

IETF Developments on IP Multimedia

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The RAI Area in the IETF has been created in 2005 to gather all the IETF working groups dealing with real-time multimedia communications, which were previously scattered across many areas. RAI is presently home to 17 active working groups which cover the entire range of IP-based real-time communications. At the lowestlayer (i.e., transport), they address real-time media and signaling transport, quality monitoring and feedback, and error repair mechanisms. RAI working groups are responsible for session establishment and media control for conversational sessions (SIP), interactive streaming (RTSP), media server resource control, and have traditionally also addressed session announcements similar to electronic program guides. Common basics for multimedia communications standardized include media descriptions and capability negotiation for session setup as well as NAT traversal for signaling and media streams. Finally, RAI working groups are concerned with operator aspects for SIP, ranging from device interoperability to peering considerations to provisioning to emergency services