

# **DASH-IF Live Media Ingest Protocol**

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# 1. Specification: Live Media Ingest§

#### 1.1. Abstract§

Two closely related protocol interfaces are defined: CMAF Ingest (Interface-1) based on fragmented MP4 and DASH/HLS ingest (Interface-2) based on DASH and HLS. Both interfaces use the HTTP POST (or PUT) method to transmit media objects from an ingest source to a receiving entity. The protocol interfaces support carriage of audiovisual media, timed metadata and timed text. Examples of workflows using these interfaces are provided. In addition, guidelines for synchronisation of multiple ingest sources, redundancy and failover are presented.

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# 2. Introduction§

The main goal of this specification is to define the interoperability points between an <u>ingest source</u> and a <u>receiving</u> <u>entity</u> that typically reside in the cloud. While this specification does not impose any new constraints or requirements to clients that consume media streams using any defined streaming protocol, the preferred streaming protocol is DASH.

Live media ingest happens between an <u>ingest source</u> such as a <u>live encoder</u> and a <u>receiving entity</u>. The <u>receiving entity</u> could be a media packager, streaming origin or a content delivery network (CDN). The combination of ingest sources and receiving entities is common in practical video streaming deployments, where media processing functionality is distributed between the ingest sources and receiving entities. Nevertheless, in such deployments, interoperability between ingest sources and downstream processing entities can sometimes be challenging. This challenge comes from the fact that there are multiple levels of interoperability to be considered and vendors may have a different view of what is expected/preferred as well as how various technical specifications apply. First of all, the choice for the data transmission protocol, and connection establishing and tearing down are important. Handling premature/unexpected disconnects and recovering from failovers are also critical.

A second level of interoperability lies with the media container and coded media formats. MPEG defined several media container formats such as [ISOBMFF] and [MPEG2TS], which are widely adopted and well supported. However, these are general purpose formats, targeting several different application areas. To do so, they provide many different profiles and options. Detailed interoperability is often achieved through other application standards such as those for broadcast, storage or streaming. For interoperable live media ingest, this document provides guidance on how to use [ISOBMFF] and [MPEGCMAF] for formatting the media content. In addition, the codec and codec profile used are important interoperability points that themselves also have different profiles and different configurations.

A third level of interoperability lies in the way metadata is inserted in streams. Live content often needs such metadata to signal opportunities for ad insertion, program information or other attributes like timed graphics or general information relating to the broadcast. Examples of such metadata formats include [SCTE35] markers, which are often found in broadcast streams and other metadata such as ID3 tags [ID3v2] containing information relating to the media presentation. In fact, many more types of metadata relating to the live event might be ingested and passed on to an over-the-top (OTT) streaming workflow.

Fourth, for live media, handling the timeline of the presentation consistently is important. This includes sampling of the media, avoiding timeline discontinuities and synchronizing timestamps attached by different ingest sources such as audio and video. In addition, media timeline discontinuities must be avoided as much as possible during normal operation. Further, when using redundant ingest sources, the ingested streams must be synchronized in a sample accurate manner. Streams may also need to be started at the same time so as to avoid misalignment between audio and video tracks.

Fifth, in practice multiple ingest sources and receiving entities are often used. This requires that multiple ingest sources and receiving entities work together in a redundant workflow to avoid interruptions when some of the components fail. Well defined failover behavior is important for interoperability.

This document provides a specification for establishing these interoperability points. The approaches are based on known standardized technologies that have been tested and deployed in several large-scale streaming deployments.

To address these interoperability points, two key interfaces and their protocol specifications have been identified. The first interface (CMAF Ingest) mainly functions as an ingest format to a packager or active media processor, while the second interface (DASH/HLS Ingest) works mainly to ingest media presentations to an origin server, cloud storage or CDN. Smart implementations could implement both interfaces as one unified interface as illustrated in the examples, but separate interfaces were defined as to reduce overhead.

§ 4 Media Ingest Workflows and Interfaces (Informative) provides more background and motivation for the two interfaces. We further motivate the specification in this document supporting HTTP/1.1 [RFC7230] and [ISOBMFF]. We believe that Smooth Streaming [MS-SSTR] and HLS have shown that HTTP usage can survive the Internet ecosystem for media delivery. The HTTP POST provides a push-based method for delivering the live content when it becomes available. Regarding the transport protocol, in future versions, alternative transport protocols could be considered advancing over HTTP/1.1 or TCP. We believe the proposed media format and protocol interfaces will provide the same benefits with other transport protocols. Our view is that for current and near future deployments, using [RFC7230] is still a good approach.

The document is structured as follows: Section 3 presents the conventions and terminology used throughout this document. Section 4 presents the use cases and workflows related to media ingest and the two interfaces. Sections 5 and 6 detail Interface-1 and Interface-2, respectively. Section 7 provides examples.

# 3. Conventions and Terminology§

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14, RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

The following terminology is used in the rest of this document:

**ABR**: Adaptive bitrate.

CMAF chunk: CMAF media object defined in [MPEGCMAF] clause 7.3.2.3.

CMAF fragment: CMAF media object defined in [MPEGCMAF] clause 7.3.2.4.

CMAF header: Defined in [MPEGCMAF] clause 7.3.2.1.

**CMAF Ingest**: Ingest interface defined in this specification for push-based [MPEGCMAF].

**CMAF media object**: Defined in [MPEGCMAF]: a CMAF chunk, segment, fragment or track.

**CMAF presentation**: Logical grouping of CMAF tracks corresponding to a media presentation as defined in <a href="MPE">[MPE]</a> GCMAF] clause 6.

**CMAFstream**: Byte-stream that follows the CMAF track format structure format defined in [MPEGCMAF] between the ingest source and receiving entity. Due to error control behavior such as retransmission of CMAF fragments and headers, a CMAFstream may not fully conform to a CMAF track file. The receiving entity can filter out retransmitted fragments and headers and restore a valid CMAF track file from the CMAFstream.

**CMAF track**: CMAF media object defined in [MPEGCMAF] clause 7.3.2.2.

connection: A connection setup between two hosts, typically the media ingest source and receiving entity.

DASH Ingest: Ingest interface defined in this specification for push-based DASH.

**HLS Ingest**: Ingest interface defined in this specification for push-based HLS.

HTTP POST: HTTP command for sending data from a source to a destination.

**ingest source**: A media source ingesting live media content to a receiving entity. It is typically a live encoder but not restricted to this, e.g., it could be a stored media resource.

ingest stream: The stream of media pushed from the ingest source to the receiving entity.

live stream session: The entire live stream for the ingest relating to a broadcast event.

live encoder: Entity performing live encoding of a high quality ingest stream. This can serve as an ingest source.

manifest objects: Objects ingested that represent streaming manifest, e.g., .mpd in DASH and .m3u8 in HLS.

**media objects**: Objects ingested that represent the media, timed text or other non-manifest objects. Typically, these are CMAF addressable media objects such as CMAF chunks, segments or tracks.

**media fragment**: Media fragment, combination of MovieFragmentBox ("moof") and MediaDataBox ("mdat") in ISOBMFF structure. This could be a CMAF fragment or chunk. A media fragment may include top-level boxes defined in CMAF fragments such as "emsg", "prft" and "styp". Used for backward compatibility with fragmented MP4.

objects: manifest objects or media objects.

OTT: Over-the-top.

**POST\_URL**: Target URL of a POST command in the HTTP protocol for posting data from a source to a destination (e.g., /ingest1). The POST\_URL is known by both the ingest source and receiving entity. The POST\_URL is setup by the receiving entity. The ingest source may add extended paths to signal track names, fragment names or segment names.

publishing\_point\_URL: Entry point used to receive an ingest stream (e.g., https://example.com/ingest1).

receiving entity: Entity used to receive the media content, receives/consumes an ingest stream.

RTP: Real-time Transport Protocol as specified in [RFC3550].

**streaming presentation**: Set of <u>objects</u> composing a streaming presentation based on a streaming protocol such as DASH.

**switching set**: Group of tracks corresponding to a switching set defined in [MPEGCMAF] or an adaptation set defined in [MPEGDASH].

**switching set ID**: Identifier generated by a live ingest source to group CMAF tracks in a switching set. The switching set ID is unique for each switching set in a live streaming session.

TCP: Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) as specified in [RFC793].

baseMediaDecodeTime: Decode time of the first sample as signaled in the "tfdt" box.

elng: The ExtendedLanguageTag box ("elng") as defined in [ISOBMFF] overrides the language information.

ftyp: The FileTypeBox ("ftyp") as defined in [ISOBMFF].

mdat: The MediaDataBox ("mdat") defined in [ISOBMFF].

**mdhd**: The MediaHeaderBox ("mdhd") as defined in [ISOBMFF] contains information about the media such as timescale, duration, language using ISO 639-2/T [iso-639-2] codes.

**mfra** (deprecated): The MovieFragmentRandomAccessBox ("mfra") defined in [ISOBMFF] signals random access samples (these are samples that require no prior or other samples for decoding).

**moof**: The MovieFragmentBox ("moof") as defined in [ISOBMFF] defines the index information of samples in a fragment.

**nmhd**: The NullMediaHeaderBox ("nmhd") as defined in [ISOBMFF] signals a track for which no specific media header is defined. This is used for metadata tracks.

