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Internet of things and smart cities and communities – Frameworks, architectures and protocols

Framework for service interworking with device discovery and management in heterogeneous Internet of things environments

Recommendation ITU-T Y.4477

1-0-1



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Recommendation ITU-T Y.4477

Framework for service interworking with device discovery and management in heterogeneous Internet of things environments

Summary

Recommendation ITU-T Y.4477 specifies a framework for service interworking with device discovery and management in heterogeneous Internet of things environments.

History

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Recommendation ITU-T Y.4477

Framework for service interworking with device discovery and management in heterogeneous Internet of things environments

1 Scope

This Recommendation specifies a framework for service interworking with device discovery and management in heterogeneous Internet of things (IoT) environments.

This Recommendation includes, for service interworking frameworks:

- overviews;
- functional requirements;
- functional architectures;
- procedures.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

None.

3 Definitions

3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

This Recommendation uses the following terms defined elsewhere:

3.1.1 Internet of things (IoT) [b-ITU-T Y.4000]: A global infrastructure for the information society, enabling advanced services by interconnecting (physical and virtual) things based on existing and evolving interoperable information and communication technologies.

NOTE 1 – Through the exploitation of identification, data capture, processing, and communication capabilities, the IoT makes full use of things to offer services to all kinds of applications, whilst ensuring that security and privacy requirements are fulfilled.

NOTE 2 – From a broader perspective, the IoT can be perceived as a vision with technological and societal implications.

3.1.2 service [b-ITU-T Y.101]: A structure set of capabilities intended to support applications.

3.2 Terms defined in this Recommendation

This Recommendation defines the following terms:

3.2.1 device discovery: The process of discovering devices to provide required services.

NOTE - Based on the description of "device and service discovery" in clause 8.3 of [b-ITU-T Y.4101].

3.2.2 service discovery: The process of discovering services to be provided by devices.

NOTE - Based on the description of "device and service discovery" in clause 8.3 of [b-ITU-T Y.4101].

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

СМ	Connection Manager
DB	Database
DR	Device Registry
ID	Identifier
IoT	Internet of Things
LD	Local Device
PM	Profile Manager
RIR	Registry Identifier Resolver
URL	Uniform Resource Locator

5 Conventions

None.

6 Overviews of service interworking

IoT service environments have been developed to support various IoT application domains (e.g., smart home, smart factory, smart building, smart farm and smart city) and many devices (e.g., smartphones, tablets, television sets, vehicles and home appliances). IoT services are also provided with thousands of IoT technologies; furthermore, the technologies can be heterogeneous. For this reason, interworking between IoT devices and services can give rise to difficulties despite both having the same objectives.

For instance, a smart home is a representative IoT service domain, many IoT services for the smart home have started in different ways. There are so many applications for smartphones for services in a smart home. All applications have similar service functions (e.g., remote switch on/off), but they cannot provide service functions for devices that do not have a technical or structural relationship with each other. In other words, a single application cannot provide all IoT services (e.g., controlling connected home appliances) for a smart home. This circumstance is caused by a fragmentation phenomenon of the IoT ecosystem. In addition, such fragmentation has produced heterogeneity of IoT devices, platforms, services and networks.

The heterogeneity in IoT ecosystems gives negative influences on interworking between two or more devices or services. If two home appliances that have the same IoT services (e.g., lighting) are produced by different vendors their services cannot interwork.

To provide interoperability between two heterogeneous IoT services from different providers, a process for transition between them is required by a device. This process of transition will be capable of discovering unknown devices, and managing information for interworking between them. The information will also include data models, protocols and interfaces. Furthermore, heterogeneous IoT services are caused by different IoT service platforms. To provide interoperability between the different service platforms, cross-platform functionality is also required.

This Recommendation specifies a framework of service interworking with device discovery and management in heterogeneous IoT environments with functional requirements, architectures and procedures.

7 Functional requirements of service framework for interworking

7.1 Device discovery for service interworking

Initiation of fundamental environments for device discovery is required in supporting service interworking of their frameworks. Therefore, the service interworking framework is required to:

- collect different device information to provide service interworking in heterogeneous IoT service environments;
- integrate device information in heterogeneous IoT service environments.

