Link relationship types for authentication
draft-pot-authentication-link-00

Abstract

This specification defines a set of relationships that may be used to indicate where a user may authenticate, log out, register a new account or find out who is currently authenticated.

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1. Introduction

[RFC8288] defines a framework and registry for Link Relationship types. This specification defines a set of new relationship types to aid clients in discovering endpoints for authentication and registration: "authenticate", "authenticated-as", "logout" and "register-user".

2. authenticate

The "authenticate" can be used to link to a resource that hosts a page where a user can authenticate itself for the current resource.

For example, this link might refer to a HTML login page.

Example:

<a href="/login" rel="authenticate">Login</a>

This specification doesn’t define the authentication protocol. For example, the link could refer to an OAuth2 authorization endpoint.

3. authenticated-as

The "authenticated-as" link refers to a resource that describes the effective authenticated user for a HTTP response.

Following this link might allow a client to answer the question ‘who am I?’. This might link to a user profile page, or it might link to an API that returns a JSON response with user information.

Example:

Link: <https://api.example.org/users/123-abc>; rel="authenticated-as"

4. logout

The "logout" refers to a resource where an authenticated user might end their session.

In a browser this might clear cookies, or in the case of OAuth2 it could revoke any active authentication tokens.

5. register-user

The "register-user" Link Relation refers to a resource where a user might sign up for a service for the context URI.
The linked resource might contain a HTML registration form, or otherwise instructions that allow a client to find out how to sign up for the service.

6. IANA considerations

This document defines "authenticate", "authenticated-as", "logout" and "register-user" link relation types and adds them to the "Link Relations" registry:

6.1. authenticate link relation

- Relation name: authenticate
- Description: Refers to a resource where a client may authenticate for the context URI.
- Reference: TBD

6.2. authenticated-as link relation

- Relation name: authenticated-as
- Description: Refers to a resource that describes the authenticated entity for the HTTP response.
- Reference: TBD

6.3. logout link relation

- Relation name: logout
- Description: Refers to an endpoint where a client may invalidate the current authentication session.
- Reference: TBD

6.4. register-user link relation

- Relation name: register-user
- Description: Refers to a resource where a client may create a new user account for the context URI.
- Reference: TBD
7. Normative References


Appendix A.  Changelog

A.1. Changes since -00

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