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Interoperability Profile for Relay User Equipment

Abstract

Video Relay Service (VRS) is a term used to describe a method by which a hearing person can communicate with a sign language speaker who is deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing (HoH) or has a speech disability using an interpreter (i.e., a Communications Assistant (CA)) connected via a videophone to the sign language speaker and an audio telephone call to the hearing user. The CA interprets using sign language on the videophone link and voice on the telephone link. Often the interpreters may be employed by a company or agency, termed a "provider" in this document. The provider also provides a video service that allows users to connect video devices to their service and subsequently to CAs and other sign language speakers. It is desirable that the videophones used by the sign language speaker conform to a standard so that any device may be used with any provider and that direct video calls between sign language speakers work. This document describes the interface between a videophone and a provider.

Status of This Memo

This is an Internet Standards Track document.

This document is a product of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). It represents the consensus of the IETF community. It has received public review and has been approved for publication by the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG). Further information on Internet Standards is available in Section 2 of RFC 7841.

Information about the current status of this document, any errata, and how to provide feedback on it may be obtained at <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc9248>.

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Acknowledgements

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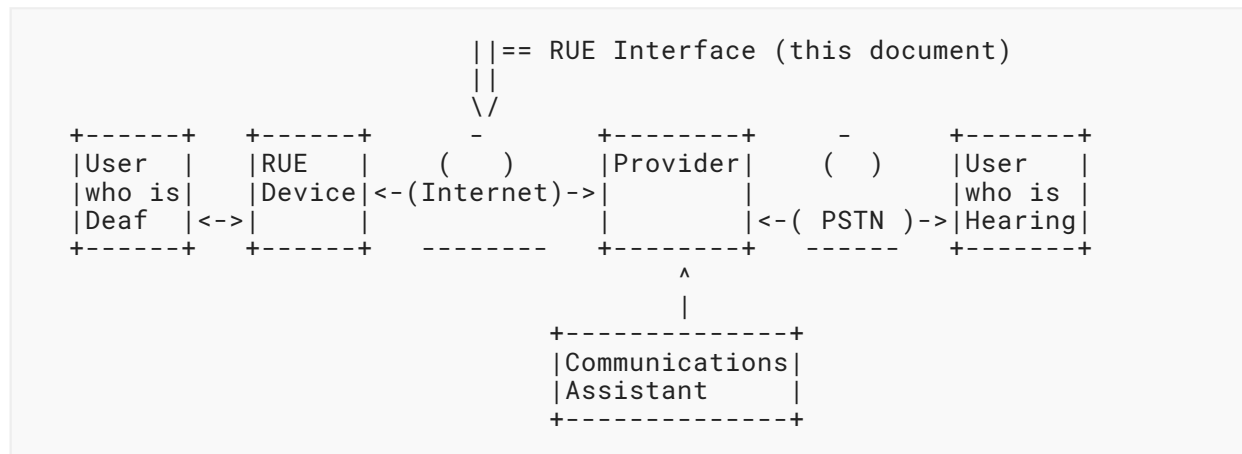
1. Introduction

Video Relay Service (VRS) is a form of Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) that enables people with hearing disabilities who use sign language, such as American Sign Language (ASL), to communicate with voice telephone users through video equipment. These services also enable communication between such individuals directly in suitable modalities, including any combination of sign language via video, real-time text, and speech.

This interoperability profile for Relay User Equipment (RUE) is a profile of the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) and related media protocols that enables end-user equipment registration and calling for VRS calls. It specifies the minimal set of call flows and IETF and ITU-T standards that must be supported, provides guidance where the standards leave multiple implementation options, and specifies minimal and extended capabilities for RUE calls.

Both subscriber-to-provider (interpreted) and direct subscriber-to-subscriber calls are supported on this interface. While there are some accommodations in this document to maximize backwards compatibility with other devices and services that are used to provide VRS service, backwards compatibility is not a requirement, and some interwork may be required to allow direct video calls to older devices. This document only describes the interface between the device and the provider, not any other interface the provider may have.

The following illustrates a typical relay call. The RUE device and the communications assistant (sign language interpreter) have videophones. The hearing user has a telephone (mobile or fixed).



2. Terminology

Communications Assistant (CA):
 A sign-language interpreter working for a VRS provider, providing functionally equivalent phone service.

Communication modality (modality):

A specific form of communication that may be employed by two users, e.g., English voice, Spanish voice, American Sign Language, English lipreading, or French real-time text. Here, one communication modality is assumed to encompass both the language and the way that language is exchanged. For example, English voice and French voice are two different communication modalities.

Default video relay service:

The video relay service operated by a subscriber's default VRS provider.

Default video relay service provider (default provider):

The VRS provider that registers and assigns a telephone number to a specific subscriber and, by default, provides the VRS for incoming voice calls to the user. The default provider, also by default, provides the VRS for outgoing relay calls. The user can have more than one telephone number, and each has a default provider.

Outbound dial-around call:

A relay call where the subscriber specifies the use of a VRS provider other than the default VRS provider. This can be accomplished by the user dialing a "front-door" number for a VRS provider and signing or texting a phone number to call ("two-stage"). Alternatively, this can be accomplished by the user's RUE software instructing the server of its default VRS provider to automatically route the call through the alternate provider to the desired Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) directory number ("one-stage"). Dial-around is per call; for any call, a user can use the default VRS provider or any dial-around VRS provider.

Full Intra Request (FIR):

A request to a video media sender, requiring that media sender to send a decoder refresh point at the earliest opportunity. FIR is sometimes known as "instantaneous decoder refresh request", "video fast update request", or "fast update request".

Point-to-Point Call (P2P Call):

A call between two RUEs, without including a CA.

Relay call:

A call that allows people with hearing or speech disabilities to use a RUE to talk to users of conventional voice services with the aid of a CA to relay the communication.

Relay service (RS):

A service that allows a registered subscriber to use a RUE to make and receive relay calls, point-to-point calls, and relay-to-relay calls. The functions provided by the relay service include the provision of media links supporting the communication modalities used by the caller and callee, user registration and validation, authentication, authorization, automatic call distributor (ACD) platform functions, routing (including emergency call routing), call setup, mapping, call features (such as call forwarding and video mail), and assignment of CAs to relay calls.

Relay service provider (provider):

An organization that operates a relay service. A subscriber selects a relay service provider to assign and register a telephone number for their use, to register with for receipt of incoming calls, and to provide the default service for outgoing calls.

Relay user:

Please refer to "subscriber".

Relay user E.164 Number (user E.164):

The telephone number (in ITU-T E.164 format) assigned to the user.

