vCard

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vCard is a file format standard for electronic business cards. vCards are often attached to e-mail messages, but can be exchanged in other ways, such as on the World Wide Web. They can contain name and address information, phone numbers, URLs, logos, photographs, and even audio clips.

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vCard

Filename extension	`.vcf, .vcard`
Internet media type	`text/x-vcard` `text/directory;profile=vCard` `text/directory`
Type code	vCrd
Uniform Type Identifier	public.vcard
Developed by	Internet Mail Consortium
Type of format	electronic business card
Container for	contact information

History

Versitcard was originally proposed in 1995 by the Versit consortium, which consisted of Apple, AT&T Technologies (later Lucent), IBM and Siemens. In December 1996, ownership of the format was handed over to the Internet Mail Consortium, a trade association for companies with an interest in Internet e-mail. vCard is accompanied by a proposed standard for exchanging data about forthcoming appointments called vCalendar since superseded by iCalendar; the Internet Mail Consortium has issued a statement that it "hopes that all vCalendar developers take advantage of these new open standards and make their software compatible with both vCalendar 1.0 and iCalendar." Version 2.1 of the vCard standard is widely supported by e-mail clients. Version 3.0 of the vCard format is an IETF standards-track proposal contained in RFC 2425 and RFC 2426. The vCardDAV working group of the IETF is updating the vCard format. The commonly-used filename extension for vCards is .vcf. In RFC 4770 (vCard Extensions for Instant Messaging), a new type of entry to hold IMPP URI is defined, which is "IMPP".

Derivatives and Applications

The hCard microformat, a 1:1 representation of vCard in semantic (X)HTML, allows publishers to embed vCard data in web pages. There are browser extensions such as Operator for Firefox; and technologies such as X2V (http://suda.co.uk/projects/X2V/) and BC2 (http://businesscard2.com/index.php/create/profile) , that convert such hCards into vCards, thus providing interoperability between hCards published on the web, and the aforementioned vCard clients.

An XML vCard (http://xmpp.org/extensions/xep-0054.html) format has been defined by the XMPP Standards

Foundation and is in use with technologies such as XMPP and Light-Weight Identity. W3C has published a note on RDF-based encoding for vCard (see Representing vCard Objects in RDF/XML (http://www.w3.org /TR/vcard-rdf)).

Sending vCards by Bluetooth is one of the most broadly compatible but inelegant forms of placecasting. Since sending vCards via Bluetooth does not require device pairing, some use the standard to transmit anonymous messages (see bluejacking).

Applications have different implementations of the vCard standard. The Address Book on Mac OS X allows export of all contacts in one vcf file while Microsoft Outlook only accepts one contact per file. The KDE Kontact application allows import & export of single or multiple contacts per file.

Example vCard file

The following is an example of a VCard file containing information for one person:

vCard 2.1:

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:2.1
N:kapukod;Hétszin
FN:4758
ORG:Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
TITLE:Shrimp Man
TEL;CELL;VOICE:2536
X-IRMC_LUID 0002000002A7
END:VCARD
```

vCard 3.0:

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:3.0
N:Gump;Forrest
FN:Forrest Gump
ORG:Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
TITLE:Shrimp Man
TEL;TYPE=WORK,VOICE:(111) 555-1212
TEL;TYPE=HOME,VOICE:(404) 555-1212
ADR;TYPE=WORK:;;100 Waters Edge;Baytown;LA;30314;United States of America
LABEL;TYPE=WORK:100 Waters Edge\nBaytown, LA 30314\nUnited States of America
ADR;TYPE=HOME:;;42 Plantation St.;Baytown;LA;30314;United States of America
LABEL;TYPE=HOME:42 Plantation St.\nBaytown, LA 30314\nUnited States of America
EMAIL;TYPE=PREF,INTERNET:forrestgump@example.com
REV:20080424T195243Z
END:VCARD
```

Properties

vCard defines the following property types: *FN, *N, NICKNAME, *PHOTO, *BDAY, *ADR, *LABEL, *TEL, *EMAIL, *MAILER, *TZ, *GEO, *TITLE, *ROLE, *LOGO, *AGENT, *ORG, CATEGORIES, *NOTE, PRODID, *REV, SORT-STRING, *SOUND, *URL, *UID, *VERSION, CLASS, *KEY [1] (http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2426#section-3.7.1) .