7.2 Support for cross-platform services

Device discovery among heterogeneous platforms is required to broadcast and offer device information. It also provides common functions for IoT service interworking. Therefore, the service interworking framework is required to:

- provide a device registration function for device discovery between different IoT service environments, as well as to register service-related information for optimizing service interworking without the involvement of a specific administrator.;
- coordinate different IoT device discovery mechanisms through cross-platform services;
- support an information (e.g., IoT device types) exchange function between different IoT services;
- collect service-related information from heterogeneous IoT service environments;
- support the advertisement of service-related information.

7.3 Data management for heterogeneous services

A service interworking framework requires capabilities for device information management, including mechanisms to collect the device profile, and to monitor device status due to the different properties of IoT services. Therefore, the service interworking framework is required to support:

- the collection of a device profile;
- the monitoring of the device status by monitoring the status of devices, it can identify considerations for surveillance.

7.4 Identification for entities and device profiles

A service interworking framework consists of five different entities (described in clause 9) for communications and device profiles including service functions. The service framework is required to support identification:

- for all entities so that they can communicate with each other;
- of composite device profiles for service interworking.

7.5 Security for service discovery

It is required to provide security functions for service discovery. The data related to service discovery interworking must be secured, trusted and protected, so that unauthorized access needs to be prohibited. Therefore, the service framework is required to:

- protect against unauthorized illegal access a modification process without a permission request must be forbidden;
- secure information management of all devices in local networks and entities in the cloud network.

8 Functional architectures for a service interworking framework

Figure 1 depicts functional architectures for service interworking frameworks in heterogeneous IoT environments.

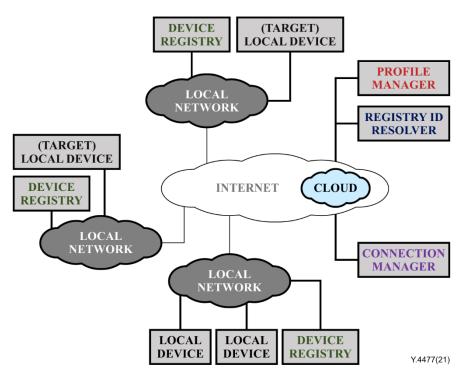


Figure 1 – Functional architectures of a service interworking framework

A service interworking framework consists of three types of centralized entity: the profile manager (PM); registry identifier (ID) resolver (RIR); and connection manager (CM) in the cloud network and two types of distributed entity, such as the device registry (DR) and local device (LD), in local networks. The Internet interconnects all entities in:

- local networks: DR, LD;
- a cloud network: PM, RIR and CM.

The entities in the cloud network are operated and managed by the same service provider. Moreover, the entities in local networks can be operated by different service providers.

The entities in local networks manage the service profiles of an LD for composite integrated services. The entities in cloud network resolution for IDs of device profiles manage information about device profiles. Clause 9 gives detailed information about the functionality of each entity.

9 Functionalities of entities for service interworking framework

9.1 Entities in cloud network

9.1.1 Profile manager

A PM has an objective to support the functionality of intelligent discovery for harmonized device profiles through a context-aware mechanism for composite integrated services. When the LDs appear in local networks, PM registers their information about device profiles in the database (DB) through registration procedures (see clause 10 for details). Furthermore, when an LD demands target device profiles for interworking through discovery procedures, a PM provides the stored information of device profiles to the LD. To do this, PM has two DBs (i.e., *DB_DEVICE_PROFILE* and

DB_SERVICE_PROFILE) exploited for matching service and device profiles. The following scheme shows data structures of the two DBs:

DATABASE: DEVICE_PROF	ILE	
• (TYPE_INT)	PROFILE_ID	# ID of Device Profile
• (TYPE_STRING)	FUNCTION_NAME	# Name of Function

The *DB_DEVICE_PROFILE* is composed of two attributes, the ID of device profiles (data type: unsigned numeric) and names of functions (data type: string).

