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Technical Specification

3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects; Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS); Media formats and codecs (Release 6)



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3GPP

Postal address

3GPP support office address

650 Route des Lucioles - Sophia Antipolis
Valbonne - FRANCE
Tel.: +33 4 92 94 42 00 Fax: +33 4 93 65 47 16

Internet

<http://www.3gpp.org>

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Foreword

This Technical Specification has been produced by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the TSG and may change following formal TSG approval. Should the TSG modify the contents of the present document, it will be re-released by the TSG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

Version x.y.z

where:

- x the first digit:
 - 1 presented to TSG for information;
 - 2 presented to TSG for approval;
 - 3 or greater indicates TSG approved document under change control.
- y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.
- z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the specification;

The 3GPP Multimedia messaging service (MMS) specification consists of three 3GPP TSs; 3GPP TS 22.140, 3GPP TS 23.140 and the present document. The TS 3GPP TS 22.140 [22] provides a set of requirements which shall be supported for the provision of non real-time multimedia messaging service, seen primarily from the subscriber's and service providers' points of view. The TS 23.140 [23] identifies the functional capabilities and information flows needed to support the MMS. The present document provides the details of media types, formats and codecs used by the MMSservice

The issue of codecs ad for MMS services has been addressed initially in TS 23.140, owned by the 3GPP T2 group. During the TSG-T WG2 group meeting in Edinburgh in September 2001, the TSG-T WG2 group sent a Liaison statement (S4-AHP040) to the 3GPP SA WG4 group, requesting that the responsibility for the specification of codecs and formats to be used in MMS services is transferred to SA WG4 group starting with Release 5.

After the SA WG4 group agreed to take over this responsibility, and the present document is the result of such commitment on Release 6.

For the sake of interoperability and alignment it is important there is no contradiction between the recommendations made in the present document and in the 26.234 specification [14].

1 Scope

The present document specifies the media types, formats and codecs for the MMS within the 3GPP system. The scope of the present document extends to codecs for speech, audio, video, still images, bitmap graphics, and other media in general, as well as scene description, multimedia integration and synchronization schemes.

2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

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3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions apply:

continuous media: media with an inherent notion of time, in the present document speech, audio and video

discrete media: media that itself does not contain an element of time, in the present document all media not defined as continuous media

scene description: description of the spatial layout and temporal behaviour of a presentation, it can also contain hyperlinks

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply:

3GP	3GPP file format
AAC	Advanced Audio Coding
AVC	Advanced Video Coding
CC/PP	Composite Capability/Preference Profiles
DLS	Downloadable Sounds
DRM	Digital Rights Management
Enhanced aacPlus	MPEG-4 High Efficiency AAC plus MPEG-4 Parametric Stereo
EXIF	Exchangeable image file format
GIF	Graphics Interchange Format
H.263	ITU-T video codec
ITU-T	International Telecommunications Union - Telecommunications
JFIF	JPEG File Interchange Format
JPEG	Joint Picture Expert Group
MIDI	Musical Instrument Digital Interface
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
MM	Multimedia Message
MMS	Multimedia Messaging Service
MPEG	Motion Picture Expert Group
MP4	MPEG-4 file format
PIM	Personal Information Manager
PSS	Packet-switched Streaming Service
SBR	Spectral Band Replication
SP-MIDI	Scalable Polyphony MIDI
SVG	Scalable Vector Graphics
UTF-8	Unicode Transformation Format (the 8-bit form)
XMF	Extensible Music Format

4 Media formats

Multiple media elements shall be combined into a composite single MM using MIME multipart format as defined in RFC 2046 [25]. The media type of a single MM element shall be identified by its appropriate MIME type whereas the media format shall be indicated by its appropriate MIME subtype.

In order to guarantee a minimum support and compatibility between multimedia messaging capable terminals, MMS User Agent supporting specific media types shall comply with the following selection of media formats:

4.1 Text

Plain text. Any character encoding (charset) that contains a subset of the logical characters in Unicode [2] shall be used (e.g. US-ASCII [3], ISO-8859-1 [4], UTF-8 [5], Shift_JIS, etc.).

Unrecognized subtypes of "text" shall be treated as subtype "plain" as long as the MIME implementation knows how to handle the charset. Any other unrecognized subtype and unrecognized charset shall be treated as "application/octet - stream".

