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Session Initiation Protocol Location Conveyance
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Abstract

This document defines how the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) conveys, or pushes, user location information from one SIP entity to another SIP entity. SIP Location Conveyance is always end to end, but sometimes the embedded location information can be acted upon by SIP Servers to direct where the message goes, based on where the user agent client is.

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	2
1.1	Conventions	4
1.2	Changes from Prior Versions	4
2.	Location In the Body or in a Header	8
3.	Requirements for SIP Location Conveyance	9
4.	Location Conveyance Using SIP	12
4.1	New Option Tags and a Location Header Created	13
4.2	424 (Bad Location Information) Response Code	16
4.3	Example PIDF-LO in Geo Format	16
4.3	Example PIDF-LO in Civic Format	17
5.	SIP Element Behavior When Conveying Location	18
5.1	Location Conveyance Using the INVITE Method	19
5.2	Location Conveyance Using the MESSAGE Method	21
5.3	Location Conveyance Using the UPDATE Method	22
5.4	Location Conveyance Using the REGISTER Method	27
6.	Special Considerations for Emergency Calls	29
7.	Meeting RFC 3693 Requirements	29
8.	Open issues	30
9.	Security Considerations	30
10.	IANA Considerations	31
10.1	IANA Registration for the SIP Location Header	31
10.2	IANA Registration of the Location Option Tags.	31
10.3	IANA Registration for Response Code 424	31
11.	Acknowledgements	31
12.	References	31
12.1	Normative References	31
12.2	Informative References	32
	Author Information	32
	Intellectual Property and Copyright Statements	33

[1.](#) Introduction

There are several situations in which it is desired or necessary for a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) [[RFC3261](#)] user agent to convey, or push Location Information (LI) from one SIP entity to another. This document discusses the scenarios for such conveyance, and includes the requirements to be met when a SIP UAC wants or needs to convey its location to another SIP entity. A concept of inheritance exists in which the conveyance of the location of a user agent means conveying the location of a user of that user agent. This is not an absolute in SIP, but applies for the pushing of location using SIP. The privacy concerns of this topic are also discussed, and need to meet the requirements laid out in [RFC 3693](#) [[RFC3693](#)]. This document does not discuss the pulling of location information from a user agent. This is left for a future effort.

Why would a SIP user agent (UA) push its location to another SIP UA?

There are 3 reasonable scenarios why location can be, or needs to be

conveyed to a remote SIP element:

- 1) to include location in a request message seeking the nearest instance of destination, where there could be more than one choice; (hey, here I am, I want to talk to the nearest instance of you? i.e. where's the nearest Pizza Hut relative to where I am).
- 2) to push the user's location to a server that can deal with all the inquiries, leaving the UA to do other tasks; (Presence Server)
- 3) to inform the user of another UA where the sending user is; (dude, he is where I am) or (I need help, here I am)

Scenario #1 revolves around the idea of a user wanting to find the nearest instances of something else. For example, where is the nearest pizza parlor. A chain of pizza parlors may be contacted through a single well known URI (sip:pizzaparlor.example.com). This by itself does not solve enough to the sending UA. The server at this well known URI needs to know where the nearest one is to the requester. In SIP, this could be accomplished in the initial message by including the location of the UAC in the Request message. This allows the SIP message to be forwarded to the closest physical site by the pizzaparlor.com proxy server. Additionally, the receiving site's UAS uses the UAC's location to determine the location your delivery. A more immediate example may be: where's the nearest (car) garage repair shop, because the user of the UAC has a flat tire.

Scenario #2 revolves around pushing the user's location information to an external server to deal with all location requests in the future. This leaves a buffer layer between the user and the seeker of the user's location. This server would typically handle all security checks and challenges of those seeking the user's location, as well as handling all the processing of the location target's profile rules entered into that server. This external server c/would be a Presence server. This scenario will not be addressed in this document because of the prevailing Presence solutions for conveying location information.

Scenario #3 actually has a part A and a part B to it. Both involve the UAC including its location in the request to the UAS within a SIP transaction. Part A simply has the user, Alice, informing another user, Bob, where she is. This could be for the loan purpose for this SIP message, or it could be part of another transaction - in which location were merely included, such as within a call set-up.

Part B of this scenario has a user, Alice calling for help and including location to inform who she's calling where she is. This is where the called party needs to come bring help to. Within this

scenario, the UAC will need to know this is an emergency SIP request message, and to include the UAC's location in this message.

While scenarios 1, 2 and 3A should use some form of SIP security, typically at the wishes of the user, scenario 3B may or may not involve SIP security measures. This is because including any security measures may cause the SIP request to fail, and that is likely not a good result. It is also conceivable that a first attempt with the user's security measures enabled is tried, and if there are any failures, the subsequent attempt or attempts do not involve security measures. Most believe that completing the emergency call is more important than protecting the information in the SIP message. Obviously this is up to local and jurisdictional policies, but is mentioned here as a hint of a rationale of a later section of this document.

This document does not discuss how the UAC discovers or is configured with its location, however will specify how this spec meets the requirements for SIP qualifying as a "using protocol" as defined in [[RFC3693](#)], in [section 7](#).

[Section 3](#) lists the requirements for SIP location conveyance. [Section 4](#) defines how SIP conveys location. [Section 5](#) illustrates specifics about location conveyance in certain SIP request messages. [Section 6](#) briefly discusses pertinent behaviors with respect to the unique nature of emergency calling. [Section 9](#) provides the security considerations and [Section 10](#) IANA registers one new SIP header, two new option tags and one new 4XX Response codes.

[1.1](#) Conventions used in this document

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](#)].

[1.2](#) Changes from Prior Versions

[NOTE TO RFC-EDITOR: If this document is to be published as an RFC, this [section 1.2](#) is to be removed prior to that event.]

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the SIP WG version -01 to this version -02:

- streamlined the doc by removing text (ultimately removing 42 pages of text).
- Limited the scope of this document to SIP conveyance, meaning only

how SIP can push location information.

- reduced emergency calling text to just a few paragraphs now that the ECRIT WG is taking most of that topic on.
- greatly reduced the number of requirements in this version.
- changed the requirements groups from "UA-to-UA", "UA-to-Proxy", etc to "UAC Reqs", "UAS-Reqs" and "Proxy-Reqs" to focus on what is being asked of each SIP element.
- Removed the full SIP message examples.
- completed the ABNF for the Location header, including a cid-url to point at a message body part to help in parsing for location.
- Deleted the call for a new 425 (Retry Location) response code, as it appears this can easily be used to spoof a UA into providing where it is inadvertently, even if the intent is legitimate by the UAC.