Relay User Equipment (RUE):

A SIP user agent (UA) enhanced with extra features to support a subscriber in requesting, receiving, and using relay calls. A RUE may take many forms, including a stand-alone device; an application running on a general-purpose computing device, such as a laptop, tablet, or smartphone; or proprietary equipment connected to a server that provides the RUE interface.

RUE interface:

The interfaces described in this document between a RUE and a VRS provider who supports it.

Sign language:

A language that uses hand gestures and body language to convey meaning, including, but not limited to, American Sign Language (ASL).

Subscriber:

An individual who has registered with a provider and who obtains service by using a RUE. This is the conventional telecom term for an end-user customer, which in this case is a relay user. A user may be a subscriber to more than one VRS provider.

Video Relay Service (VRS):

A relay service for people with hearing or speech disabilities who use sign language to communicate using video equipment (video RUE) with other people in real time. The video link allows the CA to view and interpret the subscriber's signed conversation and relay the conversation back and forth with the other party.

3. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here. Lower- or mixed-case uses of these key words are not to be interpreted as carrying special significance.

4. General Requirements

All HTTP/HTTPS [RFC9110] [RFC9112] connections specified throughout this document **MUST** use HTTPS. Both HTTPS and all SIP connections **MUST** use TLS conforming to at least [RFC7525] and **MUST** support [RFC8446].

All text data payloads not otherwise constrained by a specification in another standards document **MUST** be encoded as Unicode UTF-8.

Implementations **MUST** support IPv4 and IPv6. Dual-stack support is NOT required, and provider implementations **MAY** support separate interfaces for IPv4 and IPv6 by having more than one server in the appropriate SRV record where there is either an A or AAAA record in each server DNS record but not both. The same version of IP **MUST** be used for both signaling and media of a call unless Interactive Connectivity Establishment (ICE) [RFC8445] is used; in which case, candidates may explicitly offer IPv4, IPv6, or both for any media stream.

5. SIP Signaling

Implementations of the RUE interface **MUST** conform to the following core SIP standards:

- [RFC3261] (Base SIP)
- [RFC3263] (Locating SIP Servers)
- [RFC3264] (Offer/Answer)
- [RFC3840] (User Agent Capabilities)
- [RFC5626] (Outbound)
- [RFC8866] (Session Description Protocol)
- [RFC3323] (Privacy)
- [RFC3605] (RTCP Attribute in SDP)
- [RFC3311] (UPDATE Method)
- [RFC5393] (Loop-Fix)
- [RFC5658] (Record-Route Fix)
- [RFC5954] (ABNF Fix)
- [RFC3960] (Early Media)
- [RFC6442] (Geolocation Header Field)

In the above documents, the RUE device conforms to the requirements of a SIP user agent, and the provider conforms to the requirements of the registrar and proxy server where the document specifies different behavior for different roles. For providers offering a video mail service, [RFC6665] (SIP Events) **MUST** be implemented to support the Message-Waiting Indicator (MWI) (see Section 8).

In addition, implementations **MUST** conform to:

- [RFC3327] (Path Header Field)
- [RFC8445] and [RFC8839] (ICE)
- [RFC3326] (Reason Header Field)
- [RFC3515] (REFER Method)
- [RFC3891] (Replaces Header Field)
- [RFC3892] (Referred-By Header Field)

Implementations **MUST** implement full ICE, although they **MAY** interwork with user agents that implement ICE-lite.

Implementations **MUST** include a "User-Agent" header field uniquely identifying the RUE application, platform, and version in all SIP requests and **MUST** include a "Server" header field with the same content in SIP responses.

Implementations intended to support mobile platforms **MUST** support [RFC8599] and **MUST** use it as at least one way to support waking up the client from the background state.

The SIP signaling for registration and placing/receiving calls depends on the configuration of various values into the RUE device. Section 9.2 describes the configuration mechanism that provides values that are used in the signaling. When the device starts, the configuration mechanism is run, which retrieves the configuration data; then, SIP registration occurs using the values from the configuration. After registration, calls may be sent or received by the RUE device.

5.1. Registration

The RUE **MUST** register with a SIP registrar, following [RFC3261] and [RFC5626], at a provider it has an account with. If the configuration (see Section 9.2) contains multiple "outbound-proxies" in "RueConfigurationData", then the RUE **MUST** use them as specified in [RFC5626] to establish multiple flows.

The Request-URI for the REGISTER request **MUST** contain the "provider-domain" from the configuration. The To URI and From URI **MUST** be identical URIs and formatted as follows:

- if "user-name" is provided: "username@provider-domain"
- if "user-name" is not provided: as specified in Section 5.4, use "phone-number" and "provider-domain" from the configuration

The RUE determines the URI to resolve by initially determining if one or more "outbound-proxies" are configured. If they are configured, the URI will be that of one of the "outbound-proxies". If no "outbound-proxies" are configured, the URI will be the Request-URI from the REGISTER request. The RUE extracts the domain from that URI and consults the DNS record for that domain. The DNS entry **MUST** contain NAPTR records conforming to [RFC3263]. One of those NAPTR records **MUST** specify TLS as the preferred transport for SIP. For example, a DNS NAPTR query for "sip:p1.red.example.net" could return:

```
IN NAPTR 50 50 "s" "SIPS+D2T" "" _sips._tcp.p1.red.example.net
IN NAPTR 90 50 "s" "SIP+D2T" "" _sip._tcp.p1.red.example.net
```

If the RUE receives a 439 (First Hop Lacks Outbound Support) response to a REGISTER request, it **MUST** reattempt registration without using the outbound mechanism.

The registrar **MAY** authenticate the RUE using SIP digest authentication. The credentials to be used **MUST** come from the configuration in Section 9.2: "user-name" if provided or "phone-number" if user-name is not provided, and "sip-password". This "user-name"/"sip-password" combination

SHOULD NOT be the same as that used for other purposes, except as expressly described below, such as retrieving the RUE configuration or logging into the provider's customer service portal. [RFC8760] **MUST** be supported by all implementations, and SHA-512 digest algorithms **MUST** be supported.

If the registration request fails with an indication that credentials from the configuration are invalid, then the RUE **MUST** retrieve a fresh version of the configuration. If credentials from a freshly retrieved configuration are found to be invalid, then the RUE **MUST** cease attempts to register and inform the RUE user of the problem.

Support for multiple simultaneous registrations with multiple providers by the RUE is **OPTIONAL** for the RUE (and providers do not need any support for this option).