Interoperability with SMS text type is according to [23].

4.2 Speech

If speech is supported, the AMR codec shall be supported for narrow-band speech [26][40][41][42].

The AMR wideband speech codec [27][43][44][45] shall be supported when wideband speech working at 16 kHz sampling frequency is supported.

When using speech media type alone, AMR or AMR-WB data is stored according to the file format specified in [32].

Multi-channel sessions shall not be used.

4.3 Audio

If audio is supported, then one or both of the following two audio codecs should be supported:

- Enhanced aacPlus [49] [50] [51]
- Extended AMR-WB [46] [47] [48]

There is no requirement that a terminal supporting decoding by one of the codecs shall also support encoding by that codec.

Specifically, based on the audio codec selection test results Extended AMR-WB is strong for the scenarios marked with blue, Enhanced aacPlus is strong for the scenarios marked with orange, and both are strong for the scenarios marked with green colour in the table below:

Content type Bit rate	Music	Speech over Music	Speech between Music	Speech
14 kbps mono				
18 kbps stereo				
24 kbps stereo				
24 kbps mono				
32 kbps stereo				
48 kbps stereo				

Enhanced aacPlus decoder is also able to decode MPEG-4 AAC LC content.

Extended AMR-WB decoder is also able to decode AMR-WB content.

In addition, MPEG-4 AAC Low Complexity and MPEG-4 AAC Long Term Prediction object types [19] may be supported. The maximum sampling rate to be supported by the decoder is 48 kHz. The channel configurations to be supported are mono (1/0) and stereo (2/0).

4.4 Synthetic audio

If synthetic audio is supported, the Scalable Polyphony MIDI (SP-MIDI) content format defined in Scalable Polyphony MIDI Specification [28] and the device requirements defined in Scalable Polyphony MIDI Device 5-to-24 Note Profile for 3GPP [29] should be supported.

SP-MIDI content is delivered in the structure specified in Standard MIDI Files 1.0 [31], either in format 0 or format 1.

In addition the Mobile DLS instrument format defined in [38] and the Mobile XMF content format defined in [39] should be supported.

A MMS client supporting Mobile DLS shall meet the minimum device requirements defined in [38] in section 1.3 and the requirements for the common part of the synthesizer voice as defined in [29] in sections 1.2.1.2. If Mobile DLS is supported, wavetables encoded with the G.711 A-law codec (wFormatTag value 0x0006, as defined in [38]) shall also be supported. The optional group of processing blocks as defined in [39] may be supported. Mobile DLS resources are delivered either in the file format defined in [38], or within Mobile XMF as defined in [39]. For Mobile DLS files delivered outside of Mobile XMF, the loading application should unload Mobile DLS instruments so that the sound bank required by the SP-MIDI profile [29] is not persistently altered by temporary loadings of Mobile DLS files.

Content that pairs Mobile DLS and SP-MIDI resources is delivered in the structure specified in Mobile XMF [39]. As defined in [39], a Mobile XMF file shall contain one SP-MIDI SMF file and no more than one Mobile DLS file. MMS

clients supporting Mobile XMF must not support any other resource types in the Mobile XMF file. Media handling behaviours for the SP-MIDI SMF and Mobile DLS resources contained within Mobile XMF are defined in [39].

4.5 Still Image

If still images are supported, ISO/IEC JPEG [8] together with JFIF [9] shall be supported. The support for ISO/IEC JPEG only apply to the following two modes:

- mandatory: baseline DCT, non-differential, Huffman coding, as defined in table B.1, symbol 'SOF0' in [8];
- optional: progressive DCT, non-differential, Huffman coding, as defined in table B.1, symbol 'SOF2' [8].

For JPEG baseline DCT, EXIF compressed image file format should also be supported, as defined in [54]. In that case there is no requirement for the MMS client to interpret or present the EXIF parameters recorded in the file.

4.6 Bitmap graphics

If bitmap graphics is supported, the following bitmap graphics formats should be supported:

- GIF87a [15];
- GIF89a, [16];
- PNG, [17].

4.7 Video

If video is supported, ITU-T Recommendation H.263 profile 0 level 45 [10][11] shall be supported. In addition:

- H.263 Profile 3 Level 45 [10][11];
- MPEG-4 Visual Simple Profile Level 0b [12];
- H.264 (AVC) Baseline Profile Level 1b [52][53] with `constraint_set1_flag=1`;

should be supported. There are no requirements on output timing conformance of H.264 (AVC) decoding (Annex C of [52]).

