

Internet Draft

Intended status: Informational
Expires: December 2020

Waqar Zia,
Thomas Stockhammer
Qualcomm Incorporated
June 29, 2020

**Real-time Transport Object delivery over Unidirectional Transport
(ROUTE)
draft-zia-route-00.txt**

Status of this Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

This document may contain material from IETF Documents or IETF Contributions published or made publicly available before November 10, 2008. The person(s) controlling the copyright in some of this material may not have granted the IETF Trust the right to allow modifications of such material outside the IETF Standards Process. Without obtaining an adequate license from the person(s) controlling the copyright in such materials, this document may not be modified outside the IETF Standards Process, and derivative works of it may not be created outside the IETF Standards Process, except to format it for publication as an RFC or to translate it into languages other than English.

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), its areas, and its working groups. Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

The list of current Internet-Drafts can be accessed at <http://www.ietf.org/ietf/1id-abstracts.txt>

The list of Internet-Draft Shadow Directories can be accessed at <http://www.ietf.org/shadow.html>

This Internet-Draft will expire on December 29, 2020.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2020 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to [BCP 78](#) and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents (<http://trustee.ietf.org/license-info>) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Simplified BSD License text as described in Section 4.e of the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Simplified BSD License.

Abstract

The Real-time Transport Object delivery over Unidirectional Transport protocol (ROUTE Protocol) is specified for robust delivery of application objects, including application objects with real-time delivery constraints, to receivers over a unidirectional transport. Application objects consist of data that has meaning to applications that use the ROUTE Protocol for delivery of data to receivers, for example, it can be a file, or a DASH or HLS segment, a WAV audio clip, etc. The ROUTE Protocol also supports low-latency streaming applications.

The ROUTE Protocol is suitable for unicast, broadcast, and multicast transport. Therefore, it can be run over IP/UDP including multicast IP. ROUTE Protocol can leverage the features of the underlying protocol layer, e.g. to provide security it can leverage IP security protocols such as IPSec.

Conventions used in this document

In examples, "C:" and "S:" indicate lines sent by the client and server respectively.

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 [RFC-2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	4
1.1.	Overview.....	4
1.2.	Protocol Stack for ROUTE.....	5
1.3.	Data Model.....	5
1.4.	Architecture and Scope of Specification.....	6
2.	ROUTE Packet Format.....	7
2.1.	Packet Structure and Header Fields.....	7

2.2.	LCT header extensions.....	9
2.3.	FEC Payload ID for Source Flows.....	10
2.4.	FEC Payload ID for Repair Flows.....	10
3.	Session metadata.....	11
3.1.	Generic metadata.....	11
3.2.	Session metadata for Source Flows.....	11
3.3.	Session metadata for Repair Flows.....	12
4.	Delivery object mode.....	13
4.1.	File Mode.....	13
4.1.1.	Extensions to FDT.....	13
4.1.2.	Constraints on Extended FDT.....	15
4.2.	Entity Mode.....	15
4.3.	Unsigned Package Mode.....	16
4.4.	Signed Package Mode.....	16
5.	Sender operation.....	16
5.1.	Usage of ALC and LCT for Source Flow.....	16
5.2.	ROUTE Packetization for Source Flow.....	17
5.2.1.	Basic ROUTE Packetization.....	18
5.2.2.	ROUTE Packetization for CMAF Chunked Content.....	18
5.3.	Timing of Packet Emission.....	19
5.4.	Extended FDT Encoding for File Mode Sending.....	19
5.5.	FEC Framework Considerations.....	19
5.6.	FEC Transport Object Construction.....	20
5.7.	Super-Object Construction.....	21
5.8.	Repair Packet Considerations.....	22
5.9.	Summary FEC Information.....	22
6.	Receiver operation.....	23
6.1.	Basic Application Object Recovery for Source Flows.....	23
6.2.	Fast Stream Acquisition.....	25
6.3.	Generating Extended FDT Instance for File Mode.....	25
6.3.1.	File Template Substitution for Content-Location Derivation.....	25
6.3.2.	File@Transfer-Length Derivation.....	26
6.3.3.	FDT-Instance@Expires Derivation.....	26
7.	FEC Application.....	26
7.1.	General FEC Application Guidelines.....	26
7.2.	TOI Mapping.....	27
7.3.	Delivery Object Reception Timeout.....	27
7.4.	Example FEC Operation.....	27
8.	Considerations for Defining ROUTE Profiles.....	28
9.	ROUTE Concepts.....	29
9.1.	ROUTE Modes of Delivery.....	29
9.2.	File Mode Optimizations.....	30
9.3.	In band Signaling of Object Transfer Length.....	30
9.4.	Repair Protocol Concepts.....	31
10.	Interoperability Chart.....	31
11.	Security Considerations.....	33

12.	IANA Considerations.....	33
13.	References.....	33
13.1.	Normative References.....	33
13.2.	Informative References.....	34
14.	Acknowledgments.....	35

[1.](#) Introduction

[1.1.](#) Overview

The Real-time Transport Object delivery over Unidirectional Transport protocol (ROUTE Protocol) can be used for robust delivery of Application Objects, including Application Objects with real-time delivery constraints, to receivers over a unidirectional transport.

Application objects consist of data that has meaning to applications that use the ROUTE Protocol for delivery of data to receivers, e.g., an Application Object can be a file, or a DASH [[DASH](#)] video segment, a WAV audio clip, a CMAF [[CMAF](#)] addressable resource, an MP4 video clip, etc. The ROUTE Protocol is designed to enable delivery of sequences of related Application Objects in a timely manner to receivers, e.g., a sequence of DASH video segments associated to a Representation or a sequence of CMAF addressable resources associated to a CMAF Track. The ROUTE Protocol supports chunked delivery of real-time Application Objects to enable low latency streaming applications (similar in its properties to chunked delivery using HTTP). The protocol also enables low-latency delivery of DASH and HLS content with CMAF Chunks.

Content not intended for rendering in real time as it is received e.g. a downloaded application, or a file comprising continuous or discrete media and belonging to an app-based feature, or a file containing (opaque) data to be consumed by a DRM system client can also delivered by ROUTE.

The ROUTE Protocol supports a caching model, where application objects are recovered into a cache at the receiver and may be made available to applications via standard HTTP requests from the cache.

Profiles of ROUTE Protocol have already been specified in ATSC 3.0 [[ATSCA331](#)] and DVB Adaptive Media Streaming over IP Multicast [[DVBMA331](#)]. Hence in the context of this RFC, the aforementioned ATSC 3.0 and DVB systems are the applications using ROUTE. This RFC serves as a direct reference for such applications in the future and allows for deriving specific profiles based on the protocol specified in this RFC.

1.2. Protocol Stack for ROUTE

ROUTE delivers application objects such as MPEG DASH or HLS segments and optionally the associated repair data, operating over UDP/IP networks supporting IP multicast. The session metadata signaling to realize ROUTE session as specified in this RFC MAY be delivered out-of-band or in band as well. Additionally, the application may use unicast delivery mechanisms over e.g. HTTP over TCP/IP in conjunction with ROUTE to augment the services. The latter unicast delivery aspects are beyond the scope of this RFC.

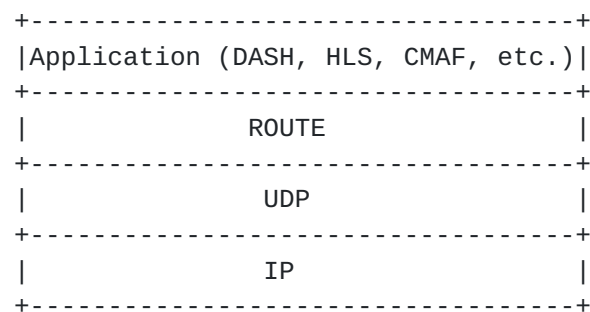


Figure 1 Protocol Layering

1.3. Data Model

The ROUTE data model is constituted by the following key concepts.

Application object - data that has meaning to the application that uses the ROUTE Protocol for delivery of data to receivers, e.g., an application object can be a file, or a DASH video segment, a WAV audio clip, an MP4 video clip, etc.

