The „geo“ URI scheme

draft-mayrhofer-geopriv-geo-uri-01

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What is the „geo“ URI scheme?

- An URI is "a compact sequence of characters that identifies an abstract or physical resource" (RFC 3986)
- „geo” URIs identify such physical resources (a geographic location) using a textual representation of the location's spatial coordinates in either two or three dimensions (latitude, longitude, and optionally altitude). Eg:

  geo:37.7856,-122.4105

- Compact, simple, human readable, independent from application, protocol or data format.
Use cases

• Plain URI (typed into navigation device)
• Hyperlink within HTML document (with context from the anchor text)
• Encoded/printed in 2D barcode (decoded via camera by mobile phone)
• … wherever a protocol supports any URI scheme.
  – vCard

• Replace opaque „lat/lon“ style data that has no or weak semantics with a „properly“ defined representation
Syntax

geo:<lat>,<lon>,<alt>]

• WGS 84, as simple as possible

• More syntax options / idea feedback (currently not in the draft):
  – URI parameters (e.g. privacy-related)
    geo:48,16;param=value
  – Query string (to be interpreted by application)
Actual use

- Implemented in Android (fires up map when „geo:“ URI is clicked in browser). Thanks to Ray Bellis for spotting that!
  
  
  - Example: http://nona.net/tool/geouri.html
Status / next steps

• Changes in -01
  – Better WGS 84 terminology (Carl Reed)
  – Removed weak „resolution/uncertainty“ text
  – Added considerations regarding poles and invalid locations

• Feedback?
• WG adoption?