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Obsoletes: [RFC 1911](#)

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Voice Profile for Internet Mail - version 2

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Overview

This document profiles Internet mail for voice messaging. It obsoletes [RFC 1911](#) which describes version 1 of the profile. A list of changes from that document are noted in [Appendix F](#). As well, [Appendix A](#) summarizes the protocol profiles of this version of VPIM.

Please send comments on this document to the EMA VPIM Work Group mailing list: [<vpim-l@ema.org>](mailto:vpim-l@ema.org)

Internet Draft

VPIM v2

March 12, 1998

Working Group Summary

This profile is not the product of an IETF working group, though several have reviewed the document. It is instead the product of the VPIM Work Group of the Electronic Messaging Association (EMA). This work group, which has representatives from most major voice mail vendors and several email vendors, has held several interoperability demonstrations between voice messaging vendors and is currently promoting VPIM trials and deployment.

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1. Abstract

A class of special-purpose computers has evolved to provide voice messaging services. These machines generally interface to a telephone switch and provide call answering and voice messaging services. Traditionally, messages sent to a non-local machine are transported using analog networking protocols based on DTMF signaling and analog voice playback. As the demand for networking increases, there is a need for a standard high-quality digital protocol to connect these machines. The following document is a profile of the Internet standard MIME and ESMTM protocols for use as a digital voice messaging networking protocol. The profile is referred to as VPIM (Voice Profile for Internet Mail) in this document.

This profile is based on earlier work in the Audio Message Interchange Specification (AMIS) group that defined a voice messaging protocol based on X.400 technology. This profile is intended to satisfy the user requirements statement from that earlier work with the industry standard ESMTM/MIME mail protocol infrastructures already used within corporate intranets. This second version of VPIM is based on implementation experience and obsoletes [RFC 1911](#) which describes version 1 of the profile.

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2. Scope

MIME is the Internet multipurpose, multimedia messaging standard. This document explicitly recognizes its capabilities and provides a mechanism for the exchange of various messaging technologies, primarily voice and facsimile.

This document specifies a restricted profile of the Internet multimedia messaging protocols for use between voice processing server platforms. These platforms have historically been special-purpose computers and often do not have the same facilities normally associated with a traditional Internet Email-capable computer. As a result, VPIM also specifies additional functionality as it is needed. This profile is intended to specify the minimum common set of features to allow interworking between compliant systems.

2.1 Voice Messaging System Limitations

The following are typical limitations of voice messaging platform which were considered in creating this baseline profile.

- 1) Text messages are not normally received and often cannot be easily displayed or viewed. They can often be processed only via text-to-speech or text-to-fax features not currently present in many of these machines.
- 2) Voice mail machines usually act as an integrated Message Transfer Agent, Message Store and User Agent. There is no relaying of messages, and [RFC 822](#) header fields may have limited use in the context of the limited messaging features currently deployed.
- 3) Voice mail message stores are generally not capable of preserving the full semantics of an Internet message. As such, use of a voice mail machine for gatewaying is not supported. In particular, storage of recipient lists, "Received" lines, and "Message-ID" may be limited.
- 4) Internet-style distribution/exploder mailing lists are not typically supported. Voice mail machines often implement only local alias lists, with error-to-sender and reply-to-sender behavior. Reply-all capabilities using a CC list is not generally available.
- 5) Error reports must be machine-parsable so that helpful responses can be voiced to users whose only access mechanism is a telephone.
- 6) The voice mail systems generally limit address entry to 16 or fewer numeric characters, and normally do not support alphanumeric mailbox names. Alpha characters are not generally used for mailbox

identification as they cannot be easily entered from a telephone terminal.

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2.2 Design Goals

It is a goal of this profile to make as few restrictions and additions to the existing Internet mail protocols as possible while satisfying the requirements for interoperability with current generation voice messaging systems. This goal is motivated by the desire to increase the accessibility to digital messaging by enabling the use of proven existing networking software for rapid development.

This specification is intended for use on a TCP/IP network, however, it is possible to use the SMTP protocol suite over other transport protocols. The necessary protocol parameters for such use is outside the scope of this document.

This profile is intended to be robust enough to be used in an environment, such as the global Internet with installed-base gateways which do not understand MIME, though typical use is expected to be within corporate intranets. Full functionality, such as reliable error messages and binary transport, will require careful selection of gateways (e.g., via MX records) to be used as VPIM forwarding agents. Nothing in this document precludes use of a general purpose MIME email packages to read and compose VPIM messages. While no special configuration is required to receive VPIM compliant messages, some may be required to originate compliant structures.

It is expected that a VPIM messaging system will be managed by a system administrator who can perform TCP/IP network configuration. When using facsimile or multiple voice encodings, it is suggested that the system administrator maintain a list of the capabilities of the networked mail machines to reduce the sending of undeliverable messages due to lack of feature support. Configuration, implementation and management of this directory listing capabilities is a local matter.

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3. Protocol Restrictions

This protocol does not limit the number of recipients per message. Where possible, implementations should not restrict the number of recipients in a single message. It is recognized that no implementation supports unlimited recipients, and that the number of supported recipients may be quite low. However, ESMTP currently does not provide a mechanism for indicating the number of supported recipients.

This protocol does not limit the maximum message length. Implementors should understand that some machines will be unable to accept excessively long messages. A mechanism is defined in the [RFC 1425](#) SMTP service extensions to declare the maximum message size supported.

The message size indicated in the ESMTP SIZE command is in bytes, not minutes or seconds. The number of bytes varies by voice encoding format and must include the MIME wrapper overhead. If the length must be known before sending, an approximate translation into minutes or seconds can be performed if the voice encoding is known.

The following sections describe the restrictions and additions to Internet mail protocols that are required to be compliant with this VPIM v2 profile. Though various SMTP, ESMTP and MIME features are described here, the implementor is referred to the relevant RFCs for complete details. It is also advisable to check for IETF drafts of various Internet Mail specifications that are later than the most recent RFCs since, for example, MIME has yet to be published as a full IETF Standard. The table in [Appendix A](#) summarizes the protocol details of this profile.

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 [\[REQ\]](#).

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4. Voice Message Interchange Format

The voice message interchange format is a profile of the Internet Mail Protocol Suite. Any Internet Mail message containing the format defined in this section is referred to as a VPIM Message in this document. As a result, this document assumes an understanding of the Internet Mail specifications. Specifically, VPIM references components from the message format standard for Internet messages [[RFC822](#)], the Multipurpose Internet Message Extensions [MIME], the X.400 gateway specification [[X.400](#)], delivery status and message disposition notifications [[REPORT](#)][DSN][[DRPT](#)][STATUS][[MDN](#)], and the electronic business card [[MIMEDIR](#)][VCARD].

4.1 Message Addressing Formats

[RFC 822](#) addresses are based on the domain name system. This naming system has two components: the local part, used for username or mailbox identification; and the host part, used for global machine identification.

4.1.1 VPIM Addresses

The local part of the address shall be a US-ASCII string uniquely identifying a mailbox on a destination system. For voice messaging, the local part is a printable string containing the mailbox ID of the originator or recipient. While alpha characters and long mailbox identifiers are permitted, most voice mail networks rely on numeric mailbox identifiers to retain compatibility with the limited 10 digit telephone keypad. As a result, some voice messaging systems may only be able to handle a numeric local part. The reception of alphanumeric local parts on these systems may result in the address being mapped to some locally unique (but confusing to the recipient) number or, in the worst case the address could be deleted making the message un-replyable. Additionally, it may be difficult to create messages on these systems with an alphanumeric local part without complex key sequences or some form of directory lookup (see 6).

The use of the domain naming system should be transparent to the user. It is the responsibility of the voice mail machine to lookup the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) based on the address entered by the user (see 6).

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In the absence of a global directory, specification of the local part is expected to conform to international or private telephone numbering plans. It is likely that private numbering plans will prevail and these are left for local definition. However, it is recommended that public telephone numbers be noted according to the international numbering plan described in [E.164]. The indication that the local part is a public telephone number is given by a preceding '+' (the '+' would not be entered from a telephone keypad, it is added by the system as a flag). Since the primary information in the numeric scheme is contained by the digits, other character separators (e.g. '-') may be ignored (i.e. to allow parsing of the numeric local mailbox) or may be used to recognize distinct portions of the telephone number (e.g. country code). The specification of the local part of a VPIM address can be split into the four groups described below:

- 1) mailbox number
 - for use as a private numbering plan (any number of digits)
 - e.g. 2722@lucent.com
- 2) mailbox number+extension
 - for use as a private numbering plan with extensions
 - any number of digits, use of '+' as separator
 - e.g. 2722+111@Lucent.com
- 3) +international number
 - for international telephone numbers conforming to E.164
 - maximum of 15 digits
 - e.g. +16137637582@vm.nortel.ca
- 4) +international number+extension
 - for international telephone numbers conforming to E.164
 - maximum of 15 digits, with an extension (e.g. behind a PBX) that has a maximum of 15 digits.
 - e.g. +17035245550+230@ema.org

4.1.2 Special Addresses

Special addresses are provided for compatibility with the conventions of Internet mail. These addresses do not use numeric local addresses, both to conform to current Internet practice and to avoid conflict with existing numeric addressing plans. Two special addresses are RESERVED for use as follows:

postmaster@domain

By convention, a special mailbox named "postmaster" MUST exist on all systems. This address is used for diagnostics and should be checked regularly by the system manager. This mailbox is particularly likely to receive text messages, which is not normal on a voice processing

platform. The specific handling of these messages is an individual implementation choice.

non-mail-user@domain

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If a reply to a message is not possible, such as a telephone answering message, then the special address `_non-mail-user_` must be used as the originator's address. Any text name such as "Telephone Answering," or the telephone number if it is available, is permitted. This special address is used as a token to indicate an unreachable originator. For compatibility with the installed base of mail user agents, implementations that generate this special address MUST send a non-delivery notification for reply messages sent to the undeliverable address. The status code for such NDN's is 5.1.1 "Mailbox does not exist".