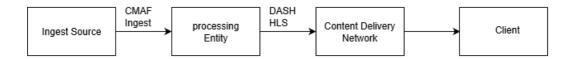
**prft**: The ProducerReferenceTime ("prft") as defined in [ISOBMFF] supplies times corresponding to the production of associated movie fragments.

**tfdt**: The TrackFragmentBaseMediaDecodeTimeBox ("tfdt") defined in [ISOBMFF] signals the decode time of the media fragment signaled in the "moof" box.

# 4. Media Ingest Workflows and Interfaces (Informative)§

Two workflows have been identified mapping to two protocol interfaces. The first workflow uses a live encoder as the <a href="ingest source">ingest source</a> and a separate packager as the <a href="receiving entity">receiving entity</a>. In this case, Interface-1 (CMAF Ingest) is used to ingest a live encoded stream to the packager, which can perform packaging, encryption or other active media processing. Interface-1 is defined in a way that it will be possible to generate DASH or HLS presentations based on information in the ingested stream. Figure 1 shows an example for Interface-1.

Figure 1: Example with CMAF Ingest.



The second workflow constitutes ingest to a passive delivery system such as a cloud storage or a CDN. In this case, Interface-2 (<u>DASH Ingest</u>) or <u>HLS Ingest</u>) is used to ingest a stream already formatted to be ready for delivery to an end client. Figure 2 shows an example for Interface-2.

Figure 2: Example with DASH Ingest.



A legacy example of a media ingest protocol for the first workflow is the ingest part of the Microsoft Smooth Streaming protocol [MS-SSTR]. This protocol connects live encoders/ingest sources to the Microsoft Smooth Streaming server and to the Microsoft Azure cloud. This protocol has shown to be robust, flexible and easy to implement in live encoders. In addition, it provided features for high availability and server-side redundancy.

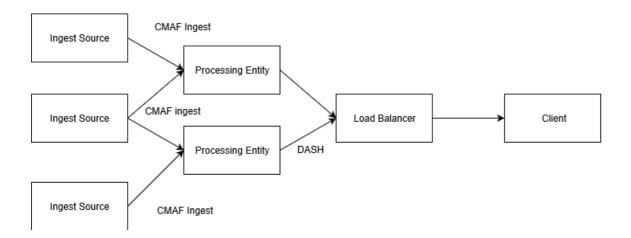
A key idea of this part of the specification is to re-use the similarities of the DASH and HLS protocols to enable a simultaneous ingest of media presentations of these two formats using common media fragments based on <a href="ISOBM">[ISOBM]</a> FF] and <a href="IMPEGCMAF">[MPEGCMAF]</a>.

Table 1 highlights some of the key differences and practical considerations of the interfaces. In Interface-1, the ingest source can be simple since the <u>receiving entity</u> can do many of the operations related to the delivery such as encryption or generating the streaming manifests. In addition, the distribution of functionalities can make it easier to scale a deployment with concurrent (redundant) live media sources and receiving entities. Besides these factors, choosing a workflow for a video streaming platform depends on many other factors.

Table 1: Different ingest use cases.

Interface	Ingest source	Receiving entity
CMAF Ingest	Limited overview, simpler encoder, multiple sources	Re-encryption, transcoding, stitching, watermarking, packaging
DASH/HLS Ingest	Global overview, targets duplicate presentations, limited flexibility, no redundancy	Manifest manipulation, transmission, storage

Figure 3: Workflow with redundant ingest sources and receiving entities.



Finally, Figure 3 highlights another aspect that was taken into consideration for large-scale systems with many users. Often content owners would like to run multiple ingest sources, multiple receiving entities and make them available to the clients in a seamless fashion. This approach is already common when serving web pages, and this architecture also applies to media streaming over HTTP. In Figure 3, it is highlighted how one or more ingest sources can be sending data to one or more receiving entities. In such a workflow, it is important to handle the case when one ingest source or receiving entity fails. Both the system and client behavior are an important consideration in systems that need to run 24/7. Failovers must be handled robustly and without causing service interruption. This specification details how this failover and redundancy support can be achieved.

# 5. Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2§

The media ingest follows the following common requirements for both interfaces.

1. The <u>ingest source</u> SHALL communicate using the HTTP POST command as defined in the HTTP protocol, version 1.1 [RFC7230].

NOTE: This specification does not imply any functional differentiation between a POST and PUT command. Either may be used to transfer content to the <u>receiving entity</u>. Unless indicated otherwise, the use of the term POST can be interpreted as POST or PUT.

- 2. The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD use HTTP over TLS, if TLS is used it SHALL support at least TLS version 1.2, a higher version may also be supported additionally [RFC2818].
- The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD us a domain name system for resolving hostnames to IP addresses such as DNS [
   <u>RFC1035</u>] or any other system that is in place. If this is not the case, the domain name<->IP address
   mapping(s) must be known and static.
- 4. In the case of 3, <u>ingest source</u> MUST update the IP to hostname resolution respecting the TTL (time-to-live) from DNS query responses. This enables better resilience to IP address changes in large-scale deployments where the IP address of the media processing entities may change frequently.
- 5. In case HTTP over TLS [RFC2818] is used, at least one of the basic authentication HTTP AUTH [RFC7617], TLS client certificates or HTTP Digest authentication [RFC7616] MUST be supported.
- 6. Mutual authentication SHALL be supported. TLS client certificates SHALL chain to a trusted CA or be self-signed. Self-signed certificates MAY be used, for example, when the ingest source and receiving entity fall under the same administration.
- 7. As compatibility profile for the TLS encryption, the <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD support the Mozilla's intermediate compatibility profile [Mozilla-TLS].
- 8. In case of an authentication error confirmed by an HTTP 403 response, the ingest source SHALL retry to

establish the <u>connection</u> within a fixed time period with updated authentication credentials. When that also results in error, the <u>ingest source</u> can retry N times, after which the <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD stop and log an error. The number of retries N can be configurable in the ingest source.

- 9. The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD terminate the <u>HTTP POST</u> request if data is not being sent at a rate commensurate with the MP4 fragment duration. An HTTP POST command that does not send data can prevent the <u>receiving</u> entity from quickly disconnecting from the <u>ingest source</u> in the event of a service update.
- 10. The HTTP POST for sparse data SHOULD be short-lived, terminating as soon as the data of a fragment is sent.
- 11. The HTTP POST command uses the <u>publishing\_point\_URL</u> at the <u>receiving entity</u> and SHOULD use an additional relative path when posting different streams and fragments, for example, to signal the stream or fragment name.
- 12. Both the ingest source and receiving entity MUST support IPv4 and IPv6 transport.
- 13. The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD use a timeout in the order of a segment duration (e.g., 1-6 seconds) for establishing the TCP connection. If an attempt to establish the connection takes longer than the timeout, the ingest source aborts the operation and tries again.
- 14. The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD resend the <u>objects</u> for which a connection was terminated early or when an HTTP 400 or 403 error response was received if the connection was down for less than three average segments durations. For connections that were down longer, the <u>ingest source</u> can resume sending <u>objects</u> at the live edge of the media presentation.
- 15. After a TCP error, the ingest source performs the following:
  - 15a. The current connection MUST be closed and a new connection MUST be created for a new HTTP POST command.
  - 15b. The new HTTP POST\_URL MUST be the same as the initial POST\_URL for the object to be ingested.
- 16. In case the <u>receiving entity</u> cannot process the POST request due to authentication or permission problems, or incorrect path, it SHALL return an HTTP 403 Forbidden error.
- 17. The following error conditions apply to the receiving entity:
  - 17a. If the <u>publishing\_point\_URL</u> receiving the HTTP POST command is not available, it SHOULD return an HTTP 404 Not Found error to the ingest source.
  - 17b. If the receiving entity can process a fragment in the POST request body but finds the media type is not supported, it may return an HTTP 415 Unsupported Media Type error.
  - 17c. If the receiving entity cannot process a fragment in the POST request body due to missing or incorrect init fragment, it may return an HTTP 412 Precondition Failed error.
  - 17d. If there is an error at the receiving entity not particularly relating to the POST command from the <u>ingest</u> <u>source</u>, it may return an appropriate HTTP 5xx error.
  - 17e. In all other scenarios, the receiving entity MUST return an HTTP 400 Bad Request error.
- 18. The ingest source SHOULD support the handling of HTTP 30x redirect responses from the receiving entity.
- 19. The ingest source and receiving entity SHOULD support gzip based content encoding.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Encoder vendors are particularly requested to comment on what the receiving entity should return, if anything, in the response body (or header) upon the completion of the POST request. Examples may include size/name/URL of the object posted. Discuss at https://github.com/Dash-Industry-Forum/Ingest/issues/146.

# 6. Interface-1: CMAF Ingest§

This section describes the protocol behavior specific to Interface-1. Operation of this interface MUST also adhere to the common requirements given in § 5 Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2.

