



XMPP

XEP-0157: Contact Addresses for XMPP Services

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This document defines a method for specifying contact addresses related to an XMPP service.

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1 Introduction

RFC 2142¹ specifies conventional electronic mailbox names for common services, roles, and functions related to SMTP, NNTP, and HTTP (such as `hostmaster@domain.tld`, `usenet@domain.tld`, and `abuse@domain.tld`). However, no such conventional email address or XMPP address has been specified for XMPP services (e.g., in RFC 3920²). This document remedies that oversight.

2 Email Address

Consistent with RFC 2142, a domain that offers a Jabber/XMPP service SHOULD provide an Internet mailbox of "XMPP" for inquiries related to that service.

3 XMPP Addresses

The administrators of an XMPP service may desire to advertise contact information related to that service.³ This contact information may include email addresses, web URLs, and JabberIDs for specific roles and functions such as the service administrators, abuse reports, customer feedback, sales inquiries, technical support, and security concerns. For this purpose, domains SHOULD support the electronic mailboxes required by RFC 2142. However, additional contact mechanisms may be desirable, and it would be helpful if those who want to initiate contact could discover the contact information using standard XMPP extensions, specifically [Service Discovery](#)⁵. To make such discovery possible, we specify a [Service Discovery Extensions](#)⁶ mechanism that a server SHOULD return in response to service discovery information ("disco#info") requests sent to the bare domain of the server. This information MUST be scoped using a FORM_TYPE of path" (as already specified in XEP-0128) and data form fields registered for this purpose as defined in the [XMPP Registrar Considerations](#) section of this document.

To illustrate this usage, consider the following example of a disco#info request sent to the

¹RFC 2142: Mailbox Names for Common Services, Roles and Functions <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2142>>.

²RFC 3920: Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP): Core <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3920>>.

³Many existing Jabber/XMPP server implementations use the bare domain <domain.tld> of the server (e.g., "example.org") as an alias for the server administrators, such that a <message/> stanza addressed to that domain name is delivered to the JIDs of the server administrators. (Currently, this functionality does not apply to <iq/> or <presence/> stanzas.) Unfortunately, using the "domain.tld" address as a way to direct messages to the server administrators may result in overloading of the bare domain address (i.e., it may be desirable to send messages to the server's address without having those messages delivered to the server admins, for example if the server doubles as a [Publish-Subscribe](#)⁴ service). Therefore, it is instead RECOMMENDED to support service discovery of contact addresses as specified herein.

⁵XEP-0030: Service Discovery <<http://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0030.html>>.

⁶XEP-0128: Service Discovery Extensions <<http://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0128.html>>.

mythical shakespeare.lit XMPP server:

Listing 1: Entity queries server for information

```
<iq from='juliet@capulet.com/chamber'
  to='shakespeare.lit'
  id='disco1'
  type='get'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info' />
</iq>
```

Listing 2: Server communicates information

```
<iq from='shakespeare.lit'
  to='juliet@capulet.com/chamber'
  id='disco1'
  type='result'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info'>
    <identity category='server' type='im' />
    <feature var='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco' />
    <x xmlns='jabber:x:data' type='result'>
      <field var='FORM_TYPE' type='hidden'>
        <value>http://jabber.org/network/serverinfo</value>
      </field>
      <field var='abuse-addresses'>
        <value>mailto:abuse@shakespeare.lit</value>
        <value>xmpp:abuse@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='admin-addresses'>
        <value>mailto:xmpp@shakespeare.lit</value>
        <value>xmpp:admins@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='feedback-addresses'>
        <value>http://shakespeare.lit/feedback.php</value>
        <value>mailto:feedback@shakespeare.lit</value>
        <value>xmpp:feedback@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='sales-addresses'>
        <value>xmpp:bard@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='security-addresses'>
        <value>xmpp:security@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
      <field var='support-addresses'>
        <value>http://shakespeare.lit/support.php</value>
        <value>xmpp:support@shakespeare.lit</value>
      </field>
    </x>
  </query>
```

`</iq>`

4 Deployment Notes

The "domain.tld" at which the XMPP service is hosted need not be the same as the "domain.tld" at which the email service is hosted. For example, it is common for a service provider to host its XMPP service at a hostname such as "jabber.example.org" whereas email related to the service provider is sent to a hostname of "example.org". Thus while the XMPP address and email address may be the same for some service providers (e.g., both "xmpp@example.com"), that similarity is not necessary.

Although some service providers that use the same address for both XMPP and email messaging may integrate delivery of messages sent by those mechanisms (e.g., XMPP messages sent while a user is offline are redirected to email delivery), XMPP and email remain separate messaging systems.

A service provider that supports the functionality specified herein may advertise the service through a Mailto URI (see [RFC 2368](#)⁷) of <mailto:xmpp@domain.tld> and through appropriate XMPP URIs (see [RFC 5122](#)⁸) such as <xmpp:admins@domain.tld> or (per [XMPP URI Query Components](#)⁹) <xmpp:admins@domain.tld?message>.

It is a matter of service policy whether the XMPP addresses provided are dedicated accounts or aliases that redirect communications to the appropriate accounts.

5 Security Considerations

Providing or advertising contact addresses may open those addresses to unwanted communication. Server administrators should balance the need for openness with the desire for control over communication with customers and peers.

6 IANA Considerations

This document requires no interaction with the [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority \(IANA\)](#)¹⁰.

⁷RFC 2368: The mailto URL scheme <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2368>>.

⁸RFC 5122: Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs) and Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5122>>.

⁹XEP-0147: XMPP URI Query Components <<http://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0147.html>>.

¹⁰The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) is the central coordinator for the assignment of unique parameter values for Internet protocols, such as port numbers and URI schemes. For further information, see <<http://www.iana.org/>>.

7 XMPP Registrar Considerations

The [XMPP Registrar](#) ¹¹ includes the following information in its registries.

7.1 Field Standardization

[Field Standardization for Data Forms](#) ¹² defines a process for standardizing the fields used within Data Forms qualified by a particular namespace, and XEP-0128 describes how to use field standardization in the context of service discovery. This section registers fields for server information scoped by the path” FORM_TYPE.

```
<form_type>
  <name>http://jabber.org/network/serverinfo</name>
  <doc>XEP-0157</doc>
  <desc>
    Forms enabling the communication of contact addresses
    and other server information.
  </desc>
  <field
    var='abuse-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
    label='One or more addresses for communication related to
    abusive traffic' />
  <field
    var='feedback-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
    label='One or more addresses for customer feedback' />
  <field
    var='sales-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
    label='One or more addresses for communication related to sales
    and marketing' />
  <field
    var='security-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
    label='One or more addresses for communication related to
    security concerns' />
  <field
    var='support-addresses'
    type='list-multi'
    label='One or more addresses for customer support' />
</form_type>
```

¹¹The XMPP Registrar maintains a list of reserved protocol namespaces as well as registries of parameters used in the context of XMPP extension protocols approved by the XMPP Standards Foundation. For further information, see <http://xmpp.org/registrar/>.

¹²XEP-0068: Field Data Standardization for Data Forms <http://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0068.html>.