

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



Information technology – UPnP device architecture –  
Part 4-4: Audio Video Device Control Protocol – Level 2 – Audio Video Data  
Structures

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## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – UPNP DEVICE ARCHITECTURE –

### Part 4-4: Audio Video Device Control Protocol – Level 2 – Audio Video Data Structures

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<sup>1</sup> UPnP Forum Steering committee, UPnP Forum, 3855 SW 153<sup>rd</sup> Drive, Beaverton, Oregon 97006 USA. See also "Introduction".

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## 1 Overview and Scope

### 1.1 Introduction

This document defines the layout of the AV Datastructure Template (AVDT) XML document. An AVDT document describes the format requirements and restrictions of various data structures used within the UPnP AV specifications. Although these data structures are defined very precisely in the appropriate service specification, in most cases, each data structure definition allows for a certain degree of variation in order to accommodate differences between individual devices.

The purpose of an AVDT document is to enable each device to describe (at run-time) its particular variation of these AV data structures. AVDT documents allow users of AV data structures (e.g. UPnP control points) to reduce the number of instances of those data structures that comply with the service specification but are not compatible with the device's particular capabilities. The ultimate goal of an AVDT document is to reduce those error conditions that are caused by control points creating instances of a data structure that exceed the static (known) capabilities of the device. Unfortunately, the AVDT mechanism will never eliminate all preventable error conditions, but it will help to reduce them by giving the client more information about the device's particular capabilities.

As described above, an AVDT document is a machine readable, implementation-specific variant of an AV data structure defined by one of the UPnP AV specifications. For a given device, each instance of that data structure must conform to both the specification definition AND the device's AVDT definition of that data structure.

Ironically, an AVDT document is both a more-restrictive and more-permissive variant of the specification definition. AVDT documents are more restrictive because they limit certain aspects of the data structure (e.g. such as the allowed values for each field) that are otherwise permitted by the specification definition. However, due to limitations of the AVDT constructs, it is simply not possible to express some of the more intricate requirements defined by the specification (e.g. subtle interdependencies between data structure fields). Consequently, instances of a data structure that comply with a given AVDT description may not fully comply with all of the requirements defined in the specification.

The types of data structures that can be described by an AVDT document represent a (non-hierarchical) set of named property values. The set of allowed property names and their allowed values for a given data structure are defined by one of the UPnP AV specifications. Individual instances of these data structures are manifested via an XML document whose elements and attributes correspond to the set of named properties. In other words, within the XML document that corresponds to a given instance of a certain data structure, each XML element and attribute contains the value of a specific named property.

An AVDT document is conceptually similar to an XML schema in that both entities identify the XML elements and attributes that appear in any given document instance. Additionally, both AVDT documents and XML schemas identify the allowed values that are permitted for each element and/or attribute which corresponds to a specific property. However, unlike an XML schema, an AVDT document can also identify certain dependencies between two or more properties. For example, the set of allowed values of one property may depend on the actual value of another property. This type of interrelationship is difficult to represent using an XML schema. Hence, the AVDT document structure is needed.

In the various AV Architecture scenarios, sometimes there is a need to exchange device capabilities to ensure high level interoperability. In order to express the parameterized capability, an AV specification defines various templates for each purpose. A device uses the template and populates it with values to reflect its capabilities at run-time.

The AV Datastructure Template (AVDT) is a common structure to define various templates, which are called “Datastructure”. This is written in XML and each data structure uses a subset of the AVDT to meet the necessary requirement.

