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# **Notice**

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# 1 Scope

This document is part of the FIPA specifications and deals with device ontology. This document contains specifications for properties of devices. Additionally, the document provides an example to illustrate the usage of the ontology via a profile of a hypothetical smartphone, an example of using the ontology through CC/PP, and other informative examples.

#### 2 Overview

The capabilities of different devices are best expressed using some ontology, against which the profiles of those devices are validated. This document contains specifications for a device ontology.

Provided that two devices D1 and D2 have a connection, they may exchange device profiles (either directly or through a brokering agency) and acquire a list of services provided by the other device. The list of services may include both hardware and software services, for example: a software component that provides access to a hardware component of the device (such as microphone, headset or GPS service). The profile needs to support the identification of services for various input and output capabilities, such as audio input and output. An informative example of a profile for a hypothetical device is given in Annex A.

The Fipa-Device ontology can be used by agents when communicating about devices. Agents pass profiles of devices to each other and validate them against the Fipa-Device ontology. The profiles come in handy for example in a situation where memory- or processing-intensive actions take place; agent A1 can ask agent A2 whether device D has enough capabilities to handle some task A1 has in mind. Annex B gives a set of informative examples showing how profiles based on Fipa-Device ontology can be exploited.

Related work is done both in W3C [CC/PP] and WAP Forum [UAProf]. There is an overlap between the definitions found in those documents and this specification. However, direct references to those specifications are not used here. That is because, unlike the ontology presented in this specification, they rely on specific frameworks and languages, namely RDF and XML. Annex C gives an informative example on how to use the Fipa-Device ontology via CC/PP descriptions.

# 3 Device Ontology

#### 3.1 Object Descriptions

This section describes a set of frames that represent the classes of objects in the domain of discourse within the framework of the Fipa-Device ontology.

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The following terms are used to describe the objects of the domain:

101 102

**Frame**. This is the mandatory name of this entity that must be used to represent each instance of this class.

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Ontology. This is the name of the ontology, whose domain of discourse includes the parameters described in the table

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**Parameter**. This is the mandatory name of a parameter of this frame.

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**Description**. This is a natural language description of the semantics of each parameter.

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**Presence**. This indicates whether each parameter is mandatory or optional.

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**Type**. This is the type of the values of the parameter: Integer, Word, String, URL, Term, Set or Sequence.

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**Reserved Values**. This is a list of FIPA-defined constants that can assume values for this parameter.

#### 3.1.1 Relationships between Frames

Figure 1 depicts the frames used in this ontology with associations among them.

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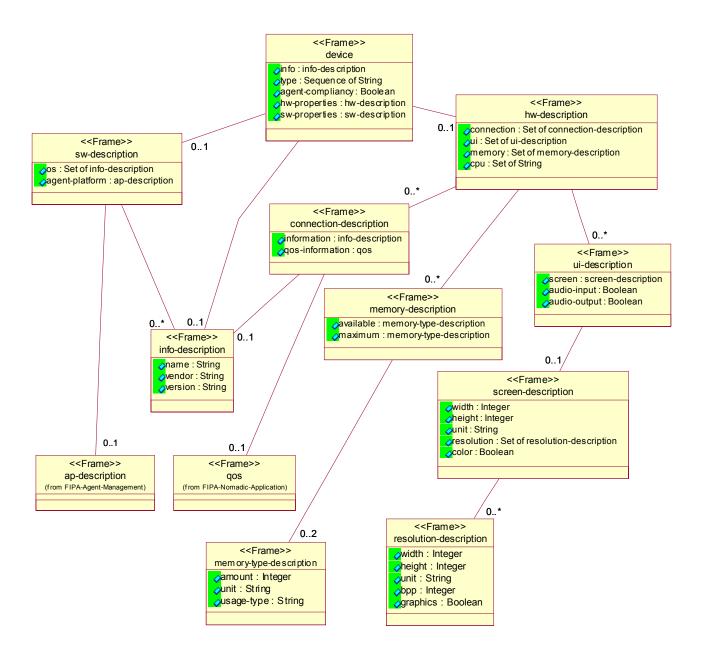


Figure 1: Relationships between Frames in the Fipa-Device ontology

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#### 3.1.2 Device Description

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This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the device with its most general properties.

