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**IMAP Access to IETF Email List Archives
draft-sparks-genarea-imaparch-02**

Abstract

The IETF makes heavy use of email lists to conduct its work. This often involves accessing the archived history of those email lists. Participants would like to have the ability to browse and search those archives using standard IMAP clients. This memo captures the requirements for providing a service that would allow such browsing and searching.

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1. Introduction

The IETF makes heavy use of email lists to conduct its work. This often involves accessing the archived history of those email lists. Requirements for improved web-based browsing and searching of these archives are captured in [[I-D.sparks-genarea-mailarch](#)]. Participants would like to have the ability to browse and search those archives using standard IMAP clients. This memo captures the requirements for providing a service that would allow such browsing and searching.

Discussion of this memo should take place on the ietf@ietf.org mailing list.

2. Requirements for IMAP access to archived IETF lists

Many participants would prefer to access the list archives using IMAP [[RFC3501](#)]. Providing this access while meeting the following requirements will likely require an IMAP server with specialized capabilities.

- o The system should expose the archive using an IMAP interface, with each list represented as a mailbox.
- o This interface must work with standard IMAP clients.
- o The interface should allow users to each have their own read/unread marks for messages. Allowing other annotation is desirable.
- o The interface must have server-side searching enabled, and should support multiple simultaneous extensive searches. The server should facilitate the enhanced search capabilities described in [[I-D.sparks-genarea-mailarch](#)]
- o When the system requires credentials, it must use the datatracker's authentication system
 - While the vast majority of archived lists have an open access policy, some archived lists have restricted archives. The system must make it possible to limit access to a restricted archive based on login credentials.

3. Security Considerations

Allowing IMAP as an interface for browsing and searching the archives of IETF email lists does not affect the security of the Internet in

any significant fashion.

4. IANA Considerations

This document has no actions for IANA.

5. Acknowledgements

This text was derived directly from an earlier version of [[I-D.sparks-genarea-mailarch](#)] which incorporated text suggestions from Alexey Melnikov, Pete Resnick, and S. Moonesamy.

6. Changelog

6.1. 01 to 02

1. Minor editorial changes

6.2. 00 to 01

1. Added requirements to enable controlled access to restricted archives based on credentials
2. Generalized the requirement to use the datatracker's credentials.

6.3. 00

1. Split this set of requirements out from the mailarch doc so that this project could be pursued separately

7. Informative References

[I-D.sparks-genarea-mailarch]
Sparks, R., "IETF Email List Archiving and Search Tool Requirements", [draft-sparks-genarea-mailarch-04](#) (work in progress), February 2012.

[RFC3501] Crispin, M., "INTERNET MESSAGE ACCESS PROTOCOL - VERSION 4rev1", [RFC 3501](#), March 2003.

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