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This specification is related to:

- *MQTT and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework Version 1.0*. Edited by Geoff Brown and Louis-Philippe Lamoureux. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/mqtt/mqtt-nist-cybersecurity/v1.0/mqtt-nist-cybersecurity-v1.0.html>.

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 can 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:

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TC members should send comments on this specification to the TC's email list. Others should send comments to the TC's public comment list, after subscribing to it by following the instructions at the "Send A Comment" button on the TC's web page at <https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/mqtt/>.

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	9
1.1	Organization of MQTT	9
1.2	Terminology	9
1.3	Normative references	10
1.4	Non normative references	11
1.5	Data representations	13
1.5.1	Bits.....	13
1.5.2	Integer data values	13
1.5.3	UTF-8 encoded strings	13
1.6	Editing conventions.....	15
2	MQTT Control Packet format	16
2.1	Structure of an MQTT Control Packet	16
2.2	Fixed header.....	16
2.2.1	MQTT Control Packet type.....	16
2.2.2	Flags.....	17
2.2.3	Remaining Length	18
2.3	Variable header	20
2.3.1	Packet Identifier	20
2.4	Payload.....	21
3	MQTT Control Packets.....	23
3.1	CONNECT – Client requests a connection to a Server.....	23
3.1.1	Fixed header.....	23
3.1.2	Variable header	23
3.1.3	Payload.....	29
3.1.4	Response	30
3.2	CONNACK – Acknowledge connection request.....	31
3.2.1	Fixed header.....	31
3.2.2	Variable header	31
3.2.3	Payload.....	33
3.3	PUBLISH – Publish message.....	33
3.3.1	Fixed header.....	33
3.3.2	Variable header	35
3.3.3	Payload.....	36
3.3.4	Response	36
3.3.5	Actions.....	36
3.4	PUBACK – Publish acknowledgement	37
3.4.1	Fixed header.....	37
3.4.2	Variable header	37
3.4.3	Payload.....	37
3.4.4	Actions.....	37
3.5	PUBREC – Publish received (QoS 2 publish received, part 1)	38
3.5.1	Fixed header.....	38
3.5.2	Variable header	38

3.5.3 Payload.....	38
3.5.4 Actions.....	38
3.6 PUBREL – Publish release (QoS 2 publish received, part 2).....	38
3.6.1 Fixed header.....	38
3.6.2 Variable header	39
3.6.3 Payload.....	39
3.6.4 Actions.....	39
3.7 PUBCOMP – Publish complete (QoS 2 publish received, part 3).....	39
3.7.1 Fixed header.....	39
3.7.2 Variable header	40
3.7.3 Payload.....	40
3.7.4 Actions.....	40
3.8 SUBSCRIBE - Subscribe to topics	40
3.8.1 Fixed header.....	40
3.8.2 Variable header	40
3.8.3 Payload.....	41
3.8.4 Response	42
3.9 SUBACK – Subscribe acknowledgement.....	43
3.9.1 Fixed header.....	44
3.9.2 Variable header	44
3.9.3 Payload.....	44
3.10 UNSUBSCRIBE – Unsubscribe from topics	45
3.10.1 Fixed header.....	45
3.10.2 Variable header	45
3.10.3 Payload.....	46
3.10.4 Response	46
3.11 UNSUBACK – Unsubscribe acknowledgement.....	47
3.11.1 Fixed header.....	47
3.11.2 Variable header	47
3.11.3 Payload.....	48
3.12 PINGREQ – PING request	48
3.12.1 Fixed header.....	48
3.12.2 Variable header	48
3.12.3 Payload.....	48
3.12.4 Response	48
3.13 PINGRESP – PING response	48
3.13.1 Fixed header.....	48
3.13.2 Variable header	49
3.13.3 Payload.....	49
3.14 DISCONNECT – Disconnect notification	49
3.14.1 Fixed header.....	49
3.14.2 Variable header	49
3.14.3 Payload.....	49
3.14.4 Response	49
4 Operational behavior	51

