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Q. Wu  
R. Even  
R. Huang  
Huawei  
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**Guideline for dynamic payload type number usage policy  
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Abstract

The RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences with Minimal Control (RTP/AVP) is the basis for many other profiles, such as the Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP/SAVP), the Extended RTP Profile for Real-time Transport Control Protocol (RTCP)-Based Feedback (RTP/AVPF), and the Extended Secure RTP Profile for RTCP-Based Feedback (RTP/SAVPF). This document provides guidelines for payload type number usage policy when dynamic payload type allocation is used. Also this document updates closed IANA registry "RTP Payload types (PT) for standard audio and video encodings".

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## [1.](#) Introduction

The RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences with Minimal Control (RTP/AVP) [[RFC3551](#)] is the basis for many other profiles, such as the Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP/SAVP), the Extended RTP Profile for Real-time Transport Control Protocol (RTCP)-Based Feedback (RTP/AVPF), and the Extended Secure RTP Profile for RTCP-Based Feedback (RTP/SAVPF). RTP Payload type can have the values 0 to 127. The binding of RTP payload format to Payload type can be static or dynamic. [[RFC3551](#)] establishes the policy that no additional static payload types will be assigned beyond the ones defined. As described in [RFC5761](#), dynamic RTP payload types SHOULD be chosen first from the range 96-127. Values below 64 MAY be used if that is insufficient.

However some implementations may still exhaust the dynamic payload type numbering space before re-using a payload type within the scope of a local transport address. This document provides guidelines for payload type number usage policy when dynamic payload type allocation is used. Also this document updates closed IANA registry "RTP Payload types (PT) for standard audio and video encodings".

## [2.](#) 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](#) [[RFC2119](#)].



### 3. Use of Dynamic payload type

As described in [section 3 of RFC3551](#) [RFC3551], the payload type number space is relatively small and cannot accommodate assignments for all existing and future encodings. The registry for RTP Payload types (PT) for standard audio and video encodings [<http://www.iana.org/assignments/rtp-parameters/rtp-parameters.xhtml#rtp-parameters-1>] is closed. New payload formats (e.g., H.264, VP8) MUST use dynamic payload type number assignment. Each new payload format MUST be named as "encoding name" by a registered media subtype defined in the "RTP Payload Format media types" registry. The "encoding name" in the RTP payload type registry is also registered as a media subtype under the media type "audio" or "video" in the "RTP Payload Format media types" registry.

When these dynamic payload types are used, SDP [RFC4566] or other protocols such as ITU-T Recommendation H.323/H.245 [H323] [H245] are used to establish dynamic mapping between a payload type and an encoding.

[RFC5761] discusses conflicts that may happen when multiplexing RTP and RTCP is the same transport stream. When considering which payload type numbers should be used for mapping RTP dynamic streams, the documents does not differentiate between the cases when RTP and RTCP are multiplexed or not.

When the dynamic mapping is needed, implementers can use the payload types in the lower range for dynamic payload type allocation, including the overriding the static ones. Applications SHOULD first use values in the range [96-127] for dynamic payload types. Those applications which need to define more than 32 dynamic payload types MAY bind codes below 96, in which case it is RECOMMENDED that unassigned payload type numbers [35-63] followed by [20-24], 27, [29-30]. If more payload type numbers are needed, the application may use the reserved values 1, 2, 19 (see [RFC3551] for reserved values) and 64, 65 (see [RFC5761] for reserved value) if H.261 FIR or H.261 NACK is not used. However using 64, 65 may potentially cause collisions with legacy use. If more Payload type numbers are needed, then applications may override the static types [0, 3-18, 25, 26, 28, 31-34] and map encodings to these defined static payload type but this may cause problems for applications that ignore the mapping in the signaling and may assume a specific payload format based on the Payload Type. If the application is sure that multiplexing RTP and RTCP are not used, the range 66 and 95 MAY be used but to add extra caution it will be better to use the pt numbers that are not conflicting with the currently assigned RTCP values.



The closed IANA registry "RTP Payload types (PT) for standard audio and video encodings" is updated as follows:

RTP Payload types (PT) for standard audio and video encodings - Closed

Registration Procedure(s)

Registry closed; see [\[RFC3551\], Section 3](#)

Reference

[\[RFC3551\]](#) [\[RFC5761\]](#) [RFCxxxx]

Note

The RFC "RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences with Minimal Control" [\[RFC3551\]](#) specifies an initial set "payload types". This list maintains and extends that list. The list is update by [RFCxxxx] to allow using more pt numbers for dynamic mapping.

