

[MS-RDPEUDP]: Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension

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Contents

1 Introduction	6
1.1 Glossary	6
1.2 References	7
1.2.1 Normative References	7
1.2.2 Informative References	7
1.3 Overview	8
1.3.1 RDP-UDP Protocol	8
1.3.2 Message Flows	9
1.3.2.1 UDP Connection Initialization	10
1.3.2.2 UDP Data Transfer	10
1.4 Relationship to Other Protocols	11
1.5 Prerequisites/Preconditions	11
1.6 Applicability Statement	11
1.7 Versioning and Capability Negotiation	11
1.8 Vendor-Extensible Fields	11
1.9 Standards Assignments	11
2 Messages	12
2.1 Transport	12
2.2 Message Syntax	12
2.2.1 Enumerations	12
2.2.1.1 VECTOR_ELEMENT_STATE Enumeration	12
2.2.2 Structures	12
2.2.2.1 RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER Structure	12
2.2.2.2 RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER Structure	14
2.2.2.3 RDPUDP_PAYLOAD_PREFIX Structure	14
2.2.2.4 RDPUDP_SOURCE_PAYLOAD_HEADER Structure	14
2.2.2.5 RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD Structure	15
2.2.2.6 RDPUDP_ACK_OF_ACKVECTOR_HEADER Structure	15
2.2.2.7 RDPUDP_ACK_VECTOR_HEADER Structure	16
2.2.2.8 RDPUDP_CORRELATION_ID_PAYLOAD Structure	16
2.2.3 Vectors	17
2.2.3.1 ACK Vector	17
3 Protocol Details	18
3.1 Common Details	18
3.1.1 Abstract Data Model	18
3.1.1.1 Transport Modes	18
3.1.1.2 Sequence Numbers	18
3.1.1.3 MTU Negotiation	19
3.1.1.4 Acknowledgments	19
3.1.1.4.1 Lost Datagrams	20
3.1.1.5 Retransmits	20
3.1.1.6 FEC Computations	20
3.1.1.6.1 Finite Field Arithmetic	20
3.1.1.6.1.1 Addition and Subtraction	21
3.1.1.6.1.2 Multiplication and Division	22
3.1.1.6.1.3 Logarithms and Exponents	22
3.1.1.6.2 FEC Encoding	23
3.1.1.6.3 FEC Decoding	25

3.1.1.6.4	Selecting the Coefficients Matrix	26
3.1.1.6.5	Structure of Source Packets used for FEC Encoding	27
3.1.1.7	Flow Control.....	27
3.1.1.8	Congestion Control	28
3.1.1.9	Keepalives	28
3.1.2	Timers	29
3.1.3	Initialization	29
3.1.4	Higher-Layer Triggered Events.....	29
3.1.4.1	Initializing a Connection	29
3.1.4.2	Sending a Datagram	29
3.1.4.3	Receiving a Datagram	29
3.1.4.4	Terminating a Connection	29
3.1.5	Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules.....	30
3.1.5.1	Constructing Messages.....	31
3.1.5.1.1	SYN Datagrams.....	31
3.1.5.1.2	ACK Datagrams	31
3.1.5.1.3	SYN and ACK Datagrams.....	32
3.1.5.1.4	ACK and Source Packets Data	32
3.1.5.1.5	ACK and FEC Packets Data	33
3.1.5.2	Connection Sequence.....	33
3.1.5.3	Data Transfer Phase.....	34
3.1.5.3.1	Sender Receives Data	34
3.1.5.3.2	Sender Sends Data.....	34
3.1.5.3.2.1	Source Packet	34
3.1.5.3.2.2	FEC Packet	35
3.1.5.3.3	Receiver Receives Data	35
3.1.5.3.4	User Consumes Data	35
3.1.5.4	Termination	35
3.1.5.4.1	Retransmit Limit	35
3.1.5.4.2	Keepalive Timer Fires	35
3.1.6	Timer Events	35
3.1.6.1	Retransmit Timer.....	35
3.1.6.2	Keepalive Timer on the Sender.....	35
3.1.6.3	Delayed ACK Timer	36
3.1.7	Other Local Events	36
4	Protocol Examples.....	37
4.1	UDP Connection Initialization Packets	37
4.1.1	SYN Packet.....	37
4.1.2	SYN and ACK Packet	37
4.2	UDP Data Transfer Packets	38
4.2.1	Source Packet.....	38
4.2.2	FEC Packet	39
4.2.2.1	Payload of an FEC Packet.....	40
4.2.3	ACK Packet.....	40
5	Security.....	42
5.1	Security Considerations for Implementers.....	42
5.1.1	Using Sequence Numbers.....	42
5.1.2	RDP-UDP Datagram Validation	42
5.1.3	Congestion Notifications.....	42
5.2	Index of Security Parameters	42

6	Appendix A: Product Behavior	43
7	Change Tracking.....	44
8	Index	45

1 Introduction

The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension specifies extensions to the transport mechanisms in the **Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP)**. This document specifies network connectivity between the user's machine and a remote computer system over the **User Datagram Protocol (UDP)**.

Sections 1.8, 2, and 3 of this specification are normative and can contain the terms MAY, SHOULD, MUST, MUST NOT, and SHOULD NOT as defined in RFC 2119. Sections 1.5 and 1.9 are also normative but cannot contain those terms. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

1.1 Glossary

The following terms are defined in [\[MS-GLOS\]](#):

acknowledgment (ACK)
binary large object (BLOB)
Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4)
Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6)
maximum transmission unit (MTU)
network address translation (NAT)
network byte order
Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP)
round-trip time (RTT)
run-length encoding (RLE)
terminal server
Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
User Datagram Protocol (UDP)

The following terms are specific to this document:

Coded Packet: A Source Packet or an FEC Packet.

FEC block: An FEC Packet that is added to the data stream after a group of Source Packets have been processed. In case one of the Source Packets in the group is lost, the redundant information that is contained in the FEC Packet can be used for recovery.

FEC Packet: A packet that encapsulates the payload after running an FEC logic.

forward error correction (FEC): A process in which a sender uses redundancy to enable a receiver to recover from packet loss.

Source Packet: A packet that encapsulates data that was generated by the user.

terminal client: The client that initiated the remote desktop connection.

MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT: These terms (in all caps) are used as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#). All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

1.2 References

References to Microsoft Open Specifications documentation do not include a publishing year because links are to the latest version of the documents, which are updated frequently. References to other documents include a publishing year when one is available.

1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact dochelp@microsoft.com. We will assist you in finding the relevant information.

[Bewersdorff] Bewersdorff, J., "Galois Theory for Beginners: A Historical Perspective", American Mathematical Society, 2006, ISBN-13: 978-0821838174.

[Lidl] Lidl, R., and Niederreiter, H., "Finite Fields - Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications", Cambridge University Press; 2nd edition, 1997, ISBN-13: 978-0521392310.

[MS-DTYP] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Data Types](#)".

[MS-RDPBCGR] Microsoft Corporation, "[Remote Desktop Protocol: Basic Connectivity and Graphics Remoting](#)".

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

1.2.2 Informative References

[MS-GLOS] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Protocols Master Glossary](#)".

[Press] Press, W.H., Teukolsky, S.A., and Vetterling, W.T., et al., "Numerical Recipes in Fortran: The Art of Scientific Computing", Cambridge University Press; 2nd edition, 1992, ISBN: 13:978-0521430647.

[RFC1948] Bellovin, S., "Defending Against Sequence Number Attacks", RFC 1948, May 1996, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc1948.txt>

[RFC3782] Floyd, S., Henderson, T., and Gurtov, A., "The NewReno Modification to TCP's Fast Recovery Algorithm", RFC 3782, April 2004, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3782.txt>

[RFC4340] Kohler, E., Handley, M., and Floyd, S., "Datagram Congestion Control Protocol (DCCP)", RFC 4340, March 2006, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4340.txt>

[RFC4341] Floyd, S., and Kohler, E., "Profile for Datagram Congestion Control Protocol (DCCP) Congestion Control ID 2: TCP-like Congestion Control", RFC 4341, March 2006, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4341.txt>

[RFC5681] Allman, M., Paxson, V., and Blanton, E., "TCP Congestion Control", RFC 5681, September 2009, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5681.txt>

[RFC793] Postel, J., "Transmission Control Protocol", STD 7, RFC 793, September 1981, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc0793.txt>

1.3 Overview

The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension Protocol has been designed to improve the performance of the network connectivity compared to a corresponding RDP-TCP connection, especially on wide area networks (WANs) or wireless networks.

It has the following two primary goals:

- Gain a higher network share while reducing the variation in packet transit delays.
- Share network resources with other users.

To achieve these goals, the protocol has two modes of operation. The first mode is a reliable mode where data is transferred reliably through persistent retransmits. The second mode is an unreliable mode, where no guarantees are made about reliability and the timeliness of data is preserved by avoiding retransmits. In addition, the Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension Protocol includes a **forward error correction (FEC)** logic that can be used to recover from random packet losses.

The protocol's two communicating parties, the endpoints of the UDP connection, are peers and use the same protocol. The connection between the two endpoints is bidirectional – data and [acknowledgments \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#) can be transmitted in both directions simultaneously. Logically, each single connection can be viewed as two unidirectional connections, as shown in the following figure. Both of these unidirectional connections are symmetrical and each endpoint has both a Sender and a Receiver entity. In this specification, the initiating endpoint A is referred to as the **terminal client** and endpoint B is referred to as the **terminal server**.

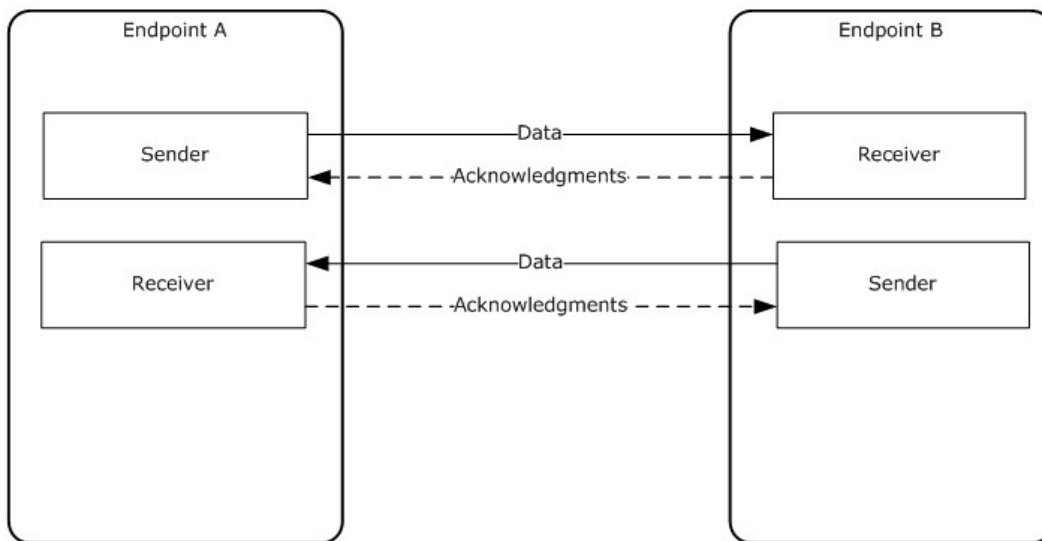


Figure 1: The UDP bidirectional endpoints connection

1.3.1 RDP-UDP Protocol

The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension Protocol has two distinct phases of operation. The initial phase, [UDP Connection Initialization \(section 1.3.2.1\)](#), occurs when a UDP connection is initialized between the terminal client and the terminal server. Data pertaining to the connection is exchanged and the **UDP** connection is set up. Once this phase is completed

successfully, the protocol enters the [UDP Data Transfer \(section 1.3.2.2\)](#) phase, where **Coded Packets** are exchanged.

