FOUNDATION FOR INTELLIGENT PHYSICAL AGENTS

FIPA Nomadic Application Support Overview Specification

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- 34 used in the FIPA specifications may be found in the FIPA Glossary.
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- 37 specifications and upcoming meetings may be found at http://www.fipa.org/.

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1 Scope

 This document is part of the FIPA specifications and deals with agent middleware to support applications in nomadic environment. This specification also forms part of the FIPA Nomadic Application Support Specification and gives an overview of the Nomadic Application Support area.

2 General Analysis

2.1 Overview

The results of current developments in both wireless data communications and mobile computers are being combined to facilitate a new trend: *nomadic computing*. Compared to today's traditional distributed systems, the nomadic computing environment is very different in many respects. Bandwidth, latency, delay, error rate, quality of display and other non-functional parameters may change dramatically when a nomadic end-user moves from one location to another and thus from one computing environment to another, for example, from a wireline LAN to a UMTS network. The variety of mobile workstations, handheld devices and smart phones, which allow nomadic end-users to access Internet services, is increasing rapidly. The capabilities of mobile devices range from very low performance equipment (such as PDAs) up to high performance laptop PCs. All these devices create new demands for adaptability of Internet services. For example, PDAs cannot display properly high quality images and as nomadic end-users will be charged based on the amount of data transmitted over the GPRS-UMTS network, they will have to pay for bits that are totally useless to them.

Confronted with these circumstances, the nomadic end-user would benefit from having the following functionality provided by the infrastructure: information about expected performance, agent monitoring and controlling the transfer operations, and adaptability.

The ability to automatically adjust to changes in a transparent and integrated fashion is essential for *nomadicity*; nomadic end-users are usually professionals in areas other than computing. Furthermore, today's mobile computer systems are already very complex to use as productivity tools. Thus, nomadic end-users need all the support that a FIPA agent-based distributed system can deliver and adaptability to the changes in the environment of nomadic end-users is an important issue.

FIPA uses the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) [WAP99] as its wireless Message Transport Protocol (MTP - see [FIPA00076]). The WAP Forum has developed industry-wide specifications for low bandwidth wireless services (such as GSM, GPRS, etc.) and wireless devices (such as mobile telephones and personal digital assistants). The WAP specifications address the characteristics of wireless networks by adapting low bandwidth wireless services and lowend mobile devices to the special requirements of information services. The WAP specification defines a set of standard components that can be used in agent message communication, such as standard data formats and standard data communication protocols.

The adaptation of applications to various nomadic computing environments is an important area. There are several tasks that agents need to carry out during application adaptation:

- 1. Selection of MTP and Message Transport Connection (MTC) to be used for agent communication.
- 2. Selection of an ACL and content language representation to be used for agent communication.
- 3. Provision of support for application agents to carry out adaptation of application data, such as still images, video and audio, XML, etc. Today's Internet application data (such as multimedia content) are designed with high performance desktop PCs and high quality displays in mind. Therefore, the application data is frequently unsuitable for nomadic computing using wireless wide-area networks and low performance mobile devices, and hence requires modification.
- 4. Communication between agents performing adaptation.

The FIPA Nomadic Application Support specifications define agent middleware to:

Monitor [FIPA00062] and control [FIPA00063] an MTP and the underlying MTC, and,

An ontology [FIPA00065] for representing the quality of service of the Message Transport Service (MTS - see [FIPA00065]) in the context of nomadic application support.

In addition, this specification gives examples of the use of the above scenarios in section 3, Scenarios.

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Monitoring and Controlling Quality of Service 2.2

The functions required to carry out monitoring and controlling for quality of service can be split into several specific tasks:

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Observing the quality of service of MTPs and MTCs, 1.

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Measuring (if there are no other means to obtain the required information) the quality of service of an MTP and MTC,

Collecting information from the observing and measuring sources,

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Analysing the information, and, 4.

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Controlling an MTC and selecting an MTP.

134 135 Based on this division, the agent middleware consists of the following logical agents (see Figure 1):

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A Monitor Agent (MA - see [FIPA00062]) which carries out tasks 1 through 4, and,

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153 154 A Control Agent (CA - see [FIPA00063]) which carries out task 5.

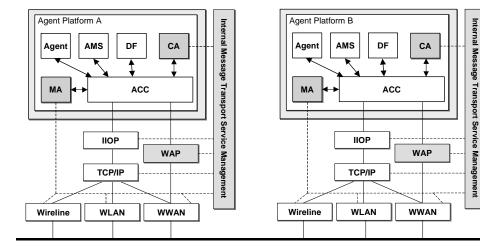


Figure 1: Reference Model of Agent Adaptation

The most appropriate configuration of an MA and a CA is that there is at least one pair in each AP involving adaptation. The MA may measure the actual quality of service of an MTC, if the network running an MTC does not provide users with required performance data¹.

An MA may:

Consist of network-service-specific components that collect raw performance data at fixed intervals,

Provide a repository for the measurement data collected,

Perform first level analysis of the collected data, and,

¹ The way this actual measurement is performed is not a subject of standardisation within FIPA.

Send the results of the analysis to CA, if requested to do so. 157 A CA may:

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² The way that management actions are executed is not a subject of standardisation within FIPA.

May manage (establish, close, suspend, activate, etc.) an MTC².

In some cases there is a need for MAs and CAs in heterogeneous APs to communicate with each other; therefore, interaction protocols and ontologies to achieve this are specified in this document.

Negotiation of Message Transport Requirements 2.3

There are several mechanisms that can determine the MTP, message representation and content language to use between communicating entities:

Communicating entities know a peer entity's preferences beforehand and use them.

The activating entity tries to use a method and if the peer entity is not capable of using the suggested method, then the activating entity may try another one (and so on).

