

Media Over QUIC  
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Media over QUIC Transport  
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## Abstract

This document defines the core behavior for Media over QUIC Transport (MOQT), a media transport protocol designed to operate over QUIC and WebTransport, which have similar functionality. MOQT allows a producer of media to publish data and have it consumed via subscription by a multiplicity of endpoints. It supports intermediate content distribution networks and is designed for high scale and low latency distribution.

## About This Document

This note is to be removed before publishing as an RFC.

The latest revision of this draft can be found at <https://moq-wg.github.io/moq-transport/draft-ietf-moq-transport.html>. Status information for this document may be found at <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-moq-transport/>.

Discussion of this document takes place on the Media Over QUIC Working Group mailing list (<mailto:moq@ietf.org>), which is archived at <https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/browse/moq/>. Subscribe at <https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/moq/>.

Source for this draft and an issue tracker can be found at <https://github.com/moq-wg/moq-transport>.

## Status of This Memo

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## 1. Introduction

Media Over QUIC Transport (MOQT) is a protocol that is optimized for the QUIC protocol [QUIC], either directly or via WebTransport [WebTransport], for the dissemination of media. MOQT utilizes a publish/subscribe workflow in which producers of media publish data in response to subscription requests from a multiplicity of endpoints. MOQT supports wide range of use-cases with different resiliency and latency (live, interactive) needs without compromising the scalability and cost effectiveness associated with content delivery networks.

MOQT is a generic protocol designed to work in concert with multiple MoQ Streaming Formats. These MoQ Streaming Formats define how content is encoded, packaged, and mapped to MOQT objects, along with policies for discovery and subscription.

- \* Section 2 describes the data model employed by MOQT.
- \* Section 3 covers aspects of setting up an MOQT session.
- \* Section 7 covers mechanisms for prioritizing subscriptions.
- \* Section 8 covers behavior at the relay entities.

- \* Section 9 covers how control messages are encoded on the wire.
- \* Section 10 covers how data messages are encoded on the wire.

### 1.1. Motivation

The development of MOQT is driven by goals in a number of areas - specifically latency, the robust feature set of QUIC and relay support.

#### 1.1.1. Latency

Latency is necessary to correct for variable network throughput. Ideally live content is consumed at the same bitrate it is produced. End-to-end latency would be fixed and only subject to encoding and transmission delays. Unfortunately, networks have variable throughput, primarily due to congestion. Attempting to deliver content encoded at a higher bitrate than the network can cause queuing along the path from producer to consumer. The speed at which a protocol can detect and respond to congestion determines the overall latency. TCP-based protocols are simple but are slow to detect congestion and suffer from head-of-line blocking. Protocols utilizing UDP directly can avoid queuing, but the application is then responsible for the complexity of fragmentation, congestion control, retransmissions, receiver feedback, reassembly, and more. One goal of MOQT is to achieve the best of both these worlds: leverage the features of QUIC to create a simple yet flexible low latency protocol that can rapidly detect and respond to congestion.

#### 1.1.2. Leveraging QUIC

The parallel nature of QUIC streams can provide improvements in the face of loss. A goal of MOQT is to design a streaming protocol to leverage the transmission benefits afforded by parallel QUIC streams as well exercising options for flexible loss recovery.

#### 1.1.3. Convergence

Some live media architectures today have separate protocols for ingest and distribution, for example RTMP and HTTP based HLS or DASH. Switching protocols necessitates intermediary origins which re-package the media content. While specialization can have its benefits, there are efficiency gains to be had in not having to re-package content. A goal of MOQT is to develop a single protocol which can be used for transmission from contribution to distribution. A related goal is the ability to support existing encoding and packaging schemas, both for backwards compatibility and for interoperability with the established content preparation ecosystem.

#### 1.1.4. Relays

An integral feature of a protocol being successful is its ability to deliver media at scale. Greatest scale is achieved when third-party networks, independent of both the publisher and subscriber, can be leveraged to relay the content. These relays must cache content for distribution efficiency while simultaneously routing content and deterministically responding to congestion in a multi-tenant network. A goal of MOQT is to treat relays as first-class citizens of the protocol and ensure that objects are structured such that information necessary for distribution is available to relays while the media content itself remains opaque and private.

#### 1.2. Terms and Definitions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

The following terms are used with the first letter capitalized.

Application: The entity using MOQT to transmit and receive data.

Client: The party initiating a Transport Session.

Server: The party accepting an incoming Transport Session.

Endpoint: A Client or Server.

Peer: The other endpoint than the one being described.

Publisher: An endpoint that handles subscriptions by sending requested Objects from the requested track.

Subscriber: An endpoint that subscribes to and receives tracks.

Original Publisher: The initial publisher of a given track.

End Subscriber: A subscriber that initiates a subscription and does not send the data on to other subscribers.

Relay: An entity that is both a Publisher and a Subscriber, is not the Original Publisher or End Subscriber, and conforms to all requirements in Section 8.

Upstream: In the direction of the Original Publisher.

Downstream: In the direction of the End Subscriber(s).

Transport Session: A raw QUIC connection or a WebTransport session.

Stream: A bidirectional or unidirectional bytestream provided by the QUIC transport or WebTransport.

Congestion: Packet loss and queuing caused by degraded or overloaded networks.

Group: A temporal sequence of objects. A group represents a join point in a track. See (Section 2.3).

Object: An object is an addressable unit whose payload is a sequence of bytes. Objects form the base element in the MOQT data model. See (Section 2.1).

Track: A track is a collection of groups. See (Section 2.4).

### 1.3. Stream Management Terms

This document uses stream management terms described in [RFC9000], Section 1.3 including STOP\_SENDING, RESET\_STREAM and FIN.

### 1.4. Notational Conventions

This document uses the conventions detailed in ([RFC9000], Section 1.3) when describing the binary encoding.

To reduce unnecessary use of bandwidth, variable length integers SHOULD be encoded using the least number of bytes possible to represent the required value.

#### 1.4.1. Location Structure

Location identifies a particular Object in a Group within a Track.

```
Location {  
    Group (i),  
    Object (i)  
}
```

Figure 1: Location structure

In this document, a Location can be expressed in the form of {GroupID, ObjectID}, where GroupID and ObjectID indicate the Group ID and Object ID of the Location, respectively. The constituent parts of any Location A can be referred to using A.Group or A.Object.

Location A < Location B if:

A.Group < B.Group || (A.Group == B.Group && A.Object < B.Object)

#### 1.4.2. Key-Value-Pair Structure

Key-Value-Pair is a flexible structure designed to carry key/value pairs in which the key is a variable length integer and the value is either a variable length integer or a byte field of arbitrary length.

Key-Value-Pairs encode a Type value as a delta from the previous Type value, or from 0 if there is no previous Type value. This is efficient on the wire and makes it easy to ensure there is only one instance of a type when needed. The previous Type value plus the Delta Type MUST NOT be greater than  $2^{64} - 1$ . If a Delta Type is received that would be too large, the Session MUST be closed with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

Key-Value-Pair is used in both the data plane and control plane, but is optimized for use in the data plane.

```
Key-Value-Pair {  
    Delta Type (i),  
    [Length (i),]  
    Value (...)  
}
```

Figure 2: MOQT Key-Value-Pair

- \* Delta Type: an unsigned integer, encoded as a varint, identifying the Type as a delta encoded value from the previous Type, if any. The Type identifies the type of value and also the subsequent serialization.
- \* Length: Only present when Type is odd. Specifies the length of the Value field in bytes. The maximum length of a value is  $2^{16}-1$  bytes. If an endpoint receives a length larger than the maximum, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.
- \* Value: A single varint encoded value when Type is even, otherwise a sequence of Length bytes.

If a receiver understands a Type, and the following Value or Length/Value does not match the serialization defined by that Type, the receiver MUST close the session with error code `KEY_VALUE_FORMATTING_ERROR`.

### 1.4.3. Reason Phrase Structure

Reason Phrase provides a way for the sender to encode additional diagnostic information about the error condition, where appropriate.

```
Reason Phrase {  
    Reason Phrase Length (i),  
    Reason Phrase Value (...)  
}
```

- \* Reason Phrase Length: A variable-length integer specifying the length of the reason phrase in bytes. The reason phrase length has a maximum value of 1024 bytes. If an endpoint receives a length exceeding the maximum, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`
- \* Reason Phrase Value: Additional diagnostic information about the error condition. The reason phrase value is encoded as UTF-8 string and does not carry information, such as language tags, that would aid comprehension by any entity other than the one that created the text.

### 1.5. Representing Namespace and Track Names

There is often a need to render namespace tuples and track names for purposes such as logging, representing track filenames, or use in certain authorization verification schemes. The namespace and track name are binary, so they need to be converted to a safe form.

The following format is RECOMMENDED:

- \* Each of the namespace tuples are rendered in order with a hyphen (-) between them followed by the track name with a double hyphen (--) between the last namespace and track name.
- \* Bytes in the range a-z, A-Z, 0-9 as well as \_ (0x5f) are output as is, while all other bytes are encoded as a period (.) symbol followed by exactly two lower case hex digits.

The goal of this format is to have a format that is both filename and URL safe. It allows many common names to be rendered in an easily human readable form while still supporting binary values.

Example:

```
example.2enet-team2-project_x--report  
  Namespace tuples: (example.net, team2, project_x)  
  Track name: report
```

## 2. Object Data Model

MOQT has a hierarchical data model, comprised of tracks which contain groups, and groups that contain objects. Inside of a group, the objects can be organized into subgroups.

To give an example of how an application might use this data model, consider an application sending high and low resolution video using a codec with temporal scalability. Each resolution is sent as a separate track to allow the subscriber to pick the appropriate resolution given the display environment and available bandwidth. Each independently coded sequence of pictures in a resolution is sent as a group as the first picture in the sequence can be used as a random access point. This allows the client to join at the logical points where decoding of the media can start without needing information before the join points. The temporal layers are sent as separate subgroups to allow the priority mechanism to favor lower temporal layers when there is not enough bandwidth to send all temporal layers. Each frame of video is sent as a single object.

### 2.1. Objects

The basic data element of MOQT is an object. An object is an addressable unit whose payload is a sequence of bytes. All objects belong to a group, indicating ordering and potential dependencies (see Section 2.3). An object is uniquely identified by its track namespace, track name, group ID, and object ID, and must be an identical sequence of bytes regardless of how or where it is retrieved. An Object can become unavailable, but its contents **MUST NOT** change over time.

Objects are comprised of two parts: metadata and a payload. The metadata is never encrypted and is always visible to relays (see Section 8). The payload portion may be encrypted, in which case it is only visible to the Original Publisher and End Subscribers. The Original Publisher is solely responsible for the content of the object payload. This includes the underlying encoding, compression, any end-to-end encryption, or authentication. A relay **MUST NOT** combine, split, or otherwise modify object payloads.

Objects within a Group are in ascending order by Object ID.

From the perspective of a subscriber or a cache, an Object can be in three possible states:

1. The Object is known to not exist. This state is permanent. MOQT has multiple ways to communicate that a certain range of objects does not exist, including the Object Status field, and the use of gaps in FETCH responses.
2. The Object is known to exist. From this state, it can transition to not existing, but not vice versa.
3. The state of the Object is unknown, either because it has not been yet received, or it has not been produced yet.

Whenever the publisher communicates that certain objects do not exist, this fact is expressed as a contiguous range of non-existent objects and by include extension headers indicating the group/object gaps; MOQT implementers should take that into account when selecting appropriate data structures.

## 2.2. Subgroups

A subgroup is a sequence of one or more objects from the same group (Section 2.3) in ascending order by Object ID. Objects in a subgroup have a dependency and priority relationship consistent with sharing a stream and are sent on a single stream whenever possible. A Group is delivered using at least as many streams as there are Subgroups, typically with a one-to-one mapping between Subgroups and streams.

When an Object's forwarding preference (see Section 10.2.1) is "Datagram", it is not sent in Subgroups, does not belong to a Subgroup in any way, and the description in the remainder of this section does not apply.

Streams offer in-order reliable delivery and the ability to cancel sending and retransmission of data. Furthermore, many QUIC and WebTransport implementations offer the ability to control the relative scheduling priority of pending stream data.

Every Object within a Group belongs to exactly one Subgroup or Datagram.

When Objects are sent in a subscription (see Section 5.1), Objects from two subgroups MUST NOT be sent on the same stream, and Objects from the same Subgroup MUST NOT be sent on different streams, unless one of the streams was reset prematurely, or upstream conditions have forced objects from a Subgroup to be sent out of Object ID order.

Original publishers assign each Subgroup a Subgroup ID, and do so as they see fit. The scope of a Subgroup ID is a Group, so Subgroups from different Groups MAY share a Subgroup ID without implying any

relationship between them. In general, publishers assign objects to subgroups in order to leverage the features of streams as described above.

In general, if Object B is dependent on Object A, then delivery of B can follow A, i.e. A and B can be usefully delivered over a single stream. If an Object is dependent on all previous Objects in a Subgroup, it likely fits best in that Subgroup. If an Object is not dependent on any of the Objects in a Subgroup, it likely belongs in a different Subgroup.

When assigning Objects to different Subgroups, the Original Publisher makes a reasonable tradeoff between having an optimal mapping of Object relationships in a Group and minimizing the number of streams used.

### 2.3. Groups

A group is a collection of Objects and is a sub-unit of a Track (Section 2.4). Groups SHOULD be independently useful, so Objects within a Group SHOULD NOT depend on Objects in other Groups. A Group provides a join point for subscriptions, so a subscriber that does not want to receive the entire Track can opt to receive only Groups starting from a given Group ID. Groups can contain any number of Objects.

#### 2.3.1. Group IDs

Within a track, the original publisher SHOULD publish Group IDs which increase with time (where "time" is defined according to the internal clock of the media being sent). In some cases, Groups will be produced in increasing order, but sent to subscribers in a different order, for example when the subscription's Group Order is Descending. Due to network reordering and the partial reliability features of MOQT, Groups can always be received out of order.

As a result, subscribers cannot infer the existence of a Group until an object in the Group is received. This can create gaps in a cache that can be filled by doing a Fetch upstream, if necessary.

Applications that cannot produce Group IDs that increase with time are limited to the subset of MOQT that does not compare group IDs. Subscribers to these Tracks SHOULD NOT use range filters which span multiple Groups in FETCH or SUBSCRIBE. SUBSCRIBE and FETCH delivery use Group Order, so they could have an unexpected delivery order if Group IDs do not increase with time.

The amount of time elapsed between publishing an Object in Group ID N and in a Group ID > N, or even which will be published first, is not defined by this specification and is defined by the applications using MOQT.

## 2.4. Track

A track is a sequence of groups (Section 2.3). It is the entity against which a subscriber issues a subscription request. A subscriber can request to receive individual tracks starting at a group boundary, including any new objects pushed by the publisher while the track is active.

### 2.4.1. Track Naming

In MOQT, every track is identified by a Full Track Name, consisting of a Track Namespace and a Track Name.

Track Namespace is an ordered set of between 1 and 32 Track Namespace Fields, encoded as follows:

```
Track Namespace {  
    Number of Track Namespace Fields (i),  
    Track Namespace Field (...) ...  
}
```

- \* Number of Track Namespace Fields: A variable-length integer specifying the number of Track Namespace Fields in the Track Namespace.

Each Track Namespace Field is encoded as follows:

```
Track Namespace Field {  
    Track Namespace Field Length (i),  
    Track Namespace Field Value (...)  
}
```

- \* Track Namespace Field Length: A variable-length integer specifying the length of the Track Namespace Field in bytes.
- \* Track Namespace Field Value: A sequence of bytes that forms a Track Namespace Field.

Each Track Namespace Field Value MUST contain at least one byte. If an endpoint receives a Track Namespace Field with a Track Namespace Field Length of 0, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

The structured nature of Track Namespace allows relays and applications to manipulate prefixes of a namespace. If an endpoint receives a Track Namespace consisting of 0 or greater than 32 Track Namespace Fields, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

Track Name is a sequence of bytes, possibly empty, that identifies an individual track within the namespace.

The maximum total length of a Full Track Name is 4,096 bytes. The length of a Full Track Name is computed as the sum of the Track Namespace Field Length fields and the Track Name Length field. The length of a Track Namespace is the sum of the Track Namespace Field Length fields. If an endpoint receives a Track Namespace or a Full Track Name exceeding 4,096 bytes, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

In this specification, both the Track Namespace Fields and the Track Name are not constrained to a specific encoding. They carry a sequence of bytes and comparison between two Track Namespace Fields or Track Names is done by exact comparison of the bytes. Specifications that use MOQT may constrain the information in these fields, for example by restricting them to UTF-8. Any such specification needs to specify the canonicalization into the bytes in the Track Namespace Fields or Track Name such that exact comparison works.

#### 2.4.2. Malformed Tracks

There are multiple ways a publisher can transmit a Track that does not conform to MOQT constraints. Such a Track is considered malformed. Some example conditions that constitute a malformed track when detected by a receiver include:

1. An Object is received in a `FETCH` response with the same Group ID as the previous Object, but whose Object ID is not strictly larger than the previous object.
2. In a `FETCH` response, an Object with a particular Subgroup ID is received, but its Publisher Priority is different from that of the previous Object with the same Subgroup ID.
3. An Object is received in an Ascending `FETCH` response whose Group ID is smaller than the previous Object in the response.
4. An Object is received in a Descending `FETCH` response whose Group ID is larger than the previous Object in the response.

5. An Object is received whose Object ID is larger than the final Object in the Subgroup. The final Object in a Subgroup is the last Object received on a Subgroup stream before a FIN.
6. A Subgroup is received over multiple transport streams terminated by FIN with different final Objects.
7. An Object is received in a Group whose Object ID is larger than the final Object in the Group. The final Object in a Group is the Object with Status END\_OF\_GROUP or the last Object sent in a FETCH that requested the entire Group.
8. An Object is received on a Track whose Group and Object ID are larger than the final Object in the Track. The final Object in a Track is the Object with Status END\_OF\_TRACK or the last Object sent in a FETCH whose response indicated End of Track.
9. The same Object is received more than once with different Payload or other immutable properties.
10. An Object is received with a different Forwarding Preference than previously observed.

The above list of conditions is not considered exhaustive.

When a subscriber detects a Malformed Track, it MUST UNSUBSCRIBE any subscription and FETCH\_CANCEL any fetch for that Track from that publisher, and SHOULD deliver an error to the application. If a relay detects a Malformed Track, it MUST immediately terminate downstream subscriptions with PUBLISH\_DONE and reset any fetch streams with Status Code MALFORMED\_TRACK. Object(s) triggering Malformed Track status MUST NOT be cached.

#### 2.4.3. Scope

An MOQT scope is a set of servers (as identified by their connection URIs) for which a Full Track Name is guaranteed to be unique and identify a specific track. It is up to the application using MOQT to define how broad or narrow the scope is. An application that deals with connections between devices on a local network may limit the scope to a single connection; by contrast, an application that uses multiple CDNs to serve media may require the scope to include all of those CDNs.

Because each Full Track Name is unique within an MOQT scope, they can be used as a cache key for the track. If, at a given moment in time, two tracks within the same scope contain different data, they MUST have different names and/or namespaces. MOQT provides subscribers

with the ability to alter the specific manner in which tracks are delivered via Parameters, but the actual content of the tracks does not depend on those parameters; this is in contrast to protocols like HTTP, where request headers can alter the server response.

A publisher that loses state (e.g. crashes) and intends to resume publishing on the same Track risks colliding with previously published Objects and violating the above requirements. A publisher can handle this in application specific ways, for example:

1. Select a unique Track Name or Track Namespace whenever it resumes publishing. For example, it can base one of the Namespace Fields on the current time, or select a sufficiently large random value.
2. Resume publishing under a previous Track Name and Namespace and set the initial Group ID to a unique value guaranteed to be larger than all previously used groups. This can be done by choosing a Group ID based on the current time.
3. Use TRACK\_STATUS or similar mechanism to query the previous state to determine the largest published Group ID.

## 2.5. Extension Headers

Tracks and Objects can have additional relay-visible fields, known as Extension Headers, which do not require negotiation, and can be used to alter MoQT Object distribution.

Extension Headers are defined in Section 11 as well as external specifications and are registered in an IANA table Section 13. These specifications define the type and value of the header, along with any rules concerning processing, modification, caching and forwarding.

