



XMPP

XEP-0129: WebDAV File Transfers

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This document specifies a method for completing file transfers between XMPP entities using WebDAV.

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1 Introduction

[SI File Transfer \(XEP-0096\)](#)¹ defines mechanisms for transferring files between Jabber users, and defines the preferred approach for file transfers in Jabber applications. Unfortunately, the mechanisms defined therein require that both the sender and recipient be online at the same time. However, sometimes it is desirable for the sender to initiate a file transfer while the recipient is offline. One way to make this possible is for the sender to upload the file to a unique URL, then inform the recipient of the URL. The sender could do this by uploading the file to their own web server, but not everyone has their own web server. Fortunately, there is a well-defined protocol for such file management operations: a set of HTTP extensions known as WebDAV and defined in [RFC 2518](#)² (see also the revision-in-progress, [rfc2518bis](#)³).

The use case in which the recipient is offline is the main motivation for this document. Another WebDAV use case presents itself in environments that use, or even require, WebDAV for file transfers using other protocols (e.g., files attached to email messages). The usual rationale for such deployments is virus-checking: the file is put onto the WebDAV server (either by an end-user or a script that, for example, strips attached files off email messages) and then checked for viruses; only after the virus check successfully completes is the recipient allowed to retrieve the file. A further benefit of such deployments is that it enables the sender to provide the file to multiple recipients. Thus the approach defined herein provides the added benefit of being usable in generic WebDAV environments as well.

2 Requirements

This document addresses the following requirements:

1. Enable file transfers when recipient is offline.
2. Use WebDAV for file puts and gets.

3 Terminology

This document inherits terms from [RFC 2518](#), [RFC 2616](#)⁴, and [RFC 2617](#)⁵.

¹XEP-0096: SI File Transfer <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0096.html>>.

²RFC 2518: HTTP Extensions for Distributed Authoring -- WEBDAV <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2518>>.

³RFC 2518: HTTP Extensions for Distributed Authoring -- WebDAV <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-webdav-rfc2518bis>>.

⁴RFC 2616: Hypertext Transport Protocol -- HTTP/1.1 <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2616>>.

⁵RFC 2617: HTTP Authentication: Basic and Digest Access Authentication <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2617>>.

4 Protocol Flow

The client SHOULD attempt to PUT the file on the server. ⁶ The PUT request MUST include an "If-None-Match" header as well as an "Authorization" header that specifies appropriate authentication information.

Listing 1: Initial PUT Request

```
PUT /missive.html HTTP/1.1
Host: files.shakespeare.lit
Authorization: Basic cm9tZW9AbW9udGFndWUubmV0
If-None-Match: *
Content-Length: xxx
Content-Type: text/html

[body omitted]
```

Prior to storing the file, the server MUST verify the user's authentication credentials via any supported method. When the file is stored, the server also MUST set the owner "live" property to ensure that only the user that originally posted this file is allowed to modify the file in any way. Other users MAY be allowed to see properties and retrieve the file (upon authentication) but MUST NOT be able to perform operations such as DELETE, MOVE, and PROPPATCH.

Listing 2: HTTP OK

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2003 15:01:20 GMT
```

In the absence of any other authorization method (e.g., [RFC 3744](#) ⁷ or [Security Assertion Markup Language](#) ⁸) in use by the deployed WebDAV server, the client SHOULD perform a PROPPATCH request to set the list of Jabber IDs authorized to retrieve this file, and the server MUST NOT allow access until this configuration is completed.

Listing 3: PROPPATCH Request

```
PROPPATCH /missive.html HTTP/1.1
Host: files.shakespeare.lit
Authorization: Basic cm9tZW9AbW9udGFndWUubmV0
Content-Type: text/xml
Content-Length: 243
```

⁶Alternatively, the client MAY first attempt one or more HEAD requests to determine a unique URL.

⁷RFC 3744: Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning (WebDAV) Access Control Protocol <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3744>>.

⁸Security Assertion Markup Language <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=security>.

```

<propertyupdate xmlns='DAV:'>
  <set>
    <prop>
      <jidlist xmlns='http://www.xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0129.html#
ns'>
        <jid>juliet@capulet.com</jid>
        <jid>benvolio@montague.net/home</jid>
        <jid>mercutio@capulet.com</jid>
      </jidlist>
    </prop>
  </set>
</propertyupdate>

```

Note: The semantics of the JID list defined above are:

- If a JID is a bare JID (no resource), any fully-qualified form of that JID may access this resource (in the example above, this means that any resource of juliet@capulet.com may access this URL).
- If a JID includes a resource identifier, only that specific JID may access this URL (in the example above, this means that only the JID benvolio@montague.net/home may access this URL; benvolio@montague.net/other may not).
- If both a full JID and a bare JID are specified in a single JID list, the bare JID takes precedence.

The server responds when the properties have been updated. This is typically a 207 (Multi-Part) response, which means that the body can contain multiple status codes, as shown in the following example.

Listing 4: Server Returns HTTP 207

```

HTTP/1.1 207 MultiPart Response
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2003 15:03:20 GMT
Content-Type: text/xml; charset=UTF-8
Content-Length: 211