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the SIP WG version -00 to this version -01:

- cleaned up a lot of loose ends in the text
- created a new Location header to convey many means (location is in the body - even if not viewable, which location format is present, which format is requested in a query, how to request more than one location format in a query, whether the UAC understands location at all, if the UA knows its location, how to push location from one UA to through a second to a third UA, etc).
- added the ability to convey location by-reference, but only under certain conditions.
- Added support for the OPTIONS Request to query a server for the UAC's location, through the use of the new Location header.
- moved both new Response code sections forward in the document for their meaning to be clearer, earlier for necessary discussion.
- Changed the message flows to only have the pertinent message headers shown for brevity.
- Added text to the SUB/NOT section showing how and why the location of a UA can be refreshed or updated with an interval, or by a trigger.

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the SIP WG version -02 to this SIP WG item document version -00:

- Changed which WG this document is in from SIPPING to SIP due to the extension of the protocol with new Response codes (424 and

425) for when there is an error involving the LO message body.

- Moved most of the well formed SIP messages out of the main body of this document and into separate appendixes. This should clean up the document from a readability point of view, yet still provide the intended decode examples to readers of this document who wish that level of detail per flow. The first few flows still have the decoded SIP messages (unencrypted and encrypted).
- Removed some flow examples which no longer made sense
- Changed all references of "ERC" (Emergency Response Center) to "PSAP" (Public Safety Answering Point) as a result of discussion within the new ECRIT WG to define a single term

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the sipping-01 working group version of this effort to the sipping-02 version:

- added requirements for 2 new 4XX error responses (Bad Location Information) and (Retry Location Body)
- added "Bad Location Information" as [section 8.6](#)
- added "Retry Location Body " as [section 9.3](#)
- added support for session mode to cover packet sizes larger than the single packet limit of 1300 bytes in the message body
- added requirement for a SIP entity to SUBSCRIBE to another for location information
- added SUBSCRIBE and NOTIFY as [section 8.5](#)
- added requirement to have user turn off any tracking created by subscription
- removed doubt about which method to use for updating location after a INVITE is sent (update)
- cleaned up which method is to be used if there is no dialog existing (message)
- removed use of reINVITE to convey location
- clarified that UAs include <provided-by> element of PIDF-LO when placing an emergency call (to inform PSAP who supplied Location information)
- updated list of open issues

- added to IANA Considerations section for the two new 4XX level error responses requested in the last meeting

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the sipping-00 working group version of this ID to the sipping-01 version:

- Added the offered solution in detail (with message flows, appropriate SIP Methods for location conveyance, and
- Synchronized the requirements here with those from the Geopriv Working Group's (attempting to eliminate overlap)
- Took on the task of making this effort the SIP "using protocol" specification from Geopriv's POV
- Refined the Open Issues section to reflect the progress we've made here, and to indicate what we have discovered needs addressing, but has not been to date.

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the -01 individual submission version to the sipping-00 version of this ID:

- Brian Rosen was brought on as a co-author
- Requirements that a location header were negatively received in the previous version of this document. AD and chair advice was to move all location information into a message body (and stay away from headers)
- Added a section of "emergency call" specific requirements
- Added an Open Issues section to mention what hasn't been resolved yet in this effort

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the individual submission version -00 to the -01 version

- Added the IPR Statement section
- Adjusted a few requirements based on suggestions from the Minneapolis meeting
- Added requirements that the UAC is to include from where it learned its location in any transmission of its LI
- Distinguished the facts (known to date) that certain jurisdictions relieve persons of their right to privacy when they call an PSAP, while other jurisdictions maintain a person's right to privacy, while still others maintain a person's right to privacy - but only if they ask that their service be set up that way.
- Made the decision that TLS is the security mechanism for location

conveyance in emergency communications (vs. S/MIME, which is still the mechanism for UA-to-UA non-emergency location conveyance

cases).

- Added the Open Issue of whether a Proxy can insert location information into an emergency SIP INVITE message, and some of the open questions surrounding the implications of that action
- added a few names to the acknowledgements section

2. Location In the Body or in a Header

In determining where "location" is placed in a SIP message, consideration is taken as to where the trust model is based on the architecture involved.

If the user agent has the location stored within it, and this user agent wants to inform another user agent where it is, it seems reasonable to have this accomplished by placing the location information (coordinate or civic) in an S/MIME registered and encoded message body, and sending it as part of a SIP request or response. No routing of the request based on the location information is required in this case; therefore no SIP Proxies between these two UAs need to view the location information contained in the SIP messages. The UAC should know messages will be routed based on location when creating a message. This is location by-value.

SIP currently does not permit SIP intermediaries to modify or delete a message body [[RFC3261](#)]. There is, however, no restriction on intermediaries viewing message bodies. S/MIME protected message bodies, implemented on bodies for end-to-end communications only (i.e. between user agents), would render the location object opaque to a proxy server from any viewing of the message body. This problem is similar to that raised in Session Policy [[ID-Sess-Pol](#)], where an intermediary may need information in a body, such as IP address of media streams or codec choices to route a call properly. Requirements in [[ID-Sess-Pol](#)] are applicable to routing based on location, and are incorporated in these requirements by reference.

The location format is defined in [[RFC4119](#)] as a "Presence Information Data Format - Location Object", or PIDF-LO. The amount of information that is necessary to appropriately transmit location information in a format that is understandable is larger than a SIP header could realistically include. However, there must be a means for both a UAC to include a reference point to where location can be retrieved from a remote server, and in some cases, a SIP server wants or needs to add location to a SIP message as it is processed by that server. This must be in a compact form in a SIP header. A

URI satisfies this description. This is location-by-reference.

Location-by-Reference allows a UA to place its location on a remote

node, to be retrieved by who has this URI. This allows the server to use its processing power to handle all policy rule operations the user wants performed per request, and all security challenges done as well.

[RFC3693] prefers S/MIME for security of Location Information, and indeed S/MIME is preferable in SIP [[RFC3261](#)] for protecting a message body. Accordingly, these requirements specify location be carried in a body when it is known to/stored in a user agent.

It is the use of S/MIME however, that limits message routing based on the location of the UAC, scenario 3B from above. Therefore, it seems appropriate to require that, where routing is dependent on location, protection of the location information object be accomplished by other mechanisms visible to SIP proxies: here TLS ("sips:" from [[RFC3261](#)]). The UAC will need to know the difference in the call's intent as to which security mechanism to engage for location conveyance.

It is conceivable that an initial attempt to communicate with location included may fail due to the security measures used. Subsequent requests ought to use less security. For example, if an initial request used S/MIME and failed. A subsequent request could downgrade the security measures used to that of TLS. This is a matter for local and jurisdictional policy, and is merely a hint at implementation possibilities.

[3.](#) Requirements for SIP Location Conveyance

The following subsections address the requirements placed on the user agent client, the user agent server, as well as SIP proxies when conveying location.

[3.1](#) Requirements for a UAC Conveying Location

The following are the requirements for location conveyance by a user agent client. There is a motivational statement below each requirements that is not obvious in intent.