If unsupported by the relay, Extension Headers MUST NOT be modified, MUST be cached as part of the Track or Object and MUST be forwarded by relays. If a Track or Object arrives with a different set of unknown extensions than previously cached, the most recent set SHOULD replace any cached values, removing any unknown values not present in the new set. Relays MUST NOT attempt to merge sets of unknown extensions received in different messages.

If supported by the relay and subject to the processing rules specified in the definition of the extension, Extension Headers MAY be modified, added, removed, and/or cached by relays.

Extension Headers are serialized as Key-Value-Pairs (see Figure 2).

Header types are registered in the IANA table 'MOQ Extension Headers'. See Section 13.

### 3. Sessions

#### 3.1. Session establishment

This document defines a protocol that can be used interchangeably both over a QUIC connection directly [QUIC], and over WebTransport [WebTransport]. Both provide streams and datagrams with similar semantics (see [I-D.ietf-webtrans-overview], Section 4); thus, the main difference lies in how the servers are identified and how the connection is established. The QUIC DATAGRAM extension ([RFC9221]) MUST be supported and negotiated in the QUIC connection used for MOQT, which is already a requirement for WebTransport over HTTP/3. The RESET\_STREAM\_AT [I-D.draft-ietf-quic-reliable-stream-reset] extension to QUIC can be used by MOQT, but the protocol is also designed to work correctly when the extension is not supported.

There is no definition of the protocol over other transports, such as TCP, and applications using MoQ might need to fallback to another protocol when QUIC or WebTransport aren't available.

MOQT uses ALPN in QUIC and "WT-Available-Protocols" in WebTransport ([WebTransport], Section 3.3) to perform version negotiation.

[[RFC editor: please remove the remainder of this section before publication.]]

The ALPN value [RFC7301] for the final version of this specification is moqt. ALPNs used to identify IETF drafts are created by appending the draft number to "moqt-". For example, draft-ietf-moq-transport-13 would be identified as "moqt-13".

Note: Draft versions prior to -15 all used moq-00 ALPN, followed by version negotiation in the CLIENT\_SETUP and SERVER\_SETUP messages.

##### 3.1.1. WebTransport

An MOQT server that is accessible via WebTransport can be identified using an HTTPS URI ([RFC9110], Section 4.2.2). An MOQT session can be established by sending an extended CONNECT request to the host and the path indicated by the URI, as described in ([WebTransport], Section 3).

### 3.1.2. QUIC

An MOQT server that is accessible via native QUIC can be identified by a URI with a "moqt" scheme. The "moqt" URI scheme is defined as follows, using definitions from [RFC3986]:

```
moqt-URI = "moqt" "://" authority path-abempty [ "?" query ]
```

The authority portion MUST NOT contain an empty host portion. The moqt URI scheme supports the /.well-known/ path prefix defined in [RFC8615].

This protocol does not specify any semantics on the path-abempty and query portions of the URI. The contents of those are left up to the application.

The client can establish a connection to an MOQT server identified by a given URI by setting up a QUIC connection to the host and port identified by the authority section of the URI. The authority, path-abempty and query portions of the URI are also transmitted in SETUP parameters (see Section 9.3.1). If the port is omitted in the URI, a default port of 443 is used for setting up the QUIC connection.

### 3.1.3. Connection URL

Each track MAY have one or more associated connection URLs specifying network hosts through which a track may be accessed. The syntax of the Connection URL and the associated connection setup procedures are specific to the underlying transport protocol usage (see Section 3).

## 3.2. Extension Negotiation

Endpoints use the exchange of Setup messages to negotiate MOQT extensions. Extensions can define new Message types, new Parameters, or new framing for Data Streams and Datagrams.

The client and server MUST include all Setup Parameters Section 9.3.1 required for the negotiated MOQT version in CLIENT\_SETUP and SERVER\_SETUP.

Clients request the use of extensions by specifying Parameters in CLIENT\_SETUP. The Server responds with Parameters in the SERVER\_SETUP to indicate any extensions it supports.

New versions of MOQT MUST specify which existing extensions can be used with that version. New extensions MUST specify the existing versions with which they can be used.

### 3.3. Session initialization

The first stream opened is a client-initiated bidirectional control stream where the endpoints exchange Setup messages (Section 9.3), followed by other messages defined in Section 9.

This specification only specifies two uses of bidirectional streams, the control stream, which begins with `CLIENT_SETUP`, and `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE`. Bidirectional streams **MUST NOT** begin with any other message type unless negotiated. If they do, the peer **MUST** close the Session with a Protocol Violation. Objects are sent on unidirectional streams.

A unidirectional stream containing Objects or bidirectional stream(s) containing a `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE` could arrive prior to the control stream, in which case the data **SHOULD** be buffered until the control stream arrives and setup is complete. If an implementation does not want to buffer, it **MAY** reset other bidirectional streams before the session and control stream are established.

The control stream **MUST NOT** be closed at the underlying transport layer during the session's lifetime. Doing so results in the session being closed as a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

### 3.4. Termination

The Transport Session can be terminated at any point. When native QUIC is used, the session is closed using the `CONNECTION_CLOSE` frame ([QUIC], Section 19.19). When WebTransport is used, the session is closed using the `CLOSE_WEBTRANSPORT_SESSION` capsule ([WebTransport], Section 6).

When terminating the Session, the application **MAY** use any error message and **SHOULD** use a relevant code, as defined below:

`NO_ERROR (0x0)`: The session is being terminated without an error.

`INTERNAL_ERROR (0x1)`: An implementation specific error occurred.

`UNAUTHORIZED (0x2)`: The client is not authorized to establish a session.

`PROTOCOL_VIOLATION (0x3)`: The remote endpoint performed an action that was disallowed by the specification.

`INVALID_REQUEST_ID (0x4)`: The session was closed because the

endpoint used a Request ID that was smaller than or equal to a previously received request ID, or the least-significant bit of the request ID was incorrect for the endpoint.

DUPLICATE\_TRACK\_ALIAS (0x5): The endpoint attempted to use a Track Alias that was already in use.

KEY\_VALUE\_FORMATTING\_ERROR (0x6): The key-value pair has a formatting error.

TOO\_MANY\_REQUESTS (0x7): The session was closed because the endpoint used a Request ID equal to or larger than the current Maximum Request ID.

INVALID\_PATH (0x8): The PATH parameter was used by a server, on a WebTransport session, or the server does not support the path.

MALFORMED\_PATH (0x9): The PATH parameter does not conform to the rules in Section 9.3.1.2.

GOAWAY\_TIMEOUT (0x10): The session was closed because the peer took too long to close the session in response to a GOAWAY (Section 9.4) message. See session migration (Section 3.5).

CONTROL\_MESSAGE\_TIMEOUT (0x11): The session was closed because the peer took too long to respond to a control message.

DATA\_STREAM\_TIMEOUT (0x12): The session was closed because the peer took too long to send data expected on an open Data Stream (see Section 10). This includes fields of a stream header or an object header within a data stream. If an endpoint times out waiting for a new object header on an open subgroup stream, it MAY send a STOP\_SENDING on that stream or terminate the subscription.

AUTH\_TOKEN\_CACHE\_OVERFLOW (0x13): The Session limit Section 9.3.1.4 of the size of all registered Authorization tokens has been exceeded.

DUPLICATE\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_ALIAS (0x14): Authorization Token attempted to register an Alias that was in use (see Section 9.2.2.1).

VERSION\_NEGOTIATION\_FAILED (0x15): The client didn't offer a version supported by the server.

MALFORMED\_AUTH\_TOKEN (0x16): Invalid Auth Token serialization during registration (see Section 9.2.2.1).

UNKNOWN\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_ALIAS (0x17): No registered token found for the

provided Alias (see Section 9.2.2.1).

EXPIRED\_AUTH\_TOKEN (0x18): Authorization token has expired (Section 9.2.2.1).

INVALID\_AUTHORITY (0x19): The specified AUTHORITY does not correspond to this server or cannot be used in this context.

MALFORMED\_AUTHORITY (0x1A): The AUTHORITY value is syntactically invalid.

An endpoint MAY choose to treat a subscription or request specific error as a session error under certain circumstances, closing the entire session in response to a condition with a single subscription or message. Implementations need to consider the impact on other outstanding subscriptions before making this choice.

### 3.5. Migration

MOQT requires a long-lived and stateful session. However, a service provider needs the ability to shutdown/restart a server without waiting for all sessions to drain naturally, as that can take days for long-form media. MOQT enables proactively draining sessions via the GOAWAY message (Section 9.4).

The server sends a GOAWAY message, signaling the client to establish a new session and migrate any Established subscriptions. The GOAWAY message optionally contains a new URI for the new session, otherwise the current URI is reused. The server SHOULD close the session with GOAWAY\_TIMEOUT after a sufficient timeout if there are still open subscriptions or fetches on a connection.

When the server is a subscriber, it SHOULD send a GOAWAY message to downstream subscribers prior to any UNSUBSCRIBE messages to upstream publishers.

After the client receives a GOAWAY, it's RECOMMENDED that the client waits until there are no more Established subscriptions before closing the session with NO\_ERROR. Ideally this is transparent to the application using MOQT, which involves establishing a new session in the background and migrating Established subscriptions and published namespaces. The client can choose to delay closing the session if it expects more OBJECTs to be delivered. The server closes the session with a GOAWAY\_TIMEOUT if the client doesn't close the session quickly enough.

### 3.6. Congestion Control

MOQT does not specify a congestion controller, but there are important attributes to consider when selecting a congestion controller for use with an application built on top of MOQT.

#### 3.6.1. Bufferbloat

Traditional AIMD congestion controllers (ex. CUBIC [RFC9438] and Reno [RFC6582]) are prone to Bufferbloat. Bufferbloat occurs when elements along the path build up a substantial queue of packets, commonly more than doubling the round trip time. These queued packets cause head-of-line blocking and latency, even when there is no packet loss.

#### 3.6.2. Application-Limited

The average bitrate for latency sensitive content needs to be less than the available bandwidth, otherwise data will be queued and/or dropped. As such, many MOQT applications will typically be limited by the available data to send, and not the congestion controller. Many congestion control algorithms only increase the congestion window or bandwidth estimate if fully utilized. This combination can lead to underestimating the available network bandwidth. As a result, applications might need to periodically ensure the congestion controller is not app-limited for at least a full round trip to ensure the available bandwidth can be measured.

#### 3.6.3. Consistent Throughput

Congestion control algorithms are commonly optimized for throughput, not consistency. For example, BBR's PROBE\_RTT state halves the sending rate for more than a round trip in order to obtain an accurate minimum RTT. Similarly, Reno halves its congestion window upon detecting loss. In both cases, the large reduction in sending rate might cause issues with latency sensitive applications.

### 4. Modularity

MOQT defines all messages necessary to implement both simple publishing or subscribing endpoints as well as highly functional Relays. Non-Relay endpoints MAY implement only the subset of functionality required to perform necessary tasks. For example, a limited media player could operate using only SUBSCRIBE related messages. Limited endpoints SHOULD respond to any unsupported messages with the appropriate NOT\_SUPPORTED error code, rather than ignoring them.

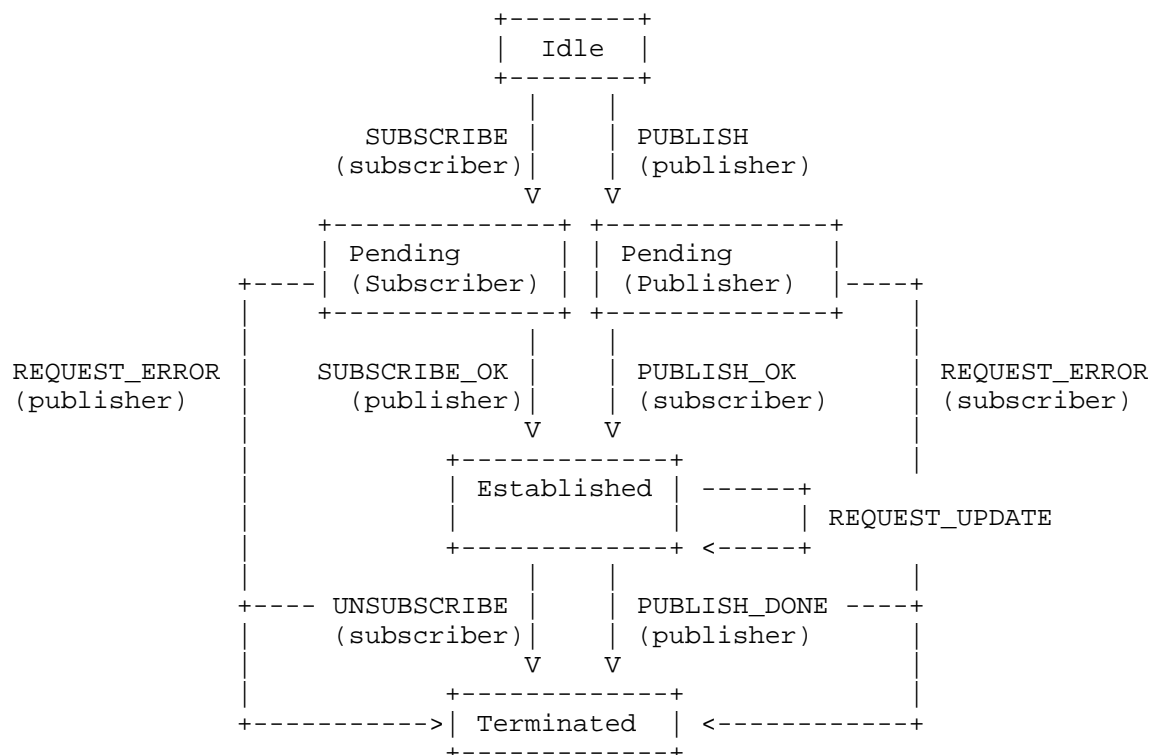
Relays MUST implement all MOQT messages defined in this document, as well as processing rules described in Section 8.

## 5. Publishing and Retrieving Tracks

### 5.1. Subscriptions

All subscriptions begin in the Idle state. A subscription can be initiated and moved to the Pending state by either a publisher or a subscriber. A publisher initiates a subscription to a track by sending the PUBLISH message. The subscriber either accepts or rejects the subscription using PUBLISH\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR. A subscriber initiates a subscription to a track by sending the SUBSCRIBE message. The publisher either accepts or rejects the subscription using SUBSCRIBE\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR. Once either of these sequences is successful, the subscription moves to the Established state and can be updated by the subscriber using REQUEST\_UPDATE. Either endpoint can terminate an Established subscription, moving it to the Terminated state. The subscriber terminates a subscription in the Pending (Subscriber) or Established states using UNSUBSCRIBE, the publisher terminates a subscription in the Pending (Publisher) or Established states using PUBLISH\_DONE.

This diagram shows the subscription state machine:



A publisher MUST send exactly one SUBSCRIBE\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR in response to a SUBSCRIBE. A subscriber MUST send exactly one PUBLISH\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR in response to a PUBLISH. The peer SHOULD close the session with a protocol error if it receives more than one.

A publisher MUST save the Largest Location communicated in PUBLISH or SUBSCRIBE\_OK when establishing a subscription. This value can be used in a Joining FETCH (see Section 9.16.2) at any time while the subscription is active.

All Established subscriptions have a Forward State which is either 0 or 1. The publisher does not send Objects if the Forward State is 0, and does send them if the Forward State is 1. The initiator of the subscription sets the initial Forward State in either PUBLISH or SUBSCRIBE. The subscriber can send PUBLISH\_OK or REQUEST\_UPDATE to update the Forward State. Control messages, such as PUBLISH\_DONE (Section 9.15) are sent regardless of the forward state.

Either endpoint can initiate a subscription to a track without exchanging any prior messages other than SETUP. Relays MUST NOT send any PUBLISH messages without knowing the client is interested in and authorized to receive the content. The communication of intent and authorization can be accomplished by the client sending SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, or conveyed in other mechanisms out of band.

An endpoint MAY SUBSCRIBE to a Track it is publishing, though only Relays are required to handle such a SUBSCRIBE. Such self-subscriptions are identical to subscriptions initiated by other endpoints, and all published Objects will be forwarded back to the endpoint, subject to priority and congestion response rules.

For a given Track, an endpoint can have at most one subscription to a Track acting as the publisher and at most one acting as a subscriber. If an endpoint receives a message attempting to establish a second subscription to a Track with the same role, it MUST fail that request with a DUPLICATE\_SUBSCRIPTION error.

If a publisher receives a SUBSCRIBE request for a Track with an existing subscription in Pending (publisher) state, it MUST fail that request with a DUPLICATE\_SUBSCRIPTION error. If a subscriber receives a PUBLISH for a Track with a subscription in the Pending (Subscriber) state, it MUST ensure the subscription it initiated transitions to the Terminated state before sending PUBLISH\_OK.

A publisher SHOULD begin sending incomplete objects when available to avoid incurring additional latency.

Publishers MAY start sending Objects on PUBLISH-initiated subscriptions before receiving a PUBLISH\_OK response to reduce latency. Doing so can consume unnecessary resources in cases where the Subscriber rejects the subscription with REQUEST\_ERROR or sets Forward State=0 in PUBLISH\_OK. It can also result in the Subscriber dropping Objects if its buffering limits are exceeded (see Section 10.3 and Section 10.4.2).

#### 5.1.1. Subscription State Management

A subscriber keeps subscription state until it sends UNSUBSCRIBE, or after receipt of a PUBLISH\_DONE or REQUEST\_ERROR. Note that PUBLISH\_DONE does not usually indicate that state can immediately be destroyed, see Section 9.15.

The Publisher can destroy subscription state as soon as it has received UNSUBSCRIBE. It MUST reset any open streams associated with the SUBSCRIBE.

The Publisher can also immediately delete subscription state after sending PUBLISH\_DONE, but MUST NOT send it until it has closed all related streams.

A REQUEST\_ERROR indicates no objects will be delivered, and both endpoints can immediately destroy relevant state. Objects MUST NOT be sent for requests that end with an error.

#### 5.1.2. Subscription Filters

Subscribers can specify a filter on a subscription indicating to the publisher which Objects to send. Subscriptions without a filter pass all Objects published or received via upstream subscriptions.

All filters have a Start Location and an optional End Group. Only objects published or received via a subscription having Locations greater than or equal to Start Location and strictly less than or equal to the End Group (when present) pass the filter.

Some filters are defined to be relative to the Largest Object. The Largest Object is the Object with the largest Location (Section 1.4.1) in the Track from the perspective of the publisher processing the message. Largest Object updates when the first byte of an Object with a Location larger than the previous value is published or received through a subscription.

A Subscription Filter has the following structure:

```
Subscription Filter {  
    Filter Type (i),  
    [Start Location (Location),]  
    [End Group (i),]  
}
```

Filter Type can have one of the following values:

Largest Object (0x2): The filter Start Location is {Largest Object.Group, Largest Object.Object + 1} and Largest Object is communicated in SUBSCRIBE\_OK. If no content has been delivered yet, the filter Start Location is {0, 0}. There is no End Group - the subscription is open ended. Note that due to network reordering or prioritization, relays can receive Objects with Locations smaller than Largest Object after the SUBSCRIBE is processed, but these Objects do not pass the Largest Object filter.

Next Group Start (0x1): The filter Start Location is {Largest Object.Group + 1, 0} and Largest Object is communicated in SUBSCRIBE\_OK. If no content has been delivered yet, the filter Start

Location is {0, 0}. There is no End Group - the subscription is open ended. For scenarios where the subscriber intends to start from more than one group in the future, it can use an AbsoluteStart filter instead.

AbsoluteStart (0x3): The filter Start Location is specified explicitly. The specified Start Location MAY be less than the Largest Object observed at the publisher. There is no End Group - the subscription is open ended. An AbsoluteStart filter with Start = {0, 0} is equivalent to an unfiltered subscription.

AbsoluteRange (0x4): The filter Start Location and End Group are specified explicitly. The specified Start Location MAY be less than the Largest Object observed at the publisher. If the specified End Group is the same group specified in Start Location, the remainder of that Group passes the filter. End Group MUST specify the same or a larger Group than specified in Start Location.

An endpoint that receives a filter type other than the above MUST close the session with `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

#### 5.1.3. Joining an Ongoing Track

The MOQT Object model is designed with the concept that the beginning of a Group is a join point, so in order for a subscriber to join a Track, it needs to request an existing Group or wait for a future Group. Different applications will have different approaches for when to begin a new Group.

