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**Information technology – UPnP device architecture –
Part 4-4: Audio Video Device Control Protocol – Level 2 – Audio Video Data
Structures**

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – UPNP DEVICE ARCHITECTURE –

Part 4-4: Audio Video Device Control Protocol – Level 2 – Audio Video Data Structures

FOREWORD

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This International Standard has been approved by vote of the member bodies, and the voting results may be obtained from the address given on the second title page.

¹ UPnP Forum Steering committee, UPnP Forum, 3855 SW 153rd Drive, Beaverton, Oregon 97006 USA. See also "Introduction".

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1 Overview and Scope

1.1 Introduction

This document defines the layout of the AV Datastructure Template (AVDT) XML document. An AVDT document describes the format requirements and restrictions of various data structures used within the UPnP AV specifications. Although these data structures are defined very precisely in the appropriate service specification, in most cases, each data structure definition allows for a certain degree of variation in order to accommodate differences between individual devices.

The purpose of an AVDT document is to enable each device to describe (at run-time) its particular variation of these AV data structures. AVDT documents allow users of AV data structures (e.g. UPnP control points) to reduce the number of instances of those data structures that comply with the service specification but are not compatible with the device's particular capabilities. The ultimate goal of an AVDT document is to reduce those error conditions that are caused by control points creating instances of a data structure that exceed the static (known) capabilities of the device. Unfortunately, the AVDT mechanism will never eliminate all preventable error conditions, but it will help to reduce them by giving the client more information about the device's particular capabilities.

As described above, an AVDT document is a machine readable, implementation-specific variant of an AV data structure defined by one of the UPnP AV specifications. For a given device, each instance of that data structure must conform to both the specification definition AND the device's AVDT definition of that data structure.

Ironically, an AVDT document is both a more-restrictive and more-permissive variant of the specification definition. AVDT documents are more restrictive because they limit certain aspects of the data structure (e.g. such as the allowed values for each field) that are otherwise permitted by the specification definition. However, due to limitations of the AVDT constructs, it is simply not possible to express some of the more intricate requirements defined by the specification (e.g. subtle interdependencies between data structure fields). Consequently, instances of a data structure that comply with a given AVDT description may not fully comply with all of the requirements defined in the specification.

The types of data structures that can be described by an AVDT document represent a (non-hierarchical) set of named property values. The set of allowed property names and their allowed values for a given data structure are defined by one of the UPnP AV specifications. Individual instances of these data structures are manifested via an XML document whose elements and attributes correspond to the set of named properties. In other words, within the XML document that corresponds to a given instance of a certain data structure, each XML element and attribute contains the value of a specific named property.

An AVDT document is conceptually similar to an XML schema in that both entities identify the XML elements and attributes that appear in any given document instance. Additionally, both AVDT documents and XML schemas identify the allowed values that are permitted for each element and/or attribute which corresponds to a specific property. However, unlike an XML schema, an AVDT document can also identify certain dependencies between two or more properties. For example, the set of allowed values of one property may depend on the actual value of another property. This type of interrelationship is difficult to represent using an XML schema. Hence, the AVDT document structure is needed.

In the various AV Architecture scenarios, sometimes there is a need to exchange device capabilities to ensure high level interoperability. In order to express the parameterized capability, an AV specification defines various templates for each purpose. A device uses the template and populates it with values to reflect its capabilities at run-time.

The AV Datastructure Template (AVDT) is a common structure to define various templates, which are called “Datastructure”. This is written in XML and each data structure uses a subset of the AVDT to meet the necessary requirement.

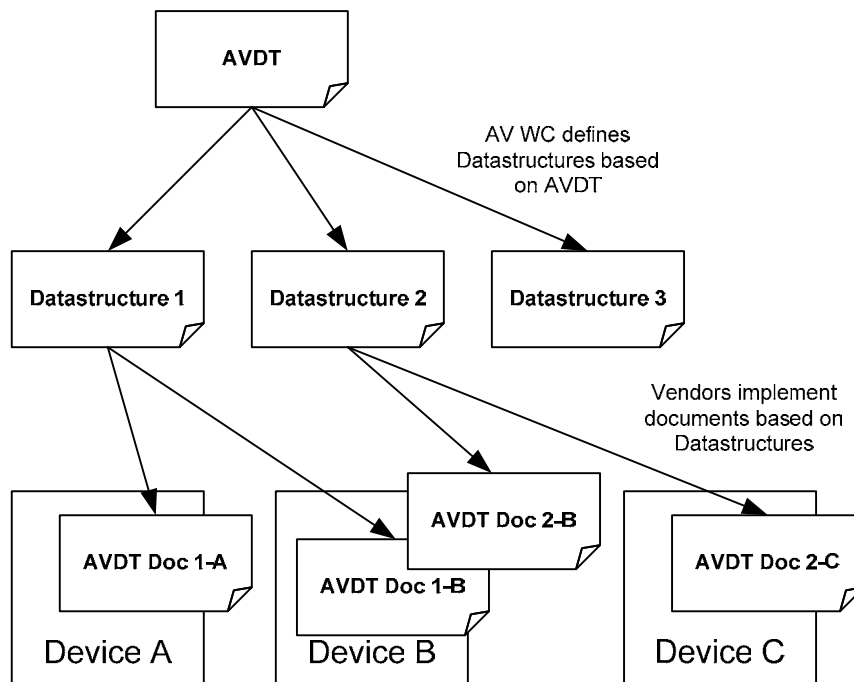


Figure 1: Typical Usage of AVDT

1.2 Notation

- In this document, features are described as Required, Recommended, or Optional as follows:

The keywords “MUST,” “MUST NOT,” “REQUIRED,” “SHALL,” “SHALL NOT,” “SHOULD,” “SHOULD NOT,” “RECOMMENDED,” “MAY,” and “OPTIONAL” in this specification are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119].

In addition, the following keywords are used in this specification:

PROHIBITED – The definition or behavior is prohibited by this specification. Opposite of **REQUIRED**.

CONDITIONALLY REQUIRED – The definition or behavior depends on a condition. If the specified condition is met, then the definition or behavior is **REQUIRED**, otherwise it is **PROHIBITED**.

CONDITIONALLY OPTIONAL – The definition or behavior depends on a condition. If the specified condition is met, then the definition or behavior is **OPTIONAL**, otherwise it is **PROHIBITED**.

These keywords are thus capitalized when used to unambiguously specify requirements over protocol and application features and behavior that affect the interoperability and security of implementations. When these words are not capitalized, they are meant in their natural-language sense.

- Strings that are to be taken literally are enclosed in “double quotes”.
- Words that are emphasized are printed in *italic*.
- Keywords that are defined by the UPnP AV Working Committee are printed using the *forum* character style [DEVICE].
- Keywords that are defined by the UPnP Device Architecture specification are printed using the *arch* character style.

- A double colon delimiter, “::”, signifies a hierarchical parent-child (parent::child) relationship between the two objects separated by the double colon. This delimiter is used in multiple contexts, for example: `Service::Action()`, `Action()::Argument`, `parentProperty::childProperty`.

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This clause lists the normative references used in the UPnP AV specifications and includes the tag inside square brackets that is used for each such reference:

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