UAC-1 The SIP INVITE Method [[RFC3261](#)] MUST support Location Conveyance.

UAC-2 The SIP MESSAGE method [[RFC3428](#)] MUST support Location Conveyance.

UAC-3 SIP Requests within a dialog SHOULD support Location Conveyance.

UAC-4 Other SIP Requests MAY support Location Conveyance.

UAC-5 There MUST be one, mandatory to implement means of

transmitting location confidentially.

Motivation: interoperability

UAC-6 It MUST be possible for a UAC to update location conveyed prior to dialog establishment.

Motivation: in case a UAC has moved prior to the establishment of a dialog between UAs, the UAC must be able to send new location information.

UAC-7 The privacy and security rules established within [[RFC3693](#)] that would categorize SIP as a 'using protocol' MUST be met. See [Section 7](#) for analysis.

UAC-8 The PIDF-LO [[RFC4119](#)] is a mandatory to implement format for location conveyance within SIP, whether included by-value or by-reference.

Motivation: interoperability

UAC-9 A UAC MUST be capable of transmitting a SIP request without protecting the PIDF-LO message body. It is RECOMMENDED this not be the default configuration of any UA. This requirement is orthogonal to the use of TLS or IPsec hop-by-hop between SIP elements.

Motivation: If a SIP request is part of an emergency call, therefore includes the UAC's location, the UAC may understand through local policy or configuration that a proxy server will need to learn the UAC's location to route the message correctly. Using S/MIME on the PIDF-LO defeats this capability in proxies.

UAC-10 A UAC MUST allow its user to be able to disable providing location within any SIP request message. It is RECOMMENDED this not be the default configuration of any UA.

Motivation: local laws may give this right to all users within a jurisdiction, even when the request is initiating an emergency call.

[3.2](#) Requirements for a UAS Receiving Location

The following are the requirements for location conveyance by a user agent server:

UAS-1 SIP Responses MUST support Location Conveyance.

UAS-2 There MUST be one, mandatory to implement means of transmitting location confidentially.

Motivation: interoperability

UAS-3 The PIDF-LO [[RFC4119](#)] is a mandatory to implement format for location conveyance within SIP, whether included by-value or by-reference.

Motivation: interoperability

UAS-4 There MUST be a unique 4XX error response code informing the UAC it did not provide applicable location information.

UAS-5 SIP UAs MUST be prepared to receive location without privacy mechanisms enabled. It is RECOMMENDED this not be the default configuration of any UA, however, this is possible based on local laws.

Motivation: Because a SIP request can fail in transit for security reasons, UACs are allowed to transmit, or retransmit requests including location without any security mechanisms utilized, even when this SIP transaction is an emergency call. UAs must be prepared to receive the messages without confidential location.

UAS-6 There MUST be a unique 4XX error response code informing the UAC it did not provide applicable location information.

3.3 Requirements for SIP Proxies and Intermediaries

The following are the requirements for location conveyance by a SIP proxies and intermediaries:

Proxy-1 Proxy servers MUST NOT modify or remove a location message body part, and SHOULD NOT modify or remove a location header or location header value.

Motivation: [[RFC3261](#)] forbids the removal of a message body part, and the proxy may not have all the relevant information as to why location was included in this message (meaning it might need to be there), and should not remove this critical piece of information.

Proxy-2 Proxy servers MUST be capable of adding a Location header during processing of SIP requests.

Motivation: If the proxy determines a message needs to have the location of the UAC in the message, and knows the UAC's location by-reference, it must be able to add this header and URI to the message during processing. This MUST NOT

violate requirement Proxy-3 below.

Proxy-3 If a Proxy server detects "location" already exists within a SIP message, it MUST NOT add another location header or location body to the message.

Motivation: This may lead to confusion, and should be left for the UAC to do on purpose.

Proxy-4 There MUST be a unique 4XX error response code informing the UAC it did not provide applicable location information.

4. Location Conveyance Using SIP

[RFC 4119](#) defines the PIDF-LO location object to be inside a [RFC 3693](#) defined "using protocol" message from one entity to another entity. For SIP location conveyance, using the PIDF-LO body satisfies the entire format and message-handling requirements as stated in the baseline Geopriv Requirements [[RFC3693](#)].

Although a PIDF-LO is to be used to indicate location of a UA, the actual PIDF-LO does not need to be contained in the message itself, it can be as a by-reference URI in a SIP header or message body part, pointing to the PIDF-LO of that UA on a remote node.

[Section 26 of \[RFC3261\]](#) defines the security functionality SIPS for transporting SIP messages with either TLS or IPSec, and S/MIME for encrypting message bodies from SIP intermediaries that would otherwise have access to reading the clear-text bodies. SIP endpoints MUST implement S/MIME to encrypt the PIDF-LO message body (part) end-to-end. The SIPS-URI from [[RFC3261](#)] SHOULD be used for message protection (message integrity and confidentiality) and MUST be used when S/MIME is not used (when not violating the requirements for emergency messaging detailed in [section 3](#) of this document). The entities sending and receiving location MUST obey the privacy and security rules in the PIDF-LO to be compliant with this specification.

Self-signed certificates SHOULD NOT be used for protecting PIDF-LO, as the sender does not have a secure identity of the recipient.

More than one location representation or format MAY be included in the same message body part, but all MUST point at the same position on the earth (altitude notwithstanding), as this would confuse the recipient by pointing at more than one position within the same PIDF-LO. There MAY be a case in which part of one location format and part of another exist in the same message body part. These all still MUST point at the same position on the earth, yet are incomplete within their own format. For example, there maybe be a latitude and longitude in coordinate format and a civic altitude value to complete a 3-dimentional position of a thing (i.e. which

floor of a building the UA is on in a building at a particular lat/long coordinate pair).

There MAY be several PIDF-LOs in separate message body parts in the same message, and each MAY point at different positions on the earth (altitude notwithstanding). If the message length exceeds the maximum message length of a single packet (1300 bytes), TCP MUST to be used for proper message fragmentation and reassembly.

Several push-based SIP Request Methods are capable (and applicable) of carrying location, including:

INVITE,
REGISTER,
UPDATE, and
MESSAGE,

While the authors do not yet see a reason to have location conveyed in the ACK, PRACK, BYE, REFER and CANCEL Methods, we do not see a reason to prevent carrying a PIDF-LO within these Method Requests as long as the SIP message meets the requirements stated within this document. Discussing Location in the PUBLISH Request Method will be for another document.

SIP Methods such as SUBSCRIBE and NOTIFY are considered a pull-based location retrieval mechanism, and are therefore not part of this document.

A 200 OK to a SIP Request MAY carry the UAS's PIDF-LO back to the UAC that provided its location in the original request, but this is not something that can be required due to the timing of the request to 200 OK messages, with potential local/user policy requiring the called user to get involved in determining if the caller is someone they wish to give their location to (and at what precision).

