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Session Initiation Protocol Location Conveyance
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Abstract

This document defines an extension to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) to convey geographic location information from one SIP entity to another SIP entity. The extension covers end to end conveyance as well as location-based routing, where proxy servers make routing decisions based on the location of the UAC.

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[1.](#) Introduction

This document describes how Location can be "conveyed" (that is, sent on the Internet) from a SIP user agent, or in some circumstances a proxy server acting on behalf of a user agent, to another entity using the SIP [[RFC3261](#)] protocol. Here "Location" is a description of the physical geographical area where a User Agent currently exists. We use the term "conveyance" to distinguish other circumstances when a location is used such as how the entity conveying location using this extension determined where the location was (using, for example, an Assisted GPS mechanism) or a protocol by which the entity acquired the location it is conveying

from another entity.

Geographic location in the IETF is discussed in [RFC 3693](#) (Geopriv

Requirements) [[RFC3693](#)]. It defines a "target" as the entity whose location is being transmitted, in this case, it is the user agent's (UA) location. A [[RFC3693](#)] "using protocol" defines how a "location server" transmits a "location object" to a "location recipient" while maintaining the contained privacy intentions of the target intact. This document describes the extension to SIP for how it complies with the using protocol requirements, where the location server is a User Agent or Proxy Server and the location recipient is another User Agent or Proxy Server.

Location can be transmitted by-value or by-reference. The "value" used in this document is a location object as described in [[RFC4119](#)], that is, a PIDF-LO. Location-by-value refers to a user agent including a PIDF-LO as a body part of a SIP message, sending that location object to another SIP element. Location-by-reference refers to a user agent or proxy server including a URI in a SIP message which can be exchanged by a location recipient for a location object, in the form of a PIDF-LO.

As recited in [RFC3693](#), location often must be kept private. The location object (PIDF-LO) contains rules which are binding on the location recipient and controls onward distribution and retention of the location. This document describes the security and privacy considerations that must be applied to location conveyed with SIP.

Often, location is sent from the User Agent Client to the User Agent Server, or vice versa for purposes that are beyond the scope of this document. Another use for location is location-based routing of a SIP request, where the choice of the next hop (and usually, the outgoing Request URI) is determined by the location of the UAC which is in the message by-value or by-reference. This document describes how location may be conveyed from the UAC, or a proxy acting on its behalf, to a routing proxy. How the location is actually used to determine the next hop or Request-URI is beyond the scope of this document.

The Geolocation header is introduced to signify that location is included in a SIP message to provide either a content identifier (cid:) pointer to the body part containing the UAs PIDF-LO, or a location-by-reference URI that may subsequently be "dereferenced" by a using protocol (which may be SIP or another protocol).

In this document, we frequently refer to the "emergency case". This refers to a specific, important use of sip location conveyance where the location of the caller is used to determine which Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) should receive an emergency call request for help (e.g. a call to 1-1-2 or 9-1-1). This is an example of location-based routing. The location conveyed is also used by the PSAP to dispatch first responders to the caller's location. There

are special security considerations which make the emergency case unique, compared to a normal location conveyance within SIP.

2. 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](#)].

3. Mechanisms

3.1 Overview of SIP Location Conveyance

This document creates a new SIP header: Geolocation. The Geolocation header contains either a URI which may be a "cid:" URI (Content Identification, per [[RFC2392](#)], or a location-by-reference URI to be dereferenced by a location recipient to retrieve the location of the UAC.

Where the Geolocation header contains a "cid:", the URI points to a message body that is in the form of a PIDF [[RFC3863](#)], which was extended in [[RFC4119](#)] to include location, as a PIDF-LO. This is location-by-value, the actual location information in the PIDF-LO is included in the body of the message.

If the URI in the Geolocation header is a scheme other than "cid:", another protocol operation is needed by the message recipient to obtain the location of the target (UA). This is location-by-reference. This document describes how a SIP presence subscription [[RFC3856](#)] can be used as a dereference protocol.

