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**Offer/Answer Considerations for G.723 Annex A and G.729 Annex B  
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Abstract

[RFC4856] describes the annexa parameter for G723 and the annexb parameter for G729, G729D and G729E. However, the specification does not describe the offerer and answerer behavior when the value of the annexa or annexb parameter does not match in the SDP offer and answer. This document provides the offer/answer considerations for these parameters and updates [[RFC4856](#)].

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## **1. Introduction**

[RFC4856] describes the annexa parameter for G723 as follows:

annexa: indicates that Annex A, voice activity detection, is used or preferred. Permissible values are "yes" and "no" (without the quotes); "yes" is implied if this parameter is omitted.

Also, [RFC4856] describes the annexb parameter for G729, G729D and G729E as follows:

annexb: indicates that Annex B, voice activity detection, is used or preferred. Permissible values are "yes" and "no" (without the quotes); "yes" is implied if this parameter is omitted.

However, it does not have any normative statement for the case where the value of this parameter does not match in the SDP offer and answer. For example, if the offer has G729 with annexb=yes and the answer has G729 with annexb=no, it can be interpreted in two different ways:

- o The offerer and answerer proceed as if G729 is negotiated with annexb=yes, or
- o The offerer and answerer proceed as if G729 is negotiated with annexb=no.

Since [RFC4856] does not state it clearly, various implementations have interpreted the offer/answer in their own ways, resulting in a different codec being chosen to call failure, when the parameter value does not match in the offer and answer.

[RFC3264] requires SDP extensions that define new fmp parameters to specify their proper interpretation in offer/answer. But, [RFC4856] does not specify it for the Annex A flavor of G.723 and the Annex B flavors of G.729, G729D and G729E.

This document describes the offer/answer considerations for these parameters and provides the necessary clarifications.

## **2. Terminology**

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 [RFC2119].



### **3. Offer/Answer Considerations**

[RFC3551] states that

Receivers MUST accept comfort noise frames if restriction of their use has not been signaled. The MIME registration for G729 in [RFC 3555](#) specifies a parameter that MAY be used with MIME or SDP to restrict the use of comfort noise frames.

Based on the above, it is best to not use comfort noise frames if the SDP offer or answer indicates no support for it.

#### **3.1. Offer/Answer Considerations for G723 Annex A**

When the offer or answer has G723 and the annexa parameter is absent, it MUST be considered as if the offer or answer has G723 with annexa=yes.

When the offer has G723 with annexa=yes and the answer has G723 with annexa=no, the offerer and answerer MUST proceed as if G723 is negotiated with annexa=no.

When the offer has G723 with annexa=no then the answer MUST NOT have annexa=yes for G723. Thus the annexa parameter can be turned off by the answerer, but cannot be turned on.

When the offer has G723 with annexa=no, the reason for not mandating that the answer MUST have annexa=no for G723 is that there are there implementations that omit the annexa parameter in answer and expect the least common denominator to be used.

When the offer has G723 with no annexa parameter and the answer has G723 with annexa=yes, the offerer and answerer MUST proceed as if G723 is negotiated with annexa=yes.

#### **3.2. Offer/Answer Considerations for G.729 Annex B, G.729D Annex B and G.729E Annex B**

In this section G729 represents any of G729 or G729D or G729E.

When the offer or answer has G729 and the annexb parameter is absent, it MUST be considered as if the offer or answer has G729 with annexb=yes.

When the offer has G729 with annexb=yes and the answer has G729 with annexb=no, the offerer and answerer MUST proceed as if G729 is negotiated with annexb=no.



When the offer has G729 with annexb=no then the answer MUST NOT have annexb=yes for G729. Thus the annexb parameter can be turned off by the answerer, but cannot be turned on.

When the offer has G729 with annexa=no, the reason for not mandating that the answer MUST have annexa=no for G729 is that there are there implementations that omit the annexa parameter in answer and expect the least common denominator to be used.

When the offer has G729 with no annexb parameter and the answer has G729 with annexb=yes, the offerer and answerer MUST proceed as if G729 is negotiated with annexb=yes.

## **4. Examples**

### **4.1. Offer with G279 annexb=yes and answer with G279 annexb=no**

[Offer with G279 annexb=yes]

```
v=0
o=alice 2890844526 2890844526 IN IP4 host.atlanta.example.com
s=
c=IN IP4 host.atlanta.example.com
t=0 0
m=audio 49170 RTP/AVP 18
a=rtpmap:18 G729/8000
a=fmtp:18 annexb=yes
```

[Answer with G729 annexb=no]

```
v=0
o=bob 1890844326 1890844326 IN IP4 host.bangalore.example.com
s=
c=IN IP4 host.bangalore.example.com
t=0 0
m=audio 19140 RTP/AVP 18
a=rtpmap:18 G729/8000
a=fmtp:18 annexb=no
```

In the above example the offerer and answerer proceed as if G729 is negotiated with annexb=no.

### **4.2. Offer with G279 annexb=yes and answer with G729 and no annexb parameter**





[Offer with G279 annexb=yes]

```
v=0
o=alice 2890844526 2890844526 IN IP4 host.atlanta.example.com
s=
c=IN IP4 host.atlanta.example.com
t=0 0
m=audio 49170 RTP/AVP 18
a=rtpmap:18 G729/8000
a=fmtp:18 annexb=yes
```

[Answer with G729 and no annexb parameter]

```
v=0
o=bob 1890844326 1890844326 IN IP4 host.bangalore.example.com
s=
c=IN IP4 host.bangalore.example.com
t=0 0
m=audio 19140 RTP/AVP 18
a=rtpmap:18 G729/8000
```

In the above example the offerer and answerer proceed as if G729 is negotiated with annexb=yes.

**4.3. Offer with G279 and no annexb parameter and answer with G729 annexb=no**

[Offer with G279 and no annexb parameter]

```
v=0
o=alice 2890844526 2890844526 IN IP4 host.atlanta.example.com
s=
c=IN IP4 host.atlanta.example.com
t=0 0
m=audio 49170 RTP/AVP 18
a=rtpmap:18 G729/8000
```

[Answer with G729 annexb=no]

```
v=0
o=bob 1890844326 1890844326 IN IP4 host.bangalore.example.com
s=
c=IN IP4 host.bangalore.example.com
t=0 0
m=audio 19140 RTP/AVP 18
a=rtpmap:18 G729/8000
a=fmtp:18 annexb=no
```



In the above example the offerer and answerer proceed as if G729 is negotiated with annexb=no.

## **5. Security Considerations**

There is no extra security consideration apart from what is described in [[RFC4856](#)].

## **6. IANA Considerations**

There is no IANA consideration for this draft.

## **7. Acknowledgement**

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## **8. Normative References**

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC3264] Rosenberg, J. and H. Schulzrinne, "An Offer/Answer Model with Session Description Protocol (SDP)", [RFC 3264](#), June 2002.
- [RFC4856] Casner, S., "Media Type Registration of Payload Formats in the RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences", [RFC 4856](#), February 2007.
- [RFC3551] Schulzrinne, H. and S. Casner, "RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences with Minimal Control", STD 65, [RFC 3551](#), July 2003.



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