4.1 New Option Tags and a Location Header Created

This document creates and IANA registers two new option tags, "location" or "unknown-location". User agent clients who support this specification will indicate that support by including either of these option-tags in a Supported header.

This document also creates and IANA registers a new Location header. The Location header, if present, will have one of three header values defined by this document:

- o a Location-by-reference URI
- o a Content ID indicating where location is within the message body
- o a location based option tag

A location-by-reference URI is a pointer to a record on a remote

node containing the PIDF-LO of a UA.

If the PIDF-LO of a UA is contained in a SIP message, a Location header will be present in the message with a content-ID (cid-url) [[RFC2392](#)] indicating where in the message body location is for this UA. This is to aid a node in not having to parse the whole message body or body parts looking for this body type.

The Unknown-Location option tag in a Location header indicates a UA understands the concept of location conveyance, but does not have its location to provide. This can save error messages from being generated looking for an answer the UA does not have to give. It can also allow a processing entity the immediate knowledge it needs to act as if the UA will not learn location on its own, and perhaps call on another process to address the location needs for that message.

The purpose of the Location option-tag is to indicate support for this document in the Requires, Supported and Unsupported headers. It gives a UAS the proper means to indicate it does not support the concept of location in an Unsupported header in a response message that might otherwise not be clear that the lack of support for location is the problem with the request message.

The new "Location" header has the following BNF syntax:

```

Location           = "Location" HCOLON Location-value *(COMMA
                        Location-value)
location-value     = (addr-spec / option-tag / token)
addr-spec          = cid-url / absoluteURI
option-tag         = string
token              = token / quoted-string
cid-url            = "cid" ":" content-id /
absoluteURI        = SIP or SIPS-URI
content-id         = url-addr-spec
url-addr-spec      = addr-spec ; URL encoding of RFC 822 addr-spec

```

The Content-ID (cid) is defined in [[RFC2392](#)] to locate message body parts.

The absoluteURI is the SIP or SIPS URI of the location-by-reference, which points at a PIDF-LO of a UA in a record on a remote node.

The following table extends the values in Table 2/3 of [RFC3261](#) [[RFC3261](#)].

Header field	where proxy INV ACK CAN BYE REG OPT PRA									

Location	Rr	ar	o	-	-	o	o	o	-	

Header field	where	proxy	SUB	NOT	UPD	MSG	REF	INF	PUB
Location	Rr	ar	-	-	0	0	0	0	-

The Location header MAY be added, or read if present in a Request message listed above. A proxy MAY add the location header in transit if one is not present. [[RFC3261](#)] states message bodies cannot be added by proxies. A proxy MAY read the location header in transit if present.

It is RECOMMENDED that only one Location header be in the same message, but this is not mandatory. That said, there MUST NOT be more than one cid-url pointing to a location message body (part) in a SIP message, regardless of how many Location headers there are in that message. There MUST NOT be more than one location by-reference URI in any SIP message, regardless of how many Location headers there are in a message.

Here is an example INVITE that includes the proper Location and Supported headers (without the PIDF-LO message body part):

```
INVITE sip:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/TCP pc33.atlanta.example.com
    ;branch=z9hG4bK74bf9
Max-Forwards: 70
To: Bob <sip:bob@biloxi.example.com>
From: Alice <sip:alice@atlanta.example.com>;tag=9fxced76s1
Call-ID: 3848276298220188511@atlanta.example.com
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
Supported: location
Accept: application/sdp, application/pidf+xml
CSeq: 31862 INVITE
Contact: <sip:alice@atlanta.example.com>
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary=boundary1
Content-Length: ...
```

--boundary1

Content-Type: application/sdp

...SDP here

--boundary1

Content-Type: application/pidf+xml

Content-ID: alice123@atlanta.example.com

...PIDF-LO with geo-location coordinates here

--boundary1--

The location header from the above INVITE:

```
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
```

indicates the Content-ID location [[RFC2392](#)] within the multipart message body of where location information is.

If the Location header were this instead:

```
Location: <server5@atlanta.example.com/alice123>
```

this would indicate location by-reference was included in this message. It is expected that any node wanting to know where user alice123 is would fetch the PIDF-LO from the server5 URI.

[4.2](#) 424 (Bad Location Information) Response Code

In the case that a UAS or SIP intermediary detects an error in a Request message specific to the location information supplied by-value or by-reference, a new 4XX level error is created here to indicate this is the problem with the request message. This document creates the new error code:

424 (Bad Location Information)

The 424 (Bad Location Information) Response code is a rejection of the location contents, whether by-value or by-reference of the original SIP Request. The server function of the recipient (UAS or intermediary) has deemed this location by-reference or location by-value to be bad. No further action by the UAC is required. The UAC can use whatever means it knows to verify/refresh its location information before attempting a new request. There is no cross-transaction awareness expected by either the UAS or SIP intermediary as a result of this error message.

This new error code will be IANA registered in [Section 10](#).

[4.3](#) Example PIDF-LO in Geo Format

This subsection will show a sample of what just the PIDF-LO can look like, as defined in [[RFC4119](#)]. Having this here will first offer a look at a location by-value message body, and secondly, give readers an appreciation for how large a location message body is so that this document does not have to show a PIDF-LO in every message flow example. This section shows a coordinate position based PIDF-LO. [Section 4.4](#) shows this same position in a civic address format. Full example message flows will be left for another document.

Whether this PIDF-L0 message body is S/MIME encrypted in the SIP message or not, the PIDF-L0 stays exactly the same. There is no