The Geolocation header, either with the PIDF-LO in a body or as a location-by-reference URI, may be included by a User Agent in a message. A proxy server may assert location of the UA by inserting the header, which must specify a location-by-reference URI. Since body parts may not be inserted by a proxy server, location-by-value cannot be inserted by a proxy.

This document describes an extension to PIDF-LO, the "routing-query-allowed" element, defined in the 'usage-rules' element. When set, this allows an element receiving location to transmit the location to another element to obtain routing information. When used in conjunction with the "retransmission-allowed" element, the rule maker can control distribution of the location information for location-based routing.

This document also creates a new option tag: Geolocation, to indicate support for the Geolocation extension. A new error message (424 Bad Location Information) is also defined in this document.

3.2 The Geolocation Header

This document creates and IANA registers a new SIP header: Geolocation. The Geolocation header MUST contain one two types of URIs:

- o a location-by-reference URI, or
- o a content-ID indicating where location is within the message body of this message

A location-by-reference URI is a pointer to a record on a remote node containing location of the location target, typically the UA in this transaction.

A location-by-value content-ID (cid-url) [[RFC2392](#)] indicates which message body part contains location for this UA.

The Geolocation header has the following BNF syntax:

```
Geolocation      = "Geolocation" HCOLON (locationURI *(COMMA
                        locationURI))
locationURI      = sip-URI / sips-URI / pres-URI / cid-URI
                        / absoluteURI
cidURI           = "cid:" content-id
content-id       = addr-spec ; URL encoding of RFC3261 addr-spec
```

The content-ID (cid:) is defined in [[RFC2392](#)] to locate message body parts. This URI MUST be present if location is by-value in a message.

sip-URI, sips-URI and absoluteURI are defined according to [RFC3261](#). The pres-URI is defined in [RFC 3859](#) [[RFC3859](#)].

Other protocols used in the Location URI MUST be reviewed against the [RFC3693](#) criteria for a using protocol.

This document defines the Geolocation header as valid in:

```
INVITE [RFC3261],
REGISTER [RFC3261],
OPTIONS [RFC3261],
UPDATE [RFC3311],
MESSAGE [RFC3428],
SUBSCRIBE [RFC3265], and
NOTIFY [RFC3265]
```

Use of the header in BYE, INFO and REFER Methods are allowed, although no purpose is known. Conveying location in a CANCEL, BYE,

ACK or PRACK is not defined. Discussing location using the PUBLISH Request Method out of scope for this document.

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

Header field	where proxy INV ACK CAN BYE REG OPT PRA									
-----	-----									
Geolocation	Rr	ar	o	-	-	o	o	o	-	
Header field	where proxy SUB NOT UPD MSG REF INF PUB									
-----	-----									
Geolocation	Rr	ar	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	

Table 1: Summary of the Geolocation Header

The Geolocation header MAY be included in one of the above messages by a User Agent. A proxy MAY add the Geolocation header, but MUST NOT modify the contents of an existing Geolocation header. [[RFC3261](#)] states message bodies cannot be added by proxies. Therefore, a Geolocation header added by a proxy MUST specify location-by-reference.

It is RECOMMENDED that only one Geolocation header (i.e. header value) be in the same message. There MUST NOT be more than one cid-url pointing to the same location message body (part) in a SIP message.

Entities receiving location information MUST honor the usage element rules per [RFC4119](#). Such entities MUST NOT alter the rule set.

[3.3](#) 424 (Bad Location Information) Response Code

If 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 a problem with the request message. This document creates and IANA registers the new error code:

424 (Bad Location Information)

The 424 (Bad Location Information) response code is a rejection of the location contents within the original SIP Request indicating the location information was malformed or not satisfactory for the recipient's purpose or could not be dereferenced. No further action by the UAC is required.

The UAC can use whatever means it knows of to verify/refresh its location information before attempting a new request that includes location. There is no cross-transaction awareness expected by either the UAS or SIP intermediary as a result of this error message.

