XEP-0240: Auto-Discovery of JabberIDs

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This specification defines a recommended best practice for linking to JabberIDs from documents hosted on the World Wide Web.

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1 Introduction

HTML 4.0 [1] defines a <link/> element that defines a relationship between a document and another resource on the Internet. Such a resource can be a JabberID. Examples include the JabberID of a document author, a Multi-User Chat (XEP-0045) [2] room where the document can be discussed, or a Publish-Subscribe (XEP-0060) [3] node where RSS or Atom feeds related to the document are hosted (e.g., see RFC 4287 [4]). This specification defines a recommended approach for linking to JabberIDs in this way.

2 Link Format

The RECOMMENDED format is as follows.

Listing 1: Format

```
<link
  href='xmpp-uri'
  rel='some-relation'/>
```

The 'href' attribute is REQUIRED and its value MUST be an XMPP URI or IRI that conforms to RFC 5122 [5]. The URI SHOULD NOT include an action as described in XMPP URI Query Components (XEP-0147) [6] and registered at <https://xmpp.org/registrar/querytypes.html>, so that the URI can be appropriately dereferenced as described below. The URI MAY include a node key as shown in the examples below.
The 'rel' attribute is RECOMMENED and its value SHOULD be a link relation as registered in the IANA MIME Atom Link Relations Registry [7] or other registry.
In addition to 'href' and 'rel', the HTML and XHTML specifications define a number of other allowable attributes for the <link/> element. These attributes MAY be included. However, because a JabberID is a bare address and there is no hosted media associated with a JabberID, the 'charset', 'media', and 'type' attribute SHOULD NOT be included.

3 Processing

When an application encounters an auto-discovery link to a JabberID, it SHOULD pass it to an appropriate helper application (such as an XMPP client). The helper application then

[1] HTML 4.0 <http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40>.
[2] XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>.
[3] XEP-0060: Publish-Subscribe <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0060.html>.
[4] RFC 4287: The Atom Syndication Format <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4287>.
[5] RFC 5122: Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs) and Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5122>.
[6] XEP-0147: XMPP URI Query Components <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0147.html>.
[7] IANA registry of Atom link relations <http://www.iana.org/assignments/link-relations.html>.

SHOULD dereference the URI, and send an XMPP Service Discovery (XEP-0030) [8] request to the referenced JID, passing the optional node parameter. The service discovery response therefore enables a full range of future actions.

4 Examples

The following example shows a JabberID that points to the same entity as the document itself (e.g., the author of an "about-the-author" page).

Listing 2: Link Pointing to an Author

```
<link href='xmpp:stpeter@jabber.org' rel='self'/>
```

The following example shows a JabberID that points to a multi-user chat room where the document can be discussed.

Listing 3: Link Pointing to a Chat Room

```
<link href='xmpp:jdev@conference.jabber.org'/>
```

The following example shows a JabberID that points to a publish-subscribe node where notifications related to the document can be retrieved.

Listing 4: Link Pointing to a Pubsub Node

```
<link href='xmpp:pubsub.jabber.org?;node=xeps' rel='alternate'/>
```

5 Security Considerations

Advertising an XMPP address so that it can be automatically discovered may expose that address to abusive communications. Care should be taken when choosing whether to advertise a JID that corresponds to an end user's primary XMPP address.

6 IANA Considerations

This document currently requires no interaction with the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) [9]. However, a future version of this specification may register new link relations

[8] XEP-0030: Service Discovery <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0030.html>.

[9] The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) is the central coordinator for the assignment of unique parameter values for Internet protocols, such as port numbers and URI schemes. For further information, see <http://www.iana.org/>.

with the IANA.

7 XMPP Registrar Considerations

This document requires no interaction with the XMPP Registrar [10].

[10] The XMPP Registrar maintains a list of reserved protocol namespaces as well as registries of parameters used in the context of XMPP extension protocols approved by the XMPP Standards Foundation. For further information, see <https://xmpp.org/registrar/>.