Frame Ontology	device Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence	Туре	Reserved Values
info	General information for the device.	Mandatory	info-description	
type	The type(s) of the device. General type(s) of devices like 3G phones, PDA's etc. To be used as a sequence from general to more specific types.	Optional	Sequence of String	
agent- compliancy	Capability to host a FIPA- agent platform or participate in a distributed one.	Optional	Boolean	true false
hw-properties	List of properties describing the hardware features of the device in question.	Optional	hw-description	
sw-properties	List of properties describing the software features of the device in question.	Optional	sw-description	

#### 3.1.3 Product Info Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the name, vendor and version of some product.

Frame Ontology	info-description Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>1</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
name	The name of the product in question.	Optional	String	
vendor	The vendor of the product in question.	Optional	String	
version	The version of the product in question.	Optional	String	

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While all of these parameters are optional, a valid info-description object will contain at least one parameter.

#### 3.1.4 Hardware Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the hardware capabilities of a given device.

Frame Ontology	hw-description Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>2</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
connection	The type of the connection the devuses.	vice Optional	Set of connection-description	
ui	List of the user interfaces that device offers.	the Optional	Set of ui- description	
memory	The amount of memory that the dev has.	rice Optional	Set of memory- description	
cpu	The type of the central processing that the device has.	unit Optional	Set of String	

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#### 3.1.5 Connection Type Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the connection-related details of a given device.

136		
	Frame	connection-
	Ontology	description
	,	Fipa-Device

Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>3</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
information	General information for the connection.	Optional	info- description	
qos- information	Detailed information about the Quality of Service of this connection type	Optional	qos <sup>4</sup>	

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  While all of these parameters are optional, a valid  ${\tt hw-properties}$  object will contain at least one parameter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> While all of these parameters are optional, a valid connection-description object will contain at least one parameter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The frame for gos is found in [FIPA00014].

#### 3.1.6 User Interface Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the user interface(s) of a given device.

Frame Ontology	ui-description Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>5</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
screen	Information characterizing the screen of the device.	Optional	screen- description	
audio-input	Specifies whether the device in question is capable of receiving audio input.	Optional	Boolean	true false
audio-output	Specifies whether the device in question is capable of producing audio output.	Optional	Boolean	true false

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#### 3.1.7 Screen Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the screen of a given device.

Frame	screen-
Ontology	description
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Fipa-Device

Danamatan	Pagarintian	<b>D</b> 6	T	December 1 Values
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>6</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
width	The width of the screen. This	Optional	Integer	
	value must be positive.			
height	The height of the screen. This	Optional	Integer	
	value must be positive.			
unit	The unit for the width and	Optional	String	mm
	height parameters of this frame.			cm
	p p			inch <sup>7</sup>
resolution	The resolution description for the	Optional	Set of resolution-	
	screen.		description	
color	Has the value true if the device	Optional	Boolean	true
	has a color screen; false if it has			false
	a monochrome screen.			

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptscriptstyle 5}$  While all of these parameters are optional, a valid ui-description object will contain at least one parameter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> While all of these parameters are optional, a valid user-interface object will contain at least one parameter.

 $<sup>^{7}</sup>$  1mm = 0,1cm. 1mm = .03937inch. 1cm = 10mm. 1cm = .3937inch. 1inch = 25.4mm. 1inch = 2.54cm.

#### 3.1.8 Resolution Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the resolution-details of a given display.

Frame Ontology	resolution-description Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>8</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
width	Number of resolution units horizontally. This value must be positive.	Optional	Integer	
height	Number of resolution units vertically. This value must be positive.	Optional	Integer	
unit	The unit for the resolution.	Optional	String	pixels characters
bpp	Bits per pixel.	Optional	Integer	
graphics	Has the value true if the device is capable of displaying graphics; false if the device is capable of displaying only characters.	Optional	Boolean	true false

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#### 3.1.9 Memory Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the maximum memory of a given device, as well as the memory available at the time of query.

