

Network Working Group
Request for Comments: 5367
Updates: 3265
Category: Standards Track

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October 2008

Subscriptions to Request-Contained Resource Lists in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)

Status of This Memo

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

Abstract

This document specifies a way to create subscription to a list of resources in SIP. This is achieved by including the list of resources in the body of a SUBSCRIBE request. Instead of having a subscriber send a SUBSCRIBE request for each resource individually, the subscriber defines the resource list, subscribes to it, and gets notifications about changes in the resources' states using a single SUBSCRIBE dialog.

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1. Introduction

[RFC4662] specifies how to establish subscriptions to a homogeneous resource list in SIP (which is specified in [RFC3261]) and defines the procedures for getting notifications about changes in the state of the associated resources. Yet, list creation is outside the scope of [RFC4662].

This document specifies a way to create a list with a set of resources and subscribe to it using a single SIP request. This is achieved by including the list of resources (as defined in [RFC5363]) in the body of the SUBSCRIBE request.

2. Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

3. User Agent Client Procedures

A UAC (User Agent Client) that wants to create a resource list and subscribe to it using the mechanism described in this document constructs a SUBSCRIBE request with at least one body, whose disposition is type "recipient-list" as defined in [RFC5363], that contains the URI list. Additionally, the UAC MUST include the 'recipient-list-subscribe' option-tag (which is registered with the IANA in Section 9) in a Require header field. The UAC MUST build the rest of the SUBSCRIBE request following the rules in [RFC3265].

The UAC MUST support the "rlmi+xml" format defined in [RFC4662] and signal this by including "rlmi+xml" in the Accept header. The UAC MAY support additional formats and include them in the Accept header field of the SUBSCRIBE request.

3.1. Response Handling

The status code in the response to the SUBSCRIBE request does not provide any information about whether or not the resource list server was able to successfully subscribe to the URIs in the URI list. The UAC obtains this information in the notifications sent by the server.

3.2. Subsequent SUBSCRIBE Requests

The previous sections have specified how to include a URI list in an initial SUBSCRIBE request to a resource list server in order to subscribe to the state of a set of resources. Once the subscription has been created and a dialog between the UAC and the resource list server has been established, the UAC can send subsequent SUBSCRIBE requests to, for example, extend the duration of the subscription.

At this point, there are no semantics associated with resource-list bodies in subsequent SUBSCRIBE requests (although future extensions can define them). Therefore, UACs SHOULD NOT include resource-list bodies in subsequent SUBSCRIBE requests to a resource list server.

Note that a difference between an initial SUBSCRIBE request and subsequent ones is that while the initial request is sent to the public URI of the resource list, subsequent ones are sent to the URI provided by the server when the dialog is established. Therefore, from the UAC's point of view, the resource identified by the former URI supports recipient-list bodies, while the resource identified by the latter does not support them.

4. URI-List Document Format

[RFC5363] mandates that each URI-list services specification, such as the subscription service defined here, specifies the default format for the recipient-list bodies used within the particular service.

The default format for the recipient-list bodies for the subscription service defined in this document is the resource list format defined in [RFC4826]. UAs (User Agents) generating recipient-list bodies MUST support this format and MAY support other formats. Resource list servers able to handle recipient-list bodies MUST support this format and MAY support other formats.

The Extensible Markup Language (XML) Configuration Access Protocol (XCAP) resource list document provides features, such as hierarchical lists and the ability to include entries by reference relative to the XCAP root URI, that are not needed by the subscription service defined here, which only needs to transfer a flat list of URIs between a UA and the resource list server. Therefore, when using the default resource list document, UAs SHOULD use flat lists (i.e., no hierarchical lists) and SHOULD NOT use <entry-ref> elements. A resource list server receiving a URI list with more information than what has just been described MAY discard all the extra information.

Figure 1 shows an example of a flat list that follows the resource list document.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<resource-lists xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:resource-lists"
                xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <list>
    <entry uri="sip:bill@example.com" />
    <entry uri="sip:joe@example.org" />
    <entry uri="sip:ted@example.net" />
  </list>
</resource-lists>
```

Figure 1: URI list

5. Resource List Server Behavior

Resource list servers that are able to receive and process SUBSCRIBE requests with a recipient-list body SHOULD include a 'recipient-list-subscribe' option-tag in a Supported header field when responding to OPTIONS requests.

On reception of a SUBSCRIBE request with a URI list, a resource list server that chooses to accept the "rlmi+xml" format MUST comply with [RFC4662] for creating the subscription and reporting the changes in the resources within the created dialog.

5.1. Subsequent SUBSCRIBE Requests

At this point, there are no semantics associated with resource-list bodies in subsequent SUBSCRIBE requests (although future extensions may define them). Therefore, a resource list server receiving a subsequent SUBSCRIBE request with a resource-list body, following standard SIP procedures, rejects it with a 415 (Unsupported Media Type) response.

6. Providing a URI to Manipulate a Resource List

A UAC can manipulate a resource list at a resource list server. The resource list server MAY provide a URI to manipulate the resource list associated with a subscription using the Call-Info header field in the NOTIFY request that establishes the subscription. The "purpose" parameter of the Call-Info header field MUST have a value of 'list-management', which we register with the IANA in Section 9. The following is an example of such a header field.

