

**A Hitchhikers Guide to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)**  
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Abstract

The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) is the subject of numerous specifications that have been produced by the IETF. It can be difficult to locate the right document, or even to determine the set of Request for Comments (RFC) about SIP. Don't Panic! This specification serves as a guide to the SIP RFC series. It lists the specifications under the SIP umbrella, briefly summarizes each, and groups them into categories.

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## **1. Introduction**

The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) [[1](#)] is the subject of numerous specifications that have been produced by the IETF. It can be difficult to locate the right document, or even to determine the set of Request for Comments (RFC) about SIP. Don't Panic! This specification serves as a guide to the SIP RFC series. It lists the specifications under the SIP umbrella. For each specification, a paragraph or so description is included that summarizes the purpose of the specification. Each specification also includes a letter that designates its category in the standards track [[2](#)]. These values are:

S: Standards Track (Proposed Standard, Draft Standard, or Standard)

E: Experimental

B: Best Current Practice

I: Informational

The specifications are grouped together by topic. Typically, SIP extensions fit naturally into topic areas, and implementations interested in a particular topic often implement many or all of the specifications in that area.

This document itself is not an update to [RFC 3261](#) or an extension to SIP. It is an informational document, meant to guide newcomers and implementors to the SIP suite of specifications.

## **2. Scope of this Document**

It is very difficult to enumerate the set of SIP specifications. This is because there are many protocols that are intimately related to SIP and used by nearly all SIP implementations, but are not formally SIP extensions. As such, this document formally defines a "SIP specification" as any specification that defines an extension to SIP itself, where an extension is a mechanism that changes or updates in some way a behavior specified in [RFC 3261](#). This is in contrast to the "SIP family of specifications", which represent the set of specifications that define protocols that are integral parts of any SIP deployment, but are not SIP extensions per se. The SIP family of specifications includes the following specifications and their respective extensions:



[RFC 3550](#): Real Time Transport Protocol (RTP) [RTP \[4\]](#) is the specification that started it all. It is the first in a long line of IETF specifications related to multimedia communications. Its initial version, [RFC 1889 \[3\]](#) was first specified in January of 1996. RTP is used to carry multimedia traffic, including voice, video and text, and is set up by SIP. There are countless extensions and payload formats (possibly as many as 42) defined for RTP.

[RFC 2327](#): The Session Description Protocol (SDP) [RFC 2327 \[5\]](#) defines the payload carried in SIP messages for describing a multimedia session. Closely related to SDP is the Offer/Answer mechanism, defined in [RFC 3264 \[6\]](#). This mechanism defines how SDP is exchanged between a set of peers to agree on the makeup of a session. SDP itself has numerous extensions, including Interactive Connectivity Establishment (ICE) [\[7\]](#), which is the primary mechanism for NAT traversal for RTP streams set up by SIP.

[RFC 3320](#): Signaling Compression (Sigcomp) [RFC 3320 \[8\]](#) defines a mechanism for compressing SIP messages over low bandwidth links. Sigcomp is not specific to SIP, though it was designed explicitly for SIP. Sigcomp has several extensions defined for improved compression.

[RFC 3761](#): Telephone Number Mapping (ENUM) [RFC 3761 \[9\]](#) defines a mechanism to look up a phone number in DNS and obtain a URI, such as a SIP URI. ENUM defines numerous enum services, which represent particular types of information that can be obtained from the DNS related to that phone number.

[RFC 3966](#): The tel URI scheme [RFC 3966 \[10\]](#) defines the tel URI scheme, used to identify phone numbers. The tel URI is carried primarily in SIP messages, and has numerous extensions defined for it.

[RFC 3863](#): The Presence Information Data Format (PIDF) PIDF [\[11\]](#) defines an XML-based format for representing presence information. It is carried in SIP NOTIFY requests. Numerous extensions have been defined to PIDF for conveying additional pieces of presence information.

[RFC XXXX](#): The Message Session Relay Protocol (MSRP) MSRP [\[12\]](#) provides a way to carry instant messages between agents. MSRP is to instant messages as RTP is to voice and video. It is a transport that is set up by SIP.



RFC XXXX: Simple Traversal of UDP Through NAT (STUN) STUN [\[13\]](#) defines a basic toolkit for facilitating NAT traversal for protocols such as SIP. Extensions have been defined to STUN for functions such as packet relaying.