To join a Track at a past Group, the subscriber sends a SUBSCRIBE with Filter Type Largest Object followed by a Joining FETCH (see Section 9.16.2) for the intended start Group, which can be relative. To join a Track at the next Group, the subscriber sends a SUBSCRIBE with Filter Type Next Group Start.

##### 5.1.3.1. Dynamically Starting New Groups

While some publishers will deterministically create new Groups, other applications might want to only begin a new Group when needed. A subscriber joining a Track might detect that it is more efficient to request the Original Publisher create a new group than issue a Joining FETCH. Publishers indicate a Track supports dynamic group creation using the `DYNAMIC_GROUPS` parameter (Section 11.1.1.3).

One possible subscriber pattern is to SUBSCRIBE to a Track using Filter Type Largest Object and observe the Largest Location in the response. If the Object ID is below the application's threshold, the subscriber sends a FETCH for the beginning of the Group. If the

Object ID is above the threshold and the Track supports dynamic groups, the subscriber sends a REQUEST\_UPDATE message with the NEW\_GROUP\_REQUEST parameter equal to the Largest Location's Group, plus one (see Section 9.2.2.9).

Another possible subscriber pattern is to send a SUBSCRIBE with Filter Type Next Group Start and NEW\_GROUP\_REQUEST equal to 0. The value of DYNAMIC\_GROUPS in SUBSCRIBE\_OK will indicate if the publisher supports dynamic groups. A publisher that does will begin the next group as soon as practical.

## 5.2. Fetch State Management

The publisher MUST send exactly one FETCH\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR in response to a FETCH.

A subscriber keeps FETCH state until it sends FETCH\_CANCEL, receives REQUEST\_ERROR, or receives a FIN or RESET\_STREAM for the FETCH data stream. If the data stream is already open, it MAY send STOP\_SENDING for the data stream along with FETCH\_CANCEL, but MUST send FETCH\_CANCEL.

The Publisher can destroy fetch state as soon as it has received a FETCH\_CANCEL. It MUST reset any open streams associated with the FETCH. It can also destroy state after closing the FETCH data stream.

It can destroy all FETCH state after closing the data stream with a FIN.

A REQUEST\_ERROR indicates that both endpoints can immediately destroy state. Since a relay can start delivering FETCH Objects from cache before determining the result of the request, some Objects could be received even if the FETCH results in error.

## 6. Namespace Discovery

Discovery of MOQT servers is always done out-of-band. Namespace discovery can be done in the context of an established MOQT session.

Given sufficient out of band information, it is valid for a subscriber to send a SUBSCRIBE or FETCH message to a publisher (including a relay) without any previous MOQT messages besides SETUP. However, SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, PUBLISH and PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE messages provide an in-band means of discovery of publishers for a namespace.

The syntax of these messages is described in Section 9.

### 6.1. Subscribing to Namespaces

If the subscriber is aware of a namespace of interest, it can send SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE to publishers/relays it has established a session with. The recipient of this message will send any relevant NAMESPACE, NAMESPACE\_DONE or PUBLISH messages for that namespace, or more specific part of that namespace. This includes echoing back published Tracks and/or Track Namespaces under the SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE prefix to the endpoint that sent them. If an endpoint accepts its own PUBLISH, this behaves as self-subscription described in Section 5.1.

The subscriber sends SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE on a new bidirectional stream and the publisher MUST send a single REQUEST\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR as the first message on the bidirectional stream in response to a SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE. The subscriber SHOULD close the session with a protocol error if it detects receiving more than one.

The receiver of a REQUEST\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR ought to forward the result to the application, so the application can decide which other publishers to contact, if any.

A SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE can be cancelled by closing the stream with either a FIN or RESET\_STREAM. Cancelling does not prohibit original publishers from sending further PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE or PUBLISH messages, but relays MUST NOT send any further PUBLISH messages to a client without knowing the client is interested in and authorized to receive the content.

### 6.2. Publishing Namespaces

A publisher MAY send PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE messages to any subscriber. A PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE indicates to the subscriber that the publisher has tracks available in that namespace. A subscriber MAY send SUBSCRIBE or FETCH for tracks in a namespace without having received a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE for it.

If a publisher is authoritative for a given namespace, or is a relay that has received an authorized PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE for that namespace from an upstream publisher, it MUST send a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE to any subscriber that has subscribed via SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE for that namespace, or a prefix of that namespace. A publisher MAY send the PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE to any other subscriber.

An endpoint SHOULD report the reception of a REQUEST\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR to the application to inform the search for additional subscribers for a namespace, or to abandon the attempt to publish under this namespace. This might be especially useful in upload or

chat applications. A subscriber MUST send exactly one REQUEST\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR in response to a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE. The publisher SHOULD close the session with a protocol error if it receives more than one.

A PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE message withdraws a previous PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, although it is not a protocol error for the subscriber to send a SUBSCRIBE or FETCH message for a track in a namespace after receiving an PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE.

A subscriber can send PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL to revoke acceptance of an PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, for example due to expiration of authorization credentials. The message enables the publisher to PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE again with refreshed authorization, or discard associated state. After receiving an PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL, the publisher does not send PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE.

While PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE indicates to relays how to connect publishers and subscribers, it is not a full-fledged routing protocol and does not protect against loops and other phenomena. In particular, PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE SHOULD NOT be used to find paths through richly connected networks of relays.

A subscriber MAY send a SUBSCRIBE or FETCH for a track to any publisher. If it has accepted a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE with a namespace that exactly matches the namespace for that track, it SHOULD only request it from the senders of those PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE messages.

## 7. Priorities

MoQ priorities allow a subscriber and original publisher to influence the transmission order of Objects within a session in the presence of congestion.

### 7.1. Definitions

MOQT maintains priorities between different schedulable objects. A schedulable object in MOQT is either:

1. The first or next Object in a Subgroup that is in response to a subscription.
2. An Object with forwarding preference Datagram.
3. An Object in response to a FETCH where that Object is the next Object in the response.

An Object is not schedulable if it is known that no part of it can be written due to underlying transport flow control limits.

A single subgroup or datagram has a single publisher priority. Within a response to SUBSCRIBE, it can be useful to conceptualize this process as scheduling subgroups or datagrams instead of individual objects on them. FETCH responses however can contain objects with different publisher priorities.

A priority number is an unsigned integer with a value between 0 and 255. A lower priority number indicates higher priority; the highest priority is 0.

Subscriber Priority is a priority number associated with an individual request. It is specified in the SUBSCRIBE or FETCH message, and can be updated via REQUEST\_UPDATE message. The subscriber priority of an individual schedulable object is the subscriber priority of the request that caused that object to be sent. When subscriber priority is changed, a best effort SHOULD be made to apply the change to all objects that have not been scheduled, but it is implementation dependent what happens to objects that have already been scheduled.

Publisher Priority is a priority number associated with an individual schedulable object. A default can be specified in the parameters of PUBLISH, or SUBSCRIBE\_OK. Publisher priority can also be specified in a subgroup header or datagram (see Section 10).

Group Order is a property of an individual subscription. It can be either 'Ascending' (groups with lower group ID are sent first), or 'Descending' (groups with higher group ID are sent first). The subscriber optionally communicates its group order preference in the SUBSCRIBE message; the publisher's preference is used if the subscriber did not express one (by setting Group Order field to value 0x0). The group order of an existing subscription cannot be changed.

## 7.2. Scheduling Algorithm

When an MOQT publisher has multiple schedulable objects it can choose between, the objects SHOULD be selected as follows:

1. If two objects have different subscriber priorities associated with them, the one with \*the highest subscriber priority\* is scheduled to be sent first.
2. If two objects have the same subscriber priority, but different publisher priorities, the one with \*the highest publisher priority\* is scheduled to be sent first.

3. If two objects in response to the same request have the same subscriber and publisher priority, but belong to two different groups of the same track, *\*the group order\** of the associated subscription is used to decide the one that is scheduled to be sent first.
4. If two objects in response to the same request have the same subscriber and publisher priority and belong to the same group of the same track, the one with *\*the lowest Subgroup ID\** (for objects with forwarding preference Subgroup), or *\*the lowest Object ID\** (for objects with forwarding preference Datagram) is scheduled to be sent first. If the two objects have different Forwarding Preferences the order is implementation dependent.

The definition of "scheduled to be sent first" in the algorithm is implementation dependent and is constrained by the prioritization interface of the underlying transport. For some implementations, it could mean that the object is serialized and passed to the underlying transport first. Other implementations can control the order packets are initially transmitted.

This algorithm does not provide a well-defined ordering for objects that belong to different subscriptions or FETCH responses, but have the same subscriber and publisher priority. The ordering in those cases is implementation-defined, though the expectation is that all subscriptions will be able to send some data.

A publisher might not utilize the entire available congestion window, session flow control, or all available streams for lower priority Objects if it expects higher priority Objects will be available to send in the near future or it wants to reserve some bandwidth for control messages.

Given the critical nature of control messages and their relatively small size, the control stream SHOULD be prioritized higher than all subscribed Objects.

### 7.3. Considerations for Setting Priorities

For downstream subscriptions, relays SHOULD respect the subscriber and original publisher's priorities. Relays can receive subscriptions with conflicting subscriber priorities or Group Order preferences. Relays SHOULD NOT directly use Subscriber Priority or Group Order from incoming subscriptions for upstream subscriptions. Relays' use of these fields for upstream subscriptions can be based on factors specific to it, such as the popularity of the content or policy, or relays can specify the same value for all upstream subscriptions.

MoQ Sessions can span multiple namespaces, and priorities might not be coordinated across namespaces. The subscriber's priority is considered first, so there is a mechanism for a subscriber to fix incompatibilities between different namespaces prioritization schemes. Additionally, it is anticipated that when multiple namespaces are present within a session, the namespaces could be coordinating, possibly part of the same application. In cases when pooling among namespaces is expected to cause issues, multiple MoQ sessions, either within a single connection or on multiple connections can be used.

Implementations that have a default priority SHOULD set it to a value in the middle of the range (eg: 128) to allow non-default priorities to be set either higher or lower.

## 8. Relays

Relays are leveraged to enable distribution scale in the MoQ architecture. Relays can be used to form an overlay delivery network, similar in functionality to Content Delivery Networks (CDNs). Additionally, relays serve as policy enforcement points by validating subscribe and publish requests at the edge of a network.

Relays are endpoints, which means they terminate Transport Sessions in order to have visibility of MoQ Object metadata.

### 8.1. Caching Relays

Relays MAY cache Objects, but are not required to.

A caching relay saves Objects to its cache identified by the Object's Full Track Name, Group ID and Object ID. If multiple objects are received with the same Full Track Name, Group ID and Object ID, Relays MAY ignore subsequently received Objects or MAY use them to update certain cached fields. Implementations that update the cache need to protect against cache poisoning. The only Object fields that can be updated are the following:

1. Object can transition from existing to not existing in cases where the object is no longer available.
2. Object Extension Headers can be added, removed or updated, subject to the constraints of the specific header extension.

An endpoint that receives a duplicate Object with a different Forwarding Preference, Subgroup ID, Priority or Payload MUST treat the track as Malformed.

For ranges of objects that do not exist, relays MAY change the representation of a missing range to a semantically equivalent one. For instance, a relay may change an End-of-Group="Y" Subgroup Header to an equivalent object with an End of Group status, or a Prior Group ID Gap extension could be removed in FETCH, where it's redundant.

Note that due to reordering, an implementation can receive an Object after receiving an indication that the Object in question does not exist. The endpoint SHOULD NOT cache or forward the object in this case.

A cache MUST store all properties of an Object defined in Section 10.2.1, with the exception of any extensions (Section 10.2.1.2) that specify otherwise.

## 8.2. Forward Handling

Relays SHOULD set the Forward flag to 1 when a new subscription needs to be sent upstream, regardless of the value of the Forward field from the downstream subscription. Subscriptions that are not forwarded consume resources from the publisher, so a publisher might deprioritize, reject, or close those subscriptions to ensure other subscriptions can be delivered.

## 8.3. Multiple Publishers

A Relay can receive PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE for the same Track Namespace or PUBLISH messages for the same Track from multiple publishers. The following sections explain how Relays maintain subscriptions to all available publishers for a given Track.

There is no specified limit to the number of publishers of a Track Namespace or Track. An implementation can use mechanisms such as REQUEST\_ERROR, UNSUBSCRIBE or PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL if it cannot accept an additional publisher due to implementation constraints. Implementations can consider the establishment or idle time of the session or subscription to determine which publisher to reject or disconnect.

Relays MUST handle Objects for the same Track from multiple publishers and forward them to matching Established subscriptions. The Relay SHOULD attempt to deduplicate Objects before forwarding, subject to implementation constraints.

#### 8.4. Subscriber Interactions

Subscribers request Tracks by sending a SUBSCRIBE (see Section 9.9) or FETCH (see Section 9.16) control message for each Track of interest. Relays MUST ensure subscribers are authorized to access the content associated with the Track. The authorization information can be part of request itself or part of the encompassing session. The specifics of how a relay authorizes a user are outside the scope of this specification.

The relay MUST have an Established upstream subscription before sending SUBSCRIBE\_OK in response to a downstream SUBSCRIBE. If a relay does not have sufficient information to send a FETCH\_OK immediately in response to a FETCH, it MUST withhold sending FETCH\_OK until it does.

Publishers maintain a list of Established downstream subscriptions for each Track. Relays use the Track Alias (Section 10.1) of an incoming Object to identify its Track and find the current subscribers. Each new Object belonging to the Track is forwarded to each subscriber, as allowed by the subscription's filter (see Section 9.9), and delivered according to the priority (see Section 7) and delivery timeout (see Section 9.2.2.2).

A relay MUST NOT reorder or drop objects received on a multi-object stream when forwarding to subscribers, unless it has application specific information.

Relays MAY aggregate authorized subscriptions for a given Track when multiple subscribers request the same Track. Subscription aggregation allows relays to make only a single upstream subscription for the Track. The published content received from the upstream subscription request is cached and shared among the pending subscribers. Because MOQT restricts widening a subscription, relays that aggregate upstream subscriptions can subscribe using the Largest Object filter to avoid churn as downstream subscribers with disparate filters subscribe and unsubscribe from a Track.

A subscriber remains subscribed to a Track at a Relay until it unsubscribes, the upstream publisher terminates the subscription, or the subscription expires (see Section 9.10). A subscription with a filter can reach a state where all possible Objects matching the filter have been delivered to the subscriber. Since tracking this can be prohibitively expensive, Relays are not required or expected to do so.

#### 8.4.1. Graceful Subscriber Relay Switchover

This section describes a behavior that a Subscriber MAY implement to improve user experience when a relay sends a GOAWAY or the Subscriber switches between networks, such as WiFi to Cellular, and QUIC Connection Migration is not possible.

When a subscriber receives the GOAWAY message, it starts the process of connecting to a new relay and sending the SUBSCRIBE requests for all Established subscriptions to the new relay. The new relay will send a response to the subscribes and if they are successful, the subscriptions to the old relay can be stopped with an UNSUBSCRIBE.

#### 8.5. Publisher Interactions

There are two ways to publish through a relay:

1. Send a PUBLISH message for a specific Track to the relay. The relay MAY respond with PUBLISH\_OK in Forward State=0 until there are known subscribers for new Tracks.
2. Send a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE message for a Track Namespace to the relay. This enables the relay to send SUBSCRIBE or FETCH messages to publishers for Tracks in this Namespace in response to requests received from subscribers.

Relays MUST verify that publishers are authorized to publish the set of Tracks whose Track Namespace matches the namespace in a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, or the Full Track Name in PUBLISH. Relays MUST NOT assume that an authorized publisher of a single Track is implicitly authorized to publish any other Tracks or Track Namespaces. If a Publisher would like Subscriptions in a Namespace routed to it, it MUST send an explicit PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE. The authorization and identification of the publisher depends on the way the relay is managed and is application specific.

When a publisher wants to stop new subscriptions for a published namespace it sends a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE. A subscriber indicates it will no longer subscribe to Tracks in a namespace it previously responded REQUEST\_OK to by sending a PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL.

A Relay connects publishers and subscribers by managing sessions based on the Track Namespace or Full Track Name. When a SUBSCRIBE message is sent, its Full Track Name is matched exactly against existing upstream subscriptions.

Namespace Prefix Matching is further used to decide which publishers receive a SUBSCRIBE and which subscribers receive a PUBLISH. In this process, the fields in the Track Namespace are matched sequentially, requiring an exact match for each field. If the published or subscribed Track Namespace has the same or fewer fields than the Track Namespace in the message, it qualifies as a match.

For example: A SUBSCRIBE message with namespace=(foo, bar) and name=x will match sessions that sent PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE messages with namespace=(foo) or namespace=(foo, bar). It will not match a session with namespace=(foobar).

Relays MUST send SUBSCRIBE messages to all matching publishers. This includes matching both Established subscriptions on the Full Track Name and Namespace Prefix Matching against published Namespaces. Relays MUST forward PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE or PUBLISH messages to all matching subscribers.

When a Relay needs to make an upstream FETCH request, it determines the available publishers using the same matching rules as SUBSCRIBE. When more than one publisher is available, the Relay MAY send the FETCH to any of them.

When a Relay receives an authorized SUBSCRIBE for a Track with one or more Established upstream subscriptions, it MUST reply with SUBSCRIBE\_OK. If the SUBSCRIBE has Forward State=1 and the upstream subscriptions are in Forward State=0, the Relay MUST send REQUEST\_UPDATE with Forward=1 to all publishers. If there are no Established upstream subscriptions for the requested Track, the Relay MUST send a SUBSCRIBE request to each publisher that has published the subscription's namespace or prefix thereof. If the SUBSCRIBE has Forward=1, then the Relay MUST use Forward=1 when subscribing upstream.

When a relay receives an incoming PUBLISH message, it MUST send a PUBLISH request to each subscriber that has subscribed (via SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE) to the Track's namespace or prefix thereof.

When a relay receives an authorized PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE for a namespace that matches one or more existing subscriptions to other upstream sessions, it MUST send a SUBSCRIBE to the publisher that sent the PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE for each matching subscription. When it receives an authorized PUBLISH message for a Track that has Established downstream subscriptions, it MUST respond with PUBLISH\_OK. If at least one downstream subscriber for the Track has Forward State=1, the Relay MUST use Forward State=1 in the reply.

If a Session is closed due to an unknown or invalid control message or Object, the Relay MUST NOT propagate that message or Object to another Session, because it would enable a single Session error to force an unrelated Session, which might be handling other subscriptions, to be closed.

#### 8.5.1. Graceful Publisher Relay Switchover

This section describes a behavior that a publisher MAY implement to improve user experience when a relay sends a GOAWAY or the publisher switches between networks, such as WiFi to Cellular, and QUIC Connection Migration is not possible.

A new Session is established, to a new URI if specified in a GOAWAY. The publisher sends PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE and/or PUBLISH messages to begin publishing on the new Session, but it does not immediately stop publishing Objects on the old Session.

Once the subscriptions have migrated over to the new session, the publisher can stop publishing Objects on the old session. The relay will attempt to deduplicate Objects received on both subscriptions. Ideally, the subscriptions downstream from the relay do not observe this change, and keep receiving the Objects on the same subscription.

#### 8.6. Relay Track Handling

A relay MUST include all Extension Headers associated with a Track when sending any PUBLISH, SUBSCRIBE\_OK, REQUEST\_OK when in response to a TRACK\_STATUS, or FETCH\_OK, unless allowed by the extension's specification (see Section 2.5).

#### 8.7. Relay Object Handling

MOQT encodes the delivery information via Object headers (Section 10.2). A relay MUST NOT modify Object properties when forwarding, except for Object Extension Headers as specified in Section 2.5.

A relay MUST treat the object payload as opaque. A relay MUST NOT combine, split, or otherwise modify object payloads. A relay SHOULD prioritize sending Objects based on Section 7.