The communicating entities negotiate about a method to be used.

Negotiation About Message Transport Protocols

Previous FIPA specifications have implicitly assumed that the MTC is operational all the time (meaning that the MTC has been established before the agent message exchange and that it is reliable). However, this is not always the case within a nomadic environment.

A CA can activate the selection of an MTP or an agent can propose an MTP to a CA and it is the responsibility of the CA to either accept or reject the proposal based on whether it is possible to use the proposed MTP. CAs negotiate with peer CAs to use proposed MTPs which is illustrated in Figure 2.

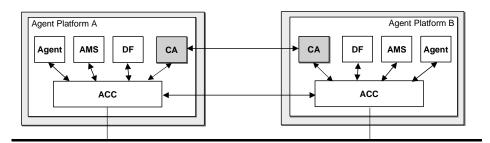


Figure 2: Control Agents Negotiating About a Message Transport Protocol

CAs use the FIPA-Propose interaction protocol [FIPA00036] and the use action [FIPA00063] to negotiate about an MTP. An example negotiation is given in section 3.1, Negotiating Message Transport Protocols.

Negotiation About Message Representation

In the environment of nomadic applications, it may be necessary to switch from one ACL representation to another; for example, when a mobile host roams from a wireline network to a wireless network. Application agents may use the FIPA-Propose interaction protocol and the use action to negotiate about the representation of ACL. Examples of this negotiation are given in section 3.2. Negotiating Message Representation.

3 Scenarios

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3.1 Negotiating Message Transport Protocols

This example shows a scenario, where an application agent requests the use of either the WAP MTP [FIPA00076] or a proprietary MTP (for example, x.uh.mdcp). The message flow of a successful negotiation is illustrated in *Figure 3*.

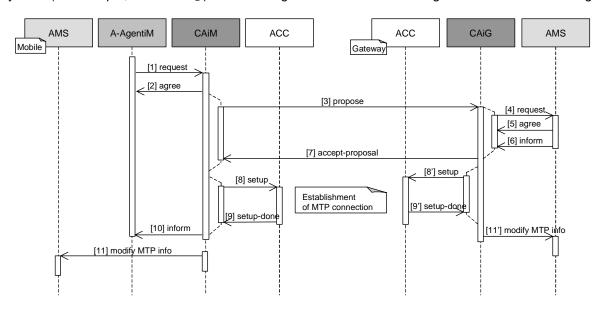


Figure 3: Flow of Message Transport Protocol Negotiation

1. Message 1 request: An application agent issues a request to the CA to activate either the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std or x.uh.mdcp MTPs.

```
(request
  :sender
    (agent-identifier<sup>3</sup>
      :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com<sup>4</sup>)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
       :name CaiM@mobile.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :content
    (action
      (agent-identifier
        :name CAiM@mobile.com)
      (activate (sequence
        (transport-protocol
           :name x.uh.mdcp)
         (transport-protocol
           :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std
           :dest-addr wap://gateway.com:1234/acc)))))
```

³ In most of the examples in this section, the :address parameters of AIDs have been omitted for clarity, except where absolutely necessary.

⁴ In all of the examples in this specification, the suffix of iM in an agent's name represents a mobile host, that is, an agent that is located on a mobile AP. Similarly, the suffix iG represents a gateway host and the suffix iF represents a fixed network host.

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290 291 Message 2 agree: The CA agrees to activate an MTP. The decision to agree or disagree to activate an MTP might be based on the internal state of the CA (that is, the CA knows whether a requested MTP can be activated or not) or the CA might ask for an AP description from an AMS (see messages 4, 5 and 6 as an example).

```
(agree
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiM@mobile.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :content
    ((action
      (agent-identifier
        :name CAiM@mobile.com))
     (activate (sequence
       (transport-protocol
         :name x.uh.mdcp)
       (transport-protocol
         :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std
         :dest-addr wap://gateway.com:1234/acc))))
    true))
```

3. Message 3 propose: The CA in the mobile host proposes to its peer CA in the gateway host that either the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std or x.uh.mdcp MTPs should be used in communication between the APs.

```
From: (agent-identifier :name CAiM@mobile.com)
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T100900000
(propose
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiM@mobile.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiG@gateway.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Propose
  :content
    ((action
      (agent-identifier
        :name CAiM@mobile.com)
        (transports
          :send (sequence
            (transport-protocol
              :name x.uh.mdcp)
            (transport-protocol
              :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))
          :recv (sequence
            (transport-protocol
              :name x.uh.mdcp)
            (transport-protocol
              :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std)))))
    true))
```

To: (agent-identifier :name CAiG@gateway.com)

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(request

4. Message 4 request, message 5 agree and message 6 inform: The CA in the gateway host requests the AP description from the local AMS (see [FIPA00023]) to determine whether the x.uh.mdcp or fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTPs are supported. The AMS informs the CA that both MTPs are supported and the CA decides to use fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP based on the current quality of service requirements of the MTC.

```
298
        :sender
299
          (agent-identifier
300
            :name CAiG@gateway.com)
301
        :receiver (set
302
          (agent-identifier
303
            :name ams@gateway.com))
304
        :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
305
        :language FIPA-SL0
306
        :protocol FIPA-Request
307
        :content
308
          (action
309
            (agent-identifier
310
              :name ams@gateway.com)
311
          get-description))
312
313
      (agree
314
        :sender
315
          (agent-identifier
316
            :name ams@gateway.com)
317
        :receiver (set
318
          (agent-identifier
319
            :name CAiG@gateway.com))
320
        :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
321
        :language FIPA-SL0
322
        :protocol FIPA-Request
323
        :content
324
          ((action
325
            (agent-identifier
326
              :name ams@gateway.com)
327
            get-description)
328
          true))
329
330
      (inform
331
        :sender
332
          (agent-identifier
333
            :name ams@gateway.com
334
            :addresses (sequence http://gateway.com/acc))
335
        :receiver (set
336
          (agent-identifier
337
            :name CAiG@gateway.com
338
            :addresses (sequence http://gateway.com/acc)))
339
        :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
340
        :language FIPA-SL0
341
        :protocol FIPA-Request
342
        :content
343
          (ap-description
344
            :name sonera-platform
345
            :transport-profile
346
              (ap-transport-description
347
                 :available-mtps
348
                   (set
349
                     (mtp-description
350
                         :profile fipa.profile.mts.alpha
351
                         :mtp-name fipa.mts.mtp.iiop.std
352
                         :addresses (sequence iiop://gateway.com/acc))
353
                     (mtp-description
```