4.1 Storing state.....	51
4.1.1 Non normative example	51
4.2 Network Connections.....	52
4.3 Quality of Service levels and protocol flows	52
4.3.1 QoS 0: At most once delivery.....	52
4.3.2 QoS 1: At least once delivery	53
4.3.3 QoS 2: Exactly once delivery	54
4.4 Message delivery retry.....	55
4.5 Message receipt	56
4.6 Message ordering.....	56
4.7 Topic Names and Topic Filters	57
4.7.1 Topic wildcards.....	57
4.7.2 Topics beginning with \$.....	58
4.7.3 Topic semantic and usage	58
4.8 Handling errors	59
5 Security.....	60
5.1 Introduction	60
5.2 MQTT solutions: security and certification.....	60
5.3 Lightweight cryptography and constrained devices.....	61
5.4 Implementation notes	61
5.4.1 Authentication of Clients by the Server	61
5.4.2 Authorization of Clients by the Server.....	61
5.4.3 Authentication of the Server by the Client.....	61
5.4.4 Integrity of Application Messages and Control Packets	62
5.4.5 Privacy of Application Messages and Control Packets	62
5.4.6 Non-repudiation of message transmission.....	62
5.4.7 Detecting compromise of Clients and Servers	62
5.4.8 Detecting abnormal behaviors.....	63
5.4.9 Other security considerations	63
5.4.10 Use of SOCKS	64
5.4.11 Security profiles.....	64
6 Using WebSocket as a network transport	65
6.1 IANA Considerations	65
7 Conformance	66
7.1 Conformance Targets.....	66
7.1.1 MQTT Server.....	66
7.1.2 MQTT Client	66
Appendix A. Acknowledgements (non normative).....	68
Appendix B. Mandatory normative statements (non normative)	70
Appendix C. Revision history (non normative)	80

Table of Figures and Tables

Figure 1.1 Structure of UTF-8 encoded strings	13
Figure 1.2 UTF-8 encoded string non normative example.....	14
Figure 2.1 – Structure of an MQTT Control Packet.....	16
Figure 2.2 - Fixed header format.....	16
Table 2.1 - Control packet types	16
Table 2.2 - Flag Bits.....	17
Table 2.4 Size of Remaining Length field.....	18
Figure 2.3 - Packet Identifier bytes.....	20
Table 2.5 - Control Packets that contain a Packet Identifier.....	20
Table 2.6 - Control Packets that contain a Payload	21
Figure 3.1 – CONNECT Packet fixed header.....	23
Figure 3.2 - Protocol Name bytes.....	23
Figure 3.3 - Protocol Level byte	24
Figure 3.4 - Connect Flag bits	24
Figure 3.5 Keep Alive bytes	27
Figure 3.6 - Variable header non normative example	28
Figure 3.7 - Password bytes	30
Figure 3.8 – CONNACK Packet fixed header	31
Figure 3.9 – CONNACK Packet variable header.....	31
Table 3.1 – Connect Return code values.....	32
Figure 3.10 – PUBLISH Packet fixed header.....	33
Table 3.2 - QoS definitions.....	34
Table 3.3 - Publish Packet non normative example	35
Figure 3.11 - Publish Packet variable header non normative example	36
Table 3.4 - Expected Publish Packet response.....	36
Figure 3.12 - PUBACK Packet fixed header	37
Figure 3.13 – PUBACK Packet variable header.....	37
Figure 3.14 – PUBREC Packet fixed header	38
Figure 3.15 – PUBREC Packet variable header	38
Figure 3.16 – PUBREL Packet fixed header	38
Figure 3.17 – PUBREL Packet variable header	39
Figure 3.18 – PUBCOMP Packet fixed header	39
Figure 3.19 – PUBCOMP Packet variable header	40
Figure 3.20 – SUBSCRIBE Packet fixed header.....	40
Figure 3.21 - Variable header with a Packet Identifier of 10, Non normative example	41
Figure 3.22 – SUBSCRIBE Packet payload format.....	41
Table 3.5 - Payload non normative example	42
Figure 3.23 - Payload byte format non normative example.....	42
Figure 3.24 – SUBACK Packet fixed header.....	44
Figure 3.25 – SUBACK Packet variable header.....	44
Figure 3.26 – SUBACK Packet payload format.....	44
Table 3.6 - Payload non normative example	45
Figure 3.27 - Payload byte format non normative example.....	45
Figure 3.28 – UNSUBSCRIBE Packet Fixed header	45
Figure 3.29 – UNSUBSCRIBE Packet variable header.....	45
Table 3.7 - Payload non normative example	46
Figure 3.30 - Payload byte format non normative example.....	46

Figure 3.31 – UNSUBACK Packet fixed header.....	47
Figure 3.32 – UNSUBACK Packet variable header.....	47
Figure 3.33 – PINGREQ Packet fixed header.....	48
Figure 3.34 – PINGRESP Packet fixed header.....	48
Figure 3.35 – DISCONNECT Packet fixed header.....	49
Figure 4.1 – QoS 0 protocol flow diagram, non normative example.....	52
Figure 4.2 – QoS 1 protocol flow diagram, non normative example.....	53
Figure 4.3 – QoS 2 protocol flow diagram, non normative example.....	54
Figure 6.1 - IANA WebSocket Identifier	65

