



IPDR.org Newsletter December 2004

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CableLabs Mandates Streaming IPDR

The new version of the DOCSIS OSS Specification was released on Dec. 10, 2004. One of the highlights of this DOCSIS specification is the Subscriber Accounting Management Interface SYSTEM (SAMIS) requiring IPDR/Streaming protocol as the mandatory implementation for DOCSIS usage based measurement. In a major win for BSS interoperability, it is expected to see deployment by major MSO's.

At their NDA Vendor meeting in August 2004, CableLabs announced that instead of creating a DOCSIS 2.1 specification, several features would be incorporated into the existing 2.0 specification via ECNs. Among the enhancements slated for DOCSIS 2.0 was an updated SAMIS with newer versions of IPDR protocols (i.e., IPDR Streaming Protocol).

Kudos to the Protocols Working Group for all their hard work in ensuring that the IPDR Streaming Protocol was completed on time for inclusion in this specification. The next step will be implementation and testing within upcoming CableLabs Interoperability and Certification Wave events.

If you are interested in participating in the Protocols Working Group (PWG), please contact the PWG chair, Tal Givoly (tal.givoly@amdocs.com).

ATIS/TMOC Bringing IPDR Toward National Standard

The ATIS TMOC committee (formerly T1M1) has adopted a work item to bring IPDR Specification(s) toward ANSI and ITU-T as accredited American and international standards respectively. A mailing list has been created and work is ongoing under the joint auspices of the TMOC AIP team and under the IPDR Protocols Working Group.

The charter for the work is as follows: "There is a need for an American National Standard regarding the accounting interface between VoIP-handling network and service elements and OSS/BSS. For this purpose, VoIP-handling network and service elements could include VoIP gateways, gatekeepers, media gateway controllers, etc. Typical OSS/BSS that may be involved would include mediation systems, billing systems, EMS, etc. See TMOC/IPDR Collaboration Terms of Reference (T1M1/2003-204Rx)"

If and when the process completes, it will signify substantial completion of IPDR Organization's efforts to develop a cross-platform, cross-sector, and cross-BSS common standard for accounting and measurement of next generation services.

Any and all members with an interest in VoIP accounting or measurement are strongly encouraged to participate in this important work activity. Thanks to Tal Givoly (tal.givoly@amdocs.com) for serving as the convener of the joint team.

Content Industry Liaison Proceeds

What \$30 Billion dollar industry is rapidly making the conversion to online "per transaction" delivery?

Music. Already, ring tones constitute a \$4 Billion dollar market; online music sales more than triple every year.

In the Telecommunications OSS/BSS space, service providers are accustomed to spending billions of dollars every year to route and track customer usage and billing. This practice is entirely unfamiliar to most music houses, who have traditionally distributed music only on physical media. The BSS revolution in music is coming as iTunes, MusicMatch, RealNetworks, and others rapidly expand their online offerings.

IPDR members interested in tapping into one of the fastest growing transactional markets on the internet are encouraged to participate in the joint work underway between Content Reference Forum and the IPDR Business Requirements Working Group. Contact co-chairpersons Betty Cockrell (betty.cockrell@billingconcepts.com) and Pat Walls (Patricia.Walls@syniverse.com) for additional information.

IPDR.org Reference Libraries Available – Enhanced 3.5 Versions of C and Java

The new versions of the C and Java Libraries are now available for members to download. Ken Sarno, the IPDR.org project manager for this initiative, oversaw technical resources contracted through Infosys Technologies. The new libraries are now compatible with the IPDR Document Set 3.5, and include the following enhancements:

1. The upgrade provides **Backward Compatibility**.
2. The **Schema Partitioning** changed from IPDR v3.1.1. A new schema, "IPDRTypes.xsd" is now supported.
3. The **Compact Format Definition** has changed from IPDR v3.1.1. Another deviation from RFC1823 is introduced, which is the elimination of the use of padding to 4 byte boundaries.
4. The **Enumerations** has changed from IPDR v3.1.1. The base type which used to be "string" is now "integer". Also, an application information element 'enumMeaning' is introduced to describe the meaning of the integer enumeration.
5. **Structures and Arrays** have been upgraded to support IPDR v3.5. This is a new requirement.
6. The **Version Number** has been changed appropriately for the upgrade from IPDR v3.1.1 to IPDR v3.5.
7. The **Primitive Types** representation has changed from IPDR v3.1.1. The type which used to be represented by integers is now represented by hexadecimal values.

