

What is the meaning of "vnd" in MIME types?

Asked 13 years, 9 months ago Modified 4 years, 2 months ago

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221

Reading up on content providers, I keep wondering why both the category and type of Android MIME types are prefixed with vnd. For example:



```
vnd.android.cursor.dir/vnd.<something>  
vnd.android.cursor.item/vnd.<something>
```



Anyone know what this stands for and what the point is?

mime-types

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edited Aug 26, 2013 at 17:48

F

Flow

24k ● 15 ● 103 ● 157

asked Mar 18, 2011 at 11:10



rogerkk

5,673 ● 5 ● 39 ● 56

2 Answers

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274



`vnd` indicates [vendor-specific MIME types](#), which means they are MIME types that were introduced by corporate bodies rather than e.g. an Internet consortium.

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answered Mar 18, 2011 at 11:12

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[mxk](#)

43.5k ● 28 ● 107 ● 132

3 By corporate bodies in this case, do you mean Google?

– [IgorGanapolsky](#) May 14, 2012 at 16:32

3 Yes, for instance. Microsoft, too, introduced non-standard MIME types e.g. for their Office products, so did many other companies. – [mxk](#) May 15, 2012 at 8:35

2 Thanks, and what does the x- mean? – [Bram](#) Jan 14, 2014 at 21:20

8 @IgorGanapolsky If you meant Google = like the vendor of android, then no. You could make your own custom file and give it let's say `application/vnd.igor.test` mime type, and your app can listen to it. It doesn't matter what you have after "vnd.", just make it somehow to prevent "collisions" with other "igors" if you know what I mean. If you have a domain, you could use `application/vnd.com.example.igor` – [Gavriel](#) Jan 15, 2015 at 19:55

2 Note that `x-` is now "no longer considered to be members of this tree." Instead, `x.` is defined as the "unregistered" tree, and strongly discouraged (apparently except for experimental uses). There is also the `prs.` tree, which is meant for personal use (but apparently not experimental

personal use). So I suppose I would use `x.steve` for experimental code, and `prs.steve` (or ideally something more distinctive) if I declare it worth release into the wild.

– [Steve](#) Aug 16, 2018 at 8:28



vnd = vendor.

55

See [Wikipedia - Media type](#):



Types or subtypes that begin with `x-` are nonstandard^[2] (they are not registered with IANA). Subtypes that begin with `vnd.` are vendor-specific; subtypes in the personal or vanity tree begin with `prs.`^[3]



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edited Sep 24, 2020 at 4:53



Pang

10.1k ● 146 ● 85 ● 124

answered Mar 18, 2011 at 11:14



bdargan

1,349 ● 8 ● 16

11 Don't vnd subtypes have to be registered (as opposed to x-subtypes)? If so, why aren't the Android subtypes registered?
– [Gili](#) May 31, 2012 at 17:21

1 Is there a directory of registered vnd media types somewhere? – [jchook](#) Sep 19, 2016 at 15:03

5 To answer my own question, this seems to be the authoritative list on media types:

iana.org/assignments/media-types/media-types.xhtml

– jchook Sep 19, 2016 at 15:34

- 1 Per my comment on the other answer, `x-` is not supposed to be used any more; `x.` is the approved (but discouraged except for experimental use) replacement. – Steve Aug 16, 2018 at 8:29
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