Example:

```
From: Telephone Answering <non-mail-user@mycompany.com>
```

4.1.3 Distribution Lists

There are many ways to handle distribution list (DL) expansions and none are 'standard'. Simple alias is a behavior closest to what most voice mail systems do today and what is to be used with VPIM messages. That is:

- Reply to the originator - (Address in the [RFC822](#) Reply-to or From field)
- Errors to the submitter - (Address in the MAIL FROM: field of the ESMTP exchange and the Return-Path: [RFC 822](#) field)

Some proprietary voice messaging protocols include only the recipient of the particular copy in the envelope and include no "headers" except date and per-message features. Most voice messaging systems do not provide for "Header Information" in their messaging queues and only include delivery information. As a result, recipient information MAY be in either the To or CC headers. If all recipients cannot be presented (e.g. unknown DL expansion) then the recipient headers MUST be omitted to indicate that an accurate list of recipients (e.g. for use with a reply-all capability) is not known.

4.2 Message Header Fields

Internet messages contain a header information block. This header block contains information required to identify the sender, the list of recipients, the message send time, and other information intended for user presentation. Except for specialized gateway and mailing list cases, headers do not indicate delivery options for the transport of messages.

Exploder lists are noted for modifying or adding to the headers of messages that pass through them. VPIM systems MUST be able to accept

and ignore headers that are not defined here.

The following header lines are permitted for use with VPIM voice messages:

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4.2.1 From

The originator's fully-qualified domain address (a mailbox address followed by the fully-qualified domain name). The user listed in this field should be presented in the voice message envelope as the originator of the message.

Systems compliant with this profile SHOULD provide the text personal name of the voice message originator in a quoted phrase, if the name is available. Text names of corporate or positional mailboxes MAY be provided as a simple string. From [[RFC822](#)]

Example:

```
From: "Joe S. User" <12145551212@mycompany.com>
```

```
From: Technical Support <611@serviceprovider.com>
```

The From address may be used for replies (see 4.6). However, if the From address contains <non-mail-user@domain>, the user SHOULD not be offered the option to reply, nor should notifications be sent to this address.

4.2.2 To

The To header contains the recipient's fully-qualified domain address. There may be one or more To: fields in any message.

Example:

```
To: +12145551213@mycompany.com
```

Systems compliant to this profile SHOULD provide a list of recipients only if all recipients are provided. The To header MUST NOT be included in the message if the sending message transport agent (MTA) cannot resolve all the addresses in it, e.g. if an address is a DL alias for which the expansion is unknown (see 4.1.3). If present, the addresses in the To header MAY be used for a reply message to all recipients.

Systems compliant to this profile MAY also discard the To addresses of incoming messages because of the inability to store the information. This would, of course, make a reply-to-all capability impossible.

4.2.3 Cc

The cc header contains additional recipients' fully-qualified domain addresses. Many voice mail systems maintain only sufficient envelope information for message delivery and are not capable of storing or

providing a complete list of recipients.

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Systems compliant to this profile SHOULD provide a list of recipients only if all disclosed recipients can be provided. The list of disclosed recipients does not include those sent via a blind copy. If not, systems SHOULD omit the To and Cc headers to indicate that the full list of recipients is unknown.

Example:

```
Cc: +12145551213@mycompany.com
```

Systems compliant to this profile MAY discard the Cc addresses of incoming messages as necessary. If a list of Cc or to addresses is present, these addresses MAY be used for a reply message to all recipients.

4.2.4 Date

The Date header contains the date, time, and time zone in which the message was sent by the originator. The time zone SHOULD be represented in a four-digit time zone offset, such as -0500 for North American Eastern Standard Time. This may be supplemented by a time zone name in parentheses, e.g., "-0900 (PDT)". Compliant implementations SHOULD be able to convert [RFC 822](#) date and time stamps into local time.

Example:

```
Date: Wed, 28 Jul 96 10:08:49 -0800 (PST)
```

The sending system MUST report the time the message was sent. If the VPIM sender is relaying a message from a system which does not provide a time stamp, the time of arrival at the VPIM system SHOULD be used as the date. From [[RFC822](#)]

4.2.5 Sender

The Sender header contains the actual address of the originator if the message is sent by an agent on behalf of the author indicated in the From: field and MAY be present in a VPIM message.

While it may not be possible to save this information in some voice mail machines, discarding this information or the ESMTP MAIL FROM (see 4.2.6) address will make it difficult to send an error message to the proper destination. From [[RFC822](#)]

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[4.2.6](#) Return Path

The Return-path header is added by the final delivering SMTP server. If present, it contains the address from the MAIL FROM parameter of the ESMTP exchange (see 5.1.2) to which error messages MUST be sent to this address (see [\[DRPT\]](#) for additional details). Note that if the Return-path is null ("`<>`"), e.g. no path, loop prevention or confidential, a notification MUST NOT be sent. If the Return path address is not available (either from this header or the MAIL FROM parameter) the Sender or From addresses may be used to deliver notifications.

[4.2.7](#) Message-id

The Message-id header contains a unique per-message identifier. A unique message-id MUST be generated for each message sent from a compliant implementation.

The message-id is not required to be stored on the receiving system. This identifier MAY be used for tracking, auditing, and returning read-receipt reports. From [\[RFC822\]](#)

Example:

```
Message-id: <12345678@mycompany.com>
```

[4.2.8](#) Reply-To

If present, the reply-to header provides a preferred address to which reply messages should be sent (see 4.6). Typically, voice mail systems can only support one originator of a message so it is unlikely that this field can be supported. A compliant system SHOULD NOT send a Reply-To header. However, if a reply-to header is present, a reply-to sender message SHOULD be sent to the address specified (that is, overwriting From). From [\[RFC822\]](#) This preferred address of the originator must also be provided in the originator's vCard EMAIL attribute, if present (see 4.3.3).

[4.2.9](#) Received

The Received header contains trace information added to the beginning of a [RFC 822](#) message by MTAs. This is the only header permitted to be added by an MTA. Information in this header is useful for debugging when using an US-ASCII message reader or a header parsing tool.

A compliant system MUST add Received headers when acting as a gateway and MUST NOT remove any. These headers MAY be ignored or deleted when the message is received at the final destination. From [\[RFC822\]](#)

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[4.2.10](#) MIME Version

The MIME-Version header indicates that the message conforms to the MIME message format specification. Systems compliant with this specification SHOULD include a comment with the words "(Voice 2.0)". [RFC 1911](#) defines an earlier version of this profile and uses the token (Voice 1.0). From [[MIME1](#)][VPIM1]

Example:

```
MIME-Version: 1.0 (Voice 2.0)
```

This identifier is intended for information only and SHOULD NOT be used to semantically identify the message as being a VPIM message. Instead, the presence of the content defined in [[V-MSG](#)] SHOULD be used if identification is necessary.

[4.2.11](#) Content-Type

The content-type header declares the type of content enclosed in the message. The typical top level content in a VPIM Message SHOULD be multipart/voice-message, a mechanism for bundling several components into a single identifiable voice message. The allowable contents are detailed in [section 4.3](#) of this document. From [[MIME2](#)]

[4.2.12](#) Content-Transfer-Encoding

Because Internet mail was initially specified to carry only 7-bit US-ASCII text, it may be necessary to encode voice and fax data into a representation suitable for that environment. The content-transfer-encoding header describes this transformation if it is needed. Compliant implementations MUST recognize and decode the standard encodings, "Binary", "7bit", "8bit", "Base64" and "Quoted-Printable". The allowable content-transfer-encodings are specified in [section 4.3](#). From [[MIME1](#)]

[4.2.13](#) Sensitivity

The sensitivity header, if present, indicates the requested privacy level. The case-insensitive values "Personal" and "Private" are specified. If no privacy is requested, this field is omitted.

If a sensitivity header is present in the message, a compliant system MUST prohibit the recipient from forwarding this message to any other user. A compliant system, however, SHOULD allow the user to reply to a sensitive message, but SHOULD NOT include the original message content. The sensitivity of the reply message MAY be set by the user.

