Trivial URC Syntax: urc0

1. Introduction

As explained in [URC], the purpose or function of a URC is to provide a vehicle or structure for the representation of URIs and their associated metainformation. It is expected that the syntax of some URCs may be quite complex in order to meet the needs of various Internet communities such as librarians, archivists, and researchers. However, not all URCs must have a complex structure.

At present, it is not known who will produce and read URCs. Although more advanced URCs may be created by computer programs with the intention of them only being read and parsed by other programs, it is clear that some URCs will be written by people and that some will be read as plain text by people. Even these URCs should be machine-parsable in order for some Internet users to get the most value out of them.

The URC syntax here, called "urc0", is easy to type and read by people. It is also trivial to parse by even the most simple programs.

2. Format URCs in the urc-0 Syntax

The format for urc-0 URCs is:
Each part starts with a header that has the following form:

```
=====[<charset>[/<language>]]
```

<charset> is the character set used in the metainformation. The value for the field is one of "US-ASCII" or "ISO-8859-x", where "x" is a digit in the range "1" through "9". If not specified, the default is "US-ASCII".

<label> is the language used in the metainformation. The value for the field is a language identification tag described in [LANG]. If not specified, the default is "x-unspecified".

The returned URL must conform to [URL]. If the URL is more than one line long, it must begin with the characters "<URL:" and end with a ">" character, as described in [URL].

The optional metainformation may be of any format and contain any text. The only restriction is that no line of the metainformation may begin with the characters "=====".

3. Examples of URCs Using the urc-0 Syntax

A URC that has a single URL and no metainformation might look like:

```
=====
ftp://elm.wlnl.edu/pub/mirrors/phone-list.txt
```

A URC that has a URL on multiple lines might look like:

```
=====
<URL:ftp://elm.wlnl.edu/pub/mirrors/phone-list.txt>
```

A URC that has a multiple URLs might look like:

```
=====
ftp://elm.wlnl.edu/pub/mirrors/phone-list.txt
=====
ftp://gagu.bigstate.edu/admin/phones.html
```

A URC that has a multiple URLs with metainformation might look like:

```
=====
ftp://elm.wlnl.edu/pub/mirrors/phone-list.txt
This is the most up-to-date version of the WNLN-Bigstate phone list. It is maintained by Cheryl O’Donnell.
=====US-ASCII/en
ftp://gagu.bigstate.edu/admin/phones.html
This is the mirror of the first URL at Bigstate.
```

4. Security Implications

Although there are security implications in transmitting URCs, there are no security implications in defining one of their syntaxes.

5. References

[LANG] RFC 1766, "Tags for the Identification of Languages".

[URC] Internet-Draft, "URC Scenarios and Requirements". The name of the draft at the time of this writing is "draft-ietf-uri-urc-req-01".
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