### 9. Control Messages

MOQT uses a single bidirectional stream to exchange control messages, as defined in Section 3.3. Every single message on the control stream is formatted as follows:

```

MOQT Control Message {
  Message Type (i),
  Message Length (16),
  Message Payload (...),
}

```

Figure 3: MOQT Control Message

The following Message Types are defined:

ID	Messages
0x01	RESERVED (SETUP for version 00)
0x40	RESERVED (CLIENT_SETUP for versions <= 10)
0x41	RESERVED (SERVER_SETUP for versions <= 10)
0x20	CLIENT_SETUP (Section 9.3)
0x21	SERVER_SETUP (Section 9.3)
0x10	GOAWAY (Section 9.4)
0x15	MAX_REQUEST_ID (Section 9.5)
0x1A	REQUESTS_BLOCKED (Section 9.6)
0x7	REQUEST_OK (Section 9.7)
0x5	REQUEST_ERROR (Section 9.8)
0x3	SUBSCRIBE (Section 9.9)
0x4	SUBSCRIBE_OK (Section 9.10)
0x2	REQUEST_UPDATE (Section 9.11)
0xA	UNSUBSCRIBE (Section 9.12)
0x1D	PUBLISH (Section 9.13)
0x1E	PUBLISH_OK (Section 9.14)
0xB	PUBLISH_DONE (Section 9.15)
0x16	FETCH (Section 9.16)

0x18	FETCH_OK (Section 9.17)	
0x17	FETCH_CANCEL (Section 9.18)	
0xD	TRACK_STATUS (Section 9.19)	
0x6	PUBLISH_NAMESPACE (Section 9.20)	
0x8	NAMESPACE (Section 9.21)	
0x9	PUBLISH_NAMESPACE_DONE (Section 9.22)	
0xE	NAMESPACE_DONE (Section 9.23)	
0xC	PUBLISH_NAMESPACE_CANCEL (Section 9.24)	
0x11	SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE (Section 9.25)	

Table 1

An endpoint that receives an unknown message type MUST close the session. Control messages have a length to make parsing easier, but no control messages are intended to be ignored. The length is set to the number of bytes in Message Payload, which is defined by each message type. If the length does not match the length of the Message Payload, the receiver MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

### 9.1. Request ID

Most MOQT control messages contain a session specific Request ID. The Request ID correlates requests and responses, allows endpoints to update or terminate ongoing requests, and supports the endpoint's ability to limit the concurrency and frequency of requests. Request IDs for one endpoint increment independently from those sent by the peer endpoint. The client's Request ID starts at 0 and are even and the server's Request ID starts at 1 and are odd. The Request ID increments by 2 with each `FETCH`, `SUBSCRIBE`, `REQUEST_UPDATE`, `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE`, `PUBLISH`, `PUBLISH_NAMESPACE` or `TRACK_STATUS` request. Other messages with a Request ID field reference the Request ID of another message for correlation. If an endpoint receives a Request ID that is not valid for the peer, or a new request with a Request ID that is not the next in sequence or exceeds the received `MAX_REQUEST_ID`, it MUST close the session with `INVALID_REQUEST_ID`.

## 9.2. Parameters

Some messages include a Parameters field that encodes optional message elements. Parameters in the CLIENT\_SETUP and SERVER\_SETUP messages are called Setup Parameters. Parameters in other control messages are Message Parameters. Receivers ignore unrecognized Setup Parameters. All Message Parameters MUST be defined in the negotiated version of MOQT or negotiated via Setup Parameters. An endpoint that receives an unknown Message Parameter MUST close the session with PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION.

Senders MUST NOT repeat the same parameter type in a message unless the parameter definition explicitly allows multiple instances of that type to be sent in a single message. Receivers SHOULD check that there are no unexpected duplicate parameters and close the session as a PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION if found. Receivers MUST allow duplicates of unknown Setup Parameters.

The number of parameters in a message is not specifically limited, but the total length of a control message is limited to  $2^{16}-1$  bytes.

Parameters are serialized as Key-Value-Pairs Figure 2.

Setup Parameters use a namespace that is constant across all MOQT versions. All other messages use a version-specific namespace. For example, the integer '1' can refer to different parameters for Setup messages and for all other message types. SETUP message parameter types are defined in Section 9.3.1. Version-specific parameter types are defined in Section 9.2.2.

Message Parameters in SUBSCRIBE, PUBLISH\_OK and FETCH MUST NOT cause the publisher to alter the payload of the objects it sends, as that would violate the track uniqueness guarantee described in Section 2.4.3.

### 9.2.1. Parameter Scope

Message Parameters are always intended for the peer endpoint only and are not forwarded by Relays, though relays can consider received parameter values when making a request. Any Track metadata sent by the publisher that is forwarded to subscribers is sent as Track Extension header.

### 9.2.2. Message Parameters

Each message parameter definition indicates the message types in which it can appear. If it appears in some other type of message, it **MUST** be ignored. Note that since Setup parameters use a separate namespace, it is impossible for these parameters to appear in Setup messages.

#### 9.2.2.1. AUTHORIZATION TOKEN Parameter

The AUTHORIZATION TOKEN parameter (Parameter Type 0x03) **MAY** appear in a PUBLISH, SUBSCRIBE, REQUEST\_UPDATE, SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, TRACK\_STATUS or FETCH message. This parameter conveys information to authorize the sender to perform the operation carrying the parameter.

The parameter value is a Token structure containing an optional Session-specific Alias. The Alias allows the sender to reference a previously transmitted Token Type and Token Value in future messages. The Token structure is serialized as follows:

```
Token {  
  Alias Type (i),  
  [Token Alias (i),]  
  [Token Type (i),]  
  [Token Value (...)]  
}
```

Figure 4: Token structure

- \* Alias Type - an integer defining both the serialization and the processing behavior of the receiver. This Alias type has the following code points:

DELETE (0x0): There is an Alias but no Type or Value. This Alias and the Token Value it was previously associated with **MUST** be retired. Retiring removes them from the pool of actively registered tokens.

REGISTER (0x1): There is an Alias, a Type and a Value. This Alias **MUST** be associated with the Token Value for the duration of the Session or it is deleted. This action is termed "registering" the Token.

USE\_ALIAS (0x2): There is an Alias but no Type or Value. Use the Token Type and Value previously registered with this Alias.

USE\_VALUE (0x3): There is no Alias and there is a Type and Value.

Use the Token Value as provided. The Token Value may be discarded after processing.

If a server receives Alias Type DELETE (0x0) or USE\_ALIAS (0x2) in a CLIENT\_SETUP message, it MUST close the session with a PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION.

- \* Token Alias - a Session-specific integer identifier that references a Token Value. There are separate Alias spaces for the client and server (e.g.: they can each register Alias=1). Once a Token Alias has been registered, it cannot be re-registered by the same endpoint in the Session without first being deleted. Use of the Token Alias is optional.
- \* Token Type - a numeric identifier for the type of Token payload being transmitted. This type is defined by the IANA table "MOQT Auth Token Type" (see Section 13). Type 0 is reserved to indicate that the type is not defined in the table and is negotiated out-of-band between client and receiver.
- \* Token Value - the payload of the Token. The contents and serialization of this payload are defined by the Token Type.

If the Token structure cannot be decoded, the receiver MUST close the Session with KEY\_VALUE\_FORMATTING\_ERROR. The receiver of a message attempting to register an Alias which is already registered MUST close the Session with DUPLICATE\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_ALIAS. The receiver of a message referencing an Alias that is not currently registered MUST reject the message with UNKNOWN\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_ALIAS.

The receiver of a message containing a well-formed Token structure but otherwise invalid AUTHORIZATION TOKEN parameter MUST reject that message with an MALFORMED\_AUTH\_TOKEN error.

The receiver of a message carrying an AUTHORIZATION TOKEN with Alias Type REGISTER that does not result in a Session error MUST register the Token Alias, in the token cache, even if the message fails for other reasons, including Unauthorized. This allows senders to pipeline messages that refer to previously registered tokens without potentially terminating the entire Session. A receiver MAY store an error code (eg: UNAUTHORIZED or MALFORMED\_AUTH\_TOKEN) in place of the Token Type and Token Alias if any future message referencing the Token Alias will result in that error. However, it is important to not store an error code for a token that might be valid in the future or due to some other property becoming fulfilled which currently isn't. The size of a registered cache entry includes the length of the Token Value, regardless of whether it is stored.

If a receiver detects that an authorization token has expired, it MUST retain the registered Alias until it is deleted by the sender, though it MAY discard other state associated with the token that is no longer needed. Expiration does not affect the size occupied by a token in the token cache. Any message that references the token with Alias Type `USE_ALIAS` fails with `EXPIRED_AUTH_TOKEN`.

Using an Alias to refer to a previously registered Token Type and Value is for efficiency only and has the same effect as if the Token Type and Value was included directly. Retiring an Alias that was previously used to authorize a message has no retroactive effect on the original authorization, nor does it prevent that same Token Type and Value from being re-registered.

Senders of tokens SHOULD only register tokens which they intend to re-use during the Session and SHOULD retire previously registered tokens once their utility has passed.

By registering a Token, the sender is requiring the receiver to store the Token Alias and Token Value until they are deleted, or the Session ends. The receiver can protect its resources by sending a `SETUP` parameter defining the `MAX_AUTH_TOKEN_CACHE_SIZE` limit (see Section 9.3.1.4) it is willing to accept. If a registration is attempted which would cause this limit to be exceeded, the receiver MUST terminate the Session with a `AUTH_TOKEN_CACHE_OVERFLOW` error.

The `AUTHORIZATION_TOKEN` parameter MAY be repeated within a message as long as the combination of Token Type and Token Value are unique after resolving any aliases.

#### 9.2.2.2. DELIVERY TIMEOUT Parameter

The `DELIVERY_TIMEOUT` parameter (Parameter Type 0x02) MAY appear in a `PUBLISH_OK`, `SUBSCRIBE`, or `REQUEST_UPDATE` message.

It is the duration in milliseconds the relay SHOULD continue to attempt forwarding Objects after they have been received. The start time for the timeout is based on when the Object Headers are received, and does not depend upon the forwarding preference. Objects with forwarding preference 'Datagram' are not retransmitted when lost, so the Delivery Timeout only limits the amount of time they can be queued before being sent. There is no explicit signal that an Object was not sent because the delivery timeout was exceeded.

`DELIVERY_TIMEOUT`, if present, MUST contain a value greater than 0. If an endpoint receives a `DELIVERY_TIMEOUT` equal to 0 it MUST close the session with `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

If both the subscriber specifies this parameter and the Track has a DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT extension, the endpoints use the min of the two values for the subscription.

Publishers can, at their discretion, discontinue forwarding Objects earlier than the negotiated DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT, subject to stream closure and ordering constraints described in Section 10.4.3. However, if neither the subscriber nor publisher specifies DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT, all Objects in the track matching the subscription filter are delivered as indicated by their Group Order and Priority. If a subscriber fails to consume Objects at a sufficient rate, causing the publisher to exceed its resource limits, the publisher MAY terminate the subscription with error TOO\_FAR\_BEHIND.

If an object in a subgroup exceeds the delivery timeout, the publisher MUST reset the underlying transport stream (see Section 10.4.3) and SHOULD NOT attempt to open a new stream to deliver additional Objects in that Subgroup.

This parameter is intended to be specific to a subscription, so it SHOULD NOT be forwarded upstream by a relay that intends to serve multiple subscriptions for the same track.

Publishers SHOULD consider whether the entire Object can likely be successfully delivered within the timeout period before sending any data for that Object, taking into account priorities, congestion control, and any other relevant information.

#### 9.2.2.3. SUBSCRIBER PRIORITY Parameter

The SUBSCRIBER\_PRIORITY parameter (Parameter Type 0x20) MAY appear in a SUBSCRIBE, FETCH, REQUEST\_UPDATE (for a subscription or FETCH), PUBLISH\_OK message. It is an integer expressing the priority of a subscription relative to other subscriptions and fetch responses in the same session. Lower numbers get higher priority. See Section 7. The range is restricted to 0-255. If a publisher receives a value outside this range, it MUST close the session with PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION.

If omitted from SUBSCRIBE, PUBLISH\_OK or FETCH, the publisher uses the value 128.

#### 9.2.2.4. GROUP ORDER Parameter

The GROUP\_ORDER parameter (Parameter Type 0x22) MAY appear in a SUBSCRIBE, PUBLISH\_OK, or FETCH.

It is an enum indicating how to prioritize Objects from different groups within the same subscription (see Section 7), or how to order Groups in a Fetch response (see Section 9.16.3). The allowed values are Ascending (0x1) or Descending (0x2). If an endpoint receives a value outside this range, it MUST close the session with `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

If omitted from `SUBSCRIBE`, the publisher's preference from the Track is used. If omitted from `FETCH`, the receiver uses Ascending (0x1).

#### 9.2.2.5. SUBSCRIPTION\_FILTER Parameter

The `SUBSCRIPTION_FILTER` parameter (Parameter Type 0x21) MAY appear in a `SUBSCRIBE`, `PUBLISH_OK` or `REQUEST_UPDATE` (for a subscription) message. It is a length-prefixed Subscription Filter (see Section 5.1.2). If the length of the Subscription Filter does not match the parameter length, the publisher MUST close the session with `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

If omitted from `SUBSCRIBE` or `PUBLISH_OK`, the subscription is unfiltered. If omitted from `REQUEST_UPDATE`, the value is unchanged.

#### 9.2.2.6. EXPIRES Parameter

The `EXPIRES` parameter (Parameter Type 0x8) MAY appear in `SUBSCRIBE_OK`, `PUBLISH` or `PUBLISH_OK` (TODO: or `REQUEST_OK`). It is a variable length integer encoding the time in milliseconds after which the sender of the parameter will terminate the subscription. The sender will terminate the subscription using `PUBLISH_DONE` or `UNSUBSCRIBE`, depending on its role. This value is advisory and the sender can terminate the subscription prior to or after the expiry time.

The receiver of the parameter can extend the subscription by sending a `REQUEST_UPDATE`. If the receiver of the parameter has one or more updated `AUTHORIZATION_TOKENS`, it SHOULD include those in the `REQUEST_UPDATE`. Relays that send this parameter and applications that receive it MAY introduce jitter to prevent many endpoints from updating simultaneously.

If the `EXPIRES` parameter is 0 or is not present in a message, the subscription does not expire or expires at an unknown time.

#### 9.2.2.7. LARGEST OBJECT Parameter

The `LARGEST_OBJECT` parameter (Parameter Type 0x9) MAY appear in `SUBSCRIBE_OK`, `PUBLISH` or in `REQUEST_OK` (in response to `REQUEST_UPDATE` or `TRACK_STATUS`). It is a length-prefixed Location structure (see Section 1.4.1) containing the largest Location in the Track observed by the sending endpoint (see Section 5.1.2. If Objects have been published on this Track the Publisher MUST include this parameter.

If omitted from a message, the sending endpoint has not published or received any Objects in the Track.

#### 9.2.2.8. FORWARD Parameter

The `FORWARD` parameter (Parameter Type 0x10) MAY appear in `SUBSCRIBE`, `REQUEST_UPDATE` (for a subscription), `PUBLISH`, `PUBLISH_OK` and `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE`. It is a variable length integer specifying the Forwarding State on affected subscriptions (see Section 5.1). The allowed values are 0 (don't forward) or 1 (forward). If an endpoint receives a value outside this range, it MUST close the session with `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

If the parameter is omitted from `REQUEST_UPDATE`, the value for the subscription remains unchanged. If the parameter is omitted from any other message, the default value is 1.

#### 9.2.2.9. NEW GROUP REQUEST Parameter

The `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` parameter (parameter type 0x32) MAY appear in `PUBLISH_OK`, `SUBSCRIBE` or `REQUEST_UPDATE` for a subscription. It is an integer representing the largest Group ID in the Track known by the subscriber, plus 1. A value of 0 indicates that the subscriber has no Group information for the Track. A subscriber MUST NOT send this parameter in `PUBLISH_OK` or `REQUEST_UPDATE` if the Track did not include the `DYNAMIC_GROUPS` Extension with value 1. A subscriber MAY include this parameter in `SUBSCRIBE` without foreknowledge of support. If the original publisher does not support dynamic Groups, it ignores the parameter in that case.

When an Original Publisher that supports dynamic Groups receives a `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` with a value of 0 or a value larger than the current Group, it SHOULD end the current Group and begin a new Group as soon as practical. The Original Publisher MAY delay the `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` subject to implementation specific concerns, for example, achieving a minimum duration for each Group. The Original Publisher chooses the next Group ID; there are no requirements that it be equal to the `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` parameter value.

#### Relay Handling:

A relay that receives a `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` for a Track without an Established subscription MUST include the `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` when subscribing upstream.

A relay that receives a `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` for an Established subscription with a value of 0 or a value larger than the Largest Group MUST send a `REQUEST_UPDATE` including the `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` to the publisher unless:

1. The Track does not support dynamic Groups
2. There is already an outstanding `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` from this Relay with a greater or equal value

If a relay receives a `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` with a non-zero value less than or equal to the Largest Group, it does not send a `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` upstream.

After sending a `NEW_GROUP_REQUEST` upstream, the request is considered outstanding until the Largest Group increases.

#### 9.3. CLIENT\_SETUP and SERVER\_SETUP

The `CLIENT_SETUP` and `SERVER_SETUP` messages are the first messages exchanged by the client and the server; they allow the endpoints to agree on the initial configuration before any control messages are exchanged. The messages contain a sequence of key-value pairs called Setup parameters; the semantics and format of which can vary based on whether the client or server is sending. To ensure future extensibility of MOQT, endpoints MUST ignore unknown setup parameters. TODO: describe GREASE for Setup Parameters.

The wire format of the Setup messages are as follows:

```
CLIENT_SETUP Message {
  Type (i) = 0x20,
  Length (16),
  Number of Parameters (i),
  Setup Parameters (...) ...,
}

SERVER_SETUP Message {
  Type (i) = 0x21,
  Length (16),
  Number of Parameters (i),
  Setup Parameters (...) ...,
}
```

Figure 5: MOQT Setup Messages

The available Setup parameters are detailed in the next sections.

### 9.3.1. Setup Parameters

#### 9.3.1.1. AUTHORITY

The AUTHORITY parameter (Parameter Type 0x05) allows the client to specify the authority component of the MoQ URI when using native QUIC ([QUIC]). It MUST NOT be used by the server, or when WebTransport is used. When an AUTHORITY parameter is received from a server, or when an AUTHORITY parameter is received while WebTransport is used, or when an AUTHORITY parameter is received by a server but the server does not support the specified authority, the session MUST be closed with INVALID\_AUTHORITY.

The AUTHORITY parameter follows the URI formatting rules [RFC3986]. When connecting to a server using a URI with the "moqt" scheme, the client MUST set the AUTHORITY parameter to the authority portion of the URI. If an AUTHORITY parameter does not conform to these rules, the session MUST be closed with MALFORMED\_AUTHORITY.

#### 9.3.1.2. PATH

The PATH parameter (Parameter Type 0x01) allows the client to specify the path of the MoQ URI when using native QUIC ([QUIC]). It MUST NOT be used by the server, or when WebTransport is used. When a PATH parameter is received from a server, or when a PATH parameter is received while WebTransport is used, or when a PATH parameter is received by a server but the server does not support the specified path, the session MUST be closed with INVALID\_PATH.

The PATH parameter follows the URI formatting rules [RFC3986]. When connecting to a server using a URI with the "moqt" scheme, the client MUST set the PATH parameter to the path-abempty portion of the URI; if query is present, the client MUST concatenate ?, followed by the query portion of the URI to the parameter. If a PATH does not conform to these rules, the session MUST be closed with MALFORMED\_PATH.

#### 9.3.1.3. MAX\_REQUEST\_ID

The MAX\_REQUEST\_ID parameter (Parameter Type 0x02) communicates an initial value for the Maximum Request ID to the receiving endpoint. The default value is 0, so if not specified, the peer MUST NOT send requests.

#### 9.3.1.4. MAX\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_CACHE\_SIZE

The MAX\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_CACHE\_SIZE parameter (Parameter Type 0x04) communicates the maximum size in bytes of all actively registered Authorization tokens that the endpoint is willing to store per Session. This parameter is optional. The default value is 0 which prohibits the use of token Aliases.

The token size is calculated as 16 bytes + the size of the Token Value field (see Figure 4). The total size as restricted by the MAX\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_CACHE\_SIZE parameter is calculated as the sum of the token sizes for all registered tokens (Alias Type value of 0x01) minus the sum of the token sizes for all deregistered tokens (Alias Type value of 0x00), since Session initiation.

#### 9.3.1.5. AUTHORIZATION TOKEN

The AUTHORIZATION TOKEN setup parameter (Parameter Type 0x03) is functionally equivalent to the AUTHORIZATION TOKEN message parameter, see Section 9.2.2.1. The endpoint can specify one or more tokens in CLIENT\_SETUP or SERVER\_SETUP that the peer can use to authorize MOQT session establishment.

