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Technical Committee:

OASIS Message Queuing Telemetry Transport (MQTT) TC

Chairs:

Raphael J Cohn (raphael.cohn@stormmq.com), Individual
Richard J Coppen (coppen@uk.ibm.com), IBM

Editors:

Andrew Banks (Andrew_Banks@uk.ibm.com), IBM
Rahul Gupta (rahul.gupta@us.ibm.com), IBM

Abstract:

MQTT is a Client Server publish/subscribe messaging transport protocol. It is light weight, open, simple, and designed so as to be easy to implement. These characteristics make it ideal for use in many situations, including constrained environments such as for communication in Machine to Machine (M2M) and Internet Of Things (IoT) contexts where a small code footprint is required and/or network bandwidth is at a premium.

The protocol runs over TCP/IP, or over other network protocols that provide ordered, lossless, bi-directional connections. Its features include:

- Use of the publish/subscribe message pattern which provides one-to-many message distribution and decoupling of applications.
- A messaging transport that is agnostic to the content of the payload.
- Three qualities of service for message delivery:
  - "At most once", where messages are delivered according to the best efforts of the operating environment. Message loss can occur. This level could be used, for example, with ambient sensor data where it does not matter if an individual reading is lost as the next one will be published soon after.
  - "At least once", where messages are assured to arrive but duplicates may occur.
  - "Exactly once", where message are assured to arrive exactly once. This level could be used, for example, with billing systems where duplicate or lost messages could lead to incorrect charges being applied.
- A small transport overhead and protocol exchanges minimized to reduce network traffic.

- A mechanism to notify interested parties when an abnormal disconnection occurs.

Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Message Queuing Telemetry Transport (MQTT) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the "Latest version" location noted above for possible later revisions of this document.

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Table of Contents

1 Introduction

This specification is split into seven chapters:

- Introduction and concepts
- Control Packet format
- The specific details of each Control Packet type
- Operational behavior of the Client and Server
- Security considerations
- Using WebSocket as a network transport
- Conformance requirements for this version of the specification

1.1 Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this specification are to be interpreted as described in IETF RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

Network Connection:

A construct provided by the underlying transport protocol that is being used by MQTT.

- It connects the Client to the Server,
- It provides the means to send an ordered, lossless, stream of bytes in both directions.

For examples see section 4.2.

Client:

A program or device that uses MQTT. A Client always establishes the Network Connection to the Server.

It can

- Publish Application Messages that other Clients might be interested in.
- Subscribe to request Application Messages that it is interested in receiving.
- Unsubscribe to remove a request for Application Messages.
- Disconnect from the Server.

Server:

Accepts connections from Clients. It is the intermediary between a Client publishing Application Messages and the Clients which have made Subscriptions.

Application Message:

The data carried by the MQTT protocol across the network for the application. When Application Messages are transported by MQTT they have an associated Quality of Service and a Topic Name.

Topic Name:

The label attached to an Application Message which is matched against the Subscriptions known to the Server. The Server sends a copy of the Application Message to each Client that has a matching Subscription.

Topic Filter:

An expression contained in a Subscription, to indicate an interest in one or more topics. A Topic Filter may include wildcard characters.

Subscription:

A Subscription comprises a Topic Filter and its maximum QoS. A Subscription is associated with a single Session. A Session can contain more than one Subscription. Each Subscription within a session MUST have a different Topic Filter [MQTT-1.1.0-1].

Session:

A stateful interaction between a Client and a Server**.** Some Sessions only last as long as the Network Connection, others span multiple Network Connections.

MQTT Control Packet:

A packet of information that flows across the Network Connection. The MQTT specification defines 14 types of Control Packet, one of which (the PUBLISH packet) is used to convey Application Messages.

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- Louis-P. Lamoureux (Machine-to-Machine Intelligence (M2MI) Corporation)
- David Locke (IBM)
- Shawn McAllister (Solace Systems)
- Manu Namboodiri (Machine-to-Machine Intelligence (M2MI) Corporation)
- Peter Niblett (IBM)
- Arlen Nipper (Individual)

- Julien Niset (Machine-to-Machine Intelligence (M2MI) Corporation)
- Mark Nixon (Emerson Process Management)
- Nicholas O'Leary (IBM)
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- T. Wyatt (Individual)
- SHAWN XIE (Machine-to-Machine Intelligence (M2MI) Corporation)
- Dominik Zajac (dc-square GmbH)

Secretary:

Geoff Brown (geoff.brown@m2mi.com), M2MI

1.4 Data representations

1.4.1 Bits

Bits in a byte are labeled 7 through 0. Bit number 7 is the most significant bit, the least significant bit is assigned bit number 0.

1.4.1.1 Integer data values

Integer data values are 16 bits in big-endian order: the high order byte precedes the lower order byte. This means that a 16-bit word is presented on the network as Most Significant Byte (MSB), followed by Least Significant Byte (LSB).

1.4.1.2 UTF-8 encoded strings

Many of the fields in the Control Packets are encoded as UTF-8 strings. UTF-8 [RFC3629] is an efficient encoding of Unicode **[Unicode63]** characters that optimizes the encoding of ASCII characters in support of text-based communications.

Each of these strings is prefixed with a two byte length field that gives the number of bytes in the UTF-8 encoded string itself, as shown in table below. Consequently there is a limit on the size of a string that can be passed in one of these UTF-8 encoded string components; you cannot use a string that would encode to more than 65535 bytes.

Unless stated otherwise all UTF-8 encoded strings can have any length in the range 0 to 65535 bytes

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	String byte length MSB							

byte 2	String byte length LSB
byte 3 ….	UTF-8 Encoded Character Data, if length > 0.

The encoded data MUST be well-formed UTF-8 as defined by the Unicode spec [Unicode63] and restated in RFC 3629 [RFC 3629]. In particular the encoded data MUST NOT include encodings of code points between U+D800 and U+DFFF. If a receiver (Server or Client) receives a control packet containing ill-formed UTF-8 it MUST close the network connection. [MQTT-1.4.0-1].

The UTF-8 encoded string MUST NOT include an encoding of the null character U+0000. If a receiver (Server or Client) receives a control packet containing U+0000 it MUST close the network connection. [MQTT-1.4.0-2]

The data SHOULD NOT include encodings of the Unicode **[Unicode63]** code points listed below. If a receiver (Server or Client) receives a control packet containing any of them it MAY close the network connection.

U+0001..U+001F control characters
U+007F..U+009F control characters

Code points defined in the Unicode specification **[Unicode63]** to be non-characters (for example U+0FFFF)

The UTF-8 encoded sequence 0xEF 0xBB 0xBF is always to be interpreted to mean U+FEFF ("ZERO WIDTH NO-BREAK SPACE") wherever it appears in a string and MUST NOT be skipped over or stripped off by a packet receiver. [MQTT-1.4.0-3]

Non normative example.

For example, the string A鱀 which is LATIN CAPITAL Letter A followed by the code point U+2A6D4 (which represents a CJK IDEOGRAPH EXTENSION B character) Is encoded as follows:

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Message Length MSB (0x00)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Message Length LSB (0x05)							
	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
byte 3	'A' (0x41)							
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
byte 4	(0xF0)							
	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
byte 5	(0xAA)							
	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
byte 6	(0x9B)							
	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1

byte 7	(0x94)							
	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

2 MQTT Control Packet format

The MQTT protocol works by exchanging a series of MQTT Control Packets in a defined way. This section describes the format of these packets. An MQTT Control Packet consists of up to three parts, always in the following order:

Fixed header, present in all MQTT Control Packets
Variable header, present in some MQTT Control Packets
Payload, present in some MQTT Control Packets

Unless stated otherwise, if either the Server or Client receives a Control Packet which does not meet this specification, it MUST close the Network Connection [MQTT-2.0.0-1].

2.1 Fixed header

Each MQTT Control Packet contains a fixed header. The table below shows the fixed header format.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type				Flags specific to each MQTT Control Packet type			
byte 2…	Remaining Length							

2.1.1 MQTT Control Packet types

Position: byte 1, bits 7-4.

Represented as a 4-bit unsigned value, the values are shown in the table below.

Name	Value	Direction of flow	Description
Reserved	0	Forbidden	Reserved
CONNECT	1	Client to Server	Client request to connect to Server
CONNACK	2	Server to Client	Connect acknowledgment
PUBLISH	3	Client to Server or Server to Client	Publish message
PUBACK	4	Client to Server or Server to Client	Publish acknowledgment

PUBREC	5	Client to Server or Server to Client	Publish received (assured delivery part 1)
PUBREL	6	Client to Server or Server to Client	Publish release (assured delivery part 2)
PUBCOMP	7	Client to Server or Server to Client	Publish complete (assured delivery part 3)
SUBSCRIBE	8	Client to Server	Client subscribe request
SUBACK	9	Server to Client	Subscribe acknowledgment
UNSUBSCRIBE	10	Client to Server	Unsubscribe request
UNSUBACK	11	Server to Client	Unsubscribe acknowledgment
PINGREQ	12	Client to Server	PING request
PINGRESP	13	Server to Client	PING response
DISCONNECT	14	Client to Server	Client is disconnecting
Reserved	15	Forbidden	Reserved

2.1.2 Flags

The remaining bits [3-0] of byte 1 in the fixed header contain flags specific to each MQTT Control Packet type as detailed in the table below. Where a bit is marked as "Reserved", it MUST be set as shown in the table and is reserved for future use. If invalid flags are received, the receiver MUST close the Network Connection [MQTT-2.1.2-1].

Control Packet	Fixed header flags	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
CONNECT	Reserved	0	0	0	0
CONNACK	Reserved	0	0	0	0
PUBLISH	Used in MQTT 3.1.1	Dup	QoS	QoS	RETAIN
PUBACK	Reserved	0	0	0	0
PUBREC	Reserved	0	0	0	0
PUBREL	Reserved	0	0	1	0
PUBCOMP	Reserved	0	0	0	0
SUBSCRIBE	Reserved	0	0	1	0
SUBACK	Reserved	0	0	0	0
UNSUBSCRIBE	Reserved	0	0	1	0

UNSUBACK	Reserved	0	0	0	0
PINGREQ	Reserved	0	0	0	0
PINGRESP	Reserved	0	0	0	0
DISCONNECT	Reserved	0	0	0	0

Dup = Duplicate delivery of Control Packet

QoS = Quality of Service

RETAIN = Retain flag

2.1.2.1 Dup

Position: byte 1, bit 3.

If Dup is 0 then the flow is the first occasion that the Client or Server has attempted to send the MQTT PUBLISH Packet. If Dup is 1 then this indicates that the flow might be re-delivery of an earlier packet. [MQTT-2.1.2-2].

The Dup flag MUST be set to 1 by the Client or Server when it attempts to re-deliver a PUBLISH Packet [MQTT-2.1.2-3].

The Dup flag MUST be 0 for all QoS 0 messages. [MQTT-2.1.2-4].

The value of the Dup flag from an incoming PUBLISH packet is not propagated when the PUBLISH Packet is sent to subscribers by the Server. The Dup flag in the outgoing PUBLISH packet MUST BE set independently to the incoming PUBLISH packet. [MQTT-2.1.2-5].

Non Normative comment.

The recipient of a Control Packet that contains the Dup flag set to 1 cannot assume that it has seen an earlier copy of this packet.

Non Normative comment.

It is important to note that the Dup flag refers to the Control Packet itself and not to the Application Message that it contains. When using QoS 1, it is possible for a Client to receive a PUBLISH Packet with DUP set to 0 that contains a repetition of an Application Message that it received earlier, but with a different Packet Identifier. See section 2.3.1 Packet Identifier.

2.1.2.2 QoS

Position: byte 1, bit 2-1.

This field indicates the level of assurance for delivery of an Application Message. The QoS levels are shown in the table below.

QoS value	bit 2	bit 1	Description
0	0	0	At most once delivery
1	0	1	At least once delivery
2	1	0	Exactly once delivery
3	1	1	Reserved (MUST NOT be used)

2.1.2.3 RETAIN

Position: byte 1, bit 0.

This flag is only used on the PUBLISH Packet.

If the retain flag is set to 1 , in a PUBLISH Packet sent by a Client to a Server, the Server MUST store the application message and its QoS, so that it can be delivered to future subscribers whose subscriptions match its topic name. [MQTT-2.1.2-6] When a new subscription is established, the last retained message, if any, on each matching topic name MUST be sent to the subscriber. [MQTT-2.1.2-7] If the Server receives a QoS 0 message with the RETAIN flag set to 1 it MUST discard any message previously retained for that topic. It SHOULD store the new QoS 0 message as the new retained message for that topic, but MAY discard it at any time. If this happens there will be no retained message for that topic. [MQTT-2.1.2-8] See Section 4.1 storing state.