# 6.1. General Considerations (Informative)§

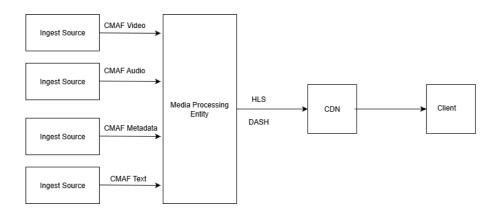
The media format is based on CMAF, conforming to the track constraints specified in <a href="MPEGCMAF">[MPEGCMAF</a>] clause 7. A key benefit of this format is that it allows easy identification of stream boundaries, enabling switching, redundancy, retransmission resulting in a good fit with current Internet infrastructures. We believe that the CMAF track format will make things easier and that the industry is already heading in this direction following recent specifications like <a href="MPEGCMAF">[MPEGCMAF</a>] and HLS <a href="RFC8216">[RFC8216</a>]. Note that no media profiles of CMAF are required by the specification unless stated otherwise, only the structural format based on clause 7 is used.

<u>CMAF Ingest</u> assumes ingest to an active receiving entity, such as a packager or active origin server. However, it can also be used for simple transport of media to an archive, as the combination of CMAF header and CMAF fragments will result in a valid archived CMAF track file when an ingest is stored on disk by the receiving entity.

<u>CMAF Ingest</u> advances over the ingest part of the Smooth Streaming's ingest protocol [MS-SSTR] by only using standardized media container formats and boxes based on [ISOBMFF] and [MPEGCMAF].

Many new technologies like MPEG HEVC, AV1, HDR have CMAF bindings. Using CMAF will make it easier to adopt such technologies. This project started as a multi-vendor interop project, some discussions on the early development of the specification have been documented in [fmp4git].

Figure 4: CMAF Ingest with multiple ingest sources.



Figures 5-7 detail some of the concepts and structures defined in [MPEGCMAF]. Figure 5 shows the data format structure of the CMAF track. In this format, media samples and media indexes are interleaved. The MovieFragmentBox "moof" box as specified in [ISOBMFF] is used to signal the information to playback and decode properties of the samples stored in the "mdat" box. The CMAF header contains the track specific information and is referred to as a CMAF header in [MPEGCMAF]. The combination of "moof" and "mdat" can be referred as a CMAF fragment or CMAF chunk depending on the structure content and the number of moof-mdat pairs in the addressable object.

Figure 5: CMAF track stream.



Figure 6 illustrates the presentation timing model, defined in <a href="MPEGCMAF">[MPEGCMAF</a>] clause 6.6. Different bitrate tracks and/or media streams are conveyed in separate CMAF tracks. By having fragment boundaries time aligned for tracks and applying constraints on tracks, seamless switching can be achieved. By using a common timeline different streams can be synchronized at the receiver, while they are in a separate <a href="CMAF">CMAF</a> track, sent over a separate connection, possibly from a different ingest source.

For more information on the synchronization model, we refer the readers to Section 6 of [MPEGCMAF]. For

synchronization of tracks coming from different encoders, sample-time accuracy is required, i.e., the samples with identical timestamp contain identical content.

In Figure 7, another advantage of this synchronization model is illustrated, which is the concept of late binding. In the case of late binding, streams are combined on playout/streaming in a presentation (see Section 7.3.6 of <a href="MPEGCM">[MPEGCM</a> AF]).

NOTE: As defined in [MPEGCMAF], different CMAF tracks have the same starting time sharing an implicit timeline. A stream becoming available from a different source needs to be synchronized and time-aligned with other streams.

Figure 6: CMAF track synchronization.

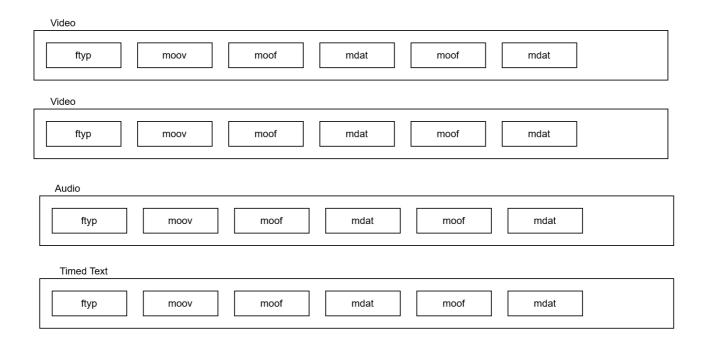


Figure 7: CMAF late binding.

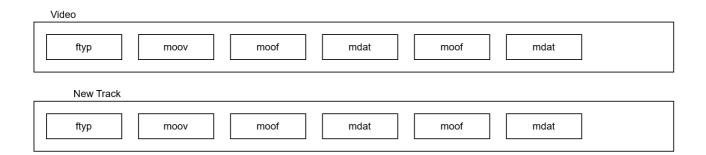
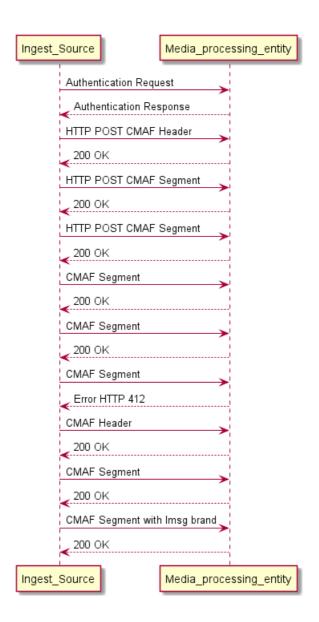


Figure 8 shows the flow diagram of the protocol. It starts with a DNS resolution (if needed) and an authentication step (using Authy, TLS certificates or HTTP Digest Authentication) to establish a secure <u>TCP</u> connection.

In private datacenter deployments where nodes are not reachable from outside, a non-authenticated connection may also be used. The ingest source then issues a POST to test that the <u>receiving entity</u> is listening. This POST may send the <u>CMAF header</u> or could be empty. In case this is successful, it is followed by a CMAF header and the fragments comprising the <u>CMAF stream</u>. At the end of the session, for tear down the source may send an empty <u>mfra</u> (deprecated) box to close the connection or a segment with the brand "Imsg".

This is then followed with a zero-length chunk, in case HTTP chunked transfer encoding was used, allowing the receiver to send a response, the encoder can follow up by closing the TCP connection using a FIN packet as defined

Figure 8: CMAF Ingest flow.



#### 6.2. General Protocol and Track Format Requirements

The ingest source transmits media content to the receiving entity using HTTP POST. The receiving entity listens for content at the <u>publishing point URL</u> that is known by both the ingest source and receiving entity. The <u>POST\_URL</u> may contain an extended path to identify the stream name, switching set or fragment may be added by the ingest source. It is assumed that the ingest source can retrieve these paths and use them.

In Interface-1, the container format is based on CMAF, conforming to the track constraints specified in <a href="MPEGCMAF">[MPEGCMAF</a>] clause 7. Unless stated otherwise, NO conformance to a specific CMAF media profile is REQUIRED.

- 1. The <u>ingest source</u> SHALL start by an HTTP POST request with the CMAF header, or an empty request, to the POST\_URL. This can help the ingest source quickly detect whether the <u>publishing\_point\_URL</u> is valid, and if there are any authentication or other conditions required.
- 2. The <u>ingest source</u> MUST initiate a media ingest connection by posting at least one <u>CMAF header</u> after step 1 and an optional DASH manifest, restricted as in clause 16 of this section.
- 3. The <u>ingest source</u> SHALL transmit one or more CMAF segments comprising the track to the receiving entity once they become available. In this case, a single POST request message body MUST contain one CMAF segment in the body of that request. This specification assumes equivalence between a CMAF segment and fragment, i.e., a single CMAF fragment per CMAF segment. A CMAF segment/fragment may nevertheless be

- composed by one or more CMAF chunks.
- 4. The <u>ingest source</u> MAY use the chunked transfer encoding option of the HTTP POST command [RFC7230] when the content length is unknown at the start of transmission or to support use cases that require low latency.
- 5. If the HTTP POST request terminates or times out with a TCP error, the <u>ingest source</u> MUST establish a new connection and follow the preceding requirements. Additionally, the <u>ingest source</u> MAY resend the segment in which the timeout or TCP error occurred.
- 6. The <u>ingest source</u> MUST handle any error responses received from the receiving entity, as described in general requirements, and by retransmitting the CMAF header.
- 7. (deprecated) In case the <u>live stream session</u> is over the ingest source MAY signal the stop by transmitting an empty <u>mfra</u> (deprecated) box towards the receiving entity. After that it SHALL send an empty HTTP chunk and wait for the HTTP response before closing TCP connection.
- 8. The ingest source SHOULD use a separate, parallel TCP connection for ingest of each different CMAF track.
- 9. The <u>ingest source</u> MAY use a separate relative path in the <u>POST\_URL</u> for ingesting each different track or track segment by appending it to the <u>POST\_URL</u>. This makes it easy to detect redundant streams from different ingest sources. The Streams(stream\_name) keyword may be used to signal the name of a stream.
- 10. The <u>baseMediaDecodeTime</u> timestamps in "tfdt" of fragments in the <u>CMAFstream</u> SHOULD arrive in increasing order for each of the fragments in the different tracks/streams that are ingested.
- 11. The fragment sequence numbers in the <a href="MAFstream">CMAFstream</a> signaled in the mfhd SHOULD arrive in increasing order for each of the different tracks/streams that are ingested. Using both <a href="baseMediaDecodeTime">baseMediaDecodeTime</a> and sequence number based indexing helps the receiving entities identify discontinuities. In this case sequence numbers SHOULD increase by one.
- 12. The average and maximum bitrate of each track SHOULD be signaled in the "btrt" box in the sample entry of the CMAF header. These can be used to signal the bitrate later on, such as in the manifest.
- 13. In case a track is part of a <u>switching set</u>, all properties in Sections 6.4 and 7.3.4 of <u>[MPEGCMAF]</u> MUST be satisfied, enabling the receiver to group the tracks in the respective switching sets.
- 14. Ingested tracks MUST conform to CMAF track structure defined in [MPEGCMAF]. Additional constraints on the CMAF track structure are defined in later sections.
- 15. CMAF tracks MAY use SegmentTypeBox to signal brands like chunk, fragment or segment. Such signaling may also be inserted in a later stage by the receiving entity. A smart receiving entity can detect what type of media object is received from the information in the MovieFragmentBox.
- 16. The DASH manifest should use SegmentTemplate with SegmentTimeline, preferably with \$Time\$ based naming that can be automatically extended. Only relative BaseURL is used. In addition, the period availability start time should be set to 1-1-1970 (Unix epoch) and the period start to 0.
- 17. In case the <u>ingest source</u> loses its own input or input is absent, it SHALL insert filler or replacement content, and output these as valid CMAF segments. Examples may be black frames, silent audio, or empty timed text segments. Such segments SHOULD be labelled by using a SegmentTypeBox ("styp") with the brand *slat*. This allows a receiver to still replace those segments with valid content segments at a later time.
- 18. The last segment in a CMAF track, SHOULD be labelled with a SegmentTypeBox ("styp") with the brand *Imsg*. This way, the receiver knows that no more media segments are expected for this track. In case the track is restarted, a request with a <u>CMAF</u> header with (identical properties) must be issued to the same <u>POST\_URL</u>.
- 19. CMAF segments may include one or more DASHEventMessageBox'es ("emsg") containing timed metadata.