The protocol can operate in one of two modes. The operational mode is determined during the UDP Connection Initialization phase. These modes are as follows:

- RDP-UDP-R or "Reliable" Mode: In this mode, the endpoint retransmits datagrams that have been lost by the underlying network fabric.
- RDP-UDP-L or "Best-Efforts" Mode: In this mode, the reliable delivery of datagrams is not guaranteed, and the endpoint does not retransmit datagrams.

The connection between the endpoints is terminated when either the terminal client or terminal server terminates the connection. No protocol-specific messages are exchanged to communicate that the endpoint is no longer present.

1.3.2 Message Flows

The two endpoints, the terminal client and the terminal server, first set up a connection, and then transfer the data as shown in the following figure.

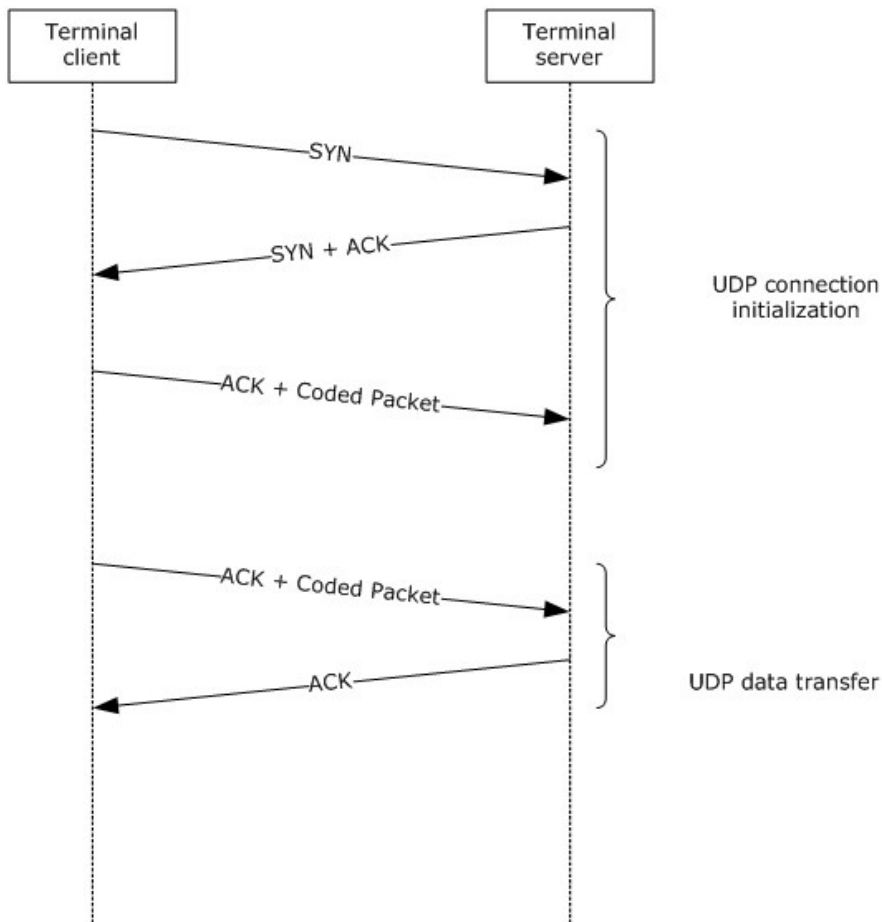


Figure 2: The UDP connection initialization and UDP data transfer message flow

The following sections describe the two phases of the communication and the detailed data transfer.

1.3.2.1 UDP Connection Initialization

In this phase, both endpoints are initialized with mutually agreeable parameters for the connection.

The terminal client initiates the connection by sending a SYN datagram. The terminal client also determines the mode of operation, RDP-UDP-R or RDP-UDP-L, as described in section 1.3.1. The terminal server responds with a datagram with the SYN flag set, along with an ACK flag, to acknowledge the receipt of the SYN datagram. The terminal client acknowledges the SYN datagram by sending an ACK. The terminal client can append the Coded Packets along with the ACK datagram. This datagram indicates that a connection has been set up and data can be exchanged.

All datagrams in this phase – the SYN, SYN+ACK, and ACK – are delivered reliably by using persistent retransmits, irrespective of the mode that the transport is operating in.

1.3.2.2 UDP Data Transfer

In this phase, which follows the [UDP Connection Initialization \(section 1.3.2.1\)](#) phase, the data generated by the users of this protocol is exchanged. This phase ends when either the connection is terminated by the user, or when an endpoint determines that the remote endpoint is no longer present.

The terminal server (sender) and terminal client (receiver) exchange Coded Packets in this phase. A schematic diagram of the FEC engine is shown in the following diagram.

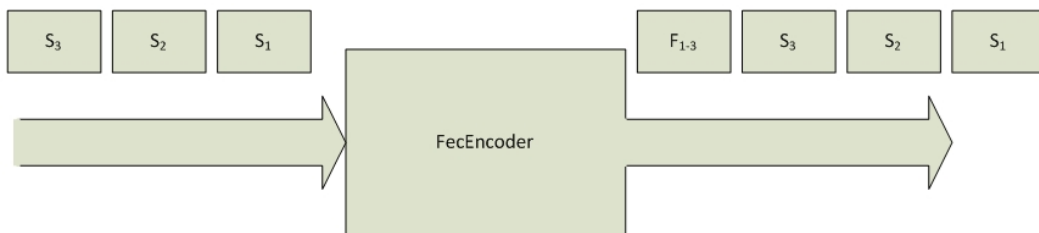


Figure 3: FEC engine

The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension Protocol uses the FEC mechanism for recovery from packet losses. An **FEC Packet** is added to the data stream after processing a block of **m Source Packets**. Each FEC Packet carries redundant information regarding these Source Packets. This information can be used in case one of the **m Source Packets** is lost and needs to be recovered. A generic equation for generating an FEC Packet is listed as follows.

$$F_{1-m} [n] = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i * S_i[n]$$

$F_{1-m} [n]$ = n -th byte in the FEC datagram

C_i = Coefficient used for the i -th packet in the linear equation that is known to the encoder and decoder, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$

$S_i[n]$ = n -th byte in the i -th source packet that is insured by this FEC packet, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

$n=1, 2, \dots, k$, where k is the size (in bytes) of the packet.

Figure 4: Generic equation for an FEC Packet

The FEC Packets require no [acknowledgments \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#), and they are not retransmitted. The sender can either set the **FEC block** size to any value up to 255 or to not send any FEC Packets in the stream. Likewise, the receiver, upon a receipt of an FEC Packet, can ignore the FEC Packet and not use it for any decoding operations.

Upon receiving notification of a packet loss, the sender retransmits the lost datagram. The implementation of the FEC mechanism in the RDP-UDP protocol is only used for recovery from packet losses.

1.4 Relationship to Other Protocols

The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension Protocol works on top of the User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

1.5 Prerequisites/Preconditions

The protocol endpoints require UDP connectivity to be established. The network path between the endpoints should allow the transfer of **UDP** datagrams in both directions.

The prerequisites for this protocol are identical to those for the **UDP** protocol.

1.6 Applicability Statement

This protocol can be used in place of any **Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)** transport for the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) protocol. The protocol's two modes of operation are required to be considered. The RDP-UDP-R mode should be used when a stream-based, reliable transport, akin to **TCP**, is required. The RDP-UDP-L mode should be used when a datagram/message-based, best-efforts transport, akin to UDP, is required.

1.7 Versioning and Capability Negotiation

None.

1.8 Vendor-Extensible Fields

None.

1.9 Standards Assignments

None.

2 Messages

2.1 Transport

The RDP protocol packets are encapsulated in the User Datagram Protocol (UDP). The **UDP** datagrams **MUST** be encapsulated in the **Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4)** or the **Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6)**.

The default port for incoming **UDP** connection requests on the terminal server is port 3389. All of the **RDP** traffic over **UDP** is handled by this single port on the terminal server.

The terminal client **MUST** open a unique **UDP** socket for each instance of this transport. Each socket is bound to a different port.

2.2 Message Syntax

All of the messages written to the network or read from the network **MUST** be in **network byte order**, as described in [\[RFC4340\]](#) section 11.

The protocol references commonly used data types as defined in [\[MS-DTYP\]](#).

2.2.1 Enumerations

2.2.1.1 VECTOR_ELEMENT_STATE Enumeration

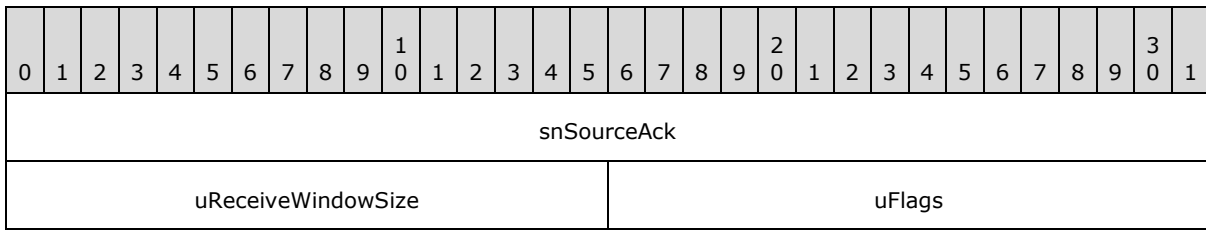
The VECTOR_ELEMENT_STATE enumeration is sent along with every [ACK vector \(section 2.2.3.1\)](#) that acknowledges the receipt of a continuous array of datagrams.

Field/Value	Description
DATAGRAM_RECEIVED 0	A datagram was received.
DATAGRAM_RESERVED_1 1	Not used.
DATAGRAM_RESERVED_2 2	Not used.
DATAGRAM_NOT_YET_RECEIVED 3	A datagram has not been received yet.

2.2.2 Structures

2.2.2.1 RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER Structure

The **RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER** structure forms the basic header for every datagram sent or received by the endpoint.



snSourceAck (4 bytes): A 32-bit unsigned value that specifies the highest sequence number for a Source Packet detected by the remote endpoint. This value wraps around; for more information about the sequence numbers range, see [\[RFC793\]](#) section 3.3.

uReceiveWindowSize (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned value that specifies the size of the receiver's buffer.

uFlags (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that indicates supported options, or additional headers.