If the receiving system does not support privacy and the sensitivity

is one of "Personal" or "Private", the message MUST be returned to the sender with an appropriate error code indicating that privacy could not be assured and that the message was not delivered. A non-delivery notification to a private message need not be tagged private since it will be sent to the originator. From: [[X.400](#)]

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4.2.14 Importance

Indicates the requested priority to be given by the receiving system. The case-insensitive values "low", "normal" and "high" are specified. If no special importance is requested, this header may be omitted and the value assumed to be "normal".

Compliant implementations MAY use this header to indicate the importance of a message and may order messages in a recipient's mailbox. From: [[X.400](#)]

4.2.15 Subject

The subject field is often provided by email systems but is not widely supported on Voice Mail platforms. For compatibility with text based mailbox interfaces, a text subject field SHOULD be generated by a compliant implementation but MAY be discarded if present by a receiving system. From [[RFC822](#)]

It is recommended that voice messaging systems that do not support any text user interfaces (e.g. access only by a telephone) insert a generic subject header of "VPIM Message" for the benefit of text enabled recipients.

4.2.16 Disposition-Notification-To

This header MAY be present to indicate that the sender is requesting a receipt notification from the receiving user agent. This message disposition notification (MDN) is typically sent by the user agent after the user has listened to the message and consented to an MDN being sent

Example:

```
Disposition-notification-to: +12145551213@mycompany.com
```

The presence of a Disposition-notification-to header in a message is merely a request for an MDN described in 4.4.5. The recipients' user agents are always free to silently ignore such a request so this header does not burden any system that does not support it. From [[MDN](#)].

4.2.17 Disposition-Notification-Options

This header MAY be present to define future extensions parameters for an MDN requested by the presence of the header in the previous section. Currently no parameters are defined by this document or by [[MDN](#)]. However, this header MUST be parsed if present, if MDNs are supported. If it contains a extension parameter that is required for

proper MDN generation (noted with "=required"), then an MDN MUST NOT be sent if the parameter is not understood. See [[MDN](#)] for complete details.

Example:

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Disposition-notification-options:
whizzbang=required,foo

4.3 Voice Message Content Types

MIME, introduced in [[MIME1](#)], is a general-purpose message body format that is extensible to carry a wide range of body parts. It provides for encoding binary data so that it can be transported over the 7-bit text-oriented SMTP protocol. This transport encoding is in addition to the audio encoding required to generate a binary object.

MIME defines two transport encoding mechanisms to transform binary data into a 7 bit representation, one designed for text-like data ("Quoted-Printable"), and one for arbitrary binary data ("Base64"). While Base64 is dramatically more efficient for audio data, both will work. Where binary transport is available, no transport encoding is needed, and the data can be labeled as "Binary".

An implementation in compliance with this profile SHOULD send audio and/or facsimile data in binary form when binary message transport is available. When binary transport is not available, implementations MUST encode the audio and/or facsimile data as Base64. The detection and decoding of "Quoted-Printable", "7bit", and "8bit" MUST be supported in order to meet MIME requirements and to preserve interoperability with the fullest range of possible devices. However, if a content is received in a transfer encoding that cannot be rendered to the user, an appropriate non-delivery notification MUST be sent.

The content types described in this section are identified for use within the multipart/voice-message content. This content, which is the fundamental part of a VPIM message, is referred to as a VPIM voice message in this document.

Only the contents profiled subsequently can be sent within a VPIM voice message construct to form a simple or a more complex structure (several examples are given in [Appendix B](#)). The presence of other contents within a VPIM voice message is an error condition and SHOULD result in a non-delivery notification. When multiple contents are present within the multipart/voice-message, they SHOULD be presented to the user in the order that they appear in the message.

4.3.1 Multipart/Voice-Message

This MIME multipart structure provides a mechanism for packaging a voice message into one container that is tagged as VPIM v2 compliant. The semantic of multipart/Voice-Message (defined in [[V-MSG](#)]) is

identical to multipart/mixed and may be interpreted as that by systems that do not recognize this content-type.

The Multipart/Voice-Message content-type MUST only contain the profiled media and content types specified in this section (i.e.

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audio/*, image/*, message/rfc822 and text/directory). The most common will be: spoken name, spoken subject, the message itself, attached fax and directory info. Forwarded messages are created by simply using the message/rfc822 construct.

Conformant implementations MUST send the Multipart/Voice-Message in a VPIM message. In most cases, this Multipart/Voice-Message content will be the top level (i.e. in the Content-Type header). Conformant implementations MUST recognize the Multipart/Voice-Message content (whether it is a top level content or below a multipart/mixed) and be able to separate the contents (e.g. spoken name or spoken subject).

4.3.2 Message/RFC822

MIME requires support of the Message/RFC822 message encapsulation body part. This body part is used within a multipart/voice-message to forward complete messages (see 4.5) or to reply with original content (see 4.6). From [[MIME2](#)]

4.3.3 Text/Directory

This content allows for the inclusion of a Versit vCard [[VCARD](#)] electronic business card within a VPIM message. The format is suitable as an interchange format between applications or systems, and is defined independent of the method used to transport it. It provides a useful mechanism to transport information about the originator that can be used by the receiving VPIM system (see 6) or other local applications

Each vCard MUST be contained within a Text/Directory content type [[MIMEDIR](#)] within a VPIM message. [[MIMEDIR](#)] requires that the character set MUST be defined as a parameter value (typically us-ascii for VPIM) and that the profile SHOULD be defined (the value MUST be vCard within VPIM messages).

Each VPIM message SHOULD be created with a Text/Directory (vCard profile) content type that MUST contain the preferred email address, telephone number, and text name of the message originator as well as the vCard version. The vCard SHOULD contain the spoken name and role of the originator, as well as the revision date. Any other vCard attribute MAY also be present. The intent is that the vCard be used as the source of information to contact the originator (e.g., reply, call). If the text/directory content-type is included in a VPIM message, the vCard profile [[VCARD](#)] MUST be used and MUST specify at least the following attributes:

- TEL - Public switched telephone number in international (E.164) format (various types, typically VOICE)
- EMAIL - email address (various types, typically INTERNET; the

typeVPIM is optionally used to denote the address that supports VPIM messages(see 19.1)

VERSION - Indicates the version of the vCard profile. Version 3.0 [[VCARD](#)] MUST be used.

The following attributes SHOULD be specified:

- N - Family Name, Given Name, Additional Names, Honorific Prefixes, and Suffixes (all present components in the From text name MUST match)
- ROLE - the role of the person identified in `N', but may be used as an alternative to the `N' attribute when the sender is a corporate or positional mailbox
- SOUND - spoken name sound data (various types, typically 32KADPCM)
- REV - Revision of vCard in ISO 8601 date format

The vCard MAY use other attributes as defined in [[VCARD](#)] or extensions attributes not yet defined (e.g. capabilities).

If present, the spoken name attribute MUST be denoted by a content ID pointing to an audio/* content elsewhere in the VPIM message.

A typical VPIM message (i.e. no forwarded parts), MUST only contain one vCard -- more than one is an error condition. A VPIM message that contains forwarded messages, though, may contain multiple vCards. However, these vCards MUST be associated with the originator(s) of the forwarded message(s) and the originator of the forwarding message. As a result, all forwarded vCards will be contained in message/rfc822 contents -- only the vCard of forwarding originator will be at the top-level.

Example:

```
Content-Type: text/directory; charset=us-ascii; profile=vCard
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
```

```
BEGIN:VCARD
N:Parsons;Glenn
ORG:Northern Telecom
TEL;TYPE=VOICE;MSG;WORK:+1-613-763-7582
EMAIL;TYPE=INTERNET:glenn.parsons@nortel.ca
EMAIL;TYPE=INTERNET;VPIM:6137637582@vm.nortel.ca
SOUND;TYPE=32KADPCM;ENCODING=URI: CID:<part1@VM2-4321>
REV:19960831T103310Z
VERSION: 3.0
END:VCARD
```

[4.3.4](#) Audio/32KADPCM

An implementation compliant to this profile MUST use Audio/32KADPCM by

default for voice [[ADPCM](#)]. Typically this body contains several minutes of message content, however if used for spoken name or subject the content should be considerably shorter (i.e. about 10 and 20 seconds respectively).

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If an implementation can only handle one voice body, then multiple voice bodies (if present) SHOULD be concatenated, and SHOULD NOT be discarded. It is recommended that this be done in the same order as they were sent. Note that if an Originator Spoken Name audio body and a vCard are both present in a VPIM message, the vCard SOUND attribute MUST point to this audio body (see 4.3.3).

While any valid MIME body header MAY be used, several headers have the following semantics when included with this body part:

4.3.4.1 Content-Description:

This field MAY be present to facilitate the text identification of these body parts in simple email readers. Any values may be used, though it may be useful to use values similar to those for Content-Disposition.