RFC XXXX: XML Configuration Access Protocol (XCAP) XCAP [\[14\]](#) provides a means for clients to read and write XML-based application data in the network. It was originally conceived for managing buddy lists and presence authorization lists.

[RFC 3219](#): Telephony Routing over IP (TRIP) TRIP [\[15\]](#) defines a mechanism for exchanging SIP routes between administrative domains. Its derived from BGP.

Despite the importance of the SIP family of specifications, this document concerns itself entirely with defining the set of specifications that make up SIP itself. Excluded from this list are requirements, architectures, registry definitions, non-normative frameworks, and processes. Best Current Practices are included when they are effectively standard mechanisms for accomplishing a task.

Also excluded are definitions of MIME objects that are used by SIP, such as the Authenticated Identity Body (AIB) [\[16\]](#) and various XML documents and extensions used by SIP. Though they are used by SIP, they are not extensions to SIP. [[OPEN ISSUE: Is this arbitrary? Maybe they should be included if they are specific to SIP.]]

The SIP change process [\[17\]](#) defines two types of extensions to SIP. These are normal extensions and the so-called P-headers, which are meant to be used in areas of limited applicability. P-headers cannot be defined in the standards track. For the most part, P-headers are not included in the listing here, with the exception of those which have seen general usage despite their P-header status.

### **3. Core SIP Specifications**

The core SIP specifications represent essential functionality for almost any implementation.

[RFC 3261](#): The Session Initiation Protocol (S) This is the core SIP protocol itself. [RFC 3261](#) is an update to [RFC 2543](#) [\[18\]](#). It is the president of the galaxy as far as the suite of SIP specifications is concerned.

[RFC 3263](#): Locating SIP Servers (S) [RFC 3263](#) [\[19\]](#) provides DNS procedures for taking a SIP URI, and determining a SIP server that is associated with that SIP URI. [RFC 3263](#) is essential for any implementation using SIP with DNS. [RFC 3263](#) makes use of both DNS





SRV records [\[20\]](#) and NAPTR records [\[21\]](#).

[RFC 3265](#): SIP-Specific Event Notification [RFC 3265](#) defines the SUBSCRIBE and NOTIFY methods. These two methods provide a general event notification framework for SIP. To actually use the framework, extensions need to be defined for specific event packages. An event package defines a schema for the event data, and describes other aspects of event processing specific to that schema. An [RFC 3265](#) implementation is required when any event package is used.

[RFC 3323](#): A Privacy Mechanism for the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) (S) [RFC 3323](#) [\[23\]](#) defines the Privacy header field, used by clients to request anonymity for their requests. Though it defines numerous privacy services, the only one broadly used is the one that supports privacy of the P-Asserted-ID header field [\[24\]](#).

[RFC 3325](#): Private Extensions to SIP for Asserted Identity within Trusted Networks (I) Though its P-header status implies that it has limited applicability, [RFC 3325](#) [\[24\]](#), which defines the P-Asserted-ID header field has been widely deployed. It is used as the basic mechanism for providing secure caller ID services.

[RFC 3327](#): SIP Extension Header Field for Registering Non-Adjacent Contacts (S) [RFC 3327](#) [\[25\]](#) defines the Path header field. This field is inserted by proxies between a client and their registrar. It allows inbound requests towards that client to traverse these proxies prior to being delivered to the user agent. It is essential in any SIP deployment that has edge proxies, which are proxies between the client and the home proxy or SIP registrar. It is also instrumental in the SIP NAT traversal specifications.

[RFC 3581](#): An Extension to SIP for Symmetric Response Routing [RFC 3581](#) [\[26\]](#) defines the rport parameter of the Via header. It is an essential piece of getting SIP through NAT. NAT traversal for SIP is considered a core part of the specifications.

[RFC 4320](#): Actions Addressing Issues Identified with the Non-INVITE Transaction in SIP (S) [RFC 4320](#) [\[27\]](#) formally updates [RFC 3261](#), and modifies some of the behaviors associated with non-INVITE transactions. These address some problems found in timeout and failure cases.

RFC XXXX: Enhancements for Authenticated Identity Management in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [\[28\]](#) defines a mechanism for providing a cryptographically verifiable identity of the calling party in a SIP request. Also known as "SIP Identity", this mechanism



provides an alternative to [RFC 3325](#). It has seen little deployment so far, but its importance as a key construct for almost all anti-spam techniques makes it a core part of the SIP specifications.