Frame Ontology	memory-description Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>9</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
available	The amount of memory available.	Optional	memory-type- description	
maximum	The maximum amount of memory.	Optional	memory-type- description	

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#### 3.1.10 Memory Type Description

This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the amount, unit, and usage type of some memory.

Frame Ontology	memory-type-description Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>10</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
amount	The amount of memory. This value must not be negative.	Optional	Integer	
unit	The unit used to express the amount of memory.	Optional	String	B KB MB
usage-type	The usage type of the memory. Either application, storage, or both.	Optional	Set of String	application storage

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> While all of these parameters are optional, a valid user-interface object will contain at least one parameter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> While all of these parameters are optional, a valid memory-description object will contain at least one parameter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> While all of these parameters are optional, a valid user-interface object will contain at least one parameter.

#### 3.1.11 Software Properties Description

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164 165 This type of object represents the description that can be used to define the software capabilities of a given device.

Frame Ontology	sw-description Fipa-Device			
Parameter	Description	Presence <sup>11</sup>	Туре	Reserved Values
os	Details of the operating system that the device has.	Optional	Set of info- description	
agent-platform	Description of the agent platform the device in question has. Can be used only if agent-compliancy of device level is either true or unspecified.	Optional	Set of ap- description <sup>12</sup>	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> While all of these parameters are optional, a valid sw-properties object will contain at least one parameter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The frame for ap-description is found in [FIPA00023].

#### References 4 166 167 168 [CC/PP] Composite Capabilities / Preference Profiles. 169 http://www.w3.org/Mobile/CCPP/ 170 [FIPA00014] FIPA Nomadic Application Support Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. 171 http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00014/ 172 [FIPA00023] FIPA Agent Management Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000. 173 http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00023/ 174 [UAProf] User Agent Profile Specification. Wireless Application Protocol Forum Ltd., 1999. 175 http://www.wapforum.org/ 176

# 5 Informative Annex A — Profile of a Hypothetical Smart Phone

#### 5.1 Profile Description

This section describes a profile that represents the hypothetical smart phone. The validation of this profile is based on the Fipa-Devices ontology.

The following terms are used to describe the objects of the domain:

Profile. This is the mandatory name of this entity that must be used to represent each instance of this class.

**Ontology**. This is the name of the ontology, whose domain of discourse includes the parameters described in the table.

**Parameter**. This is the mandatory name of a parameter of this profile.

**Value.** This is the value given to a parameter.

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#### 5.1.1 SmartPhone xyz

Here the profile of the hypothetical SmartPhone xyz is presented.

Profile Ontology	fipa.p Fipa-D		les.device	.sma	rtphonexy	Z	]
Parameter							Value
info-description na							SmartPhone
I I	_	vendo	or				Smartphones Ltd.
version							xyz
type	·						mobile-phone
					PDA		
							GPS
agent-compli							true
hw-	connection-	-	info-		name		Bluetooth
description	description	ı	descript	ion	version		x.x
	connection-	-	info-		name		Infrared Data
	description	ı	description				Association
					version		у.у
	connection-		info-		name		High Speed Circuit
	description	ı	descript	ion			Switched Data
					version		Z.Z
	ui-		screen- wid description hei		th		500
	description	n des			eight		800
					unit		mm
				res	esolution- width		1024
				descri		height	768
						unit	pixels
						bpp	32
						graphics	true
				col	color		true
		aud	dio-input				true
		aud	dio-output				true
	memory-	mer	mory-type-		amount		8
	description	n des	scription		unit		MB
		memory-type-			usage	e-type	storage
					amount		3856
			scription				КВ
				usage-type		storage	
	сри					64-bit ARM9-based RISC	
sw-	info-description			name		SmartOS abc	
description		<b>L</b> -			vendor		ABCVendor Corp.
					version		8.1
	agent-platf	0rm <sup>13</sup>			name		FIPA-OS v2.1.1
	agent-bratt	u-piauform			dynamic		true
				mobility		true	
					IIIODIIIL	У	crue

The values on the rightmost column can change at any time. For example, if extra memory is inserted to the device or if another version of operating system is installed, the values for those parameters change. The parameters themselves, however, are more static. They stay the same despite the changes in single device profiles, since they are defined in the Fipa-Device ontology that is independent of them.