Name	Description	Semantic

N	Name	a structured representation of the name of the person, place or thing associated with the vCard object.
FN	Formatted Name	the formatted name string associated with the vCard object
PHOTO	Photograph	an image or photograph of the individual associated with the vCard
BDAY	Birthday	date of birth of the individual associated with the vCard
ADR	Delivery Address	a structured representation of the physical delivery address for the vCard object
LABEL	Label Address	addressing label for physical delivery to the person/object associated with the vCard
TEL	Telephone	the canonical number string for a telephone number for telephony communication with the vCard object
EMAIL	Email	the address for electronic mail communication with the vCard object
MAILER	Email Program (Optional)	Type of email program used
TZ	Time Zone	information related to the standard time zone of the vCard object
GEO	Global Positioning	The property specifies a latitude and longitude
TITLE	Title	specifies the job title, functional position or function of the individual associated with the vCard object within an organization (V. P. Research and Development)
ROLE	Role or occupation	the role, occupation, or business category of the vCard object within an organization (eg. Executive)
LOGO	Logo	an image or graphic of the logo of the organization that is associated with the individual to which the vCard belongs
AGENT	Agent	information about another person who will act on behalf of the vCard object. Typically this would be an area administrator, assistant, or secretary for the individual
ORG	Organization Name or Organizational unit	the name and optionally the unit(s) of the organization associated with the vCard object. This property is based on the X.520 Organization Name attribute and the X.520 Organization Unit attribute
NOTE	Note	specifies supplemental information or a comment that is associated with the vCard
REV	Last Revision	combination of the calendar date and time of day of the last update to the vCard object
SOUND	Sound	By default, if this property is not grouped with other properties it specifies the pronunciation of the Formatted Name property of the vCard object.
URL	URL	An URL is a representation of an Internet location that can be used to obtain real-time information about the vCard object
UID	Unique Identifier	specifies a value that represents a persistent, globally unique identifier associated with the object

VERSION	Version	Version of the vCard Specification
KEY	Public Key	the public encryption key associated with the vCard object

In addition, because vCard augments RFC-2425, a standard for directory information, the following property types are also supported: SOURCE, NAME, PROFILE, BEGIN, END.

vCard extensions

vCard supports private extensions, with a "X-" prefix, a number of which are in common usage.

Some of these include:

Extension	Used As	Data	Semantic
extensions supported by multiple different programs			
X-ABUID	property	string	Apple Address Book UUID for that entry
X-ANNIVERSARY	property	YYYY-MM-DD	arbitrary anniversary, in addition to BDAY = birthday
X-ASSISTANT	property	string	assistant name (instead of Agent)
X-MANAGER	property	string	manager name
X-SPOUSE	property	string	spouse name
X-GENDER	property	string	value "Male" or "Female"
X-AIM	property	string	Instant Messaging (IM) contact information; TYPE parameter as for TEL (I.e. WORK/HOME/OTHER)
X-ICQ	property	string	"
X-JABBER	property	string	"
X-MSN	property	string	"
X-YAHOO	property	string	"
X-SKYPE, X-SKYPE-USERNAME	property	string	"
X-GADUGADU	property	string	"
X-GROUPWISE	property	string	"
X-MS-IMADDRESS	property	string	" (IM address in VCF attachment from Outlook (right click Contact, Send Full Contact, Internet Format.)
X-MS-CARDPICTURE	property	string	Works as PHOTO or LOGO. Contains an image of the Card in Outlook.

X-PHONETIC-FIRST-NAME, X-PHONETIC-LAST-NAME	property	string	alternative spelling of name, used for Japanese names by Android and iPhone (http://article.gmane.org /gmane.comp.misc.opensync.devel/3919)
introduced and used by Mozilla, also used by Evolution (software)			
X-MOZILLA-HTML	property	TRUE/FALSE	mail recipient wants HTML email
introduced and used by Evolution (software)			
X-EVOLUTION-ANNIVERSARY	property	YYYY-MM-DD	arbitrary anniversary, in addition to BDAY = birthday
X-EVOLUTION-ASSISTANT	property	string	assistant name (instead of Agent)
X-EVOLUTION-BLOG-URL	property	string/URL	blog URL
X-EVOLUTION-FILE-AS	property	string	file under different name (in addition to N = name components and FN = full name
X-EVOLUTION-MANAGER	property	string	manager name
X-EVOLUTION-SPOUSE	property	string	spouse name
X-EVOLUTION-VIDEO-URL	property	string/URL	video chat address
X-EVOLUTION-CALLBACK	TEL TYPE parameter value	-	callback phone number
X-EVOLUTION-RADIO	TEL TYPE parameter value	-	radio contact information
X-EVOLUTION-TELEX	TEL TYPE parameter value	-	Telex contact information
X-EVOLUTION-TTYTDD	TEL TYPE parameter value	-	TTY TDD contact information

Note: The Internet media type text/vcard was used (incorrectly) in some SyncML Documentation to refer to vCard 3.0, and the example was followed in various implementations.

See also

- hCard
- Internet Business Cards
- FOAF

External links

- Internet mail Consortium - Personal Data Interchange (http://www.imc.org/pdi/)
- vCard: The Electronic Business Card (Version 2.1) (http://www.imc.org/pdi/vcard-21.txt) vCard 2.1 specification (Sept-18-1996)
- Representing vCard Objects in RDF/XML, W3C Note 22 February 2001 (http://www.w3.org /TR/vcard-rdf)
- hCard specification (http://microformats.org/wiki/hcard)
- vCard implementations notes and bug reports (http://microformats.org/wiki/vcard-implementations)
- vCard proposed errata (http://microformats.org/wiki/vcard-errata)
- RFC 2425 - A MIME Content-Type for Directory Information
- RFC 2426 - vCard MIME Directory Profile
- RFC 2739 - Calendar Attributes for vCard and LDAP
- RFC 4122 - UUID URN namespace (could be used for UID type)
- RFC 4770 - vCard Extensions for Instant Messaging
- IETF vCardDAV working group (http://tools.ietf.org/wg/vcarddav/)

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