



# XMPP

## XEP-0513: Explicit Mentions

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Status	Type	Short Name
Experimental	Standards Track	mentions

This specification defines a way to explicitly mention a person or groups of people.

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## 1 Introduction

A common feature in online communication is ability to explicitly address a message to a specific person or a group of people, and have their clients notify them on the way. This document provides a mechanism to allow users to explicitly reference individual users, as well as entire groups based on roles, affiliations, and hats in their messages. Furthermore, it provides a way for [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](#)<sup>1</sup> room owners to specify permissions related to mentions.

## 2 Discovering Support

An entity implementing this specification MUST advertise `urn:xmpp:mentions:0` as a [Service Discovery \(XEP-0030\)](#)<sup>2</sup> feature. Subsequent features in this document may also be required to advertise support, if implemented.

## 3 Use Cases

### 3.1 Mentioning an Individual

There are two ways to mention an individual, depending on context. In both cases, a mention element with the `urn:xmpp:mentions:0` type is sent, which MUST NOT contain a `mentions` attribute.

In [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](#)<sup>3</sup> rooms, an `occupantid` attribute MUST be present, containing the mentioned user's [Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs \(XEP-0421\)](#)<sup>4</sup> identifier, if the room supports them. Otherwise, a `jid` attribute MUST be present, containing the mentioned user's JID.

Listing 1: Mentioning a user in a room

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>Hello, Alice!</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'
    begin='7'
    end='12'
    occupantid='alice@occupant-id' />
</message>
```

---

<sup>1</sup>XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>>.

<sup>2</sup>XEP-0030: Service Discovery <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0030.html>>.

<sup>3</sup>XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>>.

<sup>4</sup>XEP-0421: Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0421.html>>.

## 3.2 Mentioning Groups

Users may wish to mention whole groups of users at once. The following subsections specify several types of groups that may be mentioned, all of which are OPTIONAL.

To mention a group, the mentions attribute MUST be present, containing a URI denoting the group type. The same URI MUST be advertised via service discovery on supported implementations. Custom group types not specified in this document MAY be used, provided they follow the same rules.

### 3.2.1 Mentions via Memberships

The following table lists groups based on membership or occupancy of an entity, such as channels, spaces, or servers.

Mention type	Description
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#channel	Mention all occupants of a Multi-User Chat (XEP-0045) XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat < <a href="https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html">https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html</a> >. room.
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#space	Mention all members of a Server-side spaces (XEP-0503) XEP-0503: Server-side spaces < <a href="https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0503.html">https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0503.html</a> >. space.
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#server	Mention all users of a server.

Channel mentions are used to mention all users in a [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](#)<sup>5</sup> room, similarly to @everyone or @room on legacy platforms. If no uri attribute is present, and the current context is a MUC, then the room being mentioned is assumed to be the current room. The uri attribute MAY be used to specify a different room whose members should be mentioned, and MUST be included when used outside of a MUC.

Listing 2: Mention all users in a room

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>Hey all!</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' mentions='urn:xmpp:mentions:0
    #channel' />
</message>
```

Space mentions are used to mention all users of a [Server-side spaces \(XEP-0503\)](#)<sup>6</sup> space. If no uri attribute is present, and the current MUC advertises a space that it is part of, then the

<sup>5</sup>XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>>.

<sup>6</sup>XEP-0503: Server-side spaces <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0503.html>>.

space being mentioned is assumed to be the one advertised by the room. The uri attribute MAY be used to specify a different space, and MUST be used outside of MUCs or if the MUC does not advertise a parent space.

