

Agenda Item: 9.6
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Title: QoS Requirements – Communication Schemes
Document for: Discussion

This text is proposed as the new section 5.2.1 “Communication Schemes” in TS 22.05.

5.2.1 Communication schemes

The requirements on bearer services are based on an analysis of user and application needs. Four end-user groups are identified according to four distinctly different communication schemes; *background traffic*, *interactive traffic*, *real time streams*, *real time conversation*. For each scheme one (or two) fundamental characteristic(s) for QoS is identified and the resulting overall requirement(s) is derived. Of course, when the requested service/application bearer requirements are converted into bearer service attributes (as defined in section 5.2), these fundamental characteristics are reflected in the values allocated to the bearer service attributes.

5.2.1.1 Background traffic

When the end-user, that typically is a computer, sends and receives data-files in the background, this scheme applies. Examples are background delivery of E-mails, SMS, download of databases and reception of measurement records. Background traffic is one of the classical data communication schemes that on an overall level is characterised by that the destination is not expecting the data within a certain time. The scheme is thus more or less delivery time insensitive. Another characteristic is that the content of the packets must be transparently transferred (with low bit error rate).

Background traffic - fundamental characteristics for QoS:

- the destination is not expecting the data within a certain time
- preserve payload content

The resulting overall requirement for this communication scheme is to support non-real time services without any special requirement on delay.

5.2.1.2 Interactive traffic

When the end-user, that is either a machine or a human, is on line requesting data from remote equipment (e.g. a server), this scheme applies. Examples of human interaction with the remote equipment are: web browsing, data base retrieval, server access. Examples of machines interaction with remote equipment are: polling for measurement records and automatic data base enquiries (tele-machines).

Interactive traffic is the other classical data communication scheme that on an overall level is characterised by the request response pattern of the end-user. At the message destination there is an entity expecting the message (response) within a certain time. Round trip delay time is therefore one of the key attributes. Another characteristic is that the content of the packets must be transparently transferred (with low bit error rate).

Interactive traffic - fundamental characteristics for QoS:

- request response pattern
- preserve payload content

NOTE: Interactive applications might differ between interactive games and interactive data transfer such as web browsing.

The resulting overall requirement for this communication scheme is to support interactive non-real time services with low round-trip delay.

5.2.1.3 Real time streams

When the user is looking at (listening to) real time video (audio) the scheme of real time streams applies. The real time data flow is always aiming at a live (human) destination. It is a one way transport.

This scheme is one of the newcomers in data communication, raising a number of new requirements in both telecommunication and datacommunication systems. First of all it is a unidirectional stream with high continuous utilisation (i.e. having few idle/silent periods.) It is also characterised by that the time relations (variation) between information entities (i.e. samples, packets) within a flow must be preserved, although it does not have any requirements on low transfer delay.

The delay variation of the end-to-end flow must be limited, to preserve the time relation (variation) between information entities of the stream. But as the stream normally is time aligned at the receiving end (in the user equipment), the highest acceptable delay variation over the transmission media is given by the capability of the time alignment function of the application. Acceptable delay variation is thus much greater than the delay variation given by the limits of human perception. Real time streams - fundamental characteristics for QoS:

- unidirectional continuous stream
- preserve time relation (variation) between information entities of the stream

The resulting overall requirement for this communication scheme is to support streaming real time services having unidirectional data flows with continuous utilisation. (There are less hard requirements on delay and packet loss ratio, i.e. the ratio of lost or corrupted packets out of all packets sent.)

5.2.1.4 Real time conversation

The most wellknown use of this scheme is telephony speech (e.g. GSM), but with Internet and multimedia a number of new applications will require this scheme, for example voice over IP and video conferencing tools. Real time conversation is always performed between peers (or groups) of live (human) end-users. This is the only scheme where the required characteristics are strictly given by human perception (the senses). Therefore this scheme raises the strongest and most stringent QoS requirements.

The real time conversation scheme is characterised by that the transfer time must be low because of the conversational nature of the scheme and at the same time that the time relation (variation) between information entities of the stream must be preserved in the same way as for real time streams. The maximum transfer delay is given by the human perception of video and audio conversation. Therefore the limit for acceptable transfer delay is very strict, as failure to provide low enough transfer delay will result in unacceptable lack of quality. The transfer delay requirement is therefore both significantly lower and more stringent than the round trip delay of the interactive traffic case.

Real time conversation - fundamental characteristics for QoS:

- preserve time relation (variation) between information entities of the stream
- conversational pattern (stringent and low delay)

The resulting overall requirement for this communication scheme is to support conversational real time services with low transfer delay as given by the human perception. (There are less hard requirements on packet loss ratio.)