Delivery objects - Objects on course of delivery to the application from the ROUTE sender to ROUTE receiver.

Transport Object - as defined by [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)], it MAY be a either a source or a repair object.

Transport Session - An LCT channel, as defined by [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)]. Transport session SHALL be uniquely identified by a unique Transport Session Identifier (TSI) value in the LCT header. The TSI is scoped by the IP address of the sender, and the IP address of the sender together with the TSI SHALL uniquely identify the session. Transport sessions are a subset of a ROUTE session. For

media delivery, a Transport Session would typically carry a media component, for example a DASH Representation. Within each transport session, one or more objects are carried, typically objects that are related, e.g. DASH Segments associated to one Representation.

ROUTE Session - An ensemble or multiplex of one or more Transport Sessions. Each ROUTE Session SHALL be associated with an IP address/port combination. ROUTE session typically carries one or more media components of streaming media e.g. Representations associated with a DASH Media Presentation.

Source Flows - Transport sessions carrying source data. Source Flow is independent of the repair Flow, i.e. the Source Flows MAY be used by a ROUTE receiver without the ROUTE Repair Flows.

Repair Flows - Transport sessions carrying repair data for one or more Source Flows.

1.4. Architecture and Scope of Specification

The scope of the ROUTE protocol is robust and real-time transport of delivery objects using LCT packets. This architecture is depicted in Figure 2.

The normative aspects of the ROUTE protocol focus on the following aspects:

- The format of the LCT packets that carry the transport objects.
- The robust transport of the delivery object using a repair protocol based on FEC.
- The definition and possible carriage of object metadata along with the delivery objects. Metadata may be conveyed in LCT packets and/or separate objects.
- The ROUTE session, LCT channel and delivery object description provided as service metadata signaling to enable the reception of objects.
- The normative aspects (formats, semantics) of the delivery objects conveyed as a content manifest to be delivered along with the objects to optimize the performance for specific applications; e.g., real-time delivery. The objects and manifest are made available to the application through an application object cache. The interface of this cache to the application is not specified in this RFC, however it will typically be enabled by the application acting as an HTTP Client and the cache as the HTTP server.

Application application objects
to application

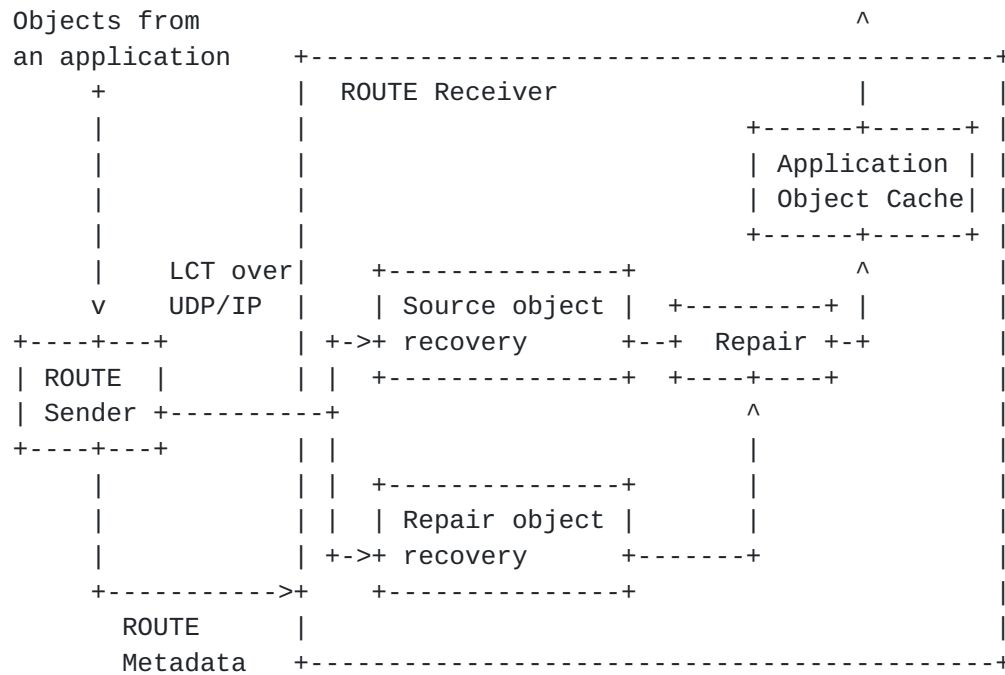
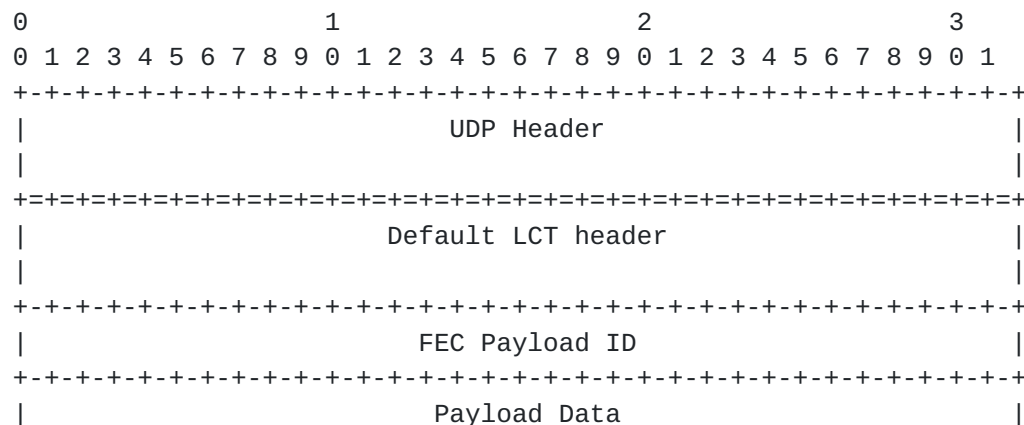


Figure 2 Architecture/functional block diagram

2. ROUTE Packet Format

2.1. Packet Structure and Header Fields

The packet format used by ROUTE Source Flows and Repair Flows follows the ALC packet format specified in [RFC 5775](#) [RFC5775], with the UDP header followed by the default LCT header and the source FEC Payload ID followed by the packet payload. The overall ROUTE packet format is as depicted in Figure 3 below.



Codepoint values MAY be used by an application using ROUTE, as show in the following table:

Codepoint value	Semantics
0	Reserved (not used)
1	NRT - File Mode
2	NRT - Entity Mode
3	NRT - Unsigned Package Mode
4	NRT - Signed Package Mode
5	New IS, timeline changed
6	New IS, timeline continued
7	Redundant IS
8	Media Segment, File Mode
9	Media Segment, Entity Mode
10 - 255	Application specific

Congestion Control Information (CCI) - For packets carrying DASH segments, should convey the earliest presentation time contained in the ROUTE packet. Otherwise this field MAY be set to 0.

Transport Session Identifier (TSI) - This 32-bit field SHALL identify the Transport Session in ROUTE. The context of the Transport Session is provided by signaling metadata. The TSI field is constrained to a length of 32 bits because the Transport Session Identifier flag (S) must be set to '1' and the Half-word flag (H) must be set to '0'.

Transport Object Identifier (TOI) - This 32-bit field SHALL identify the object within this session to which the payload of the current packet belongs. The mapping of the TOI field to the object is provided by the Extended FDT. The TOI field is constrained to a length of 32 bits because the Transport Object Identifier flag (O) must be set to '01' and the Half-word flag (H) must be set to '0'.

2.2. LCT header extensions

The following LCT header extensions are defined or used by ROUTE:

EXT_FTI - as specified in [RFC 5775](#).

EXT_TOL - with 24 bits or, if required, 48 bits of Transfer Length. The frequency of using the EXT_TOL header extension is determined by channel conditions that may cause the loss of the packet carrying Close Object (B) flag.

NOTE: The transport object length can also be determined without the use of EXT_TOL by examining the LCT packet with the Close Object (B)

flag. However, if this packet is lost, then the EXT_TOL information can be used by the receiver to determine the transport object length.