**RFC XXXX: Obtaining and Using Globally Routable User Agent Identifiers (GRUU) in SIP (S)** RFC XXXX [\[29\]](#) defines a mechanism for directing requests towards a specific UA instance. GRUU is essential for features like transfer and provides another piece of the SIP NAT traversal story.

**RFC XXXX: Managing Client Initiated Connections through SIP (S)** RFC XXXX [\[30\]](#), also known as SIP outbound, defines important changes to the SIP registration mechanism which enable delivery of SIP messages towards a UA when it is behind a NAT. This specification is the cornerstone of the SIP NAT traversal strategy.

#### **[4.](#) Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) Interworking**

Numerous extensions and usages of SIP related to interoperability and communications with or through the PSTN.

**[RFC 2848](#)**: The PINT Service Protocol (P) This is one of the earliest extensions to SIP. It defines procedures for using SIP to invoke services that actually execute on the PSTN. Its main application is for third party call control, allowing an IP host to set up a call between two PSTN endpoints. PINT has a relatively narrow focus and has not seen widespread deployment.

**[RFC 3910](#)**: The SPIRITS Protocol (P) Continuing the trend of naming PSTN related extensions with alcohol references, SPIRITS [\[32\]](#) defines the inverse of PINT. It allows a switch in the PSTN to ask an IP element about how to proceed with call waiting. It was developed primarily to support Internet Call Waiting (ICW). Perhaps the next specification will be called the PGGB.

**[RFC 3372](#)**: SIP for Telephones (SIP-T): Context and Architectures (I) SIP-T [\[33\]](#) defines a mechanism for using SIP between pairs of PSTN gateways. Its essential idea is to tunnel ISUP signaling between the gateways in the body of SIP messages. SIP-T motivated the development of INFO [\[39\]](#). SIP-T has seen widespread implementation.

**[RFC 3398](#)**: ISUP to SIP Mapping (P) [RFC 3398](#) [\[34\]](#) defines how to do protocol mapping from the SS7 ISDN User Part (ISUP) signaling to SIP. It is widely used in SS7 to SIP gateways and is part of the SIP-T framework.



[RFC 3578](#): Mapping of ISUP Overlap Signaling to SIP [RFC 3578](#) [35] defines a mechanism to map overlap dialing into SIP. This specification is widely regarded as the ugliest SIP specification, as the introduction to the specification itself advises that it has many problems. Overlap signaling (the practice of sending digits into the network as dialed instead of waiting for complete collection of the called party number) is largely incompatible with SIP at some fairly fundamental levels. That said, [RFC 3578](#) is mostly harmless and has seen some usage.

[RFC 3960](#): Early Media and Ringtone Generation in SIP (I) [RFC 3960](#) defines some guidelines for handling early media - the practice of sending media from the called party towards the caller - prior to acceptance of the call. Early media is generated only from the PSTN.

## 5. General Purpose Infrastructure Extensions

These extensions are general purpose enhancements to SIP that can serve a wide variety of uses. However, they are not as widely used or as essential as the core specifications.

[RFC 3262](#): Reliability of Provisional Responses in SIP (S) SIP defines two types of responses to a request - final and provisional. Provisional responses are numbered from 100 to 199. In SIP, these responses are not sent reliably. This choice was made in [RFC 2543](#) since the messages were meant to just be truly informational, and rendered to the user. However, subsequent work on PSTN interworking demonstrated a need to map provisional responses to PSTN messages that needed to be sent reliably. [RFC 3262](#) [37] was developed to allow reliability of provisional responses. The specification defines the PRACK method, used for indicating that a provisional response was received. Though it provides a generic capability for SIP, [RFC 3262](#) implementations have been most common in PSTN interworking devices. However, PRACK brings a great deal of complication for relatively small benefit. As such, it has seen only mild levels of deployment.

[RFC 3311](#): The SIP UPDATE Method (S) [RFC 3311](#) [38] defines the UPDATE method for SIP. This method is meant as a means for updating session information prior to the completion of the initial INVITE transaction. It was developed primarily to support [RFC 3312](#) [68].

[RFC 2976](#): The INFO Method (S) [RFC 2976](#) [39] was defined as an extension to [RFC 2543](#). It defines a method, INFO, used to transport mid-dialog information that has no impact on SIP itself. Its driving application was the transport of PSTN related



information when using SIP between a pair of gateways. Though originally conceived for broader use, it only found standardized usage with SIP-T [33]. It has been used to support numerous proprietary and non-interoperable extensions due to its poorly defined scope.