DATABASE: SERVICE_PROF	FILE	
• (TYPE_STRING)	SERVICE_NAME	# Name of Service
• (TYPE_STRING)	FUNCTION_NAME	# Name of Function

The *DB_SERVICE_PROFILE* is composed of two attributes, the names of device profiles (data type: string) and names of functions (data type: string). It is assumed that records of the *DB_SERVICE_PROFILE* are fully registered without another registration procedure given in this Recommendation.

9.1.2 Registry identifier resolver

An RIR has an objective to provide connection information (e.g., a uniform resource locator (URL)) of registered DRs related to target LDs by resolving IDs of device profiles. RIR has a DB (i.e., *DB_REGISTRY*), and the following shows the data structures:

DATABASE: REGISTRY		
• (TYPE_INT)	REGISTRY_ID	# ID of Registry
• (TYPE_STRING)	REGISTRY_URL	# URL of Registry
• (TYPE_INT)	PROFILE_ID	# ID of Device Profile

The *DB_REGISTRY* is composed of three attributes, the ID of the registry (data type: unsigned numeric), the URL of the registry (data type: string), and the ID of device profiles (data type: unsigned numeric).

9.1.3 Connection manager

A CM has two objectives for monitoring connections that are available and controlling connection congestion. After discovery procedures, LDs start a process of connection and the updated information of connections available are registered to *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION* of CM. CM has a DB (i.e., *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION*), and the following scheme shows the data structures:

DATABASE: AVAILABLE_CO	ONNECTION	
• (<i>TYPE_INT</i>)	PROFILE_ID	# ID of Device Profile
• (TYPE_STRING)	FUNCTION_NAME	# Name of Function
• (TYPE_BOOL)	AVAILABLE	# Availability for Next Connection

The *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION* is composed of three attributes, the ID of device profiles (data type: unsigned numeric), name of function (data type: string), and availability of the next connection (data type: bool (TRUE/FALSE)).

9.2 Entities in local networks

9.2.1 Device registry

A DR has an objective to manage information about device profiles of LDs in a local network and to support the registration of the information to the entities in a cloud network. During discovery procedures, DRs provide information for connections to LDs in the same local network. Furthermore, DRs utilize a timer for sustaining up-to-date information. After a predefined time has passed, DRs

check the status of LD whether they are active or not. DRs have a DB (i.e., *DB_DEVICE*), and the following shows the data structures:

DATABASE: DEVICE		
• (TYPE_INT)	DEVICE_ID	# ID of Local Device
• (TYPE_STRING)	DEVICE_URL	# URL of Local Device
• (TYPE_INT)	PROFILE_ID	# ID of Device Profile
• (TYPE_INT)	TIMER	# Timer

The *DB_DEVICE* is composed of four attributes, ID of LD (data type: unsigned numeric), URL of LD (data type: string), the ID of device profiles (data type: unsigned numeric), and timer (data type: unsigned numeric).

9.2.2 Local device

LDs are described as devices that have device profiles for composite services with interworking in a local network. During registration procedures, information about LDs is registered in the DR in the same local network. Moreover, they also provide responses to connection requests from another LD after discovery procedures. LDs have a DB (i.e., *DB_DEVICE_PROFILE*), and the following scheme shows the data structures:

DATABASE: DEVICE PROFI	LE	
• (TYPE_STRING)	FUNC_NAME	# Name of Function
• (TYPE_FUNC)	FUNC_TYPE	# Type of Function
• (TYPE_INT)	REMAINING_RES	# Remaining Connection Resources

The *DB_DEVICE_PROFILE* is composed of three attributes, the name of functions (data type: string), type of functions (data type: *TYPE_FUNC*), and the remaining connection resources (data type: unsigned numeric). The data type, *TYPE_FUNC* is described in the following scheme:

DATA TYPE: TYPE_FUNC	
• TYPE_SENSOR	# Type of Sensors
• TYPE_ACTUATOR	# Type of Actuators
• TYPE_PROCESSOR	# Type of Processor
—	1

NOTE – Attributes with the same name in different DBs are of the same data type, but the contents can differ in each DB according to which entity is corresponding.