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5. Message 7 accept-proposal: The CA in the gateway host accepts the proposal to use the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP and sends the response to the CA in the mobile host informing it about the preferred MTP.

```
366
      To: (agent-identifier :name CAiM@mobile.com)
367
      From: (agent-identifier :name CAiG@gateway.com)
368
      ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
369
      Date: 20000606T100900000
370
371
      (accept-proposal
372
        :sender
373
          (agent-identifier
374
            :name CAiG@gateway.com)
375
        :receiver (set
376
          (agent-identifier
377
            :name CAiM@mobile.com))
378
        :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
379
        :language FIPA-SL0
380
        :protocol FIPA-Propose
381
        :content
382
          (action
383
            (agent-identifier
384
              :name CAiM@mobile.com)
385
386
              (transports
387
                :send (sequence
388
                   (transport-protocol
389
                     :name x.uh.mdcp)
390
                   (transport-protocol
391
                     :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))
392
                :recv (sequence
393
                   (transport-protocol
394
                     :name x.uh.mdcp)
395
                   (transport-protocol
396
                     :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))))
397
          (transports
398
            :send (sequence
399
              (transport-protocol
400
                :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))
401
            :recv (sequence
402
              (transport-protocol
403
                 :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))))
404
```

- 6. Messages 8 and 8' setup: The CAs request their respective ACCs to setup the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP. This is an implementation issue.
- 7. Message 9 and 9' setup-done: The ACCs inform their respective CAs that the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP has been established between the mobile host and the gateway host.

8. Message 10 inform: The CA informs the application agent that the MTC is established.

```
413
      (inform
414
        :sender
415
          (agent-identifier
416
            :name CAiM@mobile.com)
417
        :receiver (set
418
          (agent-identifier
419
            :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com))
420
        :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
421
        :language FIPA-SL0
422
        :protocol FIPA-Request
423
        :content
424
          (result
425
            (action
426
               (agent-identifier
427
                 :name CaiM@mobile.com)
428
            (activate (sequence
429
               (transport-protocol
430
                 :name x.uh.mdcp)
431
               (transport-protocol
432
                 :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std
433
                 :dest-addr wap://gateway.com:1234/acc))))
434
          (transport-protocol
435
            :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))
```

3.2 Negotiating Message Representations

This example shows a scenario where an application agent in a mobile host proposes to its peer application agent in a fixed host the use of the fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std representation of ACL [FIPA00069] for their communication. The message flow is illustrated in Figure 4.

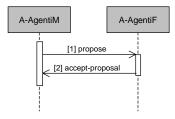


Figure 4: Flow of Message Representation Negotiation

1. Message (1) propose: The agent in the mobile host proposes the use of the fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std representation of ACL.

```
465
        :protocol FIPA-Propose
466
        :content
467
          ((action
468
            (agent-identifier
469
               :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
470
471
               (msg-rep-selection
472
                 :send (sequence
473
                   (msg-representation
474
                     :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))
475
                 :recv (sequence
476
                   (msg-representation
477
                     :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std)))))
478
            true))
479
480
      2. Message 2 accept-proposal: The agent in the fixed host accepts the proposal.
481
482
      To: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com
483
                              :addresses (sequence wap://fixed.com:1234/acc))
484
      From: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiF@iiop://fixed.com
485
                                :addresses (sequence iiop://fixed.com/acc))
      ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
486
487
      Date: 20000606T101000000
488
489
      (accept-proposal
490
        :sender
491
          (agent-identifier
492
            :name A-AgentiF@fixed.com)
493
        :receiver (set
494
          (agent-identifier
495
            :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com))
496
        :ontology FIPA-Message-Representation
497
        :language FIPA-SL0
498
        :protocol FIPA-Propose
499
        :content
500
          (action
501
            (agent-identifier
502
               :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
503
            (use
504
               (msg-rep-selection
505
                 :send (sequence
506
                   (msg-representation
507
                     :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))
508
                 :recv (sequence
509
                   (msg-representation
510
                     :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))))
511
            (msg-rep-selection
512
              :send (sequence
513
                 (msg-representation
514
                   :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))
515
              :recv (sequenc
516
                 (msg-representation
517
                   :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))))
```

3.3 Message Exchange Over a WAP Message Transport Protocol

Figure 5 refers to a reference architecture for message exchange in context of nomadic applications. Messages between the mobile host and gateway host are delivered mainly using the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP and messages between gateway host and other APs in the fixed network are delivered using the fipa.mts.mtp.iiop.std MTP (see [FIPA00075]).