When sending a PUBLISH Packet to a Client the Server MUST set the RETAIN flag to 1 if a message is sent as a result of a new subscription being made by a Client [MQTT-2.1.2-9]. It MUST set the RETAIN flag to 0 when a PUBLISH Packet is sent to a Client because it matches an established subscription regardless of how the flag was set in the message it received [MQTT-2.1.2-10].

A PUBLISH Packet with a retain flag set to 1 and a payload containing zero bytes will be processed as normal by the Server and sent to Clients with a subscription matching the topic name. Additionally any existing retained message with the same topic name MUST be removed and any future subscribers for the topic will not receive a retained message. [MQTT-2.1.2-11] “As normal” means that the Retain flag is not set in the message received by existing Clients.

If the RETAIN flag is 0, in a PUBLISH Packet sent by a Client to a Server, the Server MUST NOT store the message and MUST NOT remove or replace any existing retained message. [MQTT-2.1.2-12]

Non normative comment.

Retained messages are useful where publishers send state messages on an irregular basis. A new subscriber will receive the most recent state.

2.2 Remaining Length

Position: starts at byte 2.

The Remaining Length is the number of bytes remaining within the current packet, including data in the variable header and the payload. The Remaining Length does not include the bytes used to encode the Remaining Length.

The Remaining Length is encoded using a variable length encoding scheme which uses a single byte for values up to 127. Larger values are handled as follows. The least significant seven bits of each byte encode the data, and the most significant bit is used to indicate that there are following bytes in the representation. Thus each byte encodes 128 values and a "continuation bit". The maximum number of bytes in the Remaining Length field is four.

Non normative comment.

For example, the number 64 decimal is encoded as a single byte, decimal value 64, hexadecimal 0x40. The number 321 decimal (= 65 + 2*128) is encoded as two bytes, least significant first. The first byte 65+128 = 193. Note that the top bit is set to indicate at least one following byte. The second byte is 2.

Non normative comment.

This allows applications to send Control Packets of size up to 268,435,455 (256 MB). The representation of this number on the wire is: 0xFF, 0xFF, 0xFF, 0x7F.

The table below shows the Remaining Length values represented by increasing numbers of bytes.

Digits	From	To
1	0 (0x00)	127 (0x7F)
2	128 (0x80, 0x01)	16 383 (0xFF, 0x7F)
3	16 384 (0x80, 0x80, 0x01)	2 097 151 (0xFF, 0xFF, 0x7F)
4	2 097 152 (0x80, 0x80, 0x80, 0x01)	268 435 455 (0xFF, 0xFF, 0xFF, 0x7F)

Non normative comment.

The algorithm for encoding a non negative integer (X) into the variable length encoding scheme is as follows:

```
do
       encodedByte = X MOD 128
       X = X DIV 128
      // if there are more data to encode, set the top bit of this byte
      if ( X > 0 )
          encodedByte = encodedByte OR 128
      endif
          'output' encodedByte
 while ( X > 0 )
```

Where `MOD` is the modulo operator (`%` in C), `DIV` is integer division (`/` in C), and `OR` is bit-wise or (`|` in C).

Non normative comment.

The algorithm for decoding the Remaining Length field is as follows:

```
multiplier = 1
value = 0
do
     encodedByte = 'next byte from stream'
     value += (encodedByte AND 127) * multiplier
     multiplier *= 128
     if (multiplier > 128*128*128)
        throw Error(Malformed Remaining Length)
```



```
        while ((encodedByte AND 128) != 0)
```

where AND is the bit-wise and operator (& in C).

When this algorithm terminates, `value` contains the Remaining Length value.

2.3 Variable header

Some types of MQTT Control Packets contain a variable header component. It resides between the fixed header and the payload. The content of the variable header varies depending on the Packet type, however one field - the Packet Identifier - is common to several packet types.

2.3.1 Packet Identifier

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	Packet Identifier MSB							
	Packet Identifier LSB							

The variable header component of many of the Control Packet types includes a 2 byte Packet Identifier field. These Control Packets are PUBLISH (where QoS > 0), PUBACK, PUBREC, PUBREL, PUBCOMP, SUBSCRIBE, SUBACK, UNSUBSCRIBE, UNSUBACK.

SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, and PUBLISH (in cases where QoS > 0) Control Packets MUST contain a non-zero 16-bit Packet Identifier [MQTT-2.3.1-1]. Each time a Client sends a new packet of one of these types it MUST assign it a currently unused Packet Identifier [MQTT-2.3.1-2]. If a Client resends a particular Control Packet, then it MUST use the same Packet Identifier in subsequent resends of that packet. The Packet Identifier becomes available for reuse after the Client has processed the corresponding acknowledgement packet. In the case of a QoS 1 PUBLISH this is the corresponding PUBACK; in the case of QoS 2 it is PUBCOMP. For SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE it is the corresponding SUBACK or UNSUBACK. [MQTT-2.3.1-3]. The same conditions apply to a Server when it sends a PUBLISH with QoS > 0 [MQTT-2.3.1-4].

A PUBLISH Packet MUST NOT contain a Packet Identifier if its QoS value is set to 0 [MQTT-2.3.1.-5].

A PUBACK, PUBREC, PUBREL Packet MUST contain the same Packet Identifier as the PUBLISH Packet that initiated the flow [MQTT-2.3.1-6]. Similarly SUBACK and UNSUBACK MUST contain the Packet Identifier that was used in the corresponding SUBSCRIBE and UNSUBSCRIBE Packet respectively [MQTT-2.3.1-7].

Control Packets that contain a Packet Identifier

Control Packet	Packet Identifier field
CONNECT	NO
CONNACK	NO
PUBLISH	YES (If QoS > 0)
PUBACK	YES

PUBREC	YES
PUBREL	YES
PUBCOMP	YES
SUBSCRIBE	YES
SUBACK	YES
UNSUBSCRIBE	YES
UNSUBACK	YES
PINGREQ	NO
PINGRESP	NO
DISCONNECT	NO

The Client and Server assign Packet Identifiers independently of each other. As a result, Client Server pairs can participate in concurrent message exchanges using the same Packet Identifiers.

Non Normative comment.

It is possible for a Client to send a PUBLISH Packet with Packet Identifier 0x1234 and then receive a different PUBLISH with Packet Identifier 0x1234 from its Server before it receives a PUBACK for the PUBLISH that it sent.

```
Client                      Server
PUBLISH Packet Identifier=0x1234--->
<--PUBLISH Packet Identifier=0x1234
PUBACK Packet Identifier=0x1234--->
<--PUBACK Packet Identifier=0x1234
```

2.3.2 Payload

Some MQTT Control Packets contain a payload as the final part of the packet, as described in section 3. In the case of the PUBLISH packet this is the Application Message.

3 MQTT Control Packets

3.1 CONNECT – Client requests a connection to a Server

After a Network connection is established by a Client to a Server, the first flow from the Client to the Server MUST be a CONNECT Packet [MQTT-3.1.0-1].

A Client can only flow the CONNECT Packet once over a Network Connection. The Server MUST process a second CONNECT Packet sent from a Client as a protocol violation and disconnect the Client [MQTT-3.1.0-2].

The payload contains one or more encoded fields. They specify a unique Client identifier for the Client, a Will topic, Will message, User Name and Password. All but the Client identifier are optional and their presence is determined based on flags in the variable header.

3.1.1 Fixed header

The fixed header format is shown in the table below.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (1)				Reserved			
	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Byte 2…	Remaining Length							

Remaining Length field

Remaining Length is the length of the variable header (10 bytes) plus the length of the Payload. It is encoded in the manner described in section 2.2

3.1.2 Variable header

The variable header for the CONNECT Packet consists of four fields in the following order: Protocol Name, Protocol Level, Connect Flags, and Keep Alive.

3.1.2.1 Protocol Name

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Protocol Name									
byte 1	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Length LSB (4)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
byte 3	‘M’	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
byte 4	‘Q’	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
byte 5	‘T’	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0

byte 6	‘T’	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0

The Protocol Name, is a UTF-8 encoded string that represents the protocol name “MQTT”, capitalized as shown. The string, its offset and length will not be changed by future versions of the MQTT specification.

If the protocol name is incorrect the Server MAY disconnect the Client, or it MAY continue processing the CONNECT packet in accordance with some other specification. In the latter case, the Server MUST NOT continue to process the CONNECT packet in line with this specification [MQTT-3.1.2-1].

Non normative comment

Packet inspectors, such as firewalls, could use the Protocol Name to identify MQTT traffic.

3.1.2.2 Protocol Level

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Protocol Level									
byte 7	Level(4)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

The 8 bit unsigned value that represents the revision level of the protocol used by the Client. The value of the Protocol Level field for the version 3.1.1 of the protocol is 4 (0x04). The Server MUST respond to the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code 0x01 (unacceptable protocol level) and then disconnect the Client if the Protocol Level is not supported by the Server [MQTT-3.1.2-2].

3.1.2.3 Connect Flags

The Connect Flags byte contains a number of parameters specifying the behavior of the MQTT connection. It also indicates the presence or absence of fields in the payload.

Bit	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
	User Name Flag	Password Flag	Will Retain	Will QoS		Will Flag	Clean Session	Reserved
byte 8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

The Server MUST validate that the reserved flag in the CONNECT Control Packet is set to zero and disconnect the Client if it is not zero. [MQTT-3.1.2-3]

3.1.2.4 Clean Session

Position: bit 1 of the Connect Flags byte.

If set to 0, the Server resumes communications with the Client based on state from the current Session (as identified by the Client identifier). If there is no Session associated with the Client identifier the Server creates a new Session. The Client and Server MUST store the Session after the Client and Server are disconnected [MQTT-3.1.2-4]. After disconnection, the Server MUST store further QoS 1 and QoS 2

messages that match any subscriptions that the client had at the time of disconnection as part of the Session state [MQTT-3.1.2-5]. It MAY also store QoS 0 messages that meet the same criteria.

If set to 1, the Client and Server MUST discard any previous Session and start a new one. This Session lasts as long as the Network Connection. State data associated with this session MUST NOT be reused in any subsequent Session [MQTT-3.1.2-6].

The Session state in the Client consists of:

- QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages for which transmission to the Server is incomplete.
- The Client MAY store QoS 0 messages for later transmission.

The Session state in the Server consists of:

- The Client's subscriptions.
- All QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages for which transmission to the Client is incomplete or where transmission to the Client has not yet been started.
- The Server MAY store QoS 0 messages for which transmission to the Client has not yet been started.

Retained publications do not form part of the Session state in the Server, they MUST NOT be deleted when the Session ends [MQTT-3.1.2.7].

See section 4.1 for details and limitations of stored state.

When Clean Session is set to 1 the Client and Server need not process the deletion of state atomically.

Non Normative comment.

Consequently, in the event of a failure to connect the Client should repeat its attempts to connect with Clean Session set to 1, until it connects successfully.

Non Normative comment.

Typically, a Client will always connect using CleanSession 0 or CleanSession 1 and not swap between the two values. The choice will depend on the application. A Client using CleanSession 1 will not receive old publications and has to subscribe afresh to any topics that it is interested in each time it connects. A Client using CleanSession 0 will receive all QoS 1 or QoS 2 messages that were published whilst it was disconnected. Hence, to ensure that you do not lose messages while disconnected, use QoS 1 or QoS 2 with CleanSession 0.

Non Normative comment.

When a Client connects with cleanSession = 0 it is requesting that the Server maintain its MQTT session state after it disconnects. Clients should only connect with cleanSession = 0 if they intend to reconnect to the Server at some later point in time. When a Client has determined that it has no further use for the session it should do a final connect with cleanSession = 1 and then disconnect.

3.1.2.5 Will Flag

Position: bit 2 of the Connect Flags.

If the Will Flag is set to 1 this indicates that a Will Message MUST be published by the Server when the Server detects that the Client is disconnected for any reason other than the Client flowing a DISCONNECT Packet [MQTT-3.1.2-8]. This includes, but is not limited to, the flowing situations:

- An I/O error or network failure detected by the Server.
- The Client fails to communicate within the Keep Alive time.
- The Client closes the Network Connection without first sending a DISCONNECT Packet.
- The Server closes the Network Connection because of a protocol error.

If the Will Flag is set to 1, the Will QoS and Will Retain fields in the Connect Flags will be used by the Server, and the Will Topic and Will Message fields MUST be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-9].

The will message MUST be removed from the stored Session state in the Server once it has been published or the Server has received a DISCONNECT packet from the Client. If the Will Flag is set to 0, no will message is published. [MQTT-3.1.2-10]

3.1.2.6 Will QoS

Position: bits 4 and 3 of the Connect Flags.

These two bits specify the QoS level to be used when publishing the Will Message.

If the Will Flag is set to 0, then the Will QoS MUST be set to 0 (0x00) [MQTT-3.1.2-11].

If the Will Flag is set to 1, the value of Will QoS can be 0 (0x00), 1 (0x01), or 2 (0x02). It MUST NOT be 3 (0x03). [MQTT-3.1.2-12].

3.1.2.7 Will Retain

Position: bit 5 of the Connect Flags.