NOTE: According to <a href="MPEGDASH">[MPEGDASH</a>, all DASHEventMessageBox'es ("emsg") must have a presentation\_time later as compared to the segment's earliest presentation time. This can make resignaling of continuation events (events that are still active) troublesome.

NOTE: Including DASHEventMessageBox'es ("emsg") boxes in media segments may result in a loss of performance for just-in-time packaging. In this case, timed metadata § 6.6 Requirements for Timed Metadata Tracks should be considered.

- 20. CMAF media (audio and video) tracks SHALL include the ProducerReferenceTimeBox'es ("prft") in the ingest. In these media tracks, all segments SHALL include a "prft" box. The "prft" box permits the end client to compute the end-to-end latency or the encoding plus distribution latency.
  - EDITOR'S NOTE: Encoder vendors are particularly requested to review clause 20.
- 21. In case the input the the <u>ingest source</u> is MPEG-2 TS based, the <u>ingest source</u> is responsible for converting the presentation time stamps and progam clock reference (PCR), to a timeline suitable for DASH and ISOBMFF with the correct anchor and timescales. The recommended timescales and anchors are provided in next sections for each track type. For dual encoder synchronisation it is also recommended to use the Unix epoch or another well known anchor point to map the DASH presentation.

In case a receiving entity cannot process a request from an ingest source correctly, it can send an HTTP error code. See  $\S$  6.8 Requirements for Failovers and Connection Error Handling or  $\S$  5 Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2 for details.

# 6.3. Requirements for Formatting Media Tracks§

[MPEGCMAF] has the notion of CMAF track, which are composed of CMAF fragment and CMAF chunks. A fragment can be composed of one or more chunks. The media fragment defined in ISOBMFF predates the definition in CMAF. It is assumed that the ingest source uses HTTP POST to transmit a CMAF fragments to the receiving entity. The following are additional requirements imposed to the formatting of CMAF media tracks.

- 1. Media tracks SHALL be formatted using boxes according to Section 7 of [MPEGCMAF]. Media track SHOULD not use media-level encryption (e.g., common encryption), as HTTP over TLS (HTTPS) should provide sufficient transport layer security. However, in case common encryption is used, the decryption key shall be made available out of band by supported means such as CPIX defined by DASH-IF.
- The <u>CMAF fragment</u> durations SHOULD be constant; the duration MAY fluctuate to compensate for non-integer frame rates. By choosing an appropriate timescale (a multiple of the frame rate is recommended) this issue should be avoided.
- 3. The CMAF fragment durations SHOULD be between approximately one and six seconds.
- 4. Media tracks SHOULD use a timescale for video streams based on the framerate and 44.1 KHz or 48 KHz for audio streams or any another timescale that enables integer increments of the decode times of fragments signaled in the "tfdt" box based on this scale. If necessary, integer multiples of these timescales could be used.
- 5. The language of the CMAF track SHOULD be signaled in the "mdhd" box or "elng" boxes in the CMAF header.
- 6. Media tracks SHOULD contain the ("btrt") box specifying the target average and maximum bitrate of the CMAF fragments in the sample entry container in the CMAF header.
- 7. Media tracks MAY comprise CMAF chunks [MPEGCMAF] 7.3.2.3. In this case they SHOULD be signaled using SegmentTypeBox ("styp") to make it easy for the receiving entity to differentiate them from CMAF fragments. The brand type of a chunk is *cmfl*. CMAF chunks should only be signaled if they are not the first chunk in a CMAF fragment.
- 8. In video tracks, profiles like avc1 and hvc1 MAY be used that signal the sequence parameter set in the CMAF header. In this case, these codec parameters do not change dynamically during the live session in the media track
- 9. However, video tracks SHOULD use profiles like avc3 or hev1 that signal the parameter sets (PPS, SPS, VPS) in in the media samples. This allows inband signaling of parameter changes. This is because in live content, codec configuration may change slightly over time.

- 10. In case the language of a track changes, a new CMAF header with updated "mdhd" and/or "elng" SHOULD be sent. The CMAF header MUST be identical, except the "elng" tag.
- 11. Track roles SHOULD be signaled in the ingest by using a "kind" box in UserDataBox ("udta"). The "kind" box MUST contain a schemeldUri urn:mpeg:dash:role:2011 and a value containing a Role as defined in <a href="MPEGDAS">[MPEGDAS</a> H]. In case this signaling does not occur, the processing entity can define the role for the track independently.

# 6.4. Requirements for Signaling Switching Sets§

In live streaming, a <u>CMAF presentation</u> of streams corresponding to a channel is ingested by posting to a <u>publishing\_point\_URL</u> at the <u>receiving entity</u>. CMAF has the notion of switching sets <u>[MPEGCMAF]</u> that map to similar streaming protocol concepts like adaptation set in DASH. To signal a switching set in a <u>CMAF presentation</u>, CMAF media tracks MUST correspond to the constraints defined in <u>[MPEGCMAF]</u> clause 7.3.4.

In addition, optional explicit signaling is defined in this clause. This would mean the following steps could be implemented by the live ingest source.

- 1. A live ingest source MAY generate a <u>switching set ID</u> that is unique for each switching set in a live streaming session. Tracks with the same <u>switching set ID</u> belong to the same switching set. The switching set ID can be a string or (small) integer number. Characters in switching set SHALL be unreserved, i.e., A-Za-z0-9\_.-~ in order to avoid introducing delimiters.
- 2. The <a href="mailto:switching">switching</a> set ID can be added in a relative path to the <a href="POST\_URL">POST\_URL</a> using the Switching() keyword. In this case, a CMAF chunk is sent from the live ingest source as POST chunk.cmfv POST\_URL/Switching(switching set ID)/Streams(stream\_id).
  - EDITOR'S NOTE: Discuss clause 2 at https://github.com/Dash-Industry-Forum/Ingest/issues/125.
- 3. The live ingest source MAY add a "kind" box in the "udta" box in each track to signal the switching set it belongs to. The schemeldUri of this "kind" box SHALL be urn:dashif:ingest:switchingset\_id and the value field of the "kind" box SHALL be the switching set ID.
- 4. The switching sets are grouped as adaptation sets present in the DASH manifest in a POST request issued earlier, i.e., before the segments of that switching set are transmitted. In this case, the naming of the segment URIs follows the naming defined in the DASH manifest based on a SegmentTemplate and SegmentTimeline elements with a relative BaseURL.

Table 2: Switching set signaling options.

Signaling option	Requirement
Implicit signaling based on switching set constraints [MPEGCMAF] clause 7.3.4.	Mandatory
Signaling using switching set ID in the POST_URL using Switching() keyword	Optional
Signaling using DASH AdaptationSet and defined naming structure based on SegmentTemplate and SegmentTimeline	Optional
Signaling using <u>switching set ID</u> in the track using "kind" box with schemeldUri urn:dashif:ingest:switchingset_id and value set to <u>switching set ID</u>	Optional

### 6.5. Requirements for Timed Text, Captions and Subtitle Tracks§

The live media ingest specification follows requirements for ingesting a track with timed text, captions and/or subtitle streams. The recommendations for formatting subtitle and timed text tracks are defined in [MPEGCMAF] and [MPEG4-30].

We provide additional guidelines and best practices for formatting timed text and subtitle tracks.