8. The **Capability File** format has changed from IPDR v3.1.1. A new child element, BRRecord, is included. This new element is of complex type and contains 30 new child elements.

Additional enhancements to the Java libraries are slated to support the IPDR WLAN Settlement work, and the new version of the library is expected to be completed and released to members in January 2005.

The libraries are currently only available to IPDR.org members and can be accessed via the links below.

Java Library: http://www.ipdr.org/members/pubs/java_ipdr_3.5.tar.gz

C Library: http://www.ipdr.org/members/pubs/c_ipdrbase_1.0.0.tar.gz

For questions and comments, please send an email to Ken Sarno at kensarno@ipdr.org.

IPDR v3.5.1 Document Set Is Now Available

The IPDR Organization has recently released an incremental revision to the IPDR Document Set. The updated release accommodates feedback from CableLabs® in accordance with their DOCSIS™ 2.0 release, which makes our technology a requirement in every DOCSIS deployment going forward. The set can be accessed via the IPDR.org web site <http://www.ipdr.org/public/DocumentMap/DocMap.htm>

Below is a summary of the revisions that were made to the documents:

Requirements—Business Solution-NDM-U	3.5.0.1	Cosmetic editing, exposed NDM-U name
Requirements—Business Solution-S/PS	1.0.0.1	Cosmetic editing
Protocol—Encoding/XML	3.5.0.1	Cosmetic editing
Protocol—Encoding/XDR	3.5.1	Added data types to support Streaming Protocol, CableLabs® requirements, added examples of encoding
Protocol—Transport/File	3.5.0.1	Cosmetic editing
Protocol—Transport/Streaming	2.1	Incorporated changes in response to issues brought up in implementation of reference code and review by CableLabs®
Protocol—Transport/Capabilities Negotiation	3.5.0.1	Cosmetic editing
Protocol Version Serial Number	4	No change
Service Specification Design Guidelines	3.5.1	Added new data types
Service Specification—VoIP	3.5-A.0.1	Cosmetic editing
Service Specification—Streaming Media	3.5-A.0.1	Cosmetic editing
Service Specification—Public WLAN Access	3.5-A.0.1	Cosmetic editing
Service Specification – CableLabs® DOCSIS® 2.0	3.5-A.0	Major new schema release in support of mandatory use of IPDR/SP in DOCSIS® 2.0 SAMIS specification

IPDR.org is continually looking to improve for the specifications, so if you have any comments regarding these documents, please send them to editor@ipdr.org.

New Member Companies

IPDR.org welcomed the following companies as new Associate members.

- BrainShield Technologies (www.brainshield.com);
- Primal Solutions (www.primal.com);
- US Department of Defense, Defense Information Systems Agency (www.disa.mil).

Marketing Working Group Update

At the members meeting in September, 2004, a proposed initiative to keep the public more informed and to provide additional touch-points was introduced. An "Open Information Session" will be held on a quarterly basis via a conference call or web-based technology, and will allow non-members an opportunity to hear from and speak with the IPDR.org President regarding the organization, its mission, work programs and future direction the organization is envisioning. The first session has been scheduled for mid December 2004. Invitations to the event have been extended to those who download specifications from the IPDR.org web site, as well as various emails received through the general information account or specifically through the staff. If you know of any individual who may benefit from participating in these sessions, please forward their contact information to mjenkinson@idpr.org.

In addition, as our members know, IPDR.org relies heavily on our web site to get information out to the members and the public domain. Since beginning to track the IPDR.org site traffic, we have seen a steady increase in activity. In keeping with this trend, IPDR.org is excited to see our average daily unique users increase 30% over the past four months. The web site is now topping at over 7,000 visitors a month.

If you are interested in participating in the Marketing Working Group, or attending the Open Information Session, please contact mjenkinson@ipdr.org.

2005 IPDR.org Annual Membership Invoicing

IPDR.org has recently sent out invoices for the 2005 membership renewal. The organization is again offering a discount off the regular Charter and Supporting membership fees for those companies who pay their invoice prior to January 31, 2005. The discount has been reflected on the invoice. If you know that your billing contact has changed, or would like to confirm who your invoice was sent to, contact Marianne Jenkinson via phone at 908-735-0956 or email at mjenkinson@idpr.org.