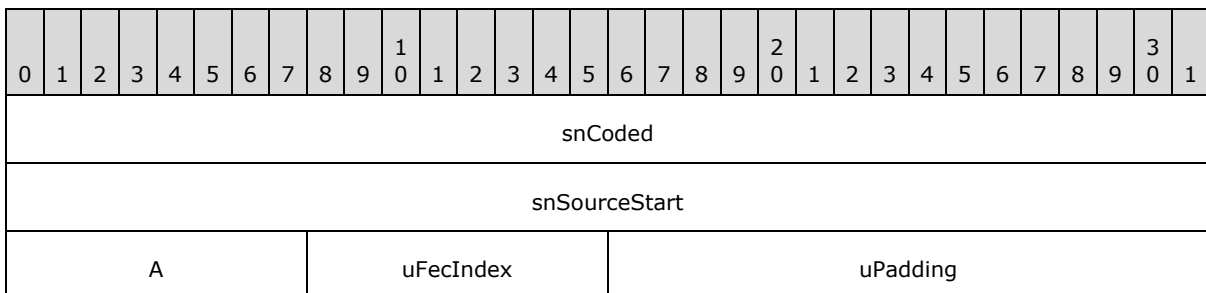
The following table describes the meaning of each flag.

Flags	Meaning
RDPUDP_FLAG_SYN 0x0001	Corresponds to the SYN flag, for initializing connection.
RDPUDP_FLAG_FIN 0x0002	Corresponds to the FIN flag. Currently unused.
RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK 0x0004	Specifies that the RDPUDP_ACK_VECTOR_HEADER Structure (section 2.2.2.7) is present.
RDPUDP_FLAG_DATA 0x0008	Specifies that the RDPUDP_SOURCE_PAYLOAD_HEADER Structure (section 2.2.2.4) or the RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER Structure (section 2.2.2.2) is present. This flag specifies that the datagram has additional data beyond the UDP ACK headers.
RDPUDP_FLAG_FEC 0x0010	Specifies that the RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER Structure (section 2.2.2.2) is present.
RDPUDP_FLAG_CN 0x0020	Congestion Notification flag (section 3.1.1), the receiver reports missing datagrams.
RDPUDP_FLAG_CWR 0x0040	Congestion Window Reset flag (section 3.1.1), the sender has reduced the congestion window, and informs the receiver to stop adding the RDPUDP_FLAG_CN.
RDPUDP_FLAG_SACK_OPTION 0x0080	Not used.
RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK_OF_ACKS 0x0100	Specifies that the RDPUDP_ACK_OF_ACKVECTOR_HEADER Structure (section 2.2.2.6) is present.
RDPUDP_FLAG_SYNLOSSY 0x0200	Specifies that the connection does not require persistent retransmits.

Flags	Meaning
RDPUDP_FLAG_ACKDELAYED 0x0400	Specifies that the receiver delayed generating the ACK for the source sequence numbers received. The sender should not use this ACK for estimating the network RTT.
RDPUDP_FLAG_CORRELATION_ID 0x0800	Specifies that the optional RDPUDP_CORRELATION_ID_PAYLOAD Structure (section 2.2.2.8) is present.

2.2.2.2 RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER Structure

The **RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER** structure accompanies every datagram that contains an FEC payload.



snCoded (4 bytes): A 32-bit unsigned value that contains the sequence number for a Coded Packet.

snSourceStart (4 bytes): A 32-bit unsigned value that specifies the first sequence number of a Source Packet that is contained in the FEC payload.

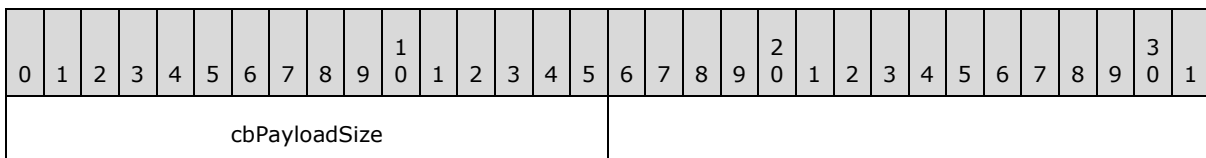
A - uSourceRange (1 byte): An unsigned 8-bit value that, when added to **snSourceStart**, yields the range of packets that are contained in the FEC payload.

uFecIndex (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned value. This value is generated by the FEC engine.

uPadding (2 bytes): An array of UINT8 ([\[MS-DTYP\]](#) section 2.2.47).

2.2.2.3 RDPUDP_PAYLOAD_PREFIX Structure

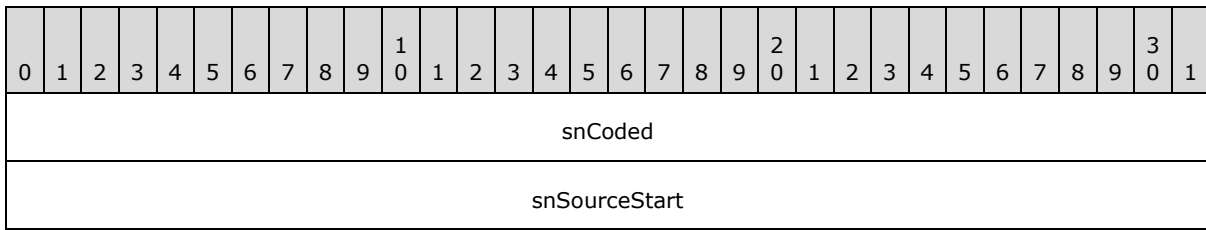
The **RDPUDP_PAYLOAD_PREFIX** structure specifies the length of a data payload. This header is used for generating an FEC Packet or for decoding an FEC Packet. Once a datagram is decoded by using FEC, this field specifies the size of the recovered datagram.



cbPayloadSize (2 bytes): An unsigned 16-bit value that specifies the size of the data payload.

2.2.2.4 RDPUDP_SOURCE_PAYLOAD_HEADER Structure

The **RDPUDP_SOURCE_PAYLOAD_HEADER** structure specifies the metadata of a data payload.

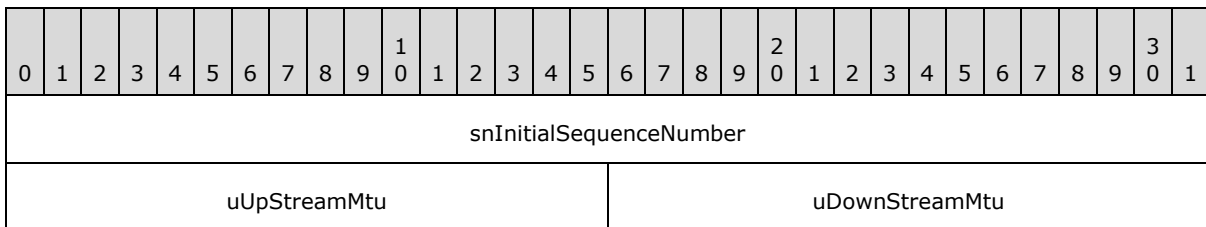


snCoded (4 bytes): An unsigned 32-bit value that specifies the sequence number for the current Coded Packet.

snSourceStart (4 bytes): An unsigned 32-bit value that specifies the sequence number for the current Source Packet.

2.2.2.5 RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD Structure

The **RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD** structure specifies the parameters that are used to initialize the UDP connection.



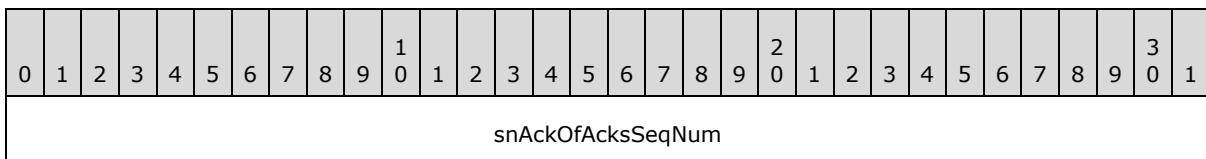
snInitialSequenceNumber (4 bytes): A 32-bit unsigned value that specifies the starting value for sequence numbers for Source Packets and Coded Packets.

uUpStreamMtu (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned value that specifies the maximum size for a datagram that can be generated by the endpoint. This value MUST be greater than or equal to 1132 and less than or equal to 1232.

uDownStreamMtu (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned value that specifies the maximum size of the **maximum transmission unit (MTU)** that the endpoint can accept. This value MUST be greater than or equal to 1132 and less than or equal to 1232.

2.2.2.6 RDPUDP_ACK_OF_ACKVECTOR_HEADER Structure

The **RDPUDP_ACK_OF_ACKVECTOR_HEADER** structure resets the start position of an [ACK vector \(section 2.2.3.1\)](#).



snAckOfAcksSeqNum (4 bytes): This value specifies the new sequence number from which the ACK vector starts encoding the state of the receiver queue. The receiver should generate the ACK Vector for sequence numbers greater than the **snAckOfAcksSeqNum**. The minimum ACK Vector sequence number should be greater of the **snAckOfAcksSeqNum** and the lowest sequence number the receiver expects (current window).

The sender sets the **AckOfAck** sequence number with the greatest cumulative ACK it has received and processed. The sender SHOULD send **AckOfAck** every 20 packets.

2.2.2.7 RDPUDP_ACK_VECTOR_HEADER Structure

The **RDPUDP_ACK_VECTOR_HEADER** structure contains the [ACK vector \(section 2.2.3.1\)](#) that specifies the states of the datagram in the receiver's queue. This vector is a variable-size array. The states are encoded by using **run-length encoding (RLE)** and are stored in this array.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
uAckVectorSize																AckVectorElement (variable)															
...																															
Padding (variable)																															
...																															

uAckVectorSize (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned value that contains the size of the **AckVectorElement** array. The maximum size of the ACK Vector is 2048 bytes.

AckVectorElement (variable): An array of ACK Vector elements. Each element is composed of a state, and the number of contiguous datagrams that share the same state.

Padding (variable): A variable-sized array, of length zero or more, such that this structure ends on a DWORD ([\[MS-DTYP\]](#) section 2.2.9) boundary.

2.2.2.8 RDPUDP_CORRELATION_ID_PAYLOAD Structure

The **RDPUDP_CORRELATION_ID_PAYLOAD** structure allows a terminal client to specify the correlation identifier for the connection, which may appear in some of the terminal server's event logs. Otherwise, the terminal server may generate a random identifier.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
uCorrelationId (16 bytes)																															
...																															
uReserved (16 bytes)																															
...																															

uCorrelationId (16 bytes): DTYP.GUID. An array of 16 8-bit, unsigned integers that specifies a unique identifier to associate with the connection. The value MUST be transmitted in big-endian byte order. The most-significant byte SHOULD NOT have a value of 0x00 or 0xF4. The value 0x0D SHOULD NOT be used in any of the bytes. The value of this field SHOULD be the

same as the value provided in the RDP_NEG_CORRELATION_INFO structure ([\[MS-RDPBCGR\]](#) section 2.2.1.1.2).

uReserved (16 bytes): 16 8-bit values, all set to 0x00.

