



IPDR.org Newsletter August 2004

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Improved v3.5 Document Map and Overview Guide

IPDR documentation is now as modular as any best-of-breed solution. With the simultaneous introduction of Streaming IPDR and Settlement capabilities all in version 3.5, the documentation set called for a major improvement in navigability. As the number of mutually compatible flavours of IPDR has grown, so too has the need to offer concise, mutually referential documentation for each.

IPDR.org recently released Version 3.5 of the IPDR.org Document Set, which contains all of the current IPDR.org specifications, as well as a Document Map and Overview Guide. The Document Map and Overview Guide assist users in identifying the various available IPDR.org specifications and show how those specifications are linked and how they inter-relate.

The Document Map is an interactive file that also allows users to instantly have access to the requested document with just a click of the mouse.

Included in the v3.5 Document Set are the newly released IPDR.org specifications: IPDR Streaming Protocol, Supplier/Partner Settlement Service Specification, and IPDR Public WLAN Access Service Specifications. In addition, service specifications supporting VoIP, Streaming Media, and CableLabs DOCSIS are also included, and upgraded to be v3.5 compliant.

IPDR.org would like to continue to solicit users of the specifications to provide feedback (i.e., technical enhancements, errors, implementation experiences), to the IPDR.org Technical Editor. Comments should be provided in an email to editor@ipdr.org. IPDR.org publicly available documents can be downloaded from the IPDR.org web site at www.ipdr.org.

IPDR.org Library Updates Underway

IPDR-File Updated

IPDR Settlement is coming to SourceForge soon! The extended features necessary to support WLAN (and other forms of) Settlement were introduced in NDM-U 3.5, and now the open source libraries provided by IPDR.org are upgrading to match.

The released version of the IPDR libraries is currently 3.1.1 based on older NDM-U 3.1.1 specifications. In order for the Libraries (both C and Java) to be compatible with the IPDR Document Set 3.5, IPDR.org has again contracted with Infosys to provide the necessary technical resources to complete the upgrade and enhancements. Ken Sarno, project manager on behalf of IPDR.org, is working with the WLANAS

Technical Working Group as a user group, as well as the Protocol Working Group to solicit design input to the project.

Initially, the enhancements identified for the upgrade from IPDR v3.1.1 to IPDR v3.5 are as follows:

1. The upgrade must provide **Backward Compatibility**. This is a **non-functional** requirement and is a pre-requisite for the functional requirements.
2. The **Schema Partitioning** changed from IPDR v3.1.1. A new schema, "IPDRTypes.xsd" needs to be 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** need to be supported in IPDR v3.5. This is a new requirement.
6. The **Version Number** needs to be 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.

The new library set is expected to be completed and available by December 2004. IPDR.org plans to make these libraries publicly available as soon as they are approved by the membership. Along with the current versions, the libraries will be placed on sourceforge.net.

IPDR-Streaming Kick-off

A Streaming-IPDR library, comprising updates to the 2003 CRANE contribution, is projected to occur under the aegis of the Protocol Working Group. A delivery date for December is targeted for this set of libraries as well. These libraries derive from a separate code base than the IPDR-File libraries in order to assure lightweight, on-board operating system portability.

Cable Industry Considers Streaming IPDR

Who's doing the biggest IP deployment in the USA of late? A new report from Strategy Analytics says that cable modem users will account for 5.2 million new broadband subscribers in 2004, compared to 2.9 million households who will add DSL service.

The IPDR.org Protocols Working Group serves as the venue of active collaboration with CableLabs—helping to set the interface standards to which the international digital cable industry complies. In the last six months, IPDR.org representatives introduced the Streaming Protocol to the appropriate working groups within CableLabs; the new technology was met there with great enthusiasm. CableLabs and MSO's are seriously considering upgrading the DOCSIS specification to make Streaming IPDR a fundamental component.

In addition, Steve Cotton has prepared IPDR-compliant information models for consideration as part of the PacketCable suite of technologies. Several participating architects see the potential for Streaming IPDR as a unifying technology supporting diverse aspects of cable industry standards – including capacity management, fault management, usage measurement, billing, and possibly even network provisioning.

Contact Protocol WG chairman tal.givoly@amdocs.com if interested in joining this work.

Telco Industry Considers IPDR in Framework

The long-running IPDR.org liaison with ATIS is active again – now in consideration of the role of IPDR technology within the ATIS tML technology that is already an ITU-T international standard recommendation. The participating ATIS teams – led by T1M1 and the Data Interchange Focus Groups – are quite interested in applying IPDR binary and streaming technology in support of the tML initiative. Rationalization of IPDR service specifications into the tML suite is another consideration.

A number of major service providers are involved in leading this initiative.

As federal and state governments continue to debate intercession into the IP Telephony sphere, ATIS and IPDR are making fruitful steps to bring truly convergent voice communications into the BSS standards realm.

Both parties are considering inaugurating a joint specification project at the September IPDR.org Members Meeting. As well, the IPDR.org Editor-in-Chief will give IPDR.org briefings to several OBF subgroups at their August meetings.

Contact Protocol WG chairman tal.givoly@amdocs.com if interested in joining this work.

Content Industry Update

The IPDR Settlement Working Group serves as the venue of active collaboration with the Content Reference Forum – a leader in establishing standards for the online exchange of secure digital content. The Content Reference Forum is working with the IPDR.org experts on problems of settlement records and detailed financial data flows.

Both groups already offer fully-fledged specifications in their respective domains. The current effort may be primarily one of determining the appropriate use and mutual reference to each other's work.

Contact Settlement WG chairman pankaj.patel@convergys.com if interested in joining this work.

IPDR.org Members' Meeting

IPDR.org will be hosting the next Members' Meeting on September 29-30, 2004 in San Jose, CA. The meeting is being sponsored by Cisco Systems at their facility (details below). In addition, IPDR.org has secured discounted rates at surrounding hotels.

Largemouth Bass Conference Room

1st Floor Building SJ-21
771 Alder Drive
Milpitas California 95035

Although a specific agenda has not yet been completed the following topics will be presented:

- IPDR.org current status and plans for 2005
- Current and future work of the IPDR.org working groups
- IPDR.org Library
- Relationships with Liaison Partners – Where do we go from here?
- Face-to-Face working group meetings

It is important that all member companies are represented at these working meetings, so please plan to send at least one representative from your company. To obtain further details on logistics or to register to attend, please contact Marianne Jenkinson at mjenkinson@ipdr.org.