

1.3.5 Technical messages

WhatsApp sometimes generates messages when something happens in a chat. If, for example, a user leaves a group, the message can be *Peter left* or *Peter hat die Gruppe verlassen*. In order to get one wording for these messages, we encoded them, e.g. *actionQuserOUT*.

This results in the following values for the field *msg_type*:

- actionQiconDEL: the avatar was deleted
- actionQiconUPD: the avatar was changed
- actionQsubjUPD: the name of a group was updated
- actionQuerIN: a speaker was added to a group
- actionQuserOUT: a speaker was removed or removed themselves
- actionQuserREM: Meta text about a speaker in a group chat

Other options in the field *msg_type* are:

- content: A message with text written by a communication partner
- encrypted: A message that was encrypted
- media: A message that contained a media file such as a sound file, an image or a video
- no consent: A message written by a communication partner who did not give [permission](#) for his texts to be used.

Since most of these technical messages do not contain any text, they are also marked in the field *tok* as follows:

- mediaQremoved: for media that we removed
- emptyQmsg: an empty message
- encryptedQmsg: some informants encrypted their messages
- systemQspk53: says very generally, that speaker 53 did something from the first bullet list above, e.g. leave a group.

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