If a server receives an AUTHORIZATION TOKEN parameter in CLIENT\_SETUP with Alias Type REGISTER that exceeds its MAX\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_CACHE\_SIZE, it MUST NOT fail the session with AUTH\_TOKEN\_CACHE\_OVERFLOW. Instead, it MUST treat the parameter as Alias Type USE\_VALUE. A client MUST handle registration failures of this kind by purging any Token Aliases that failed to register based on the MAX\_AUTH\_TOKEN\_CACHE\_SIZE parameter in SERVER\_SETUP (or the default value of 0).

#### 9.3.1.6. MOQT IMPLEMENTATION

The MOQT\_IMPLEMENTATION parameter (Parameter Type 0x07) identifies the name and version of the sender's MOQT implementation. This SHOULD be a UTF-8 encoded string [RFC3629], though the message does not carry information, such as language tags, that would aid comprehension by any entity other than the one that created the text.

#### 9.4. GOAWAY

An endpoint sends a GOAWAY message to inform the peer it intends to close the session soon. Servers can use GOAWAY to initiate session migration (Section 3.5) with an optional URI.

The GOAWAY message does not impact subscription state. A subscriber SHOULD individually UNSUBSCRIBE for each existing subscription, while a publisher MAY reject new requests after sending a GOAWAY.

Upon receiving a GOAWAY, an endpoint SHOULD NOT initiate new requests to the peer including SUBSCRIBE, PUBLISH, FETCH, PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE and TRACK\_STATUS.

Sending a GOAWAY does not prevent the sender from initiating new requests, though the sender SHOULD avoid initiating requests unless required by migration (see (Section 8.4.1 and Section 8.5.1). An endpoint that receives a GOAWAY MAY reject new requests with an appropriate error code (e.g., SUBSCRIBE\_ERROR with error code GOING\_AWAY).

The endpoint MUST close the session with a PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION (Section 3.4) if it receives multiple GOAWAY messages.

```
GOAWAY Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x10,  
    Length (16),  
    New Session URI Length (i),  
    New Session URI (...),  
}
```

Figure 6: MOQT GOAWAY Message

- \* New Session URI: When received by a client, indicates where the client can connect to continue this session. The client MUST use this URI for the new session if provided. If the URI is zero bytes long, the current URI is reused instead. The new session URI SHOULD use the same scheme as the current URI to ensure compatibility. The maximum length of the New Session URI is 8,192 bytes. If an endpoint receives a length exceeding the maximum, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

If a server receives a `GOAWAY` with a non-zero New Session URI Length it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

#### 9.5. MAX\_REQUEST\_ID

An endpoint sends a `MAX_REQUEST_ID` message to increase the number of requests the peer can send within a session.

The Maximum Request ID MUST only increase within a session. If an endpoint receives `MAX_REQUEST_ID` message with an equal or smaller Request ID it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

```
MAX_REQUEST_ID Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x15,  
    Length (16),  
    Max Request ID (i),  
}
```

Figure 7: MOQT MAX\_REQUEST\_ID Message

- \* Max Request ID: The new Maximum Request ID for the session plus 1. If a Request ID equal to or larger than this is received by the endpoint that sent the `MAX_REQUEST_ID` in any request message (`PUBLISH_NAMESPACE`, `FETCH`, `SUBSCRIBE`, `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE`, `REQUEST_UPDATE` or `TRACK_STATUS`), the endpoint MUST close the session with an error of `TOO_MANY_REQUESTS`.

`MAX_REQUEST_ID` is similar to `MAX_STREAMS` in ([RFC9000], Section 4.6), and similar considerations apply when deciding how often to send `MAX_REQUEST_ID`. For example, implementations might choose to increase `MAX_REQUEST_ID` as subscriptions are closed to keep the number of available subscriptions roughly consistent.

#### 9.6. REQUESTS\_BLOCKED

The `REQUESTS_BLOCKED` message is sent when an endpoint would like to send a new request, but cannot because the Request ID would exceed the Maximum Request ID value sent by the peer. The endpoint SHOULD send only one `REQUESTS_BLOCKED` for a given Maximum Request ID.

An endpoint MAY send a MAX\_REQUEST\_ID upon receipt of REQUESTS\_BLOCKED, but it MUST NOT rely on REQUESTS\_BLOCKED to trigger sending a MAX\_REQUEST\_ID, because sending REQUESTS\_BLOCKED is not required.

```
REQUESTS_BLOCKED Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x1A,  
    Length (16),  
    Maximum Request ID (i),  
}
```

Figure 8: MOQT REQUESTS\_BLOCKED Message

- \* Maximum Request ID: The Maximum Request ID for the session on which the endpoint is blocked. More on Request ID in Section 9.1.

#### 9.7. REQUEST\_OK

The REQUEST\_OK message is sent to a response to REQUEST\_UPDATE, TRACK\_STATUS, SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE and PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE requests. The unique request ID in the REQUEST\_OK is used to associate it with the correct type of request.

```
REQUEST_OK Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x7,  
    Length (16),  
    Request ID (i),  
    Number of Parameters (i),  
    Parameters (...) ...  
}
```

Figure 9: MOQT REQUEST\_OK Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID to which this message is replying.
- \* Parameters: The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.

#### 9.8. REQUEST\_ERROR

The REQUEST\_ERROR message is sent to a response to any request (SUBSCRIBE, FETCH, PUBLISH, SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, TRACK\_STATUS). The unique request ID in the REQUEST\_ERROR is used to associate it with the correct type of request.

```
REQUEST_ERROR Message {  
  Type (i) = 0x5,  
  Length (16),  
  Request ID (i),  
  Error Code (i),  
  Retry Interval (i),  
  Error Reason (Reason Phrase),  
}
```

Figure 10: MOQT REQUEST\_ERROR Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID to which this message is replying.
- \* Error Code: Identifies an integer error code for request failure.
- \* Retry Interval: The minimum time (in milliseconds) before the request SHOULD be sent again, plus one. If the value is 0, the request SHOULD NOT be retried.
- \* Error Reason: Provides a text description of the request error. See Section 1.4.3.

The application SHOULD use a relevant error code in REQUEST\_ERROR, as defined below and assigned in Section 13.4.2. Most codepoints have identical meanings for various request types, but some have request-specific meanings.

If a request is retryable with the same parameters at a later time, the sender of REQUEST\_ERROR includes a non-zero Retry Interval in the message. To minimize the risk of synchronized retry storms, the sender can apply randomization to each retry interval so that retries are spread out over time. A Retry Interval value of 1 indicates the request can be retried immediately.

INTERNAL\_ERROR: An implementation specific or generic error occurred.

UNAUTHORIZED: The subscriber is not authorized to perform the requested action on the given track. This might be retryable if the authorization token is not yet valid.

TIMEOUT: The subscription could not be completed before an implementation specific timeout. For example, a relay could not establish an upstream subscription within the timeout.

NOT\_SUPPORTED: The endpoint does not support the type of request.

MALFORMED\_AUTH\_TOKEN: Invalid Auth Token serialization during

registration (see Section 9.2.2.1).

EXPIRED\_AUTH\_TOKEN: Authorization token has expired  
(Section 9.2.2.1).

DUPLICATE\_SUBSCRIPTION (0x19): The PUBLISH or SUBSCRIBE request  
attempted to create a subscription to a Track with the same role  
as an existing subscription.

Below are errors for use by the publisher. They can appear in  
response to SUBSCRIBE, FETCH, TRACK\_STATUS, and SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE,  
unless otherwise noted.

DOES\_NOT\_EXIST: The track or namespace is not available at the  
publisher.

INVALID\_RANGE: In response to SUBSCRIBE or FETCH, specified Filter  
or range of Locations cannot be satisfied.

MALFORMED\_TRACK: In response to a FETCH, a relay publisher detected  
the track was malformed (see Section 2.4.2).

The following are errors for use by the subscriber. They can appear  
in response to PUBLISH or PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, unless otherwise noted.

UNINTERESTED: The subscriber is not interested in the track or  
namespace.

Errors below can only be used in response to one message type.

PREFIX\_OVERLAP: In response to SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, the namespace  
prefix overlaps with another SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE in the same  
session.

INVALID\_JOINING\_REQUEST\_ID: In response to a Joining FETCH, the  
referenced Request ID is not an Established Subscription.

## 9.9. SUBSCRIBE

A subscription causes the publisher to send newly published objects  
for a track.

Subscribe only requests newly published or received Objects. Objects  
from the past are retrieved using FETCH (Section 9.16).

The format of SUBSCRIBE is as follows:

```
SUBSCRIBE Message {  
  Type (i) = 0x3,  
  Length (16),  
  Request ID (i),  
  Track Namespace (...),  
  Track Name Length (i),  
  Track Name (...),  
  Number of Parameters (i),  
  Parameters (...) ...  
}
```

Figure 11: MOQT SUBSCRIBE Message

- \* Request ID: See Section 9.1.
- \* Track Namespace: Identifies the namespace of the track as defined in (Section 2.4.1).
- \* Track Name: Identifies the track name as defined in (Section 2.4.1).
- \* Parameters: The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.

On successful subscription, the publisher MUST reply with a SUBSCRIBE\_OK, allowing the subscriber to determine the start group/object when not explicitly specified, and start sending objects.

If the publisher cannot satisfy the requested Subscription Filter (see Section 9.2.2.5) or if the entire End Group has already been published it SHOULD send a REQUEST\_ERROR with code INVALID\_RANGE. A publisher MUST NOT send objects from outside the requested range.

Subscribing with the FORWARD parameter (Section 9.2.2.8) equal to 0 allows publisher or relay to prepare to serve the subscription in advance, reducing the time to receive objects in the future.

#### 9.10. SUBSCRIBE\_OK

A publisher sends a SUBSCRIBE\_OK control message for successful subscriptions.

```
SUBSCRIBE_OK Message {
  Type (i) = 0x4,
  Length (16),
  Request ID (i),
  Track Alias (i),
  Number of Parameters (i),
  Parameters (...) ...,
  Track Extensions (...),
}
```

Figure 12: MOQT SUBSCRIBE\_OK Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID of the SUBSCRIBE this message is replying to Section 9.9.
- \* Track Alias: The identifier used for this track in Subgroups or Datagrams (see Section 10.1). The same Track Alias MUST NOT be used to refer to two different Tracks simultaneously. If a subscriber receives a SUBSCRIBE\_OK that uses the same Track Alias as a different track with an Established subscription, it MUST close the session with error DUPLICATE\_TRACK\_ALIAS.
- \* Parameters: The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.
- \* Track Extensions : A sequence of Extension Headers. See Section 2.5.

#### 9.11. REQUEST\_UPDATE

The sender of a request (SUBSCRIBE, PUBLISH, FETCH, TRACK\_STATUS, PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE, SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE) can later send a REQUEST\_UPDATE to modify it. A subscriber can also send REQUEST\_UPDATE to modify parameters of a subscription established with PUBLISH.

The receiver of a REQUEST\_UPDATE MUST respond with exactly one REQUEST\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR message indicating if the update was successful.

If a parameter previously set on the request is not present in REQUEST\_UPDATE, its value remains unchanged.

There is no mechanism to remove a parameter from a request.

The format of REQUEST\_UPDATE is as follows:

```
REQUEST_UPDATE Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x2,  
    Length (16),  
    Request ID (i),  
    Existing Request ID (i),  
    Number of Parameters (i),  
    Parameters (...) ...  
}
```

Figure 13: MOQT REQUEST\_UPDATE Message

- \* Request ID: See Section 9.1.
- \* Existing Request ID: The Request ID of the request this message is updating. This MUST match the Request ID of an existing request. The receiver MUST close the session with `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION` if the sender specifies an invalid Existing Request ID, or if the parameters included in the `REQUEST_UPDATE` are invalid for the type of request being modified.
- \* Parameters: The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.

#### 9.11.1. Updating Subscriptions

When a subscriber decreases the Start Location of the Subscription Filter (see Section 5.1.2), the Start Location can be smaller than the Track's Largest Location, similar to a new Subscription. `FETCH` can be used to retrieve any necessary Objects smaller than the current Largest Location.

When a subscriber increases the End Location, the Largest Object at the publisher might already be larger than the previous End Location. This will create a gap in the subscription. The `REQUEST_OK` in response to the `REQUEST_UPDATE` will include the `LARGEST_OBJECT` parameter, and the subscriber can issue a `FETCH` to retrieve the omitted Objects, if any.

When a subscriber narrows their subscription (increase the Start Location and/or decrease the End Group), it might still receive Objects outside the new range if the publisher sent them before the update was processed.

When a subscription update is unsuccessful, the publisher MUST also terminate the subscription with `PUBLISH_DONE` with error code `UPDATE_FAILED`.

### 9.12. UNSUBSCRIBE

A Subscriber issues an UNSUBSCRIBE message to a Publisher indicating it is no longer interested in receiving the specified Track, indicating that the Publisher stop sending Objects as soon as possible.

The format of UNSUBSCRIBE is as follows:

```
UNSUBSCRIBE Message {  
    Type (i) = 0xA,  
    Length (16),  
    Request ID (i)  
}
```

Figure 14: MOQT UNSUBSCRIBE Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID of the subscription that is being terminated. See Section 9.9.

### 9.13. PUBLISH

The publisher sends the PUBLISH control message to initiate a subscription to a track. The receiver verifies the publisher is authorized to publish this track.

```
PUBLISH Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x1D,  
    Length (16),  
    Request ID (i),  
    Track Namespace (...),  
    Track Name Length (i),  
    Track Name (...),  
    Track Alias (i),  
    Number of Parameters (i),  
    Parameters (...) ...,  
    Track Extensions (...),  
}
```

Figure 15: MOQT PUBLISH Message

- \* Request ID: See Section 9.1.
- \* Track Namespace: Identifies a track's namespace as defined in (Section 2.4.1)
- \* Track Name: Identifies the track name as defined in (Section 2.4.1).

- \* **Track Alias:** The identifier used for this track in Subgroups or Datagrams (see Section 10.1). The same Track Alias MUST NOT be used to refer to two different Tracks simultaneously. If a subscriber receives a PUBLISH that uses the same Track Alias as a different track with an Established subscription, it MUST close the session with error `DUPLICATE_TRACK_ALIAS`.
- \* **Parameters:** The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.
- \* **Track Extensions :** A sequence of Extension Headers. See Section 2.5.

A subscriber receiving a PUBLISH for a Track it does not wish to receive SHOULD send `REQUEST_ERROR` with error code `UNINTERESTED`, and abandon reading any publisher initiated streams associated with that subscription using a `STOP_SENDING` frame.

A publisher that sends the `FORWARD` parameter (Section 9.2.2.8) equal to 0 indicates that it will not transmit any objects until the subscriber sets the Forward State to 1. If the `FORWARD` parameter is omitted or equal to 1, the publisher will start transmitting objects immediately, possibly before `PUBLISH_OK`.

#### 9.14. PUBLISH\_OK

The subscriber sends a `PUBLISH_OK` control message to acknowledge the successful authorization and acceptance of a PUBLISH message, and establish a subscription.

```
PUBLISH_OK Message {
  Type (i) = 0x1E,
  Length (16),
  Request ID (i),
  Number of Parameters (i),
  Parameters (...) ...,
}
```

Figure 16: MOQT PUBLISH\_OK Message

- \* **Request ID:** The Request ID of the PUBLISH this message is replying to Section 9.13.
- \* **Parameters:** The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.

TODO: A similar section to SUBSCRIBE about how the publisher handles a filter that is entirely behind Largest Object or is otherwise invalid.

## 9.15. PUBLISH\_DONE

A publisher sends a PUBLISH\_DONE message to indicate it is done publishing Objects for that subscription. The Status Code indicates why the subscription ended, and whether it was an error. Because PUBLISH\_DONE is sent on the control stream, it is likely to arrive at the receiver before late-arriving objects, and often even late-opening streams. However, the receiver uses it as an indication that it should receive any late-opening streams in a relatively short time.

Note that some objects in the subscribed track might never be delivered, because a stream was reset, or never opened in the first place, due to the delivery timeout.

A sender MUST NOT send PUBLISH\_DONE until it has closed all streams it will ever open, and has no further datagrams to send, for a subscription. After sending PUBLISH\_DONE, the sender can immediately destroy subscription state, although stream state can persist until delivery completes. The sender might persist subscription state to enforce the delivery timeout by resetting streams on which it has already sent FIN, only deleting it when all such streams have received ACK of the FIN.

A sender MUST NOT destroy subscription state until it sends PUBLISH\_DONE, though it can choose to stop sending objects (and thus send PUBLISH\_DONE) for any reason.

A subscriber that receives PUBLISH\_DONE SHOULD set a timer of at least its delivery timeout in case some objects are still inbound due to prioritization or packet loss. The subscriber MAY dispense with a timer if it sent UNSUBSCRIBE or is otherwise no longer interested in objects from the track. Once the timer has expired, the receiver destroys subscription state once all open streams for the subscription have closed. A subscriber MAY discard subscription state earlier, at the cost of potentially not delivering some late objects to the application. The subscriber SHOULD send STOP\_SENDING on all streams related to the subscription when it deletes subscription state.

The format of PUBLISH\_DONE is as follows:

```
PUBLISH_DONE Message {  
  Type (i) = 0xB,  
  Length (16),  
  Request ID (i),  
  Status Code (i),  
  Stream Count (i),  
  Error Reason (Reason Phrase)  
}
```

Figure 17: MOQT PUBLISH\_DONE Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID of the subscription that is being terminated. See Section 9.9.
- \* Status Code: An integer status code indicating why the subscription ended.
- \* Stream Count: An integer indicating the number of data streams the publisher opened for this subscription. This helps the subscriber know if it has received all of the data published in this subscription by comparing the number of streams received. The subscriber can immediately remove all subscription state once the same number of streams have been processed. If the track had only Objects with Forwarding Preference = Datagram, the publisher MUST set Stream Count to 0. If the publisher is unable to set Stream Count to the exact number of streams opened for the subscription, it MUST set Stream Count to  $2^{62} - 1$ . Subscribers SHOULD use a timeout or other mechanism to remove subscription state in case the publisher set an incorrect value, reset a stream before the SUBGROUP\_HEADER, or set the maximum value. If a subscriber receives more streams for a subscription than specified in Stream Count, it MAY close the session with a PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION.
- \* Error Reason: Provides the reason for subscription error. See Section 1.4.3.

The application SHOULD use a relevant status code in PUBLISH\_DONE, as defined below:

INTERNAL\_ERROR (0x0): An implementation specific or generic error occurred.

UNAUTHORIZED (0x1): The subscriber is no longer authorized to subscribe to the given track.

TRACK\_ENDED (0x2): The track is no longer being published.

SUBSCRIPTION\_ENDED (0x3): The publisher reached the end of an

associated subscription filter.

GOING\_AWAY (0x4): The subscriber or publisher issued a GOAWAY message.

EXPIRED (0x5): The publisher reached the timeout specified in SUBSCRIBE\_OK.

TOO\_FAR\_BEHIND (0x6): The publisher's queue of objects to be sent to the given subscriber exceeds its implementation defined limit.

MALFORMED\_TRACK (0x12): A relay publisher detected that the track was malformed (see Section 2.4.2).

UPDATE\_FAILED (0x8): REQUEST\_UPDATE failed on this subscription (see Section 9.11).

## 9.16. FETCH

A subscriber issues a FETCH to a publisher to request a range of already published objects within a track.

There are three types of Fetch messages.

Code	Fetch Type
0x1	Standalone Fetch
0x2	Relative Joining Fetch
0x3	Absolute Joining Fetch

Table 2

An endpoint that receives a Fetch Type other than 0x1, 0x2 or 0x3 MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

### 9.16.1. Standalone Fetch

A Fetch of Objects performed independently of any Subscribe.

A Standalone Fetch includes this structure:

```
Standalone Fetch {  
    Track Namespace (...),  
    Track Name Length (i),  
    Track Name (...),  
    Start Location (Location),  
    End Location (Location)  
}
```

- \* Track Namespace: Identifies the namespace of the track as defined in (Section 2.4.1).
- \* Track Name: Identifies the track name as defined in (Section 2.4.1).
- \* Start Location: The start Location.
- \* End Location: The end Location, plus 1. A Location.Object value of 0 means the entire group is requested.

#### 9.16.2. Joining Fetches

A Joining Fetch is associated with a Subscribe request by specifying the Request ID of a subscription in the Established or Pending (subscriber) state. A publisher receiving a Joining Fetch uses properties of the associated Subscribe to determine the Track Namespace, Track Name and End Location such that it is contiguous with the associated Subscribe. The subscriber can set the Start Location to an absolute Location or a Location relative to the current group.

