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## Media Type Registration of Payload Formats in the RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences

### 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 specifies media type registrations for the RTP payload formats defined in the RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences. Some of these may also be used for transfer modes other than RTP.

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## 1. Introduction

This document updates the media type registrations initially specified in RFC 3555 for the Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP) payload formats defined in the RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences, RFC 3551 [1], as subtypes under the "audio" and "video" media types. This document does not include media type registrations for the RTP payload formats that are referenced in RFC 3551 but defined in other RFCs. The media type registrations for those payload formats are intended to be updated by including them in revisions of the individual RFCs defining the payload formats.

The media type registrations specified here conform to the updated template format and procedures in RFC 4288 [2] and RFC 4855 [3]. This update makes no technical changes in the registrations. Together with RFC 4855, this document obsoletes RFC 3555.

### 1.1. IANA Considerations

As a consequence of the generalized applicability of the media types registry as specified in RFC 4288, some changes in nomenclature are needed in the RTP Payload Format section of the registry. In the registry title "RTP Payload Format MIME types" and the introductory text, "MIME" should be changed to "media". "MIME" should be deleted from the table headings, leaving just "media type" and "subtype".

This document updates the media type registrations listed below to conform to the revised registration format specified in RFC 4288 and RFC 4855, so the reference for these media types should be changed from RFC 3555 to this document. Some media type registrations contained in RFC 3555 are omitted from this document; the existing registrations for those types continue to be valid until updated by other RFCs. There are no new registrations contained here.

audio/DVI4  
audio/G722  
audio/G723  
audio/G726-16  
audio/G726-24  
audio/G726-32  
audio/G726-40  
audio/G728  
audio/G729  
audio/G729D  
audio/G729E  
audio/GSM  
audio/GSM-EFR  
audio/L8  
audio/L16  
audio/LPC  
audio/PCMA  
audio/PCMU  
audio/VDVI  
video/nv

Media type audio/L16 was initially registered via RFC 2586 for transports other than RTP. That registration is incorporated here and augmented with additional information for RTP transport.

## 1.2. Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [4] and indicate requirement levels for implementations compliant with this specification.

## 2. Registrations for "Audio/Video Profile"

In the following sections, the RTP payload formats defined in the RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences, RFC 3551 [1], are registered as media types.

### 2.1. Audio Type Registrations

For most audio payload formats, the RTP timestamp clock rate is equal to the sampling rate. Some payload formats operate only at one fixed sampling rate, while others are adjustable.

These audio formats also include the optional parameters "ptime" to specify the recommended length of time in milliseconds represented by

the media in a packet, and "maxptime" to specify the maximum amount of media that can be encapsulated in each packet, expressed as time in milliseconds. The "ptime" and "maxptime" parameters are defined in the Session Description Protocol (SDP), RFC 4566 [5].

#### 2.1.1. Registration of Media Type audio/DVI4

Type name: audio

Subtype name: DVI4

Required parameters:

rate: The RTP timestamp clock rate, which is equal to the sampling rate. The typical rate is 8000, but other rates may be specified.

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550 [6]). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.1.2. Registration of Media Type audio/G722

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G722

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

## Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

## Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

## Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

## Person &amp; email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

## Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

### 2.1.3. Registration of Media Type audio/G723

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G723

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters:

ptime, maxptime: see RFC 4566

bitrate: the data rate in kb/s used or preferred for the audio bit stream, with permissible values 5.3 or 6.3. If unspecified, the bitrate may change from frame to frame as indicated inband.

annexa: indicates that Annex A, voice activity detection, is used or preferred. Permissible values are "yes" and "no" (without the quotes); "yes" is implied if this parameter is omitted.

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.1.4. Registration of Media Type audio/G726-16

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G726-16

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

## Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

## Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

## Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

## Person &amp; email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

## Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.1.5. Registration of Media Type audio/G726-24

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G726-24

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

## Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

## Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

## Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

## Person &amp; email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

## Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.



### 2.1.6. Registration of Media Type audio/G726-32

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G726-32

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

### 2.1.7. Registration of Media Type audio/G726-40

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G726-40

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

### 2.1.8. Registration of Media Type audio/G728

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G728

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

### 2.1.9. Registration of Media Type audio/G729

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G729

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters:

ptime, maxptime: see RFC 4566

annexb: indicates that Annex B, voice activity detection, is used or preferred. Permissible values are "yes" and "no" (without the quotes); "yes" is implied if this parameter is omitted.

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.1.10. Registration of Media Type audio/G729D

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G729D

Required parameters: none

## Optional parameters:

ptime, maxptime: see RFC 4566

annexb: indicates that Annex B, voice activity detection, is used or preferred. Permissible values are "yes" and "no" (without the quotes); "yes" is implied if this parameter is omitted.

## Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

## Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

## Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

## Person &amp; email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

## Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.1.11. Registration of Media Type audio/G729E

Type name: audio

Subtype name: G729E

Required parameters: none

## Optional parameters:

ptime, maxptime: see RFC 4566

annexb: indicates that Annex B, voice activity detection, is used or preferred. Permissible values are "yes" and "no" (without the quotes); "yes" is implied if this parameter is omitted.

## Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

## Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

## Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

## Person &amp; email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

2.1.12. Registration of Media Type audio/GSM

Type name: audio

Subtype name: GSM

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.1.13. Registration of Media Type audio/GSM-EFR

Type name: audio

Subtype name: GSM-EFR

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

## Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

## Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

## Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

## Person &amp; email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

## Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner



Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

2.1.14. Registration of Media Type audio/L8

Type name: audio

Subtype name: L8

Required parameters:

rate: the RTP timestamp clock rate

Optional parameters:

channels: how many audio streams are interleaved -- defaults to 1; stereo would be 2, etc. Interleaving takes place between individual one-byte samples. The channel order is as specified in RFC 3551.

ptime, maxptime: see RFC 4566

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

## Author:

Stephen Casner

## Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.1.15. Registration of Media Type audio/L16

Media type audio/L16 was initially registered via RFC 2586 [10] for transports other than RTP. That registration is incorporated here and augmented with additional information for RTP transport.

Type name: audio

Subtype name: L16

## Required parameters:

rate: number of samples per second -- For non-RTP transport, the permissible values for rate are 8000, 11025, 16000, 22050, 24000, 32000, 44100, and 48000 samples per second. For RTP transport, other values are permissible but the aforementioned values are RECOMMENDED. For RTP, the rate parameter indicates the RTP timestamp clock rate, which is equal to the sample rate.

## Optional parameters:

channels: how many audio streams are interleaved -- defaults to 1; stereo would be 2, etc. Interleaving takes place between individual two-byte samples. The channel order is as specified in RFC 3551 unless a channel-order parameter is also present.

emphasis: analog preemphasis applied to the signal before quantization. The only emphasis value defined here is emphasis=50-15 to indicate the 50/15 microsecond preemphasis used with Compact Discs. This parameter MUST be omitted if no analog preemphasis was applied. Note that this is a stream property parameter, not a receiver configuration parameter. Thus, if parameters are negotiated, it may not be possible for the sender to comply with a receiver request for a particular setting.

channel-order: specifies the sample interleaving order for multiple-channel audio streams (see RFC 3190 [7], Section 7). Permissible values are DV.LRLsRs, DV.LRCS, DV.LRCWo, DV.LRLsRsC, DV.LRLsRsCS, DV.LmixRmixTWoQ1Q2, DV.LRCWoLsRsLmixRmix, DV.LRCWoLs1Rs1Ls2Rs2, DV.LRCWoLsRsLcRc.

For interoperation with DV video systems, only a subset of these channel combinations is specified for use with 20-bit linear encoding in the DV video specification [9]; those are DV.LRLsRs, DV.LRCS, DV.LmixRmixTwoQ1Q2. This parameter MUST be omitted when the AIFF-C channel order convention (see RFC 3551) is in use.

For RTP, ptime: RECOMMENDED duration of each packet in milliseconds.

For RTP, maxptime: maximum duration of each packet in milliseconds.

Encoding considerations:

Audio data is binary data, and must be encoded for non-binary transport; the Base64 encoding is suitable for Email. Note that audio data does not compress easily using lossless compression.

Security considerations:

Audio/L16 data is believed to offer no security risks. This media type does not carry active content. The encoding is not compressed. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations:

This type is compatible with the encoding used in the WAV (Microsoft Windows RIFF) and Apple AIFF union types, and with the public domain "sox" and "rateconv" programs.

Published specification:

RFC 2586 for non-RTP transports, RFC 3551 for RTP

Applications that use this media type:

The public domain "sox" and "rateconv" programs accept this type.

Additional information:

Magic number(s): none

File extension(s): WAV L16

Macintosh file type code: AIFF

Person to contact for further information:

James Salsman <jps-L16@bovik.org>

Intended usage:  
Common

It is expected that many audio and speech applications will use this type. Already the most popular platforms provide this type with the rate=11025 parameter, referred to as "radio quality speech".

Restrictions on usage:  
In addition to file-based transfer methods, this type is also defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550).

Author:  
James Salsman for non-RTP transports.  
Stephen Casner for RTP transport.

