

SIP Forum Tech WG – SIP Phone Interoperability Spec

What's up with that ?!

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Caveats

Yeah, the disclaimers:

- *This is NOT an official SIP Forum contribution*
- *This is NOT an official company or any other position statement*
- *Just an attempt to get some discussion ...*
- *From just a guy who happened to be involved with work in the Tech WG at the time ...*
- *All opinions, mistakes and dumb ideas are mine ...*

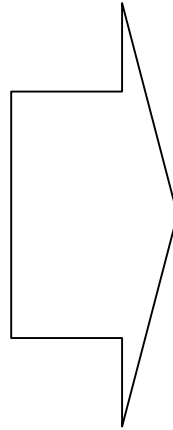
State of things

- SF Tech WG chartered to create interop spec for SIP Phones
- Scope:
 - *Define configuration guidelines, feature set descriptions and interoperability guidelines for SIP endpoints*
 - *Apply existing SIP standards... not develop new ones*
 - *Work with IETF SIP / SIPPING / BLISS etc, complementary efforts*
 - *Produce one or more recommendations that require implementation of a broad range of SIP-related RFCs*
- Sordid history:
 - Originally chartered early '06 ... languished
 - Re-started April '07
 - Some initial progress – document shell defined, some content coming in place (specifically on SIP call features)
 - Then ... all went silent again, late July '07 (lead, Larry Schessel, moved on)

Rough approach taken

Groupings of “feature sets”

- Basic / core SIP
- Configuration
- Security
- Media
- Telephony / call features
 - Basic
 - Business
 - Advanced
- Instant Messaging
- Presence
- etc ...



Within each, define

- Minimum required support
 - Specific RFCs / sections, constraints
- Recommended support
 - “this would be even better”
- Prohibitions
 - “DON’T do this”
- Specific methods as initiator for individual features
 - “if initiating feature X, do exactly this”
- Suite of methods to support as receiver of a category of features
 - “if support features like X, Y, Z, be able to receive & handle all of these”

Intent:

- Set user / purchaser / deployer expectations on some basic feature groupings
- Enable clear, precise interop methods for defined features
- *Do not inhibit innovation* for new features within vague sets

So, now what ?!

Some open questions and issues to discuss:

- Does the SF SIP Phone Interop Spec effort still seem worthwhile?
- Is it useful to further define things IETF is not able (or not willing) to specify, e.g.
 - SIP “profiles” (sets of RFCs corresponding to sets of functions)
 - Specific feature operation (detailed descriptions within BLISS guidelines)
 - Pieces of the puzzle outside of IETF (layer 2 functions, audio performance, etc)
- Is there too much overlap with BLISS efforts, or does it need to wait for BLISS to progress?
- Are there other bodies already doing this, in a position to succeed ?