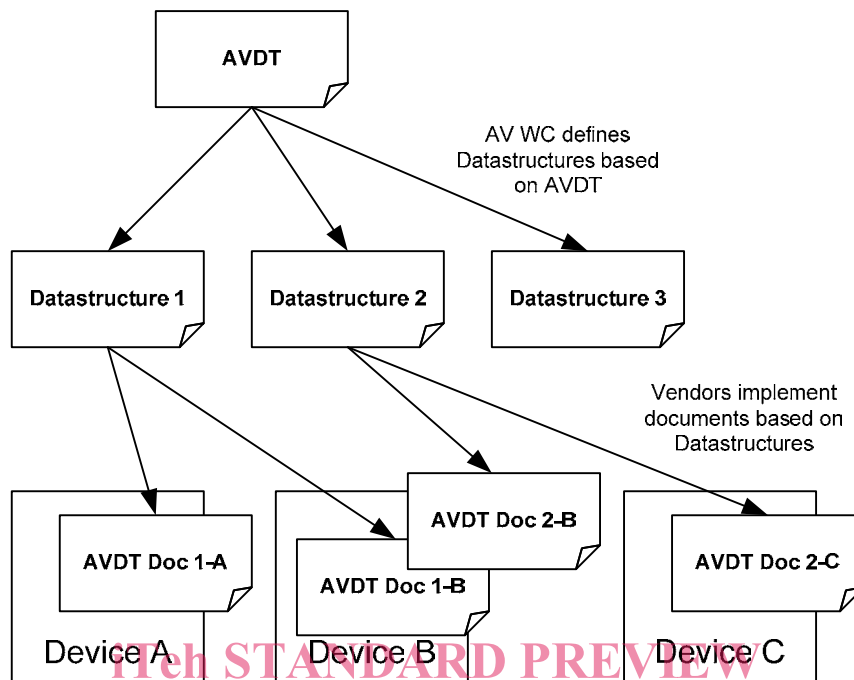


Figure 1: Typical Usage of AVDT

## 1.2 Notation

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- In this document, features are described as Required, Recommended, or Optional as follows:

The keywords “MUST,” “MUST NOT,” “REQUIRED,” “SHALL,” “SHALL NOT,” “SHOULD,” “SHOULD NOT,” “RECOMMENDED,” “MAY,” and “OPTIONAL” in this specification are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119].

In addition, the following keywords are used in this specification:

**PROHIBITED** – The definition or behavior is prohibited by this specification. Opposite of **REQUIRED**.

**CONDITIONALLY REQUIRED** – The definition or behavior depends on a condition. If the specified condition is met, then the definition or behavior is **REQUIRED**, otherwise it is **PROHIBITED**.

**CONDITIONALLY OPTIONAL** – The definition or behavior depends on a condition. If the specified condition is met, then the definition or behavior is **OPTIONAL**, otherwise it is **PROHIBITED**.

These keywords are thus capitalized when used to unambiguously specify requirements over protocol and application features and behavior that affect the interoperability and security of implementations. When these words are not capitalized, they are meant in their natural-language sense.

- Strings that are to be taken literally are enclosed in “double quotes”.
- Words that are emphasized are printed in *italic*.
- Keywords that are defined by the UPnP AV Working Committee are printed using the *forum* character style [DEVICE].
- Keywords that are defined by the UPnP Device Architecture specification are printed using the *arch* character style.



- A double colon delimiter, “::”, signifies a hierarchical parent-child (parent::child) relationship between the two objects separated by the double colon. This delimiter is used in multiple contexts, for example: Service::Action(), Action()::Argument, parentProperty::childProperty.

### 1.2.1 Data Types

This specification uses data type definitions from two different sources. The UPnP Device Architecture defined data types are used to define state variable and action argument data types [DEVICE]. The XML Schema namespace is used to define property data types [XML SCHEMA-2].

For UPnP Device Architecture defined **boolean** data types, it is strongly RECOMMENDED to use the value “**0**” for false, and the value “**1**” for true. However, when used as input arguments, the values “**false**”, “**no**”, “**true**”, “**yes**” may also be encountered and MUST be accepted. Nevertheless, it is strongly RECOMMENDED that all **boolean** state variables and output arguments be represented as “**0**” and “**1**”.

For XML Schema defined Boolean data types, it is strongly RECOMMENDED to use the value “**0**” for false, and the value “**1**” for true. However, when used as input properties, the values “**false**”, “**true**” may also be encountered and MUST be accepted. Nevertheless, it is strongly RECOMMENDED that all Boolean properties be represented as “**0**” and “**1**”.

### 1.2.2 Strings Embedded in Other Strings

Some string variables and arguments described in this document contain substrings that MUST be independently identifiable and extractable for other processing. This requires the definition of appropriate substring delimiters and an escaping mechanism so that these delimiters can also appear as ordinary characters in the string and/or its independent substrings. This document uses embedded strings in two contexts – Comma Separated Value (CSV) lists (see Clause 3.1, “Comma Separated Value (CSV) Lists”) and property values in search criteria strings. Escaping conventions use the backslash character, “\” (character code U+005C), as follows:

- a) Backslash (“\”) is represented as “\\” in both contexts.
- b) Comma (“,”) is
  - 1) represented as “\,” in individual substring entries in CSV lists
  - 2) not escaped in search strings
- c) Double quote (“””) is
  - 1) not escaped in CSV lists
  - 2) not escaped in search strings when it appears as the start or end delimiter of a property value
  - 3) represented as “\\” in search strings when it appears as a character that is part of the property value

### 1.2.3 Extended Backus-Naur Form

Extended Backus-Naur Form is used in this document for a formal syntax description of certain constructs. The usage here is according to the reference [EBNF].