A Subscriber can use a Joining Fetch to, for example, fill a playback buffer with a certain number of groups prior to the live edge of a track.

A Joining Fetch is only permitted when the associated Subscribe has the Filter Type Largest Object; any other value results in closing the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

If no Objects have been published for the track, and the `SUBSCRIBE_OK` did not include a `LARGEST_OBJECT` parameter (Section 9.2.2.7), the publisher MUST respond with a `REQUEST_ERROR` with error code `INVALID_RANGE`.

A Joining Fetch includes this structure:

```
Joining Fetch {  
  Joining Request ID (i),  
  Joining Start (i)  
}
```

- \* Joining Request ID: The Request ID of the subscription to be joined. If a publisher receives a Joining Fetch with a Request ID that does not correspond to a subscription in the same session in the Established or Pending (subscriber) states, it MUST return a REQUEST\_ERROR with error code INVALID\_JOINING\_REQUEST\_ID.
- \* Joining Start : A relative or absolute value used to determining the Start Location, described below.

#### 9.16.2.1. Joining Fetch Range Calculation

The Largest Location value from the corresponding subscription is used to calculate the end of a Joining Fetch, so the Objects retrieved by the FETCH and SUBSCRIBE are contiguous and non-overlapping.

The publisher receiving a Joining Fetch sets the End Location to {Subscribe Largest Location.Object + 1}. Here Subscribe Largest Location is the saved value from when the subscription started (see Section 5.1).

Note: the last Object included in the Joining FETCH response is Subscribe Largest Location. The + 1 above indicates the equivalent Standalone Fetch encoding.

For a Relative Joining Fetch, the publisher sets the Start Location to {Subscribe Largest Location.Group - Joining Start, 0}.

For an Absolute Joining Fetch, the publisher sets the Start Location to {Joining Start, 0}.

#### 9.16.3. Fetch Handling

The format of FETCH is as follows:

```
FETCH Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x16,  
    Length (16),  
    Request ID (i),  
    Fetch Type (i),  
    [Standalone (Standalone Fetch),]  
    [Joining (Joining Fetch),]  
    Number of Parameters (i),  
    Parameters (...) ...  
}
```

Figure 18: MOQT FETCH Message

- \* Request ID: See Section 9.1.
- \* Fetch Type: Identifies the type of Fetch, whether Standalone, Relative Joining or Absolute Joining.
- \* Standalone: Standalone Fetch structure included when Fetch Type is 0x1
- \* Joining: Joining Fetch structure included when Fetch Type is 0x2 or 0x3.
- \* Parameters: The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.

A publisher responds to a FETCH request with either a FETCH\_OK or a REQUEST\_ERROR message. The publisher creates a new unidirectional stream that is used to send the Objects. The FETCH\_OK or REQUEST\_ERROR can come at any time relative to object delivery.

The publisher responding to a FETCH is responsible for delivering all available Objects in the requested range in the requested order (see Section 9.2.2.4). The Objects in the response are delivered on a single unidirectional stream. Any gaps in the Group and Object IDs in the response stream indicate objects that do not exist. For Ascending Group Order this includes ranges between the first requested object and the first object in the stream; between objects in the stream; and between the last object in the stream and the Largest Group/Object indicated in FETCH\_OK, so long as the fetch stream is terminated by a FIN. If no Objects exist in the requested range, the publisher opens the unidirectional stream, sends the FETCH\_HEADER (see Section 10.4.4) and closes the stream with a FIN.

A relay that has cached objects from the beginning of the range MAY start sending objects immediately in response to a FETCH. If it encounters an object in the requested range that is not cached and has unknown status, the relay MUST pause subsequent delivery until it

has confirmed the object's status upstream. If the upstream FETCH fails, the relay sends a REQUEST\_ERROR and can reset the unidirectional stream. It can choose to do so immediately or wait until the cached objects have been delivered before resetting the stream.

The Object Forwarding Preference does not apply to fetches.

Fetch specifies an inclusive range of Objects starting at Start Location and ending at End Location. End Location MUST specify the same or a larger Location than Start Location for Standalone and Absolute Joining Fetches.

Objects that are not yet published will not be retrieved by a FETCH. The Largest available Object in the requested range is indicated in the FETCH\_OK, and is the last Object a fetch will return if the End Location have not yet been published.

If Start Location is greater than the Largest Object (Section 9.9) the publisher MUST return REQUEST\_ERROR with error code INVALID\_RANGE.

A publisher MUST send fetched groups in the requested group order, either ascending or descending. Within each group, objects are sent in Object ID order; subgroup ID is not used for ordering.

If a Publisher receives a FETCH with a range that includes one or more Objects with unknown status (e.g. a Relay has temporarily lost contact with the Original Publisher and does not have the Object in cache), it can choose to reset the FETCH data stream with UNKNOWN\_OBJECT\_STATUS, or indicate the range of unknown Objects and continue serving other known Objects.

#### 9.17. FETCH\_OK

A publisher sends a FETCH\_OK control message in response to successful fetches. A publisher MAY send Objects in response to a FETCH before the FETCH\_OK message is sent, but the FETCH\_OK MUST NOT be sent until the End Location is known.

```
FETCH_OK Message {  
  Type (i) = 0x18,  
  Length (16),  
  Request ID (i),  
  End Of Track (8),  
  End Location (Location),  
  Number of Parameters (i),  
  Parameters (...) ...  
  Track Extensions (...),  
}
```

Figure 19: MOQT FETCH\_OK Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID of the FETCH this message is replying to Section 9.9.
- \* End Of Track: 1 if all Objects have been published on this Track, and the End Location is the final Object in the Track, 0 if not.
- \* End Location: The largest object covered by the FETCH response. The End Location is determined as follows:
  - If the requested FETCH End Location was beyond the Largest known (possibly final) Object, End Location is {Largest.Group, Largest.Object + 1}
  - If End Location.Object in the FETCH request was 0 and the response covers the last Object in the Group, End Location is {Fetch.End Location.Group, 0}
  - Otherwise, End Location is Fetch.End Location Where Fetch.End Location is either Fetch.Standalone.End Location or the computed End Location described in Section 9.16.2.1.

If the relay is subscribed to the track, it uses its knowledge of the largest {Group, Object} to set End Location. If it is not subscribed and the requested End Location exceeds its cached data, the relay makes an upstream request to complete the FETCH, and uses the upstream response to set End Location.

If End Location is smaller than the Start Location in the corresponding FETCH the receiver MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

- \* Parameters: The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.
- \* Track Extensions : A sequence of Extension Headers. See Section 2.5.

### 9.18. FETCH\_CANCEL

A subscriber sends a `FETCH_CANCEL` message to a publisher to indicate it is no longer interested in receiving objects for the fetch identified by the 'Request ID'. The publisher **SHOULD** promptly close the unidirectional stream, even if it is in the middle of delivering an object.

The format of `FETCH_CANCEL` is as follows:

```
FETCH_CANCEL Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x17,  
    Length (16),  
    Request ID (i)  
}
```

Figure 20: MOQT `FETCH_CANCEL` Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID of the `FETCH` (Section 9.16) this message is cancelling.

### 9.19. TRACK\_STATUS

A potential subscriber sends a `TRACK_STATUS` message on the control stream to obtain information about the current status of a given track.

The `TRACK_STATUS` message format is identical to the `SUBSCRIBE` message (Section 9.9), but subscriber parameters related to Track delivery (e.g. `SUBSCRIBER_PRIORITY`) are not included.

The receiver of a `TRACK_STATUS` message treats it identically as if it had received a `SUBSCRIBE` message, except it does not create downstream subscription state or send any Objects. If successful, the publisher responds with a `REQUEST_OK` message with the same parameters it would have set in a `SUBSCRIBE_OK`. Track Alias is not used. A publisher responds to a failed `TRACK_STATUS` with an appropriate `REQUEST_ERROR` message.

Relays without an Established subscription **MAY** forward `TRACK_STATUS` to one or more publishers, or **MAY** initiate a subscription (subject to authorization) as described in Section 8.5 to determine the response. The publisher does not send `PUBLISH_DONE` for this request, and the subscriber cannot send `REQUEST_UPDATE` or `UNSUBSCRIBE`.

## 9.20. PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE

The publisher sends the PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE control message to advertise that it has tracks available within a Track Namespace. The receiver verifies the publisher is authorized to publish tracks under this namespace.

```
PUBLISH_NAMESPACE Message {
  Type (i) = 0x6,
  Length (16),
  Request ID (i),
  Track Namespace (...),
  Number of Parameters (i),
  Parameters (...) ...
}
```

Figure 21: MOQT PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE Message

- \* Request ID: See Section 9.1.
- \* Track Namespace: Identifies a track's namespace as defined in Section 2.4.1.
- \* Parameters: The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.

## 9.21. NAMESPACE

The NAMESPACE message is similar to the PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE message, except it is sent on the response stream of a SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE request. All NAMESPACE messages are in response to a SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, so only the namespace tuples after the 'Track Namespace Prefix' are included in the 'Track Namespace Suffix'.

```
NAMESPACE Message {
  Type (i) = 0x8,
  Length (16),
  Track Namespace Suffix (...),
}
```

Figure 22: MOQT NAMESPACE Message

- \* Track Namespace Suffix: Specifies the final portion of a track's namespace as defined in Section 2.4.1 after removing namespace tuples included in 'Track Namespace Prefix' {message-subscribe-ns}.

### 9.22. PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE

The publisher sends the PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE control message to indicate its intent to stop serving new subscriptions for tracks within the provided Track Namespace.

```
PUBLISH_NAMESPACE_DONE Message {  
    Type (i) = 0x9,  
    Length (16),  
    Request ID (i)  
}
```

Figure 23: MOQT PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID of the PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE that is being terminated. See Section 9.9.

### 9.23. NAMESPACE\_DONE

The publisher sends the NAMESPACE\_DONE control message to indicate its intent to stop serving new subscriptions for tracks within the provided Track Namespace. All NAMESPACE\_DONE messages are in response to a SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, so only the namespace tuples after the 'Track Namespace Prefix' are included in the 'Track Namespace Suffix'.

```
NAMESPACE_DONE Message {  
    Type (i) = 0xE,  
    Length (16),  
    Track Namespace Suffix (...)  
}
```

Figure 24: MOQT NAMESPACE\_DONE Message

- \* Track Namespace Suffix: Specifies the final portion of a track's namespace as defined in Section 2.4.1. The namespace begins with the 'Track Namespace Prefix' specified in {message-subscribe-ns}.

### 9.24. PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL

The subscriber sends an PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL control message to indicate it will stop sending new subscriptions for tracks within the provided Track Namespace.

```
PUBLISH_NAMESPACE_CANCEL Message {
  Type (i) = 0xC,
  Length (16),
  Request ID (i),
  Error Code (i),
  Error Reason (Reason Phrase)
}
```

Figure 25: MOQT PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL Message

- \* Request ID: The Request ID of the PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE that is being terminated. See Section 9.9.
- \* Error Code: Identifies an integer error code for canceling the publish. PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_CANCEL uses the same error codes as REQUEST\_ERROR (Section 9.8) that responds to PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE.
- \* Error Reason: Provides the reason for publish cancelation. See Section 1.4.3.

#### 9.25. SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE

The subscriber sends a SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE control message on a new bidirectional stream to a publisher to request the current set of matching published namespaces and/or Established subscriptions, as well as future updates to the set.

```
SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE Message {
  Type (i) = 0x11,
  Length (16),
  Request ID (i),
  Track Namespace Prefix (...),
  Subscribe Options (i),
  Number of Parameters (i),
  Parameters (...) ...
}
```

Figure 26: MOQT SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE Message

- \* Request ID: See Section 9.1.
- \* Track Namespace Prefix: A Track Namespace structure as described in Section 2.4.1 with between 0 and 32 Track Namespace Fields. This prefix is matched against track namespaces known to the publisher. For example, if the publisher is a relay that has received PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE messages for namespaces ("example.com", "meeting=123", "participant=100") and ("example.com", "meeting=123", "participant=200"), a SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE for

("example.com", "meeting=123") would match both. If an endpoint receives a Track Namespace Prefix consisting of greater than 32 Track Namespace Fields, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

- \* **Subscribe Options:** Allows subscribers to request `PUBLISH (0x00)`, `NAMESPACE (0x01)`, or both `(0x02)` for a given `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE` request.
- \* **Parameters:** The parameters are defined in Section 9.2.2.

The publisher will respond with `REQUEST_OK` or `REQUEST_ERROR` on the response half of the stream. If the `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE` is successful, the publisher will send matching `NAMESPACE` messages on the response stream if they are requested. If it is an error, the stream will be immediately closed via `FIN`. Also, any matching `PUBLISH` messages without an Established Subscription will be sent on the control stream. When there are changes to the namespaces or subscriptions being published and the subscriber is subscribed to them, the publisher sends the corresponding `NAMESPACE`, `NAMESPACE_DONE`, or `PUBLISH` messages.

A subscriber cannot make overlapping namespace subscriptions on a single session. Within a session, if a publisher receives a `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE` with a Track Namespace Prefix that shares a common prefix with an established namespace subscription, it MUST respond with `REQUEST_ERROR` with error code `PREFIX_OVERLAP`.

The publisher MUST ensure the subscriber is authorized to perform this namespace subscription.

`SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE` is not required for a publisher to send `PUBLISH_NAMESPACE`, `PUBLISH_NAMESPACE_DONE` or `PUBLISH` messages to a subscriber. It is useful in applications or relays where subscribers are only interested in or authorized to access a subset of available namespaces and tracks.

If the `FORWARD` parameter (Section 9.2.2.8) is present in this message and equal to 0, `PUBLISH` messages resulting from this `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE` will set the `FORWARD` parameter to 0. If the `FORWARD` parameter is equal to 1 or omitted from this message, `PUBLISH` messages resulting from this `SUBSCRIBE_NAMESPACE` will set the `FORWARD` parameter to 1, or indicate that value by omitting the parameter (see Section 5.1).

The publisher MUST NOT send `NAMESPACE_DONE` for a namespace suffix before the corresponding `NAMESPACE`. If a subscriber receives a `NAMESPACE_DONE` before the corresponding `NAMESPACE`, it MUST close the session with a `'PROTOCOL_VIOLATION'`.

## 10. Data Streams and Datagrams

A publisher sends Objects matching a subscription on Data Streams or Datagrams and sends Objects matching a `FETCH` request on one Data Stream.

All unidirectional MOQT streams start with a variable-length integer indicating the type of the stream in question.

ID	Type
0x10-0x1D	SUBGROUP_HEADER (Section 10.4.2)
0x05	FETCH_HEADER (Section 10.4.4)

Table 3

All MOQT datagrams start with a variable-length integer indicating the type of the datagram. See Section 10.3.1.

An endpoint that receives an unknown stream or datagram type MUST close the session.

Every Object has a `'Object Forwarding Preference'` and the Original Publisher MAY use both Subgroups and Datagrams within a Group or Track.

### 10.1. Track Alias

To optimize wire efficiency, Subgroups and Datagrams refer to a track by a numeric identifier, rather than the Full Track Name. Track Alias is chosen by the publisher and included in `SUBSCRIBE_OK` (Section 9.10) or `PUBLISH` (Section 9.13).

Objects can arrive after a subscription has been cancelled. Subscribers SHOULD retain sufficient state to quickly discard these unwanted Objects, rather than treating them as belonging to an unknown Track Alias.

## 10.2. Objects

An Object contains a range of contiguous bytes from the specified track, as well as associated metadata required to deliver, cache, and forward it. Objects are sent by publishers.

### 10.2.1. Canonical Object Properties

A canonical MoQ Object has the following information:

- \* Track Namespace and Track Name: The track this object belongs to.
- \* Group ID: The identifier of the Object's Group (see Section 2.3) within the Track.
- \* Object ID: The order of the object within the group.
- \* Publisher Priority: An 8 bit integer indicating the publisher's priority for the Object (Section 7).
- \* Object Forwarding Preference: An enumeration indicating how a publisher sends an object. The preferences are Subgroup and Datagram. Object Forwarding Preference is a property of an individual Object and can vary among Objects in the same Track. In a subscription, an Object MUST be sent according to its Object Forwarding Preference.
- \* Subgroup ID: The identifier of the Object's Subgroup (see Section 2.2) within the Group. This field is omitted if the Object Forwarding Preference is Datagram.
- \* Object Status: An enumeration used to indicate whether the Object is a normal Object or mark the end of a group or track. See Section 10.2.1.1 below.
- \* Object Extensions : A sequence of Extensions associated with the object. See Section 10.2.1.2.
- \* Object Payload: An opaque payload intended for an End Subscriber and SHOULD NOT be processed by a relay. Only present when 'Object Status' is Normal (0x0).

#### 10.2.1.1. Object Status

The Object Status is a field that is only present in objects that are delivered via a SUBSCRIPTION, and is absent in Objects delivered via a FETCH. It allows the publisher to explicitly communicate that a specific range of objects does not exist.

Status can have following values:

- \* 0x0 := Normal object. This status is implicit for any non-zero length object. Zero-length objects explicitly encode the Normal status.
- \* 0x3 := Indicates End of Group. Indicates that no objects with the specified Group ID and the Object ID that is greater than or equal to the one specified exist in the group identified by the Group ID.
- \* 0x4 := Indicates End of Track. Indicates that no objects with the location that is equal to or greater than the one specified exist.

All of those SHOULD be cached.

Any other value SHOULD be treated as a protocol error and the session SHOULD be closed with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION` (Section 3.4). Any object with a status code other than zero MUST have an empty payload.

#### 10.2.1.2. Object Extension Headers

Any Object with status Normal can have extension headers (Section 2.5). If an endpoint receives extension headers on Objects with status that is not Normal, it MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

Object Extension Headers are visible to relays and are intended to be relevant to MOQT Object distribution. Any Object metadata never intended to be accessed by the transport or Relays SHOULD be serialized as part of the Object payload and not as an extension header.

Object Extension Headers are serialized as a length in bytes followed by Key-Value-Pairs (see Figure 2).

```
Extensions {  
    Extension Headers Length (i),  
    Extension Headers (...),  
}
```

Object Extension Header types are registered in the IANA table 'MOQ Extension Headers'. See Section 13.

### 10.3. Datagrams

A single object can be conveyed in a datagram. The Track Alias field (Section 10.1) indicates the track this Datagram belongs to. If an endpoint receives a datagram with an unknown Track Alias, it MAY drop the datagram or choose to buffer it for a brief period to handle reordering with the control message that establishes the Track Alias.

An Object received in an OBJECT\_DATAGRAM message has an Object Forwarding Preference = Datagram.

To send an Object with Object Forwarding Preference = Datagram, determine the length of the header and payload and send the Object as datagram. When the total size is larger than the maximum datagram size for the session, the Object will be dropped without any explicit notification.

Each session along the path between the Original Publisher and End Subscriber might have different maximum datagram sizes. Additionally, Object Extension Headers (Section 10.2.1.2) can be added to Objects as they pass through the MOQT network, increasing the size of the Object and the chances it will exceed the maximum datagram size of a downstream session and be dropped.

#### 10.3.1. Object Datagram

An OBJECT\_DATAGRAM carries a single object in a datagram.

```
OBJECT_DATAGRAM {
  Type (i) = 0x00..0x0F / 0x20..0x21 / 0x24..0x25 /
              0x28..0x29 / 0x2C..0x2D,
  Track Alias (i),
  Group ID (i),
  [Object ID (i),]
  [Publisher Priority (8),]
  [Extensions (..),]
  [Object Status (i),]
  [Object Payload (..),]
}
```

Figure 27: MOQT OBJECT\_DATAGRAM

The Type field in the OBJECT\_DATAGRAM takes the form 0b00X0XXXX (or the set of values from 0x00 to 0x0F, 0x20 to 0x2F). However, not all Type values in this range are valid. The four low-order bits and bit 5 of the Type field determine which fields are present in the datagram:

- \* The `*EXTENSIONS*` bit (0x01) indicates when the Extensions field is present. When set to 1, the Extensions structure defined in Section 10.2.1.2 is present. When set to 0, the Extensions field is absent. If an endpoint receives a datagram with the `EXTENSIONS` bit set and an Extension Headers Length of 0, it **MUST** close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.
- \* The `*END_OF_GROUP*` bit (0x02) indicates End of Group. When set to 1, this indicates that no Object with the same Group ID and an Object ID greater than the Object ID in this datagram exists.
- \* The `*ZERO_OBJECT_ID*` bit (0x04) indicates when the Object ID field is present. When set to 1, the Object ID field is omitted and the Object ID is
  1. When set to 0, the Object ID field is present.
- \* The `*DEFAULT_PRIORITY*` bit (0x08) indicates when the Priority field is present. When set to 1, the Priority field is omitted and this Object inherits the Publisher Priority specified in the control message that established the subscription. When set to 0, the Priority field is present.
- \* The `*STATUS*` bit (0x20) indicates whether the datagram contains an Object Status or Object Payload. When set to 1, the Object Status field is present and there is no Object Payload. When set to 0, the Object Payload is present and the Object Status field is omitted. There is no explicit length field for the Object Payload; the entirety of the transport datagram following the Object header fields contains the payload.

