

# IMAP4 revision 2

draft-ietf-extra-imap4rev2-00.txt

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# Short History of IMAP

- RFC 1730 (IMAP4) published in 1994
- RFC 3501 (IMAP4rev1) published in 2003
- Many IMAP extensions added since 1994
  - Some of them are pretty universally deployed, e.g. LITERAL+, UIDPLUS, NAMESPACE
- Mark Crispin passed away several years ago
- More implementation (especially clients) were written recently
  - Many don't show up in IETF
- There is an active community of client and server developers

# Goals - general

- Make life easier for client developers who would be able to only implement IMAP4rev2 in the future
  - But try not to boil the ocean in the process
- Easy to implement for IMAP4rev1 server implementors, as they do most of the new things included in IMAP4rev2 already
- IMAP4rev2 can co-exist with IMAP4rev1 on the same port

# Changes done in WG -00

- Added \$MDNSent and \$Forwarded IMAP keywords to the base specification (as SHOULD support. **Upgrade to MUST?**)
- Extended tagged-ext-simple ABNF non terminal to allow number64
- Added official registrations for IMAP/IMAPS ports with IANA.
- STATUS SIZE will be added in -01.

# Future directions - add/ clarify (1 of 2)

- Clarify the most problematic areas, such as
  - BODYSTRUCTURE (parsed MIME structure) is still quite buggy in some implementations
- Combine frequently used operations (STATUS + LIST)
- Add LITERAL-

# Future directions - cleanup

## (2 of 2)

- Get rid of UTF-7 encoded Unicode mailbox names
- Get rid of \Recent flag
  - Multiclient access to the same mailbox made this obsolete
- Get rid of reporting of the first unseen message in a mailbox being opened?
  - Who cares, if you have 60000 messages in your mailbox?
  - Extra work for servers, hardly ever needed by clients
- **Anything else?**

# Open Issues

- Get rid of LSUB (use extended LIST)?
- Add BINARY?

Slides on past  
changes

# Changes done before WG -00 (1 of 2)

- Included errata for RFC 3501
- Updated TLS recommendations (as per UTA WG)
- Added RFC 5530 (IMAP Response Codes), pieces of ABNF for extending IMAP from RFC 4466.

# Changes done before WG -00 (2 of 2)

- Merged in "popular" IMAP extensions which
  - Make the protocol more symmetrical (UNSELECT, UIDPLUS, CLOSED response code)
  - Avoid the need for clients to guess server configuration (NAMESPACE, SPECIAL-USE, bits of LIST-EXTENDED)
  - Make responses more compact/less chatty (ESEARCH)
  - Use ENABLE
  - Other optimizations (SASL-IR, LITERAL+)
  - IDLE
- See Appendix B in the draft for the full list