If the Will Flag is set to 0, then the Will Retain Flag MUST be set to 0 [MQTT-3.1.2-13].

If the Will Flag is set to 1:

- If Will Retain is set to 0, the Server MUST publish the Will Message as a non-retained publication [MQTT-3.1.2-14].
- If Will Retain is set to 1, the Server MUST publish the Will Message as a retained publication [MQTT-3.1.2-15].

3.1.2.8 User Name Flag

Position: bit 7 of the Connect Flags.

If the User Name Flag is set to 0, a user name MUST NOT be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-16].

If the User Name Flag is set to 1, a user name MUST be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-17].

3.1.2.9 Password Flag

Position: bit 6 of the Connect Flags byte.

If the Password Flag is set to 0, a password MUST NOT be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-18].

If the Password Flag is set to 1, a password MUST be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-19].

If the User Name Flag is set to 0, the Password Flag MUST be set to 0 [MQTT-3.1.2-20].

3.1.2.10 Keep Alive

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 9	Keep Alive MSB							
byte 10	Keep Alive LSB							

The Keep Alive is a time interval measured in seconds. Expressed as a 16-bit word, it is the maximum time interval that is permitted to elapse between two successive Control Packets sent by the Client.

It is the responsibility of the Client to ensure that the interval between Control Packets being sent does not exceed the Keep Alive value. In the absence of sending any other Control Packets, the Client MUST send a PINGREQ Packet [MQTT-3.1.2-21].

The Client can send PINGREQ at any time, irrespective of the Keep Alive value, and use the PINGRESP to determine that the network and the Server are working.

If the Server does not receive a Control Packet from the Client within one and a half times the Keep Alive time period, it MUST disconnect the Network Connection to the Client as if the network had failed. [MQTT-3.1.2-22]

If a Client does not receive a PINGRESP Packet within a reasonable amount of time after it has sent a PINGREQ, it SHOULD close the Network Connection to the Server.

A Keep Alive value of zero (0) has the effect of turning off the keep alive mechanism. This means that, in this case, the Server is NOT REQUIRED to disconnect the Client on the grounds of inactivity. Note that a Server MAY choose to disconnect a Client that it determines to be inactive or non-responsive at any time, regardless of the Keep Alive value provided by that Client.

Non normative comment.

The actual value of the Keep Alive is application-specific, typically this is a few minutes. The maximum value is 18 hours 12 minutes and 15 seconds.

3.1.2.11 Variable header example, Non normative

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Protocol Name									
byte 1	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Length LSB (4)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
byte 3	‘M’	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
byte 4	‘Q’	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

byte 5	'T'	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
byte 6	'T'	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Protocol Level									
	Description	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
byte 7	Level (4)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Connect Flags									
byte 8	User Name Flag (1) Password Flag (1) Will Retain (0) Will QoS (01) Will Flag (1) Clean Session (1) *Reserved* (0)	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Keep Alive									
byte 9	Keep Alive MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 10	Keep Alive LSB (10)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

3.1.3 Payload

The payload of the CONNECT Packet contains one or more length-prefixed fields, whose presence is determined by the flags in the variable header. These fields, if present, MUST appear in the order Client Identifier, Will Topic, Will Message, User Name, Password. [MQTT-3.1.3-1]

3.1.3.1 Client Identifier

The Client Identifier (ClientId) identifies the Client to the Server. Each Client connecting to the Server has a unique ClientId. The ClientId MUST be used by Clients and by Servers to identify state that they hold relating to this MQTT Session between the Client and the Server. [MQTT-3.1.3-2]

The Client Identifier (ClientId) MUST be present and MUST be the first field in the payload. [MQTT-3.1.3-3]

The ClientId MUST comprise only Unicode **[Unicode63]** characters, and the length of the UTF-8 encoding MUST be at least zero bytes and no more than 65535 bytes. [MQTT-3.1.3-4]

The Server MAY restrict the ClientId it allows in terms of their lengths and the characters they contain,.The Server MUST allow ClientIds which are between 1 and 23 UTF-8 encoded bytes in length, and that contain only the characters

"0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ". [MQTT-3.1.3-5]

A Server MAY allow a Client to supply a ClientId that has a length of zero bytes. However if it does so the Server MUST treat this as a special case and assign a unique ClientId to that Client. It MUST then process the CONNECT packet as if the Client had provided that unique ClientId. [MQTT-3.1.3-6]

If the Client supplies a zero-byte ClientId, the Client MUST also set Clean Session to 1. [MQTT-3.1.3-7]

If the Client supplies a zero-byte ClientId with Clean Session set to 0, the Server MUST respond to the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code 0x02 (Identifier rejected) and then close the Network Connection. [MQTT-3.1.3-8]

If the Server rejects the ClientId it MUST respond to the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code 0x02 (Identifier rejected) and then close the Network Connection. [MQTT-3.1.3-9]

Non Normative comment.

A Client implementation may provide a convenience method to generate a random ClientId. Use of such a method should be actively discouraged when the Clean Session flag is set to 0.

3.1.3.2 Will Topic

If the Will Flag is set to 1, the Will Topic is the next field in the payload. The Will Topic is a UTF-8 encoded string.

3.1.3.3 Will Message

If the Will Flag is set to 1 the Will Message is the next field in the payload. The Will Message defines the Application Message that is to be published to the Will Topic if the Client is disconnected for any reason other than the Client sending a DISCONNECT Packet. This field consists of a 2-byte length followed by the payload for the Will Message expressed as a sequence of zero or more bytes. The length gives the number of bytes in the data that follows and does not include the 2 bytes taken up by the length itself.

When the Will Message is published to the Will Topic its payload consists only of the data portion of this field, not the first two length bytes.

3.1.3.4 User Name

If the User Name Flag is set to 1, this is the next field in the payload. User Name is a UTF-8 encoded string and can be used by the Server for authentication and authorization.

3.1.3.5 Password

If the Password Flag is set to 1, this is the next field in the payload. The Password field contains 0 to 65535 bytes of binary data prefixed with a 2 byte length field which indicates the number of bytes used by the binary data (it does not include the two bytes taken up by the length field itself).

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Data length MSB							
byte 2	Data length LSB							

byte 3 ….	Data, if length > 0.

3.1.4 Response

Note that a Server MAY support multiple protocols (including earlier versions of this protocol) on the same TCP port or other network endpoint. If the Server determines that the protocol is MQTT 3.1.1 then it MUST validate the connection attempt as follows.

1. If the Server does not receive a CONNECT Packet within a reasonable amount of time after the Network Connection is established, the Server SHOULD close the connection.

2. The Server MUST validate that the CONNECT Packet conforms to section 3.1 and close the Network Connection without sending a CONNACK if it does not conform [MQTT-3.1.4-1].

3. The Server MAY check that the contents of the CONNECT Packet meet any further restrictions and MAY perform authentication and authorization checks. If any of these checks fail, it SHOULD send an appropriate CONNACK response with a non zero return code as described in section 3.2 and it MUST close the Network Connection.

If validation is successful the Server MUST perform the following steps.

1. If the ClientId represents a Client already connected to the Server then the Server MUST disconnect the existing Client [MQTT-3.1.4-2].

2. Processing of Clean Session is performed as described in section 3.1.2.4.

3. The Server acknowledges the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK Packet containing a zero return code.

4. Start message delivery and keep alive monitoring.

Clients are allowed to send further Control Packets immediately after sending a CONNECT Packet; Clients need not wait for a CONNACK Packet to arrive from the Server. If the Server rejects the CONNECT, it MUST NOT process any data sent by the Client after the CONNECT Packet [MQTT-3.1.4-3].

Non Normative comment.

Clients typically wait for a CONNACK Packet, However, if the Client exploits its freedom to send Control Packets before it receives a CONNACK, it might simplify the Client implementation as it does not have to police the connected state. The Client accepts that any data that it sends before it receives a CONNACK packet from the Server will not be processed if the Server rejects the connection.

3.2 CONNACK – Acknowledge connection request

The CONNACK Packet is the packet sent by the Server in response to a CONNECT Packet received from a Client. The first packet sent from the Server to the Client MUST be a CONNACK Packet [MQTT-3.2.0-1].

If the Client does not receive a CONNACK Packet from the Server within a reasonable amount of time, the Client SHOULD close the Network Connection. A "reasonable" amount of time depends on the type of application and the communications infrastructure.

3.2.1 Fixed header

The fixed header format is shown in the table below.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet Type (2)				Reserved			
	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (2)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Remaining Length field

This is the length of the variable header. For the CONNACK Packet this has the value 2.

3.2.2 Variable header

The variable header format is shown in the table below.-

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Reserved for future use									
byte 1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONNECT Return code									
byte 2									

The values for the one byte unsigned CONNECT Return code field are shown in the table below. If a well formed CONNECT Packet is received by the Server, but the Server is unable to process it for some reason, then the Server SHOULD attempt to flow one of the following non-zero CONNACK return codes. If a server sends a CONNACK packet containing a non-zero return code it MUST then close the Network Connection. [MQTT-3.2.2-1]

Value	Return Code Response	Description
0	0x00 Connection Accepted	Connection accepted
1	0x01 Connection Refused, unacceptable protocol version	The Server does not support the level of the MQTT protocol requested by the Client
2	0x02 Connection Refused, identifier rejected	The Client identifier is correct UTF-8 but not

		allowed by the Server
3	0x03 Connection Refused, Server unavailable	The Network Connection has been made but the MQTT service is unavailable
4	0x04 Connection Refused, bad user name or password	The data in the user name or password is malformed
5	0x05 Connection Refused, not authorized	The Client is not authorized to connect
6-255		Reserved for future use

If none of these return codes are deemed applicable, then the Server MUST close the Network Connection without flowing a CONNACK. [MQTT-3.2.2-2]

3.2.3 Payload

There is no payload in the CONNACK Packet.

3.3 PUBLISH – Publish message

A PUBLISH Control Packet is sent from a Client to a Server or from Server to a Client to transport an Application Message.

3.3.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the fixed header format:

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (3)				Dup flag	QoS level		RETAIN
	0	0	1	1	X	X	X	X
byte 2	Remaining Length							

Dup flag

See Dup section 2.1.2.1 for details.

QoS level

See QoS section 2.1.2.2 for details.

RETAIN flag

See Retain section 2.1.2.3 for details.

Remaining Length field

This is the length of variable header plus the length of the payload.

3.3.2 Variable header

The variable header contains the following fields in the order below:

3.3.2.1 Topic Name

The Topic Name is always present as the first field in the variable header. The Topic Name identifies the information channel to which payload data is published.

The Topic Name MUST be a UTF-8 encoded string [MQTT-3.3.2-1] as defined in section 1.4.1.2.

The Topic Name in the PUBLISH Packet MUST NOT contain wildcard characters. [MQTT-3.3.2-2]

The Topic Name sent to a subscribing Client MUST match the Subscription's Topic Filter. [MQTT-3.3.2-3]
However, since the Server is permitted to override the Topic Name, it might not be the same as the Topic Name in the original PUBLISH Packet.

3.3.2.2 Packet Identifier

The Packet Identifier field is only present in PUBLISH Packets where the QoS level is 1 or 2. See Packet Identifiers section 2.3.1 for more details.

3.3.2.3 Variable header example Non Normative

The table below illustrates an example of variable header for a PUBLISH Packet.

Field	**Value**
Topic Name	a/b
Packet Identifier	10

The format of the variable header in this case is shown in the table below.

	Description	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Topic Name									
byte 1	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Length LSB (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
byte 3	'a' (0x61)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
byte 4	'/' (0x2F)	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
byte 5	'b' (0x62)	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Packet Identifier									
byte 6	Packet Identifier MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 7	Packet Identifier LSB (10)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

3.3.3 Payload

The Payload contains the Application Message that is being published. The content and format of the data is application specific. The length of the payload can be calculated by subtracting the length of the variable header from the Remaining Length field that is in the Fixed Header. It is valid for a PUBLISH Packet to contain a zero length payload.

3.3.4 Response

The response to a PUBLISH Packet depends on the QoS level. The table below shows the expected responses.

QoS Level	Expected Response
QoS 0	None
QoS 1	PUBACK Packet
QoS 2	PUBREC Packet

3.3.5 Actions

The Client uses a PUBLISH Packet to send an Application Message to the Server, for distribution to Clients with matching subscriptions.

The Server uses PUBLISH Packets to send an Application Messages to those Clients which have matching subscriptions.

When Clients make subscriptions with Topic Filters that include wildcards, it is possible for a Client's subscriptions to overlap so that a published message might match multiple filters. In this case the Server MUST deliver the message to the Client respecting the maximum QoS of all the matching subscriptions [MQTT-3.3.5-1]. In addition, the Server MAY deliver further copies of the message, one for each additional matching subscription and respecting the subscription's QoS in each case.

The action of the recipient when it receives a PUBLISH Packet depends on the QoS level as described in Section 4.3.