Listing 3: Mention all users of a space

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>The rules for all rooms within this space have been updated.
  </body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' mentions='urn:xmpp:mentions:0
    #space'
    uri='xmpp:spaces.common.example;node=space' />
</message>
```

Server mentions are used to mention all users of a particular server. This SHOULD NOT be used within semi-anonymous rooms, when responses to a server mention could reveal which users have accounts on that server, and may reveal your own account's server. All server mentions MUST include a uri attribute containing a URI to the server being mentioned, and MAY contain servers other than your own.

Listing 4: Mention all users of a server

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>We will be upgrading the server in two hours.</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' mentions='urn:xmpp:mentions:0
    #server'
    uri='xmpp:common.example' />
</message>
```

### 3.2.2 Mentions via Roles and Affiliations

It is possible to mention occupants with specific [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html)<sup>7</sup> roles or affiliations. The mention type to use is defined in the table below. Supporting implementations MUST advertise the urn:xmpp:mentions:0#associations namespace, and all of the defined role and affiliation types MUST be implemented to support this feature.

Type	Description
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#moderators	Occupants with a moderator role
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#participants	Occupants with a participant role
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#visitors	Occupants with a visitor role
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#owner	Occupants with an owner affiliation
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#admin	Occupants with an admin affiliation
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#member	Occupants with a member affiliation
urn:xmpp:mentions:0#none	Occupants with no affiliation

<sup>7</sup>XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>>.

Listing 5: Mention moderators in a room

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>Any moderator to handle the spam above please?</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' mentions='urn:xmpp:mentions:0
    #moderators' />
</message>
```

### 3.2.3 Mentions via Hats

Hats, specified in [Hats \(XEP-0317\)](#)<sup>8</sup>, may also be mentioned using the `urn:xmpp:mentions:0#hats` namespace, with the `uri` attribute containing the hat's URI.

Listing 6: Mentioning all (hats) students in a room

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>To all students, [...]</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' mentions='urn:xmpp:mentions:0
    #hats'
    uri='http://schemas.example.com/hats#students' />
</message>
```

### 3.3 Begin and End Attributes

If a mention element of type `urn:xmpp:mentions:0` or its subtypes contains both `begin` and `end` attributes, the receiving entity MAY use this as a hint that the specified range of the content is being addressed to the specified occupant. If the element doesn't contain these attributes, the mention doesn't refer to a specific part of the content, and implementations MAY check other parts of the payload to know what it refers to, (e.g., [XHTML-IM \(XEP-0071\)](#)<sup>9</sup> links).

Begin and end pairs in a message SHOULD NOT overlap, except in the case where they are all equal.

Listing 7: Mentioning members of a loosely defined group in a channel with many occupants

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>Hi Spartacists!</body>
  <!--{}- @begin and @end are equal throughout all mentions here -{}-->
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'
    begin='3'
    end='14'
```

<sup>8</sup>XEP-0317: Hats <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0317.html>>.

<sup>9</sup>XEP-0071: XHTML-IM <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0071.html>>.

```

    occupantid='rosa@occupant-id' />
<mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'
  begin='3'
  end='14'
  occupantid='clara@occupant-id' />
<mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'
  begin='3'
  end='14'
  occupantid='karl@occupant-id' />
</message>

```

### 3.4 Hreflang Attribute

The hreflang attribute MAY be used to target a message with the corresponding xml:lang attribute, in conjunction with begin and end.

Listing 8: Mentioning a user in two languages

```

<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <!--{}- Supposing the stanza has been sent on a stream with xml:lang=
    'en' -{}-->
  <body>Hi Alice, how are you doing?</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'
    begin='3'
    end='8'
    hreflang='en'
    occupantid='ddfe47eabacabr2q1' />
  <body xml:lang='ja'>                               </body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'
    begin='6'
    end='9'
    hreflang='ja'
    occupantid='ddfe47eabacabr2q1' />
</message>

```

### 3.5 Modifiers

Mentions may be modified in order to change their behaviour. The modifiers specified here MUST be in the urn:xmpp:mentions:0 namespace, and placed as a child of the mention element. Modifiers not specified here MAY be used, provided they use a separate namespace and advertise support similarly to custom groups.

The following table lists the possible modifiers.

Modifier	Description
{urn:xmpp:mentions:0}active	Only notify if user is active
{urn:xmpp:mentions:0}noping	Do not notify the mentioned user

### 3.5.1 Active

The active modifier tells receiving entities that only users active when the message is sent should be mentioned. This works similarly to @here in many legacy messengers, except that it can be applied to any type of mention here. Implementations SHOULD notify the user if they are currently active, and SHOULD NOT notify them otherwise. It is up to implementations to decide what constitutes "active". Examples include an online status or recent activity in the client.

Listing 9: Mention all active users of a room

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>Hello, everybody!</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' mentions='
    urn:xmpp:mentions:0channel'>
    <active />
  </mention>
</message>
```