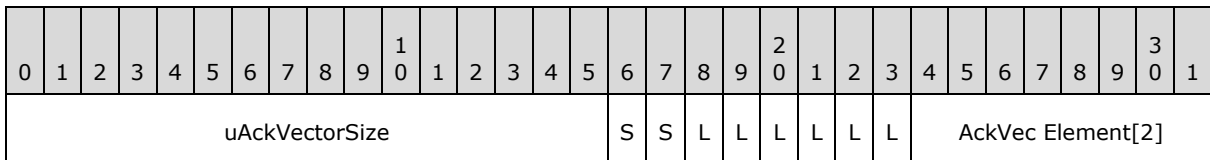
2.2.3 Vectors

2.2.3.1 ACK Vector

The ACK vector captures the state of the queue of Source Packets at the receiver endpoint.

Each position in the queue can have two values that indicate whether a Source Packet is present in the queue, or not. The run-length encoding (RLE) compression is used for encoding the states of Source Packets in the array.

An ACK Vector comprises a number of elements, as specified by the **uAckVectorSize** field in the [RDPUDP_ACK_VECTOR_HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.7\)](#). Each element is 8 bits long.



The two most significant bits of each element compose the [VECTOR_ELEMENT_STATE enumeration \(section 2.2.1.1\)](#). The next 6 bits are the length of a continuous sequence of datagrams that share the same state.

The ACK vectors form a **binary large object (BLOB)**, and are padded so that they are aligned to WORD ([\[MS-DTYP\]](#) section 2.2.61) boundaries.

This is similar to the description of ACK vectors in the Datagram Congestion Control Protocol (DCCP), as described in [\[RFC4341\]](#).

3 Protocol Details

3.1 Common Details

3.1.1 Abstract Data Model

This section describes a conceptual model of possible data organization that an implementation maintains to participate in this protocol. The described organization is provided to facilitate an explanation of how the protocol behaves. This document does not mandate that implementations adhere to this model as long as their external behavior is consistent with that described in this document.

Initial Sequence Number: Each endpoint advertises the first sequence number that will be used when sending the datagrams. The Coded sequence number (section [3.1.1.2](#)) and the Source sequence number (section [3.1.1.2](#)) for the first datagram sent will be equal to this value.

Congestion Control: Each endpoint MUST notify the remote endpoint of congestion events. Congestion events are characterized by lost or missing datagrams.

Congestion Notification: The **RDPUDP_FLAG_CN** flag (section [2.2.2.1](#)) indicates that the remote endpoint has detected congestion events.

Congestion Window Reset: The **RDPUDP_FLAG_CWR** flag (section [2.2.2.1](#)) indicates that the endpoint has reacted to the congestion notification message, and that the remote endpoint MUST stop sending **Congestion Notifications**.

3.1.1.1 Transport Modes

When the connection is initialized in the RDP-UDP-R mode, as described in section [1.3.1](#), persistent retransmits ensure that all datagrams written to the sender will be read respectively at the receiver.

When the connection is initialized in the RDP-UDP-L mode with the **RDPUDP_FLAG_SYNLOSSY** flag (section [2.2.2.1](#)), the sender does not retransmit any datagrams. In this mode, not all datagrams generated by the user on the sender side are received by the user on the receiver side. However, the ordering of datagrams MUST be preserved and datagrams MUST be read at the receiver in the same order in which they were written by the sender.

In RDP-UDP-L, the receiver SHOULD maintain a timer for out-of-order packets. This timer should be enabled when the first out-of-order packet is received and disabled when all missing datagrams have been received. When this timer fires, the receiver should stop the timer and process datagrams it has received. The receiver SHOULD process any out-of-order packet that is in the right edge of the receiver window. This ensures new packets are not dropped.

The order of the datagrams is determined according to their sequence numbers, as specified in section [3.1.1.2](#).

3.1.1.2 Sequence Numbers

All Coded Packets and Source Packets have a sequence number that identifies their sending order. The sequence numbers for the Coded Packets and the Source Packets are independent of each other.

The **Initial Sequence Number** abstract data model (ADM) element for both Coded Packets and Source Packets is initialized as follows:

Initial Sequence Number = **snInitialSequenceNumber** in the [RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD Structure \(section 2.2.2.5\)](#).

This initial value is a true random number. This field is similar to the initial sequence number (ISN) field used in the TCP transport protocol; for more information about the ISN field, see [\[RFC1948\]](#).

The Coded Packet sequence number is referred to as the Coded sequence number. The Coded sequence number uniquely identifies each datagram sent by the sender. The Coded sequence number value is increased by one for each Coded Packet that was sent. Retransmitted Source Packets can have different Coded sequence numbers.

The Source Packet sequence number is referred to as the Source sequence number. Each Source Packet encapsulates a data payload. The Source sequence number uniquely identifies this data payload. The Source sequence number value is increased by one for each data payload that was sent.

The sequence numbers wrap around due to space limitations. Implementations MUST handle this wrap-around scenario. For more information about the sequence numbers range, see [\[RFC793\]](#) section 3.3.

3.1.1.3 MTU Negotiation

The largest data payload that can be transferred over this protocol is negotiated during the 3-way UDP handshake process, called MTU negotiation. The size of the Internet Protocol (IP) or MAC layer headers and other underlying network headers is not a part of this negotiation.

The RDP-client advertises the largest payload it can send (**uUpStreamMtu**) and the largest payload it can receive (**uDownStreamMtu**) as a part of the SYN datagram, as specified in section [2.2.2.5](#). The minimum of these values and the data payload sizes the server can send or receive determines the negotiated MTU, as shown in the following equation.

Negotiated **uUpStreamMtu** = minimum (Advertised **uUpStreamMtu**, Received **uDownStreamMtu**, 1232) + Maximum size of the [RDPUDP_ACK_OF_ACKVECTOR_HEADER Structure \(section 2.2.2.6\)](#)

Negotiated **uDownStreamMtu** = minimum (Advertised **uDownStreamMtu**, Received **uUpStreamMtu**, 1232) + Maximum size of the RDPUDP_ACK_OF_ACKVECTOR_HEADER Structure (section 2.2.2.6)

The server sends these values to the client as a part of the SYN+ACK packet (section [3.1.5.1.3](#)); this is the final negotiated MTU size. The client MUST NOT send a data payload larger than the value specified in **uUpStreamMtu**, and the server MUST NOT send data larger than **uDownStreamMtu**. Values that do not fall within this range are unacceptable. If such oversized payloads are detected, either endpoint MUST ignore such UDP datagrams. This could possibly lead to a connection termination, initiated by any layer in the RDP stack, because some part of the data was lost.

The range of **uUpStreamMtu** and **uDownStreamMtu** is in the closed interval [1132, 1232]. The advertised MTU MUST NOT be smaller than 1132 or larger than 1232.

3.1.1.4 Acknowledgments

An **acknowledgment (ACK)** is sent from the receiver to the sender, informing the sender about the receipt of a Source Packet. An acknowledgment MUST be generated for every Source Packet received. However, because acknowledgments are cumulative, the number of Source Packets for which a receiver generates an acknowledgment is implementation-specific. [<1>](#) Only Source Packets MUST be acknowledged by the receiver; FEC Packets MUST NOT be acknowledged by the receiver.

Each acknowledgment contains an [ACK Vector \(section 2.2.3.1\)](#).

3.1.1.4.1 Lost Datagrams

Lost datagrams notification is a part of the **Congestion Control** ADM element implementation. It is used to control the rate of the data that is transferred between the endpoints as described in section [5.1.3](#).

The receiver marks a datagram as lost only when it receives three other datagrams after its original transmission, with sequence numbers greater than the original datagram. Similarly, the sender marks a packet as lost only when it receives an [acknowledgment \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#) for any three packets that have a sequence number greater than the lost packet.

3.1.1.5 Retransmits

The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension does not specify a retransmit mechanism. An implementation can choose any retransmit method; for example, the Fast Retransmit method, as described in [\[RFC5681\]](#).

When the sender detects that the receiver did not receive a specific Source Packet (section [3.1.1.4.1](#)), the sender retransmits that Source Packet. Only Source Packets **MUST** be retransmitted.

3.1.1.6 FEC Computations

This section explains the operations involved in generating an FEC Packet. An FEC Packet is generated by a linear combination of a number of Source Packets, as described in section [1.3.2.2](#), over a Galois Field, as specified in [Bewersdorff]. A brief introduction on finite field arithmetic is given in section [3.1.1.6.1](#). The coefficients of the equation are described in section [3.1.1.6.4](#). The actual FEC encoding and decoding are described in section [3.1.1.6.2](#) and section [3.1.1.6.3](#), respectively.

3.1.1.6.1 Finite Field Arithmetic

A finite field is a finite set of numbers. All arithmetic operations performed on this field will yield a result that belongs to the same finite field. For example, a finite field of size 256 with numbers from 0 to 255 is defined. All the arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) on this field will yield a result in the range of 0 to 255, thus belonging to the original finite field itself. Conventional arithmetic differs from finite field arithmetic as it operates on an infinite set of real numbers. For more details on finite fields, see [Lidl].

All binary numbers belonging to a finite field (also known as a Galois field, $GF(p^n)$), where p is a prime number and n is a positive integer, can be represented in a polynomial form and in a finite field with binary numbers (for example in $GF(256)=GF(2^8)$), where a is the coefficient of this equation with a value equal to zero or 1.

$$a_{n-1} * x_{n-1} + a_{n-2} * x_{n-2} + \dots + a_1 * x_1 + a_0$$

For example:

$GF(256) = GF(2^8) = 10010110$ is represented as:

$$x^7 + 0x^6 + 0x^5 + x^4 + 0x^3 + x^2 + x^1 + 0$$

or:

$$x^7 + x^4 + x^2 + x$$

Figure 5: Galois field and binary representation example

3.1.1.6.1.1 Addition and Subtraction

Adding or subtracting two polynomials is done by grouping coefficients of the same order, similar to regular algebra. However, since this operation is performed in $GF(2^8)$, the result is brought into the finite field by performing a modulo 2 operation on each of the coefficients in the polynomial representation.

The addition operation over the finite field is logically equivalent to a XOR operation. Thus, adding or subtracting two polynomials means XORing them together, as described in the following figure.

$$A + B = A - B = A \oplus B$$

Binary: $0001010 \oplus 10001011 = 10000001$

Polynomial: $(x^3 + x) \oplus (x^7 + x^3 + x + 1) = x^7 + 1$

Hexadecimal: $0xA \oplus 0x8B = 0x81$

Figure 6: Addition and subtraction example

In a finite field of $GF(2^n)$, such as $GF(256)$, addition and subtraction are equivalent operations.

Pseudo-code example:

```

BYTE Add(const BYTE x, const BYTE y)
{
    return (x ^ y);
}

BYTE Sub(const BYTE x, const BYTE y)
{
    return (x ^ y);
}

```

3.1.1.6.1.2 Multiplication and Division

Multiplication in the finite field can be performed in one of the following two ways:

- Using logarithms
- Multiplying the two polynomials and reducing the result with an irreducible polynomial to bring it back in the finite field

It is simpler to perform multiplications and divisions using logarithms, as it involves a table lookup for the log function, followed by an addition of the polynomials, followed by an exponent function.

$$A * B = \exp(\log(A) + \log(B)) \% 2^n$$

Figure 7: Multiplication equation

Division is performed similarly using logarithms and exponentiation.

$$\frac{A}{B} = \exp(\log(A) - \log(B)) \% 2^n$$

Figure 8: Division equation

Since the discrete logarithm of an element in the finite field is a regular integer, the addition in the exponent is a regular addition modulo 2^n .