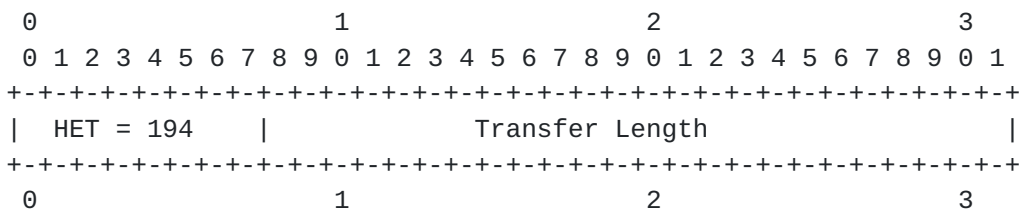


Figure 5. 24-bit format of EXT_TOL Header.

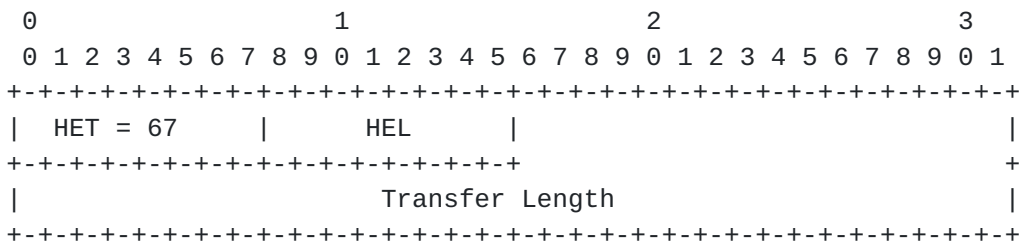


Figure 6. 48-bit format of EXT_TOL Header.

EXT_TIME Header - as specified in [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)]. The Sender Current Time SHALL be signaled using EXT_TIME.

2.3. FEC Payload ID for Source Flows

The syntax of the FEC Payload ID for the Compact No-Code FEC Scheme used in ROUTE Source Flows SHALL be a 32-bit unsigned integer value that expresses the start_offset, as an octet number corresponding to the first octet of the fragment of the delivery object carried in this packet. Figure 7 shows the 32-bit start_offset field.

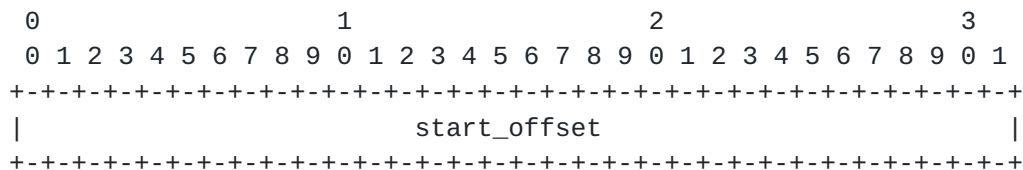
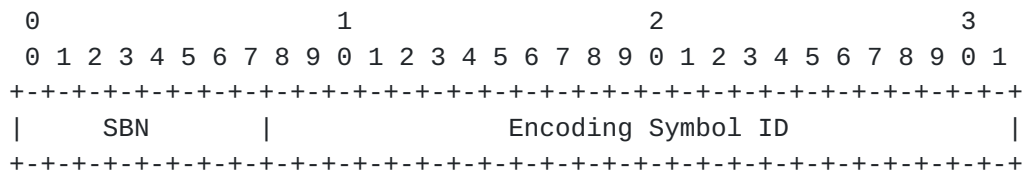


Figure 7 FEC Payload ID for Source Flows.

2.4. FEC Payload ID for Repair Flows

In accordance with [RFC 6330 Section 3.2](#), the FEC Payload ID for the RaptorQ FEC Scheme used for Repair Flows is composed of a Source Block Number (SBN) and an Encoding Symbol ID, formatted as shown in Figure 8.



3. Session metadata

The required session metadata for Source and Repair Flows is specified in the following sections. The list specified here is not exhaustive; an application MAY signal more metadata to meet its needs. The data format is also not specified beyond its cardinality, and basic type (e.g. integral or alphanumeric data); the exact format of specifying the data is left for the application, e.g. by using XML encoding format. It is specified if an attribute is mandatory (m), conditional mandatory (cm) or optional (o) to realize a basic ROUTE session. The delivery of the session metadata to the ROUTE receiver is beyond scope of this RFC.

3.1. Generic metadata

Generic metadata is applicable to both Source and Repair Flows as follows. Before a receiver can join a ROUTE session, the receiver needs to obtain this generic metadata that contains at least the following information:

- Connection ID (m): unique identifier of a Connection, usually consisting of source IP address/source port number, destination IP address/destination port number.

3.2. Session metadata for Source Flows

stsi (m) - LCT TSI value corresponding to the transport session for the Source Flow.

rt (o) - A Boolean flag which SHALL indicate whether the content component carried by this Source Flow corresponds to real-time streaming media, or non-real-time content. When set to "true", it SHALL be an indication of real-time content, and when absent or set to "false", it SHALL be an indication of non-real-time (NRT) content.

minBufferSize (o) - A 32-bit unsigned integer which SHALL represent, in kilobytes, the minimum required storage size of the receiver transport buffer, for the parent LCT channel of this Source Flow. This attribute SHALL only be applicable when rt = "true". When rt

"true" and this attribute is absent, the minimum receiver transport buffer size is unknown.

EFDT (cm) - when present, SHALL contain a single instance of an FDT-Instance element per [RFC 6726](#) FLUTE [[RFC6726](#)], which MAY contain FDT extensions as defined in [Section 4.1](#). The EFDT element MAY only be present for File Mode of delivery. In File Mode, it SHALL be present if this Source Flow transports streaming media segments.

contentType (o) - A string that SHALL represent media type assigned by IANA for the media content. contentType SHALL obey the semantics of the Content-Type header of HTTP/1.1 protocol [RFC 7231](#) [[RFC7231](#)].

applicationMapping (m) - A set of identifiers that provide an application-specific mapping of the received application objects to the Source Flows. For example, for DASH, this would provide the mapping a Source Flow to a specific DASH representation from an MPD, the latter identified by its Representation and corresponding Adaptation Set and Period IDs.

[3.3](#). Session metadata for Repair Flows

maximumDelay (o) - An integer value, when present, SHALL represent the maximum delivery delay, in milliseconds, between any source packet in the Source Flow and the repair packet, associated with that source packet, in the Repair Flow. Default semantics of this attribute, when absent, is not defined.

overhead (o) - An integer whose value SHALL represent the sum of the AL-FEC related fields in the ROUTE repair packet relative to the size of the repair packet size as a percentage.

minBuffSize (o) - A 32-bit unsigned integer whose value SHALL represent a required size of the receiver transport buffer for AL-FEC decoding processing. When present, this attribute SHALL indicate the minimum buffer size that is required to handle all associated objects that are assigned to a super-object i.e. a delivery object formed by the concatenation of multiple FEC transport objects in order to bundle these FEC transport objects for AL-FEC protection.

fecOTI (m) - A parameter consisting of the concatenation of Common and Scheme-Specific FEC Object Transmission Information (FEC OTI) as defined in Sections [3.3.2](#) and [3.3.3](#) of [RFC 6330](#) [[RFC6330](#)], and which corresponds to the delivery objects carried in the Source Flow to which this Repair Flow is associated, with the following qualification. The 40-bit Transfer Length (F) field may either

represent the actual size of the object, or it is encoded as all zeroes. In the latter case, it means that the FEC transport object size is either unknown, or cannot be represented by this attribute. In other words, for the all-zeroes format, the delivery objects in the Source flow correspond to streaming content - either a live Service whereby content encoding has not yet occurred at the time this session data was generated, or pre-recorded streaming content whose delivery object sizes, albeit known at the time of session data generation, are variable and cannot be represented as a single value by the fecOTI attribute.

ptsi (m) - TSI value(s) of each Source Flow protected by this Repair Flow.

mappingTOIx (o) - Values of the constant X for use in deriving the TOI of the delivery object of each protected Source Flow from the TOI of the FEC (super-)object. The default value SHALL be "1". Multiple mappingTOIx values MAY be provided for each protected Source Flow.

mappingTOIy (o) - The corresponding constant Y to each mappingTOIx, when present, for use in deriving the parent SourceTOI value from the above equation. The default value SHALL be "0".