If a Server implementation does not authorize a PUBLISH to be performed by a Client; it has no way of informing that Client. It MUST either make a positive acknowledgement, according to the normal QoS rules, or close the Network Connection [MQTT-3.3.5-2].

3.4 PUBACK – Publish acknowledgement

A PUBACK Packet is the response to a PUBLISH Packet with QoS level 1.

3.4.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the format of the fixed header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (4)				Reserved			
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (2)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Remaining Length field

This is the length of the variable header. For the PUBACK Packet this has the value 2.

3.4.2 Variable header

Contains the Packet Identifier from the PUBLISH Packet that is being acknowledged. The table below shows the format of the variable header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB							
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB							

3.4.3 Payload

There is no payload in the PUBACK Packet.

3.4.4 Actions

When the sender of a PUBLISH Packet receives a PUBACK Packet it discards the original message.

This is fully described in Section 4.3.

3.5 PUBREC – Publish received (QoS 2 publish received, part 1)

A PUBREC Packet is the response to a PUBLISH Packet with QoS 2. It is the second packet of the QoS 2 protocol flow.

3.5.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the format of the fixed header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (5)				Reserved			
	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (2)							

	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Remaining Length field

This is the length of the variable header. For the PUBREC Packet this has the value 2.

3.5.2 Variable header

The variable header contains the Packet Identifier from the PUBLISH Packet that is being acknowledged. The table below shows the format of the variable header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB							
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB							

3.5.3 Payload

There is no payload in the PUBREC Packet.

3.5.4 Actions

When the sender of a PUBLISH Packet receives a PUBREC Packet, it MUST reply with a PUBREL Packet [MQTT-3.5.4-1].

This is fully described in Section 4.3.

3.6 PUBREL – Publish release (QoS 2 publish received, part 2)

A PUBREL Packet is the response to a PUBREC Packet. It is the third packet of the QoS 2 protocol flow.

3.6.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the format of the fixed header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (6)				Reserved			
	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (2)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Bits 3,2,1 and 0 of the fixed header in the PUBREL Control Packet are reserved and MUST be set to 0,0,1 and 0 respectively. The Server MUST treat any other value as malformed and close the Network Connection. [MQTT-3.6.1-1]

Remaining Length field

This is the length of the variable header. For the PUBREL Packet this has the value 2.

3.6.2 Variable header

The variable header contains the same Packet Identifier as the PUBREC Packet that is being acknowledged. The table below shows the format of the variable header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB							
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB							

3.6.3 Payload

There is no payload in the PUBREL Packet.

3.6.4 Actions

When the sender of a PUBREC Packet receives a PUBREL Packet it MUST reply with a PUBCOMP Packet [MQTT-3.6.4-1].

This is fully described in Section 4.3.

3.7 PUBCOMP – Publish complete (QoS 2 publish received, part 3)

The PUBCOMP Packet is the response to a PUBREL Packet. It is the fourth and final packet of the QoS 2 protocol flow.

3.7.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the format of the fixed header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (7)				Reserved			
	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (2)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Remaining Length field

This is the length of the variable header. For the PUBCOMP Packet this has the value 2.

3.7.2 Variable header

The variable header contains the same Packet Identifier as the PUBREL Packet that is being acknowledged.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB							
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB							

3.7.3 Payload

There is no payload in the PUBCOMP Packet.

3.7.4 Actions

When the sender of a PUBREL receives a PUBCOMP Packet it removes any remaining state associated with the original PUBLISH Packet.

This is fully described in Section 4.3.

3.8 SUBSCRIBE - Subscribe to topics

The SUBSCRIBE Packet is sent from the Client to the Server to create one or more Subscriptions. Each Subscription registers a Client's interest in one or more Topics. The Server sends PUBLISH Packets to the Client in order to forward Application Messages that were published to Topics that match these Subscriptions. The SUBSCRIBE Packet also specifies (for each Subscription) the maximum QoS with which the Server can send publications to the Client.

3.8.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the format of the fixed header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (8)				Reserved			
	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
byte 2	Remaining Length							

Bits 3,2,1 and 0 of the fixed header of the SUBSCRIBE Control Packet are reserved and MUST be set to 0,0,1 and 0 respectively. The Server MUST treat any other value as malformed and close the Network Connection [MQTT-3.8.1-1].

Remaining Length field

This is the length of variable header (2 bytes) plus the length of the payload.

3.8.2 Variable header

The variable header contains a Packet Identifier. See Section 2.3.1 for more details.

3.8.2.1 Variable Header Non Normative example

The table below shows an example of the variable header with a Packet Identifier of 10.

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Packet Identifier									
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB (10)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

3.8.3 Payload

The payload of a SUBSCRIBE Packet contains a list of Topic Filters indicating the Topics to which the Client wants to subscribe. The Topic Filters are UTF-8 encoded strings, which MAY contain special wildcard characters to represent a set of topics, see Section 4.7.1. Each filter is followed by a byte called the Requested QoS. This gives the maximum QoS level at which the Server can send publications to the Client.

The Payload of a SUBSCRIBE packet MUST contain at least one Topic Filter / QoS pair. A SUBSCRIBE packet with no payload is a protocol violation [MQTT-3.8.3-1].

The requested maximum QoS field is encoded in the byte following each UTF-8 encoded topic name, and these Topic Filter / QoS pairs are packed contiguously as shown in the table below.

Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Topic Filter								
byte 1	Length MSB							
byte 2	Length LSB							
bytes 3..N	Topic Filter							
Requested QoS								
	Reserved						QoS	
byte N+1	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	X

The upper 6 bits of the Requested QoS byte are not used in the current version of the protocol. They are reserved for future use. The Server MUST treat a SUBSCRIBE packet as malformed and close the Network Connection if any of Reserved bits in the payload are non-zero. [MQTT-3-8.3-2]

3.8.3.1 Payload Non Normative Example

Topic Name	“a/b”
Requested QoS	0x01
Topic Name	“c/d”
Requested QoS	0x02

The format of the example payload is shown in the table below.

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Topic Filter									
byte 1	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Length MSB (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
byte 3	‘a’ (0x61)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
byte 4	‘/’ (0x2F)	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
byte 5	‘b’ (0x62)	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Requested QoS									
byte 6	Requested QoS(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Topic Filter									
byte 7	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 8	Length MSB (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
byte 9	‘c’ (0x63)	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
byte 10	‘/’ (0x2F)	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
byte 11	‘d’ (0x64)	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Requested QoS									
byte 12	Requested QoS(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

3.8.4 Response

When the Server receives a SUBSCRIBE Packet from a Client, the Server MUST respond with a SUBACK Packet [MQTT-3.8.4-1]. The SUBACK Packet MUST have the same Packet Identifier as the SUBSCRIBE Packet that it is acknowledging [MQTT-3.8.4-2].

The Server MAY start sending PUBLISH packets matching the Subscription before the Server sends the SUBACK Packet.

If a Server receives a SUBSCRIBE Packet containing a Topic Filter that is identical to an existing Subscription's Topic Filter then it MUST completely replace that existing Subscription with a new

Subscription. The Topic Filter in the new Subscription will be identical to that in the previous Subscription, although its maximum QoS value could be different. Any existing retained publications matching the Topic Filter MUST be resent, but the flow of publications MUST NOT be interrupted. [MQTT-3.8.4-3]

Where the Topic Filter is not identical to any existing Subscription's filter, a new Subscription is created and all matching retained publications are sent.

If a Server receives a SUBSCRIBE packet that contains multiple Topic Filters it MUST handle that packet as if it had received a sequence of multiple SUBSCRIBE packets, except that it combines their responses into a single SUBACK response. [MQTT-3.8.4-4]

The SUBACK Packet sent by the Server to the Client MUST contain a return code for each Topic Filter/QoS pair. This return code MUST either show the maximum QoS that was granted for that Subscription or indicate that the subscription failed. [MQTT-3.8.4-5] The Server might grant a lower maximum QoS than the subscriber requested. The QoS of Payload Messages sent in response to a Subscription MUST be the minimum of the QoS of the originally published message and the maximum QoS granted by the Server. The server is permitted to send duplicate copies of a message to a subscriber in the case where the original message was published with QoS 1 and the maximum QoS granted was QoS 0.[MQTT-3.8.4-6]

Non-normative examples:

If a subscribing Client has been granted maximum QoS 1 for a particular Topic Filter, then a QoS 0 Application Message matching the filter is delivered to the Client at QoS 0. This means that at most one copy of the message is received by the Client. On the other hand a QoS 2 Message published to the same topic is downgraded by the Server to QoS 1 for delivery to the Client, so that Client might receive duplicate copies of the Message.

If the subscribing Client has been granted maximum QoS 0, then an Application Message originally published as QoS 2 might get lost on the hop to the Client, but the Server should never send a duplicate of that Message. A QoS 1 Message published to the same topic might either get lost or duplicated on its transmission to that Client.

Non normative comment.

Subscribing to a Topic Filter at QoS 2 is equivalent to saying "I would like to receive Messages matching this filter at the QoS with which they were published". This means a publisher is responsible for determining the maximum QoS a Message can be delivered at, but a subscriber is able to require that the Server downgrades the QoS to one more suitable for its usage.

3.9 SUBACK – Subscribe acknowledgement

A SUBACK Packet is sent by the Server to the Client to confirm receipt and processing of a SUBSCRIBE Packet.

A SUBACK Packet contains a list of return codes, that specify the maximum QoS level that was granted in each Subscription that was requested by the SUBSCRIBE.

3.9.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the fixed header format.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (9)				Reserved			
	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length							

Remaining Length field

This is the length of variable header (2 bytes) plus the length of the payload.

3.9.2 Variable header

The variable header contains the Packet Identifier from the SUBSCRIBE Packet that is being acknowledged. The table below shows the format of the variable header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB							
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB							

3.9.3 Payload

The payload contains a list of return codes. Each return code corresponds to a Topic Filter in the SUBSCRIBE Packet being acknowledged. The order of return codes in the SUBACK Packet MUST match the order of Topic Filters in the SUBSCRIBE Packet. [MQTT-3.9.3-1]

The table below shows the Return Code field encoded in a byte.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	Return Code							
byte 1	X	0	0	0	0	0	X	X

Allowed return codes:

0x00 - Success - Maximum QoS 0
0x01 - Success - Maximum QoS 1
0x02 - Success - Maximum QoS 2
0x80 - Failure

SUBACK return codes other than 0x00, 0x01, 0x02 and 0x80 are reserved and MUST NOT be used. [MQTT-3.9.3-2]

3.9.3.1 Payload Non Normative Example

Success - Maximum QoS 0	0
Success - Maximum QoS 2	2

Failure	128

1053

1054 The payload for this example is shown in the table below.

1055

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Success - Maximum QoS 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Success - Maximum QoS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
byte 3	Failure	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1056

1057 3.10 UNSUBSCRIBE – Unsubscribe from topics

1058 An UNSUBSCRIBE Packet is sent by the Client to the Server, to unsubscribe from topics.

1059

1060 3.10.1 Fixed header

1061 The table below shows an example fixed header format.

1062

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (10)				Reserved			
	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
byte 2	Remaining Length							

1063

1064 Bits 3,2,1 and 0 of the fixed header of the UNSUBSCRIBE Control Packet are reserved and MUST be set
1065 to 0,0,1 and 0 respectively. The Server MUST treat any other value as malformed and close the Network
1066 Connection [MQTT-3.10.1-1].

1067

1068 **Remaining Length field**

1069 This is the length of variable header (2 bytes) plus the length of the payload.

1070 3.10.2 Variable header

1071 The variable header contains a Packet Identifier. See section 2.3.1 for more details.

1072

1073 The table below shows the format of the variable header.

1074

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB							
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB							

1075

3.10.2.1 Payload

The payload for the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet contains the list of Topic Filters that the Client wishes to unsubscribe from. The Topic Filters are UTF-8 strings, packed contiguously.

3.10.2.2 Payload Non Normative example

The table below shows an example payload.

Topic Filter	“a/b”
Topic Filter	“c/d”

The table below shows the format of this payload.

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Topic Filter									
byte 1	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Length MSB (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
byte 3	‘a’ (0x61)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
byte 4	‘/’ (0x2F)	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
byte 5	‘b’ (0x62)	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Topic Filter									
byte 6	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 7	Length MSB (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
byte 8	‘c’ (0x63)	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
byte 9	‘/’ (0x2F)	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
byte 10	‘d’ (0x64)	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0

3.10.3 Response

The Topic Filters (whether they contain wildcards or not) supplied in an UNSUBSCRIBE packet MUST be compared character-by-character with the current set of Topic Filters held by the Server for the Client. If any filter matches exactly then its owning Subscription is deleted, otherwise no additional processing occurs [MQTT-3.10.3-1].

If a Server deletes a Subscription:

- It MUST stop adding any new messages for delivery to the Client [MQTT-3.10.3-2].
- It MUST complete the delivery of any QoS 1 or QoS 2 messages which it has started to send to the Client [MQTT-3.10.3-3].
- It MAY continue to deliver any existing messages buffered for delivery to the Client.