<multistatus xmlns='DAV:'>
  <response>
    <href>http://files.shakespeare.lit/missive.html</href>
    <propstat>
      <prop><jidlist xmlns='http://www.xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0129#
ns' /></prop>
      <status>HTTP/1.1 200 OK</status>
    </propstat>
  </response>
</multistatus>

```

Now that the file is available via WebDAV and the client has specified what Jabber IDs may access the URL, the sender sends a message to the target user(s) containing the URL of the file, encapsulated via [Out-of-Band Data \(XEP-0066\)](#)⁹. (The example below shows the file being sent to multiple users using the [Extended Stanza Addressing \(XEP-0033\)](#)¹⁰ protocol.)

Listing 5: Sender Generates XMPP Message with URL

```
<message from='romeo@montague.net/pda' to='multicast.jabber.org'>
  <addresses xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/address'>
    <address type='to' jid='juliet@capulet.com' />
    <address type='to' jid='benvolio@montague.net/home' />
    <address type='cc' jid='mercutio@capulet.com' />
  </addresses>
  <x xmlns='jabber:x:oob'>
    <url>http://files.shakespeare.lit/missive.html</url>
  </x>
</message>
```

When the target recipients have received the message, they may then perform an HTTP GET to download the file (the following request is from juliet@capulet.com).

Listing 6: Recipient GET Request

```
GET /missive.html HTTP/1.1
Host: files.shakespeare.lit
Authorization: Digest username="juliet@capulet.com",
               realm="xmpp",
               nonce="ec2cc00f21f71acd35ab9be057970609",
               uri="missive.html",
               qop=auth,
               nc=00000001,
               cnonce="0a4f113b",
               response="6629fae49393a05397450978507c4ef1",
               opaque="5ccc069c403ebaf9f0171e9517f40e41"
```

The server then checks to ensure that the provided JID was specified via the `jidlist` property. If not, the server MUST return an HTTP 403 (Forbidden) error; if so, the server attempts to authorize the user via [Verifying HTTP Requests via XMPP \(XEP-0070\)](#)¹¹:

Listing 7: Confirmation Request Sent via Message

```
<message type='normal'
  from='files.shakespeare.lit'
  to='juliet@capulet.com'>
```

⁹XEP-0066: Out of Band Data <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0066.html>>.

¹⁰XEP-0033: Extended Stanza Addressing <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0033.html>>.

¹¹XEP-0070: Verifying HTTP Requests via XMPP <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0070.html>>.

```

<thread>e0ffe42b28561960c6b12b944a092794b9683a38</thread>
<confirm xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/http-auth'
  id='0a4f113b'
  method='GET'
  url='https://files.shakespeare.lit:9345/missive.html' />
</message>

```

If the XEP-0070 verification is successful, the server then allows the file to be retrieved:

Listing 8: Server Returns File

```

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2003 18:00:00 GMT
Content-Type: text/html
Content-Length: xxx

[body omitted]

```

5 Determining Support

In order to discover a WebDAV server that supports this protocol, a client SHOULD use [Service Discovery \(XEP-0030\)](#)¹². Support for this protocol MUST be advertised by means of a service discovery feature named "http://www.xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0129.html#ns" (see [Protocol Namespaces](#) regarding issuance of one or more permanent namespaces). An example of the discovery flow is shown below.

Listing 9: Client Discovers Services

```

<iq from='romeo@shakespeare.lit/home'
  id='disco1'
  to='shakespeare.lit'
  type='get'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#items' />
</iq>

<iq from='shakespeare.lit'
  id='disco1'
  to='romeo@shakespeare.lit/home'
  type='result'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#items'>
    ...
    <item jid='files.shakespeare.lit' />
    ...
  </query>
</iq>

```

¹²XEP-0030: Service Discovery <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0030.html>>.

Listing 10: Client Queries Service Regarding Supported Features

```
<iq from='romeo@shakespeare.lit/home'
  id='disco2'
  to='files.shakespeare.lit'
  type='get'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info' />
</iq>

<iq from='files.shakespeare.lit'
  id='disco2'
  to='romeo@shakespeare.lit/home'
  type='result'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info'>
    ...
    <feature var='http://jabber.org/protocol/http-auth' />
    <feature var='http://www.xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0129.html#ns' />
    ...
  </query>
</iq>
```

The user now knows that the "files.shakespeare.lit" service supports this protocol.

6 Security Considerations

See RFC 2518, XMPP Core, and XEP-0070 for security considerations related to those protocols, which are used by the profile defined herein. The initiating client MUST ensure that appropriate access controls are specified, normally by performing a PROPPATCH request to set the list of Jabber IDs authorized to retrieve the file. The server MUST NOT allow access to the file until access controls have been specified. In addition, the server MUST NOT allow access to the file by any unauthorized entity.

7 IANA Considerations

This document requires no interaction with the [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority \(IANA\)](http://www.iana.org/)¹³.

¹³The 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/>.

8 XMPP Registrar Considerations

8.1 Protocol Namespaces

Until this specification advances to a status of Draft, its associated namespace shall be "http://www.xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0129.html#ns"; upon advancement of this specification, the [XMPP Registrar](#)¹⁴ shall issue one or more permanent namespaces in accordance with the process defined in Section 4 of [XMPP Registrar Function \(XEP-0053\)](#)¹⁵.

9 XML Schema

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<xs:schema
  xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
  targetNamespace='http://www.xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0129.html#ns'
  xmlns='http://www.xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0129.html#ns'
  elementFormDefault='qualified'>
  <xs:element name='jidlist'>
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence minOccurs='0' maxOccurs='unbounded'>
        <xs:element name='jid' type='xs:string'/>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
  </xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

10 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Lisa Dusseault and Julian Reschke for their feedback.

¹⁴The 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/>.

¹⁵XEP-0053: XMPP Registrar Function <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0053.html>.