More resolution of the error for which the 424 was generated MAY be included in a Reason header [[RFC3326](#)]. For these more granular

location specific errors, the 'protocol' in the Reason header is 'Geolocation', defined in [Section 3.4](#). [RFC3326](#) states that the Reason Header normally is not found in a response. This document extends the use of Reason to include its use within a 424 response.

This new error code is IANA registered in [Section 9](#) of this document. An initial set of location error codes are in [[ID-ERROR](#)].

[3.4](#) The Geolocation Reason Protocol

For use with the Reason header, discussed in [Section 3.3](#), this document defines and IANA registers a new Reason Protocol per [RFC3326](#):

Protocol Value	Protocol Cause	Reference
Geolocation	Status	RFCyyyy (i.e. this document)

[3.5](#) The Geolocation Option Tag

This document creates and IANA registers one new option tag: "geolocation". This option tag is to be used, per [RFC 3261](#), in the Require, Supported and Unsupported headers. Whenever a UA wants to indicate it understands this SIP extension, the geolocation option tag is included in a Supported header of the SIP message.

The purpose of the geolocation option-tag is to indicate support for this extension in the Supported and Unsupported headers. Appearance of the option tag in the Require header is a request for location to be conveyed.

A UAC MUST NOT include this option tag in a Proxy-Require header, due to the fact that the UAC is not likely to understand the topology of the infrastructure, and therefore does not understand which proxy will do the location-based routing function.

[3.6](#) Using sip/sips/pres as a Dereference Protocol

A sip, sips or pres URI SHOULD be included in a Geolocation header for the location-by-reference URI. When pres: is used, if the resulting resolution, per [[RFC3851](#)], resolves to a sip: or sips: URI, this section applies. Use of other protocols for dereferencing of a pres: URI is not defined, and such use is subject to review against [RFC3693](#) using protocol criteria.

Dereferencing using sip or sips MUST be accomplished by treating the URI as a presence URI and dereferencing is accomplished by a SUBSCRIBE to a presence service per [[RFC3856](#)]. The resulting NOTIFY

will contain a PIDF, which MUST contain a PIDF-LO.

When used in this manner, SIP is using a protocol per [\[RFC3693\]](#) and elements receiving location MUST honor the 'usage-element' rules as defined in [Section 3.4](#) above.

A dereference of a location-by-reference URI using SUBSCRIBE is not violating a PIDF-LO 'retransmission-allowed' element value set to 'no', as the NOTIFY is the only message in this multi-message series of transactions that contains the UAC's location, with the location recipient being the only SIP element to receive location - which the purpose of this extension: to convey location to a specific destination.

4. Examples

Three examples of messages providing location are provided. One shows location-by-value with geo-coordinates, one shows location-by-value with civic location and the third shows location-by-reference. The examples for (Geo format) are taken from [\[RFC3825\]](#) and (Civic format) are taken from [\[ID-CIVIC\]](#) and are for the exact same position on the Earth. The differences between the two formats is within the <gp:location-info> of the examples. Other than this portion of each PIDF-LO, the rest is the same for both location formats.

4.1 Location-by-value (Coordinate Format)

This example shows an INVITE message with a coordinate, or geo location. In this example, the SIP request uses a sips-URI [\[RFC3261\]](#), meaning this message is TLS protected on a hop-by-hop basis all the way to Bob's domain.

```
INVITE sips:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/TLS pc33.atlanta.example.com;branch=z9hG4bK74bf9
Max-Forwards: 70
To: Bob <sips:bob@biloxi.example.com>
From: Alice <sips:alice@atlanta.example.com>;tag=9fxced76sl
Call-ID: 3848276298220188511@atlanta.example.com
Geolocation: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
Supported: geolocation
Accept: application/sdp, application/pidf+xml
CSeq: 31862 INVITE
Contact: <sips:alice@atlanta.example.com>
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary=boundary1
Content-Length: ...
```

