

SRT Protocol Overview

IETF 107 [MOPS]



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What is SRT?

- A protocol on top of UDP (unicast)
- Content agnostic
- Bidirectional data transfer
- ARQ (ACK + NAK)
- FEC (Packet Filter API v1.4.0+)
- Connection bonding (v1.5.0)
- Stream multiplexing
- Secure (AES 128/192/256 Encryption)



*Enabling **low-latency video** contribution & distribution and **fast file transfer** over unpredictable networks.*

SRT Operation Modes



Message Mode

- Non-real-time
- File/message transfer
- Content agnostic
- Message interchange



Live Mode

- Real-time
- Live Streaming
- Content agnostic
- Latency management



Buffer Mode

- Non-real-time
- A single file transfer
- Content agnostic

SRT Use Cases

- Live video contribution/distribution
 - MPEG-TS, RTP, Elementary Stream, etc.
- File transfer
 - Files and segmented Streaming Formats like HLS and DASH
- Tunneling
 - TCP => SRT => TCP
 - RTP => SRT => RTP
 - HTTP => SRT => HTTP
- Messaging
 - Custom messages: chat, voice, etc.
 - Metadata
 - Control data

SRT Live Streaming

- Data Transmission Mode: “Live”
- A fixed end-to-end latency:
 - Network delay
 - Configurable receiver buffer delay
- Recovers source timing T_{SOURCE} :
 $T_{\text{DELIVERY}} \geq T_{\text{SOURCE}} + T_{\text{LATENCY}}$
 - T_{DELIVERY} – packet delivery time
 - T_{SOURCE} – packet source time
 - T_{LATENCY} – end-to-end latency
- Drops too late packets



Pristine Quality

Protect against jitter, packet loss and bandwidth fluctuation, so your viewers get the best viewing experience.

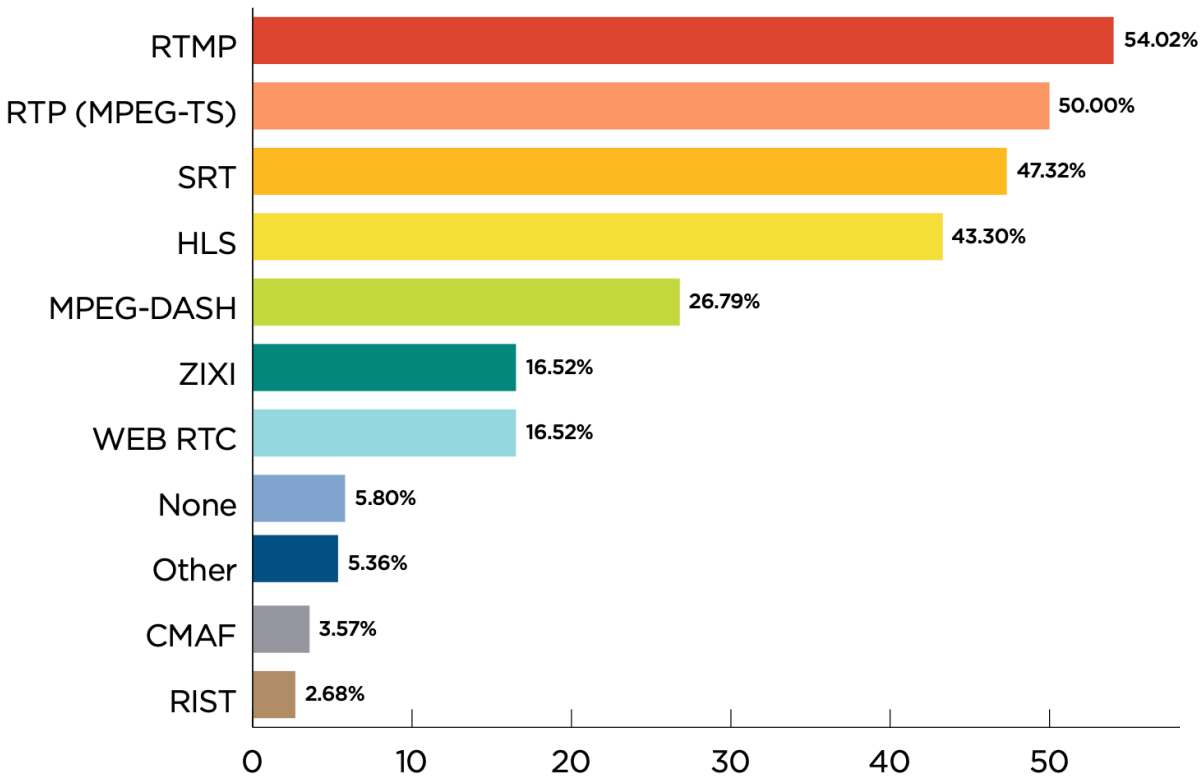


Low Latency

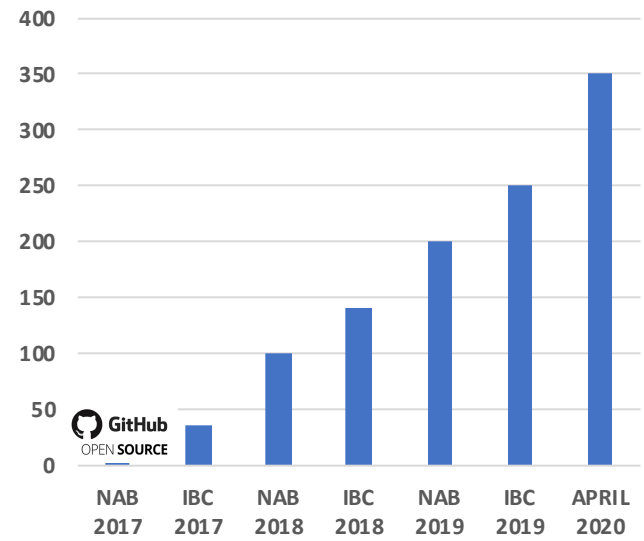
Configurable control to deliver low latency video while overcoming network challenges.