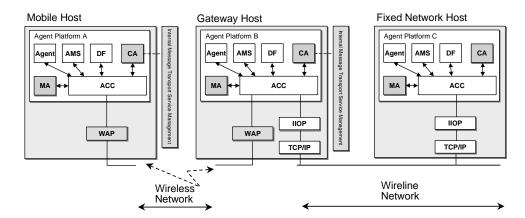


Figure 5: Gateway-Based Nomadic Application Architecture

3.3.1 Message Exchange Activation by an Agent in a Mobile Host

This example shows the scenario where an agent in a mobile host has a WAP address and an agent in fixed host has an IIOP address. In this example, there are three specific APs involved; one running in a mobile host, one running in a gateway host and the last one running in a host situated in a fixed network which represents the rest of the network. An example of the flow of a message exchange is illustrated in *Figure 6*.

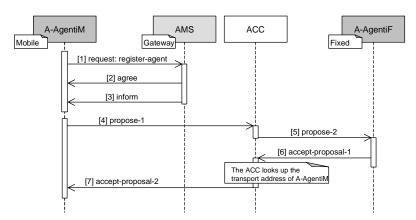


Figure 6: Mobile Originated Message Exchange Over Gateway Host

 Message 1 request, message 2 agree and message 3 inform: In order to be reachable from an AP operating in a fixed network environment, an agent in the mobile host must register with the AP running in the gateway host. Subsequently, the ACC in the gateway host AP can forward messages intended for the agent operating in the mobile host to the ACC.

```
To: (agent-identifier :name ams@gateway.com :addresses (sequence wap://gateway.com:1234/acc))
From: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com :addresses (sequence wap://mobile.com:1234/acc))
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T1010000000
```

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```
550
      (request
551
        :sender
552
          (agent-identifier
553
             :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
554
        :receiver (set
555
          (agent-identifier
556
             :name ams@gateway.com))
557
        :language FIPA-SL0
558
        :protocol FIPA-Request
        :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
559
560
        :content
561
           (action
562
             (agent-identifier
563
               :name ams@gateway.com)
564
             (register
565
               (ams-agent-description
566
                 :name
567
                   (agent-identifier
568
                     :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com
569
                     :addresses (sequence wap://mobile.com:1234/acc))
570
                 :state active))))
571
```

The AMS informs A-AgentiM that registration was completed successfully and after registration, A-AgentiM can be reached via the gateway host using, for example, the following To parameter:

```
To: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com :addresses (sequence iiop://gateway.com/acc))
```

If the gateway host is not operational, then the direct WAP address (wap://mobile.com:1234/acc) could be used.

2. Message 4 propose-1: A-AgentiM sends a propose message to A-AgentiF. In the From parameter, A-AgentM informs A-AgentiF that its primary return address is its address in the gateway host.

```
To: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiF@fixed.com
                       :addresses (sequence iiop://fixed.com/acc))
From: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com
                 :addresses (sequence iiop://gateway.com/acc wap://mobile.com:1234/acc)
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T101000000
(propose
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name A-AgentiF@fixed.com))
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :content
    (action
      (agent-identifier
        :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
      (compress-data (> object-size 1kb)))
```

The ACC in the mobile host forwards the message to the ACC in the gateway host using fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP⁵.

⁵ The actual way in which the is achieved in not a subject of standardisation within FIPA.

3. Message 5 propose-2: The ACC in the gateway host forwards the message to A-AgentiF using fipa.mts.mtp.iiop.std MTP. The ACC may change the encoding of the message.

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647 648 649 4. Message 6 accept-proposal-1: A-AgentiF accepts A-AgentiM's proposal by sending an accept-proposal message to A-AgentiM using its gateway host address.

```
To: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com
                       :addresses (sequence iiop://gateway.com/acc))
From: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiF@iiop://fixed.com
                         :addresses (sequence iiop://fixed.com/acc))
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T101100000
(accept-proposal
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name A-AgentiF@fixed.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com))
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :content
    ((action
      (agent-identifier
        :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
      (compress-data (> object-size 1kb)))
    true)
```

5. Message 7 accept-proposal-2: The ACC in the gateway host forwards the message to the ACC in the mobile host using the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP. The ACC may change the encoding of the message.

3.3.2 Message Exchange Termination to an Agent in a Mobile Host

This example shows the scenario where an agent in a fixed host activates a conversation. The message flow is illustrated in *Figure 7*.

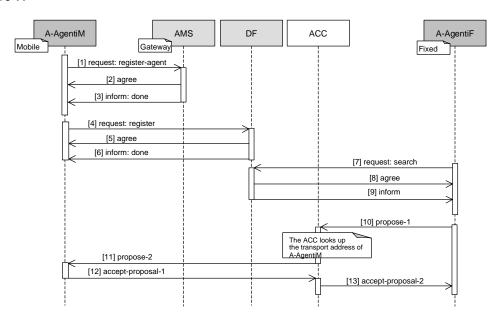


Figure 7: Mobile Terminated Message Exchange Over Gateway Hosts

1. Message 1 request, message 2 agree and message 3 inform: See section 3.3.1, Message Exchange Activation by an Agent in a Mobile Host.

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2. Message 4 request: A-AgentiM needs to register its services with the DF in the gateway host in order to be able to publicise its services even when the mobile host itself is disconnected from the fixed network.

```
652
      To: (agent-identifier :name df@gateway.com)
653
      From: (agent-identifier :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
      ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
654
655
      Date: 20000606T101100000
656
657
      (request
658
        :sender
659
          (agent-identifier
660
            :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com)
661
        :receiver (set
662
          (agent-identifier
663
            :name df@gateway.com))
664
        :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
665
        :language FIPA-SL0
666
        :protocol FIPA-Request
667
        :content
668
          (action
669
            (agent-identifier
670
              :name df@gateway.com)
671
            (register
672
              (df-agent-description
673
                 :name
674
                   (agent-identifier
675
                     :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com
676
                     :addresses (sequence iiop://gateway.com/acc wap://mobile.com:1234/acc))
677
                 :services (set
                   (service-description
678
679
                     :name Field-Warrior
680
                     :type field-information
681
                     :ontology (set field-service)
682
                     :properties (set
683
                       (property
684
                         :name availability
685
                         :value 24h))))
686
                 :language (set FIPA-SLO))))
687
```

3. Message 5 agree and message 6 inform: The DF in the gateway host AP informs A-AgentiM that registration was successful.

