SIP FORUM

Communicate
Demonstrate
Educate
Interoperate

The SIP Forum is a non-profit IP communications industry association with members that include thousands of individuals as well as the leading IP communications companies in the industry.

The Forum engages in numerous activities that advance and promote Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)-based technology, products and services, such as the development of industry recommendations, the SIPit interoperability and testing events, special interoperability workshops, and general promotion of SIP in the industry.

In addition, the SIP Forum directs technical activities aimed at achieving high levels of product/service interoperability.

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One recent activity is the **SIPconnect Technical Recommendation** -- a standards-based SIP-trunking recommendation that provides detailed guidelines for direct IP peering and interoperability between IP PBXs and VoIP service provider networks.

In addition, the Forum's operates the SIPconnect Compliant Certification Program through which eligible companies can gain SIPconnect validation and the right to license the use of the SIP Forum's 'SIPconnect Compliant' certification mark -- the official brand of the leading standard for SIP Trunking products and services.

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SIP Forum Scope

The SIP Forum is explicitly not a standards-setting body. The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) defines the core SIP protocol. Work on SIP is accomplished primarily in the IETF SIP working group, and at SIP Forum-sponsored SIPit interoperability test events.

However, SIP has manifold interactions with other areas, such as the next generation wireless internetworks, QoS, payments and security — to name a few. Therefore, an important objective of the SIP Forum is to facilitate the integration of SIP with such other areas of work on the Internet.

The activities of the Forum are also directed at complementing the activities of the standards bodies, though the Forum's activities are often informed by, and guided by the leadership of the standards organizations. These activities, from time to time, involve working with the industry in creating best practice Recommendations documents specifying how to use standard SIP protocol techniques to create interoperable products and services.

For instance, the Forum creates test cases testing the compliance of modules, products, and systems to SIP in order to promote the interoperability of these items with each other. Standards bodies and members together are likely to guide the definition of these documents or test cases. Test cases developed in this manner may then be used at a SIP Forum sponsored test event to help vendors assure high quality and interoperability.

In addition, the Forum undertakes activities guided by the needs of its membership as determined through interactions with the community. Finally, the Forum provides opportunities for its members for interpersonal networking, publicity in various venues, and product testing events.

The Mission of the SIP Forum

Its mission: to bring the IP communications and Internet development community together to further advance the adoption of products and services based on SIP.

The SIP Forum's mission is to advance the adoption of products and services based on the Session Initiation Protocol and to serve as the community meeting place for developers of commercial SIP-based services and IP communications technology, such as Hosted IP-based Services, IP-PBXs, IP phones, PC clients and applications, SIP servers and IP telephony gateways.

The Forum believes we are at the beginning of an explosion of new services under development by significant Internet service providers and by vendors of Internet technology based on SIP.

To accomplish its mission, the Forum:

- Advances product interoperability by holding live interoperability test events, such as the SIPit events, and by defining and creating operational compliance tests.
- Develops industry-wide technical recommendations and best-practice implementation guides, such as SIPconnect, that deal with interoperability and other issues that fall outside the scope of the IETF and other standards bodies.
- Creates white papers and other documents that cover essential aspects of developing and deploying SIP-related IP communications technology, products and services.
- Builds awareness about what existing and emerging SIP-compliant technologies can do for users and customers through educational seminars and other events, and through articles and editorial published in industry magazines and journals.
- Maintains a growing community of IP Communications industry professionals interested in SIP.

Become a SIP Forum Member Today!

Membership in the SIP Forum is made up of IP communications industry and Internet professionals, including network engineers; product, service and application developers; and marketing professionals and academic researchers and students – everyone who wants to contribute to the development of global Internet multi-media communications based on IETF and W3C standards.

Individual **"Participant"** and **Academic/ Institutional** membership is free, while corporate **"Full Members"** pay a yearly fee to cover the administration costs of the Forum and to fund the various technical and marketing programs of the organization.

In addition, Full Membership status provides a number of additional benefits over and above what participant members receive, including eligibility for board of director seats, voting on By Law items in the Annual General Meeting, company mentions in SIP Forum press releases, participation in marketing events, invitations to speaking opportunities at industry events co-sponsored by the SIP Forum, the use of SIP Forum licensed trademarks, and an extended product listing on the SIP Forum website.

SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) has emerged as the protocol of choice for setting up conferencing, telephony, multimedia and other types of communication sessions on the Internet. SIP may also be used for new types of communications, such as instant messaging and application level mobility across various networks, including wireless, and across user devices.

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