Why SRT?

Video Transport Protocol Usage Survey*



SRT Alliance Member Companies



* [Broadcast IP Transformation Report](#)

SRT Feature Matrix (Live Streaming over Public Networks)

1. Connectivity

- Firewall traversal ✓
- NAT traversal ✗ (TODO?: RFC-8445 ICE)
- Connection migration ✗ ?
- Network switching ✗ ?
- Connection Rejection Reason !

2. Access Control

- User Authentication ✓ (username is not encrypted)
- Resource Request ✓ (not encrypted)
- Stream Definition ! (TODO: RFC-4566: SDP)

3. Security

- Encryption: AES-CTR 128/192/256 ✓
- Pre-shared password + PBKD2 ✓
- TLS ✗ (Could be added?)
- DTLS ! (potentially works)

4. Content delivery

- Content agnostic ✓ (MPEG-TS, RTP, ES, ...)
- Stream multiplexing ✓
- UDP unicast (bidirectional) ✓
- UDP multicast ✗ (TODO?)
- Loss recovery
 - ARQ (ACK, NAK, Retransmit) ✓
 - FEC ✓ (v1.4.0)
 - Connection bonding: broadcast ✓ (v1.5.0 in progress)
- Packet reordering / jitter ✓
- Varying latency (RTT) handling ✓
- Too-late Packet Drop (real-time) ✓
- Congestion control ✓ (to be improved)
- Flow control ✓ (to be improved)
- Network friendliness ✓ (to be improved)

5. Connection Bonding ✓ (v1.5.0 in progress)

- Data duplication (broadcast)
- Backup link
- Smart link utilization (balancing)

Thank you!

For more info:

- SRT RFC Draft Proposal

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-sharabayko-mops-srt/>

- SRT Technical Overview

https://github.com/Haivision/srt/files/2489142/SRT_Protocol_TechnicalOverview_DRAFT_2018-10-17.pdf