Multiple simultaneous RUE SIP registrations from different RUE devices with the same SIP URI **SHOULD** be permitted by the provider. The provider **MAY** limit the total number of simultaneous registrations. When a new registration request is received that results in exceeding the limit on simultaneous registrations, the provider **MAY** then prematurely terminate another registration; however, it **SHOULD NOT** do this if it would disconnect an active call.

If a provider prematurely terminates a registration to reduce the total number of concurrent registrations with the same URI, it **SHOULD** take some action to prevent the affected RUE from automatically re-registering and re-triggering the condition.

5.2. Session Establishment

5.2.1. Normal Call Origination

After initial SIP registration, the RUE adheres to SIP [RFC3261] basic call flows, as documented in [RFC3665].

A RUE device **MUST** route all outbound calls through an outbound proxy if configured.

The SIP URIs in the To field and the Request-URI **MUST** be formatted as specified in Section 5.4 using the destination phone number or as SIP URIs as provided in the configuration (Section 9.2). The domain field of the URIs **SHOULD** be the "provider-domain" from the configuration (e.g., sip:+15551234567@red.example.com;user=phone), except that an anonymous call would not use the provider domain.

Anonymous calls **MUST** be supported by all implementations. An anonymous call is signaled per [RFC3323].

The From URI **MUST** be formatted as specified in Section 5.4, using the "phone-number" and "provider-domain" from the configuration. It **SHOULD** also contain the display-name from the configuration when present. (Please refer to Section 9.2.)

Negotiated media **MUST** follow the requirements specified in Section 6 of this document.

To allow time for an unanswered call to time out and direct it to a videomail server, the User Agent Client **MUST NOT** impose a time limit less than the default SIP INVITE transaction timeout of 3 minutes.

5.2.2. Dial-Around Origination

Providers and RUE devices **MUST** support both one-stage and two-stage dial-around.

Outbound dial-around calls allow a RUE user to select any provider to provide interpreting services for any call. "Two-stage" dial-around calls involve the RUE calling a telephone number that reaches the dial-around provider and using signing or dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) to provide the called party's telephone number. In two-stage dial-around, the To URI is the "front-door" URI (see [Section 9.2](#)) in "ProviderConfigurationData" of the dial-around provider. The RUE Provider Selection service ([Section 9.1](#)) can be used by the RUE to obtain a list of providers; then, the provider configuration ([Section 9.2.1](#)) can be used to find the front-door URI for each of these providers.

One-stage dial-around is a method where the called party's telephone number is provided in the To URI and the Request-URI, using the domain of the dial-around provider.

For one-stage dial-around, the RUE **MUST** follow the procedures in [Section 5.2.1](#) with the following exception: the domain part of the SIP URIs in the To field and the Request-URI **MUST** be the domain of the dial-around provider discovered as described in [Section 9.1](#).

The following is a partial example of a one-stage dial-around call from VRS user +1-555-222-0001 hosted by red.example.com to a hearing user +1-555-123-4567 using dial-around to green.example.com for the relay service. Only important details of the messages are shown, and many header fields have been omitted:

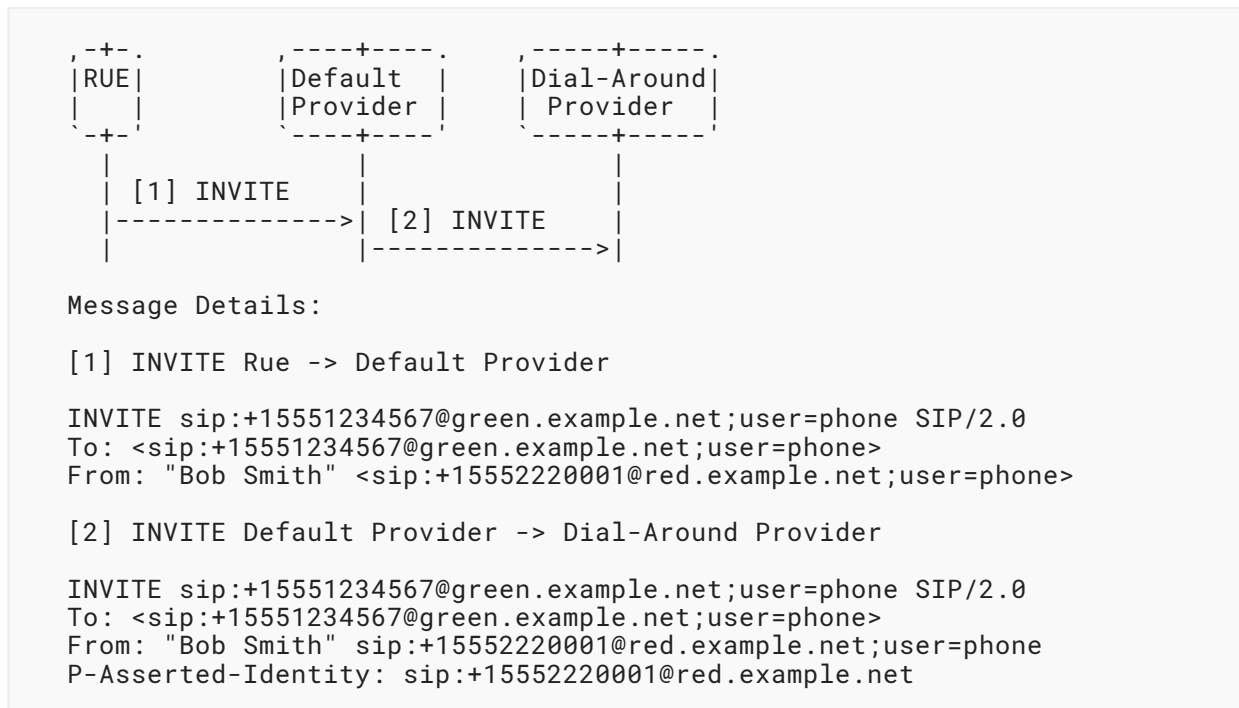


Figure 1: One-Stage Dial-Around

5.2.3. RUE Contact Information

To identify the owner of a RUE, the initial INVITE for a call from a RUE, or the 200 OK the RUE uses to accept a call, identifies the owner by sending a Call-Info header field with a purpose parameter of "rue-owner". The URI **MAY** be an HTTPS URI or Content-ID URL. The latter is defined by [RFC2392] to locate message body parts. This URI type is present in a SIP message to convey the RUE ownership information as a MIME body. The form of the RUE ownership information is an xCard [RFC6351]. Please refer to [RFC6442] for an example of using content indirection URLs in SIP messages. Note that use of the content indirection URL usually implies multiple message bodies ("mime/multipart"). The RUE owner is the entity that has local control over the device that is not necessarily the legal owner of the equipment. It often is the user, but that is not necessarily true. While no minimum fields in the xCard are specified, the name, address, phone number, and email address of the RUE owner are expected to be supplied.

