

1.2.5 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
- `actionQuserIN` 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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