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Infrastructure of audiovisual services – Communication
procedures

**Gateway control protocol: Hanging Termination
Detection package**

ITU-T Recommendation H.248.36



ITU-T H-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS
AUDIOVISUAL AND MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS

CHARACTERISTICS OF VISUAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS	H.100–H.199
INFRASTRUCTURE OF AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES	
General	H.200–H.219
Transmission multiplexing and synchronization	H.220–H.229
Systems aspects	H.230–H.239
Communication procedures	H.240–H.259
Coding of moving video	H.260–H.279
Related systems aspects	H.280–H.299
Systems and terminal equipment for audiovisual services	H.300–H.349
Directory services architecture for audiovisual and multimedia services	H.350–H.359
Quality of service architecture for audiovisual and multimedia services	H.360–H.369
Supplementary services for multimedia	H.450–H.499
MOBILITY AND COLLABORATION PROCEDURES	
Overview of Mobility and Collaboration, definitions, protocols and procedures	H.500–H.509
Mobility for H-Series multimedia systems and services	H.510–H.519
Mobile multimedia collaboration applications and services	H.520–H.529
Security for mobile multimedia systems and services	H.530–H.539
Security for mobile multimedia collaboration applications and services	H.540–H.549
Mobility interworking procedures	H.550–H.559
Mobile multimedia collaboration inter-working procedures	H.560–H.569
BROADBAND AND TRIPLE-PLAY MULTIMEDIA SERVICES	
Broadband multimedia services over VDSL	H.610–H.619

For further details, please refer to the list of ITU-T Recommendations.

ITU-T Recommendation H.248.36

Gateway control protocol: Hanging Termination Detection package

Summary

This Recommendation describes a Hanging Termination Detection package which is used to determine potential information mismatch in the record of Context and Termination identities between the Media Gateway Controller and the Media Gateway. It also offers guidance on the action to take once a potential mismatch is detected.

Source

ITU-T Recommendation H.248.36 was approved on 13 September 2005 by ITU-T Study Group 16 (2005-2008) under the ITU-T Recommendation A.8 procedure.

FOREWORD

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CONTENTS

	Page
1 Scope	1
2 References.....	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Abbreviations.....	1
5 Hanging Termination Detection Package.....	1
5.1 Properties.....	2
5.2 Events	2
5.3 Signals	2
5.4 Statistics.....	2
5.5 Error codes.....	3
5.6 Procedures	3
Appendix I – Applicability statements.....	4
I.1 Applicability	4
I.2 Non-applicability	4

ITU-T Recommendation H.248.36

Gateway control protocol: Hanging Termination Detection package

1 Scope

This package is used to determine potential information mismatch in the record of Context and Termination identities between media gateway controllers and media gateways for individual terminations, not the MG as a whole (e.g., root termination). It can be applied in such situations as status synchronization of call and bearer, garbage collection for hanging resources, re-synchronization after short disconnection, etc., and cannot be applied in such situations as media inactivity detection, idle bearer detection, re-synchronization after long disconnection or system reboot, auditing for hanging resources, etc. It also offers guidance on the action to take once a potential mismatch is detected.

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

- ITU-T Recommendation H.248.1 (2005), *Gateway control protocol: Version 3*.
- ITU-T Recommendation H.248.8 (2005), *Gateway control protocol: Error code and service change reason description*.

3 Terms and definitions

This Recommendation defines the following term:

3.1 hanging termination: Every H.248 termination has an associated record of Termination information. There are consequently two corresponding records on MGC and MG level. The record of Termination information may be further embedded in a superior record of Context information. There are again corresponding records on the MGC and MG level. A Termination is hanging in cases where there is a mismatch between corresponding records on the MGC and MG level.

4 Abbreviations

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations:

MG	Media Gateway
MGC	Media Gateway Controller

5 Hanging Termination Detection Package

Package Name: Hanging Termination Detection Package

Package ID: hangterm, (0x0098)

Description:

This package contains an event that generates a periodic Notify message for the MG to determine if an MGC still has a record of the termination that the event is enabled on.

Version: 1

Extends: None

5.1 Properties

None.

5.2 Events

5.2.1 Termination Heartbeat

Event Name: Termination Heartbeat

Event ID: thb (0x0001)

Description:

Indicates that (timer x) time has elapsed since the last message exchange between the MGC and MG for the indicated termination.

5.2.1.1 EventDescriptor parameters

5.2.1.1.1 Timer X

Parameter Name: Timer X

Parameter ID: timerx, (0x0001)

Description:

This parameter sets the time period (x) between the last message exchanged and the generation of this event. This timer is reset by any messaging between (including the Notify containing this event) the MGC and MG for the indicated termination. It is recommended to set timerx with a value of a multiple of the typical Context lifetime. The lifetime of the H.248 Context is characteristically related to mean Call or Session Holding Times of the underlying (tele) service. Timerx is greater than Call Holding Time (timerx >> CHT).