4. Delivery object mode

ROUTE provides several different delivery object modes, and one of these modes may suite the application needs better for a given transport session. A delivery object is self-contained for the application, typically associated with certain properties, metadata and timing-related information that are of relevance for the application. The signaling of the delivery object mode is done on an object based using Codepoint as specified in [Section 2.1](#).

4.1. File Mode

File mode uses an out-of-band EDFT signaling for recovery of delivery objects with the following extensions and considerations.

4.1.1. Extensions to FDT

Following extensions are specified to FDT specified in [RFC 6726](#) [[RFC6726](#)]. Here an Extended FDT Instance is an instance of the FLUTE [[RFC6726](#)] FDT that includes extensions.

efdtVersion - A value that SHALL represent the version of this Extended FDT Instance.

maxExpiresDelta - A value, which when present, SHALL represent a time interval in number of seconds, which when added to the wall clock time at the receiver when the receiver acquires the first ROUTE packet carrying data of the object described by this Extended FDT Instance, SHALL represent the expiration time of the associated Extended FDT Instance. When maxExpiresDelta is not present, the expiration time of the Extended FDT Instance SHALL be given by the sum of a) the value of the ERT field in the EXT_TIME LCT header extension in the first ROUTE packet carrying data of that file, and b) the current receiver time when parsing the packet header of that ROUTE packet. See Sections [5.4](#) and [6.3.3](#) on additional rules for deriving the Extended FDT Instance expiration time.

maxTransportSize - An attribute that SHALL represent the maximum transport size in bytes of any delivery object described by this Extended FDT Instance. This attribute SHALL be present if a) the fileTemplate is present in Extended FDT-Instance; or b) one or more File elements, if present in this Extended FDT Instance, do not include the Transfer-Length attribute. When maxTransportSize is not present, the maximum transport size is not signaled.

fileTemplate - A string value, which when present and in conjunction with parameter substitution, SHALL be used in deriving the Content-Location attribute, for the delivery object described by this Extended FDT Instance. It SHALL include the "\$TOI\$" identifier. Each identifier MAY be suffixed, within the enclosing '\$' characters following this prototype:

%0[width]d

The width parameter is an unsigned integer that provides the minimum number of characters to be printed. If the value to be printed is shorter than this number, the result SHALL be padded with leading zeroes. The value is not truncated even if the result is larger. When no format tag is present, a default format tag with width=1 SHALL be used.

Strings other than identifiers SHALL only contain characters that are permitted within URIs according to [RFC 3986](#) [[RFC3986](#)].

\$\$ Is an escape sequence in fileTemplate value, i.e. "\$\$" is non-recursively replaced with a single "\$"

The usage of fileTemplate is described in Sender and Receiver operations in Sections [5.4](#) and [6.3](#), respectively.

4.1.2. Constraints on Extended FDT

The Extended FDT Instance SHALL conform to an FDT Instance according to [RFC 6726](#) [[RFC6726](#)], with the following constraints: at least one File element and the @Expires attribute SHALL be present.

Content encoding MAY be used for delivery of any file described by an FDT-Instance.File element in the Extended FDT Instance. The content encoding defined in the present RFC is gzip [[RFC1952](#)]. When content encoding is used, the File@Content-Encoding and File@Content-Length attributes SHALL be present in the Extended FDT Instance.

4.2. Entity Mode

For Entity Mode, the following applies:

- Delivery object metadata SHALL be expressed in the form of entity headers as defined in HTTP/1.1, and which correspond to one or more of the representation header fields, payload header fields and response header fields as defined in Sections [3.1](#), [3.3](#) and [7](#), respectively, of [RFC 7231](#). Additionally, a Digest HTTP response header [[RFC7231](#)] MAY be included to enable a receiver to verify the integrity of the multicast transport object.
- The entity headers sent along with the delivery object provide all information about that multicast transport object.

Sending a media object (if the object is chunked) in Entity Mode may result in one of the following options:

If the length of the chunked object is known at sender, the ROUTE Entity Mode delivery object MAY be sent without using HTTP/1.1 chunked transfer coding, i.e. the object starts with an HTTP header containing the Content Length field, followed by the concatenation of CMAF chunks:

```
|HTTP Header+Length||---chunk ----||---chunk ----||---chunk ----
||---chunk ----|
```

If the length of the chunked object is unknown at sender when starting to send the object, HTTP/1.1 chunked transfer coding format SHALL be used:

```
|HTTP Header||Separator+Length||---chunk ----||Separator+Length||-
--chunk ----||Separator+Length||---chunk ----||Separator+Length||-
--chunk ----||Separator+Length=0|
```


Note, however, that it is not required to send a CMAF chunk in exactly one HTTP chunk.

[4.3. Unsigned Package Mode](#)

In this delivery mode, the delivery object consists of a group of files that are packaged for delivery only. If applied, the client is expected to unpack the package and provide each file as an independent object to the application. Packaging is supported by Multipart MIME [[RFC2557](#)], where objects are packaged into one document for transport.

[4.4. Signed Package Mode](#)

In Signed Package Mode delivery, the delivery object consists of a group of files that are packaged for delivery, and the package includes one or more signatures for validation. Signed packaging is supported by [RFC 8551](#) Secure MIME (S/MIME) [[RFC8551](#)], where objects are packaged into one document for transport and the package includes objects necessary for validation of the package.

[5. Sender operation](#)

[5.1. Usage of ALC and LCT for Source Flow](#)

The usage of ALC for ROUTE Source Flow is as defined in [RFC 5775](#) [[RFC5775](#)]. There are several special considerations that ROUTE introduces to the usage of the LCT building block as outlined in the following:

- ROUTE limits the usage of the LCT building block to a single channel per session. Congestion control is thus sender-driven in ROUTE. The functionality of receiver-driven layered multicast may still be offered by the application, allowing the receiver application to select the appropriate delivery session based on the bandwidth requirement of that session.

Further, following details apply to LCT:

- The Layered Coding Transport (LCT) Building Block as defined in [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)] is used with the following constraints:
 - oThe TSI in the LCT header SHALL be set equal to the value of the stsi attribute in [Section 3.2](#).
 - oThe Codepoint (CP) in the LCT header SHALL be used to signal the applied formatting as defined in the signaling metadata.

- oIn accordance to ALC, a source FEC Payload ID header is used to identify, for FEC purposes, the encoding symbols of the delivery object, or a portion thereof, carried by the associated ROUTE packet. This information may be sent in several ways:
 - . As a simple new null FEC scheme with the following usage:
 - . The value of the source FEC Payload ID header SHALL be set to 0, in case the ROUTE packet contains the entire delivery object, or
 - . The value of the source FEC Payload ID header SHALL be set as a direct address (start offset) corresponding to the starting byte position of the portion of the object carried in this packet using a 32-bit field.
 - . In a compatible manner to [RFC 6330](#) [[RFC6330](#)] where the SBN and ESI defines the start offset together with the symbol size T.
 - . The signaling metadata provides the appropriate parameters to indicate any of the above modes using the srcFecPayloadId attribute.
- The LCT Header EXT_TIME extension as defined in [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)] MAY be used by the sender in the following manner:
 - oThe Sender Current Time (SCT), depending on the application, MAY be used to occasionally or frequently signal the sender current time.
 - oThe Expected Residual Time (ERT) MAY be used to indicate the expected remaining time for transmission of the current object.
 - oThe Sender Last Changed (SLC) flag is typically not utilized, but MAY be used to indicate addition/removal of Segments.
- Additional extension headers MAY be used to support real-time delivery. Such extension headers are defined in [Section 2.1](#).

