



# XMPP

## XEP-0157: Contact Addresses for XMPP Services

Peter Saint-Andre  
<mailto:xsf@stpeter.im>  
<xmpp:peter@jabber.org>  
<http://stpeter.im/>

Jacek Konieczny  
<mailto:jajcus@jajcus.net>  
<xmpp:jajcus@jabber.bnet.pl>

2020-05-25  
Version 1.1.0

Status	Type	Short Name
Active	Informational	N/A

This document defines a method for specifying contact addresses related to an XMPP service.

# Legal

## Copyright

This XMPP Extension Protocol is copyright © 1999 – 2020 by the [XMPP Standards Foundation](#) (XSF).

## Permissions

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this specification (the "Specification"), to make use of the Specification without restriction, including without limitation the rights to implement the Specification in a software program, deploy the Specification in a network service, and copy, modify, merge, publish, translate, distribute, sublicense, or sell copies of the Specification, and to permit persons to whom the Specification is furnished to do so, subject to the condition that the foregoing copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in all copies or substantial portions of the Specification. Unless separate permission is granted, modified works that are redistributed shall not contain misleading information regarding the authors, title, number, or publisher of the Specification, and shall not claim endorsement of the modified works by the authors, any organization or project to which the authors belong, or the XMPP Standards Foundation.

## Warranty

## NOTE WELL: This Specification is provided on an "AS IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY KIND, express or implied, including, without limitation, any warranties or conditions of TITLE, NON-INFRINGEMENT, MERCHANTABILITY, or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ##

## Liability

In no event and under no legal theory, whether in tort (including negligence), contract, or otherwise, unless required by applicable law (such as deliberate and grossly negligent acts) or agreed to in writing, shall the XMPP Standards Foundation or any author of this Specification be liable for damages, including any direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages of any character arising from, out of, or in connection with the Specification or the implementation, deployment, or other use of the Specification (including but not limited to damages for loss of goodwill, work stoppage, computer failure or malfunction, or any and all other commercial damages or losses), even if the XMPP Standards Foundation or such author has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

## Conformance

This XMPP Extension Protocol has been contributed in full conformance with the XSF's Intellectual Property Rights Policy (a copy of which can be found at <https://xmpp.org/about/xsf/ipr-policy>) or obtained by writing to XMPP Standards Foundation, P.O. Box 787, Parker, CO 80134 USA).

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>XMPP Addresses</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Deployment Notes</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Security Considerations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>IANA Considerations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>XMPP Registrar Considerations</b>	<b>4</b>
7.1	Field Standardization . . . . .	4

## 1 Introduction

RFC 2142 <sup>1</sup> specifies conventional electronic mailbox names for common services, roles, and functions related to SMTP, NNTP, and HTTP (such as `hostmaster@domain.tld`, `usenet@domain.tld`, and `abuse@domain.tld`). However, no such conventional email address or XMPP address has been specified for XMPP services (e.g., in RFC 3920 <sup>2</sup>). This document remedies that oversight, and the email recommendation specified here has been incorporated into RFC 6120 <sup>3</sup>.

## 2 Email Address

Consistent with RFC 2142, a domain that offers a Jabber/XMPP service SHOULD provide an Internet mailbox of "XMPP" for inquiries related to that service.

## 3 XMPP Addresses

The administrators of an XMPP service may desire to advertise contact information related to that service. <sup>4</sup> This contact information may include email addresses, web URLs, and JabberIDs for specific roles and functions such as the service administrators, abuse reports, customer feedback, sales inquiries, technical support, and security concerns. For this purpose, domains SHOULD support the electronic mailboxes required by RFC 2142. However, additional contact mechanisms may be desirable, and it would be helpful if those who want to initiate contact could discover the contact information using standard XMPP extensions, specifically [Service Discovery \(XEP-0030\)](#) <sup>6</sup>. To make such discovery possible, we specify a [Service Discovery Extensions \(XEP-0128\)](#) <sup>7</sup> mechanism that a server SHOULD return in response to service discovery information ("disco#info") requests sent to the bare domain of the server. This information MUST be scoped using a FORM\_TYPE of "http://jabber.org/network/serverinfo" (as already specified in XEP-0128) and data form fields registered for this purpose as defined in the [XMPP Registrar Considerations](#) section of this document.

Values of 'status-addresses' form field MUST be valid URIs, i.e. comply with the 'xs:anyURI'

---

<sup>1</sup>RFC 2142: Mailbox Names for Common Services, Roles and Functions <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2142>>.

<sup>2</sup>RFC 3920: Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP): Core <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3920>>.

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

<sup>4</sup>Many existing Jabber/XMPP server implementations use the bare domain <domain.tld> of the server (e.g., "example.org") as an alias for the server administrators, such that a <message/> stanza addressed to that domain name is delivered to the JIDs of the server administrators. (Currently, this functionality does not apply to <iq/> or <presence/> stanzas.) Unfortunately, using the "domain.tld" address as a way to direct messages to the server administrators may result in overloading of the bare domain address (i.e., it may be desirable to send messages to the server's address without having those messages delivered to the server admins, for example if the server doubles as a [Publish-Subscribe \(XEP-0060\)](#) <sup>5</sup> service). Therefore, it is instead RECOMMENDED to support service discovery of contact addresses as specified herein.

<sup>6</sup>XEP-0030: Service Discovery <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0030.html>>.

