



XMPP

XEP-0081: Jabber MIME Type

Joe Hildebrand

<mailto:jhildebr@cisco.com>
<xmpp:hildjj@jabber.org>

Peter Saint-Andre

<mailto:stpeter@stpeter.im>
<xmpp:stpeter@jabber.org>
<https://stpeter.im/>

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This document specifies a MIME type for launching a Jabber client as a helper application from most modern web browsers, and for completing basic use cases once the client is launched.

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1 Introduction

The value of a URI scheme (see [RFC 3986](#) ¹) for Jabber/XMPP communications has long been recognized within the Jabber community, and such a scheme has been formally defined in [RFC 5122](#) ² as a way of identifying entities that adhere to [XMPP Core](#) ³ or its antecedents. Unfortunately, URI schemes are slow to be accepted on the Internet, such that it might be years (if ever) before widely deployed software such as web browsers will support addresses of the form <xmpp:user@domain>.

Thankfully, it is not necessary for the large existing base of deployed software to support the xmpp: URI scheme in order to integrate Jabber/XMPP support. A well-accepted alternative approach ⁴ is to define a MIME type (in accordance with [RFC 2045](#) ⁵) and then reconfigure the relevant server and client software to correctly handle the new MIME type.

Therefore, this document defines a MIME type of "application/jabber+xml" (in particular, an XML media type in accordance with [RFC 3023](#) ⁶). Files of this MIME type would commonly be accessed with a web browser via HTTP, although other access methods are possible (e.g., attachment of the MIME type to an email message). On opening a file of this type, a browser would (by configuration) invoke an appropriate "helper" application (i.e., an external Jabber client, plugin, or internal module) that would enable the user to interact with a Jabber/XMPP server. If the user is not currently connected to a server, the invoked program would be responsible for connecting the user with appropriate prompting for authentication credentials. The file passed to the helper application would define parameters needed to complete a certain use case, such as sending a message to another user.

Note: The "application/jabber+xml" MIME type defined herein is not to be confused with the "application/xmpp+xml" MIME type defined in [RFC 3923](#) ⁷; the two MIME types address different requirements and do not overlap or conflict.

2 Use Cases

The solution MUST enable a user to complete the following use cases, support for which is REQUIRED:

- Send a single message to another user.

¹RFC 3986: Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3986>>.

²RFC 5122: Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs) and Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5122>>.

³RFC 6120: Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP): Core <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6120>>.

⁴See, for instance, <<http://www.mozilla.org/docs/web-developer/mimetypes.html>> for information about MIME support in the Mozilla family of web browsers.

⁵RFC 2045: Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part One: Format of Internet Message Bodies <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2045>>.

⁶RFC 3023: XML Media Types <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3023>>.

⁷RFC 3923: End-to-End Signing and Object Encryption for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3923>>.

- Initiate a one-to-one chat session with another user.
- Subscribe to another user's presence.

In addition, the solution SHOULD enable a user to complete the following use cases, support for which is RECOMMENDED:

- Join a groupchat room.
- Register with a service.

These use cases are defined below.

2.1 Sending a Message

In order to send a message to a contact, the user opens an XMPP file of the following form:

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<jabber>
  <message jid='stpeter@jabber.org' />
</jabber>
```

The browser passes this file to the helper application, which shall instantiate an appropriate interface for sending a single message to the JID defined in the file. If the user completes the interface, the helper application shall then send a message stanza of type='normal' as specified in XMPP IM⁸, first authenticating with the user's Jabber/XMPP server if necessary.

2.2 Starting a Chat

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<jabber>
  <chat jid='stpeter@jabber.org' />
</jabber>
```

The browser passes this file to the helper application, which shall instantiate an appropriate interface for chatting with the JID defined in the file. If the user completes the interface, the helper application shall then send a message stanza of type='chat' as specified in XMPP IM, first authenticating with the user's Jabber/XMPP server if necessary.

⁸RFC 6121: Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP): Instant Messaging and Presence <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6121>>.