```
(inform
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name df@gateway.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com))
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
  :content
    (done
      (action
        (agent-identifier :name df@gateway.com)
      (register
        (df-agent-description
          :name
            (agent-identifier
              :name A-AgentiM@mobile.com
              :addresses (sequence iiop://gateway.com/acc wap://mobile.com:1234/acc))
          :services
```

```
712
                  (service-description (set
713
                     :name Field-Warrior
714
                     :type field-information
715
                     :ontology field-service
716
                     :properties (set
717
                       (property
718
                         :name availability
719
                         :value 24h))))
720
                :language (set FIPA-SLO)))))
```

723 724 725

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- 4. Message 7 request, message 8 agree and message 9 inform: When A-AgentiM needs the Field-Warrior service, it searches the gateway host DF which informs it that A-AgentiM offers such a service (see [FIPA00023]).
- 5. Message 10, 11, 12 and 13: The messages used and the message flow are similar to the example in section 3.3.1, Message Exchange Activation by an Agent in a Mobile Host.

4 Informative Annex A - Paramedic Scenario

This section illustrates some of the important issues of nomadic application support, using a paramedic application as an example.

4.1 Overview

A paramedic team has several working environments:

An emergency dispatch centre, which is covered by the hospital ATM network,

A geographical area, which is wireless wide-area network (e.g. GPRS), and,

One or more hospitals, which are provided with a wireless local-area network.

When in transit, the paramedic computers are attached to docking stations residing in ambulances. At the dispatch centre, the docking stations are connected to the ATM network. The paramedic application comprises the following services:

Retrieval of a patient's personal information, such as name, address, phone, and relatives,

Retrieval of the patient's medical histories,

Support for paramedic workers, and,

Informing the hospital receiving the patient about the patient's current injury or illness and medical care given so far.

 There are several application agents: Paramedic Support Agents (PSAs) working in the paramedic computers, Dispatching Support Agent (DSA) working at the dispatch centre system, and the Hospital First Aid Support Agent (HFASA) working at the hospital system.

The dispatch centre receives a call regarding a man who has severe chest pain; the symptom of an acute myocardial infarct. The caller identifies the man and gives his personal identification number to the dispatcher. The dispatcher alerts the paramedic team and informs the DSA about the address where the patient is located and his personal identification number. The DSA simultaneously informs the PSA about the address of the attack (and possibly some additional information about the environment of the heart attack) and queries the patient's medical history. Since the results of the query to a local hospital are received before the paramedic unit is dispatched, the DSA (in co-operation with the PSA) begins to load the patient's personal information and medical history into the paramedic computers. The medical history includes several items of text-based information. The transmission time to load the information via the ATM network to the paramedic computers (which are currently docked at the dispatch centre) is less than a second. Before the ambulance leaves the dispatch centre, the docking station is detached from the ATM network and is connected to the wireless wide-area network.

While the ambulance is approaching the location of the incident, the DSA receives more relevant results of the query of the medical histories such as the latest heart operation of the patient. The medical history comprises several parts of textual information and several images and the DSA begins loading the information. As the loading takes place when the ambulance is in motion, the DSA finds out that the quality of transport service is too low for loading some textual parts and any of the images of the medical history. It would take at least 40 minutes to download the images. Therefore, the DSA informs the PSA that images are not required for the paramedic unit. During downloading, the ambulance drives into a tunnel that causes the wireless link to be disconnected. After the tunnel, a CA re-establishes the connection and downloading continues.

At the scene, the ambulance is stationary and the quality of transmission service increases to a level at which the DSA is able to load the most relevant images (the ECGs) using an efficient compression method which is negotiated

between the DSA and the PSA to the paramedic computer. The paramedic team detaches the computers from the docking station and carries them to the patient.

The paramedic team realises that they need the assistance of a medical expert located at the university hospital to stabilise the patient's condition. Therefore, they attach electrodes to the patient and the PSA starts transmitting the data of measurement such as SpO2 (oxygen saturation), cardiac rhythm, ECG, end tidal CO2 and temperature to the hospital. After successfully stabilising the patient's condition, the paramedic team moves the patient to the ambulance and sets off for the hospital. As the quality of the transport service decreases because of the motion, the PSA finds out that not all the on-going measurement data can be transmitted on-line to the hospital. Therefore, the PSA decides to transmit the most relevant data (SpO2 and cardiac rhythm). The PSA stores the rest of the data (ECG, end tidal CO2 and temperature) into a cache of the paramedic computer.

After the ambulance arrives at the hospital, the patient is transferred immediately to an operating room. Simultaneously, the paramedic team connects their paramedic computer to the wireless LAN of the hospital and the PSA transmits (in co-operation with the HFASA) all the measurement data to the hospital's system. A surgeon retrieves and analyses the measurement data before surgery.

This example illustrates a future agent-based distributed system that offers its services at the best obtainable quality of service in a wide variety of environments. A possible agent architecture is illustrated in *Figure 8* which refers to three separate APs: *Dispatch*, *Gateway* and *Paracom*. In addition, there are several hospital APs which are not illustrated.

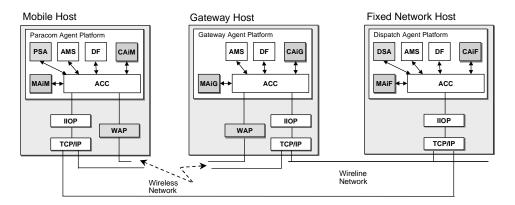


Figure 8: Paramedic Scenario Architecture

The agents in the scenario are:

MAIM, MAIG and MAIF are MAs which monitor the quality of the communication service,

CAIM, CAIG and CAIF are CAs which manage the establishment, teardown, suspension, activation, etc. of the connection between the PAs. The MA informs application agents about the status and changes of the network services.

When the mobile host is connected either to the ATM network or to the wireless LAN, the fipa.mts.mtp.iiop.std MTP is used directly between the *Paracom* AP and the *Dispatch* AP. When the mobile host is connected to the wireless WAN, all agent message communication takes place through the gateway host. The fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP is primarily used between the *Paracom* AP and the *Gateway* AP. The fipa.mts.mtp.iiop.std MTP is used between the *Gateway* AP and the *Dispatch* AP.

4.2 Seamless Roaming

 The Seamless Roaming scenario describes the process, when the paramedic computer roams from the ATM network to the UMTS network. The scenario is split into following events:

Disconnection and reconnection of MTCs,

Negotiation of MTPs, and,

Negotiation of message representations.

4.2.1 Disconnection and Reconnection of an Message Transport Connection

The message exchange between the agents is illustrated in Figure 9.

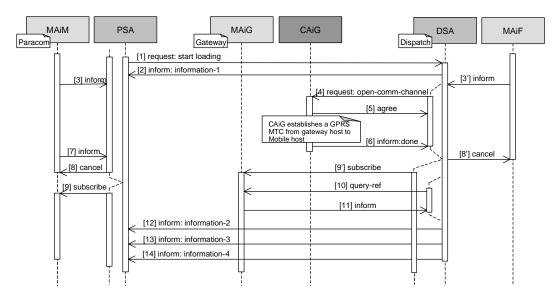


Figure 9: Disconnection and Reconnection of an Message Transport Connection

- 1. Message 1 request: The PSA starts loading data from the DSA by sending a request message. This message is application specific and thus not shown here.
- 2. Message 2 inform: The DSA starts sending information by first sending an inform message.

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3. Messages 3 and 3' inform: MAiM (/ MAiF) informs the PSA (/DSA) that the ATM connection has broken.

