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RPIDS – Rich Presence Information Data Format for Presence Based on the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)

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Abstract

The Rich Presence Information Data Format for SIP (RPIDS) adds elements to the Presence Information Data Format (PIDF) that provide additional information about the presentity and its contacts. This information can be translated into call routing behavior and/or be delivered to watchers. The information is designed so that much of it can be derived automatically, e.g., from calendar files or user activity.

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1 Introduction

The PIDF definition [1] describes a basic presence information data format for exchanging presence information in CPIM-compliant systems. It consists of a <presence> root element, zero or more <tuple> elements carrying presence information, zero or more <note> elements and zero or more extension elements from other name spaces. Each tuple defines a basic status of either OPEN or CLOSED.

This document provides additional status information for presentities and defines a *Rich Presence Information Data Format for Presence Based on the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)* (RPIDS) to convey this information.

This extension has two main goals:

1. Provide rich presence indication that is at least as powerful as common commercial presence systems. Such feature-parity simplifies transition to CPIM-compliant systems, both in terms of user acceptance and protocol conversion.

2. Maintain compatibility with PIDF, so that PIDF-only watchers and gateways can continue to function properly.

The document here is complementary to the device capability descriptions derived from caller preferences [8]. Both can be used as extensions within the same PIDF document.

We make no assumptions how the information in the RPIDS is generated. Experience has shown that users are not always diligent about updating their presence status. Thus, we want to make it as easy as possible to derive RPIDS information from other information sources, such as calendars, the status of communication devices such as telephones, typing activity and physical presence detectors as commonly found in energy-management systems.

The information in a presence document can be generated by a single entity or can be composed from information published by multiple entities.

Many of the elements correspond to data commonly found in personal calendars. Thus, we attempted to align some of the extensions with the usage found in calendar formats such as iCal [9] and xCal [10], as noted below.

Note that PIDF documents and this extension can be used in two different contexts, namely by the presentity to publish its presence status and by the presence server to notify some set of watchers. The presence server MAY compose, translate or filter the published presence state before delivering customized presence information to the watcher. For example, it may merge presence information from multiple PUAs, remove whole elements, translate values in elements or remove information from elements. Mechanisms that filter calls and other communications to the presentity can subscribe to this presence information just like a regular watcher and in turn generate automated rules, such as scripts [11], that govern the actual communications behavior of the presentity.

The flow diagram below illustrates this process.

```
presentity
   |
   --> publish
         |
         --> PA (filter)
                 --> notification 1 to A, B, C
                 --> notification 2 to D, E
                 --> notification 3 to F
                 --> notification 4 to script gen.
```

2 RPIDS Features

Below, we summarize and motivate the major additional features that RPIDS adds to PIDF.

The PIDF definition does not clearly describe what a <tuple> represents. We add an <class> element (Section 5.3) that labels each tupel as being a presentity, a group of presentities or a device.

While the PIDF definition describes which means of communications are available for a presentity, it does not describe the activity that the presentity is currently engaged in. The <category> (Section 5.6) element adds this information.

To help the watcher gauge the appropriateness of different types of communications, we indicate the type of place the user is currently in, via the <placetype> element (Section 5.5).

PIDF defines a <timestamp> element indicating the date and time of the status change of a tuple. RPIDS adds a validity period for status values, <from> and <until>, as a hint how long the current status is likely to be valid (Section 5.7 and Section 5.8).

The <activity> (Section 5.9) and <idlesince> (Section 5.10) provide information on when the device has last been used.

Presence information can provide hints as to how interruptible the presentity is, thus aiding in finding a time and manner of communications that is mutually convenient for both watcher and presentity. The "priority" callee capability described in [12] and, by reference, included in [8] offers this capability. This appears to be more expressive than the simple "do-not-disturb" indication found in some IM and presence

systems.

An important sub-case is that a presentity is interruptible only under unusual circumstances, after mediation by some, typically human, authority such as a secretary or supervisor. We allow the presentity to convey that certain contact addresses actually belong to a different person, presumably one that can either interrupt the presentity or otherwise assist. The <relationship> (Section 5.11) element allows to indicate that a particular tuple refers to a different principal or presentity.