[5.2. ROUTE Packetization for Source Flow](#)

The following description of the ROUTE sender operation on the mapping of the application object to the ROUTE packet payloads logically represents an extension of [RFC 5445](#) [[RFC5445](#)], which in turn inherits the context, language, declarations and restrictions of the FEC building block in [RFC 5052](#) [[RFC5052](#)].

The data carried in the payload of a given ROUTE packet constitute a contiguous portion of the application object. ROUTE source delivery can be considered as a special case of the use of the Compact No-Code Scheme associated with FEC Encoding ID = 0 according to Sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 of [RFC 5445](#) [[RFC5445](#)], in which the encoding symbol

size is exactly one byte. As specified in [Section 2.1](#), for ROUTE Source Flows, the FEC Payload ID SHALL deliver the 32-bit start_offset. All receivers are expected to support, at minimum, operation with this special case of the Compact No-Code FEC.

Note that in the event the source object size is greater than 2^{32} bytes (approximately 4.3 GB), the applications (in the broadcaster server and the receiver) are expected to perform segmentation/re-assembly using methods beyond the scope of this transport Standard.

Finally, in some special cases a ROUTE sender MAY need to produce ROUTE packets that do not contain any payload. This may be required, for example, to signal the end of a session or to convey congestion control information. These data-less packets do not contain FEC Payload ID or payload data, but only the LCT header fields. The total datagram length, conveyed by outer protocol headers (e.g., the IP or UDP header), enables receivers to detect the absence of the LCT header, FEC Payload ID and payload data.

5.2.1. Basic ROUTE Packetization

In the basic operation, it is assumed that the application object is fully available at the ROUTE sender.

1. The amount of data to be sent in a single ROUTE packet is limited by the maximum transfer unit of the data packets or the size of the remaining data of the application object being sent, whichever is smaller. The transfer unit is determined either by knowledge of underlying transport block sizes or by other constraints.
2. The start_offset field in the LCT header of the ROUTE packet indicates the byte offset of the carried data in the application object being sent.
3. The Close Object (B) flag is set to 1 if this is the last ROUTE packet carrying the data of the application object.

The order of packet delivery is arbitrary, but in the absence of other constraints delivery with increasing start_offset value is recommended.

5.2.2. ROUTE Packetization for CMAF Chunked Content

Following additional guidelines should be followed for ROUTE packetization of CMAF Chunked Content in addition to the guideline of [Section 5.2.1](#):

1. As specified in [Section 2.1](#), if it is the first ROUTE packet carrying a CMAF Random Access chunk, except for the first CMAF chunk

in the segment, the least significant bit of the Protocol Specific Information (PSI) field in the LCT header MAY be set to 1. The receiver MAY use this information for optimization of random access.

2. As soon as the total length of the media object is known, potentially with the packaging of the last CMAF chunk of a segment, the EXT_TOL extension header MAY be added to the LCT header to signal the Transfer Length.

5.3. Timing of Packet Emission

The sender SHALL use the timing information provided by the application to time the emission of packets for a timely reception. This information may be contained in the application objects e.g. DASH Segments and/or the presentation manifest. Hence such packets of streaming media with real time constraints SHALL be sent in such a way to enable their timely reception with respect to the presentation timeline.

5.4. Extended FDT Encoding for File Mode Sending

For File Mode Sending:

- The TOI field in the ROUTE packet header SHALL be set such that Content-Location can be derived at the receiver according to File Template substitution specified in [Section 6.3.1](#).
- After sending the first packet with a given TOI value, none of the packets pertaining to this TOI SHALL be sent later than the wall clock time as derived from maxExpiresDelta. The EXT_TIME header with Expected Residual Time (ERT) MAY be used in order to convey more accurate expiry time.

5.5. FEC Framework Considerations

The FEC framework uses concepts of the FECFRAME work as defined in [RFC 6363](#) [[RFC6363](#)], as well as the FEC building block, [RFC 5052](#) [[RFC5052](#)], which is adopted in the existing FLUTE/ALC/LCT specifications.

The FEC design adheres to the following principles:

- FEC-related information is provided only where needed.
- Receivers not capable of this framework can ignore repair packets.
- The FEC is symbol-based with fixed symbol size per protected Repair Flow. The ALC protocol and existing FEC schemes are reused.
- A FEC Repair Flow provides protection of delivery objects from one or more Source Flows.

The FEC-specific components of the FEC framework are:

- FEC Repair Flow declaration including all FEC-specific information.

- FEC transport object that is the concatenation of a delivery object, padding octets and size information in order to form an N-symbol-sized chunk of data, where $N \geq 1$.
- FEC super-object that is the concatenation of one or more FEC transport objects in order to bundle FEC transport objects for FEC protection.
- FEC protocol and packet structure.

A receiver needs to be able to recover delivery objects from repair packets based on available FEC information.

5.6. FEC Transport Object Construction

In order to identify a delivery object in the context of the Repair protocol, the following information is needed:

- TSI and TOI of the delivery object. In this case, the FEC object corresponds to the (entire) delivery object.
- Octet range of the delivery object, i.e. start offset within the delivery object and number of subsequent and contiguous octets of delivery object that constitutes the FEC object (i.e., the FEC-protected portion of the source object). In this case, the FEC object corresponds to a contiguous byte range portion of the delivery object.

Typically, the first mapping is applied; i.e., the delivery object is an FEC object.

Assuming that the FEC object is the delivery object, for each delivery object, the associated FEC transport object is comprised of the concatenation of the delivery object, padding octets (P) and the FEC object size (F) in octets, where F is carried in a 4-octet field. The FEC transport object size S, in FEC encoding symbols, SHALL be an integer multiple of the symbol size Y.

S is determined from the session information and/or the repair packet headers.

F is carried in the last 4 octets of the FEC transport object.

Specifically, let:

- F be the size of the delivery object in octets,
- F' be the F octets of data of the delivery object,
- f' denote the four octets of data carrying the value of F in network octet order (high-order octet first),
- S be the size of the FEC transport object with $S = \text{ceil}((F+4)/Y)$, where the $\text{ceil}()$ function rounds the result upward to its nearest integer,
- P' be $S*Y-4-F$ octets of data, i.e. padding placed between the delivery object and the 4-byte field conveying the value of F and located at the end of the FEC transport object, and

- O' be the concatenation of F' , P' and f' .

O' then constitutes the FEC transport object of size $S \cdot Y$ octets. Note that padding octets and the object size F are NOT sent in source packets of the delivery object, but are only part of an FEC transport object that FEC decoding recovers in order to extract the FEC object and thus the delivery object or portion of the delivery object that constitutes the FEC object. In the above context, the FEC transport object size in symbols is S .

The general information about an FEC transport object that is conveyed to an FEC-enabled receiver is the source TSI, source TOI and the associated octet range within the delivery object comprising the associated FEC object. However, as the size in octets of the FEC object is provided in the appended field within the FEC transport object, the remaining information can be conveyed as:

- TSI and TOI of the delivery object from which the FEC object associated with the FEC transport object is generated
- Start octet within delivery object for the associated FEC object
- Size in symbols of the FEC transport object, S

5.7. Super-Object Construction

From the FEC Repair Flow declaration, the construction of an FEC super-object as the concatenation of one or more FEC transport objects can be determined. The FEC super-object includes the general information about the FEC transport objects as described in the previous sections, as well as the placement order of FEC transport objects within the FEC super-object.

Let:

- N be the total number of FEC transport objects for the FEC super-object construction.
- For $i = 0, \dots, N-1$, let $S[i]$ be the size in symbols of FEC transport object i .
- B' be the FEC super-object which is the concatenation of the FEC transport objects in numerical order, comprised of $K = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} S[i]$ source symbols.

For each FEC super-object, the remaining general information that needs to be conveyed to an FEC-enabled receiver, beyond what is already carried in the FEC transport objects that constitute the FEC super-object, comprises:

- The total number of FEC transport objects N .
- For each FEC transport object, the:

oTSI and TOI of the delivery object from which the FEC object associated with the FEC transport object is generated,
oStart octet within delivery object for the associated FEC object, and
oSize in symbols of the FEC transport object.

The carriage of the FEC repair information is discussed below.