--boundary1

Content-Type: application/sdp

...SDP here

--boundary1

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Content-Type: application/pidf+xml
Content-ID: alice123@atlanta.example.com

```
<?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:cl="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf:geopriv10:civicAddr"
    xmlns:gs="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf:geopriv10:geoShape"
    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>
          <gp:usage-rules>
            <gp:retransmission-allowed>no</gp:retransmission-allowed>
            <gp:retention-expiry>2006-03-24T18:00:00Z</gp:retention-
              expiry>
            <gp:method>DHCP</gp:method>
            <gp:provided-by>www.cisco.com</gp:provided-by>
          </gp:usage-rules>
        </gp:geopriv>
      </status>
    </tuple>
  </presence>
--boundary1--
```

The Geolocation header from the above INVITE...

Geolocation: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com

...indicates the content-ID location [[RFC2392](#)] within the multipart message body of where location information is, with SDP being the other message body part.

If the Geolocation header were this instead:

Geolocation: <sips: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 subscribe to server5 to dereference the sips-URI.
The returning NOTIFY would contain Alice's location in a PIDF-L0, as

if it were included in a message body (part) of the original INVITE here.

[4.2 Location-by-value \(Civic Format\)](#)

This example shows an INVITE message with a civic location. The headers are shown as if the location was S/MIME encrypted, but the unencrypted location information is shown for clarity.

```
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
Geolocation: cid:alice123@atlanta.example.com
Supported: geolocation
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/pkcs7-mime;
smime-type=enveloped-data; name=smime.p7m

;the following would be encrypted, we show the unencrypted form here

```
<?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:cl="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf:geopriv10:civicAddr"
    xmlns:gs="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:pidf:geopriv10:geoShape"
    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:NAM>Haley's Place</cl:NAM>
        <cl:FLR>1</cl:FLR>
        <cl:civilAddress>
    </gp:location-info>
    <gp:usage-rules>
        <gp:retransmission-allowed>no</gp:retransmission-allowed>
        <gp:retention-expiry>2006-03-24T18:00:00Z</gp:retention-
            expiry>
        <gp:method>DHCP</gp:method>
        <gp:provided-by>www.cisco.com</gp:provided-by>
    </gp:usage-rules>
</gp:geopriv>
</status>
</tuple>
</presence>
--boundary1--

```

[4.3](#) Location-by-reference

Here is an example of an INVITE with a location-by-reference URI, sips: in this case, instead of a location-by-value PIDF-LO message body part shown in Sections [4.1](#) and [4.2](#). It is up to the location recipient to dereference Alice's location at the Atlanta LIS.