- SRT Open-source Library

<https://github.com/Haivision/srt>

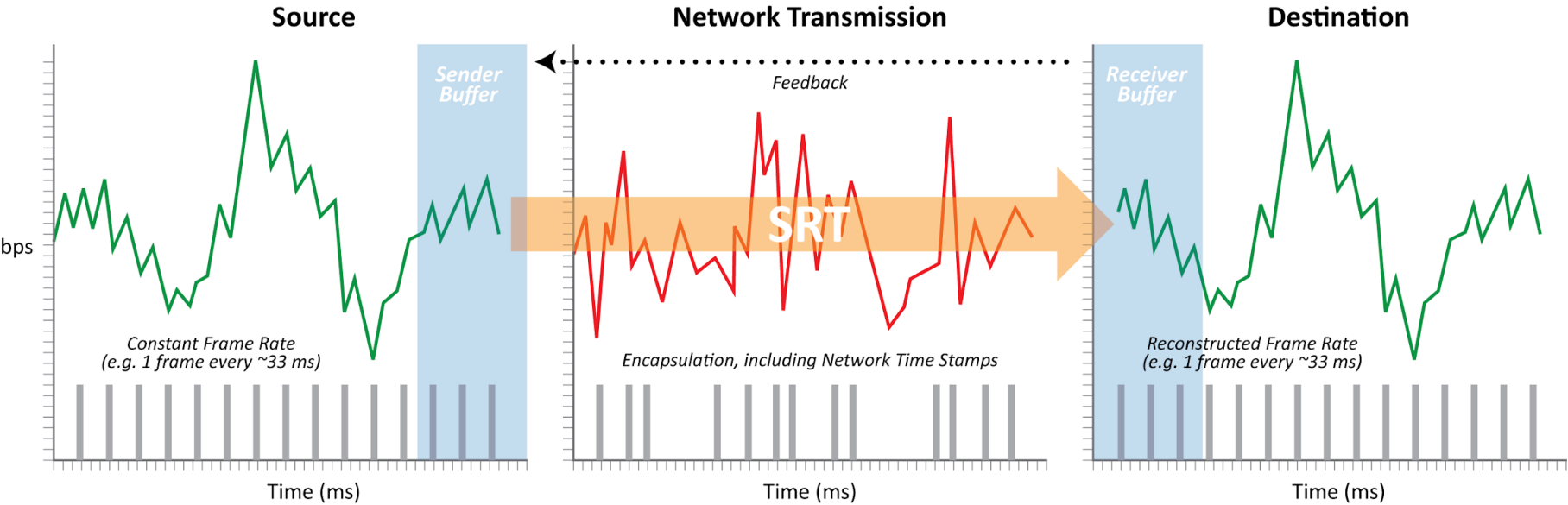
- SRT Alliance

<https://www.srtalliance.org/>

- SRT Slack Channel

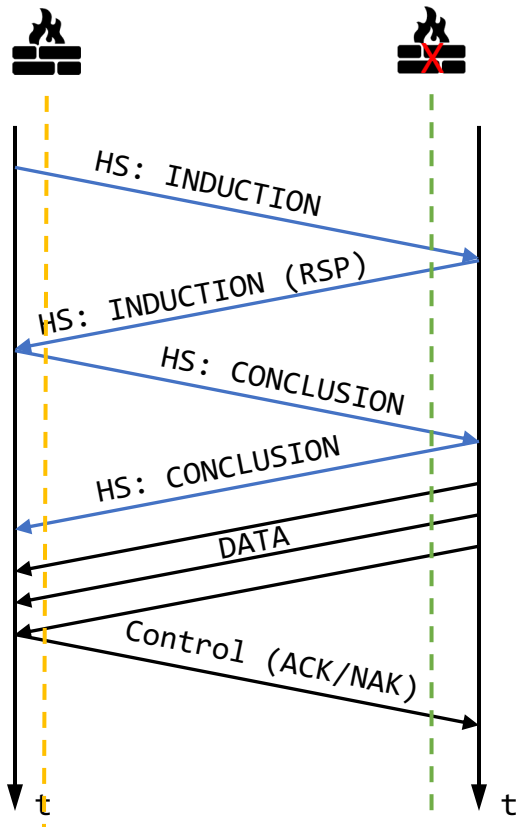
<https://srtalliance.slack.com/>

Live Stream Integrity & Timing

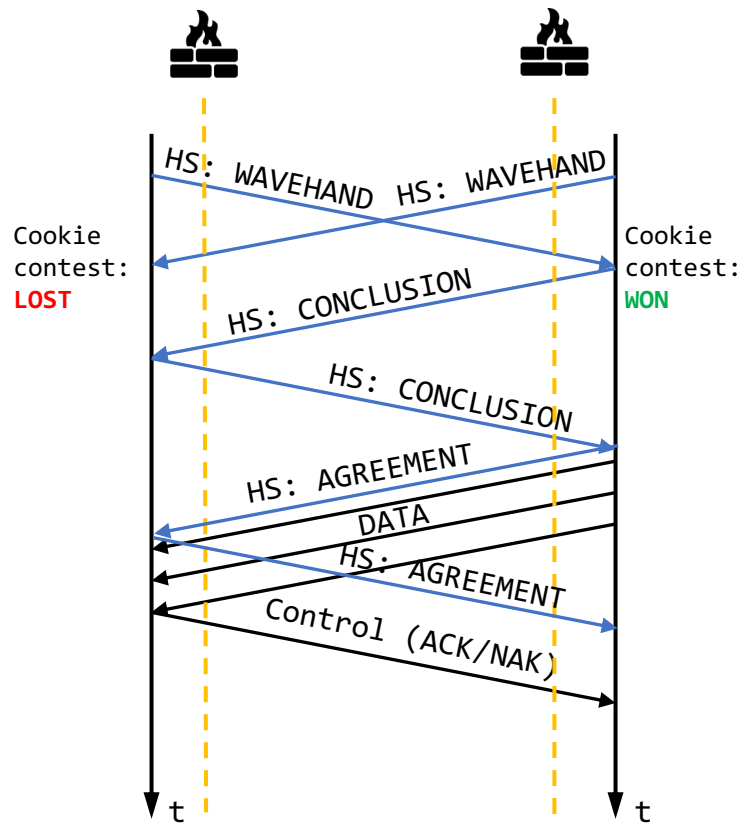


Connection Establishment

Caller-Listener Handshake



Rendezvous Handshake



**Firewall
Friendly**

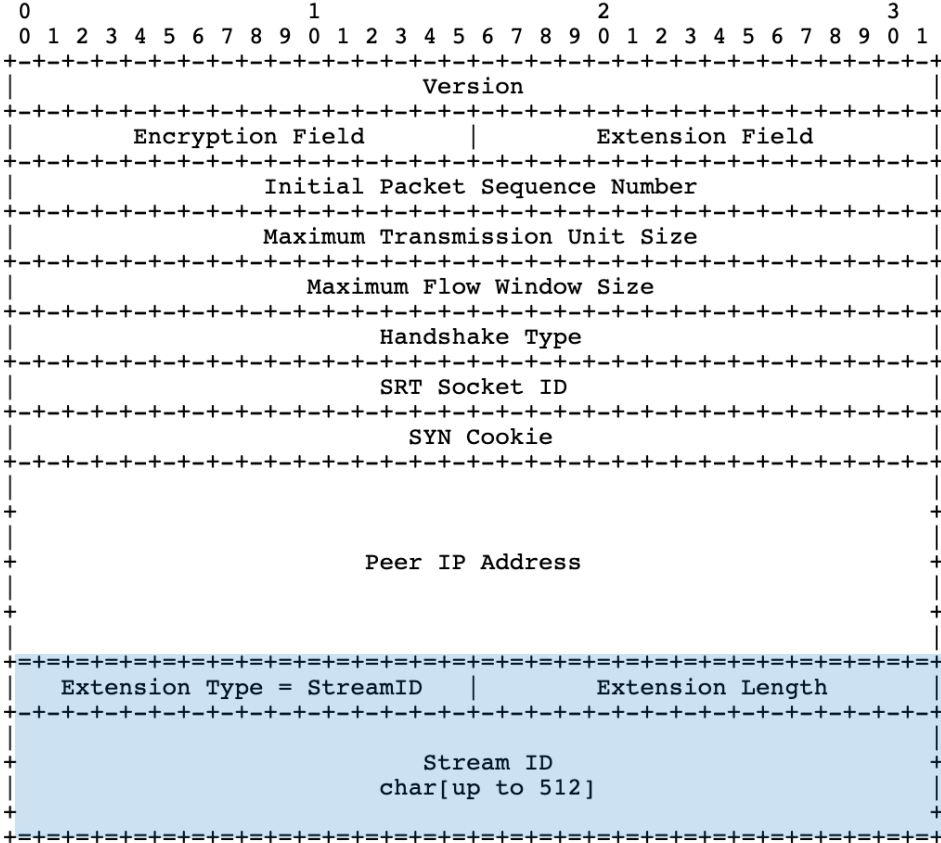
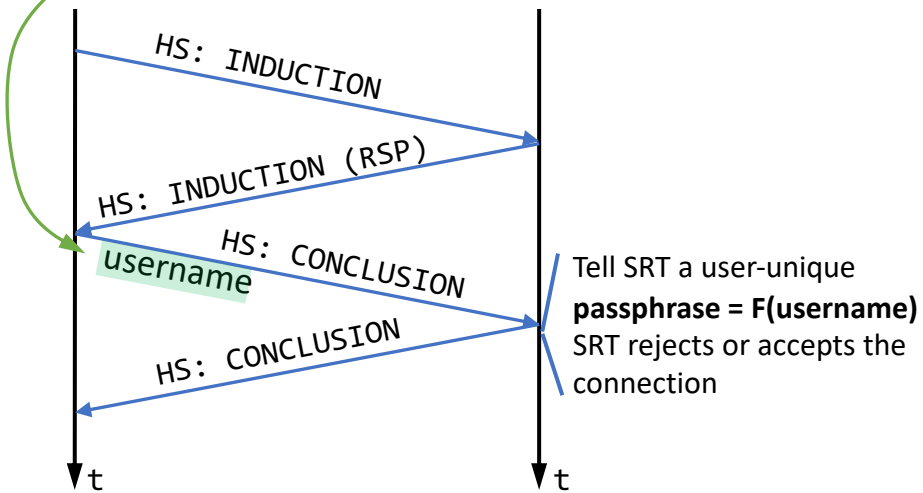
Establish quality streams from event centers and unknown locations without IT involvement.