10 Procedures for service interworking framework

10.1 Registration procedures for device profiles

10.1.1 De/registration between local devices and a device registry in local networks

In the first stage, Figure 2 depicts registration procedures between LDs and DR in a local network. A DR sends a broadcast message, *DISCOVERY_REQ(NONE)* to discover unknown LDs within the same subnet. All LDs that receive the broadcast message reply with unicast messages, *DISCOVERY_REP(DEVICE_ID)*, to the DR. The replies include IDs of LDs. The DR registers new records including the IDs and URLs of LDs in *DB_DEVICE* and sends a unicast message, *PROFILE_REQ(DEVICE_ID)*, to each LD to request its device profile. Each LD replies with a unicast message, *PROFILE_REP(DEVICE_PROFILE)*, to the DR. The message includes all device profiles of the LD. The device profile includes a tentative ID of the device profiles and a name of the function. LDs can have one ID of device profiles, and the ID can correspond to one or more functions. That is, LDs can have one or more functions. The DR receives all messages from LDs and updates the tentative ID and the corresponding functions in the existing records in the *DB_DEVICE*. Furthermore, a timer with a predefined time is set and included in each record.

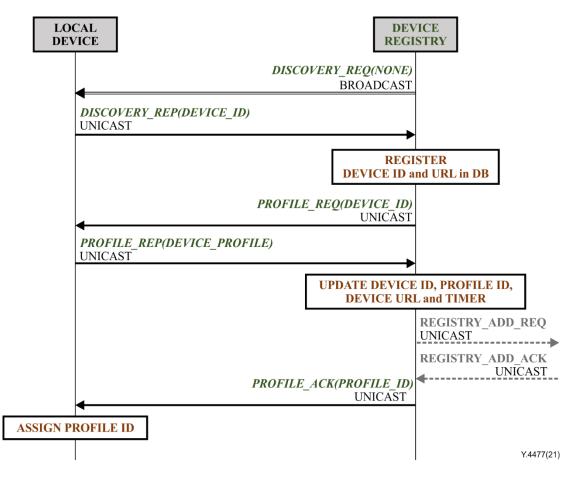


Figure 2 – Registration procedures between local devices and a device registry

The DR then starts the registration procedures of the second stage on the cloud network. On completion, a regular ID of the device profile is established. The DR finally updates the regular ID of the device profile in the *DB_DEVICE* and sends a confirmation message, *PROFILE_ACK(PROFILE_ID)*, to each LD. The LDs finally receive the assigned regular ID of the device profile.

Figure 3 depicts deregistration procedures between LDs and a DR when the LDs disappear or cannot interwork. The DR regularly sends a unicast message, **DISCOVERY_REQ(NONE)**, to the corresponding LD whenever a timer is out. When the LD receives a unicast message, the LD decides whether to finish the interworking. If finished, the LD sends a unicast message, **PROFILE_RST(PROFILE_ID)**, to the DR for deregistration. If unfinished, the LD replies with a confirmation message, **DISCOVERY_ACK(NONE)**, to the DR.

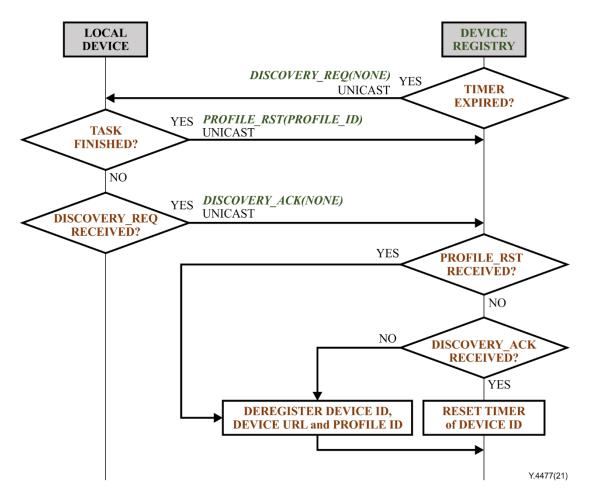


Figure 3 – Deregistration procedures between local devices and a device registry

When the DR receives the message **PROFILE_RST(PROFILE_ID)** or does not receive the reply **DISCOVERY_ACK(NONE)**, the corresponding record in the ID of the device profile is finally deregistered (removed) in the *DB_DEVICE*. Otherwise, the DR resets the timer with the predefined time of the corresponding record. After that, the DR conducts deregistration procedures with entities in the cloud network.

