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Digital Video Subcommittee

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(J-STD-070-2010 A Joint Standard Developed by SCTE and CEA)

Emergency Alert Signaling for the Home Network

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140 Philips Road
Exton, PA 19341

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FOREWORD

This standard was developed jointly under the auspices of the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) R8 Cable Compatibility Committee and the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) Digital Video Subcommittee (DVS).

Emergency Alert Metadata for the Home Network

1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

SCTE 162 standardizes metadata elements describing emergency alert events to devices in a home network, for applications involving the delivery of Commercial Video Services into the home network. Commercial Video Services are sources of audio/video content provided as live or on-demand streams from a particular service provider. Other standards define emergency alert signaling for digital cable receiving devices (ANSI J-STD-042-A [2]) and for IPTV terminal devices (ATIS-0800012 [1]). Receiving devices in the home with access to Commercial Video Services may wish to place such content on a home network. SCTE 162 defines a metadata format usable by these receiving devices to notify client devices in the home network of emergency alert information including text, audio, and specific details about the alert (such as originator and event code, severity, etc.). Some types of alerts are urgent enough that they trigger client devices to immediately switch to another channel offered by that service provider which is a source of live audio/video describing details of the alert (the “Details Channel”). The metadata format described here provides a pointer to the Details Channel for such cases. When outputting live programming on a channel defined in the schema as an “Exception Channel,” client devices remain tuned to that channel to receive details of the alert.

Note that SCTE 162 does not specify required receiver behavior. Guidelines for the use of the metadata standardized here, such as those developed by the Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA), specify these requirements. The purpose of SCTE 162 is to standardize the delivery format and syntax and semantics of the emergency alert metadata, specified here in the form of an XML Schema and associated element definitions.

Note also that SCTE 162 does not describe transport protocols and methods for the delivery of the emergency alert metadata in the home network. These aspects of the system definition are specified in other guidelines and standards. See for example DLNA guidelines on this topic.

Users of this standard should be aware that EAS is a topic which is subject to regulation and is currently under consideration by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

It should further be noted that service providers may not always provide emergency alert information in a format that is identifiable or translatable to the format required for redistribution within the home network as defined within this document.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute normative provisions of the appropriate sections of this standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying for the most recent editions of the standards listed in Sec. 2.1.1.

Note: SCTE 162 incorporates text from ATIS-0800012 [1] by permission of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, Inc., which retains all applicable copyrights to ATIS-0800012 [1].

2.1.1 Normative reference list

- [1] ATIS-0800012 IPTV Emergency Alert System Metadata Specification, June, 2008, Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

2.1.2 Normative reference acquisition

ATIS - Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, Inc.

- Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, 1200 G Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005; Ph: 202.628.6380; Fax: 202.393.5453; Internet: <https://www.atis.org/docstore/default.aspx>; E-mail: atispr@atis.org.

2.2 Informative References

2.2.1 Informative Reference List

- [2] ANSI J-STD-042-A, Emergency Alert Messaging for Cable, November 2007. Also known as SCTE 18 2007.
- [3] ATIS-0800007, IPTV High Level Architecture, Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, 2007.
- [4] ATIS-0800010, Emergency Alert Provisioning Specification, Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, 2008.
- [5] Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) v1.1, OASIS Standard CAP-V1.1, October 2005, http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/15135/emergency-CAPv1.1-Corrected_DOM.pdf <http://docs.oasis-open.org/emergency/cap/v1.1/errata/approved/CAP-v1.1-errata.pdf>
- [6] [6] ANSI/CEA-2009-A, Receiver Performance Specification for Public Alert Receivers, Consumer Electronics Association, October 2005.
- [7] FIPS 6-4, Counties and Equivalent Entities of the United States, Its Possessions, and Associated Areas, August 31, 1990, with minor editorial corrections of January 2005. <http://www.itl.nist.gov/fipspubs/fip6-4.htm>
- [8] FCC Rules, 47 C.F.R. Part 11, Emergency Alert System (EAS) (revised as of 11/10/2005)