change to its format, text or characteristics. Whether TLS or IPSec is used to encrypt this overall SIP message or not, the PIDF-LO stays exactly the same. There is no change to its format, text or characteristics. The examples in [section 4.3](#) (Geo format) taken from [\[RFC3825\]](#) and 4.4 (Civic format) taken from [\[ID-CIVIC\]](#) are for the exact same position on the Earth. The differences between the two formats is within the <gp:location-info> are of the examples. Other than this portion, of each PIDF-LO, the rest the same for both location formats.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
  <presence xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf"
    xmlns:gp="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf:geopriv10"
    xmlns:gml="urn:opengis:specification:gml:schema-
      xsd:feature:v3.0"
    entity="pres:alice@atlanta.example.com">
    <tuple id="sg89ae">
      <timestamp>2006-03-20T14:00:00Z</timestamp>
      <status>
        <gp:geopriv>
          <gp:location-info>
            <gml:location>
              <gml:Point gml:id="point96" srsName="epsg:4326">
                <gml:coordinates>33.001111N
                  96.68142W</gml:coordinates>
              </gml:Point>
            </gml:location>
          </gp:location-info>
          <method>dhcp</method>
          <provided-by><vena>www.cisco.com</vena></provided-by/>
          <gp:usage-rules>
            <gp:retransmission-allowed>no</gp:retransmission-allowed>
            <gp:retention-expiry>2006-03-24T18:00:00Z</gp:retention-
              expiry>
          </gp:usage-rules>
        </gp:geopriv>
      </status>
    </tuple>
  </presence>
```

[4.4](#) Example PIDF-LO in Civic Format

This subsection will show a sample of what just the PIDF-LO can look like, as defined in [\[RFC4119\]](#). Having this here will first offer a look at a location by-value message body, and secondly, give readers an appreciation for how large a location message body is so that this document does not have to show a PIDF-LO in every message flow example. This section shows a civic address based PIDF-LO. [Section](#)

[4.3](#) shows this same position in a coordinate format. Full example message flows will be left for another document.

Whether this PIDF-LO message body is S/MIME encrypted in the SIP message or not, the PIDF-LO stays exactly the same. There is no change to its format, text or characteristics. Whether TLS or IPSec is used to encrypt this overall SIP message or not, the PIDF-LO stays exactly the same. There is no change to its format, text or characteristics. The examples in [section 4.3](#) (Geo format) taken from [\[RFC3825\]](#) and 4.4 (Civic format) taken from [\[ID-CIVIC\]](#) are for the exact same position on the Earth. The differences between the two formats is within the <gp:location-info> are of the examples. Other than this portion, of each PIDF-LO, the rest the same for both location formats.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
  <presence xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf"
    xmlns:gp="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf:geopriv10"
    xmlns:gml="urn:opengis:specification:gml:schema-
      xsd:feature:v3.0"
    entity="pres:alice@atlanta.example.com">
    <tuple id="sg89ae">
      <timestamp>2006-03-20T14:00:00Z</timestamp>
      <status>
        <gp:geopriv>
          <gp:location-info>
            <cl:civilAddress>
              <cl:country>US</cl:country>
              <cl:A1>Texas</cl:A1>
              <cl:A3>Colleyville</cl:A3>
              <cl:HNO>3913</cl:HNO>
              <cl:A6>Treemont</cl:A6>
              <cl:STS>Circle</cl:STS>
              <cl:PC>76034</cl:PC>
              <cl:LMK>Polk Place</cl:LMK>
              <cl:FLR>1</cl:FLR>
            </cl:civilAddress>
          </gp:location-info>
          <method>dhcp</method>
          <provided-by><nena>www.cisco.com</nena></provided-by/>
          <gp:usage-rules>
            <gp:retransmission-allowed>no</gp:retransmission-allowed>
            <gp:retention-expiry>2006-03-24T18:00:00Z</gp:retention-
              expiry>
          </gp:usage-rules>
        </gp:geopriv>
      </status>
    </tuple>
  </presence>
```

[5.](#) SIP Element Behavior When Conveying Location

The SIP Request Methods that MUST convey location are the INVITE, REGISTER, UPDATE and MESSAGE Methods. It is not forbidden by this

document to convey location with any other SIP method. However, no other methods are detailed here.

The message flows in this document will be example messages containing only the key headers to convey the point being made that do not include all the requisite SIP headers. All well formed SIP message flows are to be in a separate document for brevity here.

5.1 Location Conveyance Using the INVITE Method

Below is a common SIP session set-up sequence between two user agents. In this example, Alice will provide Bob with her location in the INVITE message.

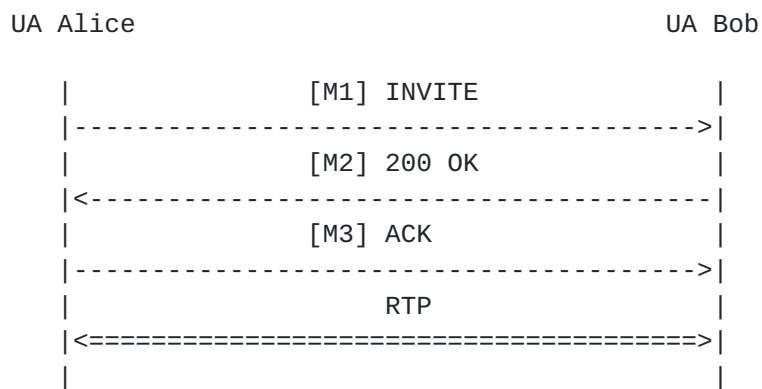


Figure 1. Location Conveyance in INVITE Requests

User agent Alice invites user agent Bob to a session [M1 of Figure 1].

```

INVITE sips:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
To: Bob <sips:bob@biloxi.example.com>
From: Alice <sips:alice@atlanta.example.com>;tag=1928301774
Supported: Location
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
  
```

If the message were S/MIME encrypted, this would be the Content-type header:

```

Content-Type: application/pkcs7-mime;
  smime-type=enveloped-data; name=smime.p7m
  
```

If this INVITE were not S/MIME encrypted, this would be the Content-Type header:

```

Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary=boundary1
  
```

The obvious reason this for a multipart/mixed Content-Type is that this is an INVITE message and there is an SDP message body part

included. This is not mandatory, but highly likely. The cid-url in the Location header points a parsing entity that can view the

message body to where the PIDF-LO is in the message.

Within the non-S/MIME message body is this:

--boundary1

Content-Type: application/sdp

v=0

...

--boundary1

Content-type: application/pidf+xml

PIDF-LO

--boundary1--

In the INVITE, Alice's UAC included the Supported header with the location option tag, and the Location header with the cid:url pointing at the by-value PIDF-LO. These two headers MAY be hidden in the S/MIME encrypted message body next to the topmost Content-Type header to hide the fact that this message is carrying location in transit. Bob's UAS, the destination UA of Alice's message, will read these headers when deciphering the overall message body.

- If Bob's UA wants to join the call, his UA responds with a 200 OK [M2]. Bob can include his location in the 200 OK response, but this shouldn't be expected to due to user timing.

A 424 (Bad Location Information) Response with a Unsupported header (option tag of 'location') is the proper response if Bob's UA cannot display this information, but does understand the concept of location.

[Alternative M2 of Figure 2]

SIP/2.0 424 Bad Location Information

To: Bob <sips:bob@biloxi.example.com>

From: Alice <sips:alice@atlanta.example.com>;tag=1928301774

Unsupported: location

- If Bob's UA accepts with a 200 OK message, Alice's UA replies with an ACK and the session is set up.
- If Bob's UA does not accept the INVITE for reasons other than location included, a 488 (Not Acceptable Here) may be the response.

Figure 1 does not include any Proxies because in it assumed they would not affect the session set-up with respect to whether or not

Alice's location is in a message body part, and Proxies do not react to S/MIME encrypted bodies, making their inclusion more or less moot

and asking for more complex message flows than necessary here.

5.2 Location Conveyance Using the MESSAGE Method

Alice can choose to merely want to communicate her location to Bob point-to-point, without starting a (voice) conversation, the MESSAGE Method MAY be used here.