- 1. CMAF tracks carrying WebVTT signaled by the *cwt* brand or TTML Text signaled by the *im1t* brand are preferred. [MPEG4-30] defines the track format selected in [MPEGCMAF].
- 2. Based on this [ISOBMFF], the trackhandler "hdlr" SHALL be set to "text" for WebVTT and "subt" for TTML following [MPEG4-30].
- 3. The "ftyp" box in the CMAF header for the track containing timed text, images, captions and subtitles MAY use signaling using CMAF profiles based on [MPEGCMAF].
  - 3a. WebVTT specified in Section 11.2 of ISO/IEC 14496-30 [MPEG4-30] cwt
  - 3b. TTML IMSC1 Text specified in Section 11.3.3 of [MPEG4-30] IMSC1 Text profile im1t
  - 3c. TTML IMSC1 Image specified in Section 11.3.4 of [MPEG4-30] IMSC1 Image profile im1i
- 4. The BitRateBox ("btrt") SHOULD be used to signal the average and maximum bitrate in the sample entry box, this is most relevant for bitmap or XML based timed text subtitles that may consume significant bandwidth (e.g., im1i or im1t).
- 5. In case the language of a track changes, a new CMAF header with updated "mdhd" and/or "elng" SHOULD be sent from the ingest source to the receiving entity.
- 6. Track roles can be signaled in the ingest, by using a "kind" box in the "udta" box. The "kind" box MUST contain a schemeldUri urn:mpeg:dash:role:2011 and a value containing a role as defined in [MPEGDASH].

NOTE: [MPEGCMAF] allows multiple "kind" boxes, hence, multiple roles can be signaled. By default, one should signal the DASH role urn:mpeg:dash:role:2011. A receiver may derive corresponding configuration for other streaming protocols such as HLS. In case this is not desired, additional "kind" boxes with corresponding schemeldUri and values can be used to explicitly signal this information for other protocol schemes. Subschemes can be signaled in the schemeldURI as schemeldURI@value.

An informative scheme of defined roles in DASH and respective corresponding roles in HLS can be found below, additionally the forced subtitle in HLS might be derived from a DASH forced subtitle role as well by a receiving entity.

Table 3: Roles for subtitle and audio tracks and HLS characteristics.

HLS characteristic	um:mpeg:dash:role:2011
transcribes-spoken-dialog	subtitle
easy-to-read	easyreader
describes-video	description
describes-music-and-sound	caption

DASH roles are defined in urn:mpeg:dash:role:2011 [MPEGDASH]. Additionally, another example for explicitly signaling roles could be DVB DASH [DVB-DASH]. One could use schemeiduri@value and role as defined there, e.g., kind.schemeIdUri="urn:tva:metadata:cs:AudioPurposeCS:2007@1" kind.value="Alternate".

# 6.6. Requirements for Timed Metadata Tracks§

This section discusses the specific formatting requirements for <u>CMAF Ingest</u> of timed metadata. Examples of timed metadata are opportunities for splice points and program information signaled by SCTE-35 markers. Such event signaling is different from regular audio/video information because of its sparse nature. In this case, the signaling data usually does not happen continuously and the intervals may be hard to predict. Other examples of timed metadata are ID3 tags [ID3v2], SCTE-35 markers [SCTE35] and DASHEventMessageBox'es defined in Section

#### 5.10.3.3 of [MPEGDASH].

Table 4 provides some example urn schemes to be signaled. Table 5 illustrates an example of a SCTE-35 marker stored in a DASHEventMessageBox, that is in turn stored as a metadata sample in a metadata track. The presented approach enables ingest of timed metadata from different sources, because data is not interleaved with the media.

By using CMAF timed metadata tack, the same track and presentation formatting are applied for metadata as for other tracks ingested, and the metadata is part of the <u>CMAF presentation</u>.

By embedding the DASHEventMessageBox structure in timed metadata samples, some of the benefits of its usages in DASH and CMAF are kept. In addition, it enables signaling of gaps, overlapping events and multiple events starting at the same time in a single timed metadata track for this scheme. In addition, the parsing and processing of DASHEventMessageBox'es is supported in many players. The support for this DASHEventMessageBox embedded timed metadata track instantiation is described.

An example of adding an ID3 tag in a DASHEventMessageBox can be found in [aomid3].

Table 4: Example URN schemes for timed metadata tracks.

SchemeldURI	Reference
urn:mpeg:dash:event:2012	[MPEGDASH], 5.10.4 subtitle
urn:dvb:iptv:cpm:2014	[DVB-DASH], 9.1.2.1
urn:scte:scte35:2013:bin	[SCTE214-1] SCTE-35
www.nielsen.com:id3:v1	Nielsen ID3 in DASH [ID3v2]

Table 5: Example of a SCTE-35 marker embedded in a DASH EventMessageBox.

Tag	Value
scheme_uri_id	urn:scte:scte35:2013:bin
value	value used to signal subscheme
timescale	positive number, ticks per second, similar to track timescale
presentation_time_delta	non-negative number
event_duration	duration of event "0xFFFFFFF" if unknown
id	unique identifier for message
message_data	splice info section including CRC

The following are requirements and recommendations that apply to timed metadata ingest of information related to events, tags, ad markers and program information and others:

- 1. Metadata SHALL be conveyed in a CMAF track, where the media handler (hdlr) is "meta", the track handler box is a NullMediaHeaderBox ("nmhd") as defined for timed metadata tracks in [ISOBMFF] clause 12.3.
- 2. The CMAF timed metadata track applies to the <u>CMAF presentation</u> ingested to a <u>publishing\_point\_URL</u> at the receiving entity.
- 3. To fulfill CMAF track requirements in <a href="MPEGCMAF">[MPEGCMAF</a>] clause 7.3., such as not having gaps in the media timeline, filler data may be needed. Such filler data SHALL be defined by the metadata scheme signaled in URIMetaSampleEntry. For example, WebVTT tracks define a VTTEmptyCueBox in <a href="MPEG4-30">[MPEG4-30]</a> clause 6.6.

This cue is to be carried in samples in which no active cue occurs. Other schemes could define empty fillers amongst similar lines.

- 4. CMAF track files do not support overlapping, multiple concurrently active or zero duration samples. In case metadata or events are concurrent, overlapping or of zero duration, such semantics MUST be defined by the scheme signaled in the URIMetaSampleEntry. The timed metadata track MUST still conform to <a href="MPEGCMAF">[MPEGCMAF]</a> clause 7.3.
- 5. CMAF timed metadata tracks MAY carry EventMessageBox'es as defined in [MPEGDASH] clause 5.10.3.3. in the metadata samples. The best way to create such a track is based on MPEG-B part 18 as defined in ISO/IEC 23001-18. Some deprecated implementations may use DASHEventMessageBox'es as defined in ISO/IEC 23009-1. Using DASHEventMessageBox'es directly in samples may be implemented as follows:
  - 5a. In the case of 5, version 1 SHOULD be used, in case version 0 is used, the presentation\_time\_delta refers to presentation time of the sample enclosing the DASHEventMessageBox.
  - 5b. In the case of 5, the URIMetaSampleEntry SHOULD contain the URN "urn:mpeg:dash:event:2012" or an equivalent urn to signal the presence of DASHEventMessageBox'es.
  - 5c. In the case of 5, the timescale of the DASHEventMessageBox SHOULD match the value specified in the MediaHeaderBox ("mdhd") of the timed metadata track.
  - 5d. In the case of 5, the sample should contain all DASHEventMessageBox'es that are active in during the presentation time of the sample.
  - 5e. In the case of 5, a single metadata sample MAY contain multiple DASHEventMessageBox'es. This happens if multiple DASHEventMessageBox'es have the same presentation time or if an earlier event is still active in a sample containing a newly started and overlapping event.
  - 5f. In the case of 5, the schemeldUri in the DASHEventMessageBox can be used to signal the scheme of the data carried in the message data field. This enables carriage of multiple metadata schemes in a track.
  - 5g. In the case of 5, For SCTE-35 ingest the schemeldURI in the DASHEventMessageBox MUST be urn:scte:scte35:2013:bin as defined in [SCTE214-3]. A binary SCTE-35 payload is carried in the message\_data field of a DASHEventMessageBox. If a splice point is signaled, media tracks MUST insert an IDR frame at the time corresponding to the event presentation time.
  - 5h. In case of 5, it may be necessary to add filler samples to avoid gaps in the CMAF track timeline. This may be done using EventMessageEmptyBox (8 bytes) with 4cc code of "emeb" or "embe".
  - 5i. In the case of 5, if ID3 tags are carried, the DASHEventMessageBox MUST be formatted as defined in [aomid3].
  - 5j. In the case of 5, the value and id field of the DASHEventMessageBox can be used by the  $\underline{\text{receiving entity}}$  to detect duplicate events.
- 6. The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD NOT embed inband top-level DASHEventMessageBox'es ("emsg") in the timed metadata track.
- 7. Timed metadata tracks, similar to other CMAF tracks, should use a constant segment duration. As actual timed metadata durations may vary in practice, timed metadata schemes should support schemes for re-signalling all active timed metadata in each segment. This way constant duration segments (e.g. 2 seconds) can still be used, and metadata that is still active is repeated later segments while still active. ISO/IEC 23001-18 has explicit support for this feature by repeating event message instance boxes.
- 8. In case the timed metadata track is also signalled in the manifest, the @codecs string should be set to the 4cc code of the sample entry, e.g. urim for URIMetaSampleEntry. The @contentType field is "meta" and mimeType field is "application/mp4". Additional descriptors such as Supplemental or Essential Property may be used to further describe the content of the content of the metadata track in the mpd.

