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Media formats and codecs
(3GPP TS 26.140 version 17.0.0 Release 17)**



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Contents

Intellectual Property Rights	2
Legal Notice	2
Modal verbs terminology.....	2
Foreword.....	4
1 Scope	5
2 References	5
3 Definitions and abbreviations.....	8
3.1 Definitions	8
3.2 Abbreviations	8
4 Media formats	8
4.1 Text	9
4.2 Speech	9
4.3 Audio.....	9
4.4 Synthetic audio	10
4.5 Still Image	10
4.6 Bitmap graphics.....	10
4.7 Video	10
4.8 Vector graphics	11
4.9 File Format for video and associated speech/audio media types.....	11
4.10 Media synchronization and presentation format.....	11
4.11 Timed text	12
4.12 Digital Rights Management.....	12
4.13 PIM.....	12
4.14 Dynamic and Interactive Multimedia Scene	12
Annex A (informative): Change history	13
History	14

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;
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- 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
CPB	Coding Picture Buffer
DIMS	Dynamic and Interactive Multimedia Scene
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
HDTV	High-definition television
HEVC	High Efficiency Video Coding
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)
VCL	Video Coding Layer
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	Music	Speech over Music	Speech between Music	Speech
Bit rate				
14 kbps mono				
18 kbps stereo				
24 kbps stereo				
24 kbps mono				
32 kbps stereo				
48 kbps stereo				

More recent information on the performance of the codecs based on more recent versions of the codecs can be found in TR 26.936 [60].

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, the following applies:

-
- H.264 (AVC) [52] Constrained Baseline Profile (CBP) Level 1.3 shall be supported.
- H.264 (AVC) [52] High Profile Level 3.1 with frame_mbs_only_flag=1 should be supported by MMS clients supporting HDTV video content at a resolution of 1280x720 (720p) with progressive scan at 30 frames per second. Maximum VCL Bit Rate shall be constrained to 14Mbps by cpbBrVclFactor & cpbBrNalFactor being fixed to 1000 and 1200 respectively, irrespective of the profile. Note that peak Bit Rate is determined by the CPB size.

- H.265 (HEVC) [62] Main Profile, Main Tier, Level 3.1 decoder should be supported. H.265 (HEVC) Main Profile shall be used with `general_progressive_source_flag` equal to 1, `general_interlaced_source_flag` equal to 0, `general_non_packed_constraint_flag` equal to 1, and `general_frame_only_constraint_flag` equal to 1.

NOTE: H.263 profile 0 level 45 [10][11] was mandatory or recommended in earlier Releases of this specification.

If stereoscopic 3D video is supported, ITU-T Recommendation H.264 / MPEG-4 (Part 10) AVC [52] Stereo High Profile (SHP) Level 3.1 with `frame_mbs_only_flag=1` should be supported. When an H.264 (AVC) SHP sub-bitstream containing the base view only complies with Level 1.3 or below, it should be constrained as follows: the value of the `profile_idc` should be equal to 66 and the value of the `constraint_set1_flag` should be equal to 1 in all active sequence parameter sets, i.e. the H.264 (AVC) Constrained Baseline Profile should be indicated to be used for the base view.

NOTE: When the base view sub-bitstream of the MM complies with H.264 (AVC) CPB Level 1.3 or below, the base view of an MM can be played back by any MMS (Release 11) client supporting video, or the MM can be modified without re-encoding to an MM including 2D video to be played back in H.264 (AVC) CPB compatible MMS clients.

There are no requirements on output timing conformance of H.264 (AVC) decoding (Annex C of [52]) or H.265 (HEVC) decoding (Annex C of [62]).

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

MMS clients and servers that support HTML shall support the 3GPP HTML5 profile as defined in [63]. MMS servers should support translation from other scene description formats, such as SMIL [24] and XHTML Mobile Profile [30] to HTML5. The MMS client that supports HTML shall include the HTML5 MIME type "text/html" as part of the User Agent header field in the request sent to the server.

The MMS Relay/Server shall not accept an MMS message using HTML5 presentation unless it supports HTML5 presentation format and supports transcoding to SMIL 2.0 or XHTML Mobile Profile. For this purpose, the MMS Relay/Server uses the capability negotiation as defined in section 7.1.3.1 of [22] to detect the user agent's capabilities.

All referenced resources should be delivered as part of the same multi-part MIME document, where the HTML5 document shall be the root part.

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].

4.14 Dynamic and Interactive Multimedia Scene

If dynamic and interactive multimedia scene is supported, MMS clients and servers shall support 3GPP TS 26.142 [61].

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
2006-03	31	SP-060009	0012	1	Addition of a reference to TR 26.936	6.2.0	6.3.0
2006-09	33	SP-060600	0013		Editorial correction of references	6.3.0	7.0.0
2007-06	36	SP-070319	0014	2	Inclusion of DIMS in MMS	7.0.0	7.1.0
2008-12	42				Version for Release 8	7.1.0	8.0.0
2009-12	46				Version for Release 9	8.0.0	9.0.0
2011-03	51				Version for Release 10	9.0.0	10.0.0
2012-03	55	SP-120026	0016	4	On MMS video enhancements	10.0.0	11.0.0
2012-09	57	SP-120509	0017	2	Inclusion of MVC support for MMS	11.0.0	11.1.0
2014-03	63	SP-140009	0018		HEVC support	11.1.0	12.0.0
2015-12	70	SP-150653	0019	5	HTML5 as Presentation Layer for MMS	12.0.0	13.0.0

Change history							
Date	Meeting	TDoc	CR	Rev	Cat	Subject/Comment	New version
2017-03	75					Version for Release 14	14.0.0
2018-06	80					Version for Release 15	15.0.0
2020-07	-	-	-	-	-	Update to Rel-16 version (MCC)	16.0.0
2020-09	SA#89-e	SP-200804	0020	-	C	Removing H.263 from MMS	16.1.0
2022-04	-	-	-	-	-	Update to Rel-17 version (MCC)	17.0.0

History

Document history		
V17.0.0	May 2022	Publication