5.2.4. Incoming Calls

The RUE **MUST** only accept inbound calls sent to it by a proxy mentioned in the configuration.

If multiple simultaneous RUE SIP registrations from different RUE devices with the same SIP URI exist, the provider **MUST** parallel fork the call to all registered RUEs so that they ring at the same time. The first RUE to reply with a 200 OK answers the call, and the provider **MUST** cancel other call branches using a CANCEL request.

5.2.5. Emergency Calls

Implementations **MUST** conform to [RFC6881] for handling of emergency calls, except that if the device is unable to determine its own location, it **MAY** send the emergency call without a Geolocation header field and without a Route header field (since it would be unable to query the Location-to-Service Translation (LoST) server for a route, per [RFC6881]). If an emergency call arrives at the provider without a Geolocation header field, the provider **MUST** supply location by adding the Geolocation header field and **MUST** supply the route by querying the LoST server with that location.

If the emergency call is to be handled using existing country-specific procedures, the provider is responsible for modifying the INVITE to conform to the country-specific requirements. In this case, the location **MAY** be extracted from the [RFC6881] conformant INVITE and used to propagate it to the appropriate country-specific entities. If the configuration specifies it, an implementation of a RUE device **MAY** send a Geolocation header field containing its location in the REGISTER request. If implemented, users **MUST** be offered an opt-out. Country-specific procedures might require the location to be preloaded in some entity prior to placing an emergency call; however, the RUE may have a more accurate and timely device location than the manual, preloaded entry. That information **MAY** be used to populate the location to appropriate country-specific entities. Re-registration **SHOULD** be used to update the location, so long as the rate of re-registration is limited if the device is moving.

Implementations **MUST** implement additional data [RFC7852]. RUE devices **MUST** implement data provider information, device information, and owner/subscriber information blocks.

5.3. Mid-Call Signaling

Implementations **MUST** support re-INVITE to renegotiate media session parameters (among other uses). Per Section 6.8, implementations **MUST** be able to support an INFO message for full frame refresh for devices that do not support SRTCP (please refer to Section 6.1). Implementations **MUST** support an in-dialog REFER (as described in [RFC3515] and updated by [RFC7647], and including support for norefersub per [RFC4488]) with the Replaces header field [RFC3891] to enable call transfer.

5.4. URI Representation of Phone Numbers

SIP URIs constructed from non-URI sources (dial strings) and sent to SIP proxies by the RUE **MUST** be represented as follows, depending on whether they can be represented as an E.164 number. In this section, "expressed as an E.164 number" includes numbers, such as toll-free numbers that are not actually E.164 numbers but have the same format.

A dial string that can be expressed as an E.164 phone number **MUST** be represented as a SIP URI with a URI ";user=phone" tag. The user part of the URI **MUST** be in conformance with "global-number", as defined in [RFC3966]. The user part **MUST NOT** contain any "visual-separator" characters, as defined in [RFC3966].

Dial strings that cannot be expressed as E.164 numbers **MUST** be represented as dialstring URIs, as specified by [RFC4967], e.g., sip:411@red.example.net;user=dialstring.

The domain part of relay service URIs and User Address of Records (AoR) **MUST** resolve (per [RFC3263]) to globally routable IPv4 and/or IPv6 addresses.

5.5. Transport

Implementations **MUST** conform to [RFC8835], except for its guidance on the WebRTC data channel, which this specification does not use. See Section 6.2 for how RUE supports real-time text without the data channel.

Implementations **MUST** support SIP outbound [RFC5626] (please also refer to Section 5.1).

6. Media

This specification adopts the media specifications for WebRTC [RFC8825]. Where WebRTC defines how interactive media communications may be established using a browser as a client, this specification assumes a normal SIP call. Various RTPs, RTCPs, SDPs, and specific media requirements specified for WebRTC are adopted for this document. Explicit requirements from the WebRTC suite of documents are described below.

To use WebRTC with this document, a gateway that presents a WebRTC server interface towards a browser and a RUE client interface towards a provider is assumed. The gateway would interwork signaling and, as noted below, interwork at least any real-time text media in order to allow a standard browser-based WebRTC client to be a VRS client. The combination of the browser client and the gateway would be a RUE user. This document does not specify the gateway.

The following sections specify the WebRTC documents to which conformance is required. "Mandatory to Implement" means a conforming implementation **MUST** implement the specified capability. It does not mean that the capability must be used in every session. For example, Opus is a Mandatory-to-Implement audio codec, and all conforming implementations must support Opus. However, an implementation presenting a call across the RUE interface (where the call originates in the PSTN or an older, non-RUE-compatible device, which only offers G.711 audio) does not need to include the Opus codec in the offer, since it cannot be used with that call. Conformance to this document allows end-to-end RTCP and media congestion control for audio and video.

6.1. SRTP and SRTCP

Implementations **MUST** support [RFC8834], except that MediaStreamTracks are not used. Implementations **MUST** conform to Section 6.4 of [RFC8827].

6.2. Text-Based Communication

Implementations **MUST** support real-time text [RFC4102] [RFC4103] via T.140 media. One original and two redundant generations **MUST** be transmitted and supported with a 300 ms transmission interval. Implementations **MUST** support [RFC9071], especially for emergency calls. Note that [RFC4103] is not how real-time text is transmitted in WebRTC, and some form of transcoder would be required to interwork real-time text in the data channel of WebRTC to [RFC4103] real-time text.

Transport of T.140 real-time text in WebRTC is specified in [RFC8865], using the WebRTC data channel. [RFC8865] also has some advice on how gateways between [RFC4103] and [RFC8865] should operate. It is **RECOMMENDED** that [RFC8865], including multiparty support, be used for communication with browser-based WebRTC implementations. Implementations **MUST** support [RFC9071].

6.3. Video

Implementations **MUST** conform to [RFC7742] with the following exceptions: only H.264, as specified in [RFC7742], is Mandatory to Implement, and VP8 support is **OPTIONAL** at both the device and providers. This is because backwards compatibility is desirable, and older devices do not support VP8.

6.4. Audio

Implementations **MUST** conform to [RFC7874].