Pseudo-code example:

```
BYTE Div(const int x, const int y)
{
    if (y==0) return 0;
    if (x==0) return 0;

    return (BYTE)(m_ffExp2Poly[m_ffPoly2Exp[x] - m_ffPoly2Exp[y] + (MAX_FIELD_SIZE-1)]);
}

BYTE Mul(const int x, const int y)
{
    if (((x-1) | (y-1)) < 0)
        return (0);

    return (BYTE)(m_ffExp2Poly[m_ffPoly2Exp[x] + m_ffPoly2Exp[y]]);
}
```

Where m_ffExp2Poly and m_ffPoly2Exp are exponent and log tables respectively.

3.1.1.6.1.3 Logarithms and Exponents

Exponents can be calculated by repeatedly multiplying the same number, and then using a modulo operation to ensure that the result stays in the finite field.

Pseudo-code example:

```

reduction = 0x1d;
m_ffExp2Poly[0] = 0x01;
for (i = 1; i < m_fieldSize - 1; i++)
{
    temp = m_ffExp2Poly[i - 1] << 1;
    if (temp & m_fieldSize)
    {
        m_ffExp2Poly[i] = (temp & ~m_fieldSize) ^ reduction;
    }
    else
    {
        m_ffExp2Poly[i] = (byte)temp;
    }
}

```

Where `m_fieldSize` is 256 for $GF(2^8)$

Logarithms are the inverse of exponents, and can be easily calculated by reversing the previous operation as shown in the following pseudo-code example:

```

m_ffPoly2Exp[0] = 2 * m_fieldSize; // no exponential representation, doesn't exist
for (i = 0; i < m_fieldSize - 1; i++)
{
    m_ffPoly2Exp[m_ffExp2Poly[i]] = (byte)i;
}

```

Logarithms and exponents can be obtained by using the methods described previously to generate logarithms and exponent lookup tables.

3.1.1.6.2 FEC Encoding

As described in section [1.3.2.2](#), an FEC Packet is added to the data stream after processing a block of Source Packets. The size of the FEC Packet is equal to the size of the largest Source Packet in the group. In the following representation, each Source Packet S_n contains at most k bytes. All the Source Packets with a size smaller than k are padded with bytes containing zero.

$$S_n = \{b_{n1}, b_{n2}, b_{n3}, \dots, b_{nk}\}$$

$$F1 = \{b_{f1}, b_{f2}, b_{f3}, \dots, b_{fk}\}$$

Figure 9: Source Packet and FEC Packet representation

The FEC Packet is generated with the following equation.

$$F = C * S$$

C = row matrix of coefficients, size = 1*n

S = Matrix of Source Packets, size = n*k

Where the matrices C and S are expanded as:

$$[bf1 \ bf2 \ bf3 \ \dots \ bfk] = [c1 \ c2 \ c3 \ \dots \ cn] * \begin{bmatrix} b11 & b12 & b13 & \dots & b1k \\ b21 & b22 & b23 & \dots & b2k \\ b31 & b32 & b33 & \dots & b3k \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ bn1 & bn2 & bn3 & \dots & bnk \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 10: FEC encoding

The product of these two matrices will give us a row matrix, which is the FEC Packet of size 1 * k. The method in which the coefficients are generated is explained in the following pseudo-code example and in the following sections.

Pseudo-code example:

```
//
// Generate the log and exponent tables.
//
PrepareExpLogArrays();

//
// Generate a set of packets. Fill them with random data for this example.
//
Packet S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, F15;
S1.GeneratePacketData(10);
S2.GeneratePacketData(20);
S3.GeneratePacketData(15);
S4.GeneratePacketData(15);
S5.GeneratePacketData(20);

//
// Print the packets out for verification.
//
S1.PrintPacketData();
S2.PrintPacketData();
S3.PrintPacketData();
S4.PrintPacketData();
S5.PrintPacketData();

//
// The coefficient arrays and the fecIndex generated from FEC calculations
//
BYTE fecIndex = 0;
BYTE CoEfficientArray[5] = {0, 0, 0, 0, 0};

GenerateCoeffArray(CoEfficientArray, 5, 1, 5, &fecIndex);
printf("CoEff Array [%d %d %d %d %d]\n", CoEfficientArray[0],
```



```

        CoEfficientArray[1],
        CoEfficientArray[2],
        CoEfficientArray[3],
        CoEfficientArray[4]);

//
// Generating a matrix of source packets
//
BYTE* FECGeneratorArray[5] = {S1.m_pbPacket,
                              S2.m_pbPacket,
                              S3.m_pbPacket,
                              S4.m_pbPacket,
                              S5.m_pbPacket
                              };

//
// Generate the FEC packet.
//
MatrixMultiply(F15.m_pbPacket, CoEfficientArray, 5, FECGeneratorArray, 5, 22);

//
// Print the FEC packet for verification.
//
F15.PrintFECData(22);

.....

void MatrixMultiply(BYTE *fecArr, BYTE* CoEffArray, int cbCoEffArrayCount, BYTE**
FECGeneratorArray, int cbRowCount, int cbColumnCount)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < cbColumnCount; i++)
    {
        fecArr[i] = 0;
        for (int j = 0; j < cbCoEffArrayCount; j++)
        {
            fecArr[i] = Mul(CoEffArray[j],FECGeneratorArray[j][i]) ^ fecArr[i];
        }
    }
}

```

3.1.1.6.3 FEC Decoding

An FEC decoding operation is the reverse of the [FEC encoding \(section 3.1.1.6.2\)](#) operation. The FEC decoding operation solves the linear equation that is used to recover the lost Source Packets. Each FEC Packet can be used to recover only one Source Packet in the range covered by that FEC Packet.

To decode, or recover a missing datagram using FEC, the following matrix is constructed where packet F1 is the FEC block for Source Packets S1 – Sn.

For simplicity, assume n=5. If packet S₄ is missing, it can be recovered by using the following matrix operation.

$$\begin{bmatrix} S1 \\ S2 \\ S3 \\ S5 \\ F1-5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ c1 & c2 & c3 & c4 & c5 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} S1 \\ S2 \\ S3 \\ S4 \\ S5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 11: Matrix operation for FEC decoding

Here, matrix S' contains an unknown term (S_4) that needs to be computed. This can be done by converting Cd to an identity matrix using the Gauss-Jordan elimination. For more details on the Gauss-Jordan elimination, see [Press].

Not all matrices have an inverse, and in some cases, Cd' doesn't exist. For such operations, the FEC Packet cannot be used to recover from that particular Source Packet. Thus, not all FEC operations are reversible, and not being able to decode a FEC Packet is not fatal. The missing Source Packet is always retransmitted in RDP-UDP-R mode (section 3.1.1.7), and can be ignored for RDP-UDP-L mode (section 3.1.1.7).

Pseudo-code example:

```
// Regenerate Coefficient array from fecIndex.
//
RegenerateCoeffArrayFromFecIndex(CoEfficientArray, 5, fecIndex, 1, 5);

//
// Compute the missing packet (S3) by inverting the matrix.
// This is the algebraic equivalent
// of a matrix inverse.
//
for (int i = 0; i < 22; i++)
{
    printf("%d ", Div(Mul(CoEfficientArray[0], S1.m_pbPacket[i]) ^
                        Mul(CoEfficientArray[1], S2.m_pbPacket[i]) ^
                        Mul(CoEfficientArray[3], S4.m_pbPacket[i]) ^
                        Mul(CoEfficientArray[4], S5.m_pbPacket[i]) ^
                        F15.m_pbPacket[i], CoEfficientArray[2]));
}
printf("\n");
```

3.1.1.6.4 Selecting the Coefficients Matrix

If the Source sequence numbers (section 3.1.1.2) for packets $S_1, S_2, S_3 \dots S_n$ are $s_1, s_2, s_3 \dots s_n$, the coefficient matrix is calculated as follows.

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & \dots & c_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\text{fecIndex} \oplus (s_1 \& 0xf)} & \frac{1}{\text{fecIndex} \oplus (s_2 \& 0xf)} & \frac{1}{\text{fecIndex} \oplus (s_3 \& 0xf)} & \dots & \frac{1}{\text{fecIndex} \oplus (s_n \& 0xf)} \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 12: Matrix coefficient calculation

The division uses finite field division as described in section 3.1.1.6.1.2. Note that since all the packets in an FEC Packet are sequential, $s_2=s_1+1, s_3=s_1+2, \dots, s_n=s_1+(n-1)$.

Only the last byte of the Source sequence number is used in calculating the coefficient. The **fecIndex** field described in the following pseudo-code example is equivalent to the **uFecIndex** field, as specified in section 2.2.2.2. The value of the **fecIndex** field is updated using the following code prior to every call for encoding an FEC Packet:

```
if ((sn&0xf) >= (s1 &0xf) && ((fecIndex >= (s1 &0xf)) && (fecIndex <= (sn&0xf))) ||
```

```
(sn&0xf) < (s1 &0xf) && ((fecIndex >= (s1 &0xf)) || (fecIndex <= (sn&0xf)))
fecIndex = (sn+1) & 0xf;
```

Pseudo-code example:

```
void GenerateCoeffArray(BYTE *pbCoEfficientArray,
int cLength,
USHORT ucOrigStart,
USHORT ucOrigEnd,
__out BYTE *pucFecIndex)
{
    if ((ucOrigEnd >= ucOrigStart) &&
        ((*pucFecIndex >= ucOrigStart) && (*pucFecIndex <= ucOrigEnd)))
        *pucFecIndex = (BYTE)(ucOrigEnd+1);
    if ((ucOrigEnd < ucOrigStart) &&
        ((*pucFecIndex >= ucOrigStart) || (*pucFecIndex <= ucOrigEnd)))
        *pucFecIndex = (BYTE)(ucOrigEnd+1);

    for (int i=0; i < cLength; i++, ucOrigStart++)
    {
        BYTE e = Div(1, (*pucFecIndex)^ucOrigStart);
        pbCoEfficientArray[i] = (BYTE)m_ffPoly2Exp[e];
    }
}

void RegenerateCoeffArrayFromFecIndex(BYTE *pbCoefficientArray,
int cLength,
BYTE fecIndex,
USHORT ucOrigStart,
USHORT ucOrigEnd)
{
    for (int i=0; i < cLength; i++, ucOrigStart++)
    {
        BYTE e = Div(1, fecIndex^ucOrigStart);
        pbCoefficientArray[i] = (BYTE)m_ffPoly2Exp[e];
    }
}
```

3.1.1.6.5 Structure of Source Packets used for FEC Encoding

Only for the FEC Encoding operations, Source Packets are prepended with a 2 byte [RDPUDP PAYLOAD PREFIX \(section 2.2.2.3\)](#) header. This header is used only for the FEC encoding and decoding operations, and is not transmitted to the terminal client. This field contains the size of each Source Packet, specified in the network byte order. When a datagram is recovered using FEC, the first 2 bytes constitute of this header, and specify the size of the recovered datagram to the decoder.