To comply with privacy concerns raised in [RFC3693] and [RFC4119], a MESSAGE Method Request would be built according to [RFC3428] that includes a location message body. S/MIME encryption SHOULD be used on the message body (part), as outlined in [RFC3261]. Figure 2 here shows a simplistic MESSAGE method message flow.

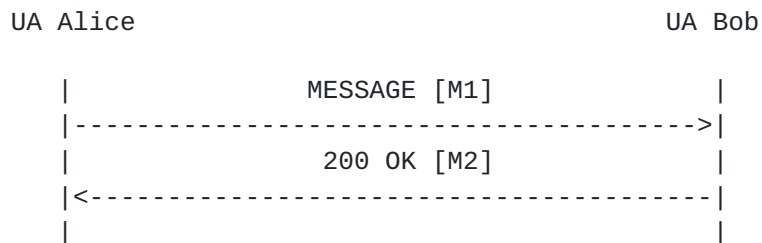


Figure 1. Location Conveyance in MESSAGE Requests

Below is a sample, non-well-formed MESSAGE Method message from Alice to Bob conveying her geo location:

```

[M1 of Figure 2]
MESSAGE sips:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
To: Bob
From: Alice
Supported: location
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
  
```

If the message were S/MIME encrypted, this would be the Content-type header:

```

Content-Type: application/pkcs7-mime;
  smime-type=enveloped-data; name=smime.p7m
  
```

If this MESSAGE request were not S/MIME encrypted, this would be the Content-Type header:

```

Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary=boundary1
  
```

```

--boundary1
  
```

```

Content-Type: text/plain
  
```

Here's my location, Bob?

--boundary1

Content-Type: application/pidf+xml
Content-Disposition: render
[Alice's PIDF-LO goes here]

--boundary1--

The Content-type of M1 here is "multipart/mixed" to have a text message incorporated into the message. Within the PIDF-LO message body, there is a Content-Disposition of "render" to display this location information to Bob when his UA receives it. The cautions about whether or not Bob actually reads this message are outlined in [\[RFC3428\]](#).

The 200 OK to M1 of Figure 2 is a simple 200 OK.

A 424 (Bad Location Information) Response with a Unsupported header (option tag of 'location') is the proper response if Bob's UA cannot display this information, but does understand the concept of location.

[Alternative M2 of Figure 2]
SIP/2.0 424 Bad Location Information
To: Bob
From: Alice
Unsupported: location

If Bob is declining the M2 MESSAGE Request message, a 488 (Not Acceptable Here) is the appropriate response. A Supported header with a location option tag indicates location was not the reason this message was declined.

[Alternative M2 of Figure 2]
SIP/2.0 488 Not Acceptable Here
To: Bob
From: Alice
Supported: location

[5.3](#) Location Conveyance Using the UPDATE Method

The UPDATE Method [\[RFC3311\]](#) is to be used any time location information is to be updated between UAs setting up a dialog or after the dialog has been established, no matter how long that dialog has been operational. reINVITE is inappropriate here, and the MESSAGE Method is for non-dialog location conveyance between UAs only. The same security properties used in the INVITE MUST be applied in the UPDATE message.

There are 3 conditions UPDATE is to be used to convey location between UAs:

- 1) During dialog establishment, but before the final 200 OK (see [section 5.3.1](#))
- 2) After dialog establishment, but no prior location information has been convey (see [section 5.3.2](#)), and
- 3) After dialog establishment, when a UA has determined it has moved (see [section 5.3.3](#))

5.3.1 UPDATE Updates Location During Session Establishment

Figure 3a. shows the first example of what the UPDATE Method is used: during dialog establishment when Alice updates Bob with her location information [M3]. This might be different location information than was in message [M1] of Figure 3a. or it could be the first time Alice conveys location to Bob during the dialog set-up.

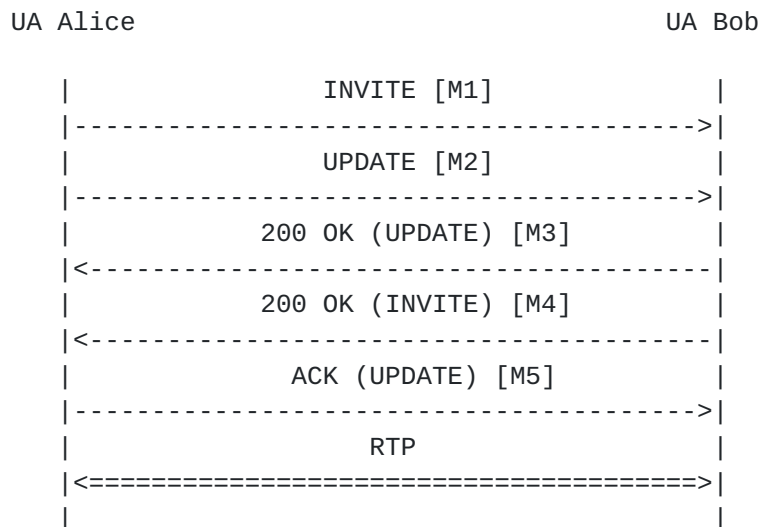


Figure 3a. Updating Location During Dialog Establishment

```
[M2 of Figure 3a]
UPDATE sip:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
To: Bob
From: Alice
Supported: location
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary=boundary1

--boundary1

Content-Type: application/sdp
v=
```

...

--boundary1

Content-Type: application/pidf+xml
[Alice's PIDF-LO goes here]

--boundary1--

The above example has Alice also changing something within her original SDP, but this is not necessary for this update of location information.

- If Bob agrees with this INVITE and the UPDATE, there his UA transmits 200 OKs for each [M4] and [M5] in Figure 3a.
- Alice, upon receiving the 200 OKs, sends an ACK to establish the dialog with her modified location.

Bob's UA should send a 424 (Bad Location Information) Response with a Unsupported header (stating 'location') if his UA does not understand the concept of location conveyance; meaning to the INVITE in [M1]. Therefore, a 424 SHOULD NOT be sent to the UPDATE of location information if the PIDF-LO is well formed and has valid (not validated!) location fields. If Bob's UA sends a 424 to this UPDATE without an Unsupported header containing a location option tag, Alice's UA MUST interpret that to mean the location in the PIDF-LO was poorly generated. Perhaps it was missing a field. Perhaps a field was incomplete.

If Bob is declining the M2 UPDATE Request message, a 488 (Not Acceptable Here) is the appropriate response. A Supported header with a location option tag indicates location was not the reason this message was declined.

[Alternative M3 of Figure 3a]
SIP/2.0 488 Not Acceptable Here
To: Bob
From: Alice
Supported: location

5.3.2 UPDATE Updates Location After Session Establishment

Figure 3b. shows the second example of what the UPDATE Method is used for: if a dialog exists between Alice and Bob without location having been conveyed previously in either direction, and one of the UAs wants to convey location to the other. For example, if Alice invites Bob to a dialog, but does not include her location in that dialog establishment. Anytime during that dialog that Alice's UA decides to convey location, she uses the UPDATE Method, not the INVITE Method (in a reINVITE), to update the location parameters of

that dialog.

