

# RFC5451bis

Authentication-Results Header Field  
Update

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# What It Is

- From 2000 forward, there was a number of efforts to create message sender authentication mechanisms
  - SPF (RFC4406), Sender-ID (RFC4407-8), DomainKeys (RFC4870), DKIM (RFC4871) all appeared during this period
- Each of these created a header field for the purpose of relaying the receiver-side results of authentication efforts
  - Different field names, different formats
  - Lots of separate parsing code, lots of room for mistakes

# What It Is

- RFC5451 defined a new message header field called Authentication-Results that provides a common location and format to collect this data
- Also describes under what conditions the field should be added by verifiers, and when it should be ignored or removed for trust reasons

# Deployment Experience

- Lots of deployment has been observed since publication
  - Open source MTA plugins: OpenDKIM, dkim-milter, dk-milter, sid-milter, hashcash milter
  - Open source webmail: Roundcube
  - Other open source: DKIMproxy
  - Commercial: Gmail, Yahoo!, AOL (someday)

# Deployment Experience

- A few issues have come to light that the original didn't address
  - Original specification has no way to indicate, for a message with multiple DKIM signatures, which signature's result is being reported
  - There is demand for a mechanism to indicate proxied results, such as the result of verification a list manager did prior to altering the message

# RFC5451bis Effort

- Work is beginning on an update draft to address these two industry needs
- Will be offering it to the DKIM Working Group (SEC) first since both issues relate particularly to them
- If they aren't interested, will seek individual submission sponsorship from APPS again
- Probably doesn't need a WG of its own, but we can go that way if needed

# RFC5451bis Effort

- Beginning to gather interested parties to restart the discussion given the new ideas
- Mailing list ([mail-vet-discuss@mipassoc.org](mailto:mail-vet-discuss@mipassoc.org)) is still available
  - Will post the current draft there soon to get things going, as well as to the I-D repository
- Will also post to DKIM WG list to see if they want to take up the work
  - Somewhat related to one of their re-chartering items
- Interested parties welcome to join