

Improving event structure for human representation and handling unrecognised event types.

This is now obsoleted by

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FUUVFzTOF4a6XBKVTk55bVRIk4N9u5uZkHS4Rjr_SGxo

The problem:

1. we don't have a way of expressing arbitrary event types in an optional human representation for display in a timeline (eg a chat client, debugging logs, or other visualisation of events to be consumed by humans)
2. we don't have a way of handling type hierarchies of **unknown** event types - eg knowing that a "video" should be treated like a "file" if our client cannot handle video specifically.
3. we don't have a way of annotating human representations to show which underlying data fields they relate to. **<- the options below do not try to solve this issue**

(this is an attempt at a simpler re-statement of the problem & current solutions on the table from the more sprawling and disorganised

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I08DL_F_CHo1plORXzcgWLIZQpztoqMFUTYmxd4Gr5s/edit)

I like Option G atm (Feb 2018) -- matthew

Option A: Any event can have body/_display keys for human representation.

Pros: Direct backwards compat. Simple. No server changes.

Cons: Doesn't address event specialisation (e.g. "this event describes a movie, which is a type of file, which is a type of room message") or collation ("this event describes both temperature and humidity data types")

example 1:

```
{
  type: "net.arasphere.temperature", // the matrix event.type
  content: {
    body: "The temperature is 37C",
    _display: [
      {
        mimetype: "text/html",
        body: "The temperature is <font color='#f00'>37C</font>"
      },
      {
        mimetype: "text/markdown",
        body: "The temperature is **37C**"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

```

    },
  ],
  temperature: 37.0,
}
}

```

example 2:

```

{
  type: "m.room.video",
  content: {
    body: "filename.mov",
    _display: [
      {
        mimetype: "text/html",
        body: "Video of mxc://matrix.org/378ye12$wdqefdv",
      }
    ],
    url: "mxc://matrix.org/378ye12$wdqefdv",
    size: 6413423,
    width: 640,
    height: 480,
    duration: 350,
  }
}

```

Option B: We collate together events which describe the equivalent thing

Pros: supports groupings of arbitrary events. no risk of clashes between fields of events.

Cons: Server & Client changes; not backwards compatible; doesn't easily allow metadata from one event to be referenced in another. Gets confused with other 'relates to' mechanisms to associate events with one another.

<Rejected as disadvantages too significant>

```

{
  type: "net.arasphere.ambient",
  content: {
    subevents: [
      {
        type: "net.arasphere.temperature",
        temperature: 37.0,
        body: "Temperature is 37C",
        _display: ...,
      },
      {
        type: "net.arasphere.humidity",
        humidity: 68,
        body: "Humidity is 68%",
      }
    ]
  }
}

```

```

        _display: ...,
    }
]
}
}

```

(human representation is "Temperature is 37C, Humidity is 68%")

Option C: We define a type hierarchy on each event

(as proposed by Aviral). Client tries to present UI for the most specific type it can. (Mixins is a subset of this)

Pros: Can be backwards compatible. supports specialisation & collations of arbitrary events.

Cons: Minor Server & Client changes. risk of clashes between field names. confusing behaviour if parent types get missed out, or if you specify 2 parent types which have the same key name (multiple inheritance!!).

```

{
  type: "net.arasphere.temperature", // the matrix event.type
  extends: [ "m.room.message" ],
  content: {
    body: "The temperature is 37C", // from m.room.message
    _display: [ // from m.room.message
      {
        mimetype: "text/html",
        body: "The temperature is <font color='#f00'>37C</font>"
      },
      {
        mimetype: "text/markdown",
        body: "The temperature is **37C**"
      },
    ],
    temperature: 37.0, // from net.arasphere.temperature
  }
}

```

OR:

```

{
  type: "m.room.video",
  extends: [ "m.room.file", "m.room.message" ],
  content: {
    url: "mxc://matrix.org/378ye12$wdqefdv", // taken from m.room.file
    size: 6413423, // taken from m.room.file
    width: 640, // taken from m.room.video
  }
}

```

```
        height: 480,    // taken from m.room.video
        duration: 350, // taken from m.room.video
    }
}
```

Option D: Duck Typing

Pros: solves event combination. no risk of clashes between field names. vaguely backwards compatible (as type is effectively ignored).

Cons: longer field names; more bandwidth. implementation-wise it'd be nice to have a meaningful 'type' field rather than having to guess from the ungodly mix of fields on the event - and this doesn't even work on E2E, so we'd have to have the 'extends' thing anyway.

