

# MOS GROUP 2021 Conference

4 November 2021

(Via Zoom Teleconference)

## 2020 Review

### **Element Status Codes/Names Approved**

**Summary:** Discussed previously in 2019 and 2020.

This has been approved. It will be included in the next published version of the MOS Protocol.

**Document is in the MOS Slack #proposals channel.**

### **Profile 7 Adjustments**

**Summary:** Kai Kulp (CGI) explains that they have two large pain points from experience at two customer sites implementing MOS Profile 7.

1) Planning in a MOS often starts weeks in advance of the normal creation date for a Running Order in the NCS. In some workflows, an extra MOS-Active RO is created in the NCS to accept and hold entries from a MOS as they come along.

2) In working with a production RO, it can be difficult to make routine changes from the MOS side - as they can't differentiate reply messages from other actions initiated by NCS. Kai also suggests this may be a complex solution for MOS, potentially solved by different integration points within the UI or drag/drop whole stories from elsewhere.

Jorma Kivela (Jutel) is experiencing similar issues with Profile 7 and longer planning horizons for their MOS system than the NCS; their issues have also not been solved in a satisfactory way.

**Complex issue that requires further discussion. Kai, Jorma, Phil Avner (AP/ENPS), and Ryan Berg (AP/ENPS) offer to form subgroup to further discuss. If anyone else is interesting in joining a subgroup to discuss before next MOS Meeting, send a note to Ryan Berg.**

## 2020 Review - Discussions to Rekindle

### Item #1 – ObjPaths

**Summary:** Proposal (Discussed in both 2019 and 2020) was to make an optional change to objPaths. The current MOS protocol specifies that each objPath or objProxPath URL (etc.) must link to a specific file by name (with file-type extension). This proposes the option to allow a URL to point to a slash or a non-file path (e.g.: call to database). This would not completely remove the file linking but provide another option.

Phil Avner (AP/ENPS) mentions that there are some systems which, when sent an object path, need to be told the file type (mp4, jpg, etc.). If we go this way, he believes there needs to be an additional field added which explicitly states the file-type. Phil asked if this made sense to video server vendors who were in general agreement.

Johan Nyman (SuperFly) asked if this additional field would be optional or required. Phil suggested that it should be required only when the URL (etc.) does not explicitly end with the file type extension.

**Vendors in general agreement and no objections. Will write up and submit to Slack channel for formal vote.**

### Item #2- Include ObjDur for Items

**Summary:** Previous request to make objTB and objDur mandatory in MIRs. They are both currently mandatory in MOS objects

Several MOS systems do not create actual MOS Objects. They allow a user to drag/insert a MIRs into a story from a plug-in. Within a Running Order, NCSes need to be able to know the durations of those items. That requires both objTB and objDur fields with values.

### Item #3 – Float Status

**Summary:** This was already approved, but just a reminder. This is just a new status tag to indicate that a story is FLOATE, rather than DELETED.

This will be included in the next published version of the MOS Protocol.

## Item #4 ObjAir

### Comments from Milan Varga (Octopus)

**Summary:** Continues the discussion from 2020 around the use of ObjAir instead of ObjStatus. Milan Varga says Octopus uses ObjAir heavily and this can have a status of Ready/Not Ready. This status identifies if it's a placeholder or available in the MAM system. Before even sending to playout system, this status defines if its available or not, and you don't need the specific MOS/item status. Ryan Berg (AP/ENPS) asks when you do have status, does the ObjAir flip and you use the status then? Milan responds that if the NCS is receiving MOS objects from a MAM system with a MOS status with ObjAir, the message is sent to the studio automation. This checks if in the file if its on the video server and send a MOS status. The NCS can already count the duration of the clip since it has a ObjAir status, and its playable. It is just waiting for transfer to the video server, but duration is the same. But if the clip has a "not ready" status, it is understood to be an unfilled placeholder. In planning a story, Octopus resets the duration to a planned duration, because it is not known what the actual duration will be of that clip. Berg suggests adding ObjAir to the list of items to add, Milan agrees.

**ObjAir, ObjDur, and ObjTB will be added to the list of items to include. No further comments/suggestions.**

## Supporting Backup/Alternate MOS Server from an NCS

**Summary:** Customers have been asking if there are ways for an NCS to work with backup or redundant MOS devices.

Phil Avner (AP/ENPS) asks if any vendors have a way they're currently doing so.

Milan Varga (Octopus) says they can send the RO messages to multiple MOS IDs. Also have a mechanism in Octopus where they can send messages for a single MOS device to multiple IP addresses. They primarily send everything to the primary IP, but if it doesn't get a response within a timeout period, the message is sent to the other machine.

Kelly Nigro (ESPN) says his team gets asked often about options for redundancy/backup. ESPN people like having backups on everything. It would be good if the NCS could talk to multiple MOS IDs. They see a load balancer as a potential single point of failure. If an NCS could send to send both primary and backup gateways for a MOS, that would be the best for them.

## MOS Protocol Document Copy Editing Request

**Summary:** There are several new items to get onto the next MOS Protocol version releases.

Ryan Berg (AP/ENPS), has been the primary editor of the past few version documents. Asking for a few people to work together on the next release.

Request will go out on Slack channel and e-mail requesting group members for this project.

## mosVer Tag: MOS Version included in all MOS Messages

**Summary:** When looking at stack of MOS logs, there is no reliable way of knowing the specific version of MOS being used. Knowing the MOS version allows individuals to better support and identify problems.

Johan Nyman (SuperFly) asks if it wouldn't better if it were handled by the 'machineinfo' message. Ryan Berg (AP/ENPS) responds it's a good feature, but rare to see in logs. Johan asks what happens (in the off case) if I see different versions in a stack of messages. Berg responds version change's mid-stream are extremely rare. Phil Avner (AP/ENPS) responds it is illegal to change MOS versions mid-session. This is about advertising what previously-configured version of MOS is being used. Milan Varga (Octopus) asks how mosRev would be different from mosVer. Phil responds that mosRev is used only at the beginning of a connection, so it could be days back in the logs. The mosVer tag would be good to use as the time span covered by the logs under review is typically a couple hours or minutes. Kelly Nigro (ESPN) responds that he looks at it as simply a verification that the system is configured right. If you have a system with the wrong version, this will tell you right away.

**There is interest but some confusion around this still. Conversation will be taken offline to discuss more before a formal vote.**

**Formal write-up will be done and floated around. Will vote on next meeting.**

## MOS 4 Discussion

**Summary: How is MOS 4 deployment going for group members?**

Group members on the call have not yet deployed MOS4 – so there were no comments.

## 2022 Meeting Dates

**Summary:** We will plan (hope?) to have our next meeting in-person at NAB 2022.

If the show is called off again, we will meet by teleconference again later in the year.

## Other Business

Johan Nyman (Superfly) asks about timelines

**Summary:** What is the plan for the next version, particularly regarding the floats feature discussed earlier?

What is the usual procedure for when a new version is set?

Could we make the procedure more transparent?

Floats were approved. They will be in the next published version of the Protocol. It's just a matter of how soon we can get those and other additions edited and released.

There are several new features to add. Normally the process is that we'll get approvals, write them out, then go to release. Tentatively by the middle of 2022.

Johan suggests that the process could be more open and transparent via Slack.

Announcements or requests for comments in various channels, it may encourage more involvement among the group.

**The #documents channel in Slack will be used to address and work as a collective. This will make the document process more open and transparent, also allowing for more individuals to be involved.**