The following Type values are invalid. If an endpoint receives a datagram with any of these Type values, it **MUST** close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`:

- \* Type values with both the `STATUS` bit (0x20) and `END_OF_GROUP` bit (0x02) set: 0x22, 0x23, 0x26, 0x27, 0x2A, 0x2B, 0x2E, 0x2F. An object status message cannot signal end of group.
- \* Type values that do not match the form 0b00X0XXXX (i.e., Type values outside the ranges 0x00..0x0F and 0x20..0x2F).

## 10.4. Streams

When Objects are sent on streams, the stream begins with a Subgroup or Fetch Header and is followed by one or more sets of serialized Object fields. If a stream ends gracefully (i.e., the stream terminates with a FIN) in the middle of a serialized Object, the session SHOULD be closed with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

A publisher SHOULD NOT open more than one stream at a time with the same Subgroup Header field values.

### 10.4.1. Stream Cancellation

Streams aside from the control stream MAY be canceled due to congestion or other reasons by either the publisher or subscriber. Early termination of a stream does not affect the MoQ application state, and therefore has no effect on outstanding subscriptions.

### 10.4.2. Subgroup Header

All Objects on a Subgroup stream belong to the track identified by Track Alias (see Section 10.1) and the Subgroup indicated by 'Group ID' and Subgroup ID indicated by the `SUBGROUP_HEADER`.

If an endpoint receives a subgroup with an unknown Track Alias, it MAY abandon the stream, or choose to buffer it for a brief period to handle reordering with the control message that establishes the Track Alias. The endpoint MAY withhold stream flow control beyond the `SUBGROUP_HEADER` until the Track Alias has been established. To prevent deadlocks, the publisher MUST allocate connection flow control to the control stream before allocating it any data streams. Otherwise, a receiver might wait for a control message containing a Track Alias to release flow control, while the sender waits for flow control to send the message.

```
SUBGROUP_HEADER {  
  Type (i) = 0x10..0x15 / 0x18..0x1D / 0x30..0x35 / 0x38..0x3D,  
  Track Alias (i),  
  Group ID (i),  
  [Subgroup ID (i),]  
  [Publisher Priority (8),]  
}
```

Figure 28: MOQT `SUBGROUP_HEADER`

All Objects received on a stream opened with `SUBGROUP_HEADER` have an Object Forwarding Preference = Subgroup.

The Type field in the SUBGROUP\_HEADER takes the form 0b00X1XXXX (or the set of values from 0x10 to 0x1F, 0x30 to 0x3F), where bit 4 is always set to 1. However, not all Type values in this range are valid. The four low-order bits and bit 5 determine which fields are present in the header:

- \* The \*EXTENSIONS\* bit (0x01) indicates when the Extensions field is present in all Objects in this Subgroup. When set to 1, the Extensions structure defined in Section 10.2.1.2 is present in all Objects. When set to 0, the Extensions field is never present. Objects with no extensions set Extension Headers Length to 0.
- \* The \*SUBGROUP\_ID\_MODE\* field (bits 1-2, mask 0x06) is a two-bit field that determines the encoding of the Subgroup ID. To extract this value, perform a bitwise AND with mask 0x06 and right-shift by 1 bit:
  - 0b00: The Subgroup ID field is absent and the Subgroup ID is 0.
  - 0b01: The Subgroup ID field is absent and the Subgroup ID is the Object ID of the first Object transmitted in this Subgroup.
  - 0b10: The Subgroup ID field is present in the header.
  - 0b11: Reserved for future use.
- \* The \*END\_OF\_GROUP\* bit (0x08) indicates that this subgroup contains the largest Object in the Group. When set to 1, the subscriber can infer the final Object in the Group when the data stream is terminated by a FIN. In this case, Objects that have the same Group ID and an Object ID larger than the last Object received on the stream do not exist. This does not apply when the data stream is terminated with a RESET\_STREAM or RESET\_STREAM\_AT.
- \* The \*DEFAULT\_PRIORITY\* bit (0x20) indicates when the Priority field is present. When set to 1, the Priority field is omitted and this Subgroup inherits the Publisher Priority specified in the control message that established the subscription. When set to 0, the Priority field is present in the Subgroup header.

The following Type values are invalid. If an endpoint receives a stream header with any of these Type values, it MUST close the session with a PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION:

- \* Type values with SUBGROUP\_ID\_MODE set to 0b11: 0x16, 0x17, 0x1E, 0x1F, 0x36, 0x37, 0x3E, 0x3F. This mode is reserved for future use.

- \* Type values that do not match the form 0b00X1XXXX (i.e., Type values outside the ranges 0x10..0x1F and 0x30..0x3F, or values where bit 4 is not set).

To send an Object with Object Forwarding Preference = Subgroup, find the open stream that is associated with the subscription, Group ID and Subgroup ID, or open a new one and send the SUBGROUP\_HEADER. Then serialize the following fields.

The Object Status field is only sent if the Object Payload Length is zero.

The Object ID Delta + 1 is added to the previous Object ID in the Subgroup stream if there was one. The Object ID is the Object ID Delta if it's the first Object in the Subgroup stream. For example, a Subgroup of sequential Object IDs starting at 0 will have 0 for all Object ID Delta values. A consumer cannot infer information about the existence of Objects between the current and previous Object ID in the Subgroup (e.g. when Object ID Delta is non-zero) unless there is an Prior Object ID Gap extension header (see Section 11.4).

```
{
  Object ID Delta (i),
  [Extensions (..),]
  Object Payload Length (i),
  [Object Status (i),]
  [Object Payload (..),]
}
```

Figure 29: MOQT Subgroup Object Fields

#### 10.4.3. Closing Subgroup Streams

Subscribers will often need to know if they have received all objects in a Subgroup, particularly if they serve as a relay or cache. QUIC and Webtransport streams provide signals that can be used for this purpose. Closing Subgroups promptly frees system resources and often unlocks flow control credit to open more streams.

If a sender has delivered all objects in a Subgroup to the QUIC stream, except any Objects with Locations smaller than the subscription's Start Location, it MUST close the stream with a FIN.

If a sender closes the stream before delivering all such objects to the QUIC stream, it MUST use a RESET\_STREAM or RESET\_STREAM\_AT [I-D.draft-ietf-quic-reliable-stream-reset] frame. This includes, but is not limited to:

- \* An Object in an open Subgroup exceeding its Delivery Timeout
- \* Early termination of subscription due to an UNSUBSCRIBE message
- \* A publisher's decision to end the subscription early
- \* A REQUEST\_UPDATE moving the subscription's End Group to a smaller Group or the Start Location to a larger Location
- \* Omitting a Subgroup Object due to the subscriber's Forward State

When RESET\_STREAM\_AT is used, the reliable\_size SHOULD include the stream header so the receiver can identify the corresponding subscription and accurately account for reset data streams when handling PUBLISH\_DONE (see Section 9.15). Publishers that reset data streams without using RESET\_STREAM\_AT with an appropriate reliable\_size can cause subscribers to hold on to subscription state until a timeout expires.

A sender might send all objects in a Subgroup and the FIN on a QUIC stream, and then reset the stream. In this case, the receiving application would receive the FIN if and only if all objects were received. If the application receives all data on the stream and the FIN, it can ignore any RESET\_STREAM it receives.

If a sender will not deliver any objects from a Subgroup, it MAY send a SUBGROUP\_HEADER on a new stream, with no objects, and then send RESET\_STREAM\_AT with a reliable\_size equal to the length of the stream header. This explicitly tells the receiver there is an unsent Subgroup.

A relay MUST NOT forward an Object on an existing Subgroup stream unless it is the next Object in that Subgroup. A relay determines that an Object is the next Object in the Subgroup if at least one of the following is true:

- \* The Object ID is one greater than the previous Object sent on this Subgroup stream.
- \* The Object was received on the same upstream Subgroup stream as the previously sent Object on the downstream Subgroup stream, with no other Objects in between.
- \* It determined all Object IDs between the current and previous Object IDs on the Subgroup stream belong to different Subgroups or do not exist.

If the relay does not know if an Object is the next Object, it MUST reset the Subgroup stream and open a new one to forward it.

Since SUBSCRIBES always end on a group boundary, an ending subscription can always cleanly close all its subgroups. A sender that terminates a stream early for any other reason (e.g., to handoff to a different sender) MUST use RESET\_STREAM or RESET\_STREAM\_AT. Senders SHOULD terminate a stream on Group boundaries to avoid doing so.

An MOQT implementation that processes a stream FIN is assured it has received all objects in a subgroup from the start of the subscription. If a relay, it can forward stream FINs to its own subscribers once those objects have been sent. A relay MAY treat receipt of EndOfGroup or EndOfTrack objects as a signal to close corresponding streams even if the FIN has not arrived, as further objects on the stream would be a protocol violation.

Similarly, an EndOfGroup message indicates the maximum Object ID in the Group, so if all Objects in the Group have been received, a FIN can be sent on any stream where the entire subgroup has been sent. This might be complex to implement.

Processing a RESET\_STREAM or RESET\_STREAM\_AT means that there might be other objects in the Subgroup beyond the last one received. A relay might immediately reset the corresponding downstream stream, or it might attempt to recover the missing Objects in an effort to send all the Objects in the subgroups and the FIN. It also might send RESET\_STREAM\_AT with reliable\_size set to the last Object it has, so as to reliably deliver the Objects it has while signaling that other Objects might exist.

A subscriber MAY send a QUIC STOP\_SENDING frame for a subgroup stream if the Group or Subgroup is no longer of interest to it. The publisher SHOULD respond with RESET\_STREAM or RESET\_STREAM\_AT. If RESET\_STREAM\_AT is sent, note that the receiver has indicated no interest in the objects, so setting a reliable\_size beyond the stream header is of questionable utility.

RESET\_STREAM and STOP\_SENDING on SUBSCRIBE data streams have no impact on other Subgroups in the Group or the subscription, although applications might cancel all Subgroups in a Group at once.

A publisher that receives a STOP\_SENDING on a Subgroup stream SHOULD NOT attempt to open a new stream to deliver additional Objects in that Subgroup.

The application SHOULD use a relevant error code in RESET\_STREAM or RESET\_STREAM\_AT, as defined below:

INTERNAL\_ERROR (0x0): An implementation specific error.

CANCELLED (0x1): The subscriber requested cancellation via UNSUBSCRIBE, FETCH\_CANCEL or STOP\_SENDING, or the publisher ended the subscription, in which case PUBLISH\_DONE (Section 9.15) will have a more detailed status code.

DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT (0x2): The DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT Section 9.2.2.2 was exceeded for this stream.

SESSION\_CLOSED (0x3): The publisher session is being closed.

UNKNOWN\_OBJECT\_STATUS (0x4): In response to a FETCH, the publisher is unable to determine the Status of the next Object in the requested range.

MALFORMED\_TRACK (0x12): A relay publisher detected that the track was malformed (see Section 2.4.2).

#### 10.4.4. Fetch Header

When a stream begins with FETCH\_HEADER, all objects on the stream belong to the track requested in the Fetch message identified by Request ID.

```
FETCH_HEADER {  
    Type (i) = 0x5,  
    Request ID (i),  
}
```

Figure 30: MOQT FETCH\_HEADER

Each Object sent on a FETCH stream after the FETCH\_HEADER has the following format:

```
{  
    Serialization Flags (i),  
    [Group ID (i),]  
    [Subgroup ID (i),]  
    [Object ID (i),]  
    [Publisher Priority (8),]  
    [Extensions (...),]  
    Object Payload Length (i),  
    [Object Payload (...),]  
}
```

Figure 31: MOQT Fetch Object Fields

The Serialization Flags field defines the serialization of the Object. It is a variable-length integer. When less than 128, the bits represent flags described below. The following additional values are defined:

Value	Meaning
0x8C	End of Non-Existent Range
0x10C	End of Unknown Range

Table 4

Any other value is a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

#### 10.4.4.1. Flags

The two least significant bits (LSBs) of the Serialization Flags form a two-bit field that defines the encoding of the Subgroup. To extract this value, the Subscriber performs a bitwise AND operation with the mask 0x03.

Bitmask Result (Serialization Flags & 0x03)	Meaning
0x00	Subgroup ID is zero
0x01	Subgroup ID is the prior Object's Subgroup ID
0x02	Subgroup ID is the prior Object's Subgroup ID plus one
0x03	The Subgroup ID field is present

Table 5

The following table defines additional flags within the Serialization Flags field. Each flag is an independent boolean value, where a set bit (1) indicates the corresponding condition is true.

Bitmask	Condition if set	Condition if not set (0)
0x04	Object ID field is present	Object ID is the prior Object's ID plus one
0x08	Group ID field is present	Group ID is the prior Object's Group ID
0x10	Priority field is present	Priority is the prior Object's Priority
0x20	Extensions field is present	Extensions field is not present
0x40	Datagram: ignore the two least significant bits	Use the subgroup ID in the two least significant bits

Table 6

If the first Object in the FETCH response uses a flag that references fields in the prior Object, the Subscriber MUST close the session with a `PROTOCOL_VIOLATION`.

The Extensions structure is defined in Section 10.2.1.2.

When encoding an Object with a Forwarding Preference of "Datagram" (see Section 10.2.1), the object has no Subgroup ID. The publisher MUST SET bit 0x40 to '1'. When 0x40 is set, it SHOULD set the two least significant bits to zero and the subscriber MUST ignore the bits.

#### 10.4.4.2. End of Range

When Serialization Flags indicates an End of Range (e.g. values 0x8C or 0x10C), the Group ID and Object ID fields are present. Subgroup ID, Priority and Extensions are not present. All Objects with Locations between the last serialized Object, if any, and this Location, inclusive, either do not exist (when Serialization Flags is 0x8C) or are unknown (0x10C). A publisher SHOULD NOT use End of Non-Existent Range in a FETCH response except to split a range of Objects that will not be serialized into those that are known not to exist and those with unknown status.

### 10.5. Examples

Sending a subgroup on one stream:

Stream = 2

```
SUBGROUP_HEADER {
  Type = 0x14
  Track Alias = 2
  Group ID = 0
  Subgroup ID = 0
  Priority = 0
}
{
  Object ID = 0
  Object Payload Length = 4
  Payload = "abcd"
}
{
  Object ID = 1
  Object Payload Length = 4
  Payload = "efgh"
}
```

Sending a group on one stream, with the first object containing two Extension Headers.

```
Stream = 2

SUBGROUP_HEADER {
  Type = 0x35
  Track Alias = 2
  Group ID = 0
  Subgroup ID = 0
}
{
  Object ID Delta = 0 (Object ID is 0)
  Extension Headers Length = 33
  { Type = 4
    Value = 2186796243
  },
  { Type = 77
    Length = 21
    Value = "traceID:123456"
  }
  Object Payload Length = 4
  Payload = "abcd"
}
{
  Object ID Delta = 0 (Object ID is 1)
  Extension Headers Length = 0
  Object Payload Length = 4
  Payload = "efgh"
}
```

## 11. Extension Headers

The following Extension Headers are defined in MOQT. Each Extension Header specifies whether it can be used with Tracks, Objects, or both.

### 11.1. DELIVERY TIMEOUT

The DELIVERY TIMEOUT extension (Extension Header Type 0x02) is a Track Extension. It expresses the publisher's DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT for a Track (see Section 9.2.2.2).

DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT, if present, MUST contain a value greater than 0. If an endpoint receives a DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT equal to 0 it MUST close the session with PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION.

If unspecified, the subscriber's DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT is used. If neither endpoint specified a timeout, Objects do not time out.

#### 11.1.1.1. MAX CACHE DURATION

The MAX\_CACHE\_DURATION extension (Extension Header Type 0x04) is a Track Extension.

It is an integer expressing the number of milliseconds an Object can be served from a cache. If present, the relay MUST NOT start forwarding any individual Object received through this subscription or fetch after the specified number of milliseconds has elapsed since the beginning of the Object was received. This means Objects earlier in a multi-object stream will expire earlier than Objects later in the stream. Once Objects have expired from cache, their state becomes unknown, and a relay that handles a downstream request that includes those Objects re-requests them.

If the MAX\_CACHE\_DURATION extension is not sent by the publisher, the Objects can be cached until implementation constraints cause them to be evicted.

##### 11.1.1.1.1. DEFAULT PUBLISHER PRIORITY

The DEFAULT\_PUBLISHER\_PRIORITY extension (Extension Header Type 0x0E) is a Track Extension that specifies the priority of a subscription relative to other subscriptions in the same session. The value is from 0 to 255 and lower numbers get higher priority. See Section 7. Priorities above 255 are invalid. Subgroups and Datagrams for this subscription inherit this priority, unless they specifically override it.

A subscription has Publisher Priority 128 if this extension is omitted.

##### 11.1.1.1.2. DEFAULT PUBLISHER GROUP ORDER

The DEFAULT\_PUBLISHER\_GROUP\_ORDER extension (Extension Header Type 0x22) is a Track Extension.

It is an enum indicating the publisher's preference for prioritizing Objects from different groups within the same subscription (see Section 7). The allowed values are Ascending (0x1) or Descending (0x2). If an endpoint receives a value outside this range, it MUST close the session with PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION.

If omitted, the publisher's preference is Ascending (0x1).

#### 11.1.1.3. DYNAMIC GROUPS

The DYNAMIC\_GROUPS Extension (Extension Header Type 0x30) is a Track Extension. The allowed values are 0 or 1. When the value is 1, it indicates that the subscriber can request the Original Publisher to start a new Group by including the NEW\_GROUP\_REQUEST parameter in PUBLISH\_OK or REQUEST\_UPDATE for this Track. If an endpoint receives a value larger than 1, it MUST close the session with PROTOCOL\_VIOLATION.

If omitted, the value is 0.

#### 11.2. Immutable Extensions

The Immutable Extensions (Extension Header Type 0xB) contains a sequence of Key-Value-Pairs (see Figure 2) which are also Track or Object Extension Headers.

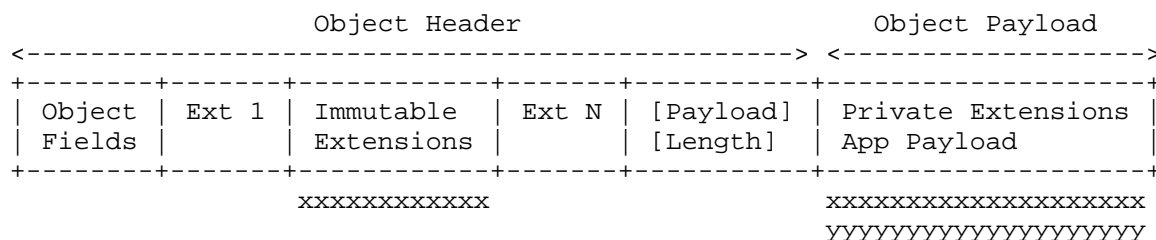
```
Immutable Extensions {  
    Type (0xB),  
    Length (i),  
    Key-Value-Pair (...) ...  
}
```

This extension can be added by the Original Publisher, but MUST NOT be added by Relays. This extension MUST NOT be modified or removed. Relays MUST cache this extension if the Object is cached and MUST forward this extension if the enclosing Object is forwarded. Relays MAY decode and view these extensions.

A Track is considered malformed (see Section 2.4.2) if any of the following conditions are detected:

- \* An Object contains an Immutable Extensions header that contains another Immutable Extensions key.
- \* A Key-Value-Pair cannot be parsed.