```

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=9fxced76sl
Call-ID: 3848276298220188511@atlanta.example.com
Geolocation: sips:3sdefrhy2jj7@lis.atlanta.com
Supported: geolocation
Accept: application/sdp, application/pidf+xml
CSeq: 31862 INVITE
Contact: <sip:alice@atlanta.example.com>

```

...SDP goes here as the only message body

A location recipient would need to dereference the sips-URI in the Geolocation header to retrieve Alice's location. If the atlanta.example.com domain chooses to implement location conveyance and delivery in this way (i.e. location-by-reference), it is RECOMMENDED that entities outside this domain be able to reach the dereferencing LIS server, otherwise this model of implementation is

only viable within the atlanta.example.com domain. This will likely not suit some services already being considered in the IETF at the time of this writing, such as emergency calling.

5. SIP Element Behavior

Because a person's location is generally considered to be sensitive in nature, privacy of the location information must be protected when transmitting such information. [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 SHOULD implement S/MIME to encrypt the PIDF-LO message body (part) end-to-end when the intended recipient is the opposite UA. The SIPS-URI from [\[RFC3261\]](#) MUST be implemented for message protection (message integrity and confidentiality) and SHOULD be used when S/MIME is not used. Possession of a dereferenceable location URI may be equivalent to possession of the location information itself and thus TLS SHOULD be used when sending location-by-reference.

A PIDF includes identity information. It is possible for the identity in the PIDF to be anonymous. Implementations of this extension should consider the appropriateness of including an anonymous identity in the location information where a real identity is not required. When using location-by-reference, it is RECOMMENDED that the URI not contain any identifying information (for example use 3fg5t5yqw@example.com rather than alice@example.com)

The entities receiving location MUST obey the privacy and security rules in the PIDF-LO as described in [RFC4119](#), regarding retransmission and retention.

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

More than one location representation or format, for example: civic and geo, MAY be included in the same message body part, but all MUST point at the same position on the earth. Multiple representations allow the recipient to use the most convenient representation of location.

There MAY be more than one PIDF-LO in the same SIP message, but each in separate message body parts. Each location body part MAY point at different 2D positions on the earth (altitude notwithstanding). The meaning of such a construction is not defined, and may cause confusion at the recipient.

5.1 UAC Behavior

A UAC may send location because it was requested to, to facilitate

location-based routing, or spontaneously (i.e. a purpose not defined in this document but known to the UAC). A UAC MAY receive location

from the UAS spontaneously.

A UAC conveying location MUST include a Geolocation header with either a location by-value indication (a cid-URL), or a location by-reference indication (a dereferenceable URI). A location body sent without a Geolocation header MUST NOT occur. The UAC supporting this extension MUST include a Supported header with the geolocation option tag.

The presence of the geolocation option tag in a Supported header without a Geolocation header in the same message informs a receiving SIP element the UAC understands the concept of location, but it does not know its location at this time. Certain scenarios exist (location-based routing) in which location is required in a message in order to route the message properly. This affects how a UAS or SIP server reacts to such a message.

This option tag SHOULD NOT be used in the Proxy-Require header.

UACs receiving a 424 (Bad Location Information) MAY look for additional causes for this error message in a Reason header. The UAC MAY be able to react positively to such a reason given. See [Section 3.4](#).

The behavior of the UAC receiving location is the same as the UAS, as below.

[5.2 UAS Behavior](#)

If the geolocation option tag is present in the Supported header of a request, the UAS will look to the Geolocation header to see if location has been conveyed by-value in a message body (part) or by-reference, requiring an additional dereference transaction. If the by-reference URI is sip:, sips: or pres:, the UAS will initiate a SUBSCRIBE to the URI provided to retrieve the PIDF-LO of the UAC per [\[RFC3856\]](#). If successful, the PIDF-LO of the UAC will be returned in the NOTIFY request from the server.

A Require header with the geolocation option tag indicates that the UAC requests the UAS' location.

The UAS behavior in sending location is the same as the UAS as above.

[5.3 Proxy Behavior](#)

[RFC3261] states message bodies cannot be added by proxies. A PIDF-LO MAY be read in transit, if visible to the proxy. A proxy

MAY add the Geolocation header in transit. A proxy MAY read the Geolocation header in transit if present, and MAY use the contents

of the header to make location-based routing decisions.

More than one geolocation header in a message is permitted, but its meaning is undefined. A proxy inserting a Geolocation header when there already is one risks confusing the recipient and SHOULD NOT be done.

Proxies receiving location where the proxy performs location-based routing may need to consult external databases or systems to determine the route. Transmission of the location information (which SHOULD NOT reveal identity, even if the proxy knows the identity) is governed by the 'retransmission-allowed' and 'routing-query-allowed':