Example:

Content-Description: Big Telco Voice Message

4.3.4.2 Content-Disposition:

This field MUST be present to allow the parsable identification of these body parts. This is especially useful if, as is typical, more than one Audio/32KADPCM body occurs within a single level (e.g. multipart/voice-message). Since a VPIM voice message is intended to be automatically played upon display of the message, in the order in which the audio contents occur, the audio contents must always be of type inline. However, it is still useful to include a filename value, so this should be present if this information is available. From [[DISP](#)]

In order to distinguish between the various types of audio contents in a VPIM voice message a new disposition parameter "voice" is defined with the parameter values below to be used as appropriate (see 19.2):

Voice-Message - the primary voice message,
Voice-Message-Notification - a spoken delivery notification
or spoken disposition notification,
Originator-Spoken-Name - the spoken name of the originator,
Recipient-Spoken-Name - the spoken name of the recipient if
available to the originator and present if there is ONLY one
recipient,
Spoken-Subject- the spoken subject of the message, typically
spoken by the originator

Note that there SHOULD only be one instance of each of these types

of audio contents per message level. Additional instances of a given type (i.e., parameter value) may occur within an attached forwarded voice message.

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Implementations that do not understand the "voice" parameter (or the Content-Disposition header) can safely ignore it, and will present the audio bodyparts in order (but will not be able to distinguish between them).

Example:

```
Content-Disposition: inline; voice=spoken-subject;
filename=msg001.726
```

4.3.4.3 Content-Duration:

This field MAY be present to allow the specification of the length of the audio bodypart in seconds. The use of this field on reception is a local implementation issue. From [[DUR](#)]

Example:

```
Content-Duration: 33
```

4.3.4.4 Content-Language:

This field MAY be present to allow the specification of the spoken language of the audio bodypart. The encoding is defined in [[LANG](#)]. The use of this field on reception is a local implementation issue.

Example for UK English:

```
Content-Language: EN-UK
```

4.3.5 Image/Tiff

A common image encoding for facsimile, known as TIFF-F, is a derivative of the Tag Image File Format (TIFF) and is described in several documents. For the purposes of VPIM, the F Profile of TIFF for Facsimile (TIFF-F) is defined in [[TIFF-F](#)] and the image/tiff MIME content type is defined in [[TIFFREG](#)]. While there are several formats of TIFF, only TIFF-F is profiled for use in a VPIM voice message. Further, since the TIFF-F file format is used in a store-and-forward mode with VPIM, the image MUST be encoded so that there is only one image strip per facsimile page.

All VPIM implementations that support facsimile MUST generate and read TIFF-F compatible facsimile contents in the image/tiff; application=faxbw sub-type encoding by default. An implementation MAY send this fax content in VPIM voice messages and MUST be able to recognize it in received messages. If a fax message is received that cannot be rendered to the user (e.g. the receiving VPIM system does not support fax), then the system MUST non-deliver the entire message

with a media not supported error.

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While any valid MIME body header MAY be used (e.g., Content-Disposition to indicate the filename), none are specified to have special semantics for VPIM and MAY be ignored. Note that the content type parameter application=faxbw MUST be included in outbound messages. However, inbound messages with or without this parameter MUST be rendered to the user (if the rendering software encounters an error in the file format, some form of non-delivery notification MUST be sent to the originator).

4.3.6 Proprietary Voice or Fax Formats

Proprietary voice or fax encoding formats or other standard formats may be supported under this profile provided a unique identifier is registered with the IANA prior to use (see [[MIME4](#)]). The voice encodings should be registered as sub-types of Audio and the fax encodings should be registered as sub-types of Image

Use of any other encoding except audio/32kadpcm or image/tiff; application=faxbw reduces interoperability in the absence of explicit manual system configuration. A compliant implementation MAY use any other encoding with explicit per-destination configuration.

4.4 Other Message Content Types

An implementation compliant with this profile MAY send additional contents in a VPIM message, but ONLY outside of the multipart/voice-message. The content types described in this section are identified for use with this profile. Contents not defined here MUST NOT be used without prior explicit per-destination configuration. If an implementation receives a VPIM message that contains content types not specified in this profile, their handling is a local implementation issue (e.g. the unknown contents MAY be discarded if they cannot be presented to the recipient). Conversely, if an implementation receives a non-VPIM message with any of the contents defined in 4.3 & 4.4, it SHOULD deliver those contents, but the full message handling is a local issue (e.g. the unknown contents or the entire message MAY be discarded). It is recommended that implementations issue delivery notifications to the originator when any form of non-delivery to the recipient occurs.

The multipart contents defined below may be sent as the top level of a VPIM message (with other noted contents below them as required.) As well, the multipart/mixed content can be used to form a more complex structure (several examples are given in [Appendix B](#)). When multiple contents are present, they SHOULD be presented to the user in the order that they appear in the message.

4.4.1 Multipart/Mixed

MIME provides the facilities for enclosing several body parts in a single message. Multipart/Mixed SHOULD only be used for sending complex voice or multimedia messages. That is, as the top level Content-Type when sending one of the following contents (in addition to the VPIM voice message) in a VPIM message. Compliant systems MUST accept multipart/mixed body parts. From [[MIME2](#)]

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4.4.2 Text/Plain

MIME requires support of the basic Text/Plain content type. This content type has limited applicability within the voice messaging environment. Compliant implementations SHOULD NOT send the Text/Plain content-type, but SHOULD only send this content if the recipient system is known to support it. Compliant implementations MUST accept Text/Plain messages, however, specific handling is left as an implementation decision. From [[MIME2](#)]

There are several mechanisms that can be used to support text on voice messaging systems including text-to-speech and text-to-fax conversions. If no rendering of the text is possible (i.e. it is not possible for the recipient to determine if the text is a critical part of the message), the entire message MUST be non-delivered and returned to the sender with a media-unsupported error code.

4.4.3 Multipart/Report

The Multipart/Report is used for enclosing human-readable and machine parsable notification (e.g. Message/delivery-status) body parts and any returned message content. Compliant implementations MUST use the Multipart/Report construct when returning messages, sending warnings, or issuing read receipts. Compliant implementations MUST recognize and decode the Multipart/Report content type and its components in order to present the report to the user. From [[REPORT](#)]

Multipart/Report messages from VPIM implementations SHOULD include the human-readable description of the error as a spoken audio/* content (this speech SHOULD also be made available to the notification recipient). As well, VPIM implementations MUST be able to handle (and MAY generate) Multipart/Report messages that encode the human-readable description of the error as text. Note that per [[DSN](#)] the human-readable part MUST always be present.

4.4.4 Message/Delivery-status

This MIME body part is used for sending machine-parsable delivery status notifications. Compliant implementations must use the Message/delivery-status construct when returning messages or sending warnings. Compliant implementations must recognize and decode the Message/delivery-status content type and present the reason for failure to the user. From [[DSN](#)]

4.4.5 Message/Disposition-notification

This MIME body part is used for sending machine-parsable read-receipt message disposition notifications. Conforming implementations should use the Message/Disposition-notification construct when sending post-

delivery message status notifications. These MDNs, however, MUST only be sent in response to the presence of the Disposition-notification-to header in 4.2.16. Conforming implementations should recognize and decode the Message/Disposition-notification content type and present the notification to the user. From [\[MDN\]](#)

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4.5 Forwarded Messages

VPIM version 2 explicitly supports the forwarding of voice and fax content with voice or fax annotation. However, only the two constructs described below are acceptable in a VPIM message. Since only the first (i.e. message/rfc822) can be recognized as a forwarded message (or even multiple forwarded messages), it is recommended that this construct be used whenever possible.

Forwarded VPIM messages SHOULD be sent as a multipart/voice-message with the entire original message enclosed in a message/rfc822 content type and the annotation as a separate Audio/* or image/* body part. If the [RFC822](#) headers are not available for the forwarded content, simulated headers with available information SHOULD be constructed to indicate the original sending timestamp, and the original sender as indicated in the "From" line. However, note that at least one of "From", "Subject", or "Date" MUST be present. As well, the message/rfc822 content MUST include at least the "MIME-Version", "Content-Type" headers, and MAY include the "Content-Transfer-Encoding" header. From [[MIME2](#)]

In the event that forwarding information is lost through concatenation of the original message and the forwarding annotation, such as must be done in a gateway between VPIM and the AMIS voice messaging protocol, the entire content MAY be sent as a single Audio/* segment without including any forwarding semantics.

4.6 Reply Messages

Replies to VPIM messages (and Internet mail messages) are addressed to the address noted in the reply-to header (see 4.2.8) if it is present, else the From address (see 4.2.1) is used. The vCard EMAIL attribute, if present, SHOULD be the same as the reply-to address and may be the same as the From address. While the vCard is the senders preferred address it SHOULD NOT be used to generate a reply. Also, the Return-path address should not be used for replies.

Support of multiple originator headers is often not possible on voice messaging systems, so it may be necessary to choose only one. However, implementors should note that this may make it impossible to send error messages and replies to the proper destination.

In some cases, a reply message is not possible, such as with a message created by telephone answering (i.e. classic voice mail). In this case, the From field MUST contain the special address non-mail-user@domain (see 4.1.2). The use of a null ESMTP MAIL FROM address SHOULD also be used in this case (see 5.1.2). A receiving VPIM system SHOULD not offer the user the option to reply to this kind of message.

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4.7 Notification Messages

VPIM Delivery Notification messages (4.4.4) must be sent to the originator of the message when any form of non-delivery of the subject message or its components occurs. These error messages must be sent to the return path (4.2.6) if present, else the sender (4.2.5) or From (4.2.1) address may be used (in that order).

