

Mapping of Media Streams to Resource Reservation Flows

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

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Abstract

This document defines an extension to the Session Description Protocol (SDP) grouping framework. It allows requesting a group of media streams to be mapped into a single resource reservation flow. The SDP syntax needed is defined, as well as a new "semantics" attribute called Single Reservation Flow (SRF).

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1. Introduction

Resource reservation protocols assign network resources to particular flows of IP packets. When a router receives an IP packet, it applies a filter in order to map the packet to the flow it belongs. The router provides the IP packet with the Quality of Service (QoS) corresponding to its flow. Routers typically use the source and the destination IP addresses and port numbers to filter packets.

Multimedia sessions typically contain multiple media streams (e.g. an audio stream and a video stream). In order to provide QoS for a multimedia session it is necessary to map all the media streams to resource reservation flows. This mapping can be performed in different ways. Two possible ways are to map all the media streams to a single resource reservation flow or to map every single media stream to a different resource reservation flow. Some applications require that the former type of mapping is performed while other applications require the latter. It is even possible that a mixture of both mappings is required for a particular media session. For instance, a multimedia session with three media streams might require that two of them are mapped into a single reservation flow while the third media stream uses a second reservation flow.

This document defines the SDP [1] syntax needed to express how media streams need to be mapped into reservation flows. For this purpose, we use the SDP grouping framework [2] and define a new "semantics" attribute called Single Reservation Flow (SRF).

1.1 Terminology

In this document, the key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14, RFC 2119 [3] and indicate requirement levels for compliant SIP implementations.

2. SRF Semantics

We define a new "semantics" attribute within the SDP grouping framework [2]: Single Reservation Flow (SRF).

Media lines grouped using SRF semantics SHOULD be mapped into the same resource reservation flow. Media lines that do not belong to a particular SRF group SHOULD NOT be mapped into the reservation flow used for that SRF group.

Note that an SRF group MAY consist of a single media line. In that case, following the definition above, that media line will be mapped into one reservation flow. That reservation flow will carry traffic from that media line, and from no other media lines.

3. Applicability Statement

The way resource reservation works in some scenarios makes it unnecessary to use the mechanism described in this document. Some resource reservation protocols allow the entity generating the SDP session description to allocate resources in both directions (i.e., sendrecv) for the session. In this case, the generator of the session description can choose any particular mapping of media flows and reservation flows.

The mechanism described in this document is useful when the remote party needs to be involved in the resource reservation.

4. Examples

For this example, we have chosen to use SIP [4] to transport SDP sessions and RSVP [5] to establish reservation flows. However, other protocols or mechanisms could be used instead without affecting the SDP syntax.

A user agent receives a SIP INVITE with the SDP below:

```
v=0
o=Laura 289083124 289083124 IN IP4 one.example.com
t=0 0
c=IN IP4 192.0.0.1
a=group:SRF 1 2
m=audio 30000 RTP/AVP 0
a=mid:1
m=video 30002 RTP/AVP 31
a=mid:2
```

This user agent uses RSVP to perform resource reservation. Since both media streams are part of an SRF group, the user agent will establish a single RSVP session. An RSVP session is defined by the triple: (DestAddress, ProtocolId[, DstPort]). Table 1 shows the parameters used to establish the RSVP session.

If the same user agent received an SDP session description with the same media streams but without the group line, it would be free to map the two media streams into two different RSVP sessions.

Session Number	DestAddress	ProtocolId	DstPort
1	192.0.0.1	UDP	any

Table 1: Parameters needed to establish the RSVP session

5. IANA Considerations

IANA has registered the following new "semantics" attribute for the SDP grouping framework [2]. It has been registered in the SDP parameters registry (<http://www.iana.org/assignments/sdp-parameters>) under Semantics for the "group" SDP Attribute:

Semantics	Token	Reference
-----	-----	-----
Single Reservation flow	SRF	[RFC3524]

6. Security Considerations

An attacker adding group lines using the SRF semantics to an SDP session description could force a user agent to establish a larger or a smaller number of resource reservation flows than needed. This could consume extra resources in the end-point or degrade the quality of service for a particular session. It is thus STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that integrity protection be applied to the SDP session descriptions. For session descriptions carried in SIP, S/MIME is the natural choice to provide such end-to-end integrity protection, as described in RFC 3261 [4]. Other applications MAY use a different form of integrity protection.

7. Acknowledgements

Jonathan Rosenberg provided useful comments about the applicability of the mechanism described in this document.

8. Normative References

- [1] Handley, M. and V. Jacobson, "SDP: Session Description Protocol", RFC 2327, April 1998.
- [2] Camarillo, G., Eriksson, G., Holler, J. and H. Schulzrinne, "Grouping of Media Lines in the Session Description Protocol (SDP)", December 2002.
- [3] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to indicate requirement levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.

9. Informative References

- [4] Rosenberg, J., Schulzrinne, H., Camarillo, G., Johnston, A., Peterson, J., Sparks, R., Handley, M. and E. Schooler, "SIP: Session Initiation Protocol", RFC 3261, June 2002.
- [5] Braden, R., Zhang, L., Berson, S., Herzog, S. and S. Jamin, "Resource ReSerVation protocol (RSVP) -- Version 1 Functional Specification", RFC 2205, September 1997.

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