The following figure shows an example Object structure with a combination of mutable and immutable extensions and end to end encrypted metadata in the Object payload.



x = e2e Authenticated Data

y = e2e Encrypted Data

EXT 1 and EXT N can be modified or removed by Relays

An Object MUST NOT contain more than one instance of this extension header.

### 11.3. Prior Group ID Gap

Prior Group ID Gap only applies to Objects, not Tracks.

Prior Group ID Gap (Extension Header Type 0x3C) is a variable length integer containing the number of Groups prior to the current Group that do not and will never exist. For example, if the Original Publisher is publishing an Object in Group 7 and knows it will never publish any Objects in Group 8 or Group 9, it can include Prior Group ID Gap = 2 in any number of Objects in Group 10, as it sees fit. A Track is considered malformed (see Section 2.4.2) if any of the following conditions are detected:

- \* An Object contains more than one instance of Prior Group ID Gap.
- \* A Group contains more than one Object with different values for Prior Group ID Gap.
- \* An Object has a Prior Group ID Gap larger than the Group ID.
- \* An endpoint receives an Object with a Prior Group ID Gap covering an Object it previously received.
- \* An endpoint receives an Object with a Group ID within a previously communicated gap.

This extension is optional, as publishers might not know the prior gap size, or there may not be a gap. If Prior Group ID Gap is not present, the receiver cannot infer any information about the existence of prior groups (see Section 2.3.1).

This extension can be added by the Original Publisher, but MUST NOT be added by relays. This extension MAY be removed by relay when the object in question is served via FETCH, and the gap that the extension communicates is already communicated implicitly in the FETCH response; it MUST NOT be modified or removed otherwise.

An Object MUST NOT contain more than one instance of this extension header.

#### 11.4. Prior Object ID Gap

Prior Object ID Gap only applies to Objects, not Tracks.

Prior Object ID Gap (Extension Header Type 0x3E) is a variable length integer containing the number of Objects prior to the current Object that do not and will never exist. For example, if the Original Publisher is publishing Object 10 in Group 3 and knows it will never publish Objects 8 or 9 in this Group, it can include Prior Object ID Gap = 2. A Track is considered malformed (see Section 2.4.2) if any of the following conditions are detected:

- \* An Object contains more than one instance of Prior Object ID Gap.
- \* An Object has a Prior Object ID Gap larger than the Object ID.
- \* An endpoint receives an Object with a Prior Object ID Gap covering an Object it previously received.
- \* An endpoint receives an Object with an Object ID within a previously communicated gap.

This extension is optional, as publishers might not know the prior gap size, or there may not be a gap. If Prior Object ID Gap is not present, the receiver cannot infer any information about the existence of prior objects (see Section 2.1).

This extension can be added by the Original Publisher, but MUST NOT be added by relays. This extension MAY be removed by relay when the object in question is served via FETCH, and the gap that the extension communicates is already communicated implicitly in the FETCH response; it MUST NOT be modified or removed otherwise.

An Object MUST NOT contain more than one instance of this extension header.

## 12. Security Considerations

TODO: Expand this section, including subscriptions.

TODO: Describe Cache Poisoning attacks

### 12.1. Resource Exhaustion

Live content requires significant bandwidth and resources. Failure to set limits will quickly cause resource exhaustion.

MOQT uses stream limits and flow control to impose resource limits at the network layer. Endpoints SHOULD set flow control limits based on the anticipated bitrate.

Endpoints MAY impose a MAX STREAM count limit which would restrict the number of concurrent streams which an application could have in flight.

The publisher prioritizes and transmits streams out of order. Streams might be starved indefinitely during congestion. The publisher and subscriber MUST cancel a stream, preferably the one with the lowest priority, after reaching a resource limit.

### 12.2. Timeouts

Implementations are advised to use timeouts to prevent resource exhaustion attacks by a peer that does not send expected data within an expected time. Each implementation is expected to set its own timeouts.

### 12.3. Relay security considerations

#### 12.3.1. State maintenance

A Relay SHOULD have mechanisms to prevent malicious endpoints from flooding it with PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE or SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE requests that could bloat data structures. It could use the advertised MAX\_REQUEST\_ID to limit the number of such requests, or could have application-specific policies that can reject incoming PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE or SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE requests that cause the state maintenance for the session to be excessive.

### 12.3.2. SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE with short prefixes

A Relay can use authorization rules in order to prevent subscriptions closer to the root of a large prefix tree. Otherwise, if an entity sends a relay a SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE message with a short prefix, it can cause the relay to send a large volume of PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE messages. As churn continues in the tree of prefixes, the relay would have to continue to send PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE/PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_DONE messages to the entity that had sent the SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE.

TODO: Security/Privacy Considerations of MOQT\_IMPLEMENTATION parameter

## 13. IANA Considerations

TODO: fill out currently missing registries:

- \* MOQT ALPN values
- \* Setup parameters
- \* Non-setup Parameters - List which params can be repeated in the table.
- \* Message types
- \* MOQ Extension headers - we wish to reserve extension types 0-63 for standards utilization where space is a premium, 64 - 16383 for standards utilization where space is less of a concern, and 16384 and above for first-come-first-served non-standardization usage. List which headers can be repeated in the table.
- \* MOQT Auth Token Type

TODO: register the URI scheme and the ALPN and grease the Extension types

### 13.1. Authorization Token Alias Type

Code	Name	Specification
0x0	DELETE	Section 9.2.2.1
0x1	REGISTER	Section 9.2.2.1
0x2	USE_ALIAS	Section 9.2.2.1

0x3	USE_VALUE	Section 9.2.2.1
-----	-----------	-----------------

Table 7

## 13.2. Message Parameters

Parameter Type	Parameter Name	Specification
0x02	DELIVERY_TIMEOUT	Section 9.2.2.2
0x03	AUTHORIZATION_TOKEN	Section 9.2.2.1
0x08	EXPIRES	Section 9.2.2.6
0x09	LARGEST_OBJECT	Section 9.2.2.7
0x10	FORWARD	Section 9.2.2.8
0x20	SUBSCRIBER_PRIORITY	Section 9.2.2.3
0x21	SUBSCRIPTION_FILTER	Section 9.2.2.5
0x22	GROUP_ORDER	Section 9.2.2.4
0x32	NEW_GROUP_REQUEST	Section 9.2.2.9

Table 8

## 13.3. Extension Headers

Type	Name	Scope	Specification
0x02	DELIVERY_TIMEOUT	Track	Section 11.1
0x04	MAX_CACHE_DURATION	Track	Section 11.1.1
0x0B	IMMUTABLE_EXTENSIONS	Track, Object	Section 11.2
0x0E	DEFAULT_PUBLISHER_PRIORITY	Track	Section 11.1.1.1
0x22	DEFAULT_PUBLISHER_GROUP_ORDER	Track	Section

			11.1.1.2	
0x30	DYNAMIC_GROUPS	Track	Section 11.1.1.3	
0x3C	PRIOR_GROUP_ID_GAP	Object	Section 11.3	
0x3E	PRIOR_OBJECT_ID_GAP	Object	Section 11.4	

Table 9

### 13.4. Error Codes

#### 13.4.1. Session Termination Error Codes

Name	Code	Specification
NO_ERROR	0x0	Section 3.4
INTERNAL_ERROR	0x1	Section 3.4
UNAUTHORIZED	0x2	Section 3.4
PROTOCOL_VIOLATION	0x3	Section 3.4
INVALID_REQUEST_ID	0x4	Section 3.4
DUPLICATE_TRACK_ALIAS	0x5	Section 3.4
KEY_VALUE_FORMATTING_ERROR	0x6	Section 3.4
TOO_MANY_REQUESTS	0x7	Section 3.4
INVALID_PATH	0x8	Section 3.4
MALFORMED_PATH	0x9	Section 3.4
GOAWAY_TIMEOUT	0x10	Section 3.4
CONTROL_MESSAGE_TIMEOUT	0x11	Section 3.4
DATA_STREAM_TIMEOUT	0x12	Section 3.4
AUTH_TOKEN_CACHE_OVERFLOW	0x13	Section 3.4
DUPLICATE_AUTH_TOKEN_ALIAS	0x14	Section 3.4

VERSION_NEGOTIATION_FAILED	0x15	Section 3.4
MALFORMED_AUTH_TOKEN	0x16	Section 3.4
UNKNOWN_AUTH_TOKEN_ALIAS	0x17	Section 3.4
EXPIRED_AUTH_TOKEN	0x18	Section 3.4
INVALID_AUTHORITY	0x19	Section 3.4
MALFORMED_AUTHORITY	0x1A	Section 3.4

Table 10

## 13.4.2. REQUEST\_ERROR Codes

Name	Code	Specification
INTERNAL_ERROR	0x0	Section 9.8
UNAUTHORIZED	0x1	Section 9.8
TIMEOUT	0x2	Section 9.8
NOT_SUPPORTED	0x3	Section 9.8
MALFORMED_AUTH_TOKEN	0x4	Section 9.8
EXPIRED_AUTH_TOKEN	0x5	Section 9.8
DOES_NOT_EXIST	0x10	Section 9.8
INVALID_RANGE	0x11	Section 9.8
MALFORMED_TRACK	0x12	Section 9.8
DUPLICATE_SUBSCRIPTION	0x19	Section 9.8
UNINTERESTED	0x20	Section 9.8
PREFIX_OVERLAP	0x30	Section 9.8
INVALID_JOINING_REQUEST_ID	0x32	Section 9.8

Table 11

## 13.4.3. PUBLISH\_DONE Codes

Name	Code	Specification
INTERNAL_ERROR	0x0	Section 9.15
UNAUTHORIZED	0x1	Section 9.15
TRACK_ENDED	0x2	Section 9.15
SUBSCRIPTION_ENDED	0x3	Section 9.15
GOING_AWAY	0x4	Section 9.15
EXPIRED	0x5	Section 9.15
TOO_FAR_BEHIND	0x6	Section 9.15
UPDATE_FAILED	0x8	Section 9.15
MALFORMED_TRACK	0x12	Section 9.15

Table 12

## 13.4.4. Data Stream Reset Error Codes

Name	Code	Specification
INTERNAL_ERROR	0x0	Section 10.4.3
CANCELLED	0x1	Section 10.4.3
DELIVERY_TIMEOUT	0x2	Section 10.4.3
SESSION_CLOSED	0x3	Section 10.4.3
UNKNOWN_OBJECT_STATUS	0x4	Section 10.4.3
MALFORMED_TRACK	0x12	Section 10.4.3

Table 13

## Contributors

The original design behind this protocol was inspired by three independent proposals: WARP [I-D.draft-lcurley-warp] by Luke Curley, RUSH [I-D.draft-kpugin-rush] by Kirill Pugin, Nitin Garg, Alan Frindell, Jordi Cenzano and Jake Weissman, and QUICR [I-D.draft-jennings-moq-quicr-proto] by Cullen Jennings, Suhas Nandakumar and Christian Huitema. The authors of those documents merged their proposals to create the first draft of moq-transport. The IETF MoQ Working Group received an enormous amount of support from many people. The following people provided substantive contributions to this document:

- \* Ali Begen
- \* Charles Krasic
- \* Christian Huitema
- \* Cullen Jennings
- \* James Hurley
- \* Jordi Cenzano
- \* Kirill Pugin
- \* Luke Curley
- \* Martin Duke
- \* Mike English
- \* Mo Zanaty
- \* Will Law

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## Appendix A. Change Log

RFC Editor's Note: Please remove this section prior to publication of a final version of this document.

Issue and pull request numbers are listed with a leading octothorp.

## A.1. Since draft-ietf-moq-transport-15

\*Setup and Control Plane\*

- \* Delta encode Key-Value-Pairs for Parameters and Headers (#1315)
- \* Use Request ID in PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE\_{DONE/CANCEL} (#1329)
- \* Remove delivery related params from TRACK\_STATUS for Subscribers (#1325)
- \* PUBLISH does not imply PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE (#1364)
- \* Allow Start Location to decrease in SUBSCRIBE\_UPDATE (#1323)
- \* Change SUBSCRIBE\_UPDATE to REQUEST\_UPDATE and expand ability to update (#1332)
- \* Put SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE on a stream, make Namespaces and PUBLISH independent (#1344)
- \* Require NAMESPACE before NAMESPACE\_DONE (#1392)
- \* Allow the '\*' or the empty namespace in SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE (#1393)
- \* Relays match SUBSCRIBE to both Tracks and Namespaces (#1397)
- \* Clarify sending requests after sending GOAWAY (#1398)
- \* Add Retry Interval to REQUEST\_ERROR (#1339)
- \* Add Extension Headers to PUBLISH, SUBSCRIBE\_OK, and FETCH\_OK (#1374)
- \* Move track properties to extensions, scope parameters (#1390)
- \* Add LARGEST\_OBJECT parameter to TRACK\_STATUS (#1367)
- \* Duplicate subscription processing (#1341)

- \* Address Track Name/Namespace edge cases (#1399)
- \*Data Plane Wire Format and Handling\*
- \* Enable mixing datagrams with streams in one track (#1350)
- \* Clarify datagrams and subgroups (#1382)
- \* Redo the way we deal with missing Objects and Object Status (#1342)
- \* Allow unknown ranges in a FETCH response (#1331)
- \* Do not reopen subgroups after delivery timeout or STOP\_SENDING (#1396)
- \* Clarify handling of unknown extensions (#1395)
- \* Clarify Delivery Timeout for datagrams (#1406)
- \* Disallow DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT=0 (#1330)
- \* Malformed track due to multiple priorities for one subgroup (#1317)
- \*Notable Editorial Changes\*
- \* Subscribers can migrate networks too (#1410)
- \* Rename Version Specific Parameters to Message Parameters (#1411)
- \* Clarify valid joining fetch subscription states (#1363)
- \* Formatting names for logs (#1355)
- \* A Publisher might not use the congestion window (#1408)

#### A.2. Since draft-ietf-moq-transport-14

- \*Setup and Control Plane\*
- \* Always use ALPN for version negotiation (#499)
- \* Consolidate all the Error Message types (#1159)
- \* Change MOQT IMPLEMENTATION code point to 0x7 (#1191)
- \* Add Forward to SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE (#1220)

- \* Parameters for Group Order, Subscribe Priority and Subscription Filter (redo) (#1273)
  - \* REQUEST\_OK message (#1274)
  - \* Subscribe Update Acknowledgements (#1275)
  - \* Disallow DELETE and USE\_ALIAS in CLIENT\_SETUP (#1277)
  - \* Remove Expires field from SUBSCRIBE\_OK (#1282)
  - \* Make Forward a Parameter (#1283)
  - \* Allow SUBSCRIBE\_UPDATE to increase the end location (#1288)
  - \* Add default port for raw QUIC (#1289)
  - \* Unsubscribe Namespace should be linked to Subscribe Namespace (#1292)
- \*Data Plane Wire Format and Handling\*
- \* Fetch Object serialization optimization (#949)
  - \* Make default PUBLISHER PRIORITY a parameter, optional in Subgroup/Datagram (#1056)
  - \* Allow datagram status with object ID=0 (#1197)
  - \* Disallow object extension headers in all non-Normal status objects (#1266)
  - \* Objects for malformed track must not be cached (#1290)
  - \* Remove NO\_OBJECTS fetch error code (#1303)
  - \* Clarify what happens when max\_cache\_duration parameter is omitted (#1287)
- \*Notable Editorial Changes\*
- \* Rename Request ID field in MAX\_REQUEST\_ID (#1250)
  - \* Define and draw subscription state machine (#1296)
  - \* Omitting a subgroup object necessitates reset (#1295)
  - \* Define duplication rules for header extensions (#1293)

- \* Clarify joining fetch end location (#1286)

### A.3. Since draft-ietf-moq-transport-13

#### \*Setup and Control Plane\*

- \* Add an AUTHORITY parameter (#1058)
- \* Add a free-form SETUP parameter identifying the implementation (#1114)
- \* Add a Request ID to SUBSCRIBE\_UPDATE (#1106)
- \* Indicate which params can appear PUBLISH\* messages (#1071)
- \* Add TRACK\_STATUS to the list of request types affected by GOAWAY (#1105)

#### \*Data Plane Wire Format and Handling\*

- \* Delta encode Object IDs within Subgroups (#1042)
- \* Use a bit in Datagram Type to convey Object ID = 0 (#1055)
- \* Corrected missed code point updates to Object Datagram Status (#1082)
- \* Merge OBJECT\_DATAGRAM and OBJECT\_DATAGRAM\_STATUS description (#1179)
- \* Objects are not schedulable if flow-control blocked (#1054)
- \* Clarify DELIVERY\_TIMEOUT reordering computation (#1120)
- \* Receiving unrequested Objects (#1112)
- \* Clarify End of Track (#1111)
- \* Malformed tracks apply to FETCH (#1083)
- \* Remove early FIN from the definition of malformed tracks (#1096)
- \* Prior Object ID Gap Extension header (#939)
- \* Add Extension containing immutable extensions (#1025)

#### \*Relay Handling\*

- \* Explain FETCH routing for relays (#1165)
- \* MUST for multi-publisher relay handling (#1115)
- \* Filters don't (usually) determine the end of subscription (#1113)
- \* Allow self-subscriptions (#1110)
- \* Explain Namespace Prefix Matching in more detail (#1116)

\*Explanatory\*

- \* Explain Modularity of MOQT (#1107)
- \* Explain how to resume publishing after losing state (#1087)

\*Major Editorial Changes\*

- \* Rename ANNOUNCE to PUBLISH\_NAMESPACE (#1104)
- \* Rename SUBSCRIBE\_DONE to PUBLISH\_DONE (#1108)
- \* Major FETCH Reorganization (#1173)
- \* Reformat Error Codes (#1091)

A.4. Since draft-ietf-moq-transport-12

- \* TRACK\_STATUS\_REQUEST and TRACK\_STATUS have changed to directly mirror SUBSCRIBE/OK/ERROR (#1015)
- \* SUBSCRIBE\_ANNOUNCES was renamed back to SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE (#1049)

A.5. Since draft-ietf-moq-transport-11

- \* Move Track Alias from SUBSCRIBE to SUBSCRIBE\_OK (#977)
- \* Expand cases FETCH\_OK returns Invalid Range (#946) and clarify fields (#936)
- \* Add an error code to FETCH\_ERROR when an Object status is unknown (#825)
- \* Rename Latest Object to Largest Object (#1024) and clarify what to do when it's incomplete (#937)
- \* Explain Malformed Tracks and what to do with them (#938)

- \* Allow End of Group to be indicated in a normal Object (#1011)
- \* Relays MUST have an upstream subscription to send SUBSCRIBE\_OK (#1017)
- \* Allow AUTHORIZATION TOKEN in CLIENT\_SETUP, SERVER\_SETUP and other fixes (#1013)
- \* Add PUBLISH for publisher initiated subscriptions (#995) and fix the PUBLISH codepoints (#1048, #1051)

#### A.6. Since draft-ietf-moq-transport-10

- \* Added Common Structure definitions - Location, Key-Value-Pair and Reason Phrase
- \* Limit lengths of all variable length fields, including Track Namespace and Name
- \* Control Message length is now 16 bits instead of variable length
- \* Subscribe ID became Request ID, and was added to most control messages. Request ID is used to correlate OK/ERROR responses for ANNOUNCE, SUBSCRIBE\_NAMESPACE, and TRACK\_STATUS. Like Subscribe ID, Request IDs are flow controlled.
- \* Explain rules for caching in more detail
- \* Changed the SETUP parameter format for even number parameters to match the Object Header Extension format
- \* Rotated SETUP code points
- \* Added Parameters to TRACK\_STATUS and TRACK\_STATUS\_REQUEST
- \* Clarified how subscribe filters work
- \* Added Next Group Filter to SUBSCRIBE
- \* Added Forward flag to SUBSCRIBE
- \* Renamed FETCH\_OK field to End and clarified how to set it
- \* Added Absolute Joining Fetch
- \* Clarified No Error vs Invalid Range FETCH\_ERROR cases

- \* Use bits in SUBGROUP\_HEADER and DATAGRAM\* types to compress subgroup ID and extensions
- \* Coalesced END\_OF\_GROUP and END\_OF\_TRACK\_AND\_GROUP status
- \* Objects that Do Not Exist cannot have extensions when sent on the wire
- \* Specified error codes for resetting data streams
- \* Defined an Object Header Extension for communicating a known Group ID gap
- \* Replaced AUTHORIZATION\_INFO with AUTHORIZATION\_TOKEN, which has more structure, compression, and additional Auth related error codes (#760)

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