

AES standard for Audio applications of networks - Open Control Architecture - Part 1: Framework

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Abstract

AES70 defines a scalable control-protocol architecture for professional media networks. It addresses device control and monitoring only; it does not define standards for streaming media transport. However, the Open Control Architecture (OCA) is intended to cooperate with various media transport architectures.

AES70 is divided into a number of separate parts. This Part 1 describes the models and mechanisms of the Open Control Architecture. These models and mechanisms together form the AES70 Framework. This document should be read together with Part 2, Class structure and Part 3, TCP/IP communications protocol.

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Table of Contents

0 Introduction	6
0.1 General	6
0.2 Architectural goals and constraints	6
0.3 Document conventions	7
1 Scope	8
2 Normative references	8
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations	8
4 Top level design	10
4.1 General	10
4.2 Object orientation	10
4.2.1 Concept	10
4.2.2 Classes	10
4.2.3 Instantiation of classes	14
4.3 Messages.....	14
4.3.1 General.....	14
4.3.2 Message delivery services	14
5 Device model	14
5.1 Device configurability	14
5.2 Object addressing	15
5.3 Device model elements.....	16
5.3.1 General.....	16
5.3.2 Managers, Workers, and Agents.....	16
5.4 Worker classes	17
5.4.1 Actuators	17
5.4.2 Sensors	17
5.4.3 Blocks.....	18
5.4.4 Matrices.....	21
5.5 Agent classes.....	25
5.5.1 General.....	25
5.5.2 OcaNetwork and OcaStreamNetwork	25
5.5.3 OcaGrouper.....	25
5.5.4 OcaRamper	29
5.5.5 OcaNumericObserver and OcaNumericObserverList	29
5.5.6 OcaLibrary.....	30
5.5.7 OcaMediaClock.....	31
5.5.8 OcaEventHandler	31
5.6 Manager classes.....	31
5.7 Standard Object Numbers (ONo).....	32
5.8 Object text identification.....	32
5.9 Constructing objects	32
5.9.1 General.....	32
5.9.2 Block Factories.....	32
5.10 Deleting objects	32
6 Events and subscriptions	33
6.1 Subscriptions, events, emitters and notifications	33
6.1.1 General.....	33
6.1.2 Reliable or fast subscriptions	33

6.1.3 Subscription deletion	33
6.1.4 Subscription event handler	33
6.2 The PropertyChanged event	33
6.3 Use of numeric observers	34
7 Networking	35
7.1 General	35
7.2 Media Transport Connection Management	36
7.3 OCA Adaptations	36
7.3.1 General	36
7.3.2 Kinds of Media Networks	36
7.3.3 Examples	36
7.3.4 The OcaStreamNetwork Class	37
7.3.5 Mode 1: Stream-based Media Connection Management	37
7.3.6 Mode 2: Channel-based media connection management	38
8 Sessions	39
9 Security	39
10 Concurrency control	39
11 Reliability	40
11.1 General	40
11.2 Availability	40
11.2.1 Keep-alive messages	40
11.2.2 Efficient reinitialization	40
11.3 Robustness	40
12 Device reset	41
13 Firmware and software upgrade	41
13.1 General	41
13.2 Update Types	41
13.3 Update Modes	42
13.4 Update mechanisms	42
13.4.1 General	42
13.4.2 Active Updating	42
13.4.3 Passive Updating	43
Annex A (informative) - Actuator example	44
A.1 General	44
A.2 Properties, Methods, and Events	44
Annex B (informative) - Block examples	46
B.1 Simple microphone channel	46
B.2 Two-channel microphone mixer	46
B.3 Mixer using nested blocks	47
Annex C (informative) - Network connection management examples	48
C.1 Stream-based connection examples	48
C.1.1 General	48
C.1.2 Scenario 1: Input	48
C.1.3 Scenario 2: Simple output	49
C.1.4 Scenario 3: Multiple output connectors	49
C.1.5 Scenario 4: Multiple output streams from one connector	50
C.2 Channel-based connection examples	50

C.2.1 Scenario 5: Input..... 50

C.2.2 Scenario 6: Output..... 51

Annex D (informative) - Other Media Network Control Standards 52

D.1 AES64 52

D.2 SMPTE ST 2071 - Media Device Control 52

D.3 Architecture for Control Networks (ACN)..... 52

D.4 Open Sound Control (OSC)..... 52

D.5 Ember+..... 52

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Foreword

This foreword is not part of this document, AES70-1-2015, *AES standard for audio applications of networks - Open Control Architecture - Part 1: Framework*.

This document is a member of the three-document set that defines AES70, the Open Control Architecture (OCA). AES70-11 defines the architectural framework for AES70. Other parts define the control repertoire and the specific protocols used.

The development project for this standard was originally proposed by the Open Control Architecture Alliance (OCA Alliance) and initiated in October 2012 as project AES-X210 to be developed in task group SC-02-12-L. The OCA Alliance also contributed the task-group working draft and, as a direct result, there are a number of references to "OCA" in the protocol in order to maintain compatibility with implementations already in the field.

The members of the writing group that developed this document in draft are: J. Berryman, H. Hamamatsu, T. Head, S. Jones, M. Lave, N. O'Neill, M. Renz, M. Smaak, G. van Beuningen, S. van Tienen, E. Wetzell.

