N-SQUARED SOFTWARE

N-Squared Software N2IVR INAP Protocol Conformance Statement

Version 2024-06

1 Document Information

1.1 Scope and Purpose

This document describes the implementation of the INAP (including CAMEL variants) protocols for real-time flows for voice interaction control using the N-Squared (N2) SIP Interactive Voice Response Platform (N2IVR) when it is acting as an INAP Intelligent Peripheral (IP) or INAP Specialized Resource Platform (SRP) under the guidance of an INAP Service Control Platform (SCP).

This document should be read in conjunction with the N2IVR Technical Guide [R-1].

This document assumes a working knowledge of the relevant INAP and other telephony concepts, including the standard INAP interactions between an SCP, an SSP, and an SRP or IP. A familiarity with SIP call control is also assumed.

1.2 Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

Term	Meaning	
AC	Application Context (in TCAP)	
ARI	Assist Request Instructions	
AS	Application Server	
ASP	Application Server Process	
ASPAC	ASP Active	
ASPTM	ASP Traffic Maintenance	
ASN.1	Abstract Syntax Notation One	
CAMEL	Customized Applications for Mobile Network Enhanced Logic	
CAP	CAMEL Application Part	
DTMF	Dual Tone Multi-Frequency	
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute	
GT	Global Title	
GTI	Global Title Indicator	
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force	
INAP	Intelligent Networking Application Part	
IP	Internet Protocol	
ITU-T	International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector	
M3UA	MTP3 User Adaption Layer	
MTP3	Message Transfer Part Level 3	
N2	N-Squared	
OCNCC	Oracle Communications Network Charging & Control	
PA	Play Announcement	
PACUI	Prompt And Collect User Information	
PC	Point Code	
RFC	Request For Comments	
RI	Routing Indicator	
RTP	Real-Time Transport Protocol	

Term	Meaning	
SCCP	Signalling Connection Control Part	
SCP	Service Control Platform	
SCTP	Stream Control Transmission Protocol	
SIP	Session Initiation Protocol	
SLC	Service Logic Controller	
SRP	Specialized Resource Platform	
SRR	Specialized Resource Report	
SSN	Sub-System Number	
SSP	Service Switching Platform	
SUA	SCCP User Adaption Layer	
TCAP	Transaction Capabilities Application Part	
TS	Technical Specification	

1.3 References

The following documents are referenced within this document:

Reference	Document	
[R-1]	N2SIP Technical Guide (IVR configuration sections)	
[R-2]	N2SVCD Technical Guide	
[R-3]	N2SIP SIP-SDP-RTP PCS	
[R-4]	N2SVCD SIGTRAN-TCAP PCS	
[R-10]	ETS 300 374-1	
	Intelligent Network (IN);	
	Intelligent Network Capability Set 1 (CS1);	
	Core Intelligent Network Application Protocol (INAP);	
	Part 1: Protocol specification	

1.4 Ownership and Usage

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3 Introduction

3.1 N2IVR Overview

The N-Squared Interactive Voice Response Platform (N2IVR) is a software system for playing audio announcements and collecting DTMF digits over a SIP/RTP session, under various control mechanisms.

One of the supported control mechanisms in the INAP-controlled mode, in which the N2IVR platform operates under the control of an INAP/CAMEL Service Control Platform (SCP).

The N2IVR deployment in this mode has the following integration points:

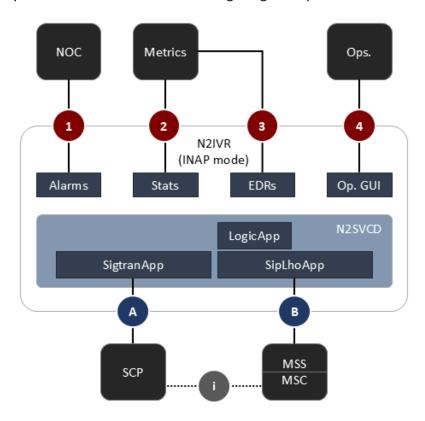


Figure A: N2IVR Integration in INAP-controlled mode

This protocol conformance document relates specifically to the N2IVR Compliance for the INAP (or CAP) layer of Interface "A", which has the following stack:

- INAP (or CAP)
- TCAP
- SCCP
- SIGTRAN M3UA
- SCTP/IP

This document describes only the uppermost INAP (or CAP) layer. The common N2SVCD Conformance for TCAP and the lower layers of the stack are described in the separate document [R-4].

Conformance is based on the referenced standards or other non-standard functionality but noting that solution conformance to the above is limited to the extent expressly described herein. I.e. statement of conformance to a standard in no way implies conformance to or compliance with the complete standard.

