

# Webfinger Overview

- WebFinger is a simple protocol used to discover information about people and entities on the Internet
- It conveys information using “Resource Descriptor Documents” that contain a set of “Link Relations”

# Webfinger (continued)

```
GET /.well-known/host-meta.json?acct:paulej@packetizer.com HTTP/1.1
Host: packetizer.com
```

```
{
  "subject" : "acct:paulej@packetizer.com",
  "links" :
  [
    {
      "rel" : "http://webfinger.net/rel/avatar",
      "href" : "http://www.packetizer.com/people/paulej/images/paulej.jpg"
    },
    {
      "rel" : "http://specs.openid.net/auth/2.0/provider",
      "href" : "https://openid.packetizer.com/paulej"
    },
    {
      "rel" : "http://webfinger.net/rel/profile-page",
      "href" : "http://www.packetizer.com/people/paulej/"
    },
    {
      "rel" : "http://packetizer.com/rel/blog",
      "href" : "http://www.packetizer.com/people/paulej/blog/"
    },
    {
      "rel" : "vcard",
      "href" : "http://www.packetizer.com/people/paulej/paulej.vcf"
    }
  ]
}
```

# Webfinger (continued)

- Builds on the existing Web Host Metadata (RFC 6415) and Web Linking (RFC 5988) specifications
- Use JSON as the mandatory format for data exchange (*XML is optional and may be removed*)
- Includes example (non-normative) Webfinger message flows
- Introduces an “acct” link relation
  - Allows users to cross-reference accounts
  - Example:  
`<Link rel=“acct” href=“acct:alice@example.com” />`
  - *Subject to moving to a separate document*

# Webfinger (continued)

- Defines the "resource" parameter to request information about a specific entity
  - Example:  
GET /.well-known/host-meta.json?resource=acct%3Abob%40example.com HTTP/1.1
  - This is mandatory to support in the server
  - Allows a client to request a subset of the link relations for a resource
- Defines an optional “rel” parameter
  - Allows a client to request a subset of the link relations for a resource
  - For example, one can request for only the link(s) to a person’s blog
- Mandates use of Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)