[RFC 3326](#): The Reason header field for SIP (S) [RFC 3326](#) [40] defines the Reason header field. It is used in requests, such as BYE, to indicate the reason that the request is being sent.

[RFC 3608](#): SIP Extension Header Field for Service Route Discovery During Registration [RFC 3608](#) [41] allows a client to determine, from a REGISTER response, a path of proxies to use in requests it sends outside of a dialog. In many respects, it is the inverse of the Path header field, but has seen less usage since default outbound proxies have been sufficient in many deployments.

[RFC 3840](#): Indicating User Agent Capabilities in SIP (S) [RFC 3840](#) defines a mechanism for carrying capability information about a user agent in REGISTER requests and in dialog-forming requests like INVITE. It has found use with conferencing (the isfocus parameter declares that a user agent is a conference server) and with applications like push-to-talk.

[RFC 3841](#): Caller Preferences for SIP (S) [RFC 3841](#) [43] defines a set of headers that a client can include in a request to control the way in which the request is routed downstream. It allows a client to direct a request towards a UA with specific capabilities.

[RFC 4028](#): Session Timers in SIP (S) [RFC 4028](#) [44] defines a keepalive mechanism for SIP signaling. It is primarily meant to provide a way to cleanup old state in proxies that are holding call state for calls from failed endpoints which were never terminated normally. Despite its name, the session timer is not a mechanism for detecting a network failure mid-call. Session timers introduces a fair bit of complexity for relatively little gain, and has thus seen little deployment.

[RFC 4168](#): SCTP as a Transport for SIP [RFC 4168](#) [45] defines how to carry SIP messages over the Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP). SCTP has seen very limited usage for SIP transport.

[RFC 4244](#): An Extension to SIP for Request History Information (S) [RFC 4244](#) [46] defines the History-Info, which indicates information on how a call came to be routed to a particular destination. Its primary application was in support of voicemail services.





## 6. Minor Extensions

These SIP extensions don't fit easily into a single specific use case. They have somewhat general applicability, but they solve a relatively small problem or provide an optimization.

RFC XXXX: Suppression of the SIP REFER Implicit Subscription (S) RFC XXXX [47] defines an enhancement to REFER. REFER normally creates an implicit subscription to the target of the REFER. This subscription is used to pass back updates on the progress of the referral. This extension allows that implicit subscription to be bypassed as an optimization.

RFC XXXX: Request Authorization through Dialog Identification in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [48] provides a mechanism that allows a UAS to authorize a request because the requestor proves it knows a dialog that is in progress with the UAS. The specification is useful in conjunction with the SIP application interaction framework [85].

RFC XXXX: Conveying Feature Tags with the REFER Method in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [49] defines a mechanism for carrying RFC 3840 feature tags in REFER. It is useful for informing the target of the REFER about the characteristics of the REFER target.

RFC XXXX: Requesting Answer Modes for SIP (S) RFC XXXX [50] defines an extension for indicating to the called party whether or not the phone should ring and/or be answered immediately. This is useful for push-to-talk and for diagnostic applications.

RFC XXXX: Rejecting Anonymous Requests in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [51] defines a mechanism for a called party to indicate to the calling party that a call was rejected since the caller was anonymous. This is needed for implementation of the Anonymous Call Rejection (ACR) feature in SIP.

RFC XXXX: Referring to Multiple Resources in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [52] allows a UA sending a REFER to ask the recipient of the REFER to generate multiple SIP requests, not just one. This is useful for conferencing, where a client would like to ask a conference server to eject multiple users.

## 7. Call Control Primitives

Numerous SIP extensions provide a toolkit of dialog and call management techniques. These techniques have been combined together to build many SIP-based services.



[RFC 3515](#): The REFER Method (S) [RFC \[53\]](#) defines a mechanism for asking a user agent to send a SIP request. Its a form of SIP remote control, and is the primary tool used for call transfer in SIP.

[RFC 3725](#): Best Current Practices for Third Party Call Control (3pcc) (B) [RFC 3725 \[54\]](#) defines a number of different call flows that allow one SIP entity, called the controller, to create SIP sessions amongst other SIP user agents.

