AES standard
for network and file transfer of audio
—
Audio-file transfer and exchange —
Part 1: Disk format

Published by
Audio Engineering Society, Inc.
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Abstract

This document defines a disk format specification to maintain compatibility with as wide a user base as possible to facilitate audio-file transfer and exchange between differing systems. The document does not describe a complete disk format but provides enough information for choosing a proprietary system that will maintain compatibility.

Contents

Foreword

[This foreword is not a part of *AES standard for network and file transfer of audio — Audio-file transfer and exchange — Part 1: Disk format,* AES31-1-2001.]

This document was prepared by a writing group of the SC-06-01 Working Group on Audio-File Transfer and Exchange of the SC-06 Subcommittee on Network and File Transfer of Audio, headed by K. Brown, in fulfillment of project AES-X69, Interchange Format for Digital Audio File Transport. The project was initiated in 1994.

Mark Yonge, chair
Brooks Harris, vice-chair
SC-06-01
2001-03-09

Corrigendum 2001-08-28

Formatting corrections;
ASCII definition added.

Note on normative language

NOTE In AES standards documents, sentences containing the verb "shall" are requirements for compliance with the standard. Sentences containing the verb "should" are strong suggestions (recommendations). Sentences giving permission use the verb "may." Sentences expressing a possibility use the verb "can." The decimal point is a comma except in coding, where it is a period.

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0 Introduction

0.1 Rationale

A disk format is desired to provide a common platform so that files may be interchanged among hardware of different manufacturers of audio and video equipment.

0.2 Conventions used in this standard

0.2.1 Decimal points
According to IEC directives, the comma is used in all text to indicate the decimal point. However, in the specified coding, including the examples shown, the full stop is used as in IEC and ISO programming language standards.

0.2.2 Data representation
In this standard, all coding and data representations are printed in an equally spaced font.

0.2.3 Non-printing ASCII characters
Non-printing characters are delimited by angle brackets as in <CR> for carriage return.

0.3 Patents

The Audio Engineering Society draws attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this AES standard may involve the use of the FAT file system, a proprietary scheme of Microsoft, Inc. Licensing information is available at http://209.67.75.168/hardware/fatgen.htm. It was originally developed for the IBM PC machine architecture.

The AES holds no position concerning the evidence, validity, and scope of these patent rights.

For the purposes of this document, only requirements that affect compliance with this document shall appear in the document.

1 Scope

This document defines a disk format specification to maintain compatibility with as wide a user base as possible to facilitate audio-file transfer and exchange between differing systems. The document does not describe a complete disk format but provides enough information to choose a proprietary system that will maintain compatibility.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this document. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this document are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the indicated standards.

ISO/IEC 646 (1991-01). *Information technology — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*. Geneva, CH: International Organization for Standardization.