```
{
  type: "m.room.message",
  content: {
    net.arasphere.temperature.temperature: 37.0,
    body: "The temperature is 37C",
    body.text/html: "The temperature is <font color='#f00'>37C</font>",
    body.text/markdown: "The temperature is **37C**"
  }
}
```

or:

```
{
  type: "m.room.message",
  content: {
    m.room.file.url: "mxc://matrix.org/378ye12$wdqefdv", // taken from m.room.file
    m.room.file.size: 6413423, // taken from m.room.file
    m.room.video.width: 640, // taken from m.room.video
    m.room.video.height: 480, // taken from m.room.video
    m.room.video.duration: 350, // taken from m.room.video
  }
}
```

Option E: Put event hierarchy in the event type.

Pros: solves event specialisation (but not combination). vaguely backwards compatible.

Cons: doesn't provide arbitrary mixins or event collation.

```
{
  // we keep lopping off the final .$term sequence of the type
  // until we find a type we know how to display
  type: "m.room.message.file.video",
  content: {
    body: "filename.mov",
    _display: [
      {
        mimetype: "text/html",
        body: "Video of mxc://matrix.org/378ye12$wdqefd",
      }
    ],
    url: "mxc://matrix.org/378ye12$wdqefd",
    size: 6413423,
    width: 640,
    height: 480,
    duration: 350,
  }
}
```

Option F: Mixins but with explicit types and grouping

Pros: solves event specialisation, combination, arbitrary mixins

Cons: not backwards compatible, although one can keep the old keys in there.

We deliberately don't allow for multiple 'attachments' for a given message, and instead assume that `relates_to` would let you associate such attachments with a parent message. Likewise, no nesting. This is just a way of mixing in different types to have a richer *single* event.

```
{
  type: "m.room.image",
  also: ["m.room.location", "m.room.message", "m.room.file"],
  content: {
    m.body: {
      text/plain: "A beautiful image",
      text/html: "A <i>beautiful</i> image",
    },
    m.thumbnail: {
      w: 160,
      h: 120,
      mimetype: 'image/jpeg',
      url: 'mxc://matrix.org/21fhuiwvuihs'
    },
    m.location: "geo:37.786971,-122.399677;u=35",
    m.image: {
      w: 640,
      h: 480,
    },
    m.file: {
      url: 'mxc://matrix.org/28zouhcxiuhe'
      mimetype: 'image/jpeg',
      size: 542321,
    }
  }
}
```

Option G: Like option F, except that the fields are under the type.

(by Erik)

```
{
  "type": "m.room.message",
  "content": {
    "m.room.location": { "uri": "geo:37.786971,-122.399677;u=35"},
    "m.room.message": { ... },
    "m.room.file": {
      "url": "mxc://matrix.org/28zouhcxiuhe",
      "mimetype": "image/jpg",
      "size": 542321,
    },
    "m.room.image": {
      "w": 640,
      "h": 480,
    },
    "m.room.thumbnail": {
      "w": 160,
      "h": 120,
      "size": 1234,
      "mimetype": "image/jpg",
      "url": "mxc://matrix.org/21fhuiwvuihs"
    }
  }
}
```

This is mainly an example of a way of doing something that is easier for non-dynamic language clients to consume. For example, this event could easily be serialized/deserialized as something like:

```
{content: Map<String, MessageType>}
```

Where MessageType is an algebraic enum like:

```
{
  Location{ uri: String },
  Message { body: String, ...}
  ...
}
```