#### 1.2.3.1 Typographic conventions for EBNF

Non-terminal symbols are unquoted sequences of characters from the set of English upper and lower case letters, the digits “0” through “9”, and the hyphen (“-”). Character sequences between 'single quotes' are terminal strings and MUST appear literally in valid strings. Character sequences between (\*comment delimiters\*) are English language definitions or supplementary explanations of their associated symbols. White space in the EBNF is used to separate elements of the EBNF, not to represent white space in valid strings. White space

usage in valid strings is described explicitly in the EBNF. Finally, the EBNF uses the following operators:

**Table 1-1 — EBNF Operators**

Operator	Semantics
::=	<b>definition</b> – the non-terminal symbol on the left is defined by one or more alternative sequences of terminals and/or non-terminals to its right.
	<b>alternative separator</b> – separates sequences on the right that are independently allowed definitions for the non-terminal on the left.
*	<b>null repetition</b> – means the expression to its left MAY occur zero or more times.
+	<b>non-null repetition</b> – means the expression to its left MUST occur at least once and MAY occur more times.
[ ]	<b>optional</b> – the expression between the brackets is optional.
( )	<b>grouping</b> – groups the expressions between the parentheses.
-	<b>character range</b> – represents all characters between the left and right character operands inclusively.

### 1.3 Derived Data Types

This clause defines a derived data type that is represented as a string data type with special syntax. This specification uses string data type definitions that originate from two different sources. The UPnP Device Architecture defined **string** data type is used to define state variable and action argument **string** data types. The XML Schema namespace is used to define property xsd:string data types. The following definition applies to both string data types.

#### 1.3.1 Comma Separated Value (CSV) Lists

The UPnP AV services use state variables, action arguments and properties that represent lists – or one-dimensional arrays – of values. The UPnP Device Architecture, Version 1.0 [DEVICE], does not provide for either an array type or a list type, so a list type is defined here. Lists MAY either be homogeneous (all values are the same type) or heterogeneous (values of different types are allowed). Lists MAY also consist of repeated occurrences of homogeneous or heterogeneous subsequences, all of which have the same syntax and semantics (same number of values, same value types and in the same order). The data type of a homogeneous list is **string** or xsd:string and denoted by CSV (x), where x is the type of the individual values. The data type of a heterogeneous list is also **string** or xsd:string and denoted by CSV (x, y, z), where x, y and z are the types of the individual values. If the number of values in the heterogeneous list is too large to show each type individually, that variable type is represented as CSV (heterogeneous), and the variable description includes additional information as to the expected sequence of values appearing in the list and their corresponding types. The data type of a repeated subsequence list is **string** or xsd:string and denoted by CSV ({x, y, z}), where x, y and z are the types of the individual values in the subsequence and the subsequence MAY be repeated zero or more times.

- A list is represented as a **string** type (for state variables and action arguments) or xsd:string type (for properties).
- Commas separate values within a list.
- Integer values are represented in CSVs with the same syntax as the integer data type specified in [DEVICE] (that is: optional leading sign, optional leading zeroes, numeric US-ASCII)
- Boolean values are represented in state variable and action argument CSVs as either “**0**” for false or “**1**” for true. These values are a subset of the defined **boolean** data type values specified in [DEVICE]: **0, false, no, 1, true, yes.**

- Boolean values are represented in property CSVs as either “0” for false or “1” for true. These values are a subset of the defined Boolean data type values specified in [XML SCHEMA-2]: 0, false, 1, true.
- Escaping conventions for the comma and backslash characters are defined in Clause 1.2.2, “Strings Embedded in Other Strings”.
- White space before, after, or interior to any numeric data type is not allowed.
- White space before, after, or interior to any other data type is part of the value.