4 INAP Compliance

4.1 INAP Overview

N2IVR (operating in INAP mode) communicates with an INAP SCP to receive instructions for playing announcements and collecting DTMF input. In the mobile environment, the protocol for announcement control may nominally be CAP, although in practical terms there is little difference between CAP and INAP.

N2IVR to SCP interface compliance is formally based on ETSI document "ETS 300 374-1 Intelligent Network (IN); Intelligent Network Capability Set 1 (CS1); Core Intelligent Network Application Protocol (INAP); Part 1: Protocol specification" [R-10]. The N2IVR also supports a small subset of CAMEL-specific parameters and some vendor-proprietary extensions as described herein.

Note that ASN.1 is not a backwards-compatible format. Other non-listed fields received in INAP operations will cause a decode error.

4.2 INAP Operation Support

The N2IVR product supports only the following INAP operations when communicating with the SCP.

Operation	Direction
AssistRequestInstructions	To SCP
AssistRequestInstructions / ReturnError	From SCP
PlayAnnouncement	From SCP
PlayAnnouncement / ReturnError	To SCP
SpecializedResourceReport	To SCP
PromptAndCollectUserInformation	From SCP
PromptAndCollectUserInformation / ReturnResult	To SCP
PromptAndCollectUserInformation / ReturnError	To SCP

Table 1: INAP Operations, Results, and Errors

4.3 AssistRequestInstructions

The INAP AssistRequestInstructions (ARI) operation is sent by an INAP-configured N2IVR to the SCP when it receives a valid inbound SIP session request.

N2IVR supports sending the following attributes in ARI:

Attribute	Туре	Notes
correlationID	Generic Number	Supported as below
.digits	Hex Digits	Extracted from inbound SIP INVITE called party address
.noa	Integer	Nature of Address
		Set to 2 (unknown)
.nqi	Integer	Number Qualifier Indicator
		Set to 0 (reserved, dialed digits)
.ni	Integer	Number Incomplete Indicator
		Set to 0 (complete)
.npi	Integer	Numbering Plan Indicator
		Set to 1 (ITU-T E.164)
.pri	Integer	Presentation Restricted Indicator
		Set to 1 (restricted)
.si Integer Screening Indicator		Screening Indicator
		Set to 0 (user provided, not verified)
iPAvailable	Octet String	Never Present
iPSSPCapabilities	Octet String	Never Present
Extensions	Extensions	Never Present

Table 2: INAP ARI Attributes

N2IVR will extract the called party address from the SIP INVITE, as described in [R-3], expecting a called party in one of the following formats:

- [fixed-length-routing-prefix]<scp-id>[optional-variable-length-filler]<correlation-id>
- [variable-length-routing-prefix]<scp-id><correlation-id>
- [variable-length-routing-prefix] <correlation-id><scp-id>

The *<scp-id>* and *<correlation-id>* values are fixed-length decimal digit values (leading-padded with zero if necessary).

N2IVR will use the *<scp-id>* to determine the SCCP called party address (GT, PC, SSN) as described in the SCCP compliance section. N2IVR will pass the *<correlation-id>* as the ARI *correlationID.digits* parameter. All other ARI operation fields are set to the indicated defaults in *Table 2: INAP ARI Attributes* and are not configurable.

4.3.1 ReturnError

The SCP may send a ReturnError for the ARI. In this case, N2IVR will tear down the call.

4.4 PlayAnnouncement

The INAP PlayAnnouncement (PA) operation is sent from the SCP to N2IVR to request N2IVR to play an announcement without digit collection. When the PA is complete, N2IVR will return a SpecializedResourceReport.

N2IVR supports receiving the following attributes in PA:

Attribute	Туре	Notes
informationToSend	Choice	Supported
.inbandInfo	Sequence	Supported
.messageID	Choice	Supported
.elementaryMessageID	Integer	Supported
.text	-	Not Supported
.elementaryMessageIDs	Array*Integer	Supported
.variableMessage	Sequence	Supported
.elementaryMessageID	Integer	Supported
.variableParts	Sequence Of	Supported
.integer	Integer	Supported
.number	Octet String	Supported
.time	Octet String	Not Supported
.date	Octet String	Supported
.price	Octet String	Supported
.numberOfRepetitions	Integer	Supported
.duration	Integer	Supported
.interval	Integer	Supported
.tone	-	Not Supported
.displayInformation	-	Not Supported
disconnectFromIPForbidden	Boolean	Must be TRUE (or absent)
requestAnnouncementComplete	Boolean	Must be TRUE (or absent)
extensions	Array/Sequence	As per 4.4.1: Language ID Extension
connectedParty	ConnectedParty	Ignored

Table 3: INAP PA Attributes

4.4.1 Language ID Extension

N2IVR supports receipt of a "Language ID" extension for PlayAnnouncement and for PromptAndCollectUserInformation. This mechanism is not part of the ETSI/CAMEL standards, and so the implementation may vary from site to site.

