The application/pkix-attr-cert Media Type for Attribute Certificates

Abstract

This document specifies a MIME media type used to carry a single attribute certificate as defined in RFC 5755.

Status of This Memo

This document is not an Internet Standards Track specification; it is published for informational purposes.

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1. Introduction

RFC 2585 [RFC2585] defines the MIME media types for public key certificates and certificate revocation lists (CRLs). This document specifies a MIME media type for use with attribute certificates as defined in RFC 5755 [RFC5755].

Attribute certificates are ASN.1 encoded [X.680]. RFC 5755 [RFC5755] tells which portions of the attribute certificate must use the distinguished encoding rules (DER) [X.690] and which portions are permitted to use the basic encoding rules (BER) [X.690]. Since DER is a proper subset of BER, BER decoding all parts of a properly constructed attribute certificate will be successful.

2. IANA Considerations

This document registers with IANA the "application/pkix-attr-cert" Internet Media Type for use with an attribute certificate as defined in [RFC5755]. This registration follows the procedures defined in BCP 13 [RFC4288].

   Type name: application

   Subtype name: pkix-attr-cert

   Required parameters: None

   Optional parameters: None

   Encoding considerations: binary

   Security considerations:
   An attribute certificate provides authorization information. An attribute certificate is most often used in conjunction with a public key certificate [RFC5280], and the two certificates should use the same encoding of the distinguished name as described in the Security Considerations of this document.

   Interoperability considerations:
   The media type will be used with HTTP to fetch attribute certificates. Other uses may emerge in the future.

   Published specification: RFC 5755
Applications that use this media type:
The media type is used with a MIME-compliant transport to
transfer an attribute certificate. Attribute certificates
convey authorization information, and they are most often used
in conjunction with public key certificates as defined in
[RFC5280].

Additional information:
Magic number(s): None
File extension(s): .ac
Macintosh File Type Code(s): none

Person & email address to contact for further information:
Russ Housley
housley@vigilsec.com

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage: none

Author:
Russ Housley <housley@vigilsec.com>

Intended usage: COMMON

Change controller:
The IESG <iesg@ietf.org>

3. Security Considerations

Attribute certificate issuers must encode the holder entity name in
exactly the same way as the public key certificate distinguished
name. If they are encoded differently, implementations may fail to
recognize that the attribute certificate and public key certificate
belong to the same entity.

4. References

4.1. Normative References

Attribute Certificate Profile for Authorization",
RFC 5755, January 2010.
4.2. Informative References


Author’s Address

Russell Housley
Vigil Security, LLC
918 Spring Knoll Drive
Herndon, VA 20170
USA
EMail: housley@vigilsec.com