DCON (Distributed Conferencing)
BOF @ IETF 82

Chairs:
Simon Pietro Romano & Brian Rosen

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BOF agenda

• Brief introduction about the problem space and scope limitations
  – Simon Romano

• DCON feasibility analysis: preliminary results from the field
  – Lorenzo Miniero

• Charter review:
  – Clarifying questions on charter text
  – Discussion of scope, deliverables, and timelines
  – Call for volunteers for specific work items
  – Charter hum
The BOF in a nutshell

• Develop a standard solution for **scalable** conferencing over the Internet
• Define a standard suite of protocols for **distributed** conferencing
  – drawing inspiration from the work carried out in XCON
• DCON core idea:
  – A distributed conference can be setup by appropriately orchestrating the operation of a number of XCON focus elements
  – Each XCON focus manages a certain number of participants
    • interaction between each participant and the corresponding conference focus will be entirely based on the standard XCON framework
    • inter-focus interaction will be defined by this WG
Background: XCON

Conferencing System

Conference Object

Conference Object

Conference Object

Conference Control Server

Floor Control Server

Focus

Notification Service

Conference Control Protocol

Floor Control Protocol

Call Signaling Protocol

Notification Protocol

Conferencing Client

Conference Control Client

Floor Control Client

Call Signaling Client

Notification Client
Distributed Conferencing (DCON)

• The real problem that needs solving:
  – Standard XCON model
    • Poorly scalable
    • Limited capabilities
    • Single point of failure

• The envisaged potential solution
  – Orchestrating the operation of a set of XCON focus elements
  – Two-layers network topology
    • Intra-focus communications follow XCON rules
    • Inter-focus communication based on an overlay network interconnecting the involved foci

• Is the solution achievable?
  – We believe it is...see next presentation about results of a feasibility analysis
DCON requirements

• Focus discovery

• Spreading of conference events

• Setup and management of distributed conferences

• Transparent dispatching of natively centralized protocols (e.g. BFCP) among the involved conferencing islands

• Management of the media layer
  — E.g. distributed mixing...