STUDY GROUP 15
CONTRIBUTION

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Title: Comments for H.323 Error Recovery

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This text is intended to be added to the H.323 document, perhaps at the end of section 7. There is no mechanism for recovery from errors on the reliable Q.931 and H.245 channels in the current H.323 draft, this section attempts to outline a simple procedure for recovery.

Error handling

The underlying reliable transport uses appropriate effort to deliver or receive data on both the Q.931 and H.245 channels, before reporting an error. Therefore, if an error is reported on a reliable channel, the connection (and all associated media and control channels) associated with that channel shall be closed as if the other endpoint had disconnected. No PDUs are required to be sent, before closing the channels. If bandwidth had been granted by a gatekeeper, it shall be released with a BRQ (as in the standard manner for ending a connection).

In the case where the error is detected by the MC in a multipoint conference, the MC shall send **terminalLeftConference** messages to the remaining terminals. It is up to the implementation whether or not to try to reestablish the connection without user intervention; in any case, the reconnection would appear to the other terminal (and the gatekeeper) as a new call.

Once in a point-to-point conference, if a terminal receives no video from the other terminal for some period of time, it may use the H.245 **roundTripDelayRequest** to determine whether the other terminal is still functioning and connected. Since H.245 is carried on a reliable channel, this will result in a response from the other terminal or an error from the transport interface. In the latter case, the connection must be closed as described above. (Note, audio cannot be used to detect a dropped terminal because of silence suppression.)

A terminal in a multipoint conference may use the same mechanism; however it will learn only whether it still has a connection to the MC. Note that it is possible for a terminal to have an error-free connection with the MC but still be receiving no audio or video from the rest of the terminals in the conference.