The supported extension container attributes are:

Attribute	Туре	Notes
.type	Integer	Supported
.criticality	Enumerated	Ignored
.value	-	Encoding is specified by the individual SCP vendor

Table 4: INAP PA Language ID Extension Attributes

At this time, the only supported encoding is the "NAP" encoding implemented by the Oracle OCNCC SLC (SCP) platform, which is encoded as follows:

- SEQUENCE (Universal)
 - LanguageID (Tag=0/Context, Implicit Integer, Mandatory)
 - Extras (Tag=1/Context, Implicit Sequence, Mandatory)
 - Extra0 (Tag=0/Context, Implicit Integer, Optional)
 - Extra1 (Tag=1/Context, Implicit Integer, Optional)
 - Extra2 (Tag=2/Context, Implicit Integer, Optional)
 - Extra3 (Tag=3/Context, Implicit Integer, Optional)

LanguageID is mapped to a Language Name internally in N2IVR. The Extra fields are ignored.

4.4.2 ReturnError

The N2IVR supports sending ReturnError for PlayAnnouncement as follows:

Value	Error	Supported
7	Missing Parameter	Used when no supported parameter alternatives are present in the PlayAnnouncement
11	System Failure	Used when N2IVR cannot load base configuration
13	Unavailable Resource	Used when the requested message ID or the requested language is unknown, misconfigured, or missing audio

Table 5: INAP PA ReturnError Attributes

4.5 SpecializedResourceReport

N2IVR does not support sending any attributes in SpecializedResourceReport (SRR) operations.

4.6 PromptAndCollectUserInformation

The SCP sends INAP PromptAndCollectUserInformation (PACUI) operations to N2IVR to request an announcement with digit collection.

N2IVR supports receiving the following attributes in PACUI, in addition to those supported for PA:

Attribute	Туре	Notes
collectedInfo	Sequence	Supported
.collectedDigits	Sequence	Supported
.minimumNbOfDigits	Integer	Supported
.maximumNbOfDigits	Integer	Supported
.endOfReplyDigit	Octet String	Supported
.cancelDigit	Octet String	Supported
.startDigit	Octet String	Ignored
.firstDigitTimeout	Integer	Supported
.interDigitTimeout	Integer	Supported
.errortreatment	Enumerated	Ignored
.interruptableAnnInd	Boolean	Supported
.voiceInformation	Boolean	Ignored
.voiceBack	Boolean	Ignored

Table 6: INAP PACUI Attributes

4.6.1 ReturnResult

The N2IVR supports sending ReturnResult for PACUI as follows:

Attribute	Туре	Notes
digitsResponse	Generic Digits	Digits entered by end-user.
.digits	Hex Digits	Digits. Any "*" or "#" has been converted to hex.
.scheme	Integer	Numbering Scheme
		Set to 0 or 1 (BCD even or odd)
.type	Integer	Type of Digits
		Set to 0 (reserved, account code)

Table 7: INAP PCAUI ReturnResult Attributes

4.6.2 ReturnError

The N2IVR supports sending ReturnError for PACUI as follows:

Value	Error	Supported
4	Improper Caller Response	Used when collected DTMF digit string is missing/invalid.
7	Missing Parameter	Used when none of our supported parameter alternatives are present in the PromptAndCollectUserInformation.
11	System Failure	Used when the N2IVR cannot load base configuration.
13	Unavailable Resource	Used when the requested message ID or the requested language is unknown, misconfigured, or missing audio.

Table 8: INAP PCAUI ReturnError Attributes

5 INAP Message Flows

In all flows in this section, note that N2IVR may perform call shutdown using TCAP Abort in the case of non-recoverable call error.

5.1 INAP Call Set-Up

The following diagram shows the standard INAP operation flow for call setup when the N2IVR is operating in INAP-controlled mode.

