

AES Standards Report - PTP parameters for AES67 and SMPTE ST 2059-2 interoperability

Abstract

Three profiles for Precision Time Protocol (PTP) might potentially be used in the professional media environment: the Peer-to-Peer Default PTP Profile of IEEE Std 1588-2008, the Media Profile of AES67 and the SMPTE Profile of SMPTE ST 2059-2. This report compares the profiles and identifies features and parameter ranges that should enable interoperability among equipment conforming to the different profiles.

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Contents

1 Introduction	4
2 Interoperability use-case	4
3 Relevant PTP profiles	4
4 Comparison of PTP profiles	5
4.1 Transport.....	5
4.2 Communication model	5
4.3 Path delay measurement mechanism.....	5
4.4 Optional features.....	5
4.5 TLV specifications.....	5
4.6 Quality of service	6
4.7 Clock physical requirements	6
4.7.1 Frequency accuracy	6
4.7.2 Frequency adjustment range.....	6
4.8 Attribute values	7
4.8.1 Domain number.....	7
4.8.2 Announce interval.....	7
4.8.3 Announce receipt timeout.....	7
4.8.4 Sync interval.....	8
4.8.5 Delay request interval.....	8
4.9 Additional attribute values	9
4.9.1 clockClass	9
4.9.2 timeSource	9
5 Conclusions for interoperability	9
5.1 Features.....	9
5.2 Clock physical requirements	9
5.3 Proposed attribute values	10
5.3.1 Interoperability between Default, AES and SMPTE Profiles	10
5.3.2 Interoperability between AES and SMPTE Profiles.....	10

Foreword

This foreword is not part of the *AES-X226 AES Standards Report - PTP parameters for AES67 and SMPTE ST 2059-2 interoperability*.

This document was developed in project AES-X226 in the SC-02-12-M task group on AES67 development under the leadership of Kevin Gross.

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1 Introduction

AES and SMPTE have both specified profiles for IEEE 1588-2008 Precision Time Protocol (PTP) for use in professional media applications; the respective standards being AES67 and SMPTE ST 2059-2. The design goals were somewhat different: the AES standard was aimed at interoperability of some existing networked audio systems and the SMPTE standard at meeting requirements of the EBU/SMPTE Task Force on Timing and Synchronization. Nevertheless, it is clear that there is significant overlap in the application space and that some users will want to use equipment conforming to AES and SMPTE specifications on the same network and in the same PTP domain.

Each standard defines a profile in terms of ranges and recommended default settings for parameters. The requirements of the two standards are not mutually exclusive and this report explores suitable parameter choices for interoperation. The overlapping operating conditions identified in this document are not intended to replace any profile, but rather to identify a common set of parameters and options that satisfy multiple applications.

This document is based on a reading of the two standards and the knowledge that interoperation was a stated development goal for both AES and SMPTE. Further experience with interoperation of these profiles may lead to revisions of this document or one or both of the involved standards.

In this report, a Courier typeface may be used to identify computer code expressions to distinguish them from regular text.

2 Interoperability use-case

The interoperability use-case addressed in this document is as follows:

A user has some equipment that conforms with the IEEE 1588 default profile (as required by AES67), some equipment that conforms with the AES67 Media profile, and some equipment that conforms with the SMPTE ST 2059-2 profile. The user wants to use this equipment in a single PTP domain. What parameter choices will ensure that all the equipment operates correctly?

Equipment that conforms with a particular profile is assumed to implement all required (“shall”) provisions of the profile and to support the full range of attribute values allowed by the profile.

3 Relevant PTP profiles

AES67 specifies that devices shall support IEEE 1588-2008 Default Profiles and should use AES67 Media Profile “PTP profile for media applications” in certain circumstances. SMPTE ST 2059-2 specifies the “SMPTE profile for synchronization in a professional broadcast environment”.

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