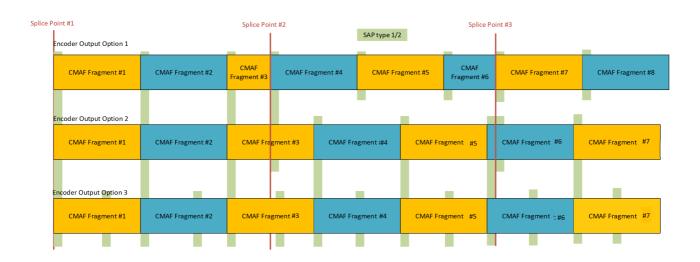
# 6.7. Requirements for Signaling and Conditioning Splice Points

Splicing is important for use cases like ad insertion or clipping of content. The requirements for signaling splice points and content conditioning at respective splice points are as follows.

- 1. The preferred method for signaling splice point uses the timed metadata track sample with a presentation time corresponding to the splice point. The timed metadata track sample is carrying events carrying binary SCTE-35 based on the scheme urn:scte:scte35:2013:bin. The command carried in the binary SCTE-35 shall carry a splice info section with spliceInsert command with out of network indicator set to 1 and a break\_duration matching the actual break duration.
- Information related to splicing, whether SCTE-35 based or by other means, whether in an EventMessageBox or timed metadata track sample or event MUST be available to the receiver at least four seconds before the media segment with the intended splice point.
- 3. The splice time shall equal the presentation time of the metadata sample or event message, as the SCTE-35 timing is based on MPEG-2 TS and has no meaning in CMAF or DASH. The media ingest source is responsible for the frame accurate conversion of this time, similar as for the media segments.
- 4. In case a separate SCTE-35 command is used as a CUE-IN, the actual duration of the break shall match the announced break duration in the CUE-OUT, in the initial SCTE-35 command.
- 5. In case segmentation descriptors are used, and multiple descriptors are present, a separate Event Message with a duration corresponding to each of the descriptors should be used.
- 6. Sync samples shall be signaled in the corresponding media tracks according to the semantics of ISOBMFF, for example, using per sample flags in track run box if needed. In case dual encoder synchronization is required, inserting IDR frames inside segments is preferable over introducing segment boundary.

The conditioning follows [DASH-IFad] shown in Figure 9:

Figure 9: Splice point conditioning.



The splice point conditioning in [DASH-IFad] are defined as follows:

- 1. Option 1 Slice conditioned packaging: Both a fragment boundary and a SAP 1 or SAP 2 (stream access point) at the splice point.
- 2. Option 2 Splice conditioned encoding: A SAP 1 or SAP 2 stream access point at the frame at the boundary.
- 3. Option 3 Splice point signaling: Specific content conditioning at the splice point.

This specification requires option 1 or 2 to be applied. Option 2 is required for dual encoder synchronization to avoid variation of the segment durations.

# 6.8. Requirements for Failovers and Connection Error Handling§

Given the nature of live streaming, good failover support is critical for ensuring the availability of the service. Typically, media services are designed to handle various types of failures, including network errors, server errors, and storage issues. When used in conjunction with proper failover logic from the ingest sources side, highly reliable live streaming setups can be built. In this section, we discuss requirements for failover scenarios. The following steps are required for an ingest source to deal with a failing receiving entity.

The <u>CMAF Ingest</u> source and <u>receiving entity</u> should implement the following recommendation to achieve failover support of the receiving entity.

1. In case the receiving entity failed, a new instance SHOULD be created, listening on the same publishing\_point\_URL for the ingest stream.

Live encoder or <u>ingest source</u> failover is the second type of failover. In this scenario, the error condition occurs on the <u>ingest source</u> side. The following recommendations apply:

- 1. A new ingest source instance SHOULD be instantiated to continue the ingest for the live streaming session.
- 2. The ingest source MUST use the same URL for HTTP POST requests as the failed instance.
- 3. The new <u>ingest source</u> POST request MUST include the same <u>CMAF header</u> or CMAF header as the failed instance.
- 4. The <u>ingest source</u> MUST be properly synced with all other running ingest sources for the same live presentation to generate synced audio/video samples with aligned fragment boundaries in the track. This implies that UTC timestamps for fragments in the "tfdt" box match between decoders and encoders.
- 5. The new stream MUST be semantically equivalent with the previous stream, and interchangeable at the header and media fragment levels.
- 6. The new instance of <a href="ingest source">ingest source</a> SHOULD try to minimize data loss. The <a href="baseMediaDecodeTime">baseMediaDecodeTime</a> of fragments SHOULD increase from the point where the encoder last stopped. The <a href="baseMediaDecodeTime">baseMediaDecodeTime</a> in the "tfdt" box SHOULD increase in a continuous manner, but it is permissible to introduce a discontinuity, if necessary. Receiving entities can ignore fragments that it has already received and processed, so it is better to error on the side of resending fragments than to introduce discontinuities in the media timeline.
- 7. In some cases a third server may be used by receiver, to request missing segments. The additional signaling for this is out of scope.

# 6.9. Requirements for Media Ingest Source Synchronization§

EDITOR'S NOTE: Encoder vendors are particularly requested to review this section.

In the case of more than one redundant ingest sources, synchronization between them can be achieved as follows. A fixed segment duration is chosen such as based on the fixed GoP duration, e.g., two seconds that is used by all media sources. So the segment duration is fixed for all tracks (not only the video tracks). The media sources use a fixed anchor T as a timeline origin, this should be 1-1-1970 (Unix epoch) or another well-known defined time anchor. The segment boundaries in this case are K \* segment duration (since anchor T) for an integer K > 0. Any media source joining or starting can compute the fragment boundary and produce segments with equivalent segment boundaries corresponding to approximately the current time by choosing K sufficiently large.

It is assumed that media sources generate signals from a synchronized source and can use timing information from this source, e.g., MPEG-2 TS presentation time stamp or SDI signals to compute such timestamps for each segment. For example, in the case of MPEG-2 TS program clock reference (PCR) and presentation time stamps can be used. Based on this conversion different media sources will produce segments with identical durations, timestamps and enclosing frames. By this conversion to a common timeline based on common anchor (in this case the Unix epoch) and fixed segment durations media sources to join and leave and synchronized operation, enabling both synchronization and redundancy.

In this setup, a first media ingest source can be seamlessly replaced by a redundant second media ingest source. In case of splicing, it is important that the ingest source inserts an IDR frame but not a segment or fragment boundary.

# 7. Interface-2: DASH and HLS Ingest§

Interface-2 defines the protocol specific behavior required to ingest a <u>streaming presentation</u> composed of <u>manifest objects</u> and <u>media objects</u> to receiving entities. In this mode, the <u>ingest source</u> prepares and delivers to the receiving entity all the <u>objects</u> intended for consumption by a client. These are a complete <u>streaming presentation</u> including all manifest and media objects.

This interface is intended to be used by workflows that do not require active media processing after encoding. It leverages the fact that many encoders provide DASH and HLS packaging capabilities and that the resulting packaged content can easily be transferred via HTTP to standard web servers. However, neither DASH nor HLS has specified how such a workflow is intended to work leaving the industry to self-specify key decisions such as how to secure and authenticate ingest sources, who is responsible for managing the content life cycle, the order of operations, failover features, robustness methods, etc. In most cases a working solution can be had using a readily available web server such as Nginx or Varnish and the standard compliment of HTTP methods. In many cases, Interface-2 simply documents what is considered industry best practice while attempting to provide guidance to areas less commonly considered.

The requirements below (in addition to the common requirements listed in § 5 Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2) encapsulate all the needed functionality to support Interface-2. In case [MPEGCMAF] media is used, the media track and segment formatting will be similar as defined in Interface-1.

# 7.1. General Requirements§

#### 7.1.1. Industry Compliance

- The <u>ingest source</u> MUST be able to create a compliant <u>streaming presentation</u> for DASH and/or HLS. The
  ingest source may create both DASH and HLS streaming presentations using common media objects (i.e.,
  CMAF), but the ingest source MUST generate format-specific manifest objects.
- 2. The <u>ingest source</u> MUST support the configuration and use of Fully Qualified Domain Names (per RFC 8499) to identify the receiving entity.
- 3. The ingest source MUST support the configuration of the path, which it will POST all the objects to.
- 4. The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD support the configuration of the delivery path that the <u>receiving entity</u> will use to retrieve the content. When provided, the <u>ingest source</u> MUST use this path to build absolute URLs in the manifest files it generates. When absent, use of relative paths is assumed and the ingest source MUST build the manifest files accordingly.

These capabilities are further illustrated in § 8 Examples (Informative).

#### 7.1.2. HTTP Sessions

- 1. The ingest source MUST transfer <u>manifest objects</u> and <u>media objects</u> to the receiving entity via individual HTTP/1.1 POST commands to the configured path.
- 2. The ingest source SHOULD remove <u>media objects</u> from the receiving entity that are no longer referenced in the corresponding <u>manifest objects</u> via an HTTP DELETE command. How long the ingest source waits to remove unreferenced content can be configurable. Upon receiving an HTTP DELETE command, the receiving entity should:
  - 2a. delete the referenced content and return an HTTP 200 OK status code,
  - 2b. delete the corresponding folder if the last file in the folder is deleted and it is not a root folder and not

- necessarily recursively deleting empty folders.
- 3. To avoid delay associated with the TCP handshake, the ingest source SHOULD use persistent TCP connections.
- 4. To avoid head of line blocking, the ingest source SHOULD use multiple parallel TCP connections to transfer the streaming presentation that it is generating. For example, the ingest source SHOULD POST each representation (e.g., CMAF track) in a media presentation over a different TCP connection.
- 5. The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD use the chunked transfer encoding option for the HTTP POST command when the content length of the request is unknown at the start of transmission or to support the low-latency use cases.