VPIM Receipt Notification messages (4.4.5) should be sent to the sender specified in the MDN header (4.2.16), only if the header is present, and typically after the user has initiated the notification by some action (like listening to the message).

VPIM Notification messages may be positive or negative, and can indicate delivery at the server or receipt by the client. However, the notification MUST be contained in a multipart/report container (4.4.3) and SHOULD contain a spoken error message. It is recommended that systems that do not support the notification format SHOULD still send some form of error message when non-delivery occurs.

If a VPIM system receives a message with contents that are not understood (see 4.3 & 4.4), its handling is a local matter, though any VPIM voice message content SHOULD be delivered. A delivery status notification SHOULD be generated if the message could not be delivered because of unknown contents (e.g., on traditional voice processing systems). In some cases, the message may be delivered (with a positive DSN sent) to a mailbox before the determination of rendering can be made. In this case, however, an MDN can only be sent to indicate that the message could not be rendered if it was requested.

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5. Message Transport Protocol

Messages are transported between voice mail machines using the Internet Extended Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (ESMTP). All information required for proper delivery of the message is included in the ESMTP dialog. This information, including the sender and recipient addresses, is commonly referred to as the message "envelope". This information is equivalent to the message control block in many analog voice networking protocols.

ESMTP is a general-purpose messaging protocol, designed both to send mail and to allow terminal console messaging. Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP) was originally created for the exchange of US-ASCII 7-bit text messages. Binary and 8-bit text messages have traditionally been transported by encoding the messages into a 7-bit text-like form. [\[ESMTP\]](#) formalized an extension mechanism for SMTP, and subsequent RFCs have defined 8-bit text networking, command streaming, binary networking, and extensions to permit the declaration of message size for the efficient transmission of large messages such as multi-minute voice mail.

The following sections list ESMTP commands, keywords, and parameters that are required and those that are optional for conformance to this profile.

5.1 ESMTP Commands

5.1.1 HELO

Base SMTP greeting and identification of sender. This command is not to be sent by compliant systems unless the more-capable EHLO command is not accepted. It is included for compatibility with general SMTP implementations. Compliant implementations MUST implement the HELO command for backward compatibility but SHOULD NOT send it unless EHLO is not supported. From [\[SMTP\]](#)

5.1.2 MAIL FROM (REQUIRED)

Originating mailbox. This address contains the mailbox to which errors should be sent. This address may not be the same as the message sender listed in the message header fields if the message was received from a gateway or sent to an Internet-style mailing list. Compliant implementations MUST implement the extended MAIL FROM command. From [\[SMTP, ESMTP\]](#)

The MAIL FROM address MAY be passed as a local system parameter or placed in a Return-Path: line inserted at the beginning of a VPIM message. From [\[HOSTREQ\]](#)

Since error messages MUST be sent to the MAIL FROM address, the use of the null address ("<>") is often used to prevent looping of error notifications. This null address MAY also be used to note that a particular message has no return path (e.g. a telephone answer message). From [[SMTP](#)]

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5.1.3 RCPT TO

Recipient's mailbox. This field contains only the addresses to which the message should be delivered for this transaction. In the event that multiple transport connections to multiple destination machines are required for the same message, this list may not match the list of recipients in the message header. Compliant implementations MUST implement the extended RCPT TO command. From [[SMTP](#), [ESMTP](#)]

5.1.4 DATA

Initiates the transfer of message data. Support for this command is required in the event the binary mode command BDAT is not supported by the remote system. Compliant implementations MUST implement the SMTP DATA command for backwards compatibility. From [[SMTP](#)]

5.1.5 TURN

Requests a change-of-roles, that is, the client that opened the connection offers to assume the role of server for any mail the remote machine may wish to send. Because SMTP is not an authenticated protocol, the TURN command presents an opportunity to improperly fetch mail queued for another destination. Compliant implementations SHOULD NOT implement the TURN command. From [[SMTP](#)]

5.1.6 QUIT

Requests that the connection be closed. If accepted, the remote machine will reset and close the connection. Compliant implementations MUST implement the QUIT command. From [[SMTP](#)]

5.1.7 RSET

Resets the connection to its initial state. Compliant implementations MUST implement the RSET command. From [[SMTP](#)]

5.1.8 VRFY

Requests verification that this node can reach the listed recipient. While this functionality is also included in the RCPT TO command, VRFY allows the query without beginning a mail transfer transaction. This command is useful for debugging and tracing problems. Compliant implementations MAY implement the VRFY command. From [[SMTP](#)]

(Note that the implementation of VRFY may simplify the guessing of a recipient's mailbox or automated sweeps for valid mailbox addresses, resulting in a possible reduction in privacy. Various implementation techniques may be used to reduce the threat, such as limiting the number of queries per session.) From [[SMTP](#)]

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5.1.9 EHLO

The enhanced mail greeting that enables a server to announce support for extended messaging options. The extended messaging modes are discussed in subsequent sections of this document. Compliant implementations MUST implement the ESMTP command and return the capabilities indicated later in this memo. From [[ESMTP](#)]

5.1.10 BDAT

The BDAT command provides a higher efficiency alternative to the earlier DATA command, especially for voice. The BDAT command provides for native binary transport of messages. Compliant implementations SHOULD support binary transport using the BDAT command. [[BINARY](#)]

5.2 ESMTP Keywords

The following ESMTP keywords indicate extended features useful for voice messaging.

5.2.1 PIPELINING

The "PIPELINING" keyword indicates ability of the receiving server to accept new commands before issuing a response to the previous command. Pipelining commands dramatically improves performance by reducing the number of round-trip packet exchanges and makes it possible to validate all recipient addresses in one operation. Compliant implementations SHOULD support the command pipelining indicated by this parameter. From [[PIPE](#)]

5.2.2 SIZE

The "SIZE" keyword provides a mechanism by which the SMTP server can indicate the maximum size message supported. Compliant implementations MUST provide the size capability and SHOULD honor any size limitations when sending. From [[SIZE](#)]

5.2.3 CHUNKING

The "CHUNKING" keyword indicates that the receiver will support the high-performance binary transport mode. Note that CHUNKING can be used with any message format and does not imply support for binary encoded messages. Compliant implementations SHOULD support binary transport indicated by this capability. From [[BINARY](#)]

5.2.4 BINARYMIME

The "BINARYMIME" keyword indicates that the SMTP server can accept binary encoded MIME messages. Compliant implementations SHOULD support

binary transport indicated by this capability. Note that support for this feature requires support of CHUNKING. From [[BINARY](#)]

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5.2.5 DSN

The "DSN" keyword indicates that the SMTP server will accept explicit delivery status notification requests. Compliant implementations MUST support the delivery notification extensions in [[DRPT](#)].

5.2.6 ENHANCEDSTATUSCODES

The "ENHANCEDSTATUSCODES" keyword indicates that an SMTP server augments its responses with the enhanced mail system status codes [[CODES](#)]. These codes can then be used to provide more informative explanations of error conditions, especially in the context of the delivery status notifications format defined in [[DSN](#)]. Compliant implementations SHOULD support this capability. From [[STATUS](#)]

5.3 ESMTP Parameters - MAIL FROM

5.3.1 BINARYMIME

The current message is a binary encoded MIME messages. Compliant implementations SHOULD support binary transport indicated by this parameter. From [[BINARY](#)]

5.3.2 RET

The RET parameter indicates whether the content of the message should be returned. Compliant systems SHOULD honor a request for returned content. From [[DRPT](#)]

5.3.3 ENVID

The ENVID keyword of the SMTP MAIL command is used to specify an "envelope identifier" to be transmitted along with the message and included in any DSNs issued for any of the recipients named in this SMTP transaction. The purpose of the envelope identifier is to allow the sender of a message to identify the transaction for which the DSN was issued. Compliant implementations MAY use this parameter. From [[DRPT](#)]

5.4 ESMTP Parameters - RCPT TO

5.4.1 NOTIFY

The NOTIFY parameter indicates the conditions under which a delivery report should be sent. Compliant implementations MUST honor this request. From [[DRPT](#)]

5.4.2 ORCPT

The ORCPT keyword of the RCPT command is used to specify an "original" recipient address that corresponds to the actual recipient to which the message is to be delivered. If the ORCPT esmtp-keyword is used, it MUST have an associated esmtp-value, which consists of the original recipient address, encoded according to the rules below. Compliant implementations MAY use this parameter. From [[DRPT](#)]

5.5 ESMTP - SMTP Downgrading

To ensure a consistent level of service across an intranet or the global Internet, it is essential that VPIM compliant ESMTP be supported at all hops between a VPIM originating system and the recipient system. Unfortunately, in the situation where a 'downgrade' is unavoidable the expected result is not defined. A downgrade is defined as the loss of VPIM transport features at some hop due to the lack of support. For example, a relay hop may be forced (by the next hop) to forward a VPIM using SMTP instead of ESMTP, or using DATA instead of BDAT. It is recommended that the downgrading system should continue to attempt to deliver the message, but MUST send an appropriate delivery notification to the originator, e.g. the message left an ESMTP host and was sent (unreliably) via SMTP.