1 Introduction

1.1 Organization of MQTT

This specification is split into seven chapters:

- [Chapter 1 - Introduction](#)
- [Chapter 2 - MQTT Control Packet format](#)
- [Chapter 3 - MQTT Control Packets](#)
- [Chapter 4 - Operational behavior](#)
- [Chapter 5 - Security](#)
- [Chapter 6 - Using WebSocket as a network transport](#)
- [Chapter 7 - Conformance Targets](#)

1.2 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.

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.

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:

A program or device that acts as an intermediary between Clients which publish Application Messages and Clients which have made Subscriptions. A Server

- Accepts Network Connections from Clients.
- Accepts Application Messages published by Clients.

- Processes Subscribe and Unsubscribe requests from Clients.
- Forwards Application Messages that match Client Subscriptions.

37 **Subscription:**

38 A Subscription comprises a Topic Filter and a maximum QoS. A Subscription is associated with a single
39 Session. A Session can contain more than one Subscription. Each Subscription within a session has a
40 different Topic Filter.

41 **Topic Name:**

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

45 **Topic Filter:**

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

48 **Session:**

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

51 **MQTT Control Packet:**

52 A packet of information that is sent across the Network Connection. The MQTT specification defines
53 fourteen different types of Control Packet, one of which (the PUBLISH packet) is used to convey
54 Application Messages.

55 **1.3 Normative references**

56 **[RFC2119]**

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58 1997.

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61 **[RFC3629]**

62 Yergeau, F., "UTF-8, a transformation format of ISO 10646", STD 63, RFC 3629, November 2003

63 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3629.txt>

65 **[RFC5246]**

66 Dierks, T. and E. Rescorla, "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2", RFC 5246, August
67 2008.

68 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5246.txt>

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71 Fette, I. and A. Melnikov, "The WebSocket Protocol", RFC 6455, December 2011.

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73

74 **[Unicode]**

75 *The Unicode Consortium. The Unicode Standard.*

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77 **1.4 Non normative references**

78 **[RFC793]**

79 *Postel, J. Transmission Control Protocol. STD 7, IETF RFC 793, September 1981.*

80 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc793.txt>

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82 **[AES]**

83 *Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) (FIPS PUB 197).*

84 <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips197/fips-197.pdf>

85

86 **[DES]**

87 *Data Encryption Standard (DES).*

88 <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips46-3/fips46-3.pdf>

89

90 **[FIPS1402]**

91 *Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules (FIPS PUB 140-2)*

92 <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips140-2/fips1402.pdf>

93

94 **[IEEE 802.1AR]**

95 *IEEE Standard for Local and metropolitan area networks - Secure Device Identity*

96 <http://standards.ieee.org/findstds/standard/802.1AR-2009.html>

97

98 **[ISO29192]**

99 *ISO/IEC 29192-1:2012 Information technology -- Security techniques -- Lightweight cryptography -- Part*
100 *1: General*

101 http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=56425

102

103 **[MQTT NIST]**

104 *MQTT supplemental publication, MQTT and the NIST Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure*
105 *Cybersecurity*

106 <http://docs.oasis-open.org/mqtt/mqtt-nist-cybersecurity/v1.0/mqtt-nist-cybersecurity-v1.0.html>

107

108 **[MQTTV31]**

109 *MQTT V3.1 Protocol Specification.*

110 <http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/dw/webservices/ws-mqtt/mqtt-v3r1.html>

111

112 **[NISTCSF]**

113 *Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Executive Order 13636*

114 <http://www.nist.gov/itl/upload/preliminary-cybersecurity-framework.pdf>

115

116 **[NIST7628]**

117 *NISTIR 7628 Guidelines for Smart Grid Cyber Security*

118 http://www.nist.gov/smartgrid/upload/nistir-7628_total.pdf

119

120 **[NSAB]**

121 *NSA Suite B Cryptography*

122 http://www.nsa.gov/ia/programs/suiteb_cryptography/

123

124 **[PCIDSS]**

125 *PCI-DSS Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard*

126 https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/security_standards/

127

128 **[RFC1928]**

129 *Leech, M., Ganis, M., Lee, Y., Kuris, R., Koblas, D., and L. Jones, "SOCKS Protocol Version 5", RFC*