SRT Access Control

The Stream ID free-form value, but there is a recommended convention.

Example content: ↘ requested resource ID

```
#!::u=admin,r=ietf_107_srt_overview
```



SRT Packets

Types of SRT Packets

0: Data Packet

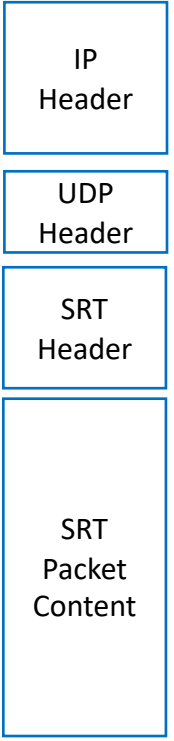
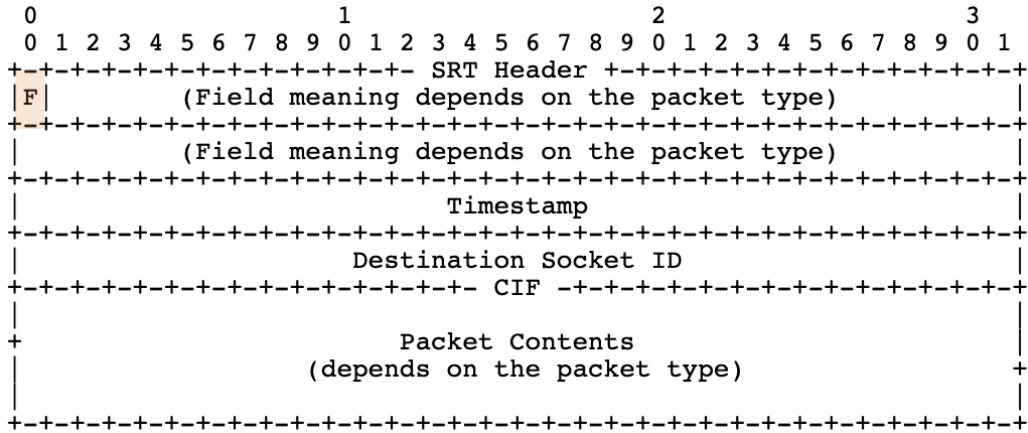
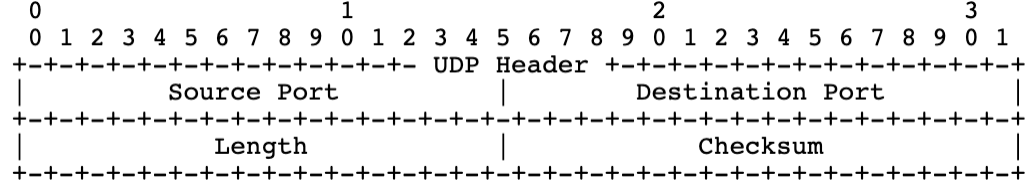
- Data (content to transmit)
- Filtering packet (FEC)

