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National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol File Transfer Protocol Application Profile

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The File Transfer Protocol Application Profile is based upon a Department of Defense Standardized Profile for the specification and implementation of the FTP Protocol; MIL-STD-2045-14504: 29 July 1994. The *NTCIP File Transfer Protocol – Application Profile* borrows heavily from that work and credit is due to the Data Communications Protocol Standards Technical Management Panel for publishing the standard and placing it in the public domain.

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FOREWORD

This document uses only metric units.

This publication defines an application profile that is a combination of other profiles intended to meet specific requirements for reliable file transfers in a networked environment. This publication contains mandatory requirement statements that are applicable to all devices claiming conformance to this standard. This publication also contains optional and conditional requirements that may be applicable to a specific environment in which a device is used.

The text includes mandatory requirements in Annex A that are defined as normative.

For more information about NTCIP standards, visit the NTCIP Web Site at <http://www.ntcip.org>. For a hardcopy summary of NTCIP information, contact the NTCIP Coordinator at the address below.

In preparation of this NTCIP document, input of users and other interested parties was sought and evaluated. Inquires, comments, and proposed or recommended revisions should be submitted to:

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Approvals

This document was separately balloted and approved by AASHTO, ITE, and NEMA after recommendation by the Joint Committee on the NTCIP. Each organization has approved this standard as the following standard type, as of the date:

AASHTO – Standard Specification; May 2000
ITE – Software Standard; May 2001
NEMA – Standard; January 2001

History

From 1998 to 1999, this document was referenced as TS 3.FTP. However, to provide an organized numbering scheme for the NTCIP documents, this document is now referenced as NTCIP 2303. The technical specifications of NTCIP 2303 are identical to the former reference, except as noted in the development history below:

TS 3.FTP v98.01.06. March 1998 – Accepted as a User Comment Draft by the Joint Committee on the NTCIP. July 1998 – NTCIP Standards Bulletin B0013 referred the document for comment.

NTCIP 2303 v99.01.05. July 1999 – Accepted v99.01.04 as a Recommended Standard by the Joint Committee on the NTCIP. January 2000 – NTCIP Standards Bulletin B0046 referred v99.01.05 with typographic corrections for approval. Approved by AASHTO in May 2000, approved by ITE in May 2001, and approved by NEMA in January 2001.

NTCIP 2303:2001 v01.06. December 2001 – Reformatted for printing: incremented version number and updated date; modified and reorganized front matter to conform to NTCIP 8002; and updated headers, footers, and page numbers. All references to TS 3 Standard designations were changed to equivalent NTCIP Standard designations.

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INTRODUCTION

The context of the NTCIP is one part of the Intelligent Transportation Systems standardization activities covering base standards, profiles, and registration mechanisms.

- Base Standards define procedures and rules for providing the fundamental operations associated with communications and information that is exchanged over fixed-point communications links.
- Profiles define subsets or combinations of base standards used to provide specific functions or services. Profiles prescribe particular subsets or options available in base standards necessary for accomplishing a particular function or service. This provides a basis for the development of uniform, nationally recognized conformance.
- Registration Mechanisms provide a means to specify and uniquely identify detailed parameters within the framework of base standards and/or profiles.

Within the Joint AASHTO/ITE/NEMA NTCIP Committee, the Profiles Working Group is concerned with the methodology of defining profiles, and their documentation in Standards Publications. This standard defines an application profile for block or file transfers to and from roadside devices. The objective is to facilitate the specification of ITS systems characterized by a high degree of interoperability and interchangeability of its components.

In 1992, the NEMA 3-TS Transportation Management Systems and Associated Control Devices Section began the effort to develop the NTCIP. Under the guidance of the Federal Highway Administration's NTCIP Steering Group, the NEMA effort was expanded to include the development of communications standards for all transportation field devices that could be used in an ITS network.

In September 1996, an agreement was executed among AASHTO, ITE, and NEMA to jointly develop, approve, and maintain the NTCIP standards. In August 1997, the Joint Committee on the NTCIP formed a new working group to develop a method for organizing class profiles. The Profiles WG first met in September 1997.

After research into how national and international standards organizations combine protocols and standards to address all seven layers of the ISO-OSI Reference Model, the committee adopted the approach defined in the *NTCIP Profile Framework*. Following that approach, a protocol stack is specified by an application, transport, subnetwork profiles. An application profile addresses the application, presentation, and session layers. A transport profile addresses the transport and network layers. A subnetwork profile addresses the data link and physical layers. The *NTCIP File Transfer Protocol - Application Profile* (AP-FTP) is an application profile for use in center-to-roadside and center-to-center communications.

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