10.1.2 De/registration between device registries and entities in cloud network

Figure 4 depicts registration and deregistration procedures with the entities (i.e., DRs, RIR and PM) in a cloud network. As described in clause 10.1.1, when a new device joins interworking, it gets DB_DEVICE registered in the of а DR. which then sends а message. **REGISTRY ADD REO(DEVICE PROFILE)**, with the new device profile to an RIR. The RIR creates and assigns a regular ID of the received device profile, and the RIR registers a new record with an ID and a URL of the DR and the regular ID of the device profile in DB_REGISTRY. After that, the RIR sends a message, **PROFILE_ADD_REO(PROFILE_ID, DEVICE_PROFILE)**, to a PM. This message includes the device profile and its ID. When the PM receives the message, the PM registers a new record including the device profile and its ID in DB_DEVICE_PROFILE. The PM replies with a confirmation message, **PROFILE_ADD_ACK(PROFILE_ID)**, to the RIR to notify completion of registration. After receiving the message from the PM, the RIR sends a message, **REGISTRY_ADD_ACK(PROFILE_ID)**, to the DR to notify completion of the registration.

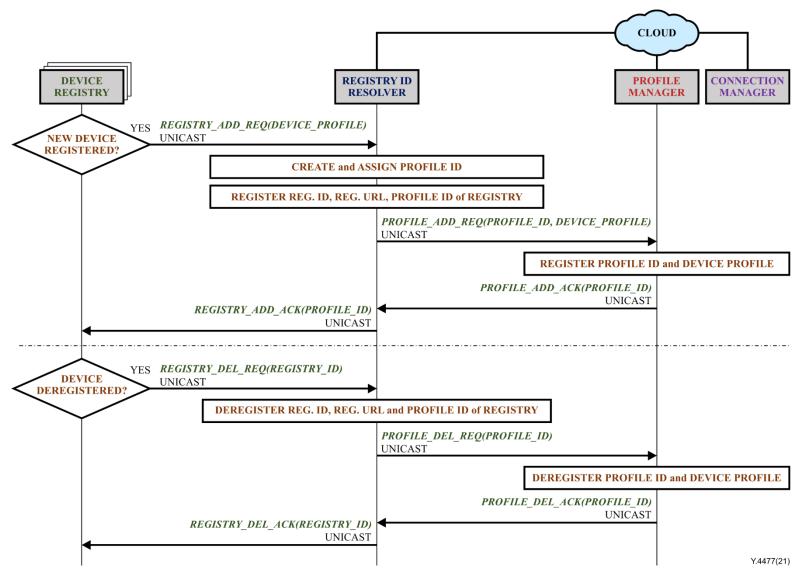


Figure 4 – De/registration procedures with device registries, registry identifier resolver and profile manager

When a device profile is deregistered in *DB_DEVICE* of a DR, the DR sends a message, **REGISTRY DEL REQ(REGISTRY ID)**, with an ID of the DR to an RIR. The RIR then deregisters (removes) the corresponding record of the DR in DB_REGISTRY. After that, the RIR sends a message, **PROFILE_DEL_REQ(PROFILE_ID)**, to a PM. This message includes the ID of the device profile. When the PM receives the message, the PM deregisters the corresponding record of DB_DEVICE_PROFILE. the device profile in The PM replies with а message. **PROFILE DEL ACK**(**PROFILE ID**), to the RIR to notify completion of deregistration. After receiving the message from the PM, the RIR sends a confirmation message. **REGISTRY_DEL_ACK**(**REGISTRY_ID**), to the DR to notify completion of deregistration.