Retransmission-allowed	Routing-query-allowed	Transmission for Query
-----	-----	-----
"no" or not present	"no" or not present	Not Allowed
"no" or not present	"yes"	Allowed
"yes"	not present	Allowed
"yes"	"no"	Not Allowed
"yes"	"yes"	Allowed

If transmission is not allowed per the above, the proxy may provide a suitable error response (424 Bad Location MAY be used).

6. Special Considerations for Emergency Calls

Emergency calls (1-1-2, 9-1-1, etc.) need location for two reasons:

1. Location is needed to route the call to the correct Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), and
2. Location is needed by the PSAP to send responders to the location of the caller when the caller cannot accurately describe where s/he is

While all of the privacy concerns for location apply to emergency calls, it is not acceptable for a security mechanism in place to support confidentiality of the location to cause an emergency call to be misrouted, or not supply location when it is needed.

Therefore, some of the behaviors of elements in the path are different when used with an emergency call.

Recognizing which calls are emergency calls is beyond the scope of this document. When an emergency call is placed, location is normally provided by the UAC. Since emergency calls must be routed based on location (and indeed, in some jurisdictions, there may be several steps to such routing), the location must be visible to proxies along the path. Thus S/MIME protection of location MUST NOT

be used. TLS protection of location SHOULD be used, however, if establishment of the TLS connection fails, the call set-up

operation, including location conveyance, MUST be retried without TLS.

Both the "retransmission-allowed" and "routing-query-allowed" SHOULD be set to "yes". Querying for routing may be performed by proxies providing a routing service for emergency calls even if retransmission-allowed or routing-query-allowed is set to "no" or is not present.

While many jurisdictions force a user to reveal their location during an emergency call set-up, there are 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. Geopriv Privacy Considerations

Transmitting location information is considered by most to be highly sensitive information, requiring protection from eavesdropping, tracking, and altering in transit. [[RFC3693](#)] articulates rules to be followed by any protocol wishing to be considered a Geopriv "using protocol", specifying how a transport protocol meets those rules. This section describes how SIP as a using protocol meets those requirements.

Quoting requirement #4 of [[RFC3693](#)]:

"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 that SIP entities sending or receiving location MUST obey such instructions.

Quoting requirement #5 of [[RFC3693](#)]:

"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 establishment mechanisms.

Quoting requirement #6 of [[RFC3693](#)]:

"(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."

When used for tracking, a simple NOTIFY or UPDATE normally is relatively small, although the PIDF itself can get large. Normal [RFC3261](#) procedures of reverting to TCP when the MTU size is exceeded would be invoked.

8. Security Considerations

Conveyance of physical location of a UAC raises privacy concerns, and depending on use, there may be authentication and integrity concerns. This document calls for conveyance to normally be accomplished through secure mechanisms (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 by-value location with an end-to-end mechanism such as S/MIME is problematic, because one or more proxies on the path need the ability to read the information to route the message appropriately. Securing the location hop-by-hop, using TLS, protects the message from eavesdropping and modification, but exposes the information to all proxies on the path as well as the endpoint. In most cases, the UAC does not know the identity of the proxy or proxies providing location-based routing services, so that end to middle solutions may not be appropriate either.

When the UAC is the source of the location information, which is RECOMMENDED, it can decide whether to reveal its location using hop-by-hop methods. UAC implementations MUST make such capabilities conditional on explicit user permission, and SHOULD alert a user that location is being conveyed. Emergency calls have their own rules in this regard, as detailed in [Section 6](#). Proxies inserting location for location-based routing are unable to meet this requirement, and such use is NOT RECOMMENDED. Proxies conveying location using this extension MUST have the permission of the target to do so.

9. IANA Considerations

9.1 IANA Registration for the SIP Geolocation Header

The SIP Geolocation header is created by this document, with its definition and rules in [Section 3.2](#) of this document.

9.2 IANA Registration for New SIP Option Tag

The SIP option tag "Geolocation" is created by this document, with

the definition and rule in [Section 3.5](#) of this document.

9.3 IANA Registration for Response Code 4XX

Reference: RFC-XXXX (i.e. this document)
Response code: 424
Default reason phrase: Bad Location Information

This SIP Response code is defined in [section 3.3](#) of this document.

9.4 IANA Registration of the Geolocation Reason Protocol

The Reason Protocol value "Geolocation" is created by this document, with the definition and values in [Section 3.4](#) if this document

10. Acknowledgements

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Appendix A. 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. There is a motivational statement below each requirements that is not obvious in intent