6.5. DTMF Digits

Implementations **MUST** support the "audio/telephone-event" [RFC4733] media type. They **MUST** support conveying event codes 0 through 11 (DTMF digits "0"- "9", "*", "#") defined in Table 7 of [RFC4733]. Handling of other tones is **OPTIONAL**.

6.6. Session Description Protocol

The SDP offers and answers **MUST** conform to the SDP rules in [RFC8829] except that the RUE interface uses SIP transport for SDP. The SDP for real-time text **MUST** specify the T.140 payload type [RFC4103].

6.7. Privacy

The RUE **MUST** provide for user privacy by implementing a local one-way mute, without signaling, for both audio and video. However, RUE **MUST** maintain any states in the network (e.g., NAT bindings) by periodically sending media packets on all active media sessions containing silence, comfort noise, blank screen, etc., per [RFC6263].

6.8. Negative Acknowledgement, Picture Loss Indicator, and Full Intraframe Request Features

The NACK, FIR, and Picture Loss Indicator (PLI) features, as described in [RFC4585] and [RFC5104], **MUST** be implemented. Availability of these features **MUST** be announced with the "ccm" feedback value. NACK should be used when negotiated and conditions warrant its use and the other end supports it. Signaling picture losses as a PLI should be preferred. FIR should be used only in situations where not sending a decoder refresh point would render the video unusable for the users, as per Section 4.3.1.2 of [RFC5104].

For backwards compatibility with calling devices that do not support the foregoing methods, implementations **MUST** implement SIP INFO messages to send and receive XML-encoded Picture Fast Update messages according to [RFC5168].

7. Contacts

7.1. CardDAV Login and Synchronization

Support of vCard Extensions to WebDAV (CardDAV) by providers is **OPTIONAL**.

The RUE **MUST** and providers **MAY** be able to synchronize the user's contact directory between the RUE endpoint and one maintained by the user's VRS provider using CardDAV [RFC6352] [RFC6764].

The configuration (see Section 9.2) RueConfigurationData **MAY** supply a "carddav-username" and "carddav-domain" identifying a CardDAV server and address book for this account, plus an optional "carddav-password".

To access the CardDAV server and address book, the RUE **MUST** follow Section 6 of [RFC6764], using the configured carddav-username and carddav-domain in place of an email address. If the request triggers a challenge for digest authentication credentials, the RUE **MUST** continue using matching carddav-username and carddav-password from the configuration. If no carddav-username and carddav-password are configured, the RUE **MUST** use the SIP user-name and sip-password from the configuration. If the SIP credentials fail, the RUE **MUST** query the user.

Synchronization using CardDAV **MUST** be a two-way synchronization service, with proper handling of asynchronous adds, changes, and deletes at either end of the transport channel.

The RUE **MAY** support other CardDAV services.

7.2. Contacts Import/Export Service

Implementations **MUST** be able to export/import the list of contacts in xCard [RFC6351] XML format.

The RUE accesses this service via the "contacts-uri" in the configuration. The URL **MUST** resolve to identify a web server resource that imports/exports contact lists for authorized users.

The RUE stores/retrieves the contact list (address book) by issuing an HTTPS POST or GET request. If the request triggers a challenge for digest authentication credentials, the RUE **MUST** attempt to continue using the "contacts-username" and "contacts-password" from the configuration. If no contacts-username is configured, the SIP user-name from the configuration is used; if the SIP user-name is not configured, the phone-number is used. If user-name or phone-number is used, the sip-password is used to authenticate to the contact list server.

8. Video Mail

Support for video mail includes a retrieval mechanism and a Message-Waiting Indicator (MWI). Message storage is not specified by this document. RUE devices **MUST** support message retrieval using a SIP call to a specified SIP URI using DTMF to manage the mailbox, as well as a browser-based interface reached at a specified HTTPS URI. If a provider supports video mail, at least one of these mechanisms **MUST** be supported. RUE devices **MUST** support both. See [Section 9.2](#) for how the URI to reach the retrieval interface is obtained.

Implementations **MUST** support subscriptions to "message-summary" events [[RFC3842](#)] to the URI specified in the configuration. Providers **MUST** support MWI if they support video mail. RUE devices **MUST** support MWI.

The "videomail" and "mwi" properties in the configuration (see `RueConfigurationData` in [Section 9.2.2](#)) give the URIs for message retrieval and "message-summary" subscription.

In notification bodies, if detailed message summaries are available, messages with video **MUST** be reported using "message-context-class multimedia-message", as defined in [[RFC3458](#)].

9. Provisioning and Provider Selection

To simplify how users interact with RUE devices, the RUE interface separates provisioning into two parts. One provides a directory of providers so that a user interface can allow easy provider selection either for registering or for dial-around. The other provides configuration data for the device for each provider.

9.1. RUE Provider Selection

To allow the user to select a relay service, the RUE **MAY** at any time obtain (typically on startup) a list of providers that provide service in a country. IANA has established a registry that contains a two-letter country code and a list entry point string (see [Section 10.1](#)). The entry point, when used with the following OpenAPI interface, returns a list of provider names for a country code suitable for display, with a corresponding entry point to obtain information about that provider. No mechanism to determine the country where the RUE is located is specified in this document. Typically, the country is the home country of the user but may be a local country while traveling. Some countries allow support from their home country when traveling abroad. Regardless, the RUE device will need to allow the user to choose the country.

Each country that supports VRS using this specification **MAY** support the provider list. This document does not specify who maintains the list. Some possibilities are a regulator or an entity designated by a regulator, an agreement among providers to provide the list, or a user group.

The interface to obtain the list of providers is described by an OpenAPI [[OpenAPI](#)] interface description. In that interface description, the "servers" component includes an occurrence of "localhost". The value from the registry of the "list entry point" string for the desired country is substituted for "localhost" in the "servers" component to obtain the server URI prefix of the interface to be used to obtain the list of providers for that country. The "Providers" path then specifies the rest of the URI used to obtain the list. For example, if the list entryPoint is "example.com/api", the provider list would be obtained from `https://example.com/api/rum/v1/Providers`.

The V1.0 "ProviderList" is a JSON object consisting of an array where each entry describes one provider. Each entry consists of the following items:

- **name**: This parameter contains the text label identifying the provider and is meant to be displayed to the human VRS user.
- **providerEntryPoint**: A string used for configuration purposes by the RUE (as discussed in [Section 9.2](#)). The string **MUST** start with a domain but **MAY** include other URI path elements after the domain.