The Server MUST respond to an UNSUBSUBCRIBE request by sending an UNSUBACK packet. The UNSUBACK Packet MUST have the same Packet Identifier as the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet [MQTT-3.10.3-4]. Even where no Topic Subscriptions are deleted, the Server MUST respond with an UNSUBACK [MQTT-3.10.3-5].

If a Server receives an UNSUBSCRIBE packet that contains multiple Topic Filters it MUST handle that packet as if it had received a sequence of multiple UNSUBSCRIBE packets, except that it sends just one UNSUBACK response [MQTT-3.10.3-6].

3.11 UNSUBACK – Unsubscribe acknowledgement

The UNSUBACK Packet is sent by the Server to the Client to confirm receipt of an UNSUBSCRIBE Packet.

3.11.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the fixed header format.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (11)				Reserved			
	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (2)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Remaining Length field

This is the length of the variable header. For the UNSUBACK Packet this has the value 2.

3.11.2 Variable header

The variable header contains the Packet Identifier of the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet that is being acknowledged. The table below shows the format of the variable header.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB							
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB							

3.11.3 Payload

The UNSUBACK packet has no payload.

3.12 PINGREQ – PING request

The PINGREQ Packet is sent from a Client to the Server. It can be used to:

1. Indicate to the Server that the Client is alive in the absence of any other Control Packets flowing from the Client to the Server.
2. Request that the Server responds to confirm that it is alive.
3. Exercise the network to indicate that the Network Connection is active.

This Packet is used in Keep Alive processing, see Section 3.1.2.10 for more details.

3.12.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the fixed header format.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (12)				Reserved			
	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (0)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.12.2 Variable header

There is no variable header.

3.12.3 Payload

There is no payload.

3.12.4 Response

The Server MUST send a PINGRESP Packet in response to a PINGREQ Packet [MQTT-3.12.4-1].

3.13 PINGRESP – PING response

A PINGRESP Packet is sent by the Server to the Client in response to a PINGREQ Packet. It indicates that the Server is alive.

This Packet is used in Keep Alive processing, see Section 3.1.2.10 for more details.

3.13.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the fixed header format.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (13)				Reserved			

	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (0)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.13.2 Variable header

There is no variable header.

3.13.3 Payload

There is no payload.

3.14 DISCONNECT – Disconnect notification

The DISCONNECT Packet is the final Control Packet sent from the Client to the Server. It indicates that the Client is disconnecting cleanly.

3.14.1 Fixed header

The table below shows the fixed header format.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	MQTT Control Packet type (14)				Reserved			
	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	Remaining Length (0)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Server MUST validate that reserved bits are set to zero and disconnect the Client if they are not zero [MQTT-3.14.1-1].

3.14.2 Variable header

There is no variable header.

3.14.3 Payload

There is no payload.

3.14.4 Response

After sending a DISCONNECT Packet the Client:

- MUST close the Network Connection [MQTT-3.14.4-1].
- MUST NOT send any more Control Packets on that Network Connection [MQTT-3.14.4-2].

On receipt of DISCONNECT the Server:

- MUST discard the Will Message without publishing it [MQTT-3.14.4-3], see Section 3.1.2.5.

- SHOULD close the Network Connection if the Client has not already done so.

4 Operational behavior

4.1 Storing state

The Client and Server implement data storage independently and the duration for which data persists can be different in each. The Client and Server MUST store data for at least as long as the Network Connection lasts [MQTT-4.1.0-1]. Qualities of Service guarantees are only valid so long as both Client and Server store data. Subscriptions and retained publications only survive as long as the Server stores them.

Non normative comment

Normal operation of the Client of Server may mean that stored state is lost or corrupted because of administrator action, hardware failure or software failure. An administrator action could be an automated response to defined conditions. These actions might be prompted by resource constraints or for other operational reasons. For example the server may determine that based on external knowledge, a message or messages can no longer be delivered to any current or future client.

Non normative comment.

An MQTT user should evaluate the storage capabilities of the MQTT Client and Server implementations to ensure that they are sufficient for their needs.

For example, a user wishing to gather electricity meter readings may decide that they need to use QoS 1 messages because they need to protect the readings against loss over the network, however they may decide that the power supply is sufficiently reliable that the data in the Client and Server can be stored in volatile memory without too much risk of its loss.

Conversely a parking meter payment application provider might decide that there are no circumstances where a payment message can be lost so they require that all data are force written to non-volatile memory before it is transmitted across the network.

4.2 Network Connections

The Network Connection used to transport the MQTT protocol MUST be an ordered, lossless, stream of bytes from the Client to Server and Server to Client [MQTT-4.2.0-1].

Non normative comment.

The initial transport protocol used to carry MQTT was TCP/IP as defined in **[RFC793]** The following are also suitable:

- TLS [RFC5246]
- WebSocket [RFC6455]

Connectionless network transports such as User Datagram Protocol (UDP) are not suitable on their own because they might lose or reorder data.

4.3 Quality of Service levels and flows

MQTT delivers Application Messages according to the Quality of Service (QoS) levels defined here. The delivery protocol is symmetric, in the diagrams below the Client and Server can each take the role of either Sender or Receiver. In the case of the Client, “Deliver Application Message” means give the message to the application. In the case of the Server it means send a copy of the Message to each Client with a matching subscription.

4.3.1 QoS 0: At most once delivery

The message is delivered according to the capabilities of the underlying network. No response is sent by the receiver and no retry is performed by the sender. The message arrives at the receiver either once or not at all.

The diagram below shows the QoS 0 protocol flow.

Sender Action	Control Packet	Receiver Action
PUBLISH QoS 0		
	---------->	
		Deliver Application Message

4.3.2 QoS 1: At least once delivery

The receiver of a QoS 1 PUBLISH Packet acknowledges receipt with a PUBACK Packet. If the Client reconnects and the Session is resumed, the sender MUST resend any in-flight QoS 1 messages setting their Dup flags to 1 [MQTT-4.3.2-1].

The message arrives at the receiver at least once.

A QoS 1 message has a Packet Identifier in its variable header, see Section 2.3.1.

The diagram below shows the QoS 1 protocol flow.

Sender Action	Control Packet	Receiver action
Store message		
Send PUBLISH QoS 1, Dup 0, <Packet Identifier>	---------->	
		Initiate onward delivery of the Application Message[1]
	<----------	Send PUBACK <Packet Identifier>
Discard message		

[1] The receiver is not required to complete delivery of the Application Message before sending the PUBACK. When its original sender receives the PUBACK packet, ownership of the Application Message

is transferred to the receiver. A Server MUST store the message in accordance to its QoS properties and ensure onward delivery to applicable subscribers [MQTT-4.3.2-2].

When it receives a PUBLISH Packet with Dup set to 1 the receiver MUST perform the same actions as above (setting Dup to 0 on each first attempt at onwards delivery to a new Client). This might result in a redelivery of the Application Message [MQTT-4.3.2-3].

4.3.3 QoS 2: Exactly once delivery

This is the highest quality of service, for use when neither loss nor duplication of messages are acceptable. There is an increased overhead associated with this quality of service.

A QoS 2 message has a Packet Identifier in its variable header see Section 2.3.1.

The receiver of a QoS 2 PUBLISH Packet acknowledges receipt with a PUBREC Packet. If the Client reconnects and the Session is resumed, the sender MUST resend any in-flight QoS 2 messages setting their Dup flags to 1 [MQTT-4.3.3-1].

The diagram below shows the QoS 2 protocol flow. There are two ways in which this can be handled by the receiver. They differ in the point within the flow at which the message is made available for onward delivery. The choice of approach is implementation specific and does not affect the guarantees of a QoS 2 flow.

Sender Action	Control Packet	Receiver Action
Store message		
PUBLISH QoS 2 <Packet Identifier> Dup 0		
	---------->	
		Store message or Store <Packet Identifier> then Initiate onward delivery of the Application Message[1]
		PUBREC <Packet Identifier>
	<----------	
Discard message, Store PUBREC received <Packet Identifier>		
PUBREL <Packet Identifier>		
	---------->	
		Initiate onward delivery of the Application Message[1] then discard message or Discard <Packet Identifier>

		Send PUBCOMP <Packet Identifier>
	<----------	
Discard stored state		

[1] The receiver is not required to complete delivery of the Application Message before sending the PUBREC or PUBCOMP. When its original sender receives the PUBREC packet, ownership of the Application Message is transferred to the receiver. The Server MUST store the message in accordance to its QoS properties and ensure onward delivery to applicable subscribers [MQTT-4.3.3-2].

4.4 Message delivery retry

When a Client reconnects with CleanSession = 0, both the Client and Server MUST redeliver any previous in-flight QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages. This means re-sending any unacknowledged PUBLISH Packets (where QoS > 0) and PUBREL Packets. [MQTT-4.4.0-1] This is the only circumstance where a Client or Server is REQUIRED to redeliver messages. Clients MAY resend SUBSCRIBE and UNSUBSCRIBE Packets on reconnect but are not REQUIRED to do this.

While a modern TCP network is unlikely to lose packets, a Client or Server is permitted to attempt redelivery of unacknowledged packets at other times. However, redelivery is not encouraged unless a network failure has been detected.

The PUBLISH packet MUST have the Dup flag set to 1 when it is redelivered [MQTT-4.4.0-2].

Non Normative comment.

Historically retransmission of Control Packets was required to overcome data loss on some older TCP networks. This might remain a concern where MQTT 3.1.1 implementations are to be deployed in such environments.

4.5 Message receipt

Under normal circumstances Clients receive messages in response to subscriptions they have created. A Client could also receive messages that do not match any of its explicit subscriptions. This can happen if the Server automatically assigned a subscription to the Client or while an UNSUBSCRIBE operation is in progress. The Client MUST acknowledge any Publish Packet it receives according to the applicable QoS rules regardless of whether it elects to process the application message that it contains [MQTT-4.5.0-1].

4.6 Message ordering

A Client MUST follow these rules when implementing the protocol flows defined elsewhere in this chapter:

- When it resends any PUBLISH packets, it MUST resend them in the order in which the original PUBLISH packets were sent (this applies to QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages) [MQTT-4.6.0-1]
- It MUST send PUBACK packets in the order in which the corresponding PUBLISH packets were received (QoS 1 messages) [MQTT-4.6.0-2]
- It MUST send PUBREC packets in the order in which the corresponding PUBLISH packets were received (QoS 2 messages) [MQTT-4.6.0-3]
- It MUST send PUBREL packets in the order in which the corresponding PUBREC packets were received (QoS 2 messages) [MQTT-4.6.0-4]

A Server MUST by default treat each Topic as an "Ordered Topic". It MAY provide an administrative or other mechanism to allow one or more Topics to be treated as an "Unordered Topic" [MQTT-4.6.0-5].

When a Server processes a message that has been published to an Ordered Topic, it MUST follow the rules listed above when delivering messages to each of its subscribers. In addition it MUST send PUBLISH packets to consumers (for the same Topic and QoS) in the order that they were received from any given Client [MQTT-4.6.0-6].

Non Normative comment.

The rules listed above ensure that when a stream of messages is published and subscribed to with QoS = 1, the final copy of each message received by the subscribers will be in the order that they were originally published in, but the possibility of message duplication could result in a resend of an earlier message being received after one of its successor messages. For example a publisher might send messages in the order 1,2,3,4 and the subscriber might receive them in the order 1,2,3,2,3,4.

If both Client and Server make sure that no more than one message is "in-flight" at any one time (by not sending a message until its predecessor has been acknowledged), then no QoS 1 message will be received after any later one - for example a subscriber might receive them in the order 1,2,3,3,4 but not 1,2,3,2,3,4. Setting an in-flight window of 1 also means that order will be preserved even if the publisher sends a sequence of messages with different QoS levels on the same topic.

4.7 Topic Names and Topic Filters

4.7.1 Topic wildcards

The topic level separator is used to introduce structure into the Topic Name. If present, it divides the Topic Name into multiple “topic levels”.

A subscription’s Topic Filter may contain special wildcard characters, which allow you to subscribe to multiple topics at once.

The wildcard characters can be used in Topic Filters, but MUST NOT be used within a Topic Name [MQTT-4.7.1-1].

4.7.1.1 Topic level separator

The forward slash ('/' U+002F) is used to separate each level within a topic tree and provide a hierarchical structure to the Topic Names. The use of the topic level separator is significant when either of the two wildcard characters are encountered in Topic Filters specified by subscribing Clients. Topic level separators may appear anywhere in a Topic Filter or Topic Name. Adjacent Topic level separators indicate a zero length topic level.

4.7.1.2 Multi-level wildcard

The number sign (‘#’ U+0023) is a wildcard character that matches any number of levels within a topic.The multi-level wildcard represents the parent and any number of child levels. The multi-level wildcard character MUST be specified either on its own or following a topic level separator. In either case it MUST be the last character specified in the Topic Filter [MQTT-4.7.1-2].