3.1.1.7 Flow Control

The Flow Control feature is similar to the TCP transport protocol Flow Control, as specified in [\[RFC793\]](#).

The main objective of Flow Control is to prevent a fast sender from sending too many datagrams to a slow receiver and congesting it. The receiver advertises the number of datagrams it can accommodate at any given time. The sender **MUST NOT** send more datagrams than the advertised number of datagrams. The receiver **SHOULD** discard all datagrams that fall outside the advertised window.

The Flow Control algorithm allows the sender to transmit packets in the following range:

(**CumAcked** + 1) to (**CumAcked** + **uReceiveWindowSize**)

CumAcked: An internal state variable of the sender.

- For an RDP-UDP-R sender (section [1.3.1](#)), this is the highest sequence number where all datagrams with a smaller sequence number have already been received by the receiver.
- For an RDP-UDP-L sender (section [1.3.1](#)), this is the highest sequence number where all datagrams with a smaller sequence number have been either received or marked as lost by the receiver.

uReceiveWindowSize: The receiver advertised window defined in the **RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER** structure, as specified in section [2.2.2.1](#).

3.1.1.8 Congestion Control

The **Congestion Control** abstract data model (ADM) element is used to limit the rate at which the sender sends Source Packets. Controlling the network throughput enables sharing the network resources with other users and avoiding network congestion. The sender **MUST** implement some form of **Congestion Control** logic. Any NewReno variant implementation can be an acceptable option. For more information about NewReno variants, see [\[RFC3782\]](#).

When the sender receives the **RDPUDP_FLAG_CN** flag (section [2.2.2.1](#)), which notifies of a datagram loss, the sender **MUST** immediately react and reduce its network throughput. The next Source Packet sent by the sender **MUST** have an **RDPUDP_FLAG_CWR** flag (section [2.2.2.1](#)) to indicate that the sender has reacted to the **Congestion Notification** ADM element. The sender will remember the source packet that carries the **RDPUDP_FLAG_CWR**. The receiver will stop setting the **RDPUDP_FLAG_CN** on acknowledgment once it receives the **RDPUDP_FLAG_CWR**. On the other side, the sender will then ignore the set **RDPUDP_FLAG_CN** flags on subsequent acknowledgments from any receiver that has an **snSourceAck** ADM in the acknowledgment that is less than the previously remembered sequence number.

The sender reacts to losses that take place every **round-trip time (RTT)** only. There could be multiple losses in an RTT, and the sender **MUST NOT** react to those events. This behavior is similar to the NewReno variants behavior, as described in [\[RFC3782\]](#).

3.1.1.9 Keepalives

As the underlying transport is based on UDP and is connectionless, each pair of endpoints **MUST** constantly send data to make sure that the other endpoint is present and is responding to network events. If there is no data to send, each endpoint **MUST** periodically acknowledge the last received datagram. Otherwise, the **network address translation (NAT)** en route between the peers can block the UDP connection.

If the sender does not receive any datagram from the receiver after 65 seconds, it is determined that the remote endpoint has entered the Closed state (section [3.1.5](#)), and that the connection has been terminated.

Because the delivery of [acknowledgments \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#) is not guaranteed, the receiver SHOULD send one or more keepalive datagrams in implementation-specific [<2>](#) time intervals smaller or equal to 65 seconds. If the sender does not receive at least one keep-alive datagram every 65 seconds, it terminates the connection.

3.1.2 Timers

The following timers are used by the Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension and MUST be implemented:

Retransmit: This timer is used for indicating that no [acknowledgment \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#) has been received for a datagram that was transmitted earlier.

Keepalive at the sender: This timer is used for maintaining an active connection between the endpoints.

Delayed ACK: This timer is used for indicating the receipt of a Source Packet that was not acknowledged yet and has no acknowledgment scheduled for it.

3.1.3 Initialization

Before the protocol operation can commence, UDP network connectivity has to be established between the endpoints: the terminal client and the terminal server.

The terminal server MUST open a **UDP** socket, and bind it to the default RDP port 3389, as specified in section [2.1](#). The terminal server listens on this socket for incoming connections.

The terminal client MUST open a **UDP** socket to the terminal server. The terminal client MUST connect to the port that the terminal server is listening on. If there are multiple connections, each connection MUST have a unique port number on the terminal client.

3.1.4 Higher-Layer Triggered Events

3.1.4.1 Initializing a Connection

The user of this protocol MUST initialize a UDP connection between the endpoints as described in section [1.3.2.1](#).

3.1.4.2 Sending a Datagram

The user of this protocol can send data from one endpoint to another using this protocol. The protocol MUST send the data across only if the two endpoints are in the Established state.

3.1.4.3 Receiving a Datagram

The user of this protocol MUST be notified on receipt of a datagram when one endpoint receives data sent by the remote endpoint. The endpoints MUST be in the Established state.

3.1.4.4 Terminating a Connection

The user of this protocol can terminate a connection at any point in time. Datagrams SHOULD NOT be sent by the transport after the user has terminated the connection. All of the datagrams received after the connection termination MUST be ignored.

3.1.5 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules

The states of the protocol, divided into the terminal server states and the terminal client states, are illustrated in the following figure.

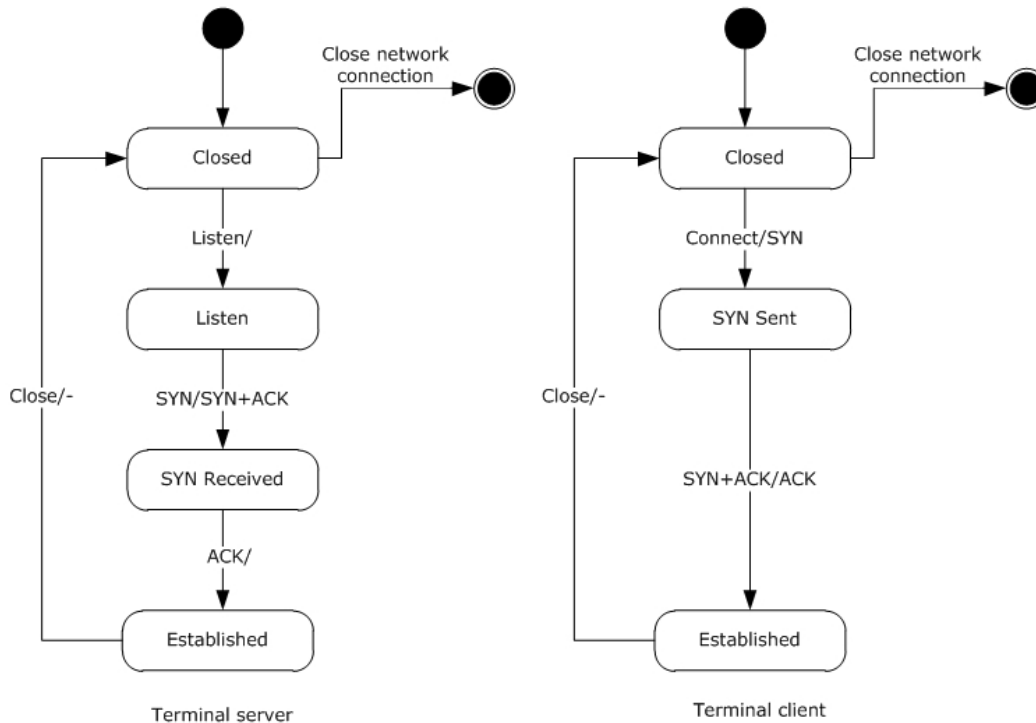


Figure 13: State diagram for the terminal server and terminal client states

The states are described as follows:

Closed state: Both the terminal server sender and the terminal client receiver can be in the Closed state. The endpoint in a Closed state MUST NOT respond to any networking events, and MUST NOT generate or process any datagrams. The endpoint enters the Closed state when the Retransmit timer or the Keepalive timer is fired, as specified in section 3.1.5.4.

Listen state: Only the terminal server sender can enter this state. The terminal server listens on the port for incoming UDP connections, as specified in section 3.1.3.

SYN_SENT: Only the terminal client receiver can enter this state, after sending a SYN packet and thus initiating the connection.

SYN_RECEIVED: Only the terminal server sender can enter this state, after receiving a SYN packet from the terminal client receiver.

Established: This state indicates that a connection has been established, and datagrams are exchanged between the two endpoints.

Duplicate messages are ignored and discarded by either endpoint. The exchanged messages are specified in the following sections.

3.1.5.1 Constructing Messages

3.1.5.1.1 SYN Datagrams

The following steps specify the creation of a SYN datagram:

1. An [RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.1\)](#) MUST be appended to the UDP datagram.
 - The **snSourceAck** variable MUST be set to -1.
 - The **uReceiveWindowSize** variable MUST be set to the size of the receive buffer. The receive buffer is the number of packets the receiver specified it can buffer.
 - The **uFlags** variable MUST be set as follows:
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_SYN** flag MUST be set.
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_SYNLOSSY** flag MUST be set only when neither endpoint requires retransmission of lost datagrams.
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_CORRELATION_ID** flag MUST be set only when the [RDPUDP_CORRELATION_ID_PAYLOAD structure \(section 2.2.2.8\)](#) is included.
2. The [RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD structure \(section 2.2.2.5\)](#) MUST be appended to the UDP datagram.
 - The **snInitialSequenceNumber** variable MUST be set to a 32-bit number generated by using a truly random function.
 - The **uUpStreamMtu** field MUST be set to a value in the range of 1132 to 1232.
 - The **uDownStreamMtu** field MTU MUST be set to a value in the range of 1132 to 1232.
3. The [RDPUDP_CORRELATION_ID_PAYLOAD structure \(section 2.2.2.8\)](#) MUST be appended to the UDP datagram if the **RDPUDP_FLAG_CORRELATION_ID** flag is set in **uFlags**.
 - The **uCorrelationId** variable MUST be filled with 8-bit numbers generated by using a truly random function, except that: The value MUST be transmitted in big-endian byte order. The most-significant byte should not have a value of 0x00 or 0xF4. None of the bytes should have the value 0x0D. This value should be the same as provided in the [RDP_NEG_CORRELATION_INFO structure \(\[MS-RDPBCGR\] section 2.2.1.1.2\)](#).
 - The **uReserved** variable MUST be filled with 16 8-bit numbers, all with value 0x00.
4. This datagram MUST be zero-padded to increase the size of this datagram to 1232 bytes.

3.1.5.1.2 ACK Datagrams

The following steps specify the creation of an ACK datagram:

1. An [RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.1\)](#) MUST be appended to the UDP datagram.
 - The **snSourceAck** variable MUST be set to the largest sequence number the receiver has seen so far. Sequence numbers will wrap over after overflow, and the receiver MUST handle this case.
 - The **uReceiveWindowSize** variable MUST be set to the size of the receive buffer. The receive buffer is the number of packets the receiver specified it can buffer.