F=0

1: Control Packet

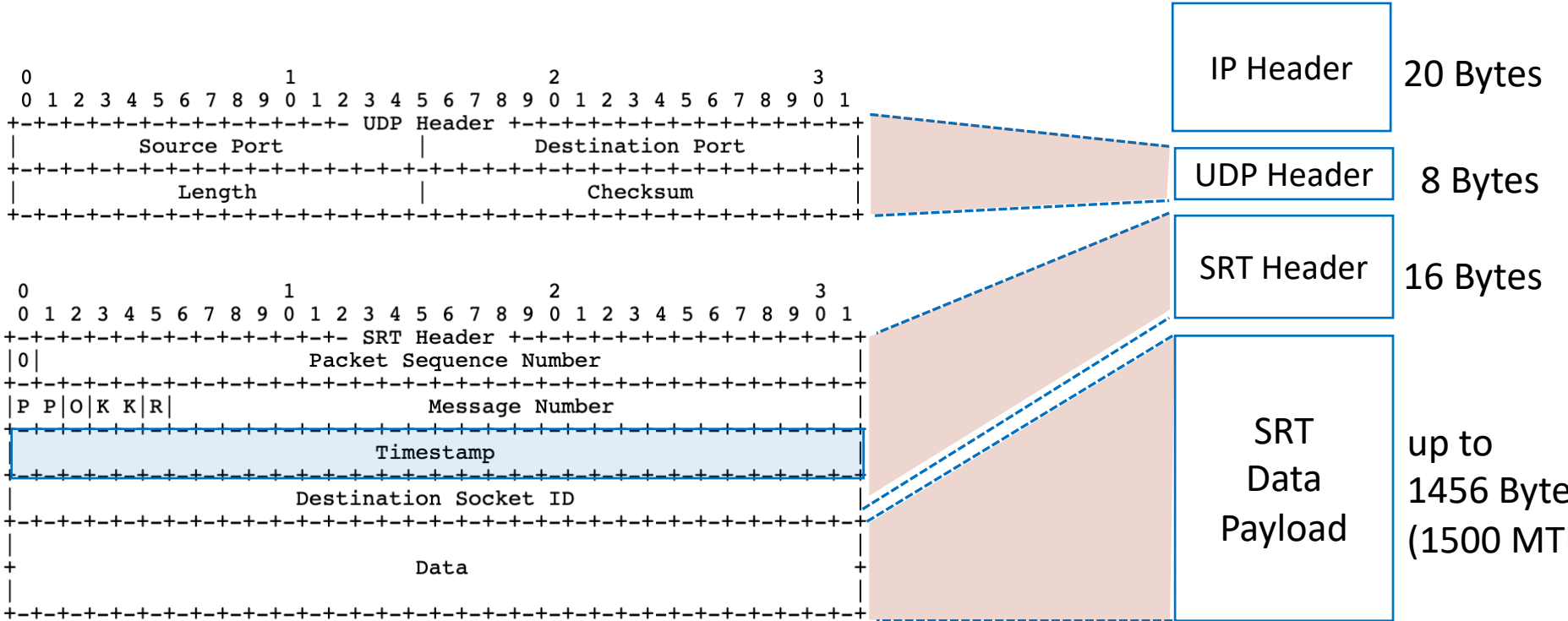
- HANDSHAKE
- KEEPALIVE
- ACK
- NAK (Loss Report)
- SHUTDOWN
- ACKACK

