



XMPP

XEP-0334: Message Processing Hints

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This document defines a way to include hints to entities routing or receiving a message.

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1 Introduction

Message types ('normal', 'chat', 'headline', etc.) provide an existing framework for determining how an entity should deliver or handle a message. For example [XMPP IM](#)¹ defines that messages of type 'headline' should not be stored offline by the server, and that messages of type 'groupchat' must not be directed to other resources.

However this framework of rules is quite inflexible, and new extensions are being developed that push at the boundaries of what is capable of. This specification defines a more flexible approach that allows the sender to add finer-grained 'hints' to messages, which can be used as a generic mechanism for XMPP entities to handle messages.

A similar but much more extensive framework is defined in [Advanced Message Processing \(XEP-0079\)](#)² for applications that need it.

2 Requirements

This specification aims to solve the following common problems, and allow a sender to hint to the recipient:

- Whether to store a message (e.g. for archival or as an 'offline message').
- Whether to copy a message to other resources.
- Whether to store a message that would not have been stored under normal conditions

3 Use Cases

3.1 Session-based stanzas

Suppose that Romeo and Juliet are avoiding the surveillance of Prince Escalus and communicating using a session-based encryption protocol between their laptops. In order to prevent Juliet's tablet computer that uses [Message Carbons \(XEP-0280\)](#)³ from receiving copies of the encrypted messages (and not being able to decrypt them), Romeo inserts the `<no-copy/>` hint into the messages he sends. Since it is also useless for these messages to be archived, he additionally adds the `<no-store/>` hint:

Listing 1: Sending a message with no-copy and no-store hints

```
<message
  from='romeo@montague.lit/laptop'
```

¹RFC 6121: Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP): Instant Messaging and Presence <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6121>.

²XEP-0079: Advanced Message Processing <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0079.html>.

³XEP-0280: Message Carbons <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0280.html>.

```
to='juliet@capulet.lit/laptop'>
<body>V unir avtug'f_pybnx_gb_uvqr_zr_sebz_gurve_fvtug</body>
<<no-copy_xmlns="urn:xmpp:hints"/>
<<no-store_xmlns="urn:xmpp:hints"/>
</message>
```

3.2 Notifications

Some automated notifications may be transient, and there would be no purpose in delaying their delivery. Such messages may be marked with the `<no-store/>` hint.

3.3 Sensitive messages

A sender may want to indicate their preference to have no permanent record of a message (also known as "off the record" messages), but may be happy for it to be stored temporarily as a normal part of delivery (e.g. if the recipient is offline at the time of sending). Such a message can be marked with the `<no-permanent-store/>` hint.

3.4 Storage-worthy messages

Offline storage and [Message Archive Management \(XEP-0313\)](https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0313.html)⁴ can define their own rules on what messages to store and usually only store messages that contain a body element. However a sender may want to indicate that a message is worth storing even though it might not match those rules (e.g. an encrypted message that carries the payload outside the body element). Such a message can be marked with a `<store/>` hint.

4 Hints

4.1 No permanent store

The `<no-permanent-store/>` hint informs entities that they shouldn't store the message in any permanent or semi-permanent public or private archive (such as described in [Message Archiving \(XEP-0136\)](https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0136.html)⁵ and [Message Archive Management \(XEP-0313\)](https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0313.html)⁶) or in logs (such as chatroom logs).

⁴XEP-0313: Message Archive Management <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0313.html>>.

⁵XEP-0136: Message Archiving <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0136.html>>.

⁶XEP-0313: Message Archive Management <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0313.html>>.

4.2 No store

A message containing a <no-store/> hint should not be stored by a server either permanently (as above) or temporarily, e.g. for later delivery to an offline client, or to users not currently present in a chatroom.

4.3 No copies

Messages with the <no-copy/> hint should not be copied to addresses other than the one to which it is addressed, for example through [Message Carbons \(XEP-0280\)](#)⁷.

This hint MUST only be included on messages addressed to full JIDs and explicitly does not override the behaviour defined in [XMPP IM](#)⁸ for handling messages to bare JIDs, which may involve copying to multiple resources, or multiple occupants in a [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](#)⁹ room.

4.4 Store

A message containing the <store/> hint that is not of type 'error' SHOULD be stored by the entity.

5 Business Rules

It is important to note that message hints are, as the name implies, just hints. Implementations MUST NOT rely on other entities interpretation of the hints for any particular purpose.

6 Security Considerations

This specification introduces no known security considerations.

7 IANA Considerations

This document requires no interaction with the [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority \(IANA\)](#)¹⁰.

⁷XEP-0280: Message Carbons <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0280.html>>.

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

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

¹⁰The 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

8 XMPP Registrar Considerations

This document requires no interaction with [XMPP Registrar](#)¹¹.

9 XML Schema

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<xs:schema
  xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
  targetNamespace='urn:xmpp:hints'
  xmlns='urn:xmpp:hints'
  elementFormDefault='qualified'>
  <xs:element name='no-permanent-store' type='empty' />
  <xs:element name='no-store' type='empty' />
  <xs:element name='no-copy' type='empty' />
  <xs:element name='store' type='empty' />
  <xs:simpleType name='empty'>
    <xs:restriction base='xs:string'>
      <xs:enumeration value='' />
    </xs:restriction>
  </xs:simpleType>
</xs:schema>
```

<http://www.iana.org/>.

¹¹The 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/>.