- The **uFlags** flag MUST be set as follows:
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK** flag MUST be set.
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_CN** flag SHOULD be set only if the receiver has detected a lost datagram and has not received a datagram with the **RDPUDP_FLAG_CWR** flag corresponding to that **RDPUDP_FLAG_CN** flag.
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK_OF_ACKS** flag SHOULD be set only if the sender sends an ACK for the section [ACK Vector \(section 2.2.3.1\)](#).
- 2. An [RDPUDP_ACK_VECTOR_HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.7\)](#) header MUST be appended as follows:
 - The **uAckVectorSize** variable MUST be set to the number of elements in the array.
 - An array of elements, that captures the receiver's queue by using run-length encoding (RLE), as specified in section [3.1.1.4.1](#).
- 3. An [RDPUDP_ACK_OF_ACKVECTOR_HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.6\)](#) SHOULD be appended by the sender if both of the following occur:
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK_OF_ACKS** flag is set.
 - The **snAckOfAcksSeqNum** variable was set as the new start position of the ACK Vector.

3.1.5.1.3 SYN and ACK Datagrams

A SYN datagram is generated, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.1](#), with the following fields set as follows:

- The **snSourceAck** field in the [RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.1\)](#) MUST be set to the **snInitialSequenceNumber** value received in the SYN packet (section [3.1.5.1.1](#)).
- The **RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK** flag MUST be set in the [RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.1\)](#).
- The **uUpStreamMtu** and **uDownStreamMtu** in the [RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD structure \(section 2.2.2.5\)](#) MUST be set as specified in the algorithm described in section [3.1.1.3](#). The values of these fields MUST be in the range of 1132 to 1232 bytes.

3.1.5.1.4 ACK and Source Packets Data

The following steps specify the creation of an ACK and Source Packet datagram:

1. An ACK datagram is generated, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.2](#).
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_DATA** flag MUST be set.
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_CWR** flag SHOULD be set for the first **RDPUDP_FLAG_CN** flag seen in an RTT.
2. An [RDPUDP_SOURCE_PAYLOAD structure \(section 2.2.2.4\)](#) header MUST be appended.
 - The **snCoded** variable value MUST be set to the previously transmitted datagram's **snCoded** value plus 1. If this is the first datagram, this value is the advertised **Initial Sequence Number** ADM element plus 1.

- The **snSourceStart** variable MUST be set. It is incremented for each chunk of data written to the transport. The initial value is the advertised **Initial Sequence Number** ADM element plus 1.

3. The data payload protocol data MUST be appended.

3.1.5.1.5 ACK and FEC Packets Data

The following steps specify the creation of an ACK and FEC Packet datagram.

1. An ACK datagram is generated, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.2](#).
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_DATA** flag MUST be set.
 - The **RDPUDP_FLAG_FEC** flag MUST be set.
2. An [RDPUDP FEC PAYLOAD HEADER structure \(section 2.2.2.2\)](#) MUST be appended.
 - The **snCoded** variable's value MUST be set to the previously transmitted datagram's **snCoded** value plus 1. If this is the first datagram, this value is the advertised **Initial Sequence Number** ADM element.
 - The **snSourceStart** variable MUST be set to the Source sequence number of the first datagram included in this FEC operation.
 - The **uSourceRange** variable MUST be set to the number of datagrams included in this FEC operation.
 - The **uPadding** variable MUST be set to zero and ignored by the receiver.
3. The FEC payload data MUST be appended.

3.1.5.2 Connection Sequence

The protocol's connection sequence is illustrated in the figure in section [3.1.5](#). The following list describes the states that the terminal server and terminal client enter:

1. Listen/- : The terminal server enters the Listen state:
 - The terminal server binds to a UDP socket, and is ready to accept incoming connections.
2. Connect/SYN-:
 1. The terminal client establishes a **UDP** socket connection with the terminal server.
 2. The terminal client constructs and sends a SYN datagram, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.1](#).
3. SYN/SYN+ACK:
 1. The terminal server receives the SYN datagram.
 2. The terminal server constructs and sends a SYN+ACK datagram, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.3](#).
4. SYN+ACK/ACK(+DATA):

1. The terminal client receives a SYN+ACK datagram. If the terminal client does not receive a response for a SYN datagram that was retransmitted four times, the endpoint will enter the Closed state.
 2. The terminal client generates an ACK for the SYN+ACK datagram.
 3. The terminal client may append Source Packets to the ACK datagram.
5. ACK/-:
1. The server receives an ACK for the SYN+ACK datagram sent. If the terminal server does not receive a response for a SYN + ACK datagram that was retransmitted four times, the endpoint will enter the Closed state.
 2. The server enters the Established state.

3.1.5.3 Data Transfer Phase

3.1.5.3.1 Sender Receives Data

Each Source Packet is identified by a unique Source sequence number, as specified in section [3.1.1.2](#). The sender assigns a Source sequence number to each datagram. This number is increased by one for each datagram. The initial value is the **Initial Sequence Number** advertised by the Sender.

The size of the data a user can write to the sender is limited to the negotiated MTU for the RDP-UDP transport, obtained through the MTU negotiation process, as specified in section [3.1.1.3](#).

An RDP-UDP-R sender (section [1.3.1](#)) is similar to the TCP protocol, and operates like a stream-based transport. Data of any arbitrary size can be handed to the RDP-UDP-R sender. The sender fragments this block of data into MTU-sized chunks before transmitting it.

An RDP-UDP-L sender (section [1.3.1](#)) is similar to the UDP protocol, and operates like a pure datagram-based transport. Each block of data the RDP-UDP-L sender can send is no more than the MTU size negotiated in section [3.1.1.3](#). Blocks of data larger than the negotiated MTU are not transferred by this protocol.

3.1.5.3.2 Sender Sends Data

Each Coded Packet is identified by a Coded sequence number, as specified in section [3.1.1.2](#). The sender **MUST** implement a form of **Congestion Control**, and generate applicable messages, as specified in section [3.1.1.8](#).

3.1.5.3.2.1 Source Packet

A Source Packet is generated as specified in section [3.1.5.1.4](#). A Source Packet is sent only if one of the following occurs:

- A datagram has been marked as a [lost datagram \(section 3.1.1.4.1\)](#), and it has not been retransmitted.
- There is space in the receiver-advertised window for this datagram and the **Congestion Control** logic permits transmission of a datagram.

3.1.5.3.2.2 FEC Packet

An FEC Packet is generated, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.5](#). An FEC Packet is generated when the sender has sent one or more data packets and the receiver has not acknowledged one or more of these data packets.

3.1.5.3.3 Receiver Receives Data

The receiver MUST accept all of the datagrams with Source sequence numbers (section [3.1.1.2](#)) that fall within the range of the receiver-advertised window. All other datagrams MUST be ignored and discarded. If the datagram has already been received, the received datagram is a duplicate, and MUST be ignored. [Acknowledgments \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#) are generated for datagrams that were not discarded by the receiver.

The receiver MUST generate an acknowledgment for received Source Packets, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.2](#). The receiver MUST generate **Congestion Notification** messages, as specified in section [3.1.1.8](#).

3.1.5.3.4 User Consumes Data

The receiver-advertised window MUST increase by 1 for every datagram read by the user from the receiver.

3.1.5.4 Termination

3.1.5.4.1 Retransmit Limit

If a datagram has been retransmitted four times without a response, the sender terminates the connection. The endpoint is terminated and enters the Closed state.

3.1.5.4.2 Keepalive Timer Fires

If the sender does not receive any ACK from the receiver after 65 seconds, the connection is terminated and the endpoint enters the Closed state.

3.1.6 Timer Events

3.1.6.1 Retransmit Timer

This timer fires if no [acknowledgment \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#) has been received for a datagram that was transmitted earlier. This timer MUST fire at 200 milliseconds (ms) or twice the RTT, whichever is longer, after the datagram is transmitted.

When a datagram is scheduled for retransmission, a Source Packet is generated, as specified in section [3.1.5.1.4](#). If the same datagram has already been retransmitted four times, the endpoints move to the Closed state and the connection is terminated.

3.1.6.2 Keepalive Timer on the Sender

This timer fires when the sender has not received any datagram from the receiver within 65 seconds, as specified in section [3.1.1.9](#). This indicates that the receiver is no longer present or has disconnected. The upper layers are notified of this event, the endpoints move to the Closed state, and the connection is terminated.

3.1.6.3 Delayed ACK Timer

This timer fires on the receiver 200 ms after the receipt of a Source Packet if no [acknowledgment \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#) has been scheduled for that Source Packet. Once the timer is fired, an acknowledgment for that Source Packet MUST be generated and sent. The receiver MUST set the RDPUDP_FLAG_ACKDELAYED flag in the uFlags field of the RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER structure.

This timer is needed only when the receiver generates one cumulative acknowledgment for a number of Source Packets, as specified in section [3.1.1.4](#). In this case, this timer indicates that there is at least one Source Packet at the receiver for which an acknowledgment has not been generated and sent.

3.1.7 Other Local Events

None.

4 Protocol Examples

4.1 UDP Connection Initialization Packets

The following sections describe examples for packets that are created during the [UDP Connection Initialization \(section 1.3.2.1\)](#) phase.

For readability, the network captures headers have been divided with the "/" delimiter and additional information is provided in the field and value tables.

4.1.1 SYN Packet

This packet is used in the reliable, best-effort mode, as described in section [1.3.1](#). The following is an example of a network capture of a SYN packet as described in section [3.1.5.1.1](#).

```
ff ff ff ff 04 00 0A 01 00 00 00 42 04 D0 04 D0 00 00 00
D2 35 AC 43 89 41 42 DA B1 0E DD 68 87 F7 F9 FB
```

The following table describes the fields and values for each header structure.

Field	Value
RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER	ff ff ff ff 04 00 0A 01
snSourceAck	0xff ff ff ff
uReceiveWindowSize	0x04 00 = 1024 (decimal)
uFlags	0x0A 01 = RDPUDP_FLAG_CORRELATION_ID RDPUDP_FLAG_SYNLOSSY RDPUDP_FLAG_SYN
RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD	00 00 00 42 04 D0 04 D0
snInitialSequenceNumber	0x00 00 00 42
uUpStreamMtu	0x04 D0 = 1232 (decimal)
uDownStreamMtu	0x04 D0 = 1232 (decimal)
RDPUDP_CORRELATION_ID_PAYLOAD	0xD2 35 AC 43 89 41 42 DA B1 0E DD 68 87 F7 F9 FB 0x00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
uCorrelationId	0xD2 35 AC 43 89 41 42 DA B1 0E DD 68 87 F7 F9 FB
uReserved	0x00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
	00 00 00 (zero padded to 1232 bytes)

4.1.2 SYN and ACK Packet

The following is an example of a network capture of a SYN and ACK packet as described in section [3.1.5.1.3](#).

00 00 00 42 04 00 00 05 00 00 00 42 04 D0 04 D0 00 00 00

The following table describes the fields and values for each header structure.