PIDF only defines tuples for one presentity. In many cases, it is useful to allow presentities to refer to groups of other presentities. For example, a presentity `all@example.com` might consist of

`marketing@example.com`,
`engineering@example.com`, `finance@example.com`.

`engineering@example.com` might in turn have presentities

`alice@example.com`,
`bob@example.org` (an intern), `carol@example.com`,

We add multiple layer to PIDF by defining an extension (Section 5.13) that can in turn contain multiple PIDF presence elements, thus allowing recursion.

We establish the convention that a tuple that has no contact address indicates face-to-face communications. PIDF already notes that "there might be tuples not related to any communications means".

We generally assume that the presence element describes a single human being or a group of humans. However, this is not required. A presentity can also be a "bot" or "avatar", for example.

Note that this document does not defined a new content type. Rather, it inherits the content type from [1], namely `application/cpim-pidf+xml`.

Other useful information about tuples is defined in [8]. In particular, that document allows to describe the media types supported by a contact address, whether it supports recording and the minimum priority of calls admitted.

3 Terminology and Conventions

This memo makes use of the vocabulary defined in the IMPP Model document [2]. Terms such as CLOSED, INSTANT MESSAGE, OPEN, PRESENCE SERVICE, PRESENTITY, WATCHER, and WATCHER USER AGENT in the memo are used in the same meaning as defined therein. The key words MUST, MUSTNOT, REQUIRED, SHOULD, SHOULDNOT, RECOMMENDED, MAY, and OPTIONAL in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP XX, RFC 2119 [3].

4 Groups of Presentities

In many practical applications, a watcher wants to subscribe to groups of presentities rather than individuals. For example, the group membership may change over time and it may thus be difficult to subscribe to all members. If the group is large, the effort of subscription and their renewals may add significant burden to the watcher.

There are several different approaches to group subscriptions:

Group only: The watcher subscribes to a group and only cares about the status of the group as a whole. There is no protocol difference to subscribing to an individual and thus no need for extensions.

Subscription only: The watcher subscribes to a group, but receives individual notifications. This does not require an extensions to PIDF. However, it is useful to indicate in the presence document which presentity caused the notification to be sent, as the watcher otherwise has no idea why he received a particular notification. We add a <parent> element to describe this relationship.

Subscription with redirection: The watcher subscribes to a group. The presence document identifies the group members and allows the watcher to subscribe to each member individually. In PIDF, this is expressed by a "pres" URI in the <contact> element. Each such presentity can in turn be a group, recursively. TBD: How does the watcher find out if group membership has changed? We don't want to list all members in each PIDF notification. This basically becomes draft-roach-sip-list-template.

Subscription with full status: A single notification contains tuples from all presentities that have changed status since the last notification. We allow "recursive" presence definitions, where a <presence> element contains other <presence> elements, encapsulated as <members> (Section 5.13).

5 RPIDS Elements

5.1 Introduction

Below, we describe the RPIDS elements in detail. <label>, <class>, <devicetype>, <from>, <until>, <relationship>, <activity> and <idlesince> extend <status>.

<members> extends the <presence> element.

<placetype> and <category> extend either <presentity> or <status>. If an instance of these elements is used at the <presentity> level, it applies to all tuples, unless overridden by the same element within a tuple.

<status> element in PIDF.

In general, it is highly unlikely that a presentity will publish or announce all of these elements at the same time. Rather, these elements were chosen to give the presentity maximum flexibility in deriving this information from existing sources, such as calendaring tools, device activity sensors or location trackers, as well as to manually configure this information.

The namespace URI for elements defined by this specification is a URN [4], using the namespace identifier 'ietf' defined by [5] and extended by [6]:

```
urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:sip-rpids
```

5.2 Label

The <label> attribute is used by the presentity to label tuples. The value is chosen arbitrarily and MUST NOT be modified by a composing server or PA. There is no requirement that all tuples within a presence document differ in their label or have a label at all. Typically, the label remains the same across subscriptions and across watchers.

> The <label> makes it easier for policies to operate on presence documents. The 'id' <tuple> attribute is not guaranteed to remain constant across subscriptions. The PIDF specification does not prevent a PA from modifying the 'id' attribute. An element, rather than an attribute, was chosen since it appears less likely to cause interoperability problems with plain PIDF parsers.