Change controller:  
James Salsman for non-RTP transports.  
For RTP transport, IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

#### 2.1.16. Registration of Media Type audio/LPC

Type name: audio

Subtype name: LPC

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

Encoding considerations:  
This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:  
This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:  
Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

#### 2.1.17. Registration of Media Type audio/PCMA

Type name: audio

Subtype name: PCMA

Required parameters:

rate: The RTP timestamp clock rate, which is equal to the sampling rate. The typical rate is 8000, but other rates may be specified.

Optional parameters:

channels: how many audio streams are interleaved -- defaults to 1; stereo would be 2, etc. Interleaving takes place between individual one-byte samples. The channel order is as specified in RFC 3551.

ptime, maxptime: see RFC 4566

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

#### 2.1.18. Registration of Media Type audio/PCMU

Type name: audio

Subtype name: PCMU

Required parameters:

rate: The RTP timestamp clock rate, which is equal to the sampling rate. The typical rate is 8000, but other rates may be specified.

Optional parameters:

channels: how many audio streams are interleaved -- defaults to 1; stereo would be 2, etc. Interleaving takes place between individual one-byte samples. The channel order is as specified in RFC 3551.

ptime, maxptime: see RFC 4566

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

#### 2.1.19. Registration of Media Type audio/VDVI

Type name: audio

Subtype name: VDVI

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: ptime, maxptime (see RFC 4566)

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.

Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

## 2.2. Video Type Registrations

For most video payload formats, including the one registered here, the RTP timestamp clock rate is always 90000 Hz, so the "rate" parameter is not applicable. Likewise, the "channel" parameter is not used with video, while "ptime" and "maxptime" could be but typically are not.

### 2.2.1. Registration of Media Type video/nv

Type name: video

Subtype name: nv

Required parameters: none

Optional parameters: none

Encoding considerations:

This media type is framed binary data (see Section 4.8 in RFC 4288).

Security considerations:

This media type does not carry active content. It does transfer compressed data. See Section 4 of RFC 4856.



Interoperability considerations: none

Published specification: RFC 3551

Applications that use this media type:

Audio and video streaming and conferencing tools.

Additional information: none

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Stephen Casner <casner@acm.org>

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage:

This media type depends on RTP framing, and hence is only defined for transfer via RTP (RFC 3550). Transfer within other framing protocols is not defined at this time.

Author:

Stephen Casner

Change controller:

IETF Audio/Video Transport working group delegated from the IESG.

### 3. Changes from RFC 3555

RFC 3555 is obsoleted by the combination of RFC 4855 [3] and this document. RFC 4855 retains the specification of procedures and requirements from RFC 3555, while the media type registrations from RFC 3555 were extracted into this document. The media type registrations for the RTP payload formats that are referenced in RFC 3551 [1], but defined in other RFCs, have been elided from this document because those registrations are intended to be updated by including them in revisions of the individual RFCs defining the payload formats.

The media type registrations in this document have been updated to conform to the revised media type registration procedures in RFC 4288 [2] and RFC 4855. Whereas RFC 3555 required the encoding considerations to specify transfer via RTP, that is now specified under restrictions on usage. The encoding considerations now warn that these types are framed binary data. The change controller is also now identified according to current conventions. The optional parameter "channels" was clarified for audio subtypes L8, PCMA, and PCMU. Finally, reference [9], which was missing from RFC 3555, has been corrected.

#### 4. Security Considerations

This memo specifies media type registrations for the transfer of several compressed audio and video data encodings via RTP, so implementations using these media types are subject to the security considerations discussed in the RTP specification [8].

None of these media types carry "active content" that could impose malicious side-effects upon the receiver. The content consists solely of compressed audio or video data to be decoded and presented as sound or images. However, several audio and video encodings are perfect for hiding data using steganography.

A potential denial-of-service threat exists for data encodings using compression techniques that have non-uniform receiver-end computational load. The attacker can inject pathological datagrams into the stream, which are complex to decode and cause the receiver to be overloaded. However, none of the encodings registered here has an expansion factor greater than about 20, and all are considered relatively simple by modern standards (some are implemented on handheld devices and most were implemented on general-purpose computers ten years ago).

As with any IP-based protocol, in some circumstances a receiver may be overloaded simply by the receipt of too many packets, either desired or undesired. Network-layer authentication MAY be used to discard packets from undesired sources, but the processing cost of the authentication itself may be too high.

RTP may be sent via IP multicast, which provides no direct means for a sender to know all the receivers of the data sent and therefore no measure of privacy. Rightly or not, users may be more sensitive to privacy concerns with audio and video communication than they have been with more traditional forms of network communication. Therefore, the use of security mechanisms with RTP to provide confidentiality and integrity of the data is important. Because the data compression used with these media types is applied end-to-end, encryption may be performed after compression so there is no conflict between the two operations.

## 5. References

### 5.1. Normative References

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### 5.2. Informative References

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