```
Call-Info: <http://xcap.example.com/your-list.xml>
           ;purpose=list-management
```

The lifetime of a resource list to be manipulated by the URI provided by the server is bundled to the lifetime of the subscription. That is, the resource list SHOULD be destroyed when the subscription expires or is otherwise terminated.

Section 7.1 of [RFC3265] does not list the Call-Info header field in the table of header fields that NOTIFY requests can carry. This document updates that table so that the Call-Info header field can be optionally included in NOTIFY requests.

7. Example

The following is an example of a SUBSCRIBE request, which carries a URI list in its body, sent by a UAC to a resource list server.

```
SUBSCRIBE sip:rls@example.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/TCP terminal.example.com;branch=z9hG4bKwYb6QREiCL
Max-Forwards: 70
To: RLS <sip:rls@example.com>
From: <sip:adam@example.com>;tag=ie4hbb8t
Call-ID: cdB34qLTtoC@terminal.example.com
CSeq: 1 SUBSCRIBE
Contact: <sip:terminal.example.com>
Event: presence
Expires: 7200
Require: recipient-list-subscribe
Supported: eventlist
Accept: application/cpim-pidf+xml
Accept: application/rlmi+xml
Accept: multipart/related
Accept: multipart/signed
Accept: multipart/encrypted
Content-Type: application/resource-lists+xml
Content-Disposition: recipient-list
Content-Length: 337

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<resource-lists xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:resource-lists"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <list>
    <entry uri="sip:bill@example.com" />
    <entry uri="sip:joe@example.org" />
    <entry uri="sip:ted@example.net" />
  </list>
</resource-lists>
```

Figure 2: SUBSCRIBE request

8. Security Considerations

The Security Considerations section of [RFC4662] discusses security issues related to resource list servers. Resource list servers accepting request-contained URI lists MUST also follow the security guidelines given in [RFC4662].

"Framework and Security Considerations for Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) URI-List Services" [RFC5363] discusses issues related to SIP URI-list services. Given that a resource list server sending SUBSCRIBE requests to a set of users acts as a URI-list service, implementations of resource list servers that handle request-contained URI lists MUST follow the security-related rules in [RFC5363]. These rules include opt-in lists and mandatory authentication and authorization of clients.

9. IANA Considerations

The following sections describe the IANA registration of the 'list-management' value for the "purpose" parameter of the Call-Info header field and the 'recipient-list-subscribe' SIP option-tag.

9.1. List-Management Purpose Parameter Value

This document defines the 'list-management' value for the "purpose" parameter of the Call-Info header field. A reference to this RFC (in double brackets) has been added to the existing "purpose" Call-Info parameter entry in the SIP Parameters registry, which currently looks as follows:

Header Field	Parameter Name	Predefined Values	Reference
-----	-----	-----	-----
Call-Info	purpose	Yes	[RFC3261]

9.2. recipient-list-subscribe Option-Tag

This document defines the SIP option tag "recipient-list-subscribe".

The following row has been added to the "Option Tags" section of the SIP Parameter Registry:

Name	Description	Reference
recipient-list-subscribe	This option tag is used to ensure that a server can process the recipient-list body used in a SUBSCRIBE request.	[RFC5367]

10. Acknowledgments

Cullen Jennings and Jonathan Rosenberg provided useful comments on this document.

11. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.
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- [RFC3265] Roach, A.B., "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)-Specific Event Notification", RFC 3265, June 2002.
- [RFC4662] Roach, A.B., Campbell, B., and J. Rosenberg, "A Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Event Notification Extension for Resource Lists", RFC 4662, August 2006.
- [RFC4826] Rosenberg, J., "Extensible Markup Language (XML) Formats for Representing Resource Lists", RFC 4826, May 2007.
- [RFC5363] Camarillo, G. and A.B. Roach, "Framework and Security Considerations for Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) URI-List Services", RFC 5363, October 2008.

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