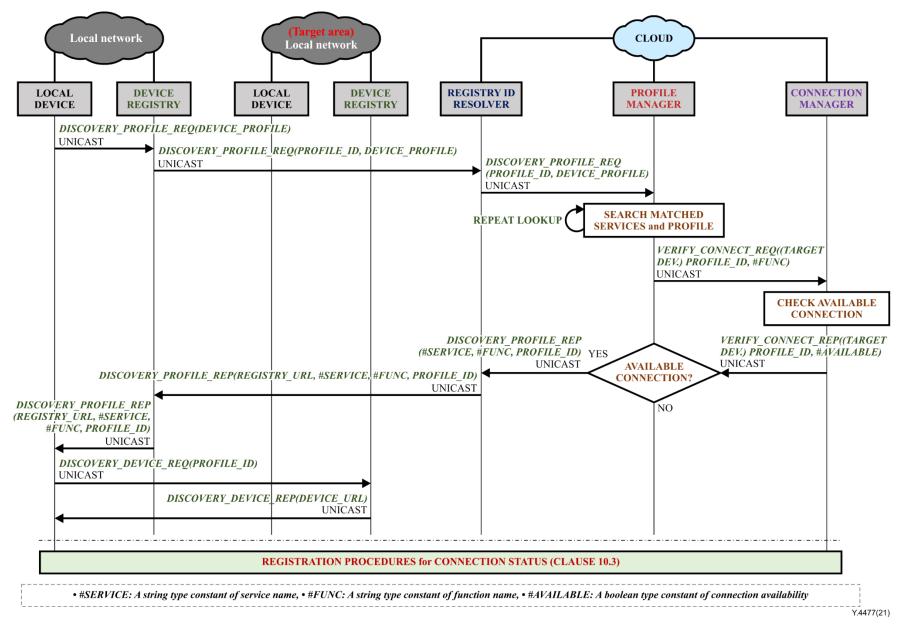
10.2 Discovery procedures

Figure 5 depicts the discovery procedure by which an LD finds out about device profiles of other (target) LDs for service interworking. To find a required device profile, an LD sends a message, DISCOVERY_PROFILE_REQ(DEVICE_PROFILE), including its own device profile to a DR. of the The DR adds information (the ID device profile) to the message, DISCOVERY_PROFILE_REQ(PROFILE_ID, DEVICE_PROFILE), and sends it to an RIR. The RIR forwards the message to a PM. The PM executes a process to search for related device profiles, used for service interworking. The process is based on detailed procedures for "SEARCH MATCHED SERVICES AND PROFILE" with a device profile as an input value (see Annex A). The process is repeated until all related device profiles are found in the DB DEVICE PROFILE, matched with DB SERVICE PROFILE.

Whenever a related device profile is found from the *DB_DEVICE_PROFILE*, the PM requests verification for connection available to a CM with a message *VERIFY_CONNECT_REQ((TARGET DEVICE) PROFILE_ID)*. The CM verifies a result (output: TRUE/FALSE) from the *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION* with the received ID of the device profile by using detailed procedures for "*CHECK AVAILABLE CONNECTION*" (see Annex B). After this process, the CM replies with the result to the PM with a message, *VERIFY_CONNECT_REP((TARGET DEVICE) PROFILE_ID, #AVAILABLE)*. If it is 'TRUE', the PM replies with the information (name of service, name of function, the ID of the device profile) of a target LD to the RIR with a message, *DISCOVERY_PROFILE_REP(#SERVICE, #FUNC, DEV. PROFILE_ID)*. The RIR searches a URL of a DR in the target side. The information (a URL of a DR, name of service, name of the function, ID of device profile) related to the target LD is forwarded to the LD through the DR with a reply message, *DISCOVERY_PROFILE_REP (REGISTRY_URL, #SERVICE, #FUNC, PROFILE_ID)*.

After that, the LD requests information about a target LD from the DR on the target side with the received URL with a message, *DISCOVERY_DEVICE_REQ(PROFILE_ID)*. The DR on the target side replies with information about the target LD with a message, *DISCOVERY_DEVICE_REP(DEVICE_URL)*. The LD finally obtains all information to connect and interwork with the target LD.