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134 *Sermersheim, J., Ed., "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): The Protocol", RFC 4511, June*

135 *2006.*

136 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4511.txt>

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138 **[RFC5077]**

139 *Salowey, J., Zhou, H., Eronen, P., and H. Tschofenig, "Transport Layer Security (TLS) Session*

140 *Resumption without Server-Side State", RFC 5077, January 2008.*

141 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5077.txt>

142

143 **[RFC5280]**

144 *Cooper, D., Santesson, S., Farrell, S., Boeyen, S., Housley, R., and W. Polk, "Internet X.509 Public Key*

145 *Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile", RFC 5280, May 2008.*

146 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5280.txt>

147

148 **[RFC6066]**

149 *Eastlake 3rd, D., "Transport Layer Security (TLS) Extensions: Extension Definitions", RFC 6066, January*

150 *2011.*

151 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc6066.txt>

152

153 **[RFC6749]**

154 *Hardt, D., Ed., "The OAuth 2.0 Authorization Framework", RFC 6749, October 2012.*

155 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc6749.txt>
156
157 **[RFC6960]**
158 Santesson, S., Myers, M., Ankney, R., Malpani, A., Galperin, S., and C. Adams, "X.509 Internet Public
159 Key Infrastructure Online Certificate Status Protocol - OCSP", RFC 6960, June 2013.
160 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc6960.txt>
161
162 **[SARBANES]**
163 Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
164 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-107publ204/html/PLAW-107publ204.htm>
165
166 **[USEUSAFEHARB]**
167 U.S.-EU Safe Harbor
168 http://export.gov/safeharbor/eu/eg_main_018365.asp

169 **1.5 Data representations**

170 **1.5.1 Bits**

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

173 **1.5.2 Integer data values**

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

177 **1.5.3 UTF-8 encoded strings**

178 Text fields in the Control Packets described later are encoded as UTF-8 strings. UTF-8 [\[RFC3629\]](#) is an
179 efficient encoding of Unicode [\[Unicode\]](#) characters that optimizes the encoding of ASCII characters in
180 support of text-based communications.

181
182 Each of these strings is prefixed with a two byte length field that gives the number of bytes in a UTF-8
183 encoded string itself, as illustrated in [Figure 1.1 Structure of UTF-8 encoded strings](#) below. Consequently
184 there is a limit on the size of a string that can be passed in one of these UTF-8 encoded string
185 components; you cannot use a string that would encode to more than 65535 bytes.

186
187 Unless stated otherwise all UTF-8 encoded strings can have any length in the range 0 to 65535 bytes.

188 **Figure 1.1 Structure of UTF-8 encoded strings**

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	String length MSB							
byte 2	String length LSB							
byte 3	UTF-8 Encoded Character Data, if length > 0.							

189

190 The character data in a UTF-8 encoded string MUST be well-formed UTF-8 as defined by the Unicode
191 specification [Unicode] and restated in RFC 3629 [RFC3629]. In particular this data MUST NOT include
192 encodings of code points between U+D800 and U+DFFF. If a Server or Client receives a Control Packet
193 containing ill-formed UTF-8 it MUST close the Network Connection [MQTT-1.5.3-1].

194

195 A UTF-8 encoded string MUST NOT include an encoding of the null character U+0000. If a receiver
196 (Server or Client) receives a Control Packet containing U+0000 it MUST close the Network
197 Connection [MQTT-1.5.3-2].

198

199 The data SHOULD NOT include encodings of the Unicode [Unicode] code points listed below. If a
200 receiver (Server or Client) receives a Control Packet containing any of them it MAY close the Network
201 Connection:

202

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

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

206

207 A UTF-8 encoded sequence 0xEF 0xBB 0xBF is always to be interpreted to mean U+FEFF ("ZERO
208 WIDTH NO-BREAK SPACE") wherever it appears in a string and MUST NOT be skipped over or stripped
209 off by a packet receiver [MQTT-1.5.3-3].

210

211 **1.5.3.1 Non normative example**

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

215

216 **Figure 1.2 UTF-8 encoded string non normative example**

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
byte 1	String Length MSB (0x00)							
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 2	String 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

217

218 **1.6 Editing conventions**

219 Text highlighted in **Yellow** within this specification identifies conformance statements. Each conformance
220 statement has been assigned a reference in the format **[MQTT-x.x.x-y]**.

2 MQTT Control Packet format

2.1 Structure of an MQTT Control Packet

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 as illustrated in [Figure 2.1 - Structure of an MQTT Control Packet](#).

