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Indication of features supported by proxy  
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## Abstract

The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) "Caller Preferences" extension defined in [RFC 3840](#) provides a mechanism that allows a SIP message to convey information relating to the originator's capabilities. This document makes it possible for SIP proxies to convey similar information, by extending the rr-param rule defined in [RFC 3261](#), so that the header field parameter can be used to convey feature tags that indicate features supported by the proxy.

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## 1. Introduction

The SIP "Caller Preferences" extension defined in [RFC 3840](#) [[RFC3840](#)] provides a mechanism that allows a SIP message to convey information, using feature tags, relating to the originator's capabilities.

Feature information can be useful for other SIP entities, that might trigger actions and enable functions based on features supported by other SIP entities.

This document extends the rr-param rule defined in [RFC 3261](#) [[RFC3261](#)], so that it can be used to convey feature tags indicating support of features in SIP proxies. The rr-param rule is used in the SIP Path, Route, Record-Route and Service-Route header fields.

### 1.1. Use-case: IMS Service Continuity

The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) defines a IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) Service Continuity mechanism [[3GPP.23.237](#)] for handover of Packet Switched (PS) sessions to Circuit Switched (CS) calls.

The handover is controlled by a Service Centralization and Continuity Application Server (SCC AS). When a session is established the User Equipment (UE) needs to determine whether SCC AS is in signalling path of the session or not.

When handover occurs, the UE and SCC AS perform handover for the sessions which contain a SCC AS in the signaling path. Other sessions are not affected.

[Section 8.1](#) shows an example flow for this use-case.

### 1.2. Use-case: IMS Enhanced Service Continuity

The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) defines a IP Multimedia

Subsystem (IMS) Service Continuity mechanism [[3GPP.23.237](#)] for handover of Packet Switched (PS) sessions to Circuit Switched (CS) calls. The handover can be performed by a Service Centralization and Continuity Application Server (SCC AS), or by a SCC AS together with an Access Transfer Control Function (ATCF), that acts as a SIP proxy. Delegating part of the session handover functionality to an ATCF provides advantages related to voice interruption during session handover etc, since it is located in the same network as the user.

In order for a SCC AS to delegate part of the session handover functionality to an ATCF, when it receives a SIP REGISTER request, it needs to be informed whether there is a proxy that provides ATCF

functionality in the registration path.

[Section 8.2](#) shows an example flow for this use-case.

### [1.3](#). Use-case: IMS Inter-UE Transfer

The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) defines inter-UE transfer enhancements [[3GPP.24.837](#)] which enhance delivery of media of a session to several User Equipments (UE).

The Service Centralization and Continuity Application Server (SCC AS) serving one of the UEs acts as local hub for the session. The UE controls the media of the session and is called controller UE.

Triggered by requests from the controller UE, the SCC AS serving the controller UE transfers media of the session to other UEs, called controlee UEs, by sending INVITE request offering the media to be transferred.

When an INVITE request is routed to the UE, the SCC AS serving the UE needs to determine whether another SCC AS (i.e. SCC AS of the controller UE) is already in the signalling path.

If so, the SCC AS proxies the signalling without further handling as there is already an existing local hub for the session.

If not, the SCC AS acts as local hub for the session.

[Section 8.3](#) shows an example flow for this use-case.

## [2.](#) Conventions

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 [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

## [3.](#) Definitions

The rr-param rule defined in [RFC 3261](#) [[RFC3261](#)]:

rr-param = generic-param

is extended to:

rr-param = generic-param / feature-param

where feature-param is defined in [Section 9 of RFC 3840](#) [[RFC3840](#)].

## [4.](#) User Agent behavior

This specification does not specify any new User Agent behavior.

## [5.](#) Proxy behavior

When a proxy inserts a Path header field (during registration), a Service-Route header field (during registration) or a Record-Route header field (during a dialog establishment), it MAY insert a feature tag in the header field.