F=1

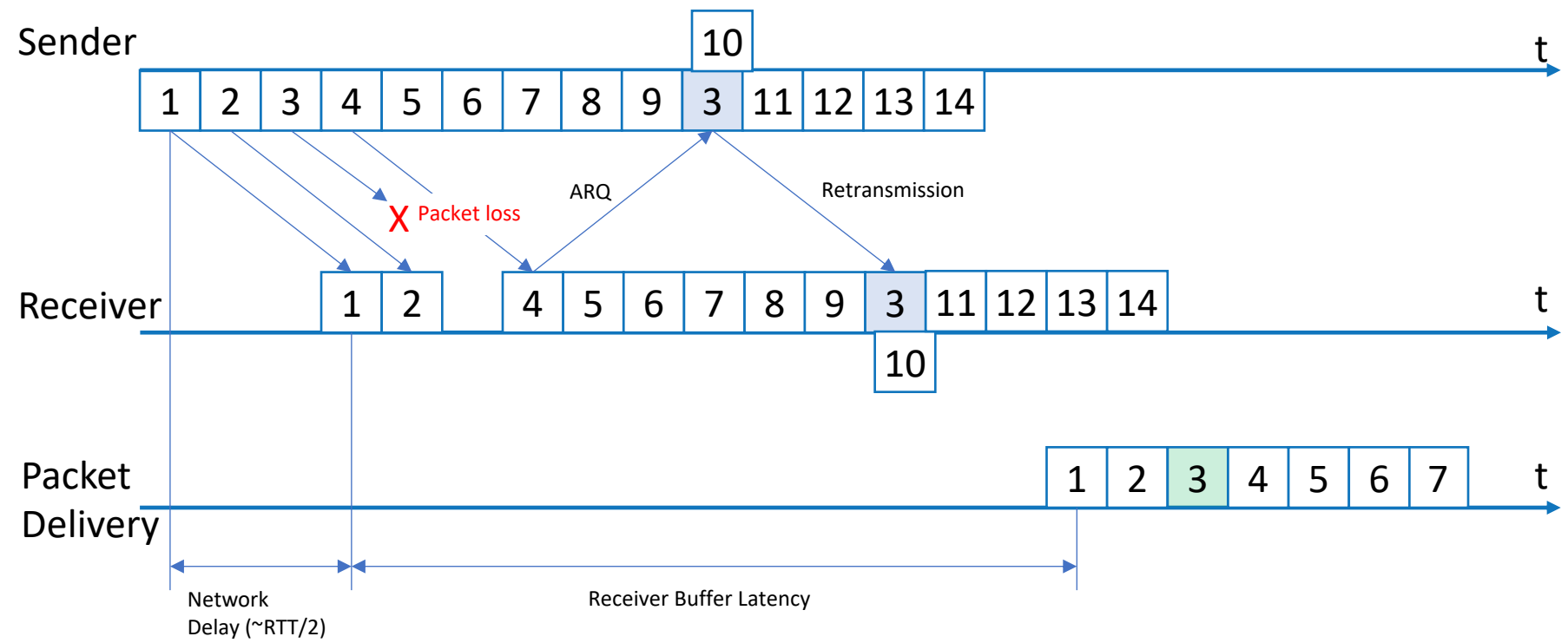


UDP Payload

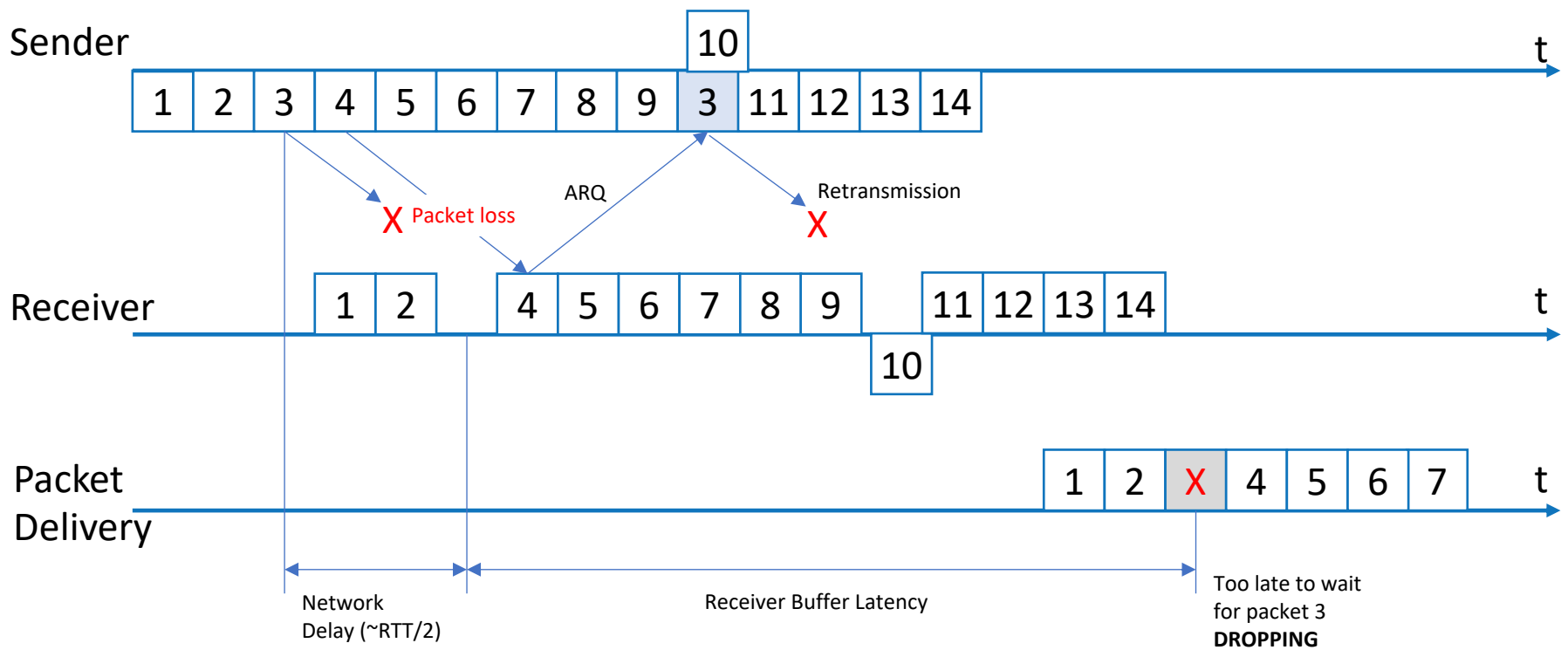
SRT Data Packet



Timestamp Based Packet Delivery (TSBPD)



Too-Late Packet Drop (TL Packet Drop)



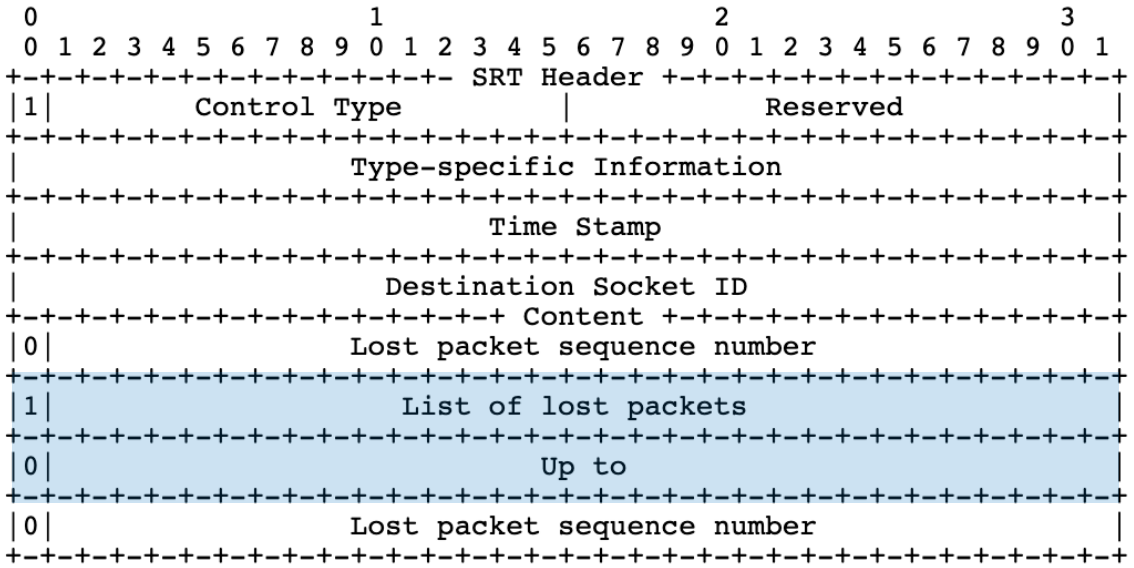
Negative Acknowledgement

Two types of loss reports:

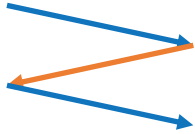
- Loss-triggered NAK reports
- Periodic NAK reports

NAK packet can transmit:

- A single lost packet sequence number;
- A range of sequence numbers of lost packets.



Packet Recovery Options



ARQ

- Loss-triggered NAK reports
- Periodic NAK reports



FEC

- Error correction packet
- Packet Filter API allows custom implementation

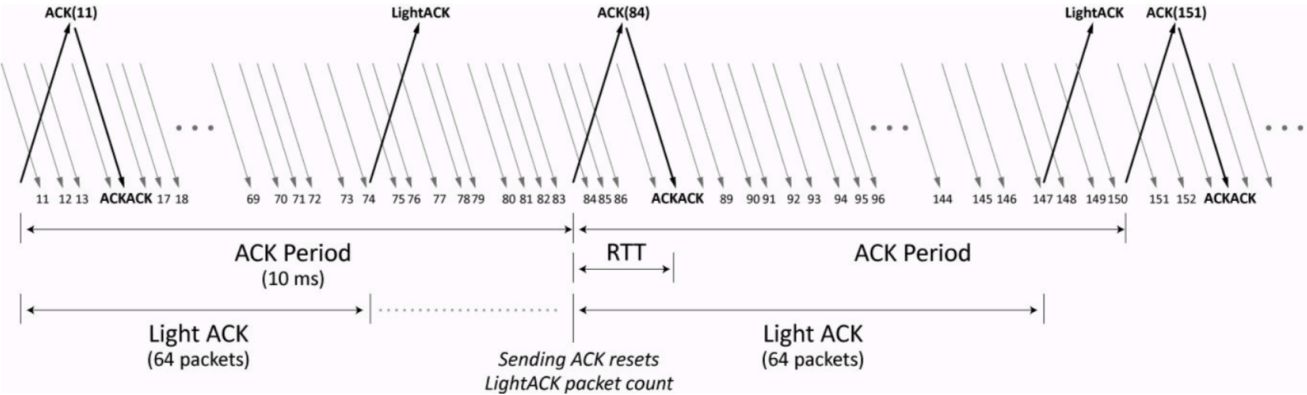
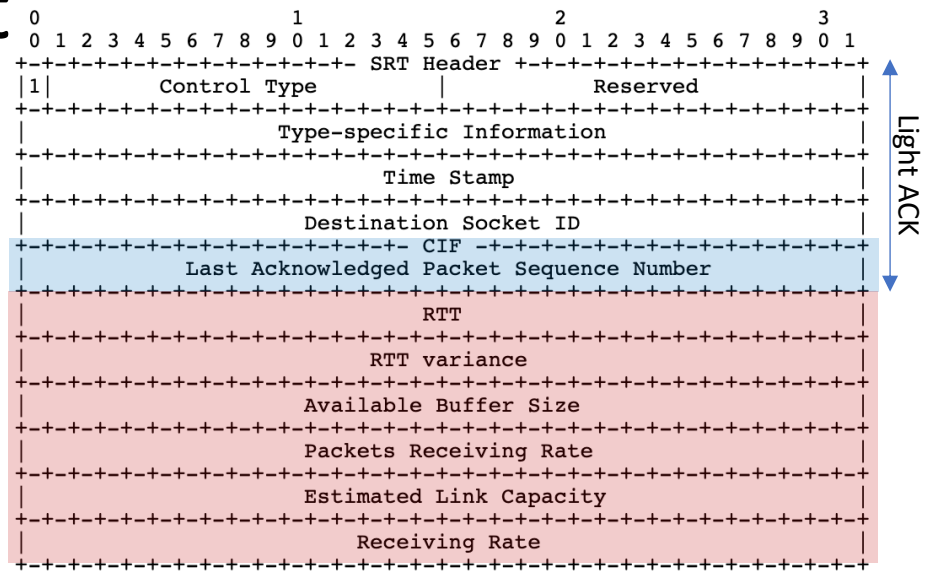


Bonded connections

- Broadcast
- Main-backup
- Load balancing

Positive Acknowledgement

- Acknowledge received packet by its sequence number
- Lost packets block further ACK
- ACK is sent every 10 ms
- Additional info: RTT, Link Capacity, ...
- Full ACK is sent every 10ms
- Light ACK is sent on every 64 pkts



