
CP-140944: Requirements on codecs for WebRTC

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Issue description

- As part of the WebRTC-related activity, CT1 is studying the notion that a UE implementing this 3GPP feature would have to adhere to draft-ietf-rtcweb-overview
 - See PCR C1-144993 & see LS from CT1 to SA4/CT4/SA/CT/SA2 in CP-140869/C1-145032
- draft-ietf-rtcweb-overview-13 includes the following references:
 - Reference to draft-ietf-rtcweb-audio-05 which mandates support for G.711 and OPUS
 - Reference to draft-ietf-rtcweb-video-00
 - The latest version of this draft (-03) mandates support for H.264 and **VP8** as defined in RFC 6386
 - Note: RFC 6386 is informational
- In the above mentioned LS, SA4 is being consulted on the matter of codec applicability to 3GPP access networks; however, we believe there is a much larger issue to be considered

Issue description (cont.)

- RFC 6386 is the subject of IPR declarations indicating unwillingness to commit to licensing under RAND conditions
- There is an ongoing MPEG activity to standardize VP8, and according to the discussions at the IETF, a so-called “ISO Type 3” declaration” has been submitted against VP8 in MPEG
 - This declaration also indicates unwillingness to license under FRAND conditions
- We believe including a normative external reference that includes technologies not covered by a FRAND commitment is contrary to the spirit of the 3GPP specification, and to the policy of some its SDOs
 - For example, ETSI has the following policy in this regard:

ETSI promotes a policy that any essential Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) embodied in normatively referenced documents be available for use in ETSI deliverables on licensing and disclosure terms that do not materially differ from the terms defined in the ETSI IPR Policy

Proposal

- TSG CT & TSG SA should reply back to CT1 LS CP-140869/C1-145032 asking CT1 not to mandate the support for a codec that is likely not to be licensable under FRAND conditions
- A possible way forward in CT1 is to keep the current normative text in 3GPP TS 24.371 excluding codec aspects from the reference to draft-ietf-rtcweb-overview and to remove the associated Editor's note

Thank you

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