If a feature tag is inserted in a Path or Service-Route header field during registration, the resource identified by the URI in the header field MUST provide support for the associated feature for all dialogs associated with the registration, until the registration is terminated or re-freshed.

If a feature tag is inserted in a Record-Route header field during a

dialog establishment, the resource identified by the URI in the header field MUST provide support for the associated feature until the dialog is terminated.

## 6. Feature tag semantics

The feature tag in a header field constructed using rr-param rule indicates support of the feature in the resource identified by the URI in the header field.

In order to insert a feature tag in a SIP header field constructed by using rr-param rule, the feature specification MUST specify the semantics of the feature tag when inserted in that specific header field. Unless the feature specification defines such semantics, a the feature tag MUST NOT be included in that specific header field.

NOTE: If a route set is built using Path, Record-Route or Service-Route header fields, any inserted feature tag will be copied into the associated Route header fields, together with other header field parameters. This specification does not define any specific meaning of the feature tags present in Route header fields in such cases.

## 7. Direction

When a proxy inserts a feature tag in order to indicate support of a capability, the indicated capability might be indicated both towards downstream and upstream SIP entities.

In order to indicate a capability only towards SIP entities in one direction, either the feature tag semantics need to be defined in a way so that SIP entities know whether the indicated capability applies to them or not, or alternatively, the SIP entity that inserts the feature tag needs to ensure that the feature tag is only sent towards the direction for which the capability applies.

## 8. Examples

### 8.1. Example: IMS Service Continuity

Based on the presence of `g.3gpp.access-transfer` feature tag in a `Record-Route` header field Alice determines that SCC AS serving Alice is in signalling path of the session and when hand over occurs, this specific session can be handed over.

NOTE: As P1 only wants to indicate the capability towards Alice, it only inserts the feature tag in the `Record-Route` header field of the response sent towards Alice.

NOTE: The `Contact` header field of the 200 OK response to the INVITE request contains the GRUU of Bob, so it would be inappropriate to indicate the SCC AS support of handover feature in the `Contact` header field.

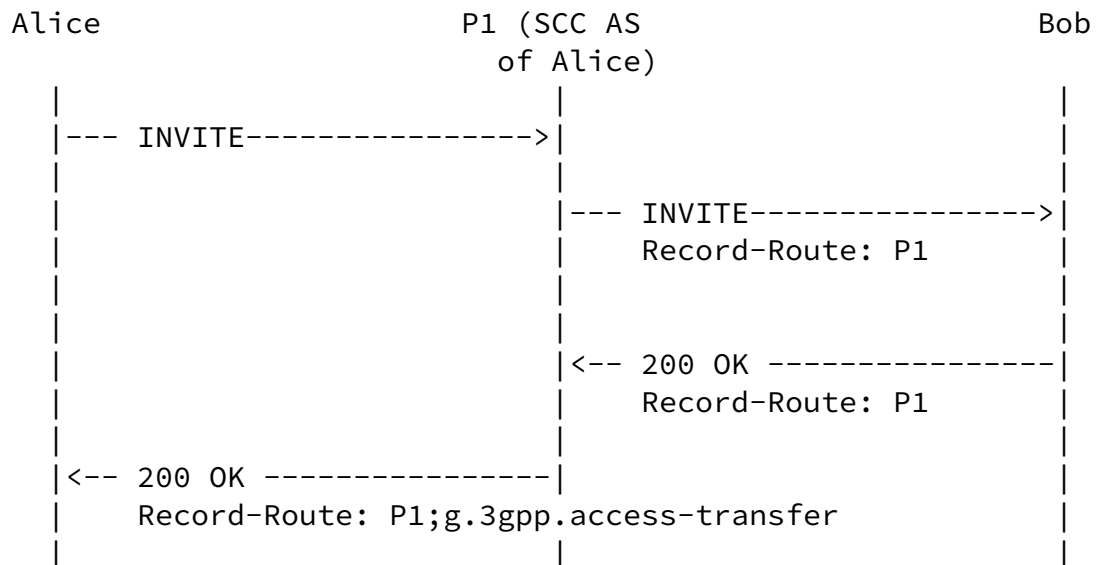


Figure 1: Example call flow

### 8.2. Example: IMS Enhanced Service Continuity

Based on the presence of `g.3gpp.atcf` feature tag in a `Path` header field the REGISTRAR (and SCC AS invoked by REGISTRAR) determines that ATCF is in the path for terminating requests sent to Alice.