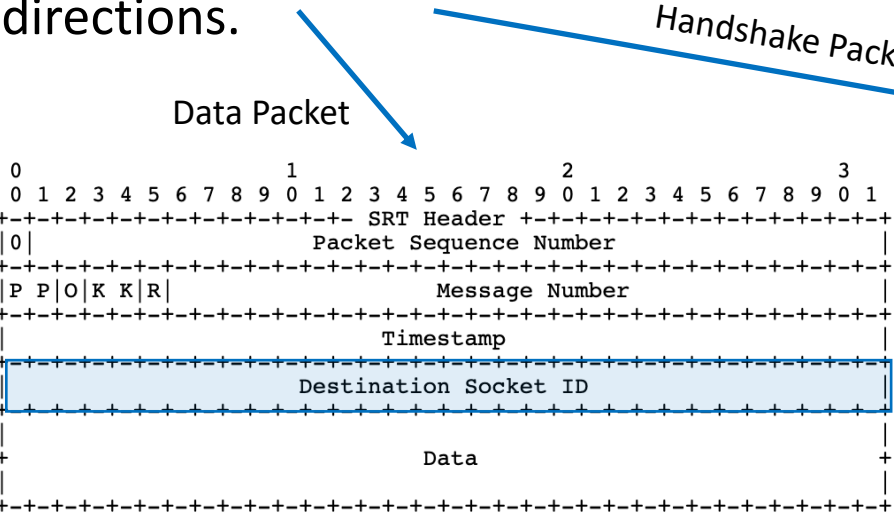
Congestion Control

Sender gets from the receiver:

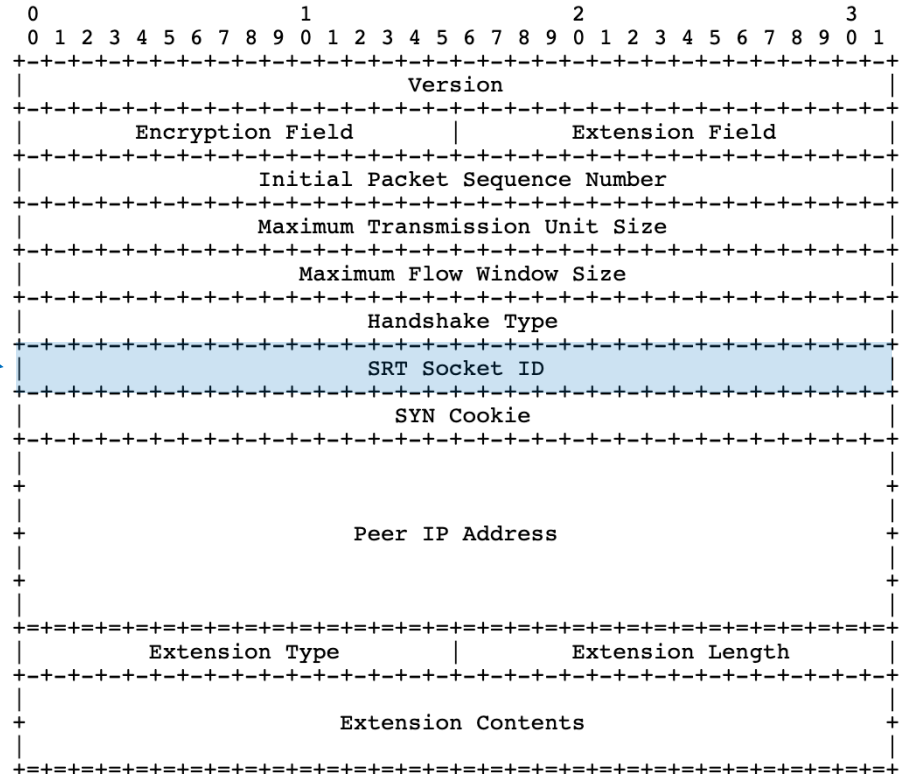
- NAK packet to determine losses
- ACK packets (every 10 ms) to get updates on:
 - RTT
 - RTT variance
 - Estimated link capacity
 - Available receiver buffer
 - Receiving rate
- Congestion control can use this feedback to make decisions!

Stream Multiplexing and Bidirectional Transmission

Both peers know each other's IP and **SRT Socket ID** to communicate with data and control packets in both directions.



Handshake Packet



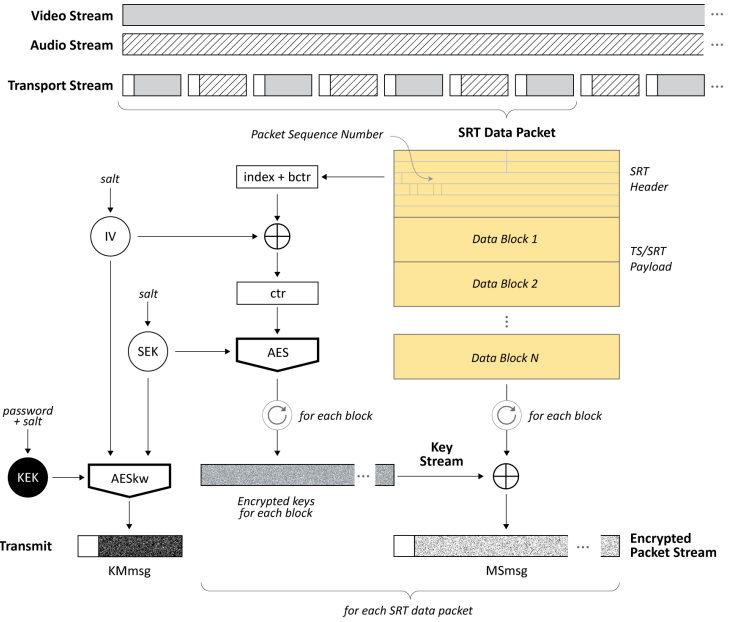
Security & Encryption

Refer to SRT Technical Overview

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- AES 128/192/256-bit encrypted
- Payload encrypted with cipher in AES-CTR mode
- Secret/pass-phrase is not part of the protocol (application layer)

Encryption & Transmission



Reception & Decryption