6. Directory Address Resolution

It is the responsibility of a VPIM system to lookup the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) based on the address entered by the user (if the entered address is not already a FQDN). This would typically be an issue on systems that offered only a telephone user interface. The mapping of the dialed target number to a routable FQDN address allowing delivery to the destination system can be accomplished through implementation-specific means.

To facilitate a local dial-by-name cache, an implementation may wish to populate local directories with the first and last names, as well as the address information extracted from received messages. It is mandated that only address information from vCard attachments to VPIM messages be used to populate such a directory when the vCard is available. Addresses or names parsed from the headers of VPIM messages SHOULD NOT be used to populate directories as it only provides partial data. Alternatively, bilateral agreements could be made to allow the bulk transfer of vCards between systems.

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7. IMAP

The use of client/server desktop mailbox protocols like IMAP or POP to retrieve VPIM messages from a IMAP or POP message store is possible without any special modifications to this VPIM specification. Email clients (and web browsers) typically have a table for mapping from MIME type to displaying application. The audio/*, image/tiff and text/directory contents can be configured so that they invoke the correct player/recorder for rendering. In addition with IMAP clients, the first multipart/mixed content (if present) will not appear since it is a generic part. The user instead will be presented with a message that has (for example) audio and image contents.

8. Management Protocols

The Internet protocols provide a mechanism for the management of messaging systems, from the management of the physical network through the management of the message queues. SNMP should be supported on a compliant message machine.

8.1 Network Management

The digital interface to the VM and the TCP/IP protocols SHOULD be managed. MIB II SHOULD be implemented to provide basic statistics and reporting of TCP and IP protocol performance. [MIB II]

9. Conformance Requirements

VPIM is a messaging application which must be supported in several environments and be supported on differing devices. These environments include traditional voice processing systems, desktop voice messaging systems, store and forward relays, and protocol translation gateways.

In order to accommodate all environments, this document defines two areas of conformance: transport and content.

Transport conformant systems will pass VPIM messages in a store and forward manner with assured delivery notifications and without the loss of information. It is expected that most store and forward Internet mail based messaging systems will be VPIM transport compliant.

Content conformant systems will generate and interpret VPIM messages. Conformance in the generation of VPIM messages indicates that the restrictions of this profile are honored. Only contents specified in this profile or extensions agreed to by bilateral agreement may be sent. Conformance in the interpretation of VPIM messages indicates that all VPIM content types and constructs can be received; that all

mandatory VPIM content types can be decoded and presented to the recipient in an appropriate manner; and that any unrenderable contents result in the appropriate notification.

A summary of the compliance requirements is contained in [Appendix A](#).

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VPIM end systems are expected to be both transport and content conformant. They should generate conforming content, reliably send it to the next hop system, receive a message, decode the message and present it to the user. Voice messaging systems and protocol conversion gateways are considered end systems.

Relay systems are expected to be transport compliant in order to receive and send conforming messages. However, they must also create VPIM conforming delivery status notifications in the event of delivery problems.

Desktop Email clients that support VPIM and are expected to be content conformant. Desktop email clients use various protocols and API's for exchanging messages with the local message store and message transport system. While these clients may benefit from VPIM transport capabilities, specific client-server requirements are out-of-scope for this document.

10. Security Considerations

10.1 General Directive

This document is a profile of existing Internet mail protocols. To maintain interoperability with Internet mail, any security to be provided should be part of the of the Internet security infrastructure, rather than a new mechanism or some other mechanism outside of the Internet infrastructure.

10.2 Threats and Problems

Both Internet mail and voice messaging have their own set of threats and countermeasures. As such, this specification does not create any security issues not already existing in the profiled Internet mail and voice mail protocols themselves. This section attends only to the set of additional threats which ensue from integrating the two services.

10.2.1 Spoofed sender

The actual sender of the voice message might not be the same as that specified in the Sender or From fields of the message content headers or the MAIL FROM address from the SMTP envelope. In a tightly constrained environment, sufficient physical and software controls may be able to ensure prevention of this problem. In addition, the recognition of the senders voice may provide confidence of the sender's identity irrespective of that specified in Sender or From. It should be recognized that SMTP implementations do not provide inherent authentication of the senders of messages, nor are sites under obligation to provide such authentication.

10.2.2 Spam

Assigning an Internet mail address to a voice mailbox opens the possibility of receiving unsolicited messages (either text or voice mail). Traditionally voice mail systems operated in closed

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environments and were not susceptible to unknown senders. Voice mail users have a higher expectation of mailbox privacy and may consider such messages as a security breach. Many Internet mail systems are choosing to block all messages from spam sources in an attempt to curb this problem.

10.2.3 Message disclosure

Users of voice messaging systems have an expectation of a level of message privacy which is higher than the level provided by Internet mail without security enhancements. This expectation of privacy by users SHOULD be preserved as much as possible.

10.3 Security Techniques

Sufficient physical and software control may be acceptable in constrained environments. Further, the profile specified in this document does not in any way preclude the use of any Internet object or channel security protocol to encrypt, authenticate, or non-repudiate the messages.

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The EMA hosts the VPIM web page at <http://www.ema.org/vpim>.

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15. Appendix A - VPIM Requirements Summary

The following table summarizes the profile of VPIM version 2 detailed in this document. Since in many cases it is not possible to simplify the qualifications for supporting each feature this appendix is informative. The reader is recommended to read the complete explanation of each feature in the referenced section. The text in the previous sections shall be deemed authoritative if any item in this table is ambiguous.

The conformance table is separated into various columns:

Feature - name of protocol feature (note that the indenting indicates a hierarchy of conformance, i.e. the conformance of a lower feature is only relevant if there is conformance to the higher feature)

Section - reference section in main text of this document

Area - conformance area to which each feature applies:

C - content
T - transport

Status - whether the feature is mandatory, optional, or prohibited. The key words used in this table are to be interpreted as described in [\[REQ\]](#), though the following list gives a quick overview of the different degrees of feature conformance:

Must	- mandatory
Should	- encouraged optional
May	- optional
Should not	- discouraged optional
Must not	- prohibited

Footnote - special comment about conformance for a particular feature

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VPIM version 2 Conformance

FEATURE	SECTION	S
		H F
		O M o
		S U U o
		H L S t
		A M O D T n
		R U U M o
		E S L A N N t
		A T D Y O O t
FEATURE	SECTION	T T e
----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----		
Message Addressing Formats:		
Use DNS host names	4.1	C x
Use only numbers in mailbox IDs	4.1.1	C x
Use alpha-numeric mailbox IDs	4.1.1	C x
Support of postmaster@domain	4.1.2	C x
Support of non-mail-user@domain	4.1.2	C x
Support of distribution lists	4.1.3	C x
Message Header Fields:		
Encoding outbound messages		
From	4.2.1	C x
Addition of text name	4.2.1	C x
To	4.2.2	C x 1
cc	4.2.3	C x 1
Date	4.2.4	C x
Sender	4.2.5	C x
Return-Path	4.2.6	C x
Message-id	4.2.7	C x
Reply-To	4.2.8	C x
Received	4.2.9	C x
MIME Version: 1.0 (Voice 2.0)	4.2.10	C x
Content-Type	4.2.11	C x
Content-Transfer-Encoding	4.2.12	C x
Sensitivity	4.2.13	C x
Importance	4.2.14	C x
Subject	4.2.15	C x
Disposition-notification-to	4.2.16	C x
Disposition-notification-options	4.2.17	C x
Other Headers	4.2	C x

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FEATURE	SECTION					S	
Message Content Types:						H	F
Inclusion in outbound messages						O M	o
Multipart/Voice-Message	4.3.1	C x				S	U U o
Message/RFC822	4.3.2	C		x			
Text/Directory	4.3.3	C	x				
include TEL, EMAIL, VERSION	4.3.3	C x					
include ROLE, SOUND, N, REV	4.3.3	C	x				
only one voice type per level	4.3.3	C x					
Audio/32KADPCM	4.3.4	C x					
Content-Description	4.3.4.1	C		x			
Content-Disposition	4.3.4.2	C x					
Content-Duration	4.3.4.3	C		x			
Content-Langauge	4.3.4.4	C		x			
Image/tiff; application=faxbw	4.3.5	C		x			
Audio/* or Image/* (other encodings)	4.3.6	C		x			
Multipart/Mixed	4.4.1	C		x			
Text/plain	4.4.2	C			x		
Multipart/Report	4.4.3	C x					
human-readable part is voice	4.4.3	C	x				
human-readable part is text	4.4.3	C		x			
Message/delivery-status	4.4.4	C x					
Message/disposition-notification	4.4.5	C	x				
Other contents	4.4	C			x		6
Detection & decoding in inbound messages							
Multipart/Voice-Message	4.3.1	C x					
Message/RFC822	4.3.2	C x					
Text/Directory	4.3.3	C	x				
recognize TEL, EMAIL, VERSION	4.3.3	C x					
recognize ROLE, SOUND, N, REV	4.3.3	C	x				
Audio/32KADPCM	4.3.4	C x					
Content-Description	4.3.4.1	C		x			
Content-Disposition	4.3.4.2	C	x				
Content-Duration	4.3.4.3	C		x			
Content-Langauge	4.3.4.4	C		x			
Image/tiff; application=faxbw	4.3.5	C	x				
send NDN if unable to render	4.3.5	C x					7