5.3 Class

The <class> element describes the class of tuple. A tuple can represent a communication facility ("device"), a single presentity ("individual") or a group of presentities ("group"). Additional classes can be registered with IANA.

> URI schema are insufficient to distinguish the different types of tuples. For example, a SIP URI can designate a single device, a presentity, or a group of presentities.

5.4 Device Type

The <devicetype> element describes the type of device represented by the tuple and only applies if the <class> is a "device". The device type can be drawn from the list below or can be free text. Additional device types can be registered with IANA (Section 9).

PC: A workstation, PC, laptop or similar device.

Mobile: A mobile device, such as a cellphone.

Phone: A classical analog or digital telephone.

5.5 Type of Place

The <placetype> element describes the type of place the presentity is currently at. This offers the watcher an indication what kind of communication is likely to be appropriate. We define an initial set of values below:

home: a private or residential setting, not necessarily the personal residence of the presentity, e.g., including hotel or a friend's home;

office: a business setting;

office-public: a business setting with no voice-communications privacy, such as a cubicle;

office-private: a business setting with voice-communications privacy, such as a private office;

driving: a vehicle of some sort being driven by the presentity;

public-transport: in a bus, train, plane or ship, but not driving;

public-quiet: a public place such as a library, restaurant, place-of-worship, or theater that discourages noise;

public: a general public area such as a shopping mall, street, park, train station or airport.

This list can be augmented by free-text values or additional IANA-registered values (Section 9).

The <placetype> element extends the <presence> element or <status> elements. Any <placetype> indication in a <status> element overrides the global, <presence> indication for that tuple.

5.6 Category Indications

The <category> indication describes what the presentity is currently doing. This can be quite helpful to the watcher in judging how appropriate a communication attempt is and which means of communications is most likely to succeed and not annoy the presentity. The activity indications correspond roughly to the category field in calendar entries, such as Section 4.8.1.2 of RFC 2445 [9].

> Use of an enumerated, but extensible, set of activity categories simplifies automated generation and processing of presence information. The categories can be readily selected from a drop-down list by the user or translated from the corresponding category field in calendars. Recipients of this information can render at least a subset as icons, automatically translate them into different languages or convert them to sound "jingles" and speech, or use them to generate call processing rules.

The <category> element extends the <status> element.

A category indication consists of one or more values drawn from the list below, any other token string or IANA-registered values (Section 9). Communities of interest such as a profession or an organization may define additional activity labels for their internal use.

On-the-phone: The presentity is talking on the telephone. This category is included since it can often be derived automatically.

Away: The presentity is physically away from the device location. This category was included since it can often be derived automatically from security systems, energy management systems or entry badge systems.

Appointment: The presentity has a calendar appointment.

Holiday: This is a scheduled national or local holiday. This information can typically be derived automatically from calendars.

Meal: The presentity is scheduled for a meal. This category can often be generated automatically from a calendar.

Meeting: This category can often be generated automatically from a calendar.

Travel: This category can often be generated automatically from a calendar.

Vacation: This category can often be generated automatically from a calendar.

Driving: The owner of the device is currently driving a motor vehicle. This information may again be derivable from environmental sensors.

Busy: User is busy, without further details. This category would typically be indicated manually.

Permant-absence: Presentity will not return for the foreseeable future, e.g., because it is no longer working for the company.

5.7 From

The <from> element indicates how long the current status has been valid, expressed as an absolute time.

5.8 Until

The <until> element indicates how long the current status is likely to be valid, expressed as an absolute time.

This indication allows the watcher to make better decisions. For example, if a presentity indicates that it is likely to be unreachable for an extended period of time, the watcher may decide to request assistance from somebody else, rather than waiting for the presentity to return.

Often, the duration of the status information is not known precisely. Thus, it is helpful to indicate the precision, here expressed in seconds. For example, an absence of "a few hours" can easily be expressed as a time some hours into the future, with a precision of 7200 seconds. [TBD: Does the CPIM date format allow incomplete date and time specifications like 2001-10-27Z?]

> An absolute time was chosen to simplify integration with calendaring applications. This combination appears to be sematically cleaner than enumerating various measurement units such as "months", "weeks", "days" or "hours".

Both the <from> and <until> information might be derived from calendar information, reflecting the start and end time of an activity. (Examples include the Date Time Start and Date Time End properties of RFC 2445. For simplicity, RPIDS only supports single events, without repetition.)

