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# ITU-T

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STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

# H.323

(02/98)

SERIES H: AUDIOVISUAL AND MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS

Infrastructure of audiovisual services – Systems and  
terminal equipment for audiovisual services

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**Packet-based multimedia communications  
systems**

ITU-T Recommendation H.323

(Previously CCITT Recommendation)

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## PACKET-BASED MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

**Summary**

This Recommendation describes terminals and other entities that provide multimedia communications services over Packet Based Networks (PBN) which may not provide a guaranteed Quality of Service. H.323 entities may provide real-time audio, video and/or data communications. Support for audio is mandatory, while data and video are optional, but if supported, the ability to use a specified common mode of operation is required, so that all terminals supporting that media type can interwork.

The packet based network over which H.323 entities communicate may be a point-to-point connection, a single network segment, or an internetwork having multiple segments with complex topologies.

H.323 entities may be used in point-to-point, multipoint, or broadcast (as described in Recommendation H.332) configurations. They may interwork with H.310 terminals on B-ISDN, H.320 terminals on N-ISDN, H.321 terminals on B-ISDN, H.322 terminals on Guaranteed Quality of Service LANs, H.324 terminals on GSTN and wireless networks, V.70 terminals on GSTN, and voice terminals on GSTN or ISDN through the use of Gateways.

H.323 entities may be integrated into personal computers or implemented in stand-alone devices such as videotelephones.

Products claiming compliance with Version 1 of H.323 shall comply with all of the mandatory requirements of H.323 (1996) which references Recommendations H.225.0 (1996) and H.245 (1996). Version 1 products can be identified by H.225.0 messages containing a **protocolIdentifier** = {itu-t (0) recommendation (0) h (8) 2250 version (0) 1} and H.245 messages containing a **protocolIdentifier** = {itu-t (0) recommendation (0) h (8) 245 version (0) 2}. Products claiming compliance with Version 2 of H.323 shall comply with all of the mandatory requirements of this Recommendation, H.323 (1998), which references Recommendations H.225.0 (1998) and H.245 (1998). Version 2 products can be identified by H.225.0 messages containing a **protocolIdentifier** = {itu-t (0) recommendation (0) h (8) 2250 version (0) 2} and H.245 messages containing a **protocolIdentifier** = {itu-t (0) recommendation (0) h (8) 245 version (0) 3}.

Note that the title of H.323 (1996) was "Visual telephone systems and equipment for local area networks which provide a non-guaranteed quality of service". The title has been changed in this version to be consistent with its expanded scope.

**Source**

ITU-T Recommendation H.323 was revised by ITU-T Study Group 16 (1997-2000) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 6th of February 1998.

## FOREWORD

ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is the United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of the ITU. The ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T Study Groups which, in their turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of Recommendations by the Members of the ITU-T is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSC Resolution No. 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

## NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, the ITU had received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementors are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database.

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