RSW-0009 — Messaging and Comments

Revision 0.01 | Protocol rsw/1 | Format 1 | Experimental proposal

Developed by Pablo Murad — November 23, 2026 — pablo@pablomurad.com — https://rsw.works

Experimental Project Specification. This document is an experimental specification of the Really Small Web project. It is a work in progress and has not been published as an RFC or approved as an Internet Standard.

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Post-MVP — experimental draft; not enabled in basic rsw/1

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MUST and MUST NOT indicate requirements of the described profile; SHOULD indicates a recommendation; MAY indicates an option. Experimental document, not yet ratified or implemented. The rules of RSW-0001 through RSW-0003 remain applicable.

01. Scope

Post-MVP social extension of RSW-0008. Interactions are external events, not changes to a signed cartridge. There is no chat in the basic rsw/1 profile. This proposal defines public messages, comments, reactions, and following; cryptographic privacy is the subject of RSW-0014.

02. Identifiers and Bodies

All events use the envelope, signature, nonce, and id of RSW-0008. body fields are exact, without null or extra fields. Identities use ed25519: + Base32 of RSW-0003. Object/event identifiers use sha256: + 64 lowercase hex. Text: valid UTF-8, without NUL or C0/C1 controls except LF and TAB; display as plain text, not HTML.

follow: {target, active}; target is a public identity key; active is a boolean. It does not allow implicitly following a person because they appear in peers. A public follow is a declaration, not an authorization. Local following may exist without publishing events. comment: {object, text} or {object, text, reply_to}; object = H_png of the exact cartridge; text 1..4096 bytes with non-whitespace content; reply_to = a comment id on the same object. Do not require the parent to be available to store; present it as a parentless reply when missing and verify when it arrives. reaction: {target, kind, active}; target is a comment event id, kind enum like, thanks, or bookmark; active boolean. A public bookmark is intentional; it does not automatically correspond to private favorites. message: {to, text} or {to, text, reply_to}; to is the recipient's key, text 1..4096 bytes; reply_to is a message id between the same pair of participants. It is a public addressed message, never a private message. The interface MUST warn before transmitting. Clients that only offer private messages must disable message and use RSW-0014 when supported.

03. Interpretation and Order

Comments are immutable and bound to H_png, not automatically transferred to the next edition. A reader may aggregate distinct editions only showing their origin. Visual ordering may use created_at with id as a tiebreaker, without treating the date as proof. Follow and reaction represent state per (public_key, target[, kind]); for deterministic synchronization, choose the largest (created_at, id) in UTC lexicographic and hex order. This criterion is a presentation convention, not a guarantee of most recent intent; wrong clocks may require manual reset. No event changes trust, updates software, or grants permission. Do not interpret text links as automatic downloads.

04. Delivery, Moderation, and Deletion

Explicit send by the privileged client, without arbitrary signing by a cartridge. Nodes may store, moderate, or reject events; node-confirmed receipt does not guarantee reading. Show states local, sent to node, failed; do not invent delivered/read. Resending the same action uses the existing id; a new action uses a new nonce. Do not generate automatic notifications or public receipts. Apply identity blocks, quotas, and local filters. Messages from strangers enter a separate box, without attachments or HTML. Do not download quoted content until a click. No node guarantees global removal of replicated events; local hiding and retention-policy deletion do not invalidate the signature.

05. Tests and Pending Items

Test duplicate send, fake sender, cross reply, comment on a previous version, deactivated follow, out-of-order events, Unicode, controls, spam, reactions to a nonexistent id, and confirmation of the public nature. Pending: a sequence model better than clocks for mutable states, abuse reporting policy, UX, contact synchronization, privacy review, and implementation. Not required for the first RSW network. References: RSW-0003/0008/0011/0014/0016.

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