Type: Integer

Optional: Yes

Possible values: 0 No Heartbeat message to be sent
1 up Time period in seconds

Default: Provisioned

5.2.1.2 ObservedEventsDescriptor parameters

None.

5.3 Signals

None.

5.4 Statistics

None.

5.5 Error codes

None.

5.6 Procedures

5.6.1 Detection of hanging terminations

For the correct operation of gateways, synchronization of termination information between the MGC and MG is essential for traffic, maintenance and charging purposes. It is also essential to detect any information mismatches as soon as possible to minimize the time hanging terminations are consuming resources that could be used for a chargeable call. H.248.1 enables an MGC to perform periodic audits on terminations to see if the terminations are still responding to H.248.1 messages. The MGC may issue a wildcard "all" audit of termination state but, in large media gateways, this will result in very large messages that are undesirable from a messaging performance point of view. The MGC may issue periodic audits on particular terminations or ranges of terminations that decreases message size but increases the number of messages sent. There is also the danger that the MGC has lost a record of a termination and thus cannot audit it. As a result of the audit, the MGC may detect terminations it did not know existed, or detect that the MG has lost a record of the termination. The action taken is MGC dependent but the likely result is that the termination is subtracted. For terminations that the MGC has lost a record of, the MG is dependent on the MGC detecting its own loss. This may not prove to be 100% reliable.

In the case the MGC is unable to detect these terminations, the MG needs to be able to detect and clean up terminations that are hanging. The MG can detect hanging terminations by error responses to commands. Typically, during a stable speech call state, very few H.248.1 messages are generated by the MG, thus a mechanism is needed to trigger a periodic message from the MG. The MG may issue a periodic Notify command on the concerned termination and check the response to determine if the MGC has a record of the termination or not. The time period for this Notify may be parameter driven.

A Notify response command from an MGC may contain many different errors. However, it is only the error codes listed below that would indicate that there is a problem with information and that there is a potential hanging termination:

- Error Code #: 411 Name: The transaction refers to an unknown ContextID;
- Error Code #: 430 Name: Unknown TerminationID;
- Error Code #: 435 Name: Termination ID is not in specified Context.

After generating the Notify Response, action taken by the MGC is dependent on the error code.

5.6.2 Use of termination heartbeat

To enable the periodic Notify to be sent, the event "*hangterm/thb*" with the "*timerx*" parameter is set by the MGC or provisioned on the applicable termination. This parameter sets the time period (x) between the last message exchanged and the generation of the "*hangterm/thb*" event. This timer is reset by any messaging between the MGC and MG for the indicated termination (including the Notify containing the event).

A response to this Notify without an error code indicates that the MGC and the MG agree that the context identity / termination identity combination exists.

A response to this Notify containing error codes:

- Error Code #: 411 Name: The transaction refers to an unknown ContextID;
- Error Code #: 430 Name: Unknown TerminationID;
- Error Code #: 435 Name: Termination ID is not in specified Context

indicates that there is a potential information mismatch between the MGC and MG. A response to the Notify containing other error codes should be handled according to ITU-T Rec. H.248.8.

On reception of the "*hangterm/thb*" event, the MGC shall be responsible for correcting the mismatch. For example: The MGC may subtract the indicated termination and clear any associated context. The MGC may audit the termination Servicestate to check its records before taking further action.

Appendix I

Applicability statements

I.1 Applicability

This package is applicable in the following situations (this list is not exhaustive):

- 1) Synchronization of Call (MGC) and corresponding Bearer (MG) status.
- 2) Garbage collection for Hanging resources, hanging H.248 Terminations, hanging H.248 Contexts.

NOTE 1 – Garbage collection is an important mechanism for high-available, long time running network elements.

- 3) Re-synchronization after (short) temporary losses of MGC-MG interconnection.
NOTE 2 – "Short" here in the sense that all records on MGC and MG level are "almost consistent".
- 4) H.248.36 is Termination-type independent, therefore applicable for physical and ephemeral Terminations.
- 5) Detection capability of hanging H.248 Terminations on MGC level.
- 6) Non-Root Terminations only.

I.2 Non-applicability

This package is not applicable (or not intended) in the following situations (this list is not exhaustive):

- 1) Media Inactivity Detection.
- 2) Idle Bearer Detection.
- 3) Emergency Standalone Mode.
- 4) Termination is in state "out-of-service" (according ServiceState property in TerminationState descriptor) (to be checked).
- 5) Re-synchronization after (long) losses of MGC-MG interconnection, or cold reboots of H.248 systems (this is tackled rather by service change and auditing procedures).
NOTE – "Long" here in the sense of data inconsistency between MGC and MG level.
- 6) Addressing potential issues related to bulk auditing.
- 7) Different or dedicated types of auditing for "detection of hanging resources".
- 8) Detection capability of hanging H.248 Terminations on MG level.

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