Non normative comment.

For example, if a Client subscribes to “sport/tennis/player1/#”, it would receive messages published using these topic names:

1357
1358 “sport/tennis/player1”
1359 “sport/tennis/player1/ranking”
1360 “sport/tennis/player1/score/wimbledon”
1361
1362
1363 **Non normative comment.**
1364
1365 • “sport/#” also matches the singular “sport”, since # includes the parent level.
1366 • “#” is valid and will receive every publication
1367 • “sport/tennis/#” is valid
1368 • “sport/tennis#” is not valid
1369 • “sport/tennis/#/ranking” is not valid
1370

1371 #### 4.7.1.3 Single level wildcard

1372 The plus sign (‘+’ U+002B) is a wildcard character that matches only one topic level.
1373
1374 The single-level wildcard can be used at any level in the Topic Filter, including first and last levels. Where
1375 it is used it MUST occupy an entire level of the filter [MQTT-4.7.1-3]. It can be used at more than one
1376 level in the Topic Filter and can be used in conjunction with the multilevel wildcard.
1377
1378 **Non normative comment.**
1379 For example, “sport/tennis/+” matches “sport/tennis/player1” and “sport/tennis/player2”, but not
1380 “sport/tennis/player1/ranking”. Also, because the single-level wildcard matches only a single level,
1381 “sport/+” does not match “sport” but it does match "sport/".
1382
1383 **Non normative comment.**
1384 • “+” is valid
1385 • “+/tennis/#” is valid
1386 • “sport+” is not valid
1387 • “sport/+/player1” is valid
1388 • “/finance” matches "+/+" and "/+", but not "+"

1389 ### 4.7.2 Topics beginning with $

1390
1391 MQTT Server implementations MAY define Topic Names that start with a leading $ character
1392
1393 **Non normative comment.**
1394
1395 • $SYS/ has been widely adopted as a prefix to topics that contain Server-specific information or
1396 control APIs
1397 • Applications cannot use a topic with a leading $ character for their own purposes

4.7.2.1 Subscription handling

A Topic Filter that starts with a wildcard character (# or +) does not match Topic Names that begin with a $ character

Non normative comment.

- A subscription to “#” will not receive any messages published to a topic beginning with a $
- A subscription to “+/monitor/Clients” will not receive any messages published to “$SYS/monitor/Clients”
- A subscription to “$SYS/#” will receive messages published to topics beginning with “$SYS/”
- A subscription to “$SYS/monitor/+” will receive messages published to “$SYS/monitor/Clients”
- For a Client to receive messages from topics that begin with $SYS/ and from topics that don't begin with a $, it must subscribe to both “#” and “$SYS/#”

4.7.3 Topic semantic and usage

The following rules apply to Topic Names and Topic Filters

- All Topic Names and Topic Filters MUST be at least one character long [MQTT-4.7.3-1]
- Topic Names and Topic Filters are case sensitive
- Topic Names and Topic Filters can include the space character
- A leading or trailing "/" creates a distinct Topic Name or Topic Filter
- A Topic Name or Topic Filter consisting only of the "/" character is valid
- Topic Names and Topic Filters MUST NOT include the null character (Unicode U+0000) **[Unicode63]** [MQTT-4.7.3-2]
- Topic Names and Topic Filters are UTF-8 encoded strings, they MUST NOT encode to more than 65535 bytes [MQTT-4.7.3-3]. See Section 2.1.2
- There is no limit to the number of levels in a Topic Name or Topic Filter, other than that imposed by the overall length of the UTF-8 encoded string.
- When it performs subscription matching the Server does not perform any normalization of Topic Names or Topic Filters, or any modification or substitution of unrecognised characters. Each non-wildcarded level in the Topic Filter has to match the corresponding level in the Topic Name character for character for the match to succeed.

Non-normative comment.

The UTF-8 encoding rules mean that the comparison of Topic Filter and Topic Name could be performed either by comparing the encoded UTF-8 bytes, or by comparing decoded Unicode characters

Non normative comment.

- “ACCOUNTS” and “Accounts” are two different topic names

- “Accounts payable” is a valid topic name
- “/finance” is different from “finance”

Non Normative comment.

A publication is sent to each Client Subscription whose Topic Filter matches the Topic Name in the publication. The topic resource may be either predefined in the Server by an administrator or it may be dynamically created by the Server when it receives the first subscription or publication with that Topic Name. The Server may also use a security component to selectively authorize actions on the topic resource for a given Client.

4.8 Handling protocol violations

If the Client or Server encounters a transient error while processing an inbound Control Packet it MUST close the Network Connection on which it received that packet [MQTT-4.8.0-1]. If a Server detects a transient error it SHOULD NOT disconnect or have any other affect on its interactions with any other Client.

5 Security

The recommendations contained in this chapter are provided for guidance only and are not intended to serve as a complete reference on the subject.

There are a number of threats that solution providers should consider. For example:

- Devices may be compromised
- Data at rest in Clients and Servers may be accessible
- Protocol behaviors may have side effects (e.g., 'timing attacks')
- Denial of Service (DoS) attacks
- Communications may be intercepted, altered, re-routed or disclosed
- Injection of spoofed Control Packets

MQTT solutions are often deployed in hostile communication environments. In such cases, implementations will often need to provide mechanisms for:

- Authentication of users and devices
- Authorization of access to Server resources
- Integrity of MQTT Control Packets and application data contained therein
- Privacy of MQTT Control Packets and application data contained therein

As a transport protocol, MQTT is concerned only with message transmission and it is the implementer's responsibility to provide appropriate security features. This is commonly achieved by using TLS **[RFC5246].**

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Server implementations that offer TLS **[RFC5246]** SHOULD use TCP port 8883 [IANA service name: secure-mqtt].

In addition to technical security issues there may also be geographic (e.g., European SafeHarbour **[USEUSAFEHARB]**), industry specific (e.g., PCI DSS **[PCIDSS]**) and regulatory considerations (e.g., Sarbanes-Oxley **[SARBANES]**).

The remainder of this chapter is Non Normative.

5.1 MQTT solutions: security and certification

An implementation may want to provide conformance with specific industry security standards such as NIST Cyber Security Framework **[NISTCSF]** , PCI-DSS **[PCIDSS]**), FIPS-140-2 **[FIPS1402]** and NSA Suite B **[NSAB]**.

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Guidance on using MQTT within the NIST Crper Security Framework **[NISTCSF]** can be found in MQTT Supplemental Publication Version 1.0 Part 1: NIST Cyber Security Framework :http://docs.oasis-open.org/mqtt/mqtt-security-sp/v1.0/csd01/part1-nist/mqtt-security-sp-v1.0-csd01-part1-nist.doc

The use of industry proven, independently verified and certified technologies will help meet compliance requirements.

5.2 Lightweight cryptography and constrained devices

Advanced Encryption Standard **[AES]** and Data Encryption Standard **[DES]** are widely adopted.

ISO 29192 **[ISO29192]** makes recommendations for cryptographic primitives specifically tuned to perform on constrained 'low end' devices.

5.3 Implementation notes

There are many security concerns to consider when implementing or using MQTT. The following section should not be considered a “check list”.

An implementation might want to achieve some, or all, of the following:

5.3.1 Authentication of Clients by the Server

The CONNECT Packet contains Username and Password fields. Implementations can choose how to make use of the content of these fields. They may provide their own authentication mechanism, use an external authentication system such as LDAP **[RFC4511]** or OAuth **[RFC6749]** tokens, or leverage operating system authentication mechanisms.

Implementations passing authentication data in clear text, obfuscating such data elements or requiring no authentication data should be aware this may give rise to Man-in-the-Middle and replay attacks. Section 5.3.5 introduces approaches to ensure data privacy.

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) between the Clients and Servers can provide confidence that data is only being received from authorized Clients.

Where TLS **[RFC5246]** is used, SSL Certificates flowed from the Client can be used by the Server to authenticate the Client.

An implementation might allow for authentication where the credentials are flowed in an Application Message from the Client to the Server.

5.3.2 Authorization of Clients by the Server

An implementation may restrict access to Server resources based on information provided by the Client such as User Name, Client Identifier, the hostname/IP address of the Client, or the outcome of authentication mechanisms.

5.3.3 Authentication of the Server by the Client

The MQTT protocol is not trust symmetrical: it provides no mechanism for the Client to authenticate the Server.

Where TLS **[RFC5246]** is used, SSL Certificates flowed from the Server can be used by the Client to authenticate the Server. Implementations providing MQTT service for multiple hostnames from a single IP address should be aware of section-3.1 of the Server Name Indication extension to TLS **[RFC3546]** .This allows a Client to tell the Server the hostname of the Server it is trying to connect to.

An implementation may allow for authentication where the credentials are flowed in an Application Message from the Server to the Client.

A VPN between Clients and Servers can provide confidence that Clients are connecting to the intended Server.

5.3.4 Integrity of Application Messages and Control Packets

Applications can independently include hash values in their Application Messages. This can provide integrity of the contents of Publish Control Packets across the network and at rest.

TLS **[RFC5246]** provides hash algorithms to verify the integrity of data sent over the network.

The use of VPNs to connect Clients and Servers can provide integrity of data across the section of the network covered by a VPN.

5.3.5 Privacy of Application Messages and Control Packets

TLS [RFC5246] can provide encryption of data sent over the network. There are valid TLS cipher suites that include a NULL encryption algorithm that does not encrypt data. To ensure privacy Clients and Servers should avoid these cipher suites.

An application may independently encrypt the contents of its Application Messages. This could provide privacy of the Application Message both over the network and at rest. This would not provide privacy for other properties of the Application Message such as Topic Name.

Client and Server implementations may provide encrypted storage for data at rest such as Application Messages stored as part of a Session.

The use of VPNs to connect Clients and Servers can provide privacy of data across the section of the network covered by a VPN.

5.3.6 Non-repudiation of message transmission

Application designers might need to consider appropriate strategies to achieve end to end non-repudiation.

5.3.7 Detecting compromise of Clients and Servers

Client and Server implementations using TLS [RFC5246] should provide capabilities to ensure that any SSL certificates provided when initiating a TLS [RFC5246] connection are associated with the hostname of the Client connecting or Server being connected to.

Client and Server implementations using TLS [RFC5246] may choose to provide capabilities to check Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs [RFC5280]) and Online Certificate Status Protocol (OSCP) [RFC6960] to prevent revoked certificates from being used.

Physical deployments might combine tamper-proof hardware with the transmission of specific data in Application Messages. For example a meter might have an embedded GPS to ensure it is not used in an unauthorized location. [IEEE 802.1AR] is a standard for implementing mechanisms to authenticate a device's identity using a cryptographically bound identifier.

5.3.8 Detecting abnormal behaviors

Server implementations might monitor Client behavior to detect potential security incidents. For example:

- Repeated connection attempts
- Repeated authentication attempts
- Abnormal termination of connections

- Topic scanning (attempts to send or subscribe to many topics)
- Sending undeliverable messages (no subscribers to the topics)
- Clients that connect but do not send data

Server implementations might disconnect Clients that breach its security rules.

Server implementations detecting unwelcome behavior might implement a dynamic block list based on identifiers such as IP address or Client Identifier.

Deployments might use network level controls (where available) to implement rate limiting or blocking based on IP address or other information.

5.3.9 Other security considerations

If Client or Server SSL certificates are lost or it is considered that they might be compromised they should be revoked (utilising CRLs **[RFC5280]** and/or OSCP **[RFC6960]**).

Client or Server authentication credentials, such as User Name and Password, that are lost or considered compromised should be revoked and/or reissued.

In the case of long lasting connections (such as meters):

- Client and Server implementations using TLS **[RFC5246]** should allow for session renegotiation to establish new cryptographic parameters (replace session keys, change cipher suites, change authentication credentials).
- Servers may disconnect Clients and require them to re-authenticate with new credentials.

Constrained devices and Clients on constrained networks can make use of TLS session resumption **[RFC5077]**, in order to reduce the costs of reconnecting TLS **[RFC5246]** sessions.

Clients connected to a Server have a transitive trust relationship with other Clients connected to the same Server and who have authority to publish data on the same topics.

5.3.10 Use of SOCKS

Implementations of Clients should be aware that some environments will require the use of SOCKSv5 **[RFC1928]** proxies to make outbound Network Connections. Some MQTT implementations may make use of alternative secured tunnels (e.g. SSH) through the use of SOCKS. Where implementations choose to use SOCKS, they should support both anonymous and user-name password authenticating SOCKS proxies. In the latter case, implementations should be aware that SOCKS authentication may occur in plain-text and so should avoid using the same credentials for connection to a MQTT Server.

5.3.11 Security profiles

Implementers and solution designers may wish to consider security as a set of profiles which can be applied to the MQTT protocol. An example of a layered security hierarchy is presented below.