The VRS user interacts with the RUE to select from the provider list one or more providers with whom the user has already established an account, wishes to establish an account, or wishes to use the provider for a one-stage dial-around.

```
{
  "providers": [
    {
      "name": "Red",
      "entryPoint": "red.example.net"
    },
    {
      "name": "Green",
      "entryPoint": "green.example.net"
    },
    {
      "name": "Blue",
      "entryPoint": "blue.example.net"
    }
  ]
}
```

Figure 2: Example of a ProviderList JSON Object

9.2. RUE Configuration Service

A RUE device may retrieve a provider configuration using a simple HTTPs web service. There are two entry points. One is used without user credentials, and the response includes configuration data for new user signup and dial-around. The other uses a locally stored username and password that results from a new user signup to authenticate to the interface and returns configuration data for the RUE.

The interface to obtain configuration data is described by an OpenAPI [OpenAPI] interface description. In that interface description, the "servers" component string includes an occurrence of "localhost". The entry point string obtained from the provider list (Section 9.1) is substituted for "localhost" to obtain the server prefix of the interface. The path then specifies the rest of the URI used to obtain the list. For example, if the entryPoint from the provider list is "red.example.net", the provider configuration would be obtained from `https://red.example.net/rum/V1/ProviderConfig` and the RUE configuration would be obtained from `https://red.example.net/rum/V1/RueConfig`.

In both the queries, an optional parameter may be provided to the interface, which is an API Key (apiKey). The implementation **MAY** have an apiKey obtained from the provider and specific to the implementation. The method used to obtain the apiKey is not specified in this document. The provider **MAY** refuse to provide service to an implementation presenting an apiKey it does not recognize.

Also in both queries, the RUE device provides a client-provided, required parameter, which contains an instance identifier (instanceId). This parameter **MUST** be the same value each time this instance (same implementation on same device) queries the interface. This **MAY** be used by the provider, for example, to associate a location with the instance for emergency calls. This should be globally unique. A Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) is suggested.

For example, a query for the RUE configuration could be `https://red.example.net/rum/V1/RueConfig?apiKey="t65667Ajjss90uuuDisKt8999"&instanceId="5595b5a3-0687-4b8e-9913-a7f2a04fb7bd"`

The data returned is a JSON object consisting of key/value configuration parameters to be used by the RUE.

The configuration data payload includes the following data items. Items not noted as **(OPTIONAL)** are **REQUIRED**. If other unexpected items are found, they **MUST** be ignored.

9.2.1. Provider Configuration

- **signup**: **(OPTIONAL)** an array of JSON objects consisting of:
 - **language**: entry from the IANA "Language Subtag Registry" (<https://www.iana.org/assignments/language-subtag-registry>). Normally, this would be a written language tag.
 - **uri**: a URI to the website for creating a new account in the supported language. The new user signup URI may only initiate creation of a new account. Various vetting, approval, and other processes may be needed, which could take time, before the account is established. The result of creating a new account would be account credentials (e.g., username and password), which would be manually entered into the RUE device that forms the authentication parameters for the RUE configuration service described below in [Section 9.2.2](#).
- **dial-around**: an array of JSON objects consisting of:
 - **language**: entry from the IANA "Language Subtag Registry". Normally, this would be a sign language tag.
 - **front-door**: a URI to a queue of interpreters supporting the specified language for a two-stage dial-around.
 - **oneStage**: a URI that can be used with a one-stage dial-around ([Section 5.2.2](#)) using an interpreter supporting the specified language.
- **helpDesk**: **(OPTIONAL)** an array of JSON objects consisting of:
 - **language**: entry from the IANA "Language Subtag Registry". Normally, this would be a sign language tag; although, it could be a written language tag if the help desk only supports a chat interface.
 - **uri**: a URI that reaches a help desk for callers supporting the specified language. The URI **MAY** be a SIP URI for help provided with a SIP call or **MAY** be an HTTPS URI for help provided with a browser interface.

A list is specified so that the provider can offer multiple choices to users for language and interface styles.

9.2.2. RUE Configuration

- **lifetime**: **(OPTIONAL)** specifies how long (in seconds) the RUE **MAY** cache the configuration values. Values may not be valid when lifetime expires. If the RUE caches configuration values, it **MUST** cryptographically protect them against unauthorized disclosure (e.g., by other

applications on the platform the RUE is built on). The RUE **SHOULD** retrieve a fresh copy of the configuration before the lifetime expires or as soon as possible after it expires. The lifetime is not guaranteed, i.e., the configuration may change before the lifetime value expires. In that case, the provider **MAY** indicate this by generating authorization challenges to requests and/or prematurely terminating a registration. Emergency calls **MUST** continue to work. If not specified, the RUE **MUST** fetch new configuration data every time it starts.

- sip-password: (**OPTIONAL**) a password used for SIP, STUN, and TURN authentication. The RUE device retains this data, which it **MUST** cryptographically protect against unauthorized disclosure (e.g., by other applications on the platform the RUE is built on). If it is not supplied but was supplied on a prior invocation of this interface, the most recently supplied password **MUST** be used. If it was never supplied, the password used to authenticate to the configuration service is used for SIP, as well as STUN and TURN servers mentioned in this configuration.
- phone-number: (**REQUIRED**) the telephone number (in E.164 format) assigned to this subscriber. This becomes the user portion of the SIP URI identifying the subscriber.
- user-name: (**OPTIONAL**) a username used for authenticating to the provider. If not provided, phone-number is used.
- display-name: (**OPTIONAL**) a human-readable display name for the subscriber.
- provider-domain: (**REQUIRED**) the domain for the provider. This becomes the server portion of the SIP URI identifying the subscriber.
- outbound-proxies: (**OPTIONAL**) an array of URIs of SIP proxies to be used when sending requests to the provider.
- mwi: (**OPTIONAL**) a URI identifying a SIP event server that generates "message-summary" events for this subscriber.
- videomail: (**OPTIONAL**) a SIP or HTTPS URI that can be used to retrieve video mail messages.
- contacts: (**OPTIONAL**) an HTTPS URI ("contacts-uri"), (**OPTIONAL**) "contacts-username", and "contacts-password" that may be used to export (retrieve) the subscriber's complete contact list managed by the provider. At least the URI **MUST** be provided if the subscriber has contacts. If contact-username and contacts-password are not supplied, the sip credentials are used. If the contacts-username is provided, contacts-password **MUST** be provided. If contacts-password is provided, contacts-username **MUST** be provided.
- carddav: (**OPTIONAL**) an address ("carddav-domain"), (**OPTIONAL**) "carddav-username", and "carddav-password" identifying a "CardDAV" server and account that can be used to synchronize the RUE's contact list with the contact list managed by the provider. If carddav-username and carddav-password are not supplied, the sip credentials are used. If the carddav-username is provided, carddav-password **MUST** be provided. If carddav-password is provided, carddav-username **MUST** be provided.
- sendLocationWithRegistration: (**OPTIONAL**) true if the RUE should send a Geolocation header field with REGISTER; false if it should not. Defaults to false if not present.
- ice-servers: (**OPTIONAL**) an array of server types and URLs identifying STUN and TURN servers available for use by the RUE for establishing media streams in calls via the provider. If the same URL provides both STUN and TURN services, it **MUST** be listed twice, each with different server types.