[RFC 3891](#): The SIP Replaces Header [RFC 3891 \[55\]](#) defines a mechanism that allows a new dialog to replace an existing dialog. It is useful for certain advanced transfer services.

[RFC 3892](#): The SIP Referred-By Mechanism (S) [RFC 3892 \[56\]](#) defines the Referred-By header field. It is used in requests triggered by REFER, and provides the identity of the referring party to the referred-to party.

[RFC 3911](#): The SIP Join Header Field (S) [RFC 3911 \[57\]](#) defines the Join header field. When sent in an INVITE, it causes the recipient to join the resulting dialog into a conference with another dialog in progress.

[RFC 4117](#): Transcoding Services Invocation in SIP Using Third Party Call Control (I) [RFC 4117 \[58\]](#) defines how to use 3pcc for the purposes of invoking transcoding services for a call.

## **8. Event Packages**

[RFC 3265](#) defines a basic framework for event notification in SIP. It introduces the notion of an event package, which is a collection of related state and event information. Much of the state and events in SIP systems have event packages, allowing other entities to learn about changes in that state.

[RFC 3903](#): SIP Extension for Event State Publication (S) [RFC 3903 \[59\]](#) defines the PUBLISH method. It is not an event package, but is used by all event packages as a mechanism for pushing an event into the system.

[RFC 3680](#): A SIP Event Package for Registrations (S) [RFC 3680 \[60\]](#) defines an event package for finding out about changes in registration state.



[RFC 3842](#): A Message Summary and Message Waiting Indication Event Package for SIP (S) [RFC 3842](#) [73] defines a way for a user agent to find out about voicemails and other messages that are waiting for it. Its primary purpose is to enable the voicemail waiting lamp on most business telephones.

[RFC 3856](#): A Presence Event Package for SIP (S) [RFC 3856](#) [62] defines an event package for indicating user presence through SIP.

[RFC 3857](#): A Watcher Information Event Template Package for SIP (S) [RFC 3857](#) [63], also known as winfo, provides a mechanism for a user agent to find out what subscriptions are in place for a particular event package. Its primary usage is with presence, but it can be used with any event package.

[RFC 4235](#): An INVITE Initiated Dialog Event Package for SIP (S) [RFC 4235](#) [64] defines an event package for learning the state of the dialogs in progress at a user agent.

RFC XXXX: A SIP Event Package for Conference State (S) RFC XXXX [65] defines a mechanism for learning about changes in conference state, including group membership.

RFC XXXX: A SIP Event Package for Keypress Stimulus (KPML) (S) RFC XXXX [66] defines a way for an application in the network to subscribe to the set of keypresses made on the keypad of a traditional telephone.

RFC XXXX: SIP Event Package for Voice Quality Reporting (S) RFC XXXX [67] defines a SIP event package that enables the collection and reporting of metrics that measure the quality for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) sessions.

## **9. Quality of Service**

Several specifications concern themselves with the interactions of SIP with network Quality of Service (QoS) mechanisms.

[RFC 3312](#): Integration of Resource Management and SIP (S) [RFC 3312](#) [68], updated by [RFC 4032](#) [69] defines a way to make sure that the phone of the called party doesn't ring until a QoS reservation has been installed in the network. It does so by defining a general preconditions framework, which defines conditions that must be true in order for a SIP session to proceed



[RFC 3313](#): Private SIP Extensions for Media Authorization (I) [RFC 3313](#) [70] defines a P-header that provides a mechanism for passing an authorization token between SIP and a network QoS reservation protocol like RSVP. Its purpose is to make sure network QoS is only granted if a client has made a SIP call through the same providers network. This specification is sometimes referred to as the SIP walled garden specification by the truly paranoid androids in the SIP community. This is because it requires coupling of signaling and the underlying IP network.

## **[10.](#) Operations and Management**

Several specifications have been defined to support operations and management of SIP systems. These include mechanisms for configuration and network diagnostics.

RFC XXXX: Diagnostic Responses for SIP Hop Limit Errors (S) RFC XXXX defines a mechanism for including diagnostic information in a 483 response. This response is sent when the hop-count of a SIP request was exceeded.

RFC XXXX: A Framework for SIP User Agent Profile Delivery (S) RFC XXXX [71] defines a mechanism that allows a SIP user agent to bootstrap its configuration from the network, and receive updates to its configuration should it change. This is considered an essential piece of deploying a usable SIP network.