### 3.5.2 No Ping

The noping modifier tells receiving entities that the sender does not wish to notify the mentioned user. This could be useful to explicitly reference a specific user or group without disturbing the user(s) in question, such as for distinguishing two users with the same name or directing someone to another user or group.

Listing 10: Mention a user without notifying them

```
<message to='news@chat.common.example' type='groupchat'>
  <body>Sorry, I was referring to Alice there.</body>
  <mention xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'
    begin='26'
    end='31'
    occupantid='alice@occupantid'>
    <noping />
  </mention>
</message>
```

## 3.6 Multi-User Chats Permissions

Administrators of [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](#)<sup>10</sup> rooms may wish to limit how mentions are used. This section provides a mechanism for administrators to set permissions in a MUC,

<sup>10</sup>XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>>.

which receiving entities SHOULD refer to when deciding whether to notify the user. Rooms which provide permissions MUST advertise support with `urn:xmpp:mentions:0`. Mentions MAY be sent in rooms which do not have permissions set, and/or do not advertise support for them; it is up to receiving entities to determine how to handle mentions in rooms without configured permissions.

The following examples demonstrate how a user can get and set the permissions configuration form.

Listing 11: Client requests permissions from room

```
<iq from='user@chat.common.example/client'
  to='room@chat.common.example'
  id='permissions1'
  type='get'>
  <query xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' />
</iq>
```

In the following response, the `mentions#count` and `mentions#individual` fields MUST be present at minimum. All other fields are OPTIONAL, but they MUST be present if and only if the corresponding feature is advertised in service discovery. The following form's fields SHOULD also be advertised in the room's `muc#roominfo` extension form.

Receiving entities SHOULD ignore all mentions if the message contains more mentions than the threshold specified by `mentions#count`. Receiving entities SHOULD ignore a given mention if the sender does not have at least the minimum role required by the room.

Listing 12: MUC returns configured permissions

```
<iq from='room@chat.common.example'
  to='user@chat.common.example/client'
  id='permissions1'
  type='result'>
  <query xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'>
    <x xmlns='jabber:x:data' type='form'>
      <title>Permissions for Explicit Mentions</title>
      <instructions>
        Complete this form to inform entities about who can mention
        whom.
        The count is the maximum number of mentions allowed per
        message.
        For each mention type supported, the users allowed to use the
        type
        may be set to all participants, moderators only, or nobody.
      </instructions>
      <field type='hidden' var='FORM_TYPE'>
        <value>urn:xmpp:mentions:0</value>
      </field>
      <field var='mentions#count'
        label='How_many_mentions_are_allowed_in_a_message?'
```

```
    type='text-single'>
    <required />
    <value>5</value>
</field>
<field var='mentions#individual'
  label='Who_can_mention_individual_users?'
  type='list-single'>
  <required />
  <value>participants</value>
  <option label='Participants'>
    <value>participants</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Moderators_Only'>
    <value>moderators</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Nobody'>
    <value>none</value>
  </option>
</field>
<!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#channel: -{}-->
<field var='mentions#channel'
  label='Who_can_mention_rooms?'
  type='list-single'>
  <required />
  <value>participants</value>
  <option label='Participants'>
    <value>participants</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Moderators_Only'>
    <value>moderators</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Nobody'>
    <value>none</value>
  </option>
</field>
<!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#space: -{}-->
<field var='mentions#space'
  label='Who_can_mention_spaces?'
  type='list-single'>
  <required />
  <value>participants</value>
  <option label='Participants'>
    <value>participants</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Moderators_Only'>
    <value>moderators</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Nobody'>
    <value>none</value>
  </option>
```

```
    </option>
</field>
<!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#server: -{}->
<field var='mentions#server'
  label='Who_can_mention_servers?'
  type='list-single'>
  <required />
  <value>participants</value>
  <option label='Participants'>
    <value>participants</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Moderators_Only'>
    <value>moderators</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Nobody'>
    <value>none</value>
  </option>
</field>
<!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#associations: -{}->
<field var='mentions#associations'
  label='Who_can_mention_roles/affiliations?'
  type='list-single'>
  <required />
  <value>participants</value>
  <option label='Participants'>
    <value>participants</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Moderators_Only'>
    <value>moderators</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Nobody'>
    <value>none</value>
  </option>
</field>
<!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#hats: -{}->
<field var='mentions#hats'
  label='Who_can_mention_hats?'
  type='list-single'>
  <required />
  <value>participants</value>
  <option label='Participants'>
    <value>participants</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Moderators_Only'>
    <value>moderators</value>
  </option>
  <option label='Nobody'>
    <value>none</value>
  </option>
</field>
```

```

    </field>
  </x>
</query>
</iq>