A.1 Requirements for a UAC Conveying Location

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 at any time in a dialog, including during 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. In the case of location having been conveyed, and the UA moves, it needs a means to update the conveyed to party of this location change.

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

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 with other IETF location protocols and mechanisms

UAC-9 There must be a mechanism for the UAC to request the UAS send

its location

UAC-10 There must be a mechanism to differentiate the ability of the UAC to convey location from the UACs lack of knowledge of its location

Motivation: Failure to receive location when it is expected can be because the UAC does not implement this extension, or it can be that the UAC implements the extension, but does not know where it is. This may be, for example, due to the failure of the access network to provide a location acquisition mechanisms the UAC understands. These cases must be differentiated.

UAC-11 It must be possible to convey location to proxy servers along the path.

Motivation: Location-based routing.

A.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 a unique 4XX response informing the UAC it did not provide applicable location information.

In addition, requirements UAC-5, 6, 7 and 8 apply to the UAS

A.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 be capable of adding a Location header during processing of SIP requests.

Motivation: Provide the capability of network assertion of location when UACs are unable to do so, or when network assertion is more reliable than UAC assertion of location

Note: Because UACs connected to sip signaling networks may have widely varying access network arrangements, including VPN tunnels and roaming mechanisms, it may be difficult for a network to reliably know the location of the endpoint. Proxy

assertion of location is NOT RECOMMENDED unless the sip
signaling network has reliable knowledge of the actual

location of the targets.

Proxy-2 There must be a unique 4XX response informing the UAC it did not provide applicable location information.

Appendix B. Changes from Prior Versions

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

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the SIP WG version -04 to this version -05:

- altered the meaning of use of OPTIONS to not be for retrieving the location of a UAS, but for cases in which location is a required element of information by a SIP entity.
- added a comment/warning for usage of location-by-reference to a model in which a domain's LIS be reachable if location is deployed in this fashion ([Section 4.3](#))
- added a Informative reference to a new ID that is an IANA registry of location specific error codes to be used in, for example, a Reason header, to give more granular reasons why a 424 (Bad Location Information) was sent.

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the SIP WG version -03 to this version -04:

- removed the inappropriate 2119 language from the Requirements section.
- removed the old [Section 2.](#), which was a Location in a header vs. in a body artifact from the original versions of the document.
- Added a new Geopriv (or Privacy) Considerations
- Changed the ABNF to reflect discussion on how restrictive the location-by-reference schemes should be, with an added "Editor's Note" discussing the issues being faced on this point.
- Changed the "Location" header and option-tag to "Geolocation" header and option-tag, due to it being pointed out that there is a conflicting HTTP header called "Location".
- Added new element to PIDF-LO 'routing-query-allowed'
- Stipulated the Reason Header can be used in the 424 Response Message

- added SUBSCRIBE and NOTIFY as Methods for location conveyance when used to dereference a sip:, sips: or pres: location-by-reference

URI

- Added OPTIONS Method for a UAC to request the location of a UAS with a Require header geolocation option-tag.

This is a list of the changes that have been made from the SIP WG version -02 to this version -03:

- general clean-up of some of the sections
- removed the message examples from the UPDATE, MESSAGE and REGISTER sections, as these seemed to be making the doc less readable, and not more readable
- removed the "unknown" option tag, as it was not needed with a certain combination of the Supported and Location headers
- clarified the location option tag usage in Supported, Require, Unsupported, and that it shouldn't be used in Proxy-Require, and why not.
- Added a basic message flow to the basic operation section ([Section 4](#)) to aid in understanding of this SIP extension.
- Added a message routing flow, which is based on the location of the requestor to show how a SIP server can make a routing decision to a destination based on where the UAC is.
- Articulated how a UAS concludes a UAC understands this extension, yet does not know its location to provide to the UAS. This is helpful in those times where an intermediary will act differently based on whether or not a UAC understands this extension, and whether or not the UAC includes its location in the request.
- Corrected the erroneous text regarding an Unsupported header being in a 424 response. It belongs in a 420 response. ([Section 5.1](#))
- Corrected the BNF (I hope)
- Corrected some text in [Section 5](#) that read like this document was an update to [RFC 3261](#).

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 SIPPING 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 a 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

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