RFC XXXX: SIP Event Package for Voice Quality Reporting (S) RFC XXXX [67] defines a SIP event package that enables the collection and reporting of metrics that measure the quality for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) sessions.

## **[11.](#) SIP Compression**

Sigcomp [8] was defined to allow compression of SIP messages over low bandwidth links. Sigcomp is not formally part of SIP. However, usage of Sigcomp with SIP has required extensions to SIP.

[RFC 3486](#): Compressing SIP (S) [RFC 3486](#) [72] defines a SIP URI parameter that can be used to indicate that a SIP server supports Sigcomp.

## **[12.](#) SIP Service URIs**

Several extensions define well-known services that can be invoked by





constructing requests with the specific structures for the Request URI, resulting in specific behaviors at the UAS.

[RFC 3087](#): Control of Service Context using Request URI (I) [RFC 3087](#) [74] introduced the context of using Request URIs, encoded appropriately, to invoke services.

RFC XXXX: A SIP Event Notification Extension for Resource Lists (S) RFC XXXX [75] defines a resource called a Resource List Server. A client can send a subscribe to this server. The server will generate a series of subscriptions, and compile the resulting information and send it back to the subscriber. The set of resources that the RLS will subscribe to is a property of the request URI in the SUBSCRIBE request.

RFC XXXX: Subscriptions To Request-Contained Resource Lists in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [76] allows a client to subscribe to a resource called a Resource List Server. This server will generate a series of subscriptions, and compile the resulting information and send it back to the subscriber. For this specification, the list of things to subscribe to is in the body of the SUBSCRIBE request.

RFC XXXX: Multiple-Recipient MESSAGE Requests in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [77] is similar to [76]. However, instead of subscribing to the resource, a MESSAGE request is sent to the resource, and it will send a copy to each recipient.

RFC XXXX: Conference Establishment Using Request-Contained Lists in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [78] is similar to [76]. However, instead of subscribing to the resource, an INVITE request is sent to the resource, and it will act as a conference focus and generate an invitation to each recipient in the list.

### **[13.](#) Security Mechanisms**

Several extensions provide additional security features to SIP.

[RFC 3853](#): S/MIME AES Requirement for SIP [RFC 3853](#) [79] is a brief specification that updates the cryptography mechanisms used in SIP S/MIME. However, SIP S/MIME has seen very little deployment.

[RFC 3329](#): Security Mechanism Agreement for SIP (S) [RFC 3329](#) [80] defines a mechanism to prevent bid-down attacks in conjunction with SIP authentication. The mechanism has seen very limited deployment. It was defined as part of the 3gpp IMS specification suite, and is needed only when there are a multiplicity of security mechanisms deployed at a particular server. In practice,



this has not been the case.

RFC XXXX: End-to-Middle Security in SIP (S) RFC XXXX [[81](#)] defines mechanisms for encrypting content from user agents to specific network intermediaries.

#### **14. Instant Messaging and Presence**

SIP provides extensions for instant messaging and presence.

[RFC 3428](#): SIP Extension for Instant Messaging [RFC 3428](#) [[82](#)] defines the MESSAGE method, used for sending a page mode instant message.

[RFC 3856](#): A Presence Event Package for SIP (S) [RFC 3856](#) [[62](#)] defines an event package for indicating user presence through SIP.

[RFC 3857](#): A Watcher Information Event Template Package for SIP (S) [RFC 3857](#) [[63](#)], also known as winfo, provides a mechanism for a user agent to find out what subscriptions are in place for a particular event package. Its primary usage is with presence, but it can be used with any event package.

#### **15. Emergency Services**

Emergency services here covers both emergency calling (for example, 911 in the United States), and pre-emption services, which allow authorized individuals to gain access to network resources in time of emergency.

[RFC 4411](#): Extending the SIP Reason Header for Preemption Events (S) [RFC 4411](#) [[83](#)] defines an extension to the Reason header, allowing a UA to know that its dialog was torn down because a higher priority session came through.

[RFC 4412](#): Communications Resource Priority for SIP (S) [RFC 4412](#) [[84](#)] defines a new header field, Resource-Priority, that allows a session to get priority treatment from the network.

#### **16. Security Considerations**

This specification is an overview of existing specifications, and does not introduce any security considerations on its own.



## **17. IANA Considerations**

None.

## **18. Informative References**

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