A Name-Value Language (ANVL)

(http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-kunze-anvl-01.txt)

Abstract

ANVL (A Name-Value Language) is a simple record syntax based on email headers. An ANVL record is a sequence of data elements ending in a blank line. An element consists of a label, a colon, and an optional value, and a long value may be folded (continued) onto the next line by inserting a newline and indenting the next line. A value folded across several lines is treated as if the lines were joined on one long line; any line beginning with "#" is treated as a "comment". Example ANVL record:

    entry:
    # first draft
    who:  Gilbert, W.S. | Sullivan, Arthur
    what:  The Yeomen of
           the Guard
    when/created:  1888
1. A Name-Value Language

ANVL (A Name-Value Language) is a simple record syntax based on email headers [RFC822]. It is generally much simpler than email headers, but it adds comment lines, record boundaries, and the assumption of UTF-8 [RFC3629] character encoding.

An ANVL record is a sequence of data elements ending in a blank line. An element consists of a label, a colon, and an optional value. Here is an example of a record in the ANVL syntax.

```
entry:
  # first draft
  who: Gilbert, W.S. | Sullivan, Arthur
  what: The Yeomen of the Guard
  when/created: 1888
```

A long value may be folded (continued) onto the next line by inserting a newline and indenting the next line. An element value folded across several lines is treated as if the lines were joined together on one long line, with the end-of-line and any subsequent spaces and tabs considered equivalent to exactly one space. Finally, any line beginning with a ‘#’ (hash) character is treated as if it were not present; this is a "comment" line.

The ANVL specification is silent on the nature or lexical composition of both names and values. Other specifications may use ANVL by layering on semantics and additional syntactic rules, but that is outside the scope of ANVL.

2. Registration of MIME Media Type text/anvl

This section describes, as per [RFC2048], the MIME type associated with the ANVL format.

MIME media type name: text

MIME subtype name: anvl

Required parameters: None

Optional parameters: None

Encoding considerations:

UTF-8 is the default character encoding. While [RFC2046] (section 4.1.1) stipulates that "text" types use CRLF (hex 0d + hex 0a) as an end-of-line marker, in practice this is not always true (e.g., text/xml). It is important for applications also to accept CR or LF by itself
Security considerations:

The ANVL record syntax poses no direct risk to computers and networks. Implementors need to be aware of source authority and trustworthiness of information structured in ANVL. Readers and writers subject themselves to all the risks that accompany normal operation of data processing services (e.g., buffer overflow attacks). Because it discloses and bounds data elements, ANVL may actually be used to clarify and secure a communication that would otherwise be completely unstructured.

Interoperability considerations: None

Published specification: RFC yyy

Applications which use this media type: Any simple data transfer

Additional information: none

Person and email address to contact for further information:

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Intended usage: COMMON

Author/Change controller: IESG

3. IANA Considerations

After IESG approval, IANA is expected to register the ANVL type "text/anvl" using the application provided in this document.

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