5.8. Repair Packet Considerations

The repair protocol is based on Asynchronous Layered Coding (ALC) as defined in [RFC 5775](#) [[RFC5775](#)] and the Layered Coding Transport (LCT) Building Block as defined in [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)] with the following details:

- The Layered Coding Transport (LCT) Building Block as defined in [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)] is used as defined in Asynchronous Layered Coding (ALC), [Section 2.1](#). In addition, the following constraints apply:
 - The TSI in the LCT header SHALL identify the Repair Flow to which this packet applies, by the matching value of the ptsi attribute in the signaling metadata among the LCT channels carrying Repair Flows.
- The FEC building block is used according to [RFC 6330](#) [[RFC6330](#)], but only repair packets are delivered.
 - Each repair packet within the scope of the Repair Flow (as indicated by the TSI field in the LCT header) SHALL carry the repair symbols for a corresponding FEC transport object/super-object as identified by its TOI. The repair object/super-object TOI SHALL be unique for each FEC super-object that is created within the scope of the TSI.

5.9. Summary FEC Information

For each super-object (identified by a unique TOI within a Repair Flow that is in turn identified by the TSI in the LCT header) that is generated, the following information needs to be communicated to the receiver:

- . The FEC configuration consisting of:
 - oFEC Object Transmission Information (OTI) per [RFC 5052](#) [[RFC5052](#)].
 - oAdditional FEC information (see [Section 3.3](#)).
- . The total number of FEC objects included in the FEC super-object, N.
- . For each FEC transport object:
 - oTSI and TOI of the delivery object used to generate the FEC object associated with the FEC transport object,

- oStart octet within the delivery object of the associated FEC object, if applicable, and
- oThe size in symbols of the FEC transport object, S.

The above information is delivered:

- . Statically in the session metadata as defined in [Section 3.3](#), and
- . Dynamically in an LCT extension header.

6. Receiver operation

The receiver receives packets and filters those packets according to the following. From the ROUTE session and each contained LCT channel, the receiver regenerates delivery objects from the ROUTE session and each contained LCT channel. The basic receiver information is provided below.

6.1. Basic Application Object Recovery for Source Flows

Upon receipt of each ROUTE packet of a Source Flow, the receiver proceeds with the following steps in the order listed.

- 1) The ROUTE receiver is expected to parse the LCT and FEC Payload ID to verify that it is a valid header. If it is not valid, then the payload is discarded without further processing.
- 2) All ROUTE packets used to recover a specific delivery object carry the same TOI value in the LCT header.
- 3) The ROUTE receiver is expected to assert that the TSI and the Codepoint represent valid operation points in the signaling metadata, i.e. the signaling contains a matching entry to the TSI value provided in the packet header, as well as for this TSI, and Codepoint field in the LCT header has a valid Codepoint mapping.
- 4) The ROUTE receiver should process the remainder of the payload, including the appropriate interpretation of the other payload header fields, and using the source FEC Payload ID (to determine the start_offset) and the payload data to reconstruct the corresponding object as follows:
 - a. For File Mode, upon receipt of the first ROUTE packet payload for an object, the ROUTE receiver uses the File@Transfer-Length attribute of the associated Extended FDT Instance, when present, to determine the length T of the object. When the File@Transfer-Length attribute is not present in the Extended FDT Instance, the receiver uses the maxTransportSize attribute of the associated Extended FDT Instance to determine the maximum length T' of the object. Alternatively, and specifically for delivery modes other than

- File Mode, EXT_TOL header can be used to determine the length T of the object.
- b. The ROUTE receiver allocates buffer space for the T or T' bytes that the object will or may occupy.
 - c. The ROUTE receiver computes the length of the payload, Y, by subtracting the payload header length from the total length of the received payload.
 - d. The ROUTE receiver allocates a Boolean array RECEIVED[0..T-1] or RECEIVED[0..T'-1], as appropriate, with all entries initialized to false to track received object symbols. The ROUTE receiver continuously acquires packet payloads for the object as long as all of the following conditions are satisfied: i) there is at least one entry in RECEIVED still set to false; ii) the object has not yet expired; and iii) the application has not given up on reception of this object. More details are provided below.
 - e. For each received ROUTE packet payload for the object (including the first payload), the steps to be taken to help recover the object are as follows:
 - i. If the packet includes an EXT_TOL or EXT_FTI header, modify the Boolean array RECEIVED[0..T'-1] to become RECEIVED[0..T-1].
 - ii. Let X be the value of the start_offset field in the ROUTE packet header and let Y be the length of the payload, Y, computed by subtracting the LCT header size and the FEC Payload ID size from the total length of the received packet.
 - iii. The ROUTE receiver copies the data into the appropriate place within the space reserved for the object and sets RECEIVED[X ... X+Y-1] = true.
 - iv. If all T entries of RECEIVED are true, then the receiver has recovered the entire object.

Upon recovery of both the complete set of packet payloads for the delivery object associated with a given TOI value, and the metadata for that delivery object, the reception of the delivery object, now a fully received application object, is complete.

The receiver SHALL ensure making availability of application objects in a timely fashion to the application, based on the application provided timing data e.g. via presentation manifest file. For example, HTTP/1.1 chunked transfer may need to be enabled to transfer the application objects if MPD@availabilityTimeOffset is signaled in the DASH presentation manifest, to allow for timely sending of segment data to the application.

6.2. Fast Stream Acquisition

When the receiver initially starts reception of ROUTE packets, it is likely that the reception does not start from the very first packet carrying the data of a multicast transport object, and in this case such a partially received object is normally discarded. However, the channel acquisition or "tune-in" times can be improved if the partially received object is usable by the application.

One example realization for this is as follows:

- The receiver checks for the first received packet with the least significant bit of the PSI set to 1, indicating the start of a CMAF Random Access chunk.
- The receiver MAY make the partially received object (a partial DASH segment starting from the packet above) available to the application.
- It MAY recover the earliest presentation time of this CMAF Random Access chunk from the ROUTE packet LCT Congestion Control Information field as specified in [Section 2.1](#) and add a new Period element in the MPD exposed to the application containing just the partially received DASH segment with period continuity signaling.

6.3. Generating Extended FDT Instance for File Mode

An Extended FDT Instance conforming to [RFC 6726](#) [[RFC6726](#)], is produced at the receiver using the service metadata and in band signaling as follows:

6.3.1. File Template Substitution for Content-Location Derivation

The Content-Location of an application object is derived as follows: "\$TOI\$" SHALL be substituted with the unique TOI value in the LCT header of the ROUTE packets used to recover the given delivery object (as specified in [Section 6.1](#)).

After the substitution, the fileTemplate SHALL be a valid URL corresponding to the Content-Location attribute of the associated application object.

An example @fileTemplate using a width of 5 is:
fileTemplate="myVideo\$TOI%05d\$.mps", resulting in file names with exactly five digits in the number portion. The Media Segment file name for TOI=33 using this template is myVideo00033.mps.

6.3.2. File@Transfer-Length Derivation

Either the EXT_FTI header (per [RFC 5775](#) [[RFC5775](#)]) or the EXT_TOL header, when present, SHALL be used to derive the Transport Object Length (TOL) of the File. If the File@Transfer-Length parameter in the Extended FDT Instance is not present, then the EXT_TOL header or the or EXT_FTI header SHALL be present. Note that a header containing the transport object length (EXT_TOL or EXT_FTI) need not be present in each packet header. If the broadcaster does not know the length of the transport object at the beginning of the transfer, an EXT_TOL or EXT_FTI header SHALL be included in at least the last packet of the file and should be included in the last few packets of the transfer.

6.3.3. FDT-Instance@Expires Derivation

When present, the maxExpiresDelta attribute SHALL be used to generate the value of the FDT-Instance@Expires attribute. The receiver is expected to add this value to its wall clock time when acquiring the first ROUTE packet carrying the data of a given delivery object to obtain the value for @Expires.