NOTE: The Contact header field of the REGISTER request contains a URI at which Alice can be directly reached, so it would be inappropriate to indicate the ATCF support of handover feature in the Contact header field.

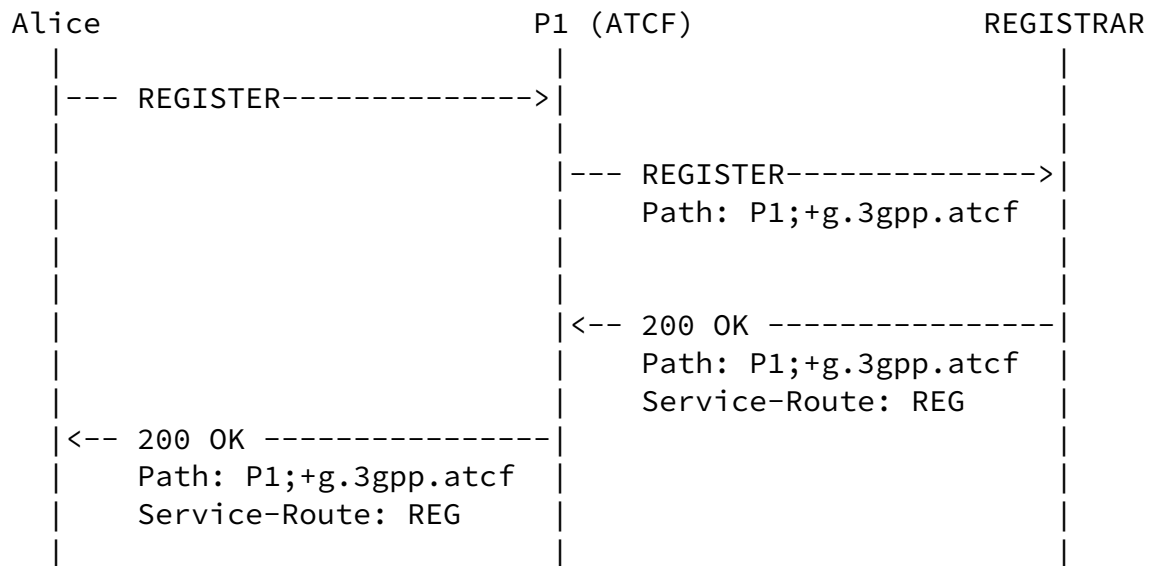


Figure 2: Example call flow

### 8.3. Example: IMS Inter-UE Transfer

Based on the presence of g.3gpp.iut-focus feature tag in a Record-Route header field the SCC AS serving Cecil determines that the session already has a local hub.

NOTE: The Contact header field of the INVITE request contains the GRUU of Bob, so it would be inappropriate to indicate the SCC AS support of the handover feature in the Contact header field.



