The application/opensearchdescription+xml media type
draft-ellermann-opensearch-02

Abstract

This draft suggests to register the application/opensearchdescription+xml media type for OpenSearch
descriptions. Atom and XHTML <link rel="search" .../> elements are examples where this media type is used.

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1. Introduction

This draft suggests to register the application/opensearchdescription+xml media type for OpenSearch descriptions. Atom and XHTML <link rel="search" .../> elements are examples where this media type is used.

It can be discussed in <http://groups.google.com/group/opensearch> or on the <mailto:ietf-types@iana.org> mailing list. Because this draft is not (more) intended to be published as RFC the normative and informative references are actually only "further readings".

2. Security Considerations

See below (Section 3). There used to be a way to create "not for RFC" Internet drafts with xml2rfc, this section is required for strict="yes" processing.

3. IANA Considerations

Below you find the [RFC4288] registraton template for the subtype "opensearchdescription+xml" of the "application" media type under <http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/application/>:

Type name:            application
Subtype name:         opensearchdescription+xml

Required parameters:
There are no required parameters.

Optional parameters:
  charset (defaults to "UTF-8")

Encoding considerations:
Identical to those of "application/xml" as described in [RFC3023]; especially "UTF-8" [RFC3629] and its proper subset "US-ASCII" are supposed to work.

For non-ASCII documents served as "text/xml" the "charset" parameter is required; this might be relevant when authors are unable to configure the server hosting their OSD (OpenSearch Description document).
Security considerations:
All general security and privacy considerations for
sending queries to servers specified in an URL are
applicable.

Where clients support the optional update feature
in OSDs it affects the privacy of users.

The EcmaScript API AddSearchProvider() typically
enforces a "same origin" policy for the OSD; the
URL element within the OSD can designate a third
party as search provider.

An OSD can claim to be a search description for X,
but actually do something else.

Interoperability considerations:
OpenSearch descriptions use the
<http://a9.com/-/spec/opensearch/1.1/> XML name
space, optionally in conjunction with other XML
name spaces for extensions or for application
specific purposes.

Published specification:
<http://www.opensearch.org/Specifications/1.1/>

Applications that use this media type:
Various Web browsers, search engines, and software
libraries support OSDs. The "search" link relation
is used on many Web pages with this media type.

The EcmaScript API AddSearchProvider() documented
for WhatWG HTML uses this media type.

Additional information:
OSDs have no "magic numbers" as defined in RFC
4288. There are no special "common file name
extensions" for OSDs, OSDs are XML documents. If
specific extensions are desired the conventional
".osdx" or ".a9.xml" might do the trick.

Person & email address to contact for further information:
<http://groups.google.com/group/opensearch>
<http://www.opensearch.org/Community/Guidelines>
4. Acknowledgments

As always John Klensin is an inspiration for all kinds of "process experiments" not limited to [RFC3933] and [RFC4897]. Thanks to Mark Nottingham for registering the "search" link relation, to Ian Hickson for documenting window.external.AddSearchProvider() in [WhatWG] HTML, to Sam Ruby for validating OSDs at <http://feedvalidator.org/>, and to DeWitt Clinton for specifying [OpenSearch] with the OpenSearch community.

Thanks also to Henrik Levkowetz, Julian Reschke, and the "happy IANA" folks.

5. References

5.1. Normative References


5.2. Informative References


Appendix A. Document History

Changes in version 02 (2011):

* Plan B: Nobody is going to write an RFC for this media type; especially nobody is going to create a formal XML DTD or similar definition above what is already documented in the OpenSearch 1.1 specification.

* [I-D.nottingham-http-link-header] replaced by [RFC5988]. Removed the registration of link relation "search", because that already happened based on [RFC5988].

* Removed everything related to RFCXXXX, this draft is not more intended to be published as RFC.

* Updated the credits. Populated the "TBD" placeholders in the template Section 3.

Changes in version 01 (2008):
* Move registry cleanup from Section 5 to the (hopefully) next [I-D.nottingham-http-link-header].

* Adopt registration template in [I-D.nottingham-http-link-header] replacing the similar [RFC4287] template.

* Some background info with examples parked in the introduction.

Initial version:

* This is a kind of template that could be extended to register rel="search" and application/opensearchdescription+xml if the OpenSearch community likes this approach.

* The change controller for a media type in the standards tree has to be a SDO (Standards Development Organization) recognized by the IESG or IAB on behalf of the IETF community, not necessarily the IETF itself.

* For atom:link relations IESG review is good enough. Informational IETF RFCs are approved by the IESG in a "document action", this would trigger the IANA considerations in Section 3.

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