



Trace-information and Internal-trace-information

The elements carrying trace information may be used for the following purposes:

- 1) MTAs, when routing a message, verify the trace field to ensure that the message is not *looping* (refer to the next figure).
- 2) An MD manager can analyse the fields carrying trace information for *troubleshooting* purposes or to collect statistical or usage information.
- 3) If the originating-MTA has selected an *audited-report*, the MTA generating the delivery (or non-delivery) report copies the entire trace field from the message into the report. Such information may be used by an MD administrator for troubleshooting purposes or to collect statistical information.

Looping test

Audited-report

As depicted in the above figure, the MTE contains two elements containing trace information: the *trace-information* element and the *internal-trace-information* element. The first trace-information-element (internal-trace-information-element) is supplied by the originating-MD (-MTA) of the message. Even though the generation of trace information is illustrated above for message transfer, trace information documents also actions taken on a probe or report.

Trace-information
Internal-trace-information

Trace-information element

This element describes how the message was handled as it is handed over from MD to MD; that is, each MD adds one trace entry.

Internal-trace-information element

This element contains trace information on a per MTA basis; that is, each MTA within the MD adds trace information, indicating how it handled the message. The element is, however, an MD's private information, and may be removed from the MTE before transferring the message to the next MD.

Application to Probes and Reports

Trace-information and internal-trace-information is generated for probes and reports in the same manner as for messages. The information is collected in the probe transfer envelope or report transfer envelope, respectively.


references

- ISO/IEC 10021-4:2003, Section 12.3.1 (Trace-information and internal-trace information), Tables 30 (Message transfer), 31 (Probe transfer) and 32 (Report transfer)