<draft-ietf-fax-coverpage-02.txt>
1. Background

- **Traditional fax:**
  - cover information on first page

- **E-mail:**
  - message headers carry information about the message
  - a covering text note and an attached document file

- **Hybrid systems, Internet fax:**
  - try to capture current practice
  - provide consistent behaviour through on/off-ramps
  - avoid loss or duplication of cover information

<draft-ietf-fax-coverpage-02.txt>
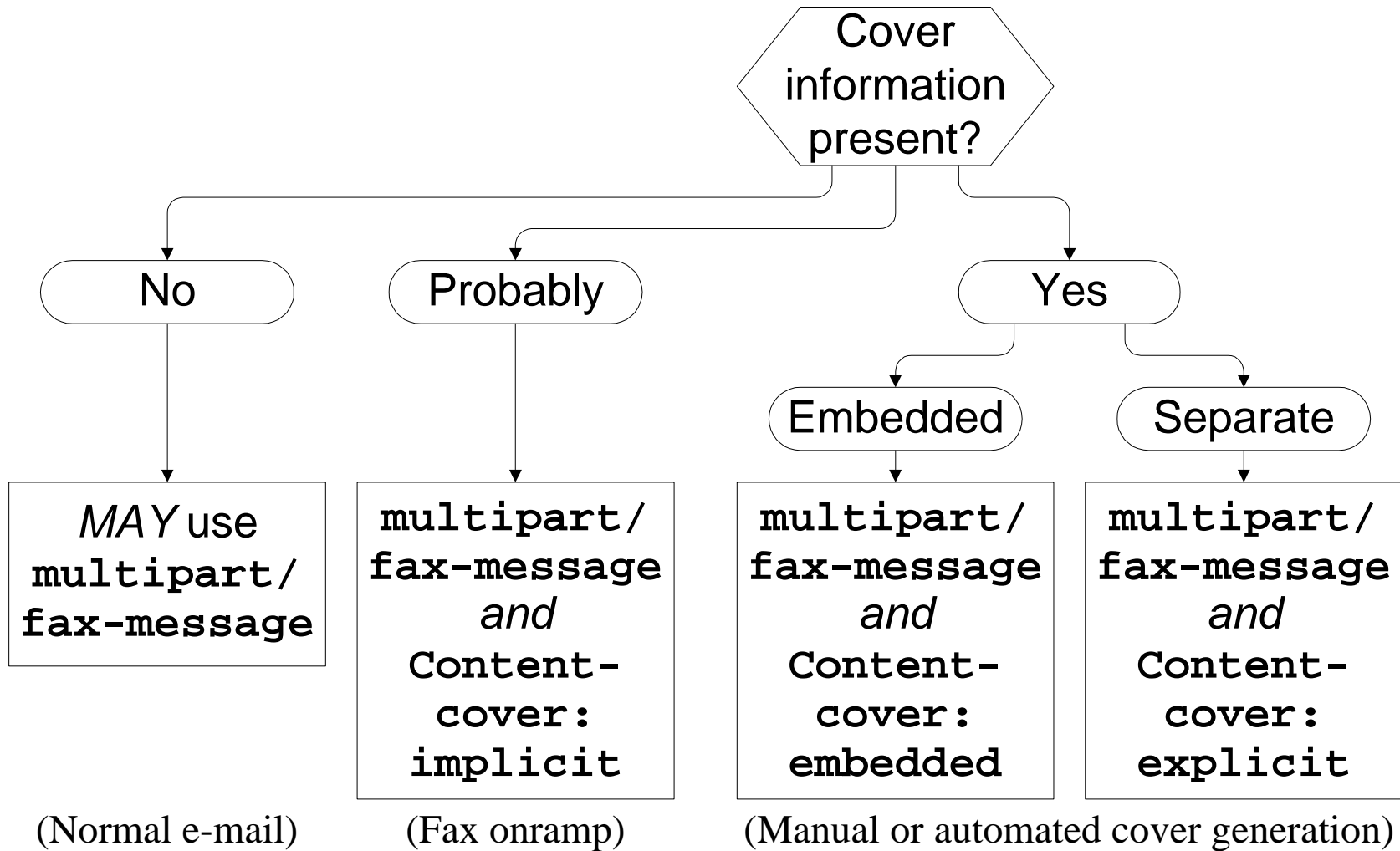# 2. So what *is* cover information?

- **NOT part of the primary message content**
- **ABOUT the message and/or its primary content**
- **NOT specific to the message transfer mechanism (hence not in message transfer protocol elements)**
- **MAY have some effect on disposition of message content after message has been transferred**
    - » *Suggests:*
- **A hierarchy of message-related information:**
    - (a) Primary message content (e.g. text, image, application data)
    - (b) Cover information ("distinguished content")
    - (c) Message headers and encapsulation (e.g. RFC822, MIME)
    - (d) Envelope (e.g. SMTP)

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3. The proposal


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                          Cover
                       information
                        present?
```

No — **Probably** — **Yes** — **Embedded** — **Separate**

MAY use `multipart/ fax-message`	`multipart/ fax-message` *and* `Content- cover: implicit`	`multipart/ fax-message` *and* `Content- cover: embedded`	`multipart/ fax-message` *and* `Content- cover: explicit`

(Normal e-mail)   (Fax onramp)   (Manual or automated cover generation)

<draft-ietf-fax-coverpage-02.txt> 4. Open issues

- **Direction of VPIM Universal Messaging proposals (multipart/fax-message, etc.)**

- **Should use of multipart/fax-message or equivalent be *required* when cover information is present?**

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