Once a dialog has been established, a UAC MUST NOT use the INVITE Method as a reINVITE to convey location within a dialog. The UPDATE Method MUST be used.

Consider the following example message flow in Figure 3b.:

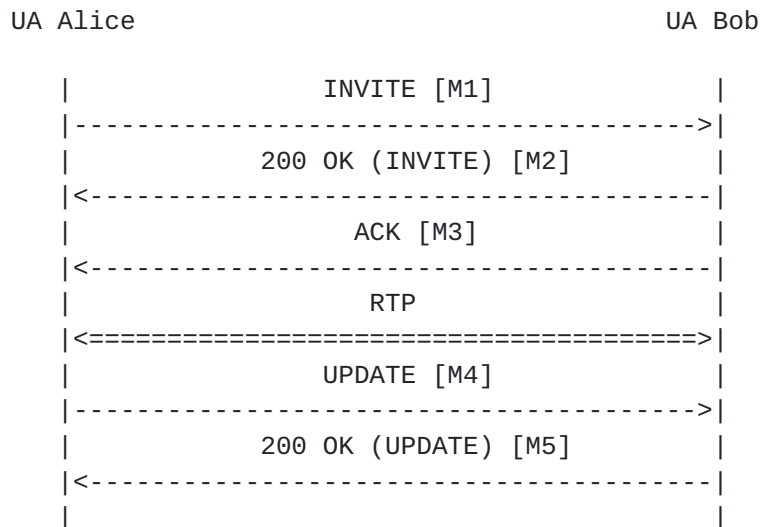


Figure 3b. Updating Location After Dialog Establishment

For whatever reason, Alice decides to send Bob her location for the first time. [M4] is an example of the UPDATE message used to accomplish this.

[M4 of Figure 3b]

```
UPDATE sips:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
To: Bob
From: Alice
Supported: location
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
Content-Type: application/pdf+xml
```

[Alice's PIDF-L0 goes here]

A 424 (Bad Location Information) Response with a Unsupported header (stating Location) is the proper response if Bob's UA does not understand the concept of location. In this case, the dialog MUST remain unaffected by this rejection message. Here is a rough idea of this 424:

[Alternative M5 of Figure 3b]

```
SIP/2.0 424 Bad Location Information
To: Bob
From: Alice
Unsupported: location
```

If Bob is declining the M4 UPDATE Request message, a 488 (Not Acceptable Here) is the appropriate response. A Supported header

with a location option tag indicates location was not the reason
this message was declined.

```
[Alternative M5 of figure 3b]
SIP/2.0 488 Not Acceptable Here
To: Bob
From: Alice
Supported: location
```

5.3.3 UPDATE Updates Location After a UA Moves in a Dialog

Figure 3c. shows the first example of what the UPDATE Method is used: if one UA that already conveyed location to the other UA, and has moved since the dialog was originally sent up. How a UA determines it has moved is out of scope for this document.

However that "movement" trigger occurred, M4 of Figure 3c. is the result: an UPDATE Method Request indicating new location by Alice, to keep Bob current with Alice's position.

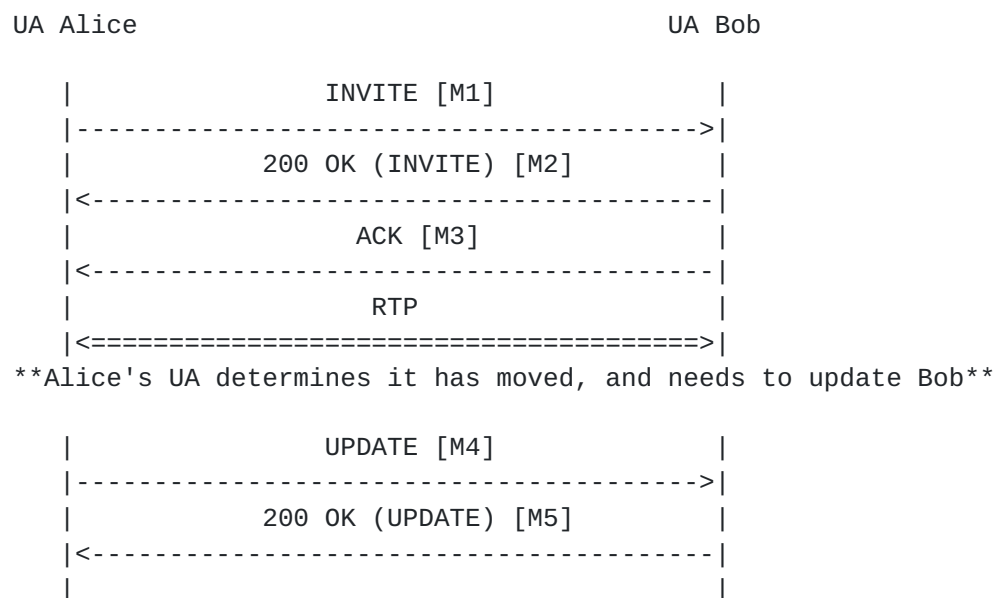


Figure 3c. Updating Location During Dialog After Movement

This message flow assumes Alice conveyed location in [M1], and that Bob's UA supports location conveyance by not rejecting the INVITE request.

Message M4 of Figure 3c. shows the UPDATE of Alice's location information to Bob. That message may look like this (non-well-formed SIP message):

[M4 of Figure 3c]

UPDATE sips:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
To: Bob

From: Alice
Supported: location
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
Content-Type: application/pidf+xml

[Alice's PIDF-LO goes here]

There currently is not an indication within the PIDF-LO for Alice to tell Bob this PIDF-LO is new, replacement location information from a previous message (here in the M1 INVITE message).

Because of the 200 OK to the INVITE containing location, Alice knows Bob's UA understands location conveyance. Therefore, if Bob's UA sends a 424 to this UPDATE, it MUST NOT contain an Unsupported header containing a location option tag.

If Alice does receive a 424 (with the Unsupported header with a location option tag), Alice's UA MUST interpret that to mean the location in the PIDF-LO was poorly generated. Perhaps it was missing a field. Perhaps a field was incomplete.

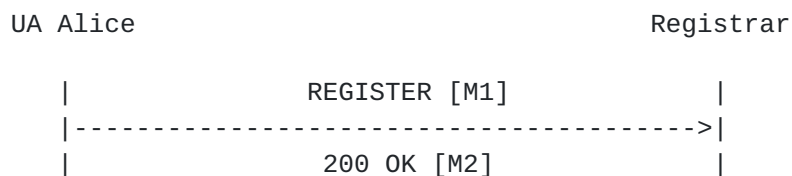
If Bob is declining the M4 UPDATE Request message, a 488 (Not Acceptable Here) is the appropriate response. A Supported header with a location option tag indicates location was not the reason this message was declined.