The last stage then initiates connection status registration procedures by device connection (see clause 10.3).





10.3 Registration procedures for connection status

Figure 6 depicts registration procedures for connection status when two LDs have a new connection for service interworking. An LD requests a function for service interworking to the LD in a target side with a message, *DEVICE_FUNC_REQ(#FUNC)*. When the LD receives a message, *DEVICE_FUNC_ACK(#FUNC)*, from the LD in the target side, the two LDs conduct service interworking. After being connected, each LD decides to accept more connections available from the remaining functional resources. Each of them sends the result (output: TRUE/FALSE) to the CM with a message, *PROFILE_AVAILABLE_REG_REQ(PROFILE_ID, #FUNC, #AVAILABLE)*. The CM registers a new record (or updates the existing record) about the result in *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION*. After that, the CM replies with a confirmation message, *PROFILE_REG_ACK (PROFILE_ID)*, to each LD.

11 Security considerations

Security considerations for service discovery are critical. The security considerations between service discovery procedures should be established for interworking.

The items in the following list are considerations for service security.

- Preservation of service discovery contents. The access management of service contents uses an authentication process (e.g., encryption method or specific setting). Service security is necessary to certify service interworking.
- Frequent reporting of security consequences. Service security should be considered for automatic service discovery.
- Inspection of surveillance functions (e.g., range of security procedures, and monitoring methods).

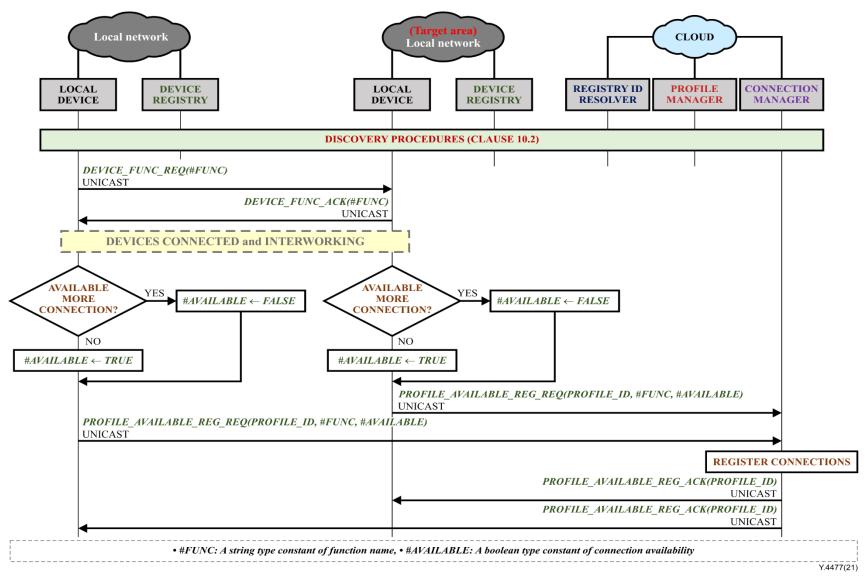


Figure 6 – Registration procedures for connection status

Annex A

Detailed procedures for "SEARCH MATCHED SERVICES AND PROFILE"

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

This procedure for SEARCH MATCHED SERVICES AND PROFILE is conducted when PM receives the message, *DISCOVERY_PROFILE_REQ(PROFILE_ID, DEVICE_PROFILE)*, from RIR as discussed in clause 10.2.

In the beginning stage, three temporary variables are required. A value, *DEVICE_PROFILE*, in the message is stored in the first temporary variable, TMP_PF, and the functions in the *DEVICE_PROFILE* are stored in the second temporary variable, TMP_FUNC. In addition, functions of the DB, *DB_SERVICE_PROFILE* are stored in the third temporary variable, TMP_SER.

In the next stage, to collect possible matched predefined service profiles with device profiles of the LD, whenever there is a number, the *#FUNC* of the variable, the TMP_SER, which is equivariant to the variable, and the TMP_FUNC, a tuple value (TMP_FUNC and TMP_SER) is stored in the form of a variable in a type of list, LR_SER. However, the variable LR_SER does not store the redundant values.

