

# The "directory" SDP media type

**<draft-ietf-mmusic-sdp-directory-type-00.txt>**

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# Background

- **A SAP directory has a group address and port**
  - » can treat it just like any other media session
  - » can advertise it using SDP (e.g., within another directory)
- **Allows a graph of directories**
  - » more scalable than a single flat directory
- **Has been implemented in common SDP browsers**
  - » “sdr”, “multikit”

## Definition

**m=directory <port> <transport>**

- **Currently define one <transport>: “SAP”**
- **Other directory types might conceivably be defined in the future...**
  - » **e.g., LDAP directories (containing SDP descriptions)?**

# Is “directory” the right media name?

It’s not a top-level MIME type

Some alternatives have been discussed:

- “application/directory”
- “application/sap”
  - » no - would be like “audio/rtp”; SAP is the *<transport>*
- “application/sdp” or “application/sdp.<something>”
  - » no - would be like “audio/MPEG”; SDP is the ‘codec’

## Issues for “directory” sessions

Generally the *same* as for other media types, e.g.,

- Announcements into a directory should not continue beyond the directory group address’s lifetime
- Announcers within a directory session are dependent upon the directory continuing to be advertised
  - » announcers can participate in the advertising of the directory

## Implications for SDP *proxies*

e.g., that translate between SAP and some other directory management protocol, or handle firewall traversal

- A proxy can't try to traverse the entire graph of directory sessions - that won't scale!
- A proxy should open and listen to a directory *only if* it knows there is (likely to be) demand for that directory
  - » it needs a way of learning this demand

## Future of this specification?

- **Eventual goal: an Experimental RFC?**
- **Underlying question: What's the future of *SAP*?**
  - » it's hardly used now; also, how will SSM affect it?
  - » maybe it'll see more use within local scopes?
- **If *SAP*'s future is cloudy, then how useful are “directory” sessions?**
  - » **claim: they're useful for organizing sessions, even within small directories**
  - » **special-purpose SSM directories might become useful**