



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

CCITT

F.410

THE INTERNATIONAL
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(08/92)

**MESSAGE HANDLING SERVICE
OPERATIONS AND DEFINITION OF SERVICE**

**MESSAGE HANDLING SERVICES:
THE PUBLIC MESSAGE TRANSFER SERVICE**



Recommendation F.410

FOREWORD

The CCITT (the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee) is a permanent organ of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). CCITT is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The Plenary Assembly of CCITT which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study and approves Recommendations prepared by its Study Groups. The approval of Recommendations by the members of CCITT between Plenary Assemblies is covered by the procedure laid down in CCITT Resolution No. 2 (Melbourne, 1988).

Recommendation F.410 was revised by Study Group I and was approved under the Resolution No. 2 procedure on the 4th of August 1992.

CCITT NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized private operating agency.

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Recommendation F.410**MESSAGE HANDLING SERVICES:
THE PUBLIC MESSAGE TRANSFER SERVICE***(revised 1992)*

The establishment in various countries of message handling services in association with public networks creates the need to produce Recommendations covering the aspects of public message handling services.

CONTENTS

- 1 *Purpose and scope*
- 2 *MT service*
- 3 *Operation of the service*
- 4 *Quality of service*
- 5 *Network requirements*
- 6 *Use of Message Transfer service within CCITT defined telematic services*

Annex A – Abbreviations

Appendix I – Errata to Recommendation F.415

1 Purpose and scope

1.1 General

This Recommendation specifies the general, operational and quality of service aspects of the public international Message Transfer service.

This type of Message Handling (MH) service is an international telecommunication service offered by Administrations, enabling subscribers' user agents to submit standardized classes of messages to Message Transfer agents for their transfer to another Message Transfer agent in the same Administration's domain, in another Administration's domain, or to private domains, via telecommunication networks using store and forward techniques.

The Message Transfer service also may transfer messages submitted through a message store (MS), and delivered to a message store, and to and from access units (AUs) to other services.

Locally provided functions, for which communication with other user agents or message transfer agents is not required, are not covered by CCITT Recommendations.

The Message Transfer (MT) service enables subscribers to request a variety of features to be performed during the transfer of messages.

Some features are inherent in the basic MT service. Other non-basic features may be selected by the subscriber, either on a per-message basis or for an agreed contractual period of time, if they are provided by Administrations.

Elements of service belonging to the basic Message Transfer service and essential optional user facilities are to be made available internationally by Administrations.

Recommendation F.410 (08/92)



Documents

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MT service may be provided using any physical network. MT service may be offered separately or in combination with various telematic or data communication services. It can be obtained by making appropriate arrangements.

Technical specifications and protocols, to be used in the MT service are defined in the X.400-Series of Recommendations.

The service definition is contained in § 2. Sections 3 and 4 describe the operation of the service and quality of service, and network requirements are given in § 5.

1.2 *Message handling systems used in the provision of Message Transfer service*

1.2.1 *1984 and 1992 implementations*

This Recommendation assumes that the message handling systems implemented to provide the service outlined herein are based on the 1992 version of the X.400-Series of technical Recommendations. It is recognized however, that for some time after the publication of this Recommendation, several implementations of Message Transfer service will still be based on the 1984 X.400-Series of Recommendations.

1.2.2 *1988 and 1992 implementations*

Minor revisions between 1988 and 1992 MH service Recommendations are referenced in Annex C of F.400. All revisions introduced are classified as optional additional user facilities. The Quality of Service time targets should be supported as detailed in this Recommendation.

Administrations are encouraged to adopt the latest CCITT Recommendations.

1.2.3 *Interworking*

In order to protect the investment of Administrations who have implemented previous systems for the provision of Message Transfer service, 1992 Administration management domain (ADMD) implementations shall be able to interwork to 1984 and 1988 ADMDs (see Note). Interworking from 1992 ADMDs to private management domain (PRMDs), which support previous versions is a local matter.

Note – A future version of this Recommendation will make support for the interworking with 1984 ADMDs optional.

2 **Message transfer service**

2.1 *General service requirements*

2.1.1 The fundamental ability of the MT service is to provide for the transfer of messages submitted by other services subscribing to the MT service. These other services may submit messages from their user agents, if they are services that follow the X.400-Series of Recommendations. Services may also access the MT service from standardized access units. Messages may also be transferred to and from message stores. The access units and message stores are not part of the MT service. Conversion of messages when different codings and other formats are used may be provided by the MT service.

2.1.2 The public MT service will be provided by Administrations using systems that conform to the X.400-Series Recommendations.

Management domains (MDs) are defined for the purpose of responsibilities boundaries. The MD managed by an Administration is called an Administration management domain (ADMD). The MD managed by an organization is called a private management domain (PRMD).

2.1.3 International exchange of messages are performed between Administration management domains through CCITT standardized public data transmission services. Each Administration will designate one or more message transfer agent (MTAs) in its management domain as international access points to the MT service.

2 **Recommendation F.410 (08/92)**