When maxExpiresDelta is not present, the EXT_TIME header with Expected Residual Time (ERT) SHALL be used to derive the expiry time of the Extended FDT Instance. When both maxExpiresDelta and the ERT of EXT_TIME are present, the smaller of the two values should be used as the incremental time interval to be added to the receiver's current time to generate the effective value for @Expires. When neither maxExpiresDelta nor the ERT field of the EXT_TIME header is present, then the expiration time of the Extended FDT Instance is given by its @Expires attribute.

7. FEC Application

7.1. General FEC Application Guidelines

It is up to the receiver to decide to use zero, one or more of the FEC streams. Hence, each flow is typically assigned an individual recovery property, which defines aspects such as the delay and the required memory if one or the other is chosen. The receiver MAY decide whether or not to utilize Repair Flows based on the following considerations:

- The desired start-up and end-to-end latency. If a Repair Flow requires a significant amount of buffering time to be effective, such Repair Flow might only be used in time-shift operations or in poor reception conditions, since use of such Repair Flow trades off end-to-end latency against DASH Media Presentation quality.

- FEC capabilities, i.e. the receiver MAY pick only the FEC algorithm that it supports.
- Which Source Flows are being protected; for example, if the Repair Flow protects Source Flows that are not selected by the receiver, then the receiver may not select the Repair Flow.
- Other considerations such as available buffer size, reception conditions, etc.

If a receiver decides to acquire a certain Repair Flow then the receiver must receive data on all Source Flows that are protected by that Repair Flow to collect the relevant packets.

7.2. TOI Mapping

When mappingTOIx/mappingTOIy are used to signal X and Y values, then the TOI value(s) of the one or more source objects (sourceTOI) protected by a given FEC transport object or FEC super-object with a TOI value rTOI is derived through an equation $\text{sourceTOI} = X * \text{rTOI} + Y$.

When neither mappingTOIx nor mappingTOIy is present there is a 1:1 relationship between each delivery object carried in the Source Flow as identified by ptsi to an FEC object carried in this Repair Flow. In this case the TOI of each of those delivery objects SHALL be identical to the TOI of the corresponding FEC object.

7.3. Delivery Object Reception Timeout

The permitted start and end times for the receiver to perform the file repair procedure, in case of unsuccessful broadcast file reception, and associated rules and parameters are as follows:

- The latest time that the file repair procedure may start is bound by the @Expires attribute of the FDT-Instance.
- The receiver may choose to start the file repair procedure earlier, if it detects the occurrence of any of the following events:
 - o Presence of the Close Object flag (B) in the LCT header [[RFC5651](#)] for the file of interest;
 - o Presence of the Close Session flag (A) in the LCT header [[RFC5651](#)] before the nominal expiration of the Extended FDT Instance as defined by the @Expires attribute.

7.4. Example FEC Operation

To be able to recover the delivery objects that are protected by a Repair Flow, a receiver needs to obtain the necessary Service signaling metadata fragments that describe the corresponding

collection of delivery objects that are covered by this Repair Flow. A Repair Flow is characterized by the combination of an LCT channel, a unique TSI number, as well as the corresponding protected Source Flows.

If a receiver acquires data of a Repair Flow, the receiver is expected to collect all packets of all protected Transport Sessions. Upon receipt of each packet, whether it is a source or repair packet, the receiver proceeds with the following steps in the order listed.

1) The receiver is expected to parse the packet header and verify that it is a valid header. If it is not valid, then the packet SHALL be discarded without further processing.

2) The receiver is expected to parse the TSI field of the packet header and verify that a matching value exists in the Service signaling for the Repair Flow or the associated Protected Source Flow. If no match is found, the packet SHALL be discarded without further processing.

3) The receiver processes the remainder of the packet, including interpretation of the other header fields, and using the source FEC Payload ID (to determine the start_offset byte position within the source object), the Repair FEC Payload ID, as well as the payload data, reconstructs the decoding blocks corresponding to a FEC super-object as follows:

a) For a source packet, the receiver identifies the delivery object to which the received packet is associated, using the session information and the TOI carried in the payload header. Similarly, for a repair object the receiver identifies the FEC super-object to which the received packet is associated, using the session information and the TOI carried in the payload header.

b) For source packets, the receiver collects the data for each FEC super-object and recovers FEC super-objects in same way as Source Flow in [Section 6.1](#). The received FEC super-object is then mapped to a source block and the corresponding encoding symbols are generated.

c) With the reception of the repair packets, the FEC super-object can be recovered.

d) Once the FEC super-object is recovered, the individual delivery objects can be extracted.

8. Considerations for Defining ROUTE Profiles

Applications may define specific ROUTE profiles based on this RFC with the following considerations. Applications MAY

- . Restrict the signaling certain values signaled in the LCT header and/or provision unused fields in the LCT header.
- . Restrict using certain LCT header extensions and/or add new LCT header extensions.

- . Restrict or limit certain Codepoints, and/or add of application specific Codepoints marked as reserved in this RFC.
- . Restrict usage of certain service signaling attributes and/or add own service metadata.

Applications SHALL NOT redefine the semantics of any of the ROUTE attributes in LCT headers and extension, and service signaling attributes already specified in this RFC.

Following these guidelines, profiles MAY be defined that are interoperable.

9. ROUTE Concepts

ROUTE is aligned with FLUTE as defined in [RFC 6726](#) [[RFC6726](#)] as well as the extensions defined in MBMS [[MBMS](#)], but also makes use of some principles of FCAST as defined in [RFC 6968](#) [[RFC6968](#)]; for example, object metadata and the object content may be sent together in a compound object.

In addition to the basic FLUTE protocol, certain optimizations and restrictions are added that enable optimized support for real-time delivery of media data; hence, the name of the protocol. Among others, the source ROUTE protocol enables or enhances the following functionalities:

- Real-time delivery of object-based media data
- Flexible packetization, including enabling media-aware packetization as well as transport-aware packetization of delivery objects
- Independence of application objects and delivery objects, i.e. a delivery object may be a part of a file or may be a group of files.

9.1. ROUTE Modes of Delivery

Different ROUTE delivery modes specified in [Section 4](#) are optimized for delivery of different types of media data. For example, File Mode is specifically optimized for delivering DASH content using Segment Template with number substitution. Using File Template in EFDT avoids the need of repeated sending of metadata as outlined in the following section. Same optimizations however cannot be used for time substitution and segment timeline where the addressing of each segment is time dependent and in general does not follow a fixed or repeated pattern. In this case, Entity mode is more optimized which carries the file location in band. Also, Entity mode can be used to deliver a file or part of the file using HTTP Partial Content response headers.

9.2. File Mode Optimizations

In the file mode, the delivery object represents an application object. This mode replicates FLUTE as defined in [RFC 6726](#) [[RFC6726](#)], but with the ability to send static and pre-known file metadata out of band.

In FLUTE, FDT Instances are delivered in-band and need to be generated and delivered in real-time if objects are generated in real-time at the sender. In contrast to the FDT in [RFC 6726](#) [[RFC6726](#)], [Section 3.4.2](#) and MBMS [[MBMS](#)], [Section 7.2.10](#), besides separated delivery of file metadata from the delivery object it describes, the FDT functionality in ROUTE may be extended by additional file metadata and rules that enable the receiver to generate the Content-Location attribute of the File element of the FDT, on-the-fly, by using information in both the extensions to the FDT and the LCT header. The combination of pre-delivery of static file metadata and receiver self-generation of dynamic file metadata avoids the necessity of continuously sending the FDT Instances for real-time objects. Such modified FDT functionality in ROUTE is referred to as the Extended FDT.

9.3. In band Signaling of Object Transfer Length

As an extension to FLUTE, ROUTE allows for using EXT_TOL LCT header extension with 24 bits or, if required, 48 bits of to signal the Transfer Length directly within the ROUTE packet.

The transport object length can also be determined without the use of EXT_TOL by examining the LCT packet with the Close Object (B) flag. However, if this packet is lost, then the EXT_TOL information can be used by the receiver to determine the transport object length.