9.2.3. Versions

Both web services also have a simple version mechanism that returns a list of versions of the web service it supports. This document describes version 1.0. Versions are displayed as a major version, followed by a period ".", followed by a minor version, where the major and minor versions are integers. A backwards compatible change within a major version **MAY** increment only the minor version number. A non-backwards, compatible change **MUST** increment the major version number. Backwards compatibility applies to both the server and the client. Either may have any higher or lower minor revision and interoperate with its counterpart with the same major version. To achieve backwards compatibility, implementations **MUST** ignore any object members they do not implement. Minor version definitions **SHALL** only add objects, optional members of existing objects, and non-mandatory-to-use functions and **SHALL NOT** delete or change any objects, members of objects, or functions. This means an implementation of a specific major version and minor version is backwards compatible with all minor versions of the major version. The version mechanism returns an array of supported versions, one for each major version supported, with the minor version listed being the highest-supported minor version.

Unless the per-country provider list service is operated by a provider at the same base URI as that provider's configuration service, the version of the configuration service **MAY** be different from the version of the provider list service.

```
{
  "versions": [
    {
      "major": 1,
      "minor": 6
    },
    {
      "major": 2,
      "minor": 13
    },
    {
      "major": 3,
      "minor": 2
    }
  ]
}
```

Figure 3: Example of a Version JSON Object

9.2.4. Examples

```

{
  "signUp": [
    { "language" : "en", "uri" : "https:hello-en.example.net"},
    { "language" : "es", "uri" : "https:hello-es.example.net"} ] ,
  "dial-around": [
    { "language" : "en", "front-door" : "sip:fd-en.example.net",
      "oneStage" : "sip:1stg-eng.example.com" } ,
    { "language" : "es", "front-door" : "sip:fd-es.example.net",
      "oneStage" : "sip:1stg-spn.example.com" } ] ,
  "helpDesk": [
    { "language" : "en", "uri" : "sip:help-en.example.net"} ,
    { "language" : "es", "uri" : "sip:help-es.example.net"} ]
}

```

Figure 4: Example JSON Provider Configuration Payload

```

{
  "lifetime": 86400,
  "display-name" : "Bob Smith",
  "phone-number" : "+15551234567",
  "provider-domain": "red.example.net",
  "outbound-proxies": [
    "sip:p1.red.example.net",
    "sip:p2.red.example.net" ],
  "mwi": "sip:+15551234567@red.example.net;user=phone",
  "videomail": "sip:+15551234567@vm.red.example.net;user=phone",
  "contacts": {
    "contacts-uri":
      "https://red.example.net:443/c/3617b719-2c3a-46f4-9c13",
    "contacts-username": "bob",
    "contacts-password": "Xh0T4ch@ZEi&3u2xEYQNM0^5UGb"
  },
  "carddav": {
    "carddav-domain": "carddav.example.com",
    "carddav-username": "bob",
    "carddav-password": "sj887%dd*jJty%87hyys5hHT"
  },
  "sendLocationWithRegistration": false,
  "ice-servers": [
    {"stun": "stun.red.example.com:19302" },
    {"turn": "turn.red.example.com:3478"}
  ]
}

```

Figure 5: Example JSON RUE Configuration Payload

9.2.5. Using the Provider Selection and RUE Configuration Services Together

One way to use these two services is:

1. At startup, the RUE retrieves the provider list for the country it is located in.

2. For each provider in the list:

- If the RUE does not have credentials for that provider, if requested by the user, use the ProviderConfig path without credentials to obtain signup, dial-around, and help desk information.
- If the RUE has credentials for that provider, use the RueConfig path with the locally stored credentials to configure the RUE for that provider.

9.3. OpenAPI Interface Descriptions

The interfaces in Sections 9.1 and 9.2 are formally specified with OpenAPI 3.0 [[OpenAPI](#)] descriptions in YAML form.

The OpenAPI description below is normative. If there is any conflict between the text or examples and this section, the OpenAPI description takes precedence.

9.3.1. Provider List

```
openapi: 3.0.1
info:
  title: RUM Provider List API
  version: "1.0"
servers:
  - url: https://localhost/rum/v1
paths:
  /Providers:
    get:
      summary: Get a list of providers and domains to get
        config data from
      operationId: GetProviderList
      responses:
        '200':
          description: List of providers for a country
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                $ref: '#/components/schemas/ProviderList'
  /Versions:
    servers:
      - url: https://localhost/rum
        description: Override base path for Versions query
    get:
      summary: Retrieves all supported versions
      operationId: RetrieveVersions
      responses:
        '200':
          description: Versions supported
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                $ref: '#/components/schemas/VersionsArray'
components:
  schemas:
    ProviderList:
      type: object
      required:
        - providers
      properties:
        providers:
          type: array
          items:
            type: object
            required:
              - name
              - providerEntryPoint
            properties:
              name:
                type: string
                description: Human-readable provider name
              providerEntryPoint:
                type: string
                description: Provider entry point for interface
    VersionsArray:
      type: object
      required:
```



```
- versions
properties:
  versions:
    type: array
    items:
      type: object
      required:
        - major
        - minor
      properties:
        major:
          type: integer
          format: int32
          description: Version major number
        minor:
          type: integer
          format: int32
          description: Version minor number
```

Figure 6: Provider List OpenAPI Description (RueProviderList.yaml)