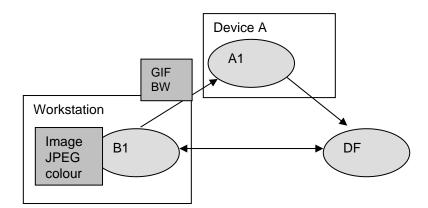
The values for parameters can be further divided into static and dynamic depending on the ability to change them in runtime. For example agent-compliancy and memory-type-description describing the memory available can change without booting the device. Hence they are dynamic information. On the other hand, screen-description and CPU are static information; they cannot change while the machine is running.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The ontology against which this parameter is validated is found in [FIPA00023].

## Informative Annex B — Examples

Annex B presents examples and use cases for device profiles based on the device ontology. The term agent is used to depict any software entity capable of reasoning over the profile, and the term DF or Directory Facilitator is used to depict a general directory service.

#### 6.1 Content Adaptation I



Agent A1 sends its device profile to DF and registers to the system. Agent B1 interacts with agent A1 residing on device A. Agent B1 queries A's device profile either from the DF or directly from device A. Agent B1, which aims to send an image (640x480x24bits) to the user, analyses the device profile user interface capabilities:

hw-description	ui-description	screen-	width		2.26
		description	height		3.02
			unit		inch
			resolution-	width	320
			description	height	240
				unit	pixels
				bpp	4
			color		false
		audio-input			true
		audio-output	·	`	true

sw-description	supported-mime-types	text/html image/gif image/wbmp
		text/ascii

The device operating system (or browser) is capable of handling ACSII text, html and also supports the GIF and Windows BMP mime-types. The agent reads from the device profile that the target device has a greyscale display and reduces the colours of the image to 4 greyscales (dithering), because it is not reasonable to send large images with excess unusable bits. The image size is reduced from 640x480 to 320x240 to fit the device's small screen.

In order to adapt the dialogue between agents, the dialogue service needs knowledge about the human-agent interface, especially information about the input and output capabilities of devices. For instance, if the user is using pen based input or touch-screen, the service may rely more on image maps to trigger actions, and if the user is interacting with keyboard, the service might use more text based input.

Now the same example is presented in more detail and using FIPA ACL. However, mime-type treatment is excluded.

1. The agent residing at a mobile device named dummy (A1 in the picture above) registers with the DF:

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```
246
         (request
247
           :sender
248
             (agent-identifier
249
                :name dummy@foo.com :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc))
250
           :receiver (set
251
             (agent-identifier
252
               :name df@foo.com :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc)))
253
           :language FIPA-SL0
254
           :protocol FIPA-Request
255
           :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
256
           :content
257
             (action
258
                (agent-identifier
259
                   :name df@foo.com :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc))
260
                (register
261
                  (df-agent-description
262
                    :name
263
                     (agent-identifier
264
                      :name dummy@foo.com
265
                      :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc))
266
                    :protocol (set FIPA-Request FIPA-Query)
267
                    :ontology (set FIPA-Device)
268
                    :language (set FIPA-SLO KIF)
269
                    :services (set
270
                      (service-description
271
                        :name device
272
                        :type device-stuff
273
                        :ontology (set FIPA-Device)))))))
274
```

2. Then, the agent *velmu* (B1 in the picture above) searches with the DF for a list of agents that support Fipa-Device ontology:

```
(request
  :sender
    (agent-identifier
      :name dummy@helluli.com
      :addresses (sequence iiop://helluli.com/acc))
  :receiver (set
    (agent-identifier
      :name df@foo.com
      :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc)))
 :language FIPA-SL0
  :protocol FIPA-Request
  :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
 :content
    (action
      (agent-identifier
        :name df@foo.com
        :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc))
      (search
        (df-agent-description
          :ontology (set FIPA-Device)
          :language (set FIPA-SL0))
        (search-constraint :min-depth 2))))
```

3. velmu gets an answer, that dummy at foo.com supports Fipa-Device ontology:

```
308
           :receiver (set
309
             (agent-identifier
310
               :name velmu@foo.com
311
               :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc)))
312
           :language FIPA-SL0
313
           :protocol FIPA-Request
314
           :ontology FIPA-Agent-Management
315
           :content
316
             (result
317
               (action
318
                  (agent-identifier
319
                    :name df@foo.com
320
                    :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc))
321
322
                    (df-agent-description
323
                      :ontology (set FIPA-Device)
324
                      :language (set FIPA-SLO))
325
                    (search-constraint :min-depth 2))))
326
              (set
327
                 (df-agent-description
328
                   :name
329
                     (agent-identifier
330
                       :name dummy@foo.com
331
                       :addresses (sequence iiop://foo.com/acc))
332
                   :ontology (set FIPA-Device)
333
                   :languages (set FIPA-SLO KIF)
334
                   :protocol (set FIPA-Request FIPA-Query)
335
                   :services (set
336
                      (service-description
337
                        :name device
338
                        :type device-stuff
339
                        :ontology (set FIPA-Device))))))))
340
```

4. *velmu* aims to send an image (640 x 480 x 24 bit) to the device where dummy is located: *velmu* queries the dummy in order to find out the capabilities of device in which dummy is located:

5. *dummy* sends appropriate information:

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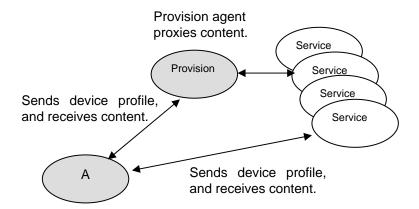
```
371
            :protocol FIPA-Query
372
            :ontology FIPA-Device
373
            :content
374
              (= (iota ?x (FIPA-Device :hw-description ?x))
375
                (hw-description
376
                  :cpu "i286"
377
                  :ui (set
378
                    (ui-description
379
                      :screen
380
                        (screen-description
381
                           :width 57
382
                           :height 78
383
                           :unit mm
384
                           :color false
385
                           :resolution (set
386
                             (resolution-description
387
                               :width 320
388
                               :height 240
389
                               :unit pixels
390
                               :bpp 4
391
                               :graphics true))
392
                      :audio-input true
393
                      :audio-output true)))))
394
```

*velmu* analyses the information, and finds that the target device has a greyscale display and reduces the colours of the image to four greyscales (dithering), because it is not reasonable to send large images with excess unusable bits. Furthermore, the image size is reduced from 640 x 480 to 320 x 240 to fit the device's screen.

# 

#### 

#### 6.2 Content Adaptation II

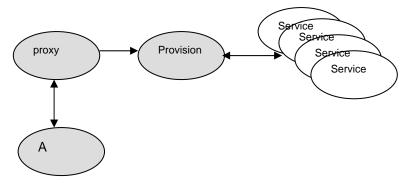


A new client logs in to an agent service domain providing tourism services. The service provision agent receives the device profile from the device software system accessing the agent-based services using ACL. The provision agent first stores the profile into a local cache (for example, CC/PP caching) and then checks the services available for this particular type of client. The device profile indicates that the device is part of an agent platform, which makes it eligible to access directly all of the agent based services, depending on whether or not it hosts or is capable of hosting the correct interface agents or layers. The agent on the device may contact the service agents directly and send the device profile for adaptation.

type	PDA GPS			
agent-compliancy	Y			true
hw-description	connection-	ction- info-description		GPRS
	description		version	X.X
	memory-description memory-type-description  memory-type-description	amount	8000	
		description	unit	KB
			usage-type	application
			amount	4000
			unit	KB
			usage-type	application
sw-description	agent-platform	•	name	FIPA-OS v2.0
			dynamic	false
			mobility	false

However, the client profile does not specify any streaming codecs in the sw-description frame that the services support, so the provision agent excludes all streaming services from the service list when the client requests it.

#### 6.3 Content Adaptation III



Another client is not capable of hosting an agent platform or being a part of an existing platform, but hosts browser software that supports html content with streaming audio. The specific output capabilities of the browser are extracted from the sw-description extension fields.

The client contacts the provision agent through a proxy that, using some proprietary format, accepts the device profile. Now, the provision agent has to exclude those services that cannot be accessed using proxies that mediate between non-agent and agent based resources.

#### 6.4 Service Advertisement and Software Updates

The Provision agent may detect that a new service, which is compatible with a new XYZ Communicator, has become available. The new product is based on Java Midlet technology, and supports the downloading of new software (jar-files). Now, when clients using the XYZ device log into the system, they are displayed (if their user profile allows it) information about the new service. The system checks the sw-description frame extension fields for Java environment and the device name and version from the info-description frame.

info-description	name	XYZ Communicator
	vendor	Smartphones Ltd.
	version	xyz

Ì	sw-description	java-env	configuration	CLDC-1.0
			profile	MIDP-1.0
			locale	en-US
		supported-mime-types		text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor

## 7 Informative Annex C — Usage of FIPA Device Ontology through CC/PP

A technology called CC/PP (Composite Capabilities/Preference Profiles) is developed in W3C [CC/PP]. The frames in this specification received some of their concepts from CC/PP specifications. There are, however, differences and this is mainly due to the different goals of FIPA and W3C.

For example, in CC/PP the ontology is divided into three following categories at the highest level: Terminal Hardware, Terminal Software and Terminal Browser. Of these only Terminal Hardware and Terminal Software were adopted here. Terminal Browser was left out because FIPA is not as focused to www as W3C is. On the other hand, in this specification there is a parameter called agent-compliancy that is not found in CC/PP specifications [CC/PP]. The value of agent-compliancy parameter informs whether the device in question is capable of hosting one or more FIPA agents or not.

Despite the differences between the approaches the FIPA-device ontology could be used in a CC/PP profile. This can be accomplished in a similar fashion as with UAProf (see [CC/PP]). So, if a developer wants to inform that some device is FIPA-compliant, then it can be achieved with a CC/PP profile as follows:

