

Multimailbox SEARCH Extension

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Purpose

IMAP base SEARCH only searches the current mailbox (SELECT)

Untagged SEARCH responses are indistinguishable, so searches can't be pipelined

New SEARCH options specify what to search

New ESEARCH response includes search tag, so pipelining is possible

History

Introduced some years ago (1990s)

Little interest, so it was abandoned

Recently, more interest

Reintroduced and included in MORG charter

Still interest?

Other differences

Available in authenticated (non-selected) state
UIDs always returned

Message sequence numbers make no sense for
non-selected mailboxes

New source options

Wildcards and depth limit

New result options (future extension)

One ESEARCH response per mailbox

Examples

C: tag1 SEARCH IN (("folder1" "folder2/*") (depth 1)) unseen

C: tag2 SEARCH IN (("folder1" "folder2/*")) subject "chad"

S: * ESEARCH (TAG "tag1" mailbox "folder1") UID ALL 4001,4003,4005,4007,4009

S: * ESEARCH (TAG "tag2" mailbox "folder1") UID ALL 195001:195004,169788

S: * ESEARCH (TAG "tag1" mailbox "folder2/banana") UID ALL 3002,4004

S: * ESEARCH (TAG "tag1" mailbox "folder2/peach") UID ALL 921691

S: tag1 OK done

S: * ESEARCH (TAG "tag2" mailbox "folder2/dubya") UID ALL 50003,50006,50009,50012

S: tag2 OK done

Status

The draft needs some work

- Some errors

- ABNF not finished

- Security considerations not written

- Other notes in the document

Does DEPTH work right?

What should default DEPTH be?

- Infinite?

- 0? 1?

- Implementation-defined (on server)?