2.3 Subscribing to Presence

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<jabber>
  <subscribe jid='stpeter@jabber.org' />
</jabber>
```

The browser passes this file to the helper application, which shall instantiate an appropriate interface for sending a presence subscription request to the JID defined in the file (e.g., specifying a name and/or group for the contact). If the user completes the interface, the helper application shall then send a presence stanza of type='subscribe' as specified in XMPP IM, first authenticating with the user's Jabber/XMPP server if necessary. The helper application SHOULD perform a "roster set" before sending the presence subscription request, as described in XMPP IM.

2.4 Joining a Groupchat Room

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<jabber>
  <groupchat jid='jdev@conference.jabber.org' />
</jabber>
```

The browser passes this file to the helper application, which shall instantiate an appropriate interface for joining the conference room associated with the JID defined in the file. If the user completes the interface, the helper application shall then send a directed presence stanza to the JID (appending a room nickname to the JID as the resource identifier) as described in [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](#)⁹, first authenticating with the user's Jabber/XMPP server if necessary.

2.5 Registering with a Service

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<jabber>
  <register jid='headlines.shakespeare.lit' />
</jabber>
```

The browser passes this file to the helper application, which shall send an IQ stanza of type='get' to the service associated with the JID defined in the file in order to determine the registration requirements (first authenticating with the user's Jabber/XMPP server if necessary), as described in [In-Band Registration \(XEP-0077\)](#)¹⁰. The helper application shall then instantiate an appropriate interface for registering with the service. If the user completes

⁹XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>>.

¹⁰XEP-0077: In-Band Registration <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0077.html>>.

the interface, the helper application shall then send an IQ stanza of type='set' to the JID as described in XEP-0077.

3 Security Considerations

Detailed security considerations for instant messaging and presence protocols are given in RFC 2779¹¹ (Sections 5.1 through 5.4), and for XMPP in particular are given in RFC 3920 (Sections 12.1 through 12.6). In addition, all of the security considerations specified in RFC 3023 apply to the "application/jabber+xml" media type.

When a helper application has finished processing a file of type "application/jabber+xml", it SHOULD discard the file; this helps to prevent security-related problems that may result from HTTP caching.

4 IANA Considerations

This document requires registration of the "application/jabber+xml" content type with the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)¹². The registration is as follows:

```
To: ietf-types@iana.org

Subject: Registration of MIME media type application/jabber+xml

MIME media type name: application
MIME subtype name: jabber+xml
Required parameters: (none)
Optional parameters: (charset) Same as charset parameter of
    application/xml as specified in RFC 3023; per Section 11.5
    of RFC 3920, the charset must be UTF-8.
Encoding considerations: Same as encoding considerations of
    application/xml as specified in RFC 3023; per Section 11.5
    of RFC 3920, the encoding must be UTF-8.
Security considerations: All of the security considerations
    specified in RFC 3023 and RFC 3920 apply to this XML media
    type. Refer to Section 11 of XSF XEP-0081.
Interoperability considerations: (none)
Specification: XSF XEP-0081
Applications which use this media type: non-XMPP applications
    (e.g., web browsers or email clients) that wish to invoke
    XMPP-compliant applications for instant messaging and
```

¹¹RFC 2779: A Model for Presence and Instant Messaging <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2779>>.

¹²The 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/>>.

presence functionality.
Additional information: This media type is not to be confused with the "[application/xmpp+xml](#)" media type, which is for use by native XMPP applications.
Person and email address to contact for further information:
XMPP Registrar, <registrar@xmpp.org>
Intended usage: COMMON
Author/Change controller: XSF, XMPP Registrar

5 XMPP Registrar Considerations

5.1 Protocol Namespaces

The XMPP Registrar¹³ shall include '<http://jabber.org/protocol/mimetype>' in its registry of protocol namespaces.

5.2 IANA Interaction

The XMPP Registrar shall interact with the IANA in order to register the media type defined herein.

6 XML Schema

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>

<xs:schema
    xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
    targetNamespace='http://jabber.org/protocol/mimetype'
    xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/mimetype'
    elementFormDefault='qualified'>

    <xs:element name='jabber'>
        <xs:complexType>
            <xs:choice>
                <xs:element name='chat' type='JabberAction'/>
                <xs:element name='groupchat' type='JabberAction'/>
                <xs:element name='message' type='JabberAction'/>
                <xs:element name='register' type='JabberAction'/>
                <xs:element name='subscribe' type='JabberAction'/>
            </xs:choice>
        </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

¹³The 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/>>.

```
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:complexType name='JabberAction'>
  <xs:restriction base='xs:string'>
    <xs:enumeration value=''/>
  </xs:restriction>
  <xs:attribute name='jid' use='required'>
</xs:complexType>

</xs:schema>
```

7 Open Issues

1. Add implementation notes for server MIME type registration and HTTP Content-Type output.
2. Add implementation notes for client handling on various platforms (e.g., DDE messages in Windows).