A video buffer model defined in Annex G of document [14] should be used with H.263 and MPEG-4. It shall not be used with H.264 (AVC).

NOTE: ITU-T Recommendation H.263 profile 0 has been mandated to ensure that video-enabled MMS supports a minimum baseline video capability. Both H.263 and MPEG-4 visual decoders can decode an H.263 profile 0 bitstream. It is strongly recommended, though, that an H.263 profile 0 bitstream is transported and stored as H.263 and not as MPEG-4 visual (short header), as MPEG-4 visual is not mandated by MMS.

4.8 Vector graphics

If 2D vector graphics is supported, Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) Tiny 1.2 [20][21] and ECMAScript [55] shall be supported.

NOTE 1: The compression format for SVG content is GZIP [35], in accordance with the SVG specification [20].

NOTE 2: Only media formats supported by MMS, as specified in clause 4 of this specification, shall be used. MMS clients do not support the Ogg Vorbis format.

NOTE 3: Content creators of SVG Tiny 1.2 for MMS clients are strongly recommended to follow the content creation guidelines provided for PSS clients in Annex L of [14].

NOTE 4: If SVG Tiny 1.2 will not be published within a reasonable timeframe, the decision to adopt SVG Tiny 1.2 in favour of SVG Tiny 1.1 may be reconsidered.

4.9 File Format for video and associated speech/audio media types

To ensure interoperability for the transport of video and associated speech/audio and timed text in an MM, the 3GPP file format with Basic profile shall be supported.

The usage of the 3GPP file format shall follow the technical specifications and the implementation guidelines specified in TS 26.233 [33]

NOTE: When using speech media type alone, AMR or AMR-WB data is stored according to the file format specified in [32].

4.10 Media synchronization and presentation format

The 3GPP MMS uses a subset of SMIL 2.0 [24] for media synchronization and scene description. MMS clients and servers with support for media synchronization and scene descriptions shall support the 3GPP SMIL Language Profile defined in [34].

This profile is a subset of the SMIL 2.0 Language Profile but a superset of the SMIL 2.0 Basic Language Profile. Document [34] also includes an informative annex A that provides guidelines for SMIL content authors.

Additionally, XHTML Mobile Profile [30] for scene description should be supported. MMS clients and servers with support for scene descriptions based on XHTML shall support XHTML Mobile Profile [30], defined by the WAP Forum.

XHTML Mobile Profile is a subset of XHTML 1.1 but a superset of XHTML Basic.

4.11 Timed text

If timed text is supported, MMS clients shall support [35] with 3GP files using Basic profile [33].

4.12 Digital Rights Management

If Rights Management is supported, OMA Digital Rights Management (DRM) 1.0 [56][57][58] shall be supported.

4.13 PIM

If Personal Data Interchange is supported this shall be done according to the OMA vObject Minimum Interoperability Profile [59].

Annex A (informative): Change history

Change history							
Date	TSG #	TSG Doc.	CR	Rev	Subject/Comment	Old	New
2002-03	15	SP-020075			Version 2.0.0 presented for approval	2.0.0	5.0.0
2002-06	16	SP-020224	001		Correcting the reference to AMR and AMR-WB RTP payload	5.0.0	5.1.0
2002-12	18	SP-020691	002		Code points for H.263	5.1.0	5.2.0
2002-12	18	SP-020691	003	1	File Format name change from MP4 to 3GP	5.1.0	5.2.0
2004-09	25	SP-040641	006	2	Introduction of Extended AMR-WB and Enhanced aacPlus into MMS service	5.2.0	6.0.0
2004-09	25	SP-040650	007	1	Update of MMS codecs and formats with Release 6 functionality	5.2.0	6.0.0
2004-09	25	SP-040655	008	1	Update of MMS codecs and formats with H.264	5.2.0	6.0.0
2004-12	26	SP-040838	009	1	Support for EXIF in MMS	6.0.0	6.1.0
2004-12	26	SP-040838	010		Adoption of SVG Tiny 1.2 for MMS	6.0.0	6.1.0
2005-12	27	SP-050175	011	2	Introduction of PIM and DRM	6.1.0	6.2.0