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OF ITU

H.323

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SERIES H: AUDIOVISUAL AND MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS

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

**Visual telephone systems and equipment for
local area networks which provide a
non-guaranteed quality of service**

ITU-T Recommendation H.323
Superseded by a more recent version

(Previously CCITT Recommendation)

ITU-T H-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS
AUDIOVISUAL AND MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Characteristics of transmission channels used for other than telephone purposes | H.10–H.19 |
| Use of telephone-type circuits for voice-frequency telegraphy | H.20–H.29 |
| Telephone circuits or cables used for various types of telegraph transmission or simultaneous transmission | H.30–H.39 |
| Telephone-type circuits used for facsimile telegraphy | H.40–H.49 |
| Characteristics of data signals | H.50–H.99 |
| CHARACTERISTICS OF VISUAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS | H.100–H.199 |
| INFRASTRUCTURE OF AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES | H.200–H.399 |
| General | H.200–H.219 |
| Transmission multiplexing and synchronization | H.220–H.229 |
| Systems aspects | H.230–H.239 |
| Communication procedures | H.240–H.259 |
| Coding of moving video | H.260–H.279 |
| Related systems aspects | H.280–H.299 |
| Systems and terminal equipment for audiovisual services | H.300–H.399 |

For further details, please refer to ITU-T List of Recommendations.

**VISUAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR LOCAL AREA NETWORKS
WHICH PROVIDE A NON-GUARANTEED QUALITY OF SERVICE**

Summary

Recommendation H.323 describes terminals, equipment and services for multimedia communication over Local Area Networks (LAN) which do not provide a guaranteed quality of service. H.323 terminals and equipment may carry real-time voice, data and video, or any combination, including videotelephony.

The LAN over which H.323 terminals communicate, may be a single segment or ring, or it may be multiple segments with complex topologies. It should be noted that operation of H.323 terminals over the multiple LAN segments (including the Internet) may result in poor performance. The possible means by which quality of service might be assured on such types of LANs/internetworks is beyond the scope of this Recommendation.

H.323 terminals may be integrated into personal computers or implemented in stand-alone devices such as videotelephones. Support for voice 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. This Recommendation allows more than one channel of each type to be in use. Other Recommendations in the H.323-Series include H.225.0 packet and synchronization, H.245 control, H.261 and H.263 video codecs, G.711, G.722, G.728, G.729, and G.723 audio codecs, and the T.120-Series of multimedia communications protocols.

This Recommendation makes use of the logical channel signalling procedures of Recommendation H.245, in which the content of each logical channel is described when the channel is opened. Procedures are provided for expression of receiver and transmitter capabilities, so transmissions are limited to what receivers can decode, and so that receivers may request a particular desired mode from transmitters. Since the procedures of Recommendation H.245 are also used by Recommendation H.310 for ATM networks, Recommendation H.324 for GSTN, and V.70, interworking with these systems should not require H.242 to H.245 translation as would be the case for H.320 systems.

H.323 terminals may be used in multipoint configurations, and 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, and V.70 terminals on GSTN.

Source

ITU-T Recommendation H.323 was prepared by ITU-T Study Group 15 (1993-1996) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 8th of November 1996.

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/had not 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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CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--------|---|
| 1 | Scope 1 |
| 2 | Normative references..... 2 |
| 3 | Definitions 3 |
| 4 | Symbols and abbreviations..... 8 |
| 5 | Conventions..... 10 |
| 6 | System description..... 10 |
| 6.1 | Information streams..... 10 |
| 6.2 | Terminal characteristics 11 |
| 6.2.1 | Terminal elements outside the scope of this Recommendation 11 |
| 6.2.2 | Terminal elements within the scope of this Recommendation 12 |
| 6.2.3 | LAN interface..... 12 |
| 6.2.4 | Video codec..... 12 |
| 6.2.5 | Audio codec..... 13 |
| 6.2.6 | Receive path delay 14 |
| 6.2.7 | Data channel..... 14 |
| 6.2.8 | H.245 control function 16 |
| 6.2.9 | RAS signalling function..... 20 |
| 6.2.10 | Call signalling function 20 |
| 6.2.11 | H.225.0 layer 21 |
| 6.3 | Gateway characteristics 21 |
| 6.4 | Gatekeeper characteristics 24 |
| 6.5 | Multipoint controller characteristics 25 |
| 6.6 | Multipoint processor characteristics..... 26 |
| 6.7 | Multipoint control unit characteristics 27 |
| 6.8 | Multipoint capability 27 |
| 6.8.1 | Centralized multipoint capability 27 |
| 6.8.2 | Decentralized multipoint capability 28 |
| 6.8.3 | Hybrid multipoint – Centralized audio 28 |
| 6.8.4 | Hybrid multipoint – Centralized video 28 |
| 6.8.5 | Establishment of common mode 29 |
| 6.8.6 | Multipoint rate matching..... 29 |
| 6.8.7 | Multipoint lip synchronization..... 29 |
| 6.8.8 | Multipoint encryption..... 30 |
| 6.8.9 | Cascading multipoint control units 30 |

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