



Conformance Testing for MHP 1.1 and PVR/PDR

Background

Since the completion of the MHP 1.0.3 test suite in November last year, the MHP Confidence Project and MHP Test Consortium have been working on test suites for MHP 1.1.2 and PVR/PDR. This is a time consuming and expensive process. It starts with the development of test specifications (known as assertions) – a development sub-contracted to experts in testing. The writing of tests according to those specifications is typically sub-contracted to MHP application developers. The deliveries from both sets of sub-contractors need careful and thorough review.

MHP 1.1.2 Tests

The development of tests for MHP 1.1.2 is approaching its conclusion. Many tests already exist and are being reviewed by the consortium members. Other tests are about to be delivered by their developer.

More than a year ago, the Consortium made a decision to prioritise its work on MHP 1.1.2 based on anticipated market requirements. As a result, the tests developed or in development only cover the following selection of the MHP 1.1.2 specification.

- Stored applications
- Return channel downloaded applications except as described below
- Tuning to channels not found in a service scan
- Drop-call tele-voting
- Multiple tuner support
- Upgraded minimum platform capabilities

The main areas of MHP 1.1.2 not covered are the following;

- HD
- Downloadable providers for return channel security
- Synchronisation with broadcasts using the DVB “Synchronised Auxiliary Data” timeline
- Hybrid object carousels with some files on a web server (so-called “HTTPProfileBody”)
- Plug-ins
- Other optional features including DVB-HTML and the internet access profile

PVR

The development of tests for MHP-PVR is following the same process as tests for MHP 1.1.2 but later. Tests for the common specification with OCAP are expected to complete delivery and acceptance in 2006. Tests for the DVB specific extensions should complete delivery and acceptance in 2006 but there is some risk of slipping in to early 2007.

As with MHP 1.1.2, a decision was made to prioritise the work based on expected market requirements. In this case the decision was simpler, no tests have been developed for the APIs relating to TV-Anytime. The commercial requirements for MHP-PVR already permit this.

Decisions needed by DVB

DVB needs to decide;

- when it wants to release test suites for MHP 1.1.2 and MHP-PVR
- whether partial coverage of the MHP 1.1.2 specification is acceptable in the first release (assuming the previous decision about a partial test suite for MHP-PVR being acceptable still stands)
- if partial coverage is acceptable, whether the partial coverage provided by the Consortium is adequate or whether there are other areas which also need to be covered in the first release
- if partial coverage is acceptable in the first release of these test suites, whether the coverage should be increased in a later release and the extent to which implementers passing the first release should commit to passing any subsequent releases (as was the case with the MHP 1.0.2a test suite).

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