Any statements such as anticipated validity are not historical facts and are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties; actual results may differ from the forward-looking statements.

5.9 Activity

The <activity> element describes whether the owner of the device has recently been actively using the device or not. It can take the values "active" and "inactive". For example, for a PC, the value "inactive" may be inferred from the lack of keyboard and mouse activity. For a telephone, an ongoing call translates into "active".

> The idle indication has been available in many "finger" implementations for several decades.
>
> The <activity> indication provides a qualitative indication that reveals less information to watchers than the <idlesince> element

.

5.10 Idlesince

The <idlesince> records the time and date the communication device was last used. This provides an indication as to how likely a user is to answer the device. Depending on the device, this element can be used together with <activity>, either "active" or "inactive". For example, a keyboard activity detector may still declare a PC that has not seen keyboard activity in two minutes as "active". For session-based devices such as telephones and video conferencing systems, <idlesince> would only be used with an activity value of "inactive".

5.11 Relationship

The <relationship> element designates the type of relationship an alternate contact has with the presentity. This element is provided only if the tuple refers to somebody other than the presentity. Relationship values include "family", "associate" (e.g., for a colleague), "assistant", "supervisor". Other free-text values and additional IANA-registered values (Section 9) can be used as well.

5.12 Timed Status

The <timed-status> describes status information that is either no longer valid or covers some future timeperiod.

Timed status cannot be expressed with <tuples> elements where the period between <status> since PIDF parsers would not be able to distinguish current from future or past information. It is occasionally useful to represent past information since it may be the only known presence information; it may give watchers an indication of the current status. For example, indicating that the presentity was at a meeting that ended an hour ago indicates that the presentity is likely in transit at the current time.

5.13 Members

The <members> element contains zero or more <presence> elements, each describing a member of the group.

Since the extension namespace for <presence> is restricted to ##other, we cannot include the PIDF <presence> directly.

6 Examples

6.1 Single presentity

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
   <presence xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:cpim-pidf"
        xmlns:im="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:cpim-pidf:im"
        xmlns:ep="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:sip-rpids"
        entity="pres:someone@example.com">

     <ep:category>meeting</ep:category>
     <note>I'm in a boring meeting</note>

     <tuple id="7c8dqui">
       <status>
         <basic>open</basic>
         <contact>sip:secretary@example.com</contact>
       </status>
       <ep:relationship>assistant</>
       <note>My secretary</note>
     </tuple>

     <tuple id="18x765">
       <status>
         <basic>open</basic>
         <ep:activity>inactive</ep:activity>
         <ep:idlesince>2003-01-27T10:43:00Z</ep:idlesince>
         <ep:until>2003-01-27T17:30:00Z</ep:unitl>
       </status>
```

```
      <contact priority="0.8">sip:someone@example.com</contact>
      <timestamp>2001-10-27T16:49:29Z</timestamp>

      <ep:timed-status>
        <basic>closed</basic>
        <ep:from>2003-01-27T17:30:00Z</ep:from>
        <ep:until>2003-01-27T19:30:00Z</ep:until>
      </ep:timed-status>
    </tuple>

    <tuple id="35bs9r">
      <status>
        <basic>open</basic>
      </status>
      <contact priority="0.8">im:someone@mobilecarrier.net</contact>
      <timestamp>2001-10-27T16:49:29Z</timestamp>
    </tuple>

    <tuple id="8eg92n">
      <status>
        <basic>open</basic>
      </status>
      <contact priority="1.0">mailto:someone@example.com</contact>
    </tuple>
  </presence>
```

6.2 Multiple Presentities

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
  <presence xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:cpim-pidf"
       xmlns:im="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:cpim-pidf:im"
       xmlns:ep="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:sip-rpids"
       entity="pres:engineering@example.com">

  <tuple id="478">
    <status>
      <basic>open</basic>
    </status>
  </tuple>

  <members>
    <presence ... entity="pres:alice@example.com">
      <tuple id="1">
        <status>
          <basic>open</basic>
```

```
          </status>
          <contact>sip:alice@example.com</contact>
        </tuple>
      </presence>

      <presence ... entity="pres:bob@example.com">
        <tuple id="2">
          <status>
            <basic>closed</basic>
          </status>
          <contact>sip:bob@example.com</contact>
        </tuple>
      </presence>

      <presence ... entity="pres:widget-engineering@example.com">
        <tuple id="3">
          <status>
            <basic>closed</basic>
          </status>
        </tuple>
      </presence>

   </members>

   </presence>
```