Field	Value
RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER	00 00 00 42 04 00 02 01
snSourceAck	0x00 00 00 42
uReceiveWindowSize	0x04 00 = 1024 (decimal)
uFlags	0x 00 05 = RDPUDP_FLAG_SYN RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK
RDPUDP_SYNDATA_PAYLOAD	00 00 00 42 04 D0 04 D0
snInitialSequenceNumber	0x00 00 00 42
uUpStreamMtu	0x04 D0 = 1232 (decimal)
uDownStreamMtu	0x04 D0 = 1232 (decimal)
	00 00 00 (zero padded to 1232 bytes)

4.2 UDP Data Transfer Packets

The following sections describe examples for packets that are created during the section [UDP Data Transfer \(section 1.3.2.2\)](#) phase.

For readability, the network captures headers have been divided with the "/" delimiter and additional information is provided in the field and value tables.

4.2.1 Source Packet

The following is an example of a network capture of a Source Packet, as described in section [3.1.5.3.2.1](#).

d6 cf 0a b8 04 00 00 0c 00 01 04 00 ec 47 1a e4 ec 47 1a e4 17 03 03 00 40 bb...

The following table describes the fields and values for each header structure.

Field	Value
RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER	d6 cf 0a b8 04 00 00 0c
snSourceAck	0xd6 cf 0a b8 = -691074376 (decimal)
uReceiveWindowSize	0x0400 = 1024 (decimal)
uFlags	0x000c = RDPUDP_FLAG_DATA RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK
Ack Vector	04 00
Size	0x00 01 = 1

Field	Value
Element 1	0x04
State	0x0 (2 bits) DATAGRAM_RECEIVED
State	0x04 length of the vector, 4 datagrams received
RDPUDP_SOURCE_PAYLOAD_HEADER	ec 47 1a e4 ec 47 1a e4
snCoded	0xec 47 1a e4 = -330884380
snSourceStart	0xec 47 1a e4 = -330884380
Payload data	17 03 03 00 40 bb ...

4.2.2 FEC Packet

The following is an example of a network capture of an FEC Packet, as described in section [3.1.5.3.2.2](#).

```
d6 cf 0a cb 04 00 00 1c 00 01 04 00 ec 47 1a fd ec 47 1a fd 10 01 00 00 40 25 04 f1 ...
```

The following table describes the fields and values for each header structure.

Field	Value
RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER	d6 cf 0a b8 04 00 00 0c
snSourceAck	0xd6 cf 0a b8 = -691074376 (decimal)
uReceiveWindowSize	0x0400 = 1024 (decimal)
uFlags	0x001c = 0x0010 0x0008 0x0004 = RDPUDP_FLAG_FEC RDPUDP_FLAG_DATA RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK
Ack Vector	04 00
Size	0x00 01 = 1
Element 1	0x04
State	0x0 (2 bits) DATAGRAM_RECEIVED
State	0x04 length of the vector, 4 datagrams received
RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER	ec 47 1a fd ec 47 1a fd 10 01 00 00
snCoded	0xec 47 1a e4 = -330884380
snSourceStart	0xec 47 1a e4 = -330884380
uSourceRange	0x10 = 16

Field	Value
uFecIndex	0x01 = 1
uPadding	0x0000
Payload data	40 25 04 f1 ...

4.2.2.1 Payload of an FEC Packet

The following is an example of an FEC Packet network payload.

Sequence number	Size	Value
RDP Payload S1	10	155 110 240 230 64 115 74 226 112 181
RDP Payload S2	20	72 219 238 65 213 222 36 36 219 1 93 208 17 236 52 194 21 152 76 98
RDP Payload S3	15	186 87 66 43 163 21 224 11 17 221 148 13 249 159 32
RDP Payload S4	15	53 90 48 146 171 205 146 119 29 94 118 76 94 154 255
RDP Payload S5	20	53 83 233 201 242 15 30 42 14 61 77 183 89 190 220 10 153 148 221 195
FEC Payload		0 66 208 168 239 37 29 238 180 193 24 58 66 252 233 126 172 211 135 31 206 27

The following are FEC encoding internals; these packets are not transferred on the wire:

- CoEff Array [0 254 230 253 205]
- RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER:: uFecIndex = 0
- RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER:: snSourceStart = 1
- RDPUDP_FEC_PAYLOAD_HEADER:: uSourceRange = 5
- If RDP Payload S3 is lost, it will be recovered as

0 15 186 87 66 43 163 21 224 11 17 221 148 13 249 159 32 0 0 0 0 0

The first 2 bytes (0, 15) form the [RDPUDP_PAYLOAD_PREFIX header \(section 2.2.2.3\)](#), which gives the length of packet S3.

4.2.3 ACK Packet

The following is an example of a network capture of an ACK Packet, with the option ACK of ACKS, as described in section [3.1.5.1.2](#).

```
d6 cf 0a b8 04 00 01 0c 00 01 04 00 d6 cf 0a b8 ec 47 1a e4 ec 47 1a e4 17 03 03 00
```

The following table describes the fields and values for each header structure.

Field	Value
RDPUDP_FEC_HEADER	d6 cf 0a b8 04 00 01 0c
snSourceAck	0xd6 cf 0a b8 = -691074376 (decimal)
uReceiveWindowSize	0x0400 = 1024 (decimal)
uFlags	0x010c = 0x0100 0x0008 0x0004 = RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK_OF_ACKS RDPUDP_FLAG_DATA RDPUDP_FLAG_ACK
Ack Vector	04 00
Size	0x00 01 = 1
Element 1	0x04
State	0x0 (2 bits) DATAGRAM_RECEIVED
State	0x04 length of the vector, 4 datagrams received
Ack of Acks	d6 cf 0a b8
RDPUDP_SOURCE_PAYLOAD_HEADER	ec 47 1a e4 ec 47 1a e4
snCoded	0xec 47 1a e4 = -330884380
snSourceStart	0xec 47 1a e4 = -330884380
Payload data	17 03 03 00 ...

5 Security

5.1 Security Considerations for Implementers

The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension Protocol shares a number of security considerations with the TCP protocol. The following sections describe these security considerations.

5.1.1 Using Sequence Numbers

The two communicating endpoints exchange the range of sequence numbers they will be generating and/or are willing to accept through the **Initial Sequence Number** and [acknowledgments \(section 3.1.1.4\)](#). All of the datagrams that arrive at the receiver with sequence numbers that fall outside the advertised window are considered malicious, and are not processed.

Similarly, the sender maintains a range of sequence numbers that are valid and can be acknowledged. All of the acknowledgments with sequence numbers that fall outside this range are ignored. These datagrams may be a consequence of packet reordering or packet duplication in the network and do not result in a connection termination.

5.1.2 RDP-UDP Datagram Validation

All headers require validation. The size of the headers and data payload in the datagram must tally with the size of the UDP datagram, and within the ranges specified by the sender.

When decoding [ACK vectors \(2.2.3.1\)](#), some state changes are considered illegal. For example, a datagram that has been marked as received should not arrive with the state unknown in the subsequent datagrams. Such acknowledgments should be ignored, as they may either be delayed or invalid.

5.1.3 Congestion Notifications

The receiver generates congestion notifications for lost datagrams. The sender reduces the rate at which data is written to the wire. Failure to do so increases congestion on the network, and drives the network towards congestion collapse, which impacts all users.

5.2 Index of Security Parameters

None.

6 Appendix A: Product Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products or supplemental software. References to product versions include released service packs:

- Windows 8 operating system
- Windows Server 2012 operating system
- Windows 8.1 operating system
- Windows Server 2012 R2 operating system

Exceptions, if any, are noted below. If a service pack or Quick Fix Engineering (QFE) number appears with the product version, behavior changed in that service pack or QFE. The new behavior also applies to subsequent service packs of the product unless otherwise specified. If a product edition appears with the product version, behavior is different in that product edition.

Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification that is prescribed using the terms SHOULD or SHOULD NOT implies product behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term MAY implies that the product does not follow the prescription.

[<1> Section 3.1.1.4](#): The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension generates one ACK for every two Source Packets received from the sender.

[<2> Section 3.1.1.9](#): The Remote Desktop Protocol: UDP Transport Extension generates four keep-alive datagrams every 65 seconds when the transport is quiescent.

7 Change Tracking

No table of changes is available. The document is either new or has had no changes since its last release.

8 Index

A

Abstract data model
[client](#) 18
[server](#) 18
[Applicability](#) 11

C

[Capability negotiation](#) 11
[Change tracking](#) 44
Client
[abstract data model](#) 18
higher-layer triggered events
[initializing connection](#) 29
[receiving datagram](#) 29
[sending datagram](#) 29
[terminating connection](#) 29
[initialization](#) 29
[message processing](#) 30
[sequencing rules](#) 30
timer events
[Delayed ACK timer](#) 36
[Keepalive timer on sender](#) 35
[Retransmit timer](#) 35
[timers](#) 29

D

Data model - abstract
[client](#) 18
[server](#) 18

F

[Fields - vendor-extensible](#) 11

G

[Glossary](#) 6

H

Higher-layer triggered events
client
[initializing connection](#) 29
[receiving datagram](#) 29
[sending datagram](#) 29
[terminating connection](#) 29
server
[initializing connection](#) 29
[receiving datagram](#) 29
[sending datagram](#) 29
[terminating connection](#) 29

I

[Implementer - security considerations](#) 42
[Index of security parameters](#) 42

[Informative references](#) 7
Initialization
[client](#) 29
[server](#) 29
[Introduction](#) 6

M

Message processing
[client](#) 30
[server](#) 30
Messages
[syntax](#) 12
[transport](#) 12

N

[Normative references](#) 7

O

[Overview \(synopsis\)](#) 8

P

[Parameters - security index](#) 42
[Preconditions](#) 11
[Prerequisites](#) 11
[Product behavior](#) 43

R

References
[informative](#) 7
[normative](#) 7
[Relationship to other protocols](#) 11

S

Security
[implementer considerations](#) 42
[parameter index](#) 42
Sequencing rules
[client](#) 30
[server](#) 30
Server
[abstract data model](#) 18
higher-layer triggered events
[initializing connection](#) 29
[receiving datagram](#) 29
[sending datagram](#) 29
[terminating connection](#) 29
[initialization](#) 29
[message processing](#) 30
[sequencing rules](#) 30
timer events
[Delayed ACK timer](#) 36
[Keepalive timer on sender](#) 35
[Retransmit timer](#) 35

[timers](#) 29
[Standards assignments](#) 11
[Syntax](#) 12

T

Timer events

client

[Delayed ACK timer](#) 36
[Keepalive timer on sender](#) 35
[Retransmit timer](#) 35

server

[Delayed ACK timer](#) 36
[Keepalive timer on sender](#) 35
[Retransmit timer](#) 35

Timers

[client](#) 29
[server](#) 29

[Tracking changes](#) 44

[Transport](#) 12

Triggered events

client

[initializing connection](#) 29
[receiving datagram](#) 29
[sending datagram](#) 29
[terminating connection](#) 29

server

[initializing connection](#) 29
[receiving datagram](#) 29
[sending datagram](#) 29
[terminating connection](#) 29

V

[Vendor-extensible fields](#) 11

[Versioning](#) 11