```
<RDF xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"</pre>
    xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
    xmlns:ccpp="http://www.w3.org/2000/07/04-ccpp#"
    xmlns:fipa="http://www.fipa.org/profiles/device-20010202#">
    xmlns:uaprof="http://www.wapforum.org/UAPROF/ccppschema-19991014#">
 <Description about="http://www.foo.com/profiles/ProfileX">
    <ccpp:component>
     <Description about="http://www.foo.com/TerminalHardware">
       <type resource="http://www.foo.com/Schema#HardwarePlatform" />
        <ccpp:Defaults rdf:resource="http://www.foo.com/profiles/hwproperties" />
        <fipa:compliancy>true</fipa:compliancy>
      </Description>
    </copp:component>
    <ccpp:component>
     <Description about="http://www.foo.com/TerminalSoftware">
        <type resource="http://www.foo.com/Schema#SoftwarePlatform" />
        <ccpp:Defaults rdf:resource="http://www.foo.com/profiles/swproperties" />
        <fipa:ap-description>FIPA-OS v2.1.1</fipa:ap-description>
     </Description>
    </component>
    <ccpp:component>
     <Description about="http://www.foo.com/Browser">
        <type resource="http://www.foo.com/Schema#BrowserUA" />
        <ccpp:Defaults rdf:resource="http://www.foo.com/profiles/browserproperties" />
        <uaprof:BrowserName>Internet Explorer</uaprof:BrowserName>
        <uaprof:BrowserVersion>5.0</uaprof:BrowserVersion>
     </Description>
    </component>
  </Description>
</RDF>
```

Here the fipa-namespace is used to refer that the device characterized in ProfileX is FIPA-compliant and that the agent platform it has is the same FIPA-OS v2.1.1 used earlier as an example. Other CC/PP -defined properties are (supposedly) found in the URI's declared in rdf:resource attributes of the ccpp:Defaults elements. Agent compliancy seems to be the property that most clearly distinguishes the ontology and profiles presented in this paper from the comparable ones defined in W3C and WAP Forum.

The namespace declaration in the fourth row defines a URI that should contain a CC/PP schema (http://www.fipa.org/profiles/device-20010202#). The schema in that location corresponds to the

ontology presented in this paper, but in CC/PP terms. More specifically, there are specified only those elements that are not found in CC/PP schema itself. FIPA Agent-compliancy is naturally an example of these.

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