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The 'image' Media Type for the Session Description Protocol (SDP)
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Abstract

This document describes the registration of 'image' as a top-level media type for the Session Description Protocol (SDP). This media type is primarily used by SDP to negotiate and establish T.38 media streams.

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Internet-Draft

'image' Media Type Registration

April 2011

Table of Contents

1.	Conventions Used in This Document	3
2.	Overview	3
3.	IANA Considerations	3
4.	Security Considerations	5
5.	Acknowledgements	5
6.	References	5
6.1.	Normative References	5
6.2.	Informative References	6
	Author's Address	6

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](#)].

2. Overview

In the previous version of the SDP specification [[RFC2327](#)] packetized media types, such as those shared by RTP, share the same namespace used by the Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) media types registry [[RFC2048](#)] (i.e. "MIME types"). This is in contrast to the latest version of the SDP specification [[RFC4566](#)] where an SDP-specific media type registry is created. The top-level SDP media content types registered by [[RFC4566](#)] are "audio", "video", "text", "application", and "message". A glaring omission on this list is the 'image' media type.

The 'image' media type is an existing top-level MIME type and is widely used by SDP for setting up T.38 Real-Time Facsimile [[T38](#)] media streams. This media type is extensively referenced by examples in ITU-T T.38 [[T38](#)] and IETF standards like [[RFC4145](#)].

This document complies with the request of [section 8.2.1 of \[\[RFC4566\]\(#\)\]](#) that indicates:

"The same rules should apply for media names as for top-level media content types, and where possible the same name should be registered for SDP as for MIME. For media other than existing top-level media content types, a Standards Track RFC MUST be produced for a new top-level content type to be registered, and the registration MUST provide good justification why no existing media name is appropriate."

The registration of 'image' as a top-level SDP media type ensures

seamless continuity with documentation that uses the 'image' MIME type. This also simplifies the usage of previously registered MIME sub-types like 'image/t38' [[RFC3362](#)] that are used as SDP media descriptors for T.38 [[T38](#)].

3. IANA Considerations

This document registers with IANA the 'image' media type as a top-level media content type in accordance with the "Standards Action" policy defined in [Section 4.1 of \[RFC5226\]](#). This registration follows the procedures described in [BCP 13 \[RFC4288\]](#).

Salgueiro

Expires October 22, 2011

[Page 3]

Internet-Draft

'image' Media Type Registration

April 2011

To: ietf-types@iana.org

Subject: Registration of 'image' media type for the Session
Description Protocol (SDP)

Type name: image

Subtype name:

Required parameters: None

Optional parameters: None

Encoding considerations:

Binary encoding as defined in ITU-T Recommendation T.38 [[T38](#)].

Security considerations:

Refer to [Section 4](#)

Interoperability considerations:

This media type is primarily intended to be utilized as a parameter by SDP [[RFC4566](#)] in SIP [[RFC3261](#)] to establish T.38 [[T38](#)] media streams.

Published specification: [RFC 4566](#)

Applications that use this media type:

Real-time facsimile (fax)

Additional information:

Magic number(s):

File extension(s):

Macintosh file type code(s):

Person & email address to contact for further information:

Gonzalo Salgueiro

gsalguei@cisco.com

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage: None

Salgueiro

Expires October 22, 2011

[Page 4]

Internet-Draft

'image' Media Type Registration

April 2011

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Change controller:

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[4.](#) Security Considerations

The 'image' media type registered by this document to the IANA registry for SDP [[SDP-IANA](#)] is primarily for use by the offer/answer model of the Session Description Protocol [[RFC4566](#)] for the negotiation and establishment of T.38 [[T38](#)] media streams using the Session Initiation Protocol [[RFC3261](#)]. This additional SDP parameter does not introduce any new security considerations beyond those detailed in [Section 7 of \[RFC4566\]](#). The security vulnerabilities in T.38 [[T38](#)] and its associated transport protocols (TCP [[RFC0793](#)], UDP [[RFC0768](#)], or RTP [[RFC3550](#)]) are well documented in each of their respective specifications.

[5.](#) Acknowledgements

Thanks goes to the chairs of the IETF Multiparty Multimedia Session Control (MMUSIC) working group (Miguel A. Garcia and Flemming Andreassen) for their guidance, encouragement, and the creation of the media type registry.

The author would also like to acknowledge the considerable efforts of Kevin Fleming and the members of the FoIP TG in the SIP Forum that contributed to the new revision of the ITU-T T.38 Recommendation that prompted the need to register the 'image' media type for SDP.

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Salgueiro

Expires October 22, 2011

[Page 5]

Internet-Draft

'image' Media Type Registration

April 2011

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