



Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)

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2. Definition & Examples

Introduction: SIP is a protocol that enables “sessions” between users of the network.

RFC 3261 defines SIP in general, and a session in particular as “a collection of participants, and streams of media between them, for the purposes of communication” (Rosenberg et al., 2002, p. 16).

Examples: voice calls, instant messaging, event notification, multimedia broadcasts.

3. Motivation

Motivation for examining this area:

- An example of how standards processes can influence edge-core dynamics.
- An examination of edge-core dynamics at the protocol level as opposed to, depending on how you look at it, much higher and lower level views offered by other case studies.

Question: what motivations (if any) do particular WG members have in relation to SIP?

4. Adoption

Barriers to Adoption:

- Not particularly necessary to implement functionality, e.g. can abandon sessions or use proprietary session technology.
- Technical issues related to firewalls.
- Little incentive to SIP-enable existing applications, e.g. Internet Explorer.

5. Adoption Cont.

Chances for significant adoption in the relatively near-term:

- VoIP
- Instant Messaging
- SIP Events

Question: do WG members have other ideas about the path to significant SIP adoption?

6. Adoption Cont.

Commercialization:

- SIP Servers
- SIP-Enabled Routers
- SIP Software
- SIP Phones
- SIP-Enabled Devices
- SIP-Enabled Applications

Question: suppose SIP is established; does the presence of SIP matter in terms of commercial value of applications?

7. Core-Edge Discussion

Core-Edge Specific Questions:

- How does SIP's openness alter different types of firms interests in deploying SIP products?
- To what extent does SIP's openness alter different types of firms interest in partnering to deploy SIP products?
- Are there inherent properties that make a given SIP application better suited for more core or edge delivery?

Question: do WG members have particular questions that deserve more in depth consideration?