Security Protocol and Data Model (SPDM) over MCTP Binding Specification

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1 Foreword


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2 Acknowledgments

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3 Abstract

SPDM is designed to be an effective interface and data model that enables efficient access to low-level security capabilities and operations.

SPDM over MCTP binding defines the format of SPDM messages transported over MCTP.
4 Document conventions

- Document titles appear in *italics*.
- The first occurrence of each important term appears in *italics* with a link to its definition.
- ABNF rules appear in a monospaced font.

4.1 Scope

This document defines the format of Security Protocol and Data Model (SPDM) over MCTP messages.

This document describes:

- SPDM over MCTP binding
- Common format for SPDM over MCTP messages

4.2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this specification. For dated or versioned references, only the edition cited (including any corrigenda or DMTF update versions) applies. For references without a date or version, the latest published edition of the referenced document (including any corrigenda or DMTF update versions) applies.

- DMTF DSP0236, MCTP Base Specification 1.3.0, [https://dmtf.org/sites/default/files/standards/documents/DSP0236_1.3.0.pdf](https://dmtf.org/sites/default/files/standards/documents/DSP0236_1.3.0.pdf)
- DMTF DSP0239, MCTP IDs and Codes 1.6.0, [https://www.dmtf.org/sites/default/files/standards/documents/DSP0239_1.6.0.pdf](https://www.dmtf.org/sites/default/files/standards/documents/DSP0239_1.6.0.pdf)

4.3 Terms and definitions

In this document, some terms have a specific meaning beyond the normal English meaning. This clause defines those terms.

The terms “shall” (“required”), “shall not,” “should” (“recommended”), “should not” (“not recommended”), “may,” “need not” (“not required”), “can” and “cannot” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Clause 7](https://www.iso.org/sites/directives/current/part2/index.xhtml). The terms in parentheses are alternatives for the preceding term, for use in exceptional cases when the
preceding term cannot be used for linguistic reasons. Note that ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Clause 7 specifies additional alternatives. Occurrences of such additional alternatives shall be interpreted in their normal English meaning.

The terms “clause,” “subclause,” “paragraph,” and “annex” in this document are to be interpreted as described in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Clause 6.

The terms “normative” and “informative” in this document are to be interpreted as described in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Clause 3. In this document, clauses, subclauses, or annexes labeled “(informative)” do not contain normative content. Notes and examples are always informative elements.

The terms that DSP0236, DSP0239, and DSP0274 define also apply to this document.

**4.4 Symbols and abbreviated terms**

The abbreviations defined in DSP0236, DSP0239, and DSP0274 apply to this document.

**4.5 SPDM over MCTP binding**

This specification defines how the Security protocol and data models transported over MCTP communications. SPDM is supported as a message type over MCTP. SPDM over MCTP binding defines the format of SPDM messages transported over MCTP. DSP0274 defines the common fields for SPDM messages and their usage.

This specification binds to any version of SPDM.

**4.5.1 SPDM over MCTP message fields**

Figure 1 shows the fields of an MCTP message body carrying an SPDM message.

Table 1 defines the fields for the SPDM over MCTP message.

**Table 1 — SPDM over MCTP message field descriptions**
### Field name | Field size | Description
--- | --- | ---
IC | One bit | Check bit = 0b. SPDM over MCTP messages do not include an overall message integrity check field.
Message type | Seven bits | SPDM = 0x05 (000_0101b) Indicates that the MCTP message contains an SPDM message.
SPDM message | Variable | DSP0274 defines the base SPDM message fields.

### 4.5.2 Requester and responder tracking

The Requester and Responder use fields defined in DSP0236 to track Responders and Requesters. The Responder shall use the Source Endpoint ID in the request message to track each SPDM Requester. The Requester shall use the Source Endpoint ID in the response message to track each SPDM Responder.

### 4.6 Message tracking

The Requester and Responder use fields defined in DSP0236 to track messages. The Requester and Responder shall use the Source Endpoint ID, Message Tag (Msg Tag), and Tag Owner (TO) fields to uniquely identify messages and the corresponding responses. Request messages shall set the Tag Owner bit (TO=1), and Response messages shall clear the Tag Owner bit (TO=0) and shall use the same Message Tag as in the corresponding request message.

SPDM message exchanges, such as `CHUNK_SEND` and `CHUNK_SEND_ACK`, are composed of individual MCTP messages that are assembled into a larger SPDM payload, with the grouping of the chunks tracked by the Handle field. For instance, a Requester could send a larger message in three chunks using `CHUNK_SEND`. The Requester could send each chunk using Message Tags of 1, 2, and 3 respectively, but with the Handle field (Param2) set to the same value for each MCTP message. These chunks would be assembled to form a larger SPDM payload.

### 4.7 Version reporting

The version that shall be reported for this message type in the Get MCTP version support response is as follows:

- The version of the SPDM message type for this specification shall be reported in Version Number Entry 1 as: 1.0.2 [Major version 1, minor version 2, update version 2, no alpha]

  This is reported using the encoding as: `0xF1F0F200`.
5 ANNEX A (informative) Change log

5.1 Version 1.0.0 (2019-12-22)

- Initial release

5.2 Version 1.0.1 (2022-03-28)

- Update reference links to DSP0274.
- Add statement about binding to DSP0274.
- Added requirement for use of the Tag Owner bit and matching Message Tags for Requester and responder tracking.
- Added a section for Message tracking.

5.3 Version 1.0.2 (2023-10-08)

- Add section for Version reporting.
- Fix broken links
6 Bibliography