9.3.2. Configuration

```
openapi: 3.0.1
info:
  title: RUM Configuration API
  version: "1.0"
servers:
  - url: https://localhost/rum/v1
paths:
  /ProviderConfig:
    get:
      summary: Configuration data for one provider
      operationId: GetProviderConfiguration
      parameters:
        - in: query
          name: apiKey
          schema:
            type: string
          description: API Key assigned to this implementation
        - in: query
          name: instanceId
          schema:
            type: string
          required: true
          description: Unique string for this implementation
            on this device
      responses:
        '200':
          description: Configuration object
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                $ref:
                  '#/components/schemas/ProviderConfigurationData'
  /RueConfig:
    get:
      summary: Configuration data for one RUE
      operationId: GetRueConfiguration
      parameters:
        - in: query
          name: apiKey
          schema:
            type: string
          description: API Key assigned to this implementation
        - in: query
          name: instanceId
          schema:
            type: string
          required: true
          description: Unique string for this implementation
            on this device
      responses:
        '200':
          description: Configuration object
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                $ref: '#/components/schemas/RueConfigurationData'
  /Versions:
```

```
servers:
  - url: https://localhost/rum
    description: Override base path for Versions query
get:
  summary: Retrieves all supported versions
  operationId: RetrieveVersions
  responses:
    '200':
      description: Versions supported
      content:
        application/json:
          schema:
            $ref: '#/components/schemas/VersionsArray'
components:
  schemas:
    ProviderConfigurationData:
      type: object
      required:
        - dial-around
      properties:
        signup:
          type: array
          items:
            type: object
            required:
              - language
              - uri
            properties:
              language:
                type: string
                description: Entry from IANA "Language Subtag
                  Registry"
              uri:
                type: string
                format: uri
                description: URI to signup website supporting
                  this language
        dial-around:
          type: array
          items:
            type: object
            required:
              - language
              - front-door
              - oneStage
            properties:
              language:
                type: string
                description: Entry from IANA "Language Subtag
                  Registry"
              front-door:
                type: string
                format: uri
                description: SIP URI for two-stage dial-around
              oneStage:
                type: string
                format: uri
                description: SIP URI for one-stage dial-around
```

```
helpDesk:
  type: array
  items:
    type: object
    required:
      - language
      - uri
    properties:
      language:
        type: string
        description: Entry from IANA "Language Subtag
          Registry"
      uri:
        type: string
        format: uri
        description: SIP URI of help desk supporting language
RueConfigurationData:
  type: object
  required:
    - phone-number
    - provider-domain
  properties:
    lifetime:
      type: integer
      description: How long (in seconds) the RUE MAY cache the
        configuration values
    sip-password:
      type: string
    phone-number:
      type: string
      description: Telephone number assigned this subscriber in
        E.164 format
    user-name:
      type: string
      description: A username assigned to this subscriber
    display-name:
      type: string
      description: Display name for the subscriber
    provider-domain:
      type: string
      description: Domain of the provider for this subscriber
    outbound-proxies:
      type: array
      items:
        type: string
        format: uri
        description: SIP URI of a proxy to be used when sending
          requests to the provider
    mwi:
      type: string
      format: uri
      description: A URI identifying a SIP event server that
        generates "message-summary" events for this subscriber
    videomail:
      type: string
      format: uri
      description: An HTTPS or SIP URI that can be used to
        retrieve video mail messages
```

```
contacts:
  type: object
  description: Server and credentials for contact
  import/export
  required:
    - contacts-uri
  properties:
    contacts-uri:
      type: string
      format: uri
      description: An HTTPS URI that may be used to export
        (retrieve) the subscriber's complete contact list
        managed by the provider
    contacts-username:
      type: string
      description: Username for authentication with the
        CardDAV server. Use SIP user-name if not provided
    contacts-password:
      type: string
      description: Password for authentication. Use provider
        sip-password if not provided
carddav:
  type: object
  description: CardDAV server and user information that can
    be used to synchronize the RUE's contact list with
    the contact list managed by the provider
  required:
    - carddav-domain
  properties:
    carddav-domain:
      type: string
      description: CardDAV server address
    carddav-username:
      type: string
      description: Username for authentication with the
        CardDAV server. Use SIP user-name if not provided
    carddav-password:
      type: string
      description: Password for authentication to the CardDAV
        server. Use provider sip-password if not provided
sendLocationWithRegistration:
  type: boolean
  description: True if the RUE should send a Geolocation
    header field with REGISTER; false if it should not.
    Defaults to false if not present
ice-servers:
  type: array
  items:
    type: object
    required:
      - server-type
      - uri
    properties:
      server-type:
        type: string
        description: Server type ("stun" or "turn")
      uri:
        type: string
```

```
        format: uri
        description: URIs identifying STUN and TURN servers
                    available for use by the RUE for establishing
                    media streams in calls via the provider
VersionsArray:
  type: object
  required:
    - versions
  properties:
    versions:
      type: array
      items:
        type: object
        required:
          - major
          - minor
        properties:
          major:
            type: integer
            format: int32
            description: Version major number
          minor:
            type: integer
            format: int32
            description: Version minor number
```

Figure 7: Configuration OpenAPI Description (*RueConfiguration.yaml*)

10. IANA Considerations

10.1. RUE Provider List Registry

IANA has created the "RUE Provider List" registry. The registration policy is "Expert Review" [RFC8126]. A regulator operated or designated list interface operator is preferred. Otherwise, evidence that the proposed list interface operator will provide a complete list of providers is required to add the entry to the registry. Updates to the registry are permitted if the expert determines that the proposed URI provides a more accurate list than the existing entry. Each entry has two fields; values for both **MUST** be provided when registering or updating an entry:

- country code: a two-letter ISO93166 country code
- list entry point: a string is used to compose the URI to the provider list interface for that country

10.2. Registration of Rue-Owner Value of the Purpose Parameter

This document defines the new predefined value "rue-owner" for the "purpose" header field parameter of the Call-Info header field. The use for rue-owner is defined in Section 5.2.3. IANA has added a reference to this document in the "Header Field Parameters and Parameter Values" subregistry of the "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Parameters" for the header field "Call-Info" and parameter name "purpose".

Header Field: Call-Info

Parameter Name: purpose

Predefined Values: Yes

11. Security Considerations

The RUE is required to communicate with servers on public IP addresses and specific ports to perform its required functions. If it is necessary for the RUE to function on a corporate or other network that operates a default-deny firewall between the RUE and these services, the user must arrange with their network manager for passage of traffic through such a firewall in accordance with the protocols and associated SRV records as exposed by the provider. Because VRS providers may use different ports for different services, these port numbers may differ from provider to provider.

This document requires implementation and use of a number of other specifications in order to fulfill the RUE profile; the security considerations described in those documents apply accordingly to the RUE interactions.

When a CA participates in a conversation, they have access to the content of the conversation even though it is nominally a conversation between the two endpoints. There is an expectation that the CA will keep the communication contents in confidence. This is usually defined by contractual or legal requirements.

Since different providers (within a given country) may have different policies, RUE implementations **MUST** include a user interaction step to select from available providers before proceeding to actually register with any given provider.

12. Normative References

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