[Alternative M5 of figure 3c]
SIP/2.0 488 Not Acceptable Here
To: Bob
From: Alice
Supported: location

[5.4](#) Location Conveyance Using the REGISTER Method

Alice can choose to merely want to communicate her location to Bob point-to-point, without starting a (voice) conversation, the REGISTER Method MAY be used here.

To comply with privacy concerns raised in [\[RFC3693\]](#) and [\[RFC4119\]](#), a REGISTER Method Request MUST S/MIME encrypt the PIDF-LO, as outlined in [\[RFC3261\]](#). A UAC SHOULD use a SIPS-URI, as outlined in [\[RFC3261\]](#). Figure 4 here shows a simplistic REGISTER method message flow.



|<-----|
|

Figure 4. Location Conveyance in REGISTER Requests

Below is a sample, non-well-formed REGISTER Method message from Alice to Bob conveying her geo location:

[M1 of Figure 2]

```
REGISTER sips:registrar1@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
To: Alice <sips:alice@atlanta.example.com>;
From: Alice <sips:alice@atlanta.example.com>;tag=1928301774
Supported: location
Location: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
Expires: 21600
```

If the message were S/MIME encrypted, this would be the Content-type header:

```
Content-Type: application/pkcs7-mime;
             smime-type=enveloped-data; name=smime.p7m
```

If this REGISTER request were not S/MIME encrypted, this would be the Content-Type header:

```
Content-Type: application/pidf+xml
```

provided there were no other registration event message bodies.

The 200 OK to M1 of Figure 2 is a simple 200 OK.

A 424 (Bad Location Information) Response with a Unsupported header (option tag of 'location') is the proper response if the Registrar server does not understand location conveyance.

[Alternative M2 of Figure 2]

```
SIP/2.0 424 Bad Location Information
To: Alice
From: Alice
Unsupported: location
```

If the Registrar Server is declining the original [M1] REGISTER Request, a 488 (Not Acceptable Here) is the appropriate response. A Supported header with a location option tag indicates location was not the reason this message was declined.

[Alternative M2 of Figure 2]

```
SIP/2.0 488 Not Acceptable Here
To: Alice
From: Alice
Supported: location
```


6. Special Considerations for Emergency Calls

Emergency calling, such as 911, 112 and 999 calling today, necessitates a UAC to understand the type of call it is about to generate with an INVITE message to a PSAP. First of all, the purpose of calling for emergency help is to get someone to respond to the UAC's location, therefore, location MUST be included in the INVITE, if known by the UAC.

The emergency services community strongly prefers that message routing occur in the network with the freshest available Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) information. Message routing, in this context, means choosing which SIP(S)-URI to place in the Request-URI field of the status line.

If a UAC knows it is generating an emergency request towards a PSAP, there MAY be unique message handling characteristics that diminish the level of confidentiality of the location information within the SIP message(s). This is because emergency call routing requires proxies to know the location of the message originating UAC in order to make a decision on where to route the message. This is because emergency calls are directed to the PSAP local to the caller's location. A proxy performing this function requires that proxy to learn the location of the UAC during message processing.

How a message is routed based on the location of the UAC, and if and by how much the level of confidentiality of location information is diminished when calling for emergency help are both out of scope of this document.

Hop-by-hop confidentiality mechanisms, as defined in [[RFC3261](#)] MUST be attempted initially by a UAC that includes location. Local configuration MAY allow a subsequent retry, after a security related failure, to be without hop-by-hop confidentiality. SIP elements MUST obey the rules set forth in [[RFC3261](#)] regarding maintaining hop-by-hop confidentiality when a message using a SIPS-URI.

While many jurisdictions force a user to reveal their location during an emergency call set-up, there is a small, but real, number of jurisdictions that allow a user to configure their calling device to disable providing location, even during emergency calling. This capability MUST be configurable, but is not RECOMMENDED as the default configuration of any UA. Local policies will dictate this ability.

7. Meeting [RFC3693](#) Requirements

[Section 7.2 of \[RFC3693\]](#) details the requirements of a "using protocol". They are:

Req. 4. The using protocol has to obey the privacy and security

instructions coded in the Location Object and in the corresponding Rules regarding the transmission and storage of the LO.

This document requires, in [Section 3](#), that SIP entities sending or receiving location MUST obey such instructions.

Req. 5. The using protocol will typically facilitate that the keys associated with the credentials are transported to the respective parties, that is, key establishment is the responsibility of the using protocol.

[RFC3261] and the documents it references define the key establish mechanisms.

Req. 6. (Single Message Transfer) In particular, for tracking of small target devices, the design should allow a single message/packet transmission of location as a complete transaction.

This document specifies that the LO be contained in the body of a single message, which may be fragmented via TCP, but is still not a streaming delivery.

8. Open issues

This is a list of open issues that have not yet been addressed to conclusion:

none

9. Security Considerations

Conveyance of physical location of a UAC is problematic for many reasons. This document calls for that conveyance to normally be accomplished through secure message body means (like S/MIME or TLS). In cases where a session set-up is routed based on the location of the UAC initiating the session or SIP MESSAGE, securing the location with an end-to-end mechanism such as S/MIME is problematic, due to the probability of a proxy from requiring the ability to read that information to route the message appropriately. This means the use of S/MIME may not be possible. This leaves location information of the caller available in each proxy through to the PSAP. This may not be a perfect solution, but may be a pill we need to swallow to enable this functionality.

A bad implementation of SIP location conveyance would have a UAC send location in cleartext, without hop-by-hop confidentiality, or have any SIP element along the path towards the PSAP alter the

transport of any message carrying location to be without hop-by-hop confidentiality between elements. The latter would be in clear

violation of [RFC3261](#) rules surrounding the use of a SIPS-URI.

[10.](#) IANA Considerations

This section defines one new SIP header, two new option tags, and one new 4XX error response code within the sip-parameters section of IANA. [NOTE: RFC XXXX denotes this document].

[10.1](#) IANA Registration for the SIP Location Header

The Location header is created by this document, with its definition and rules in [Section 4](#) of this document.

[10.2](#) IANA Registration for Two New SIP Option Tags

Two new SIP option tags are created by this document, "Location" and "Unknown-location", with the definitions and rules for each in [Section 4](#) of this document.

[10.3](#) IANA Registration for Response Code 4XX

Reference: RFC-XXXX (i.e. this document)

Response code: 424

Default reason phrase: Bad Location Information

[11.](#) Acknowledgements

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To Paul Kyzivat for inspiring some of the recent text addressing lingering issues the authors could not resolve.

To Jon Peterson for his guidance in this effort.

[12.](#) References

[12.1](#) References - Normative

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12.2 References - Informative

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