Applications using ROUTE for delivery of low-latency streaming content may make use of this feature for sender-end latency optimizations: the sender does not have to wait for the completion of the packaging of a whole application object to find its transfer length to be included in the FDT before the sending can start. Rather, partially encoded data can already be started to be sent via the ROUTE sender. As the time approaches when the encoding of the application object is nearing completion, and the length of the object becomes known (e.g. time of writing the last CMAF Chunk of a DASH segment), only then the sender can signal the object length using the EXT TOL LCT header. For example, for a 2 seconds DASH segment with 100 millisecond chunks, it may result in saving up to 1.9 second latency at the sending end.

9.4. Repair Protocol Concepts

The ROUTE repair protocol is FEC-based and is enabled as an additional layer between the transport layer (e.g., UDP) and the object delivery layer protocol. The FEC reuses concepts of FEC Framework defined in [RFC 6363](#) [[RFC6363](#)], but in contrast to the FEC Framework in [RFC 6363](#) [[RFC6363](#)] the ROUTE repair protocol does not protect packets, but instead it protects delivery objects as delivered in the source protocol. In addition, as an extension to FLUTE, it supports the protection of multiple objects in one source block which is in alignment with the FEC Framework as defined in [RFC 6363](#) [[RFC6363](#)]. Each FEC source block may consist of parts of a delivery object, as a single delivery object (similar to FLUTE) or multiple delivery objects that are bundled prior to FEC protection. ROUTE FEC makes use of FEC schemes in a similar way as those defined in [RFC 5052](#) [[RFC5052](#)] and uses the terminology of that document. The FEC scheme defines the FEC encoding and decoding, as well as the protocol fields and procedures used to identify packet payload data in the context of the FEC scheme.

In ROUTE all packets are LCT packets as defined in [RFC 5651](#) [[RFC5651](#)]. Source and repair packets may be distinguished by:

- Different ROUTE sessions; i.e., they are carried on different IP/UDP port combinations.
- Different LCT channels; i.e., they use different TSI values in the LCT header.
- The PSI bit in the LCT, if carried in the same LCT channel. This mode of operation is mostly suitable for FLUTE-compatible deployments.

10. Interoperability Chart

The following table is an informative comparison of the interoperability of ROUTE as specified in this RFC, with the ROUTE specification in ATSC A/331 [[ATSCA331](#)] and DVB Adaptive media streaming over IP multicast [[DVBMABR](#)]:

Element		ATSC A/331	IETF RFC	DVB ROUTE Profile
LCT header fields	PSI 2nd bit	Set to 0 for source flow, though not used by receiver.	Set to 1 for source flow for Random access chunk	

	CCI	May be set to 0	May be set to EPT for source flow	
LCT header extensions	EXT_ROUTE_PRESENTATION_TIME Header used for MDE mode	Not defined, may be added by a profile.	Shall not be used	
	EXT_TIME Header linked to MDE mode in Annex A.3.7.2	EXT_TIME Header may be used regardless (for FDT-Instance@Expires calculation)		
Codepoints	Full set	Does not specify range 10 - 255 (leaves to profiles)	Restricted to 5 - 9	
Session metadata	Full set	Only defines a small subset of data necessary for setting up Source and Repair Flows. Does not define format or encoding of data except if data is integral/alphanumeric. Leaves rest to profiles.	Reuses A/331 metadata, duplicated from its own service signaling.	
Extended FDT	Instance shall not be sent with source flow	Not restricted, may be restricted by a profile.	Instance shall not be sent with source flow	
	No restriction	Only allowed in File Mode		
Delivery Object	File, Entity, Signed/unsigned package		Signed/unsigned	

Mode		package not allowed
Sender operation: Packet-ization	Defined for DASH segment	Defined for DASH segment and CMAF Chunks
Receiver object recovery	Object handed to application upon complete reception	Object may be handed before completion if MPD@availabilityTimeOffset signaled
	-	Fast Stream acquisition guideline provided

11. Security Considerations

Refer to ALC as defined in [RFC 5775](#) [[RFC5775](#)].

12. IANA Considerations

None.

13. References

13.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2119>
- [RFC5651] Luby, M., Watson, M., and L. Vicisano, "Layered Coding Transport (LCT) Building Block", [RFC 5651](#), October 2009.
<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5651>
- [RFC5775] Luby, M., Watson, M., and L. Vicisano, "Asynchronous Layered Coding (ALC) Protocol Instantiation", [RFC 5775](#), April 2010.
<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5775>
- [RFC6726] Paila, T., Luby, M., Lehtonen, R., Roca, V., Walsh, R., "FLUTE-File Delivery over Unidirectional Transport." 2012.
<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6726>

[RFC6330] Luby, M., Shokrollahi, A., Watson, M., Stockhammer, T., and Minder, L. "RaptorQ forward error correction scheme for object delivery", 2011.

<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6330>

[RFC3986] Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R. and Masinter, L., "Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax", January 2005.

<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3986>

[RFC1952] Deutsch, P., "GZIP file format specification version 4.3," Internet Engineering Task Force, Reston, VA, May, 1996.

<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc1952>

[RFC2557] Palme, J., Hopmann, A. and Shelness, N., "MIME Encapsulation of Aggregate Documents, such as HTML (MHTML)", Internet Engineering Task Force, Reston, VA, March 1999.

<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2557>

[RFC8551] Schaad, J., Ramsdell, B., and S. Turner, "Secure/Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (S/MIME) Version 3.2 Message Specification," Internet Engineering Task Force, Fremont, CA, January 2010.

<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8551>

[RFC5445] Watson, M., "Basic Forward Error Correction (FEC) Schemes," Internet Engineering Task Force, Reston, VA, March, 2009.

<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5445>

[RFC5052] Watson, M., Luby, M., and Vicisano, L., "Forward Error Correction (FEC) Building Block," Internet Engineering Task Force, Reston, VA, August 2007. <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5052>

[RFC6363] Watson, M., Begen, A. and Roca, V., "Forward Error Correction (FEC) Framework," Internet Engineering Task Force, Reston, VA, October, 2011. <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6363>

13.2. Informative References

[RFC7231] IETF [RFC 7231](#) "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Semantics and Content", June 2014.

<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7231>

[RFC6968] Roca, V. and Adamson, B., "FCAST: Object Delivery for the Asynchronous Layered Coding (ALC) and NACK-Oriented Reliable Multicast (NORM) Protocols," Internet Engineering Task Force, Reston, VA, July, 2013. <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6968>

[ATSCA331] ATSC A/331:2019: "ATSC Standard: Signaling, Delivery, Synchronization, and Error Protection", 20 June 2019.

[DVBMABR] DVB Document A176 (Second edition), "Adaptive media streaming over IP multicast", March 2020.

[DASH] ISO/IEC 23009-1:2019: "Information technology - Dynamic adaptive streaming over HTTP (DASH) - Part 1: Media presentation description and segment formats", Fourth edition, December 2019.

[CMAF] ISO/IEC 23000-19:2018: "Information technology - Multimedia application format (MPEG-A) - Part 19: Common media application format (CMAF) for segmented media", First edition, January 2018.

[MBMS] ETSI: "Universal Mobile Telecommunications Systems (UMTS); LTE; Multimedia Broadcast/Multicast Service (MBMS); Protocols and codecs (3GPP TS 26.346 version 13.3.0 Release 13)," Doc. ETSI TS 126 346 v13.3.0 (2016-01), European Telecommunications Standards Institute, January 2016.

14. Acknowledgments

As outlined in the introduction and in ROUTE concepts, the concepts specified in this draft are the culmination of the collaborative work of several experts and organizations over the years. The authors would especially like to acknowledge the work and efforts of the following people and organizations to help realize the technologies described in this draft (in no specific order): Mike Luby, Kent Walker, Charles Lo, Giridhar Mandyam, and other colleagues from Qualcomm Incorporated, LG Electronics, Nomor Research, Sony, and BBC R&D.

Authors' Addresses

Waqar Zia
Qualcomm CDMA Technologies GmbH
Anzinger Str. 13, 81671, Munich, Germany
Email: wzia@qti.qualcomm.com

Thomas Stockhammer
Qualcomm CDMA Technologies GmbH
Anzinger Str. 13, 81671, Munich, Germany
Email: tsto@qti.qualcomm.com

