The Internet Assigned Number Authority (IANA) Application Configurations Access Protocol (ACAP) Vendor Subtrees Registry
draft-cridland-acap-vendor-registry-01

Abstract

The original ACAP specification included a vendor registry now used in other protocols. This document updates the description of this registry, removing the need for a direct normative reference to ACAP, and removing ambiguity.

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# Table of Contents

1. Conventions used in this document ...................... 3
2. Introduction ........................................... 3
3. The Vendor Subtree Registry ............................... 3
   3.1. Internationalization ................................. 3
   3.2. Formal Syntax ...................................... 4
   3.3. Examples ........................................... 4
   3.4. Changes from RFC 2244 ............................... 5
4. IANA Considerations ..................................... 5
   4.1. Example Registration ................................. 5
5. Security Considerations .................................. 6
6. Acknowledgements ....................................... 6
7. References ............................................. 6
   7.1. Normative References ................................. 6
   7.2. Informative References ............................... 6
Author’s Address .......................................... 7
1. Conventions used in this document

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 [KEYWORDS].

Formal Syntax are to be considered normative, and are specified using [ABNF]. Where a formal syntax and the prose are in conflict, the formal syntax takes precedence.

2. Introduction

The [ACAP] specification includes the specification and creation of the ACAP Vendor Registry, and this registry has subsequently been reused by several specifications, including both [ANNOTATE] and [METADATA], and is proving to be a useful mechanism for namespacing various names to within a specific vendor’s scope.

This document merely updates the registry to reduce ambiguity in the original specification, and dissociates it from the original document in all but name, allowing easier referencing. It replaces section 7.4 and portions of section 4, particularly 4.3, of [ACAP].

3. The Vendor Subtree Registry

A Vendor Token is a UTF-8 string beginning with "vendor.", and followed by the name of the company or product. This name MUST NOT contain any slash character, period, or the percent and asterisk characters typically used as wildcards.

Following this may be names, separated from the Vendor Token by a period, which need not be registered, thus forming a complete Vendor Name.

3.1. Internationalization

Vendor Tokens are able to contain any valid Unicode codepoint, encoded as [UTF-8], except the special characters. Since the publication of [ACAP], however, concerns have been raised on the handling and comparison of full Unicode strings, and therefore this specification restricts the current registrations to the ASCII subset of UTF-8.

Furthermore, characters such as control characters, whitespace, and quotes are likely to be confusing and have been similarly restricted.
Therefore, this document allows only ASCII letters, digits, the hyphen, and space to be used.

3.2. Formal Syntax

This syntax draws upon productions found within [ABNF] and [UTF-8]. Productions replace those in section 4.3 of [ACAP].

```
vendor-name       = vendor-token ["." name-component]
name-component    = *(name-char / UTF8-2 / UTF8-3 / UTF8-4)
name-char         = %x01-24 / %x26-29 / %x2B-2D / %x30-7F
                   ;; ASCII-range characters not including ".", ";", ";", ";", or ";".
vendor-token      = "vendor." vendor-tag
vendor-tag        = iana-vendor-tag / possible-vendor-tag
iana-vendor-tag   = 1*(ALPHA / DIGIT / SP / "-")
                   ;; This production represents 
                   ;; allowed forms for current registrations.
possible-vendor-tag = name-component
                   ;; This production represents what 
                   ;; applications and specifications 
                   ;; may encounter.
```

3.3. Examples

A company Example Ltd might register the Subtree "vendor.example". This means it may use "vendor.example", or any name at all beginning "vendor.example.", such as "vendor.example.product".

These names might be used in several protocols, and are reserved in all the relevant protocols, so "vendor.example" might be an ACAP dataset class name, and "/vendor/vendor.example" might be a tree of IMAP ANNOTATE entries.

Example Ltd is free to use either "vendor.example", and group specific products under it using the relevant protocol’s hierarchy - perhaps "/shared/vendor/vendor.example/product", or using more specific names, such as "/shared/vendor/vendor.example.product".
3.4. Changes from RFC 2244

This non-normative section details changes from RFC 2244’s original specification of the registry.
- UTF-8 names are restricted to ASCII
- Clarifications that "vendor.<company/product name>" means "vendor.company name" or "vendor.product name"; "vendor.company/product" is and always has been illegal.
- Made "vendor.company" a name in its own right - RFC 2244 only refers to a prefix of "vendor.company.".
- Added example registration, in line with [EXAMPLES].

4. IANA Considerations

This specification updates the IANA registry named the ACAP Vendor Subtrees Registry.

Vendors may reserve a portion of the ACAP namespace, which is also used as the namespace for several other protocols, for private use. Vendor Names are reserved for use by that company or product, wherever used, once registered. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Whenever possible, private attributes and classes should be eschewed in favour of improving interoperable protocols.

Vendors may only use names conforming to iana-vendor-tag at the current time, future revisions of this specification may change this.

To: iana@iana.org
Subject: Registration of ACAP vendor subtree

Private Prefix: vendor.name

Person and email address to contact for further information:

(company names and addresses should be included where appropriate)

4.1. Example Registration

IANA is requested to add the following registration, for use by specification authors in examples, similarly to the domains specified in [EXAMPLES]:

Cridland Expires February 18, 2011

[Page 5]
To: iana@iana.org
Subject: Registration of ACAP vendor subtree

Private Prefix: vendor.example

Person and email address to contact for further information:

Dave Cridland <dave.cridland@isode.com>

5. Security Considerations

There are no known security issues with this registry. Individual protocols using vendor subtree names may have security issues, and the introduction of Unicode has in itself security implications – the restriction of this is thought to mitigate these.

6. Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to Chris Newman, John Myers, and the other designers of ACAP for the initial creation of the registry. Thanks also to Alexey Melnikov for advice on this revision.

7. References

7.1. Normative References


7.2. Informative References


[EXAMPLES]


[METADATA]


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