```
(inform
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name MAiM@paracom.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name PSA@paracom.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL2
  :protocol FIPA-Subscribe
  :content
    (= (iota ?x
      (qos-information
        (comm-channel
          :name ATM
          :target-addr iiop://dispatch.com/acc)
      (qos
        :status ?x)))
   disconnected))
```

4. Message 4 request: The DSA requests CAiG to open a wireless wide-area MTC and CAiG agrees.

```
865
      To: (agent-identifier :name CAiG@gateway.com)
866
      From: (agent-identifier :name DSA@dispatch.com)
867
      ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
868
      Date: 20000606T101100000
869
870
      (request
871
        :sender
872
          (agent-identifier
873
            :name DSA@dispatch.com)
874
        :receiver (set
875
          (agent-identifier
876
            :name CAiG@gateway.com))
877
        :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
878
        :language FIPA-SL0
879
        :protocol FIPA-Request
880
        :content
881
          (action
882
            (agent-identifier
883
              :name CAiG@gateway.com)
884
            (open-comm-channel
885
              (comm-channel
886
                :name GPRS
887
                :target-addr iiop://paramedic.com/acc))))
888
```

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944 945 5. Message 5 agree: CAiG agrees that it will try to open the GPRS connection.

```
To: (agent-identifier :name DSA@dispatch.com)
From: (agent-identifier :name CAiG@gateway.com)
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T101200000
(agree
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiG@gateway.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name DSA@dispatch.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :content
    ((action
      (agent-identifier
        :name CAiG@gateway.com)
      (open-comm-channel
        (comm-channel
          :name GPRS
          :target-addr iiop://paramedic.com/acc))))
    true)
```

Next CAiG establishes a GPRS MTC from the gateway host to the mobile host. This is an implementation issue.

6. Message 6 inform: After successful establishment, CAiG informs the DSA.

To: (agent-identifier :name DSA@dispatch.com)

```
From: (agent-identifier :name CAiG@gateway.com)
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T101200000
(inform
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiG@gateway.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name DSA@dispatch.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :content
    (done
      (action
        (agent-identifier
          :name CAiG@gateway.com))
      (open-comm-channel
        (comm-channel
          :name GPRS
          :target-addr iiop://paramedic.com/acc))))
```

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7. Message 7 inform: MAiM informs the PSA that a new MTC has been established.

```
947
      (inform
948
        :sender
949
          (agent-identifier
950
            :name MAiM@paracom.com)
951
        :receiver (set
952
          (agent-identifier
953
            :name PSA@paracom.com))
954
        :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
955
        :language FIPA-SL2
        :protocol FIPA-Subscribe
956
957
        :content
958
          (= (iota ?x
959
            (qos-information
960
               (comm-channel
961
                 :name GPRS
962
                 :target-addr wap://paramedic.com:1234/acc)
963
964
              :status ?x)))
965
          connected))
966
```

8. Message 8 and 8' cancel: The PSA (/DSA) cancels subscription notifications about the changes in the ATM MTC.