J. Berryman led the task group.

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Chair, working group SC-02-12
2015-11-12

Note on normative language

In AES standards documents, sentences containing the word "shall" are requirements for compliance with the document. Sentences containing the verb "should" are strong suggestions (recommendations). Sentences giving permission use the verb "may". Sentences expressing a possibility use the verb "can".

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0 Introduction

0.1 General

This document describes the models and mechanisms of the AES70 Open Control Architecture (OCA) for the control and monitoring of media networks. These models and mechanisms together form the AES70 Framework.

AES70 is for system control and monitoring only, and may be integrated with any streaming program transport protocol scheme, as long as the underlying communication network is capable of carrying AES70 control and monitoring traffic.

AES70 does not provide a complete device implementation model. AES70 models the control and monitoring functions of a device, not its entire signal path. If a particular device element has no remotely controllable features, then that element need not be represented in the device's AES70 protocol interface.

0.2 Architectural goals and constraints

AES70 is based upon the following features and requirements:

Functionality

AES70 supports the following functions:

1. Discover the AES70 devices that are connected to the network.
2. Define and undefine media stream paths between devices.
3. Control operating and configuration parameters of an AES70 device.
4. Monitor operating and configuration parameters of an AES70 device.
5. For devices with reconfigurable signal processing and/or control capabilities, define and manage configuration parameters.
6. Upgrade software and firmware of controlled devices. Include features for fail-safe upgrades.

Security

AES70 supports the following security measures for control and monitoring data:

1. Entity authentication
2. Prevention of eavesdropping
3. Integrity protection
4. Freshness - *"Freshness" in this context means certainty that replayed messages in a replay attack on a protocol will be detected as such.*

Scalability

AES70 supports networks with up to at least 10,000 application devices. AES70 imposes minimal restriction on the physical distribution of application devices.

Availability

AES70 supports high availability by offering:

1. Device supervision of AES70 devices.
2. Supervision of network connections to AES70 devices.
3. Efficient network re-initialization following errors and configuration changes.

Robustness

AES70 supports robustness by offering:

1. A mechanism for operation confirmation.
2. A mechanism for handling loss of control data.
3. A mechanism for handling device failure of AES70 devices.
4. Recommendations on network robustness mechanisms that network implementers may use.

Safety compliance

AES70 allows implementations of media networks that conform to life-safety emergency standards.

Compatibility

As AES70 evolves, it will maximize compatibility among its different versions. A controller based on one version of AES70 operates with a device based on another version of AES70 in the following manner:

1. For a device based on an older version of AES70, the newer-version controller will function as if it were based on the same version of AES70 as the device.
2. For a device based on a newer version of AES70, the older-version controller will be able to control and monitor all the functions of the device defined in the controller's version of AES70, and will not interfere with functions defined only in the device's version of AES70.

Analyzability

AES70 defines diagnostic functions that allow access to the following information:

1. Version information of all components, hardware and software, of each device
2. Network parameters of a device - for example, MAC address, IP address
3. Device status (including status of devices' network interfaces)
4. Media stream parameters (for each active receive and/or transmit media stream of a device)
5. Communications errors

0.3 Document conventions

In what follows, the phrase "AES70 supports [x]", where [x] is some function or feature should be interpreted to mean that AES70 defines one or more mechanisms by which a device will be able to implement feature [x] in an AES70-compliant manner.

Numerical values are decimal unless otherwise stated.

A Courier typeface is used to identify **programmatic names** to distinguish them from regular text.

Where new terminology is first introduced in body text, the term will be set in an italic typeface.

1 Scope

AES70 defines a scalable control-protocol architecture for the control and monitoring of professional media networks. AES70 addresses device control and monitoring only; it does not define standards for transporting streaming media or for describing media content.

This Part 1 describes the models and mechanisms of the AES70 Open Control Architecture. These models and mechanisms together form the AES70 Framework. This document should be read in conjunction with Part 2, Class Structure and Part 3, TCP/IP communications protocol.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

AES70-2 *AES standard for audio applications of Networks - Open Control Architecture - Part 2: Class structure*, Audio Engineering Society, New York, NY., US.

AES70-3 *AES standard for audio applications of Networks - Open Control Architecture - Part 3: Protocol for TCP/IP Networks*, Audio Engineering Society, New York, NY., US.

ISO/IEC 10646-1 *Information technology - Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) - Part 1: Architecture and basic multilingual plane*. International Standards Organization (ISO), Geneva, Switzerland

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

AES70-compliant interface

AES70 interface

a network interface compatible with a protocol defined in compliance with this standard.

3.2

Media device

network-connected equipment that originates or accepts media signals and exposes an AES70-compliant interface to controllers on the network to allow control and/or monitoring of its functions.

3.3

Non-media device

network-connected equipment that does not originate or accept media signals, but exposes an AES70-compliant interface to controllers on the network to allow control and/or monitoring of non-media functions.

3.4

AES70 device

Device

a media device or a non-media device. Where the context is clear, the shorter version of the term is used.

3.5

Non-AES70 device

network-connected equipment that does not expose an AES70-compliant interface.

3.6

Device model

the control model for the device as seen by AES70.