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Electronic Data Interchange - Internet Integration (EDIINT) Features Header Field

Abstract

With the maturity of the Electronic Data Interchange - Internet Integration (EDIINT) standards of AS1, AS2, and AS3, applications and additional features are being built upon the basic secure transport functionality. These features are not necessarily supported by all EDIINT applications and could cause potential problems with implementations. The EDIINT-Features header field provides a means to resolve these problems and support new functionality.

Status of This Memo

This document is not an Internet Standards Track specification; it is published for informational purposes.

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1. Introduction

EDIINT applications provide for a secure means of payload document transport. The original intent was for transport of a single EDI or XML document. However, as AS1 [RFC3335], AS2 [RFC4130], and AS3 [RFC4823] matured, other features and application logic were implemented upon EDIINT standards. Since these features go beyond (but do not violate) the basic premise of EDIINT, a means is needed to communicate to trading partners features that are supported by the originating user agent. The EDIINT-Features header indicates the capability of the user agent to support the listed feature with its trading partner without out-of-band communication and agreement.

1.1. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

2. EDIINT-Features Header Syntax

The EDIINT-Features header can appear in the header section of an AS1, AS2, and AS3 message. Its ABNF [RFC5234] syntax is listed below.

```
Feature       = "EDIINT-Features:" [WSP] Feature-Name *([WSP] ","
                [WSP] Feature-Name)

Feature-Name  = 1*Feature-Token

Feature-Token = %d48-57 / ; 0-9
                %d65-90 / ; A-Z
                %d97-122 / ; a-z
                "-" ; hyphen is allowed
                ; blank space " " is not allowed
```

The Feature-Token allows for feature names to be specified and can only contain alphanumeric characters along with the hyphen. Feature names are case insensitive.

3. Implementation and Processing

The EDIINT-Features header field indicates the originating user agent is capable of supporting the features listed. The EDIINT-Features header field MUST be present in all messages transmitted by the user agent and not just messages that utilize the feature. Upon examination of the EDIINT-Features header field, the trading partner SHOULD assume the user agent is capable of receiving messages utilizing any of the features listed.

Features that utilize the EDIINT-Features header field MUST be specified in RFCs. These RFCs MUST describe the feature name that is listed in the header and the means by which it should be used.

4. EDIINT Applications

AS2 and AS3 applications currently use a version header, AS2-Version and AS3-Version, respectively, to indicate functional support. The EDIINT-Features header field tremendously improves the purpose and function of the old version header. However, to provide a connection from the old version header and the EDIINT-Features header field, AS2 and AS3 applications that implement the EDIINT-Features header field MUST use the version value of "1.2" to indicate the support of the EDIINT-Features header field. Also, since version "1.1" indicates the implementation supports compression [RFC5402] and "1.2" builds upon "1.1", AS2-Version or AS3-Version of "1.2" MUST support compression regardless of whether it is mentioned as a feature in the EDIINT-Features header field.

AS1 does not use a version header and one is not required for including the EDIINT-Features header field.

The EDIINT-Features header field is informational, and AS1, AS2, or AS3 trading partners who have not implemented it can safely ignore this header.

5. IANA Considerations

IANA has registered the following provisional header.

Header field name: EDIINT-Features

Applicable protocol: http and mail

Status: provisional

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Specification document(s): this document

Related information: This header will be used in conjunction with the EDIINT WG specifications RFC 4130 (AS2), RFC 3335 (AS1) and RFC 4823 (AS3).

6. Security Considerations

Because headers are often un-encrypted, it may be possible for the EDIINT-Features header field to be altered. Trading partners MAY consult out-of-band to confirm feature support.

7. Normative References

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.

[RFC3335] Harding, T., Drummond, R., and C. Shih, "MIME-based Secure Peer-to-Peer Business Data Interchange over the Internet", RFC 3335, September 2002.

[RFC4130] Moberg, D. and R. Drummond, "MIME-Based Secure Peer-to-Peer Business Data Interchange Using HTTP, Applicability Statement 2 (AS2)", RFC 4130, July 2005.

[RFC4823] Harding, T. and R. Scott, "FTP Transport for Secure Peer-to-Peer Business Data Interchange over the Internet", RFC 4823, April 2007.

[RFC5234] Crocker, D. and P. Overell, "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, RFC 5234, January 2008.

[RFC5402] Harding, T., Ed., "Compressed Data within an Internet Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Message", RFC 5402, February 2010.

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