```
969
      (cancel
970
        :sender
971
          (agent-identifier
972
            :name PSA@paracom.com)
973
        :receiver (set
          (agent-identifier
974
975
            :name MAiM@paracom.com))
976
        :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
977
        :language FIPA-SL0
978
        :protocol FIPA-Subscribe
979
        :content
980
          (subscribe
981
            :sender
982
               (agent-identifier
983
                 :name PSA@paracom.com)
984
            :receiver (set
               (agent-identifier
985
986
                 :name MAiM@paracom.com))
987
            :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
988
            :language FIPA-SL2
989
            :protocol FIPA-Subscribe
990
            :content
991
               (iota ?x
992
                 (qos-information
993
                   (comm-channel
994
                     :name GPRS
995
                     :target-addr wap://paramedic.com:1234/acc)
996
997
                   :status ?x)))))
998
```

:direction Outbound

999 9. Message 9 and 9' subscribe: The DSA (/PSA) subscribes to MAiG (/MAiM) for notifications about the changes in 1000 the GPRS MTC. 1001 1002 (subscribe 1003 :sender 1004 (agent-identifier 1005 :name DSA@dispatch.com) 1006 :receiver (set 1007 (agent-identifier 1008 :name MAiG@gateway.com)) 1009 :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application 1010 :language FIPA-SL2 1011 :protocol FIPA-Subscribe 1012 :content 1013 (iota ?x 1014 (qos-information 1015 (comm-channel 1016 :name GPRS 1017 :target-addr iiop://paramedic.com/acc) 1018 (qos 1019 :status ?x)))) 1020 1021 10. Message 10 query-ref: The DSA requests current quality of service of the GPRS MTC from MAig. 1022 1023 (query-ref 1024 :sender 1025 (agent-identifier 1026 :name DSA@dispatch.com) 1027 :receiver (set 1028 (agent-identifier 1029 :name MAiG@gateway.com)) 1030 :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application 1031 :language FIPA-SL2 1032 :protocol FIPA-Query 1033 :content 1034 (iota ?x (qos-information 1035 1036 (comm-channel 1037 :name GPRS) 1038 (qos 1039 :throughput ?x))) 1040 1041 11. Message 11 inform: MAiG informs the DSA the current quality of service of the GPRS MTC. 1042 1043 (inform 1044 :sender 1045 (agent-identifier 1046 :name MAiG@gateway.com) 1047 :receiver (set 1048 (agent-identifier 1049 :name DSA@dispatch.com)) 1050 :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application 1051 :language FIPA-SL2 1052 :protocol FIPA-Query 1053 :content 1054 (= (iota ?x 1055 (gos-information 1056 (comm-channel 1057 :name GPRS) 1058 (qos 1059 :throughput ?x))) 1060 (rate-value

```
1062 :unit Kbits/s
1063 :value 20)))
1064
```

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1100 1101 12. Messages 12, 13 and 14 inform: The DSA sends the rest of the requested information to the PSA.

4.2.2 Example Negotiation of a Message Transport Protocol

When the mobile host roams from the ATM network to the GPRS network – after the reconnection – the PSA receives the information from MAiM that the *Paracom* AP is now connected to the GPRS MTC. The PSA reasons that the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP is better in that environment and it requests the CAiM to establish this MTP between ACCiM and ACCiG. Also, CAiM proposes the establishment of this MTP to CAiG which accepts and they command their respective ACCs to set it up. As a last action, both CAiF and CAiG modify the AP descriptions of their APs. The message flow is illustrated in *Figure 10*.

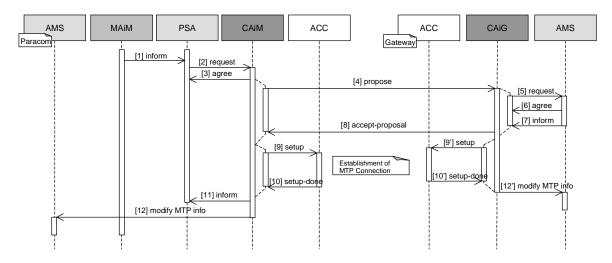


Figure 10: Example Negotiation of a Message Transport Protocol

1. Message 1 inform: MAiM informs the PSA that the *Paracom* AP is now connected to the GPRS network.

```
(inform
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name MAiM@paracom.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name PSA@paracom.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL2
  :protocol FIPA-Subscribe
  :content
    (= (iota ?x
      (gos-information
        (comm-channel
          :name GPRS
          :target-addr wap://paramedic.com:1234/acc)
      (qos
        :status ?x)))
    connected))
```

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1156 1157 2. Message 2 request and message 3 agree: The PSA requests CAiM to establish the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP between ACCiM and ACCiG.

```
(request
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name PSA@paracom.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiM@paracom.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :content
    (action
      (agent-identifier
        :name CAiM@paracom.com)
      (activate (sequence
        (transport-protocol
          :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std
          :gw-addr wap://gateway.com:1234/acc))))
```

3. Message 4 propose: CAiM sends a propose message to the CAiG.

To: (agent-identifier :name CAiG@gateway.com)