Audio/* or Image/* (other encodings)	4.3.6	C		x		
Multipart/Mixed	4.4.1	C x				
Text/plain	4.4.2	C x				
send NDN if unable to render	4.4.2	C x				

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FEATURE	SECTION					S	
						H	F
						O M	o
				S		U U	o
				H		L S	t
				A M O		D T n	
				R U U M			o
				E S L A N N		t	
				A T D Y O O		t	
				SECTION		T T e	
----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----							
Multipart/Report	4.4.3		C x				
human-readable part is voice	4.4.3		C x				
human-readable part is text	4.4.3		C x				
Message/delivery-status	4.4.4		C x				
Message/disposition-notification	4.4.5		C x				
Other contents	4.4		C x			x	6
send NDN if unable to render	4.4		C x				
Forwarded Messages							
use Message/RFC822 construct	4.5		C x				
simulate headers if none available	4.5		C x				
Reply Messages							
send to Reply-to, else From address	4.6		C x				
do not send to non-mail-user	4.6		C x				
Notifications							
use multipart/report format	4.7		C x				
always send error on non-delivery	4.7		C x				
Message Transport Protocol:							
ESMTP Commands							
HELO	5.1.1		T x				
MAIL FROM	5.1.2		T x				
support null address	5.1.2		T x				
RCPT TO	5.1.3		T x				
DATA	5.1.4		T x				
TURN	5.1.5		T			x	
QUIT	5.1.6		T x				
RSET	5.1.7		T x				
VRFY	5.1.8		T		x		
EHLO	5.1.9		T x				
BDAT	5.1.10		T x				5

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FEATURE	SECTION					S	
-----	-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
ESMTP Keywords & Parameters							
PIPELINING	5.2.1	T	x				
SIZE	5.2.2	T x					
CHUNKING	5.2.3	T	x				
BINARYMIME	5.2.4, 5.3.1	T	x				
DSN	5.2.5	T x					
ENHANCEDSTATUSCODES	5.2.6	T	x				
RET	5.3.2	T	x				
ENVID	5.3.3	T		x			
NOTIFY	5.4.1	T x					
ORCPT	5.4.2	T		x			
ESMTP-SMTP Downgrading							
send delivery report upon downgrade	5.5	T x					
Directory Address Resolution							
provide facility to resolve addresses	6	C	x				
use vCards to populate local directory	6	C	x				8
use headers to populate local directory	6	C			x		
Management Protocols:							
Network management	8.1	T	x				
-----	-----	-	-	-	-	-	-

Footnotes:

1. MUST NOT include if all recipients are not known or resolvable.
2. If a sensitive message is received by a system that does not support sensitivity, then it MUST be returned to the originator with an appropriate error notification. Also, a received sensitive message MUST NOT be forwarded to anyone.
3. If the additional headers are not understood they MAY be ignored
4. When binary transport is not available
5. When binary transport is available
6. Other un-profiled contents must only be sent by bilateral

agreement.

7. If the content cannot be presented in some form, the entire message MUST be non-delivered.
8. When the vCard is present in a message

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16. [Appendix B](#) - Example Voice Messages

The following message is a full-featured message addressed to two recipients. The message includes the sender's spoken name and a short speech segment. The message is marked as important and private.

To: +19725551212@vm1.mycompany.com
To: +16135551234@VM1.mycompany.com
From: "Parsons, Glenn" <12145551234@VM2.mycompany.com>
Date: Mon, 26 Aug 93 10:20:20 -0700 (CDT)
MIME-Version: 1.0 (Voice 2.0)
Content-type: Multipart/Voice-Message; Version=2.0;
Boundary="MessageBoundary"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Message-ID: 123456789@VM2.mycompany.com
Sensitivity: Private
Importance: High

--MessageBoundary
Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM
Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64
Content-Disposition: inline; voice=Originator-Spoken-Name
Content-Language: EN-US
Content-ID: part1@VM2-4321

glsldfslsertiflktfpgkTportrpkTpfGTpoiTpdadasssdasddasdasd
(This is a sample of the base-64 Spoken Name data)
fgdhgddlkgpokpeowrit09==

--MessageBoundary
Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM
Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64
Content-Description: Brand X Voice Message
Content-Disposition: inline; voice=Voice-Message; filename=msg1.726
Content-Duration: 25

iIiIiIjMzN3czdze3s7d7fwfHhcvESJVe/4yEhLz8/F0QjVFRERCESL/zqrq
(This is a sample of the base64 message data) zb8tFdLTQt1PXj
u7wj0yRhws+krdns7Rju0t4tLF7cE0K0Mx0T0nRW/Pn30c8uHi9==

--MessageBoundary
Content-type: text/directory; charset=us-ascii; profile=vCard
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

BEGIN:VCARD
N:Parsons;Glenn;;Mr.;
EMAIL;TYPE=INTERNET:+12145551234@VM2.mycompany.com
TEL:+1-217-555-1234
SOUND;TYPE=32KADPCM;ENCODING=URI: CID:<part1@VM2-4321>

REV:19951031T222710Z

VERSION: 3.0

END:VCARD

--MessageBoundary_

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The following message is a forwarded single segment voice. Both the forwarded message and the forwarding message contain VCARDS with spoken names.

To: +12145551212@vm1.mycompany.com
From: "Vaudreuil, Greg" <+19725552345@VM2.mycompany.com>
Date: Mon, 26 Aug 93 10:20:20 -0700 (CDT)
MIME-Version: 1.0 (Voice 2.0)
Content-type: Multipart/Voice-Message; Version=2.0;
Boundary="MessageBoundary"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Message-ID: ABCD-123456789@VM2.mycompany.com

--MessageBoundary

Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM
Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64
Content-Disposition: inline; voice=Originator-Spoken-Name
Content-Language: EN-US
Content-ID: part3@VM2-4321

glsldslsertiflkTfpkgTportrpkTpfGTpoiTpdadasssdasddasdasd
(This is a sample of the base-64 Spoken Name data)
fgdhgd dlkgpokpeowrit09==

--MessageBoundary

Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM
Content-Description: Forwarded Message Annotation
Content-Disposition: inline; voice=Voice-Message
Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64

glsldslsertiflkTfpkgTportrpkTpfGTpoiTpdadasssdasddasdasd
(This is the voiced introductory remarks encoded in base64)
jrgoij3o45itj09fiuvdkjgWlakgQ93ijkpokfpgokQ90gQ5tkpokfgW
dlkgpokpeowrit09==

--MessageBoundary

Content-type: Message/RFC822
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

To: +19725552345@VM2.mycompany.com
From: "Parsons, Glenn, W." <+16135551234@VM1.mycompany.com>
Date: Mon, 26 Aug 93 8:23:10 -0500 (EST)
Content-type: Multipart/Voice-Message; Version=2.0;
Boundary="MessageBoundary2"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
MIME-Version: 1.0 (Voice 2.0)

--MessageBoundary2

Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM

Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64

Content-Disposition: inline; voice=Originator-Spoken-Name

Content-Language: EN-US

Content-ID: part6@VM2-4321

glsldfslsertiflkTfpgkTportrpkTpfgTpoiTpdadasssdasddasdasd
(This is a sample of the base-64 Spoken Name data) fgdhgd
dlkgpokpeowrit09==

--MessageBoundary2

Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM

Content-Disposition: inline; voice=Voice-Message

Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64

glsldfslsertiflkTfpgkTportrpkTpfgTpoiTpdadasssdasddasdasd
(This is the original message audio data) fgwersdfmniwrjj
jrgoij3o45itj09fiuvdkjgWlakgQ93ijkpokfpgokQ90gQ5tkjpkfgW
dlkgpokpeowrit09==

--MessageBoundary2

Content-type: text/directory; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

BEGIN:VCARD

N:Parsons;Glenn;W;Mr.;

EMAIL;TYPE=INTERNET:+16135551234@VM2.mycompany.com

TEL:+1-613-555-1234

SOUND;TYPE=32KADPCM;ENCODING=URI: CID:<part6@VM2-4321>

REV:19951031T222710Z

END:VCARD

--MessageBoundary2--

--MessageBoundary

Content-type: text/directory; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

BEGIN:VCARD

N:Vaudreuil;Greg;;Mr.;

SOUND;TYPE=32KADPCM;ENCODING=URI: CID:<part3@VM2-4321>

EMAIL;TYPE=INTERNET,VPIM:+19725552345@VM2.mycompany.com

TEL:+1-972-555-2345

REV:19951031T222710Z

VERSION: 3.0

END:VCARD

--MessageBoundary--

The following example is for a message returned to the sender by a VPIM gateway at VM1.company.com for a mailbox which does not exist.