7 XML Schema Definition

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
   <xs:schema targetNamespace="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:sip-rpids"
      xmlns:tns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:sip-rpids"
      xmlns:pidf="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:cpim-pidf"
      xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
      elementFormDefault="qualified"
      attributeFormDefault="unqualified">

  <!-- This import brings in the XML language attribute xml:lang-->
      <xs:import namespace="http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace"
      schemaLocation="http://www.w3.org/2001/xml.xsd"/>

  <xs:element name="class" type="tns:class"/>
  <xs:element name="devicetype" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:element name="placetype" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:element name="category" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:element name="relationship" type="xs:token"/>
```

```
<xs:element name="from" type="tns:fromuntil">
<xs:element name="until" type="tns:fromuntil">
<xs:element name="idlesince" type="xs:dateTime">

<xs:element name="timed-status" type="tns:timed-status">

<xs:simpleType name="class">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
     <xs:enumeration value="individual"/>
     <xs:enumeration value="device"/>
     <xs:enumeration value="group"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>

<xs:complexType name="fromuntil">
  <xs:simpleContent>
    <xs:extension base="xs:dateTime">
    </xs:extension>
  </xs:simpleContent>
</xs:complexType>

<xs:complexType name="timed-status">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="basic" type="pidf:basic" minOccurs="0"/>
    <xs:element name="from" type="tns:fromuntil">
    <xs:element name="until" type="tns:fromuntil">
    <xs:element name="note" type="pidf:note">
    <xs:any namespace="##other" processContents="lax" minOccurs="0"
       maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>

<xs:complexType name="members">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:any namespace="pidf" processContents="lax" minOccurs="0"
       maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
```

8 Security Considerations

The security considerations in [1] apply, as well as [7]. Compared to PIDF, this presence document format reveals additional information that can be highly sensitive. Beyond traditional security measures to protect confidentiality and integrity, systems should offer a means to selectively reveal information to particular watchers and to inspect the information that is being published, particularly if it is generated automatically

from other sources, such as calendars or sensors.

9 IANA Considerations

This document calls for IANA to:

- register a new XML namespace URN per [6];
- establish registry for categories (Section 5.6), place types (Section 5.5), and relationships (Section 5.11).

Note that this document does not need a new content type. It inherits the content type from [1], namely `application/cpim-pidf+xml`.

9.1 URN Sub-Namespace Registration for 'urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:sip-rpids'

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:sip-rpids

Description: This is the XML namespace for XML elements defined by RFCXXXX to describe a rich presence information extension for the CPIM-PIDF presence document format in the

`application/cpim-pidf+xml`

content type.

Registrant Contact: IETF, SIMPLE working group, <simple@ietf.org>,
Henning Schulzrinne, <hgs@cs.columbia.edu>

XML:

```
BEGIN
 <?xml version="1.0"?>
 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML Basic 1.0//EN"
 "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-basic/xhtml-basic10.dtd">
 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml
 <head>
      <meta http-equiv="content-type"
      content="text/html;charset=iso-8859-1"/>
      <title>RPIDS -- Rich Presence Information Data Format
for Presence Based on the Session
Initiation Protocol (SIP)</title>
 </head>
 <body>
     <h1>Namespace for SIMPLE rich presence extension</h1>
     <h2>application/cpim-pidf+xml</h2>
     <p>See <a href="[[[URL of published RFC]]]">RFCXXXX</a>.</p>
  </body>
  </html>
 END
```

9.2 Place Type, Device Type, Categories, Relationships

This document creates new IANA registries for categories, device types, place types and relationships. All are XML tokens. Registered tokens must be documented at the time of registration, as most descriptions are expected to be brief.

The SIMPLE working group, or, if no longer available, the SIP working group should be consulted prior to registration.

10 Acknowledgements

The document reflects the discussion on the SIMPLE mailing list, with contributions from many individuals. Hisham Khartabil, Jon Peterson and Brian Rosen provided detailed comments and suggestions.

Normative References

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