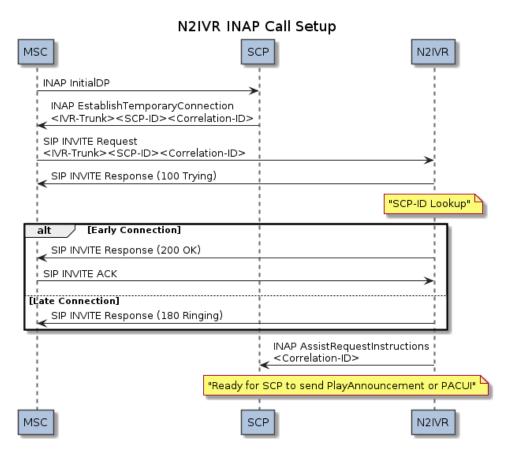


Figure B: N2IVR (INAP Mode) Call Setup (AssistRequestInstructions)

5.2 INAP PlayAnnouncement

The following diagram shows the INAP operation flow for PlayAnnouncement, after Setup is complete for N2IVR operating in INAP-controlled mode.

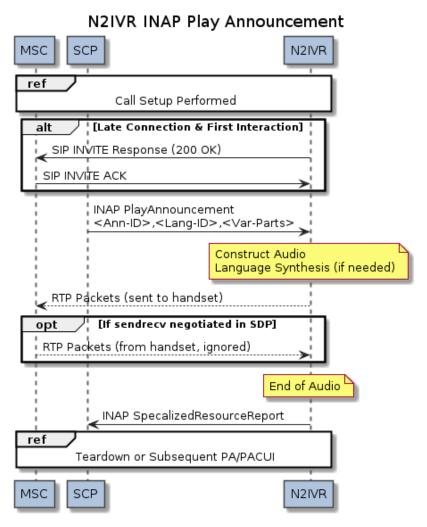


Figure C: INAP Play Announcement (PA & SRR)

5.3 INAP PromptAndCollectUserInformation

The following diagram shows the INAP operation flow for PromptAndCollectUserInformation after Setup is complete for N2IVR operating in INAP-controlled mode.

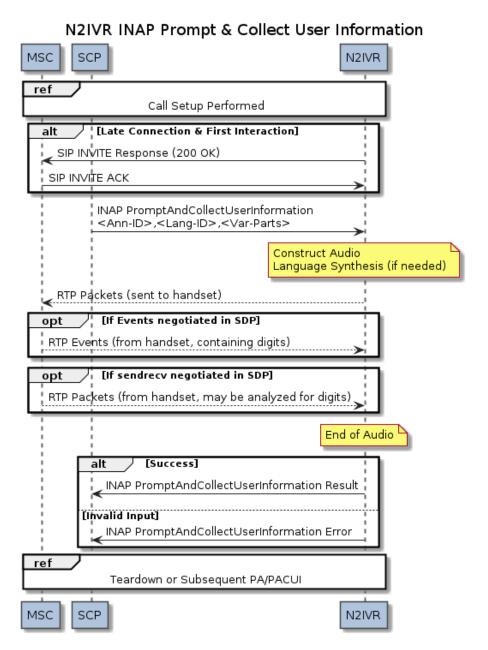


Figure D: INAP Prompt & Collect (PACUI)

5.4 INAP Call Tear-Down (Caller Hangup)

When the call is terminated by a caller hangup during interaction, clean call tear-down of the INAP dialog is typically performed by pre-arranged end, although TCAP ABORT or empty TCAP END are also possible (not shown).

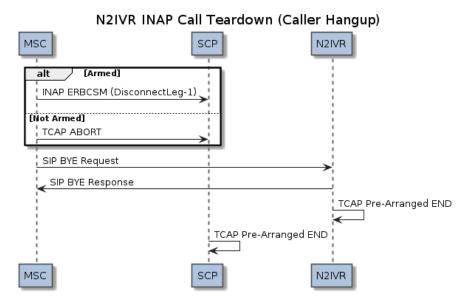


Figure E: INAP Call Tear-Down (Caller Hangup)

5.5 INAP Call Tear-Down (SCP Initiated)

When the call is terminated by the SCP deciding that no more interaction is required, clean call tear-down of the INAP dialog is typically performed by pre-arranged end, although TCAP ABORT or empty TCAP END are also possible (not shown).

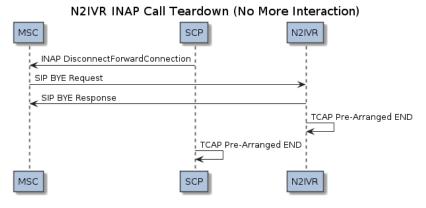


Figure F: INAP Call Tear-Down (No More Interaction)

5.6 Exception Scenarios

Various exception scenarios may occur in which TCAP-ABORT and/or SIP BYE are used to terminate all open connections. These scenarios are not shown individually.

Note that like any situation which involves a three-party simultaneous shutdown, race conditions are likely in which one or more end-points may generate an alarm for shutdown of an already terminated (or unknown) connection.