Figure 2.1 – Structure of an MQTT Control Packet

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

2.2 Fixed header

Each MQTT Control Packet contains a fixed header. [Figure 2.2 - Fixed header format](#) illustrates the fixed header format.

Figure 2.2 - 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							

2.2.1 MQTT Control Packet type

Position: byte 1, bits 7-4.

Represented as a 4-bit unsigned value, the values are listed in [Table 2.1 - Control packet types](#).

Table 2.1 - Control packet types

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	Publish message

		Server to Client	
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

240

241 **2.2.2 Flags**

242 The remaining bits [3-0] of byte 1 in the fixed header contain flags specific to each MQTT Control Packet

243 type as listed in the [Table 2.2 - Flag Bits](#) below. Where a flag bit is marked as "Reserved" in [Table 2.2 -](#)

244 [Flag Bits](#), it is reserved for future use and MUST be set to the value listed in that table [\[MQTT-2.2.2-1\]](#). If

245 [invalid flags are received, the receiver MUST close the Network Connection](#) [\[MQTT-2.2.2-2\]](#). See Section

246 4.8 for details about handling errors.

247

248 **Table 2.2 - Flag Bits**

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 ¹	QoS ²	QoS ²	RETAIN ³
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

249

250 DUP¹ = Duplicate delivery of a PUBLISH Control Packet

251 QoS² = PUBLISH Quality of Service

252 RETAIN³ = PUBLISH Retain flag

253 See Section 3.3.1 for a description of the DUP, QoS, and RETAIN flags in the PUBLISH Control Packet.

254 2.2.3 Remaining Length

255 **Position:** starts at byte 2.

256

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

260

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

266

267 Non normative comment

268 For example, the number 64 decimal is encoded as a single byte, decimal value 64, hexadecimal
269 0x40. The number 321 decimal (= 65 + 2*128) is encoded as two bytes, least significant first. The
270 first byte is 65+128 = 193. Note that the top bit is set to indicate at least one following byte. The
271 second byte is 2.

272

273 Non normative comment

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

276 [Table 2.4](#) shows the Remaining Length values represented by increasing numbers of bytes.