```

If the user is an owner of the room, they may fill out the form and submit it to change the configuration.

Listing 13: Owner submits permissions form

```

<iq from='user@chat.common.example/client'
to='room@chat.common.example'
id='permissions2'
type='set'>
  <query xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0'>
    <x xmlns='jabber:x:data' type='submit'>
      <field var='FORM_TYPE'>
        <value>urn:xmpp:mentions:0</value>
      </field>
      <field var='mentions#count'>
        <value>1</value>
      </field>
      <field var='mentions#individual'>
        <value>participants</value>
      </field>
      <!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#channel: -{}-->
      <field var='mentions#channel'>
        <value>moderators</value>
      </field>
      <!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#space: -{}-->
      <field var='mentions#space'>
        <value>moderators</value>
      </field>
      <!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#server: -{}-->
      <field var='mentions#server'>
        <value>moderators</value>
      </field>
      <!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#associations: -{}-->
      <field var='mentions#associations'>
        <value>participants</value>
      </field>
      <!--{}- If room supports urn:xmpp:mentions:0#hats: -{}-->
      <field var='mentions#hats'>
        <value>participants</value>
      </field>
    </x>
  </query>
</iq>

```

Upon success, the room MUST inform the user.

Listing 14: Room informs owner of success

```
<iq to='room@chat.common.example'
  from='user@chat.common.example/client'
  id='permissions2'
  type='result' />
```

If the user is not an owner, a <forbidden /> error MUST be returned.

Listing 15: Room denies access to non-owner

```
<iq to='room@chat.common.example'
  from='user@chat.common.example/client'
  id='permissions2'
  type='error'>
  <query xmlns='urn:xmpp:mentions:0' />
  <error type='auth'>
    <forbidden xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-stanzas' />
  </error>
</iq>
```

Upon successful change of configuration, the service SHOULD broadcast the changes to all users. The message SHOULD include only those fields which have been modified.

Listing 16: Room notifies user of change

```
<message to='user@chat.common.example/client'
  from='room@chat.common.example'
  id='permissions4'
  type='groupchat'>
  <x xmlns='jabber:x:data' type='result'>
    <title>Updated configuration for Explicit Mention Permissions</title>
    <field type='hidden' var='FORM_TYPE'>
      <value>urn:xmpp:mentions:0</value>
    </field>
    <!--{}-- Supposing only count and individual were changed... --{}->
    <field var='mentions#count' type='text-single'>
      <value>1</value>
    </field>
    <field var='mentions#individual' type='list-single'>
      <value>participants</value>
    </field>
  </x>
</message>
```

## 4 Implementation Notes

This specification allows sending clients to convey a user's intent. Implementations SHOULD also allow sending participants to talk about someone without having to mention them.