<sup>7</sup>XEP-0128: Service Discovery Extensions <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0128.html>>.

datatype of [XML Schema Part 2](#)<sup>8</sup>. Values of the 'abuse-addresses', 'admin-addresses', 'feedback-addresses', 'sales-addresses', 'security-addresses' and 'support-addresses' SHOULD be valid URIs.

To illustrate this usage, consider the following example of a disco#info request sent to the mythical shakespeare.lit XMPP server:

Listing 1: Entity queries server for information

```
<iq from='juliet@capulet.com/chamber'
  to='shakespeare.lit'
  id='disco1'
  type='get'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info' />
</iq>
```

Listing 2: Server communicates information

```
<iq from='shakespeare.lit'
  to='juliet@capulet.com/chamber'
  id='disco1'
  type='result'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info'>
    <identity category='server' type='im' />
    <feature var='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco' />
    <x xmlns='jabber:x:data' type='result'>
      <field var='FORM_TYPE' type='hidden'>
        <value>http://jabber.org/network/serverinfo</value>
      </field>
      <field var='abuse-addresses'>
        <value>mailto:abuse@shakespeare.lit</value>
        <value>xmpp:abuse@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='admin-addresses'>
        <value>mailto:xmpp@shakespeare.lit</value>
        <value>xmpp:admins@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='feedback-addresses'>
        <value>http://shakespeare.lit/feedback.php</value>
        <value>mailto:feedback@shakespeare.lit</value>
        <value>xmpp:feedback@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='sales-addresses'>
        <value>xmpp:bard@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='security-addresses'>
        <value>xmpp:security@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
    </x>
  </query>
```

<sup>8</sup>XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes <<http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2/>>.

```
<field var='status-addresses'>
  <value>https://status.shakespeare.lit</value>
</field>
<field var='support-addresses'>
  <value>http://shakespeare.lit/support.php</value>
  <value>xmpp:support@shakespeare.lit</value>
</field>
</x>
</query>
</iq>
```

## 4 Deployment Notes

The "domain.tld" at which the XMPP service is hosted need not be the same as the "domain.tld" at which the email service is hosted. For example, it is common for a service provider to host its XMPP service at a hostname such as "jabber.example.org" whereas email related to the service provider is sent to a hostname of "example.org". Thus while the XMPP address and email address may be the same for some service providers (e.g., both "xmpp@example.com"), that similarity is not necessary.

Although some service providers that use the same address for both XMPP and email messaging may integrate delivery of messages sent by those mechanisms (e.g., XMPP messages sent while a user is offline are redirected to email delivery), XMPP and email remain separate messaging systems.

A service provider that supports the functionality specified herein may advertise the service through a Mailto URI (see [RFC 2368](#)<sup>9</sup>) of <mailto:xmpp@domain.tld> and through appropriate XMPP URIs (see [RFC 5122](#)<sup>10</sup>) such as <xmpp:admins@domain.tld> or (per [XMPP URI Query Components \(XEP-0147\)](#)<sup>11</sup>) <xmpp:admins@domain.tld?message>.

It is a matter of service policy whether the XMPP addresses provided are dedicated accounts or aliases that redirect communications to the appropriate accounts.

## 5 Security Considerations

Providing or advertising contact addresses may open those addresses to unwanted communication. Server administrators should balance the need for openness with the desire for control over communication with customers and peers.

<sup>9</sup>RFC 2368: The mailto URL scheme <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2368>>.

<sup>10</sup>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>>.

<sup>11</sup>XEP-0147: XMPP URI Query Components <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0147.html>>.

## 6 IANA Considerations

This document requires no interaction with the [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority \(IANA\)](#)<sup>12</sup>.

## 7 XMPP Registrar Considerations

The [XMPP Registrar](#)<sup>13</sup> includes the following information in its registries.

### 7.1 Field Standardization

[Field Standardization for Data Forms \(XEP-0068\)](#)<sup>14</sup> defines a process for standardizing the fields used within Data Forms qualified by a particular namespace, and XEP-0128 describes how to use field standardization in the context of service discovery. This section registers fields for server information scoped by the "http://jabber.org/network/serverinfo" FORM\_TYPE.

```
<form_type>
  <name>http://jabber.org/network/serverinfo</name>
  <doc>XEP-0157</doc>
  <desc>
    Forms enabling the communication of contact addresses
    and other server information.
  </desc>
  <field
    var='abuse-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
    label='One_or_more_addresses_for_communication_related_to_
      abusive_traffic' />
  <field
    var='admin-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
    label='One_or_more_addresses_for_communication_with_the_service_
      administrators' />
  <field
    var='feedback-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
```

<sup>12</sup>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/>.

<sup>13</sup>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/>.

<sup>14</sup>XEP-0068: Field Data Standardization for Data Forms <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0068.html>.

```
    label='One_or_more_addresses_for_customer_feedback' />
<field
  var='sales-addresses'
  type='list-multi'
  label='One_or_more_addresses_for_communication_related_to_sales_
    and_marketing' />
<field
  var='security-addresses'
  type='list-multi'
  label='One_or_more_addresses_for_communication_related_to_
    security_concerns' />
<field
  var='status-addresses'
  type='list-multi'
  label='One_or_more_addresses_for_service_status' >
</field>
<field
  var='support-addresses'
  type='list-multi'
  label='One_or_more_addresses_for_customer_support' />
</form_type>
```