5.3.11.1 Clear communication profile

MQTT protocol running over an open network with no additional secure communication mechanisms in place.

5.3.11.2 Secured network communication profile

MQTT protocol running over a physical or virtual network which has security controls e.g., VPNs or physically secure network.

5.3.11.3 Secured transport profile

MQTT protocol running over a physical or virtual network and using TLS **[RFC5246]** which provides authentication, integrity and privacy.

TLS **[RFC5246]** Client authentication may be used in addition to – or in place of – MQTT Client authentication as provided by the Username and Password fields.

5.3.11.4 Industry specific security profile

It is anticipated that the MQTT protocol will be designed into industry specific application profiles, each defining a threat model and the specific security mechanisms to be used to address these threats. Recommendations for specific security mechanisms will often be taken from existing works including:

[NISTCSF] NIST Cyber Security Framework

[NIST7628] NISTIR 7628 Guidelines for Smart Grid Cyber Security

[FIPS1402] Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS-140-2)

[PCIDSS] PCI-DSS Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard

[NSAB] NSA Suite B Cryptography

1695 An MQTT supplemental publication: MQTT security standards will provide further information related to
1696 the usage of various industry security frameworks and standards.

6 Using WebSocket as a network transport.

MQTT can be transported over a WebSocket **[RFC6455]** connection using the following conventions:

- WebSocket binary frames are used. A single frame may contain multiple or partial MQTT Control Packets; they are not required to be aligned.
- The WebSocket Protocol Name consists of the MQTT Protocol Name concatenated with the ASCII representation of the MQTT Protocol Version number. For MQTT v3.1.1, this will be "MQTT4".
- No restriction is placed on the path portion of the WebSocket url.

7 Conformance

The MQTT specification defines conformance for MQTT Client implementations and MQTT Server implementations.

A single entity MAY conform as both an MQTT Client and MQTT Server implementation. For example, a Server that both accepts inbound connections and establishes outbound connections to other Servers MUST conform as both an MQTT Client and MQTT Server.

Conformant implementations SHALL NOT require the use of any extensions defined outside of this specification in order to interoperate with any other conformant implementation.

7.1 Conformance Targets

7.1.1 MQTT Server

An MQTT Server accepts Network Connections from MQTT Clients.

An MQTT Server conforms to this specification only if it satisfies all the statements below:

1. The syntax of all Control Packets that it sends matches the syntax described in Chapters 2 and 3.
2. It follows the Topic matching rules described in Section 4.7.
3. It satisfies all of the MUST level requirements in the following chapters that are identified for the Server:
    - [MQTT0001] Chapter 2 - MQTT Control Packet format
    - [MQTT0002] Chapter 3 - MQTT Control Packets
    - [MQTT0003] Chapter 4 - Operational behavior
    - [MQTT0004] Chapter 5 - Security

7.1.2 MQTT Client

An MQTT Client creates a Network Connection to an MQTT Server.

An MQTT Client conforms to this specification only if it satisfies all the statements below:

1. The syntax of all Control Packets that it sends matches the syntax described in chapters 2 and 3.
2. It satisfies all of the MUST level requirements in the following chapters that are identified for the Client:
    - [MQTT0005] Chapter 2 - MQTT Control Packet format
    - [MQTT0006] Chapter 3 - MQTT Control Packets
    - [MQTT0007] Chapter 4 - Operational behavior
    - [MQTT0008] Chapter 5 – Security

1741 # Appendix A. Mandatory normative statements

Normative Statement Number	Normative Statement
[MQTT-1.1.0-1]	A Session can contain more than one Subscription. Each Subscription within a session MUST have a different Topic Filter.
[MQTT-1.4.0-1]	The encoded data MUST be well-formed UTF-8 as defined by the Unicode spec **[Unicode63]** and restated in RFC 3629 [RFC 3629]. In particular the encoded data MUST NOT include encodings of code points between U+D800 and U+DFFF. If a receiver (Server or Client) receives a control packet containing ill-formed UTF-8 it MUST close the network connection.
[MQTT-1.4.0-2]	The UTF-8 encoded string MUST NOT include an encoding of the null character U+0000. If a receiver (Server or Client) receives a control packet containing U+0000 it MUST close the network connection.
[MQTT-1.4.0-3]	The UTF-8 encoded sequence 0xEF 0xBB 0xBF is always to be interpreted to mean U+FEFF ("ZERO WIDTH NO-BREAK SPACE") wherever it appears in a string and MUST NOT be skipped over or stripped off by a packet receiver.
[MQTT-2.0.0-1]	Unless stated otherwise, if either the Server or Client receives a Control Packet which does not meet this specification, it MUST close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-2.1.2-1]	If invalid flags are received, the receiver MUST close the Network connection.
[MQTT-2.1.2-2].	If Dup is 0 then the flow is the first occasion that the Client or Server has attempted to send the MQTT PUBLISH Packet. If Dup is 1 then this indicates that the flow might be re-delivery of an earlier packet.
[MQTT-2.1.2-3]	The Dup flag MUST be set to 1 by the Client or Server when it attempts to re-deliver a PUBLISH Packet.
[MQTT-2.1.2-4]	The Dup flag MUST be 0 for all QoS 0 messages
[MQTT-2.1.2-5]	The value of the Dup flag from an incoming PUBLISH packet is not propagated when the PUBLISH Packet is sent to subscribers by the Server. The Dup flag in the outgoing PUBLISH packet MUST BE set independently to the incoming PUBLISH packet.
[MQTT-2.1.2-6]	If the retain flag is set to 1 , in a PUBLISH Packet sent by a Client to a Server, the Server MUST store the application message and its QoS, so that it can be delivered to future subscribers whose subscriptions match its topic name.
[MQTT-2.1.2-7]	When a new subscription is established, the last retained message, if any, on each matching topic name MUST be sent to the subscriber.
[MQTT-2.1.2-8]	If the Server receives a QoS 0 message with the RETAIN flag set to 1 it MUST discard any message previously retained for that topic. It SHOULD store the new QoS 0 message as the new retained message for that topic, but MAY discard it at any time. If this happens there will be no retained message for that topic.
[MQTT-2.1.2-9]	When sending a PUBLISH Packet to a Client the Server MUST set the RETAIN flag to 1 if a message is sent as a result of a new subscription being made by a Client .

[MQTT-2.1.2-10]	It MUST set the RETAIN flag to 0 when a PUBLISH Packet is sent to a Client because it matches an established subscription regardless of how the flag was set in the message it received
[MQTT-2.1.2-11]	A PUBLISH Packet with a retain flag set to 1 and a payload containing zero bytes will be processed as normal by the Server and sent to Clients with a subscription matching the topic name. Additionally any existing retained message with the same topic name MUST be removed and any future subscribers for the topic will not receive a retained message.
[MQTT-2.1.2-12]	If the RETAIN flag is 0, in a PUBLISH Packet sent by a Client to a Server, the Server MUST NOT store the message and MUST NOT remove or replace any existing retained message.
[MQTT-2.3.1-1]	SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, and PUBLISH (in cases where QoS > 0) Control Packets MUST contain a non-zero 16-bit Packet Identifier.
[MQTT-2.3.1-2]	Each time a Client sends a new packet of one of these types it MUST assign it a currently unused Packet Identifier.
[MQTT-2.3.1-3]	If a Client resends a particular Control Packet, then it MUST use the same Packet Identifier in subsequent resends of that packet. The Packet Identifier becomes available for reuse after the Client has processed the corresponding acknowledgement packet. In the case of a QoS 1 PUBLISH this is the corresponding PUBACK; in the case of QO2 it is PUBCOMP. For SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE it is the corresponding SUBACK or UNSUBACK.
[MQTT-2.3.1-4]	The same conditions [MQTT-2.3.1-3] apply to a Server when it sends a PUBLISH with QoS >0.
[MQTT-2.3.1-5]	A PUBLISH Packet MUST NOT contain a Packet Identifier if its QoS value is set to 0.
[MQTT-2.3.1-6]	A PUBACK, PUBREC, PUBREL Packet MUST contain the same Packet Identifier as the PUBLISH Packet that initiated the flow.
[MQTT-2.3.1-7]	Similarly to [MQTT-2.3.1-6], SUBACK and UNSUBACK MUST contain the Packet Identifier that was used in the corresponding SUBSCRIBE and UNSUBSCRIBE Packet respectively
[MQTT-3.1.0-1]	After a Network Connection is established by a Client to a Server, the first flow from the Client to the Server MUST be a CONNECT Packet.
[MQTT-3.1.0-2]	The Server MUST process a second CONNECT Packet sent from a Client as a protocol violation and disconnect the Client.
[MQTT-3.1.2-1].	If the protocol name is incorrect the Server MAY disconnect the Client, or it MAY continue processing the CONNECT packet in accordance with some other specification. In the latter case, the Server MUST NOT continue to process the CONNECT packet in line with this specification
[MQTT-3.1.2-2]	The Server MUST respond to the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code 0x01 (unacceptable protocol level) and then disconnect the Client if the Protocol Level is not supported by the Server.
[MQTT-3.1.2-3]	The Server MUST validate that the reserved flag in the CONNECT Control Packet is set to zero and disconnect the Client if it is not zero.
[MQTT-3.1.2-4]	The Client and Server MUST store the Session after the Client and Server are disconnected.

[MQTT-3.1.2-5]	After disconnection, the Server MUST store further QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages that match any subscriptions that the client had at the time of disconnection as part of the Session state.
[MQTT-3.1.2-6]	If set to 1, the Client and Server MUST discard any previous Session and start a new one. This Session lasts as long as the Network Connection. State data associated with this session MUST NOT be reused in any subsequent Session
[MQTT-3.1.2.7]	Retained publications do not form part of the Session state in the Server, they MUST NOT be deleted when the Session ends.
[MQTT-3.1.2-8]	If the Will Flag is set to 1 this indicates that a Will Message MUST be published by the Server when the Server detects that the Client is disconnected for any reason other than the Client flowing a DISCONNECT Packet.
[MQTT-3.1.2-9]	If the Will Flag is set to 1, the Will QoS and Will Retain fields in the Connect Flags will be used by the Server, and the Will Topic and Will Message fields MUST be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-10]	The will message MUST be removed from the stored Session state in the Server once it has been published or the Server has received a DISCONNECT packet from the Client. If the Will Flag is set to 0, no will message is published.
[MQTT-3.1.2-11]	If the Will Flag is set to 0, then the Will QoS MUST be set to 0 (0x00).
[MQTT-3.1.2-12]	If the Will Flag is set to 1, the value of Will QoS can be 0 (0x00), 1 (0x01), or 2 (0x02). It MUST NOT be 3 (0x03).
[MQTT-3.1.2-13]	If the Will Flag is set to 0, then the Will Retain Flag MUST be set to 0.
[MQTT-3.1.2-14]	If the Will Flag is set to 1 and If Will Retain is set to 0, the Server MUST publish the will message as a non-retained publication.
[MQTT-3.1.2-15]	If the Will Flag is set to 1 and If Will Retain is set to 1, the Server MUST publish the will message as a retained publication.
[MQTT-3.1.2-16]	If the User Name Flag is set to 0, a user name MUST NOT be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-17]	If the User Name Flag is set to 1, a user name MUST be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-18]	If the Password Flag is set to 0, a password MUST NOT be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-19]	If the Password Flag is set to 1, a password MUST be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-20]	If the User Name Flag is set to 0 then the Password Flag MUST be set to 0.
[MQTT-3.1.2-21]	It is the responsibility of the Client to ensure that the interval between Control Packets being sent does not exceed the Keep Alive value .In the absence of sending any other Control Packets, the Client MUST send a PINGREQ Packet.
[MQTT-3.1.2-22]	If the Server does not receive a Control Packet from the Client within one and a half times the Keep Alive time period, it MUST disconnect the Network Connection to the Client as if the network had failed.
[MQTT-3.1.3-1]	These fields, if present, MUST appear in the order Client Identifier, Will Topic, Will Message, User Name, Password.
[MQTT-3.1.3-2]	The ClientId MUST be used by Clients and by Servers to identify state that they hold relating to this MQTT connection between the Client and the Server