In the last stage, to discover device profiles of target LDs, every value, *#FUNC* of variable, TMP_PF is matched to the values, *#FUNC* of the variable, LR_SER. Whenever the two values, *#FUNC* of the different variables are equivariant, the message, *VERIFY_CONNECT_REQ(PROFILE_ID, #FUNC)*, is sent to the CM. The CM verifies whether the LD is acceptable for another connection by using detailed procedures for CHECK AVAILABLE CONNECTION given in Annex B. If another connection is acceptable, a message, *DISCOVERY_PROFILE_REP(#SERVICE, #FUNC, PROFILE_ID)*, is sent back to the PM.

See Figure A.1.

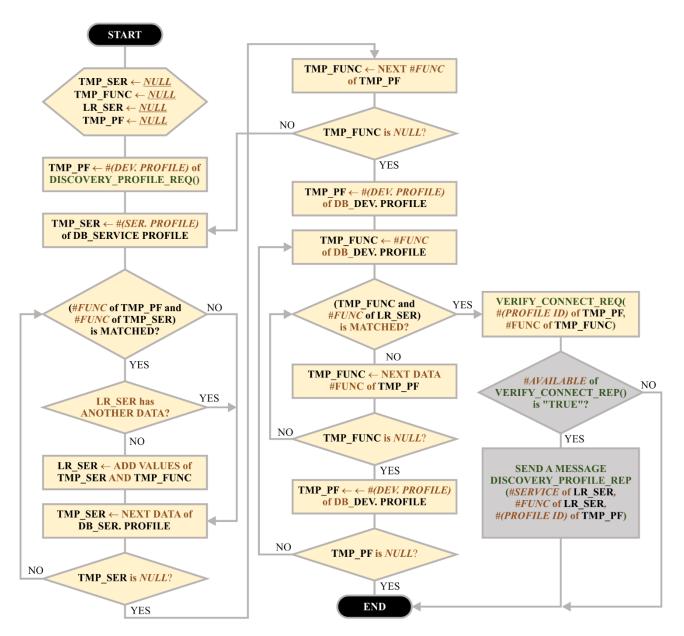


Figure A.1 – Detailed procedures for SEARCH MATCHED SERVICES AND PROFILE

Annex B

Detailed procedures for "CHECK AVAILABLE CONNECTION"

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

To verify whether the target LD is acceptable for another connection, detailed procedures for CHECK AVAILABLE CONNECTION are conducted when the CM receives the message, *VERIFY_CONNECT_REQ(PROFILE_ID, #FUNC)*, from the PM as discussed in clause 10.2.

The *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION*, which is handled by the CM, includes two types of information, (*PROFILE_ID*, *#FUNC*). If there is no information registered in the *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION*, the LDs are neither discovered nor registered. Secondly, the CM also checks whether any of the LDs are discovered. If discovered, a value, *#AVAILABLE*, of the matched LD in *DB_AVAILABLE_CONNECTION* is returned to the PM with a message, *VERIFY_CONNECT_REP(PROFILE_ID, #AVAILABLE)*.

See Figure B.1.

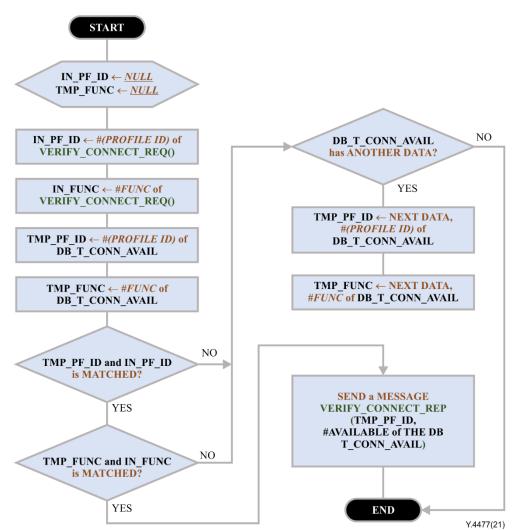


Figure B.1 – Detailed procedures for CHECK AVAILABLE CONNECTION

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