined below (in the "notification-capability" parameter) against one or more values (in the "key-list" parameter).

This document defines an initial set of items of notification presence, which may be specified in the notification-capability parameter. It is expected that future extensions will add additional presence items derived from diverse sources, including calendar information, geographic location, and so on.

Note that, while the items below are documented as similar to items in Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) [RFC6121], it is not the intent that this extension be tied to XMPP, nor to any particular source of presence, and flexible implementations will be ready for future extensions. Useful informational references for presence data and formats include Presence Information Data Format (PIDF) [RFC3863], RPID: Rich Presence Extensions to PIDF [RFC4480], and GEOPRIV Presence Information Data Format Location Object (PIDF-LO) [RFC5491].

The script tests the values of notification presence items in the key-list parameter. The values that each item may have are specified in the list below. Note that in addition to the presence values, any item may have the value "unknown" if it is not possible to determine the correct presence value of the item.

If a particular presence item is tested multiple times within the same script execution context, implementations MUST present the same value each time (for example, by caching the value on first use). This provides consistency within a single execution.

Supported presence items are as follows:

- busy: An indication of whether the user is considered "busy" now (the value "yes") or not (the value "no"), or "unknown" if it cannot be determined. The meaning of "busy" is left to the implementation, and may be a state that's synthesized from other information (including "show", below).
- show: The availability status of the user, formally specified. Note that this is similar to the presence element with the same name that's defined in Section 4.7.2.1 of RFC 6121 [RFC6121]. The value of this item is one of the following:
 - away: The user is temporarily away.
 - chat: The user is online and actively interested in chatting.
 - dnd: Do Not Disturb; the user does not wish to be disturbed now.

offline: The user is offline.

xa: The user is away for an extended period (xa = "eXtended Away").

unknown: The correct presence value could not be determined.

status: A human-readable description of the user's availability status, in natural language. There is no formal definition for the values this item may take. It is free-form, and may be in any language. Direct comparisons against the value of this field are unlikely to be useful; rather, it is provided to enable extraction of the value into a variable [RFC5229] for use elsewhere (see example 3 in Section 3). Note that this is similar to the presence element with the same name that's defined in Section 4.7.2.2 of RFC 6121 [RFC6121], and to the <note> element defined in section 4.1.6 of PIDF [RFC3863].

Because this is a free-form value that might be created directly by a user, no value, including "unknown", can have any special meaning. If the Sieve processor is unable to determine the value of this item, it might be best to leave it as an empty string. In any case, it is not meant for machine-readable processing, beyond possible XML interpretation.

There is no capability string associated with this extension, but this requires support for "enotify" [RFC5435]. If the implementation does not support the item being tested (that is, the specified notification-capability item is not known to the Sieve interpreter), RFC 5435 already specifies that the test fail without an error.

Although this feature was conceived to assist in notifications, and the test requires support of the Sieve Notify feature, it is only a condition test, and any Sieve action can appear inside it. There are no Sieve actions that conflict with this extension.

3. Examples

1. This example will send a notification only if the recipient is not "busy". If the test for "busy" is not supported, this example will not send a notification.


```
require ["enotify"];

if notify_method_capability "xmpp:tim@example.com" "busy" "no"
{
    notify :message "You got mail"
        "xmpp:tim@example.com?message;subject=SIEVE";
}
```

2. This example will send a notification only if the recipient is not "busy". If the test for "busy" is not supported, this example will send a notification.

```
require ["enotify"];

if not notify_method_capability "xmpp:tim@example.com" "busy" "yes"
{
    notify :message "You got mail"
        "xmpp:tim@example.com?message;subject=SIEVE";
}
```

3. This example uses the vacation extension [RFC5230] to generate an auto-reply [RFC6133] if the sender is in the recipient's address book [RFC6134] and the recipient's presence shows "extended away". The variables extension [RFC5229] is used to extract the value of the recipient's presence status message, which will be used in the response to the sender. If the test for "show" is not supported, this example will not send an auto-reply.

```
require ["extlists", "vacation", "enotify", "variables"];

if allof (
    envelope :list "from" ":addrbook:default",
    notify_method_capability "xmpp:myjid@example.com" "show" "xa"
) {
    # :matches "*" is used here to extract the value
    if notify_method_capability :matches
        "xmpp:myjid@example.com" "status" "*" {
        set "resp_msg" "${1}";
    } else {
        set "resp_msg" "I'm away from email for a while."
    }
    vacation :handle "ext-away" "${resp_msg}";
}
```


4. Security Considerations

Security considerations for Sieve [RFC5228] and the Notify extension [RFC5435] apply equally here. In addition, implementations **MUST** ensure that users cannot create scripts that access the presence information of others without the proper access controls.

In some situations, scripts may act on some of the recipient's presence information that the sender of the triggering message is not allowed to see. This can be a benefit to the recipient in many cases, but it can also present an opportunity for a sender to use messages to probe the recipient's presence (if, for example, messages sometimes result in auto-replies, and sometimes do not). Script authors should take care in considering this aspect of presence-triggered actions.

It's possible for a large number of messages to arrive at or around the same time and be processed by Sieve scripts that all test presence. If many of the users share the same presence server, such a burst could put an unexpectedly heavy load on the presence server. Implementations might consider providing options for rate limiting, or for caching presence tests for periods of time, even across Sieve script instances. When caching presence tests, the server must be careful not to violate access controls that the presence server might have. Thus, cached results **MUST NOT** be used outside the context in which they were retrieved. If, for example, a script running on behalf of Adam requests presence information for Barbara, that information **MAY** be cached for a future script running on behalf of Adam, but **MUST NOT** be used to satisfy the same query in a script running on behalf of Cindy -- because the presence server will have to decide whether Cindy has access to that information.

5. IANA Considerations

This registers each presence item as a notification-capability parameter. Future extensions that add new presence items should register those items similarly, using the instructions in Section 9.3 of RFC 5435 [RFC5435].

To: iana@iana.org

Subject: Registration of a new notification-capability parameter

Capability name: busy

Description: An indication of whether the user is considered "busy" now (the value "yes") or not (the value "no"). The meaning of "busy" is left to the implementation, and may be a state that's synthesized from other information.

Syntax: Has one of the values "yes", "no", or "unknown". The value **MUST** be in lower case.

Permanent and readily available reference(s): RFC 6132
Contact information: The Sieve discussion list, <sieve@ietf.org>

To: iana@iana.org
Subject: Registration of a new notification-capability parameter
Capability name: show
Description: The availability status of the user. This is similar to the presence element with the same name that's defined in Section 4.7.2.1 of RFC 6121.

Syntax: Has one of the values "away", "chat", "dnd", "offline", "xa", or "unknown". The value MUST be in lower case.

Permanent and readily available reference(s): RFC 6132
Contact information: The Sieve discussion list, <sieve@ietf.org>

To: iana@iana.org
Subject: Registration of a new notification-capability parameter
Capability name: status
Description: A human-readable description of the user's availability status. This is similar to the presence element with the same name that's defined in Section 4.7.2.2 of RFC 6121.

Syntax: There is no formal definition for the values this item may take. It is free-form and may be in any language, and is meant for human consumption.

Permanent and readily available reference(s): RFC 6132
Contact information: The Sieve discussion list, <sieve@ietf.org>

6. Acknowledgments

The authors thank Alexey Melnikov for significant early feedback and suggestions.

7. References

7.1. Normative References

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