#### 7.1.3. Unique Segment and Manifest Naming§

- The ingest source MUST ensure all <u>media objects</u> (video segments, audio segments, initialization segments
  and caption segments) have unique paths. This uniqueness applies across all ingested content in previous
  sessions as well as the current session. This requirement ensures previously cached content (i.e., by a CDN) is
  not inadvertently served instead of newer content of the same name.
- 2. The ingest source MUST ensure all objects in a <u>live stream session</u> are contained within the configured path. Should the receiving entity receive media objects outside of the allowed path, it SHOULD return an HTTP 403 Forbidden response.
- 3. For each live stream session, the ingest source MUST provide unique paths for the <u>manifest objects</u>. One suggested method of achieving this is to introduce a timestamp of the start of the live stream session into the manifest path. A session is defined by the explicit start and stop of the encoding process.
- 4. When receiving objects with the same path as an existing object, the receiving entity MUST overwrite the existing objects with the newer objects of the same path.
- 5. To support unique naming and consistency, the ingest source SHOULD include a number, which is monotonically increasing with each new media object at the end of media object's name, separated by a non-numeric character. This way it is possible to retrieve this numeric suffix via a regular expression.
- 6. The ingest source MUST identify media objects containing initialization fragments by using the .init file extension.
- 7. The ingest source MUST include a file extension and a MIME type for all media objects. Table 6 outlines the formats that manifest and media objects are expected to follow based on their file extension. Segments may be formatted as MPEG4 (.mp4, .m4v, m4a), [MPEGCMAF] (.cmfv, .cmfa, .cmfm, .cmft) or [MPEG2TS] .ts (HLS only). Manifests may be formatted as DASH (.mpd) or HLS (.m3u8).

NOTE: Using MPEG-2 TS breaks consistency with Interface-1, which uses a CMAF container format structure.

Table 6: List of the permissible combinations of file extensions and MIME types.

File extension	MIME type
.m3u8 [RFC8216]	application/x-mpegURL or vnd.apple.mpegURL
.mpd [MPEGDASH]	application/dash+xml
.cmfv [MPEGCMAF]	video/mp4
.cmfa [MPEGCMAF]	audio/mp4
.cmft [MPEGCMAF]	application/mp4
.cmfm [MPEGCMAF]	application/mp4
.mp4 [ISOBMFF]	video/mp4 or application/mp4

.m4v [ISOBMFF]	video/mp4
.m4a [ISOBMFF]	audio/mp4
.m4s [ISOBMFF]	video/iso.segment
.init	video/mp4
.header[ISOBMFF]	video/mp4
.key	TBD

# 7.1.4. DNS Lookups

DNS lookup requirements are defined in the general protocol requirements § 5 Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2.

#### 7.1.5. Ingest Source Identification§

• The <u>ingest source</u> SHOULD include a User-Agent header (which provides information about brand name, version number and build number in a readable format) in all allowed HTTP messages. The receiving entity can log the received information along with other relevant HTTP header data to facilitate troubleshooting.

#### 7.1.6. Additional Failure Behaviors

The following items defines additional behavior of an ingest source when encountering certain error responses from the receiving entity.

- When the ingest source receives a TCP connection attempt timeout, abort midstream, response timeout, TCP send/receive timeout or an HTTP 5xx error code when attempting to POST content to the <u>receiving entity</u>, it MUST:
  - 1a. For manifest objects: Re-resolve DNS on each retry (per the DNS TTL) and retry as defined in § 5 Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2.
  - 1b. For media objects: Re-resolve DNS on each retry (per the DNS TTL) and continue uploading for n seconds, where n is the segment duration. After it reaches the media object duration value, the <u>ingest source</u> MUST continue with the next media object and update the manifest object with a discontinuity marker appropriate for the protocol format. To maintain continuity of the timeline, the ingest source SHOULD continue to upload the missing media object with a lower priority. The reason for this is to maintain an archive without discontinuity in case the stream is played back at a later time. Once a media object is successfully uploaded, the ingest source SHOULD update the corresponding manifest object to reflect the now available media object.

NOTE: Some clients may not like changes made in the manifest about the past media objects (e.g., removing a previously present discontinuity). Thus, care should be taken when making such changes.

2. Upon receipt of an HTTP 403 or 400 error code, the ingest source MAY be configured to not retry sending the fragments (N, as described in § 5 Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2, will be 0 in this case).

# 7.2. DASH-Specific Requirements§

### 7.2.1. File Extensions and MIME Types

When ingesting prepared DASH content, the ingest source:

- 1. MUST use an .mpd file extension for the manifest.
- 2. MUST use one of the allowed file extensions (see Table 6) for the media objects.

#### 7.2.2. Relative Paths

The ingest source SHOULD use relative URLs to address each segment within the manifest.

### 7.3. HLS-Specific Requirements§

#### 7.3.1. File Extensions and MIME Types

When ingesting prepared HLS content, the ingest source:

- 1. MUST use an .m3u8 file extension for master and variant playlists.
- 2. SHOULD use a .key file extension for any keyfiles posted to the receiving entity for client delivery.
- 3. MUST use a ".ts" file extension for segments encapsulated in an MPEG-2 TS file format.
- 4. MUST use one of the allowed file extensions (see Table 6) appropriate for the MIME type of the content encapsulated using [MPEGCMAF].

#### 7.3.2. Upload Orders

In accordance with <a href="IRFC8216">[IRFC8216]</a> recommendation, ingest sources MUST upload all required files for a specific bitrate and segment before proceeding to the next segment. For example, for a bitrate that has segments and a playlist that updates every segment and key files, ingest sources upload the segment file followed by a key file (optional) and the playlist file in serial fashion. The encoder MUST only move to the next segment after the previous segment has been successfully uploaded or after the segment duration time has elapsed. The order of operation should be:

- 1. Upload media segment,
- 2. Upload key file (if required),
- 3. Upload the playlist.

If there is a problem with any of the steps, retry. Do not proceed to step 3 until step 1 succeeds or times out as described above. Failed uploads MUST result in a stream manifest discontinuity per [RFC8216].

#### 7.3.3. Encryption§

1. The ingest source may choose to encrypt the media segments and publish the corresponding keyfile to the receiving entity.

#### 7.3.4. Relative Paths§

- 1. The ingest source SHOULD use relative URLs to address each segment within the variant playlist.
- 2. The ingest source SHOULD use relative URLs to address each variant playlist within the master playlist.

#### 7.3.5. Resiliency

1. When ingesting media objects to multiple receiving entities, the ingest source MUST send identical media objects with identical names.

2. When multiple ingest sources are used, they MUST use consistent media object names including when reconnecting due to an application or transport error. A common approach is to use (epoch time)/(segment duration) as the object name.

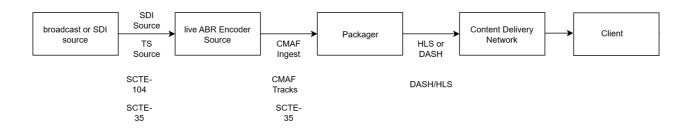
# 8. Examples (Informative)§

In this section, we provide some example deployments for live streaming, mapping to the architecture defined by the DASH-IF Live Task Force using the emerging DASH CMAF profile.

# 8.1. Example 1: CMAF Ingest and a Just-in-Time Packager§

Figure 10 shows an example where a separate packager and origin server are used.

Figure 10: Example setup with CMAF Ingest and DASH/HLS Ingest.



The broadcast source is used as input to the live <u>ABR</u> encoder. The broadcast sources can be the SDI signals from a broadcast facility or MPEG-2 TS streams intercepted from a broadcast that need to be re-used in an <u>OTT</u> distribution workflow. The live ABR encoder performs the encoding of the tracks into CMAF tracks and functions as the <u>ingest source</u> in the CMAF lngest interface. Multiple live ABR encoder sources can be used, providing redundant inputs to the packager using dual encoder synchronisation. In this case, the segments are of constant duration and audio and video segment boundaries should be aligned. Segments should use a timing relative to a shared anchor such as the Unix Epoch, as to support synchronisation based on epoch locking.

Following the CMAF Ingest specification in this document allows for failover and many other features related to the content tracks. The live encoder source performs the following tasks:

- It demuxes and receives the MPEG-2 TS and/or SDI signal.
- It translates the metadata in these streams such as SCTE-35 or SCTE-104 to timed metadata tracks.
- It performs a high quality ABR encoding in different bitrates with aligned switching points.
- It packages all media and timed text tracks as CMAF-compliant tracks and signals track roles in "kind" boxes.
- It POSTs the addressable media objects composing the tracks to the packager according to the CMAF Ingest interface defined in Section 5, and optionally a manifest describing the groupings and naming of the inputs.
- The CMAF Ingest allows multiple live encoder sources and packagers to be deployed benefiting from redundant stream creation avoiding timeline discontinuities due to failures as much as possible.
- In case the receiver entity fails, it reconnects and resends as defined in § 5 Common Requirements for Interface-1 and Interface-2 and § 6.8 Requirements for Failovers and Connection Error Handling.
- In case the live encoder <u>ingest source</u> itself fails, it restarts and performs the steps as in § 6.8 Requirements for Failovers and Connection Error Handling.

