draft-ietf-appsawgmultipart-form-data update to RFC 2388

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History

- 1995: RFC 1867 File Upload (Experimental)
 - focus was entirely file upload in HTML
- 1998: RFC 2388 multipart/form-data (Proposed Standard)
 - Separate, usable for other aps
- 2013: Most widely deployed implementations don't match RFC 2388
 - (one of several out-of-date web-related RFCs)

Form Processing three roles



Form might define method, encoding, destination, etc.

For each form field, field name, expected result type, input method, appearance



HTML, xforms, PDF, app

Following form, interact with user, encode form-data

Browser, reader, other sources

Encode user's input, keyed by form field name as "form data"



multipart/form-data

Receive form data

Parse and interpret form-data

Match against expected fields

In Github repo

- Xml2rfc source
- Issues (2 open, 8 closed)
 - Still need review against all implementations
- test-cases directory
 - Forms, test files, (sometimes) expected results
- Excerpt from HTML spec referencing RFC 2388
 - Success criteria for this work includes "suitable for reference by HTML spec" "rough consensus and running code" includes all popular implementations

Some Issues

- Non-ASCII field names
 - RFC 2388 proposes field names "may be encoded" using RFC 2047
 - Proposal (in draft) using URL-encoded UTF-8 or document char set
- Multiple files per field
 - RFC 2388 proposes nested multipart/mixed
- Non-ASCII file names (optional)
 - Not really addressed in RFC 2388
 - Different circumstance than Content-Disposition?

Tasks remaining

- Complete test cases
- Review implementations vs. proposed solutions
- Review boundary between HTML-specific advice & multipart/form-data definition