

Improving the /createRoom API

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Problem scope

There are several properties on the `/createRoom` endpoint that are not required due to other methods being available, as described in this proposal.

The affected routes are:

- `POST /_matrix/client/r0/createRoom`

This proposal was created for [matrix-doc#1326](#).

Background

The proposed-to-be-deprecated keys were added before `initial_state` whereby they were the only way to set name, topic and other values in the `/createRoom` call ([commit](#)). Nowadays they are effectively a shorthand method of adding the events manually to `initial_state`.

The current behaviour of the `/createRoom` API includes having the `state_key` on events listed in `initial_state` default to an empty string. It is believed by several community members that this is an invalid assumption because some state events, specified or custom, may require a particular state key be set (a user ID, etc).

Proposal

The following properties in the request body should be deprecated in favour of using the available `initial_state` property.

Property	Corresponding state event type
<code>name</code>	<code>m.room.name</code>
<code>avatar</code>	<code>m.room.avatar</code>
<code>topic</code>	<code>m.room.topic</code>
<code>guest_can_join</code>	<code>m.room.guest_access</code>

The properties should be deprecated because `initial_state` exists and because the properties do not cover the wide range of possible options. Further, proposing new fields for every state event that could be updated feels needlessly slow and bloated.

Further, the server must validate the events provided to `initial_state` to ensure that the `type`, `content`, and `state_key` are provided. The `state_key` may be an empty string for unrecognized event types or state events which permit the value. The server must validate the events it does recognize to ensure that the `content` and `state_key` are relevant. The server must also validate the `type` to ensure it is formatted as a valid event type (ie: not an empty string).