



IETF 90 - "Basic" authentication scheme

[Julian Reschke](#), greenbytes

Status

- Specification has been rewritten to be consistent with RFC 7235, and now includes the definition of the "charset" parameter

Things Left To Do

- Review of new text / spec organization
- Review of existing security considerations (they really haven't changed from RFC 2617)
- Need to rewrite text that talks about re-using credentials based on URI hierarchy (needs testing)

Extensibility

- MUST ignore unknown parameters
- One auth param was defined before: "realm"
- We are adding a new one: "charset"
- One more was suggested on the mailing list: "username"

So what should the extensibility model be?

- Unspecified (RFC 2617)?
- Update the specification (current draft)?
- IANA registry?

Also: what about I18N in "realm" and "username"? Invoke RFC 5987?

Implementation Notes

Should we mention:

- Handling of colons in user IDs (UA currently just accept them and leave parsing to the recipient)
- Unicode normalization in current UAs

Links

[draft-ietf-httpauth-basicauth-update-01](#) (HTML)

Obsolete: [draft-ietf-httpauth-basicauth-enc-04](#) (HTML)

[httpauth WG SVN @ tools.ietf.org](#)

[Test cases related to parsing WWW-Authenticate](#)

[Test cases related to character encoding](#)