[MQTT-3.1.3-3]	The Client Identifier (ClientId) MUST be present and MUST be the first field in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.3-4]	The ClientId MUST comprise only Unicode **[Unicode63]** characters, and the length of the UTF-8 encoding MUST be at least zero bytes and no more than 65535 bytes.
[MQTT-3.1.3-5]	The Server MUST allow ClientIds which are between 1 and 23 UTF-8 encoded bytes in length, and that contain only the characters "0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
[MQTT-3.1.3-6]	A Server MAY allow a Client to supply a ClientId that has a length of zero bytes. However if it does so the Server MUST treat this as a special case and assign a unique ClientId to that Client. It MUST then process the CONNECT packet as if the Client had provided that unique ClientId.
[MQTT-3.1.3-7]	If the Client supplies a zero-byte ClientId, the Client MUST also set Clean Session to 1.
[MQTT-3.1.3-8]	If the Client supplies a zero-byte ClientId with Clean Session set to 0, the Server MUST respond to the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code 0x02 (Identifier rejected) and then close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.1.3-9]	If the Server rejects the ClientId it MUST respond to the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code 0x02 (Identifier rejected) and then close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.1.4-1]	The Server MUST validate that the CONNECT Packet conforms to section 3.1 and close the Network Connection without sending a CONNACK if it does not conform.
[MQTT-3.1.4-2]	If the ClientId represents a Client already connected to the Server then the Server MUST disconnect the existing Client.
[MQTT-3.1.4-3]	If the Server rejects the CONNECT, it MUST NOT process any data sent by the Client after the CONNECT Packet.
[MQTT-3.2.0-1]	The first packet sent from the Server to the Client MUST be a CONNACK Packet.
[MQTT-3.2.2-1]	If a server sends a CONNACK packet containing a non-zero return code it MUST then close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.2.2-2]	If none of these return codes are deemed applicable, then the Server MUST close the Network Connection without flowing a CONNACK.
[MQTT-3.3.2-1]	The Topic Name MUST be a UTF-8 encoded string.
[MQTT-3.3.2-2]	The Topic Name in the PUBLISH Packet MUST NOT contain wildcard characters.
[MQTT-3.3.2-3]	The Topic Name sent to a subscribing Client MUST match the Subscription's Topic Filter.
[MQTT-3.3.5-1]	The Server MUST deliver the message to the Client respecting the maximum QoS of all the matching subscriptions.
[MQTT-3.3.5-2]	If a Server implementation does not authorize a PUBLISH to be performed by a Client; it has no way of informing that Client. It MUST either make a positive

	acknowledgement, according to the normal QoS rules or disconnect the TCP session.
[MQTT-3.5.4-1]	When the sender of a PUBLISH Packet receives a PUBREC Packet, it MUST reply with a PUBREL Packet.
[MQTT-3.6.1-1]	Bits 3,2,1 and 0 of the fixed header in the PUBREL Control Packet are reserved and MUST be set to 0,0,1 and 0 respectively. The Server MUST treat any other value as malformed and close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.6.4-1]	When the sender of a PUBREC Packet receives a PUBREL Packet it MUST reply with a PUBCOMP Packet.
[MQTT-3.8.1-1]	Bits 3,2,1 and 0 of the fixed header of the SUBSCRIBE Control Packet are reserved and MUST be set to 0,0,1 and 0 respectively. The Server MUST treat any other value as malformed and close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.8.3-1]	The Payload of a SUBSCRIBE packet MUST contain at least one Topic Filter / QoS pair. A SUBSCRIBE packet with no payload is a protocol violation.
[MQTT-3-8.3-2]	The Server MUST treat a SUBSCRIBE packet as malformed and close the Network Connection if any of Reserved bits in the payload are non-zero.
[MQTT-3.8.4-1]	When the Server receives a SUBSCRIBE Packet from a Client, the Server MUST respond with a SUBACK Packet.
[MQTT-3.8.4-2]	The SUBACK Packet MUST have the same Packet Identifier as the SUBSCRIBE Packet.
[MQTT-3.8.4-3]	A subscribe request which contains a Topic Filter that is identical to an existing Subscription's Topic Filter completely replaces that existing Subscription with a new Subscription. The Topic Filter in the new Subscription will be identical to that in the previous Subscription, although its maximum QoS value could be different. Any existing retained publications matching the Topic Filter are resent, but the flow of publications is not interrupted.
[MQTT-3.8.4-4]	If a Server receives a SUBSCRIBE packet that contains multiple Topic Filters it MUST handle that packet as if it had received a sequence of multiple SUBSCRIBE packets, except that it combines their responses into a single SUBACK response.
[MQTT-3.8.4-5]	The SUBACK Packet sent by the Server to the Client MUST contain a return code for each Topic Filter/QoS pair. This return code MUST either show the maximum QoS that was granted for that Subscription or indicate that the subscription failed.
[MQTT-3.8.4-6]	The Server might grant a lower maximum QoS than the subscriber requested. The QoS of Payload Messages sent in response to a Subscription MUST be the minimum of the QoS of the originally published message and the maximum QoS granted by the Server. The server is permitted to send duplicate copies of a message to a subscriber in the case where the original message was published with QoS 1 and the maximum QoS granted was QoS 0.
[MQTT-3.9.3-1]	The order of return codes in the SUBACK Packet MUST match the order of Topic Filters in the SUBSCRIBE Packet.
[MQTT-3.9.3-2]	SUBACK return codes other than 0x00, 0x01, 0x02 and 0x80 are reserved and MUST NOT be used.
[MQTT-3.10.1-1]	Bits 3,2,1 and 0 of the fixed header of the UNSUBSCRIBE Control Packet are reserved and MUST be set to 0,0,1 and 0 respectively. The Server MUST treat

	any other value as malformed and close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.10.3-1]	The Topic Filter (whether containing a wild-card or not) supplied in an UNSUBSCRIBE packet MUST be compared byte-for-byte with the current set of Topic Filters held by the Server for the Client. If any filter matches exactly then it is deleted, otherwise no additional processing occurs.
[MQTT-3.10.3-2]	The Server sends an UNSUBACK Packet to the Client in response to an UNSUBSCRIBE Packet, The Server MUST stop adding any new messages for delivery to the Client.
[MQTT-3.10.3-3]	The Server sends an UNSUBACK Packet to the Client in response to an UNSUBSCRIBE Packet, The Server MUST complete the delivery of any QoS 1 or QoS 2 messages which it has started to send to the Client.
[MQTT-3.10.3-4]	The Server sends an UNSUBACK Packet to the Client in response to an UNSUBSCRIBE Packet, The Server MUST send an UNSUBACK packet. The UNSUBACK Packet MUST have the same Packet Identifier as the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet.
[MQTT-3.10.3-5]	Even where no Topic Filters are deleted, the Server MUST respond with an UNSUBACK.
[MQTT-3.10.3-6]	If a Server receives an UNSUBSCRIBE packet that contains multiple Topic Filters it MUST handle that packet as if it had received a sequence of multiple UNSUBSCRIBE packets, except that it sends just one UNSUBACK response.
[MQTT-3.12.4-1]	The Server MUST send a PINGRESP Packet in response to a PINGREQ packet.
[MQTT-3.14.1-1]	The Server MUST validate that reserved bits are set to zero in DISCONNECT Control Packet, and disconnect the Client if they are not zero.
[MQTT-3.14.4-1]	After sending a DISCONNECT Packet the Client MUST close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.14.4-2]	After sending a DISCONNECT Packet the Client MUST NOT send any more Control Packets on that Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.14.4-3]	On receipt of DISCONNECT the Server MUST discard the Will Message without publishing it.
[MQTT-4.1.0-1]	The Client and Server MUST store data for at least as long as the Network Connection lasts.
[MQTT-4.2.0-1]	The network connection used to transport the MQTT protocol MUST be an ordered, lossless, stream of bytes from the Client to Server and Server to Client.
[MQTT-4.3.2-1]	The receiver of a QoS 1 PUBLISH Packet acknowledges receipt with a PUBACK Packet. If the Client reconnects and the Session is resumed, the sender MUST resend any in flight QoS 1 messages with the Dup flag set to 1.
[MQTT-4.3.2-2]	The Server MUST store the message in accordance to its QoS properties and ensure onward delivery to applicable subscribers.
[MQTT-4.3.2-3]	When it receives a PUBLISH Packet with Dup set to 1 the receiver MUST perform the same actions as above which might result in a redelivery of the Application Message.
[MQTT-4.3.3-1]	The receiver of a QoS 2 PUBLISH Packet acknowledges receipt with a PUBREC Packet. If the Client reconnects and the Session is resumed, the sender MUST resend any in-flight QoS 2 messages setting their Dup flags to 1.

[MQTT-4.3.3-2]	The Server MUST store the message in accordance to its QoS properties and ensure onward delivery to applicable subscribers.
[MQTT-4.4.0-1]	When a Client reconnects with CleanSession = 0, both the Client and Server MUST redeliver any previous in-flight QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages. This means re-sending any unacknowledged PUBLISH Packets (where QoS > 0) and PUBREL Packets.
[MQTT-4.4.0-2]	The PUBLISH packet MUST have the Dup flag set to 1 when it is redelivered.
[MQTT-4.5.0-1]	The Client MUST acknowledge any Publish Packet it receives according to the applicable QoS rules regardless of whether it elects to process the application message.
[MQTT-4.6.0-1]	When it resends any PUBLISH packets, it MUST resend them in the order in which the original PUBLISH packets were sent (this applies to QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages).
[MQTT-4.6.0-2]	Client MUST send PUBACK packets in the order in which the corresponding PUBLISH packets were received (QoS 1 messages).
[MQTT-4.6.0-3]	Client MUST send PUBREC packets in the order in which the corresponding PUBLISH packets were received (QoS 2 messages).
[MQTT-4.6.0-4]	Client MUST send PUBREL packets in the order in which the corresponding PUBREC packets were received (QoS 2 messages).
[MQTT-4.6.0-5]	A Server MUST by default treat each Topic as an "Ordered Topic". It MAY provide an administrative or other mechanism to allow one or more Topics to be treated as an "Unordered Topic".
[MQTT-4.6.0-6]	When a Server processes a message that has been published to an Ordered Topic, it MUST follow the rules listed above when delivering messages to each of its subscribers. In addition it MUST send PUBLISH packets to consumers (for the same Topic and QoS) in the order that they were received from any given Client.
[MQTT-4.7.1-1]	The wildcard characters can be used in Topic Filters, but MUST NOT be used within a Topic Name.
[MQTT-4.7.1-2]	The multi-level wildcard character MUST be specified either on its own or following a topic level separator. In either case it MUST be the last character specified in the Topic Filter.
[MQTT-4.7.1-3]	The single-level wildcard can be used at any level in the Topic Filter, including first and last levels. Where it is used it MUST occupy an entire level of the filter.
[MQTT-4.7.3-1]	All Topic Names and Topic Filters MUST be at least one character long.
[MQTT-4.7.3-2]	Topic Names and Topic Filters MUST NOT include the null character (Unicode U+0000).
[MQTT-4.7.3-3]	Topic Names and Topic Filters are UTF-8 encoded strings, they MUST NOT encode to more than 65535 bytes.
[MQTT-4.8.0-1]	If the Client or Server encounters a transient error while processing an inbound Control Packet it MUST close Network Connection which was used to send the packet.

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Appendix B. Revision history

Revision	Date	Editor	Changes Made
[02]	[29 April 2013]	[A Banks]	[Tighten up language for Connect packet]
[03]	[09 May 2013]	[A Banks]	[Tighten up language in Section 02 Command Message Format]
[04]	[20 May 2013]	[Rahul Gupta]	Tighten up language for PUBLISH message
[05]	[5th June 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	[Issues -5,9,13] [Formatting and language tighten up in PUBACK, PUBREC, PUBREL, PUBCOMP message]
[06]	[20th June 2013]	[Rahul Gupta]	[Issue – 17, 2, 28, 33] [Formatting and language tighten up in SUBSCRIBE, SUBACK, UNSUBSCRIBE, UNSUBACK, PINGREQ, PINGRESP, DISCONNECT Control Packets] Terms Command message change to Control Packet Term “message” is generically used, replaced this word accordingly with packet, publication, subscription.
[06]	[21 June 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 12,20,15, 3, 35, 34, 23, 5, 21 Resolved Issues – 32,39, 41
[07]	[03 July 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 18,11,4 Resolved Issues – 26,31,36,37
[08]	[19 July 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 6, 29, 45 Resolved Issues – 36, 25, 24 Added table for fixed header and payload
[09]	[01 August 2013]	[A Banks]	Resolved Issues – 49, 53, 46, 67, 29, 66, 62, 45, 69, 40, 61, 30
[10]	[10 August 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 19, 63, 57, 65, 72 Conformance section added
[11]	[10 September 2013]	[A Banks] [N O'Leary & Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 56 Updated Conformance section
[12]	[18 September 2013]	[Rahul Gupta] [A Banks]	Resolved Issues – 22, 42, 81, 84, 85, 7, 8, 14, 16, Security section is added Resolved Issue -1

[13]	[27 September 2013]	[A Banks]	Resolved Issues – 64, 68, 76, 86, 27, 60, 82, 55, 78, 51, 83, 80
[14]	[10 October 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 58, 59, 10, 89, 90, 88, 77 Resolved Issues – 94, 96, 93, 92, 95, 87, 74, 71
[15]	[24 October 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 52, 97, 98, 101 Resolved Issues – 100 Added normative statement numbering and Appendix A
[16]	[21 November 2013]	[A Banks]	Resolved Issues -103, 104, 44
[17]	[05 December 2013]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 105, 70, 102, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110 Updated normative statement numbering and Appendix A

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