The live encoder <u>ingest source</u> can be deployed in the cloud or on a bare metal server or even as a dedicated hardware. The live encoder source may have some tools or configuration APIs to author the CMAF tracks and feed instructions/properties from the SDI or broadcast feed into the CMAF tracks. The packager receives the ingested streams and performs the following tasks.

- It receives the CMAF tracks, grouping switching sets based on switching set constraints, based on kind box or hints in the URI.
- When packaging to DASH, an adaptation set is created for each switching set ingested.
- The near constant fragment duration is used to generate segment template based presentation using either \$Number\$ or \$Time\$.
- In case a splice point occurs, an IDR frame is inserted in the segment without introducing a segment boundary (this is important if more than one syncrhonised encoders are used). The SCTE-35 signal is included as timed metadata.
- In case changes happen, the packager can update the manifest and embed inband events to trigger manifest updates in the fragments.
- The DASH packager encrypts media segments according to key information available. This key information is
  typically exchanged by protocols defined in CPIX. This allows configuration of the content keys, initialization
  vectors and embedding encryption information in the manifest.
- The DASH packager signals subtitles in the manifest based on received CMAF streams and roles signaled in the "kind" box.
- In case a fragment is missing and SegmentTimeline is used, the packager signals a discontinuity in the MPD.
- In case the low-latency mode is used, the packager may make output available before the entire fragment is received using HTTP chunked transfer encoding.
- The packager may have a proprietary API similar to the live encoder source, for configuration of aspects like the timeShiftBuffer, DVR window, encryption modes enabled, etc.
- The packager uses DASH or HLS Ingest (as specified in § 6 Interface-1: CMAF Ingest) to push content to the
  origin server of a CDN. Alternatively, it could also make content directly available as an origin server. In this
  case, DASH/HLS Ingest is avoided and the packager also serves as the origin server.
- The packager converts the timed metadata track and uses it to convert to either MPD events or inband events
  signaled in the manifest. The packager creates a segment boundary in case this was not present in the original
  ingest and in case a SCTE-35 slice event was received.
- The packager may also generate HLS or other streaming media presentations based on the input.
- In case the packager crashes or fails, it restarts and waits for the ingest source to perform the actions detailed in § 6.8 Requirements for Failovers and Connection Error Handling.

The CDN consumes a DASH/HLS Ingest or serves as a proxy for content delivered to a client. The CDN in case it is consuming the POST-based DASH/HLS Ingest performs the following tasks:

- It stores all posted content and makes them available for HTTP GET requests from locations corresponding to the paths signaled in the manifest.
- It occasionally deletes content based on instructions from the ingest source, which is the packager in this setup.
- In case the low-latency mode is used, content could be made available before the entire pieces of content are available.
- It updates the manifest accordingly when a manifest update is received.
- It serves as a proxy for HTTP GET requests forwarded to the packager.

In case the CDN serves as a proxy, it only forwards requests for content to the packager to receive the content and caches the relevant segments for a certain duration.

The client receives DASH or HLS streams and is not affected by the specification of this work. Nevertheless, it is expected that by using a common streaming format, less caching and less overhead in the network will result in a better user experience. The client still needs to retrieve license and key information by steps defined outside of this specification. Information on how to retrieve this information will typically be signaled in the manifest prepared by the packager.

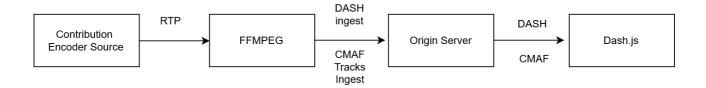
# 8.2. Example 2: Low-Latency DASH, and Combination of Interface-1 and Interface-2§

A second example is given in Figure 11. It constitutes the reference workflow for live chunked CMAF developped by DASH-IF and DVB. In this workflow, a contribution encoder produces an <a href="RTP">RTP</a> mezzanine stream that is transmitted to FFmpeg, an example open-source encoder/packager running on a server. Alternatively, a file resource may be used. In this workflow, the encoder functions as the <a href="ingest source">ingest source</a>. FFmpeg produces the ingest stream with different ABR encoded CMAF tracks. In addition, it sends a manifest that complies with DASH-IF and DVB low-latency CMAF specification and MPD updates. The CMAF tracks also contain respective timing information (i.e., "prft"). In this case, the ingest source implements Interface-1 and Interface-2 based Ingest at once. By also resending CMAF headers in case of failures both interfaces may be satisfied.

The origin server is used to pass the streams to the client and may in some cases also perform a re-encryption or repackaging of the streaming presentation as needed by the clients. The example client is DASH.js and a maximum end-to-end latency of 3500 ms is targeted. In some cases URI rewrite rules are required to achieve this compatibility between interface 1 and interface 2. For example the DASH segment naming structure can be used to derive the explicit Streams() keywords.

The approaches for authentication and DNS resolution are similar for the two interfaces, as are the track formatting in case CMAF is used. This example does not use timed metadata. The ingest source may resend the CMAF header or initialisation segment in case of connection failures to conform to the CMAF lngest specification.

Figure 11: DASH-IF/DVB reference live chunked CMAF workflow.



# 9. List of Changes from the First Version (2020)§

version 1: april 2020 version 1.1: april 2021

Technical updates completed for CMAF ingest (interface-1) v1.1.:

- 1. section on encoder synchronization added see issues 126 and 140
- 2. restriction single segment per post restriction see issue 112
- 3. text on encoder input loss issue 113
- 4. guidance on the manifest formatting see issue 111
- 5. reference to MPEG-B part 18 for timed metadata track see issue 31
- 6. emsg time is leading clarification see issue 129
- 7. brand for last segment see issue 114
- 8. deprecate the usage of mfra to close ingest #124
- 9. allow common encryption of media tracks #117
- 10. text on requesting segments from third server #119
- 11. swap priority preferred sample entry to hev1/avc3 #115
- 12. additional clarification on SCTE-35 carriage #128 #133 #130 #121 #127
- 13. prft box text added and made a requirement #116
- 14. guidelines for constant duration timed metadata #145
- 15. text on conversion MPEG-2 TS to DASH timeline #131

Editorial updates completed in v1.1.:

- 1. capitalization, cross references fixed, replaced some terms
- 2. for consistency, change references to IETF specifications
- 3. POST\_URL vs publishing url
- 4. clean up the informative sections a bit
- 5. update the diagrams including fixes
- 6. some text from the examples removed to be inline with the current version

# 10. Acknowledgements§

We thank the contributors from the following companies for their comments and support: Huawei, Akamai, BBC R&D, CenturyLink, Microsoft, Unified Streaming, Facebook, Hulu, Comcast, ITV, Qualcomm, Tencent, Samsung, MediaExcel, Harmonic, Sony, Arris, Bitmovin, Ateme, EZDRM, DSR, BroadPeak and AWS Elemental.

# 11. URL References§

fmp4git: Unified Streaming fmp4-ingest: https://github.com/unifiedstreaming/fmp4-ingest

**aomid3**: Carriage of ID3 Timed Metadata in the Common Media Application Format (CMAF): https://aomediacodec.github.io/id3-emsg

**Mozilla-TLS**: Mozilla Wiki Security/Server Side TLS: https://wiki.mozilla.org/Security/Server\_Side\_TLS#Intermediate\_compatibility\_.28recommended.29

MS-SSTR: Smooth Streaming Protocol: https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff469518.aspx

**DASH-IFad**: Advanced Ad Insertion in DASH (under community review): https://dashif.org/docs/CR-Ad-Insertion-r4.pdf

### Conformance§

Conformance requirements are expressed with a combination of descriptive assertions and RFC 2119 terminology. The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in the normative parts of this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119. However, for readability, these words do not appear in all uppercase letters in this specification.

All of the text of this specification is normative except sections explicitly marked as non-normative, examples, and notes. [RFC2119]

Examples in this specification are introduced with the words "for example" or are set apart from the normative text with class="example", like this:

# EXAMPLE 1

This is an example of an informative example.

Informative notes begin with the word "Note" and are set apart from the normative text with class="note", like this:

Note, this is an informative note.

# Index§

# Terms defined by this specification§

iriis delined by this sp
ABR
aomid3
baseMediaDecodeTime
CMAF chunk
CMAF fragment
CMAF header
CMAF Ingest
CMAF media object
CMAF presentation
CMAFstream
CMAF track
connection
DASH-IFad
DASH Ingest
<u>elng</u>
fmp4git
ftyp
HLS Ingest
HTTP POST
ingest source
ingest stream
live encoder
live stream session
manifest objects
mdat
mdhd
media fragment
media objects
mfra (deprecated)
moof
Mozilla-TLS
MS-SSTR
nmhd
<u>objects</u>
ΟΠ
POST_URL
<u>prft</u>

publishing\_point\_URL

```
receiving entity

RTP

streaming presentation

switching set

switching set ID

TCP
```

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tfdt

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