PT	Encoding Name	Audio/Video (A/V)	Clock Rate	Channels	Reference
0	PCMU	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
1	Reserved-may be used for dynamic mapping				[RFCxxxx]
2	Reserved-may be used for dynamic mapping				[RFCxxxx]
3	GSM	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
4	G723	A	8000	1	[Vineet_Kumar] [RFC3551]
5	DVI4	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
6	DVI4	A	16000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
7	LPC	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
8	PCMA	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
9	G722	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
10	L16	A	44100	2	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
11	L16	A	44100	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
12	QCELP	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>
13	CN	A	8000	1	<a href="#">[RFC3389]</a>

14	MPA	A	90000		[ <a href="#">RFC3551</a> ] [RFC2250]
15	G728	A	8000	1	[ <a href="#">RFC3551</a> ]
16	DVI4	A	11025	1	[Joseph_Di_Pol]
17	DVI4	A	22050	1	[Joseph_Di_Pol]
18	G729	A	8000	1	[ <a href="#">RFC3551</a> ]
19	Reserved-may be used for dynamic mapping				[RFCxxxx]
20	Unassigned	A			
21	Unassigned	A			
22	Unassigned	A			
23	Unassigned	A			
24	Unassigned	V			
25	CelB	V	90000		[ <a href="#">RFC2029</a> ]
26	JPEG	V	90000		[ <a href="#">RFC2435</a> ]
27	Unassigned	V			
28	nv	V	90000		[ <a href="#">RFC3551</a> ]
29	Unassigned	V			
30	Unassigned	V			
31	H261	V	90000		[ <a href="#">RFC4587</a> ]
32	MPV	V	90000		[ <a href="#">RFC2250</a> ]
33	MP2T	AV	90000		[ <a href="#">RFC2250</a> ]
34	H263	V	90000		[Chunrong_Zhu]
35-63	Unassigned				
64-65	Reserved-may be used for dynamic mapping				[RFCxxxx]
66-71	Reserved for RTCP conflict avoidance				[ <a href="#">RFC5761</a> ]

72-82	Reserved already used by RTCP	<a href="#">[RFC5761]</a>
83-95	Reserved for RTCP conflict avoidance	<a href="#">[RFC5761]</a>
96-127	dynamic	<a href="#">[RFC3551]</a>

The table includes the different set of changes and make the current state clear. This should have the original table in the "RTP Payload types (PT) for standard audio and video encodings" registry with the following changes:

- o Change 1,2, 19 64-65 from "Reserved" to "reserved may be used for dynamic mapping" and reference this document.
- o Change 66-71 to reserved for rtcp conflict avoidance.
- o Change 72-82 to reserved used by RTCP.
- o Change 83-95 to reserved for RTCP conflict avoidance.

Editor note: do we want to recommend re-use of payload type in bundled m-lines if they map to the same payload format here?

#### **4. Security Considerations**

This document modifies the IANA allocation of RTP Payload Types in relationship to [RFC 3551](#). This policy change itself does not add security concerns to the ones in [\[RFC3551\]](#) and [\[RFC5761\]](#).

#### **5. IANA Considerations**

This section describes changes to the IANA Considerations sections outlined in [RFC 3551](#) regarding the allocation of payload type number by IANA.

Add to the note in <http://www.iana.org/assignments/rtp-parameters/rtp-parameters.xhtml> the following text "Policy for mapping of dynamic payload type numbers to payload format is defined in RFCxxxx [this document]."

The table in [section 3](#) replaces the current closed table.



## **6. Acknowledgements**

The content of this document is the result of the work in the IETF Audio/Video Transport Core Maintenance (AVTCORE) working group. We would therefore like to thank all the working group members who were involved in that discussion. While it appears to be a fairly small change in the usage policy and allocation policy, the effect on implementations is rather dramatic.

## **7. References**

### **7.1. Normative References**

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", March 1997.
- [RFC3551] Schulzrinne, H. and S. Casner, "RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences with Minimal Control", [RFC 3551](#), July 2003.
- [RFC5761] Perkins, C. and M. Westerlund, "Multiplexing RTP Data and Control Packets on a Single Port", [RFC 5761](#), April 2010.

### **7.2. Informative References**

- [H246] ITU, "Advanced video coding for generic audiovisual services", Recommendation H.264, January 2012.
- [H323] ITU, "Packet based multimedia communication systems", Recommendation H.323, July 2003.
- [RFC4566] Handley, M., Jacobson, V., and C. Perkins, "SDP: Session Description Protocol", [RFC 4566](#), July 2006.

#### **Authors' Addresses**

Qin Wu  
Huawei  
101 Software Avenue, Yuhua District  
Nanjing, Jiangsu 210012  
China

Email: [sunseawq@huawei.com](mailto:sunseawq@huawei.com)

Roni Even  
Huawei  
14 David Hamelech  
Tel, Aviv 64953  
Israel

Email: ron.even.tlv@gmail.com

Rachel Huang  
Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.  
101 Software Avenue, Yuhua District  
Nanjing, Jiangsu 210012  
China

Email: Rachel@huawei.com