**Table 1-2 — CSV Examples**

Type refinement of string	Value	Comments
CSV ( <b>string</b> ) or CSV (xsd:string)	“+artist,-date”	List of 2 property sort criteria.
CSV ( <b>int</b> ) or CSV (xsd:integer)	“1,-5,006,0,+7”	List of 5 integers.
CSV ( <b>boolean</b> ) or CSV (xsd:Boolean)	“0,1,1,0”	List of 4 booleans
CSV ( <b>string</b> ) or CSV (xsd:string)	“Smith\, Fred,Jones\, Davey”	List of 2 names, “Smith, Fred” and “Jones, Davey”
CSV ( <b>i4, string, ui2</b> ) or CSV (xsd:int, xsd:string, xsd:unsignedShort)	“-29837, string with leading blanks,0”	Note that the second value is “ string with leading blanks”
CSV ( <b>i4</b> ) or CSV (xsd:int)	“3, 4”	Illegal CSV. White space is not allowed as part of an integer value.
CSV ( <b>string</b> ) or CSV (xsd:string)	“,,,”	List of 3 empty string values
CSV (heterogeneous)	“Alice,Marketing,5,Sue,R&D,21,Dave,Finance,7”	List of unspecified number of people and associated attributes. Each person is described by 3 elements: a name <b>string</b> , a department <b>string</b> and years-of-service <b>ui2</b> or a name xsd:string, a department xsd:string and years-of-service xsd:unsignedShort.

**1.4 Management of XML Namespaces in Standardized DCPs**

UPnP specifications make extensive use of XML namespaces. This allows separate DCPs, and even separate components of an individual DCP, to be designed independently and still avoid name collisions when they share XML documents. Every name in an XML document belongs to exactly one namespace. In documents, XML names appear in one of two forms: qualified or unqualified. An unqualified name (or no-colon-name) contains no colon (“:”) characters. An unqualified name belongs to the document’s default namespace. A qualified name is two no-colon-names separated by one colon character. The no-colon-name before the colon is the qualified name’s namespace prefix, the no-colon-name after the colon is the qualified name’s “local” name (meaning local to the namespace identified by the namespace prefix). Similarly, the unqualified name is a local name in the default namespace.

The formal name of a namespace is a URI. The namespace prefix used in an XML document is *not* the name of the namespace. The namespace name is, or should be, globally unique. It has a single definition that is accessible to anyone who uses the namespace. It has the same meaning anywhere that it is used, both inside and outside XML documents. The namespace prefix, however, in formal XML usage, is defined only in an XML document. It must be locally unique to the document. Any valid XML no-colon-name may be used. And, in formal XML usage, no two XML documents are ever required to use the same namespace prefix to refer

to the same namespace. The creation and use of the namespace prefix was standardized by the W3C XML Committee in [XML-NMSP] strictly as a convenient local shorthand replacement for the full URI name of a namespace in individual documents.

All AV object properties are represented in XML by element and attribute names, therefore, all property names belong to an XML namespace.

For the same reason that namespace prefixes are convenient in XML documents, it is convenient in specification text to refer to namespaces using a namespace prefix. Therefore, this specification declares a “standard” prefix for all XML namespaces used herein. In addition, this specification expands the scope where these prefixes have meaning, beyond a single XML document, to all of its text, XML examples, and certain string-valued properties. This expansion of scope *does not* supercede XML rules for usage in documents, it only augments and complements them in important contexts that are out-of-scope for the XML specifications. For example, action arguments which refer to CDS properties, such as the [SearchCriteria](#) argument of the [Search\(\)](#) action or the [Filter](#) argument of the [Browse\(\)](#) action, MUST use the predefined namespace prefixes when referring to CDS properties (“upnp:”, “dc:”, etc).

All of the namespaces used in this specification are listed in the Tables “Namespace Definitions” and “Schema-related Information”. For each such namespace, Table 1-3, “Namespace Definitions” gives a brief description of it, its name (a URI) and its defined “standard” prefix name. Some namespaces included in these tables are not directly used or referenced in this document. They are included for completeness to accommodate those situations where this specification is used in conjunction with other UPnP specifications to construct a complete system of devices and services. For example, since the Scheduled Recording Service depends on and refers to the Content Directory Service, the predefined “srs:” namespace prefix is included. The individual specifications in such collections all use the same standard prefix. The standard prefixes are also used in Table 1-4, “Schema-related Information”, to cross-reference additional namespace information. This second table includes each namespace’s valid XML document root elements (if any), its schema file name, versioning information (to be discussed in more detail below), and links to the entries in the Reference clause for its associated schema.

The normative definitions for these namespaces are the documents referenced in Table 1-3. The schemas are designed to support these definitions for both human understanding and as test tools. However, limitations of the XML Schema language itself make it difficult for the UPnP-defined schemas to accurately represent all details of the namespace definitions. As a result, the schemas will validate many XML documents that are not valid according to the specifications.

The Working Committee expects to continue refining these schemas after specification release to reduce the number of documents that are validated by the schemas while violating the specifications, but the schemas will still be informative, supporting documents. Some schemas might become normative in future versions of the specifications.