```
From: (agent-identifier :name CAiM@paracom.com)
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T101200000
(propose
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiM@paracom.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiG@gateway.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Propose
  :content
    ((action
      (agent-identifier
        :name CAiM@paracom.com)
      (use
        (transports
          :send (sequence
            (transport-protocol
              :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))
          :recv (sequence
            (transport-protocol
              :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))))
    true))
```

4. Message 5 request, message 6 agree and message 7 inform: CAiG requests the local AP description to find out if the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP is supported (see [FIPA00023]).

1157 5. Message (8) accept-proposal: CAiG accepts CAiM's proposal to use the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP. 1158 1159 To: (agent-identifier :name CAiM@paracom.com) 1160 From: (agent-identifier :name CAiG@gateway.com) 1161 ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std Date: 20000606T101200000 1162 1163 1164 (accept-proposal 1165 :sender 1166 (agent-identifier 1167 :name CAiG@gateway.com) 1168 :receiver (set 1169 (agent-identifier 1170 :name CAiM@paracom.com)) 1171 :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application 1172 :language FIPA-SL0 1173 :protocol FIPA-Propose 1174 :content 1175 (action 1176 (agent-identifier 1177 :name CAiM@paracom.com) 1178 1179 (transports 1180 :send (sequence 1181 (transport-protocol 1182 :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std)) 1183 :recv (sequence 1184 (transport-protocol 1185 :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std)))) 1186 (transports 1187 :send (sequence 1188 (transport-protocol 1189 :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std)) 1190 :recv (sequence 1191 (transport-protocol 1192 :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std))))

- 6. Messages 9 and 9' setup and messages 10 and 10' setup-done: CAiM (CAiG) commands ACCiM (ACCiG) to setup the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std MTP. As this is intra-platform communication between CAiM (CAiG) and ACCiM (ACCiG), this is an implementation issue.
- 7. Message 11 inform: CAiM returns the result to the PSA.

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```
(inform
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name CAiM@paracom.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name PSA@paracom.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :content
    (result
     (action
        (agent-identifier
          :name CAiM@paracom.com)
      (activate (sequence
        (transport-protocol
          :name fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std
          :gw-addr wap://gateway.com:1234/acc)))
      (transport-protocol
```

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8. Message 12 and 12' set-description: CAiM (CAiG) modifies the AP description to show that the fipa.mts.mtp.wap.std is now active.

4.2.3 Example Negotiation of a Message Representation

MAIM informs the PSA that the quality of the message transport connection has dropped significantly. The PSA reasons that the ACL representation needs to be changed to fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std and it proposes that to the DSA. The DSA accepts the PSA's proposal. The message flow is illustrated in *Figure 11*.

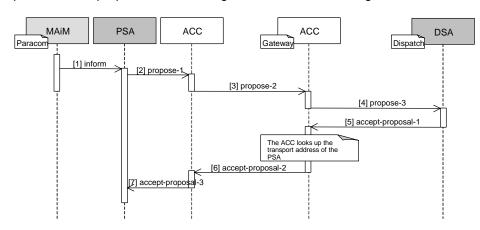


Figure 11: Example Negotiation of a Message Representation

1. Message 1 inform: The MA informs the PSA that the outbound throughput has changed.

```
(inform
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name MAiM@paracom.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name PSA@paracom.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Nomadic-Application
  :language FIPA-SL2
  :protocol FIPA-Subscribe
  :content
    (= (iota ?x (
      (qos-notification
        (comm-channel
          :name GPRS)
        (throughput
          (rate-value
            :unit Kbits/s
            :direction Outbound
            :value ?x))
        (change-constraint
          :value (<
            (qos
              :throughput
                (rate-value
                   :unit Kbits/s
                   :direction Outbound
                   :value 1)))))))
    (0.96))
```

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2. Message 2 propose-1: Based on the new throughput value, the PSA decides to change to the message representation.

```
To: (agent-identifier :name DSA@dispatch.com)
From: (agent-identifier :name PSA@paracom.com)
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T101200000
(propose
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name PSA@paracom.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name DSA@dispatch.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Message-Representation
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Propose
  :content
    ((action
      (agent-identifier
        :name PSA@paracom.com)
        (msg-rep-selection
          :send (sequence
            (msg-representation
              :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))
          :recv (sequence
            (msg-representation
              :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std)))))
    true))
```

- 3. Message 3 propose-2: The ACC at the mobile host forwards the same message to the ACC at the gateway host.
- 4. Message 4 propose-3: The ACC at the gateway host forwards the same message to the PSA.
- 5. Message 5 accept-proposal-1: The PSA accepts the proposal and sends a message back to the DSA.

```
To: (agent-identifier :name PSA@paracom.com)
From: (agent-identifier :name DSA@dispatch.com)
ACL-representation: fipa.acl.rep.string.std
Date: 20000606T101200000
(accept-proposal
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name DSA@dispatch.com)
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name PSA@paracom.com))
  :ontology FIPA-Message-Representation
  :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Propose
  :content
    (action
      (agent-identifier
        :name PSA@paracom.com)
        (msg-rep-selection
          :send (sequence
            (msg-representation
              :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))
```

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```
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                 :recv (sequence
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                   (msg-representation
1331
                     :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))))
1332
             (msg-rep-selection
1333
               :send (sequence
1334
                 (msg-representation
1335
                   :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std))
1336
               :recv (sequence
1337
                 (msg-representation
1338
                   :name fipa.acl.rep.bitefficient.std)))))
```

- 6. Message 6 accept-proposal-2: The ACC at the gateway host forwards same message to the ACC at the mobile host.
- 7. Message 7 accept-proposal-3: The ACC at the mobile host delivers the same message to the PSA.

| 1344 | 5 Refere | ences |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| 1345 1346 | [FIPA00023] | FIPA Agent Management Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00023/ |
| 1347 1348 | [FIPA00036] | FIPA Agent Management Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00036/ |
| 1349 1350 | [FIPA00062] | FIPA Nomadic Application Support Monitor Agent Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00062/ |
| 1351 1352 | [FIPA00063] | FIPA Nomadic Application Support Control Agent Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00063/ |
| 1353 1354 | [FIPA00065] | FIPA Nomadic Application Support Ontology Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00065/ |
| 1355 1356 | [FIPA00069] | FIPA ACL Message Representation in Bit-Efficient Encoding Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00069/ |
| 1357 1358 | [FIPA00075] | FIPA Agent Message Transport Protocol for IIOP Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00075/ |
| 1359 1360 | [FIPA00076] | FIPA Agent Message Transport Protocol for WAP Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00076/ |
| 1361 1362 | [WAP99] | Wireless Application Protocol Specification Version 1.2. WAP Forum, 1999. http://www.wapforum.org/what/technical.htm |