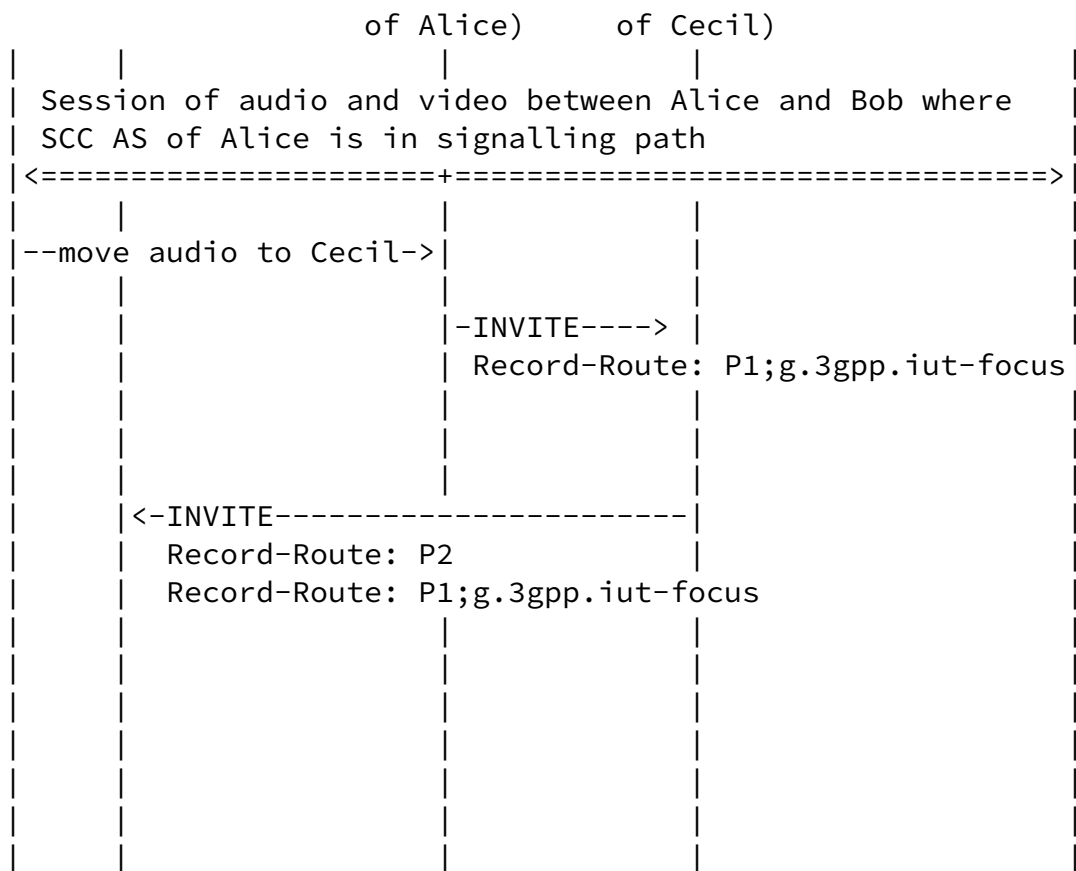


Figure 3: Example call flow

## 9. IANA Considerations

TBD

## 10. Security Considerations

Feature tags can provide sensitive information about a SIP entity. [RFC 3840](#) cautions against providing sensitive information to another party. Once this information is given out, any use may be made of it.

## 11. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Paul Kyzivat for his comments and guidance on the mailing list.

## 12. Change Log

[RFC EDITOR NOTE: Please remove this section when publishing]

Changes from [draft-holmberg-sipcore-proxy-feature-00](#)

- o Additional use-cases added
- o Direction section added

## 13. References

### 13.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC3261] Rosenberg, J., Schulzrinne, H., Camarillo, G., Johnston, A., Peterson, J., Sparks, R., Handley, M., and E. Schooler, "SIP: Session Initiation Protocol", [RFC 3261](#), June 2002.
- [RFC3840] Rosenberg, J., Schulzrinne, H., and P. Kyzivat, "Indicating User Agent Capabilities in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)", [RFC 3840](#), August 2004.

### 13.2. Informative References

- [3GPP.23.237]  
3GPP, "IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) Service Continuity; Stage 2", 3GPP TS 23.237 10.3.0, September 2010.
- [3GPP.24.837]  
3GPP, "IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) SCC Inter UE Transfer Extensions; Stage 3", 3GPP TR 24.837 0.4.0, October 2010.

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