No specific server support is required for mentions to be sent between entities, though implementing permissions in MUCs is RECOMMENDED. It is up to receiving entities whether or not a given mention refers to them, and whether the mention should notify the user. User interfaces SHOULD have an option to suppress notifications for the various types of mentions independently of MUC permission settings.

[Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs \(XEP-0421\)](#)<sup>11</sup> is being used to mention in [Multi-User Chat \(XEP-0045\)](#)<sup>12</sup> instead of a participant JID or a real JID. This allows us to have a common solution across MUC, and also to use a stable identifier, that is guaranteed to be unique per occupant (bare JID) and prevent usurpation.

As [Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs \(XEP-0421\)](#)<sup>13</sup> in MUC can point to multiple nicknames, it may be confusing for clients which would want to display something based on the nickname (colors, etc.). It also may be an issue for a service sending push notifications that need to know which devices to send to.

## 5 Accessibility Considerations

This specification allows users to explicitly choose whether to mention a user or group, removing the need to use old regex-based name matches, which are prone to false positives. It also allows users to refer to someone else without disturbing them and without relying on tricks to prevent regex matches.

## 6 Internationalization Considerations

If an implementation sends a mention element of type `urn:xmpp:mentions:0` or its subtypes which contains a valid hreflang attribute that refers to content with an `xml:lang` attribute, it SHOULD take care to send a mention for every languages it sends.

## 7 Security Considerations

Setting proper permissions in MUCs can help mitigate the possibility for malicious entities to abuse the ability to mention groups of people. Servers MAY filter mentions which violate

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<sup>11</sup>[XEP-0421: Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0421.html>](https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0421.html).

<sup>12</sup>[XEP-0045: Multi-User Chat <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html>](https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0045.html).

<sup>13</sup>[XEP-0421: Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs <https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0421.html>](https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0421.html).

the configured permissions, and MAY do further filtering according to their own rules. No attempt is made to mitigate abuse of regex-based implicit mentions; implementations SHOULD allow implicit mentions to be turned off.

This specification allows sending mentions without including them in the message body, effectively hiding them from the user. User interfaces SHOULD allow users to view a list of all mentions attached to a message.

Use of explicit mentions with OMEMO can leak metadata about who the message is directed towards, if only the body of the message is encrypted.

Using [Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs \(XEP-0421\)](#)<sup>14</sup> instead of a regular participant JID in MUC prevents moderators possibly leaking JIDs they have access to that other occupants don't. Using occupant IDs even in non-anonymous rooms allows them to become semi-anonymous without leaking JIDs.

## 8 IANA Considerations

None.

## 9 XMPP Registrar Considerations

TODO

### 9.1 Field Standardization

TODO

## 10 Design Considerations

Most clients currently use regex-based solutions to determine whether a user should be notified of a message. This is prone to false positives, especially for users with common words as names. It also provides no mechanism for a user to refer to someone else without notifying them.

An early revision of [References \(XEP-0372\)](#)<sup>15</sup> provides a basic means to explicitly mention a single user via JID, but no means of mentioning groups of users, nor means to extend mentions further.

This specification is designed to depend on a proposed revision to [References \(XEP-0372\)](#)<sup>16</sup>,

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<sup>14</sup>XEP-0421: Anonymous unique occupant identifiers for MUCs <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0421.html>>.

<sup>15</sup>XEP-0372: References <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0372.html>>.

<sup>16</sup>XEP-0372: References <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0372.html>>.

which makes references more generic and removes mentions, among other changes. If and when the revision is accepted, this specification may be updated to depend on [References \(XEP-0372\)](#)<sup>17</sup>.

## 11 XML Schema

TODO

## 12 Acknowledgements

Special thanks to pep for providing the initial document which this one is based off of, and for allowing me to continue work on it.

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<sup>17</sup>XEP-0372: References <<https://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0372.html>>.