Date: Thu, 7 Jul 1994 17:16:05 -0400
From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@vm.company.com>
Message-Id: <199407072116.RAA14128@vm1.company.com>
Subject: Returned voice message
To: 2175552345@VM2.mycompany.com
MIME-Version: 1.0 (Voice 2.0)
Content-Type: multipart/report; report-type=delivery-status;
boundary="RAA14128.773615765/VM1.COMPANY.COM"

--RAA14128.773615765/VM1.COMPANY.COM
Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM
Content-Description: Spoken Delivery Status Notification
Content-Disposition: inline; voice= Voice-Message-Notification
Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64

glsldslsertiflkTfpgkTportrpkTpfpgTpoiTpdadadffssddasdasd
(This is a voiced description of the error in base64)
jrgoij3o45itj09fiuvdkjgWlakgQ93ijkpokfpgokQ90gdffkjokfgw
dlkgpokpeowrit09==

--RAA14128.773615765/VM1.COMPANY.COM
Content-type: message/delivery-status

Reporting-MTA: dns; vm1.company.com
Original-Recipient: [rfc822](#); 2145551234@VM1.mycompany.com
Final-Recipient: [rfc822](#); 2145551234@VM1.mycompany.com
Action: failed
Status: 5.1.1 (User does not exist)
Diagnostic-Code: smtp; 550 Mailbox not found
Last-Attempt-Date: Thu, 7 Jul 1994 17:15:49 -0400

--RAA14128.773615765/VM1.COMPANY.COM
content-type: message/rfc822

[original VPIM message goes here]

--RAA14128.773615765/VM1.COMPANY.COM--

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The following example is for a read receipt sent to the original sender for a message which has been played. This delivered VPIM message was received by a corporate gateway and relayed to a unified mailbox.

Date: Thu, 7 Jul 1994 17:16:05 -0400
From: "Greg Vaudreuil" <22722@vm.company.com>
Message-Id: <199407072116.RAA14128@exchange.company.com>
Subject: Voice message played
To: 2175552345@VM2.mycompany.com
MIME-Version: 1.0 (Voice 2.0)
Content-Type: multipart/report;
 Report-type=disposition-notification;
 Boundary="RAA14128.773615765/EXCHANGE.COMPANY.COM"

--RAA14128.773615765/EXCHANGE.COMPANY.COM
Content-type: Audio/32KADPCM
Content-Description: Spoken Disposition Notification
Content-Disposition: inline; voice= Voice-Message-Notification
Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base64

glsldslsertiflkTfpkgTportrpkTpfGTpoiTpdadadffssddasdasd
(Voiced description of the disposition action in base64)
jrgoij3o45itj09fiuudkjgWlakgQ93ijkpokfpgokQ90gdfkjpokfgW
dlkgpokpeowrit09==

--RAA14128.773615765/EXCHANGE.COMPANY.COM
Content-type: message/disposition-notification

Reporting-UA: gregs-laptop.dallas.company.com (Unified FooMail 3.0)
Original-Recipient: rfc822;22722@vm.company.com
Final-Recipient: rfc822;Greg.Vaudreuil@foomail.company.com
Original-Message-ID: <199509192301.12345@vm2.mycompany.com >
Disposition: manual-action/MDN-sent-automatically; displayed

--RAA14128.773615765/EXCHANGE.COMPANY.COM
Content-type: message/rfc822

[original VPIM message goes here]

--RAA14128.773615765/EXCHANGE.COMPANY.COM--

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17. [Appendix C](#) - Example Error Voice Processing Error Codes

The following common voice processing errors and their corresponding status codes are given as examples. Text after the error codes are intended only for reference to describe the error code. Implementations should provide implementation specific informative comments after the error code rather than the text below.

Error condition -----	RFC 1893 Error codes -----
Analog delivery failed because remote system is busy	4.4.0 Persistent connection error - other
Analog delivery failed because remote system is ring-no-answer	4.4.1 Persistent protocol error - no answer from host
Remote system did not answer AMIS-Analog handshake ("D" in response to "C" at connect time)	5.5.5 Permanent protocol error - wrong version
Mailbox does not exist	5.1.1 Permanent mailbox error - does not exist
Mailbox full or over quota	4.2.2 Persistent mailbox error - full
Disk full	4.3.1 Persistent system error - full
Command out of sequence	5.5.1 Permanent protocol error - invalid command
Frame Error	5.5.2 Permanent protocol error - syntax error
Mailbox does not support FAX	5.6.1 Permanent media error - not supported
Mailbox does not support TEXT	5.6.1 Permanent media error - not supported
Sender is not authorized	5.7.1 Permanent security error - sender not authorized
Message marked private, but system is not private capable	5.3.3 Permanent system error - not feature capable

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18. [Appendix D](#) - Example Voice Processing Disposition Types

The following common voice processing disposition conditions and their corresponding MDN Disposition (which contains the disposition mode, type and modifier, if applicable) are given as examples. Implementors should refer to [[MDN](#)] for a full description of the format of message disposition notifications.

Notification event -----	MDN Disposition mode, type & modifier -----
Message played by recipient, receipt automatically returned	manual-action/MDN-sent-automatically; displayed
Message deleted from mailbox by user without listening	manual-action/MDN-sent-automatically; deleted
Message cleared when mailbox deleted by admin	manual-action/MDN-sent-automatically; deleted/mailbox-terminated
Message automatically deleted when older than administrator set threshold	automatic-action/ MDN-sent-automatically; deleted/ expired
Message processed, however audio encoding unknown - unable to play to user	manual-action/MDN-sent-automatically; processed/error Error: unknown audio encoding

19. Appendix E - IANA Registrations

19.1 vCard EMAIL Type Definition for VPIM

To: ietf-mime-directory@imc.org

Subject: Registration of new parameter for text/directory MIME type
EMAIL

Type name: EMAIL

Type purpose: To specify the electronic mail address for
communication with the object the vCard represents (defined in
[\[VCARD\]](#)).

Type encoding: 8bit

Type value: A single text value.

Type special notes: The type may include the type parameter "TYPE" to
specify the format or preference of the electronic mail address. The
TYPE parameter values previously defined include: "internet" to
indicate an Internet addressing type, "x400" to indicate a X.400
addressing type and "pref" to indicate a preferred-use email address
when more than one is specified. The value of "vpim" is defined to
indicate that the address specified supports VPIM messages. Other
IANA registered address type may also be specified. The default email
type is "internet". A non-standard value may also be specified.

Type example:

EMAIL;TYPE=internet,vpim:jqpublic@xyz.dom1.com

19.2 Voice Content-Disposition Parameter Definition

To: IANA@IANA.ORG

Subject: Registration of new Content-Disposition parameter

Content-Disposition parameter name: voice

Allowable values for this parameter:

Voice-Message - the primary voice message,
Voice-Message-Notification - a spoken delivery notification
or spoken disposition notification,
Originator-Spoken-Name - the spoken name of the originator,

Recipient-Spoken-Name - the spoken name of the recipient if available to the originator and present if there is ONLY one recipient,
Spoken-Subject- the spoken subject of the message, typically spoken by the originator

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Description:

In order to distinguish between the various types of audio contents in a VPIM voice message a new disposition parameter "voice" is defined with the preceding values to be used as appropriate. Note that there SHOULD only be one instance of each of these types of audio contents per message level. Additional instances of a given type (i.e., parameter value) may occur within an attached forwarded voice message.

20. Appendix F - Change History: RFC 1911 to this Document

The updated profile in this document is based on the experience of a proof of concept demonstration of VPIM at EMA'96 in April 1996 and a subsequent demonstration of products at EMA'97 in April 1997. This version of the profile is significantly different from the previous described in [[VPIM1](#)]. The changes are categorized as general, content, transport and conformance. They are detailed below:

1. General

- All definitions are now contained in separate documents that are referenced by this profile. The new documents include:
 - a refined multipart/voice-message definition
 - a refined (i.e., added nibble order) audio/32KADPCM definition
 - the definitions of TIFF-F and image/tiff for fax images
 - the Content-Duration definition
- Changed the Voice version to 2.0
- Added Table of Contents and more examples
- Various editorial updates to improve readability
- Added more security considerations

2. Content

- Modified multipart/voice-message content type by dropping the positional dependence of contents while restricting its contents to voice message specific content types
- Explicitly indicated other contents that may be present in a multipart/mixed content type
- Explicitly defined the forwarding model using message/RFC822
- Explained the use of reply-to and from headers for addressing message replies
- Deprecated the special "loopback" address because of security concerns and its use only for testing
- Defined the non-mail-user reserved address to support the case in which replies to the originator are not possible

- Eliminated the text name in the "To" and "CC" headers.
Deprecated ordering of text names in the "From" header.

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- Added support for facsimile using TIFF-F in an image/tiff; application=faxbw content type
- Profiled vCard in the text/directory body part for transport of directory information about the originator
- Loosened text restriction
- Added additional details on delivery and receipt notifications
- Added support for message disposition notifications, also known as read receipts.
- Added suggested addressing formats
- Described handling of private messages
- Described the handling of non-profiled contents in VPIM messages
- Described the use of Content-Disposition to semantically identify audio contents

3. Transport

- Moved binary support to optional
- Added optional ESMTP keywords for return of content, enhanced status codes, original recipient, and envelope ID
- Described use of null MAIL FROM address

4. Compliance

- Added an explicit section on conformance specifying conformance to content or transport
- Improved conformance table in [Appendix A](#)