277

278 **Table 2.4 Size of Remaining Length field**

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
    if (multiplier > 128*128*128)
        throw Error(Malformed Remaining Length)
    multiplier *= 128
    while ((encodedByte AND 128) != 0)
        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)
```

316 | ~~while ((encodedByte AND 128) != 0)~~

317

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

319

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

321 **2.3 Variable header**

322 Some types of MQTT Control Packets contain a variable header component. It resides between the fixed
323 header and the payload. The content of the variable header varies depending on the Packet type. The
324 Packet Identifier field of variable header is common in several packet types.

325 **2.3.1 Packet Identifier**

326 **Figure 2.3 - Packet Identifier bytes**

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

327

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

331

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

341

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

343

344 A PUBACK, PUBREC or PUBREL Packet MUST contain the same Packet Identifier as the PUBLISH
345 Packet that was originally sent [MQTT-2.3.1-6]. Similarly SUBACK and UNSUBACK MUST contain the
346 Packet Identifier that was used in the corresponding SUBSCRIBE and UNSUBSCRIBE Packet
347 respectively [MQTT-2.3.1-7].

348

349 Control Packets that require a Packet Identifier are listed in [Table 2.5 - Control Packets that contain a](#)
350 [Packet Identifier](#).

351 **Table 2.5 - 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

352

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

355

356

Non normative comment

357

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

360

361

Client	Server
PUBLISH Packet Identifier=0x1234---	→
←--PUBLISH Packet Identifier=0x1234	
PUBACK Packet Identifier=0x1234---	→
←--PUBACK Packet Identifier=0x1234	

362

363

364

365

366

2.4 Payload

367

Some MQTT Control Packets contain a payload as the final part of the packet, as described in Chapter 3.

368

In the case of the PUBLISH packet this is the Application Message. [Table 2.6 - Control Packets that
369 contain a Payload](#) lists the Control Packets that require a Payload.

370

Table 2.6 - Control Packets that contain a Payload

Control Packet	Payload
CONNECT	Required
CONNACK	None
PUBLISH	Optional
PUBACK	None

PUBREC	None
PUBREL	None
PUBCOMP	None
SUBSCRIBE	Required
SUBACK	Required
UNSUBSCRIBE	Required
UNSUBACK	None
PINGREQ	None
PINGRESP	None
DISCONNECT	None

371

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 Packet sent from the Client to the Server MUST be a CONNECT Packet [MQTT-3.1.0-1].

A Client can only send 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]. See section 4.8 for information about handling errors.

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

Figure 3.1 – CONNECT Packet fixed header

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.

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

Figure 3.2 - Protocol Name bytes

	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

Figure 3.3 - Protocol Level byte

	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.

Figure 3.4 - Connect Flag bits

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.

This bit specifies the handling of the Session state.

The Client and Server can store Session state to enable reliable messaging to continue across a sequence of Network Connections. This bit is used to control the lifetime of the Session state.

426 If CleanSession is set to 0, the Server MUST resume communications with the Client based on state from
427 the current Session (as identified by the Client identifier). If there is no Session associated with the Client
428 identifier the Server MUST create a new Session. The Client and Server MUST store the Session after
429 the Client and Server are disconnected [MQTT-3.1.2-4]. After the disconnection of a Session that had
430 CleanSession set to 0, the Server MUST store further QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages that match any
431 subscriptions that the client had at the time of disconnection as part of the Session state [MQTT-3.1.2-5].
432 It MAY also store QoS 0 messages that meet the same criteria.

433
434 If CleanSession is set to 1, the Client and Server MUST discard any previous Session and start a new
435 one. This Session lasts as long as the Network Connection. State data associated with this Session
436 MUST NOT be reused in any subsequent Session [MQTT-3.1.2-6].

437

438 The Session state in the Client consists of:

- 439 • QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages which have been sent to the Server, but have not been completely
440 acknowledged.
- 441 • QoS 2 messages which have been received from the Server, but have not been completely
442 acknowledged.

443

444 The Session state in the Server consists of:

- 445 • The existence of a Session, even if the rest of the Session state is empty.
- 446 • The Client's subscriptions.
- 447 • QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages which have been sent to the Client, but have not been completely
448 acknowledged.
- 449 • QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages pending transmission to the Client.
- 450 • QoS 2 messages which have been received from the Client, but have not been completely
451 acknowledged.
- 452 • Optionally, QoS 0 messages pending transmission to the Client.

453

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

456

457 See Section 4.1 for details and limitations of stored state.

458

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

460

461 **Non normative comment**

462 To ensure consistent state in the event of a failure, the Client should repeat its attempts to
463 connect with CleanSession set to 1, until it connects successfully.

464

465 **Non normative comment**

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

Non normative comment

When a Client connects with CleanSession set to 0, it is requesting that the Server maintain its MQTT session state after it disconnects. Clients should only connect with CleanSession set to 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 set to 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, if the Connect request is accepted, a Will Message MUST be stored on the Server and associated with the Network Connection. The Will Message MUST be published when the Network Connection is subsequently closed unless the Will Message has been deleted by the Server on receipt of a DISCONNECT Packet [MQTT-3.1.2-8].

Situations in which the Will Message is published include, but are not limited to:

- 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 [MQTT-3.1.2-10].

If the Will Flag is set to 0 the Will QoS and Will Retain fields in the Connect Flags MUST be set to zero and the Will Topic and Will Message fields MUST NOT be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-11].

If the Will Flag is set to 0, a Will Message MUST NOT be published when this Network Connection ends [MQTT-3.1.2-12].

The Server SHOULD publish Will Messages promptly. In the case of a Server shutdown or failure the server MAY defer publication of Will Messages until a subsequent restart. If this happens there might be a delay between the time the server experienced failure and a Will Message being published.

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-3.1.2-13].

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-3.1.2-14].

3.1.2.7 Will Retain

Position: bit 5 of the Connect Flags.

This bit specifies if the Will Message is to be Retained when it is published.

517
 518 If the Will Flag is set to 0, then the Will Retain Flag MUST be set to 0 [MQTT-3.1.2-15].
 519 If the Will Flag is set to 1:
 520 • If Will Retain is set to 0, the Server MUST publish the Will Message as a non-retained message
 521 [MQTT-3.1.2-16].
 522 • If Will Retain is set to 1, the Server MUST publish the Will Message as a retained message
 523 [MQTT-3.1.2-17].

3.1.2.8 User Name Flag

524
 525 **Position:** bit 7 of the Connect Flags.
 526
 527 If the User Name Flag is set to 0, a user name MUST NOT be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-18].
 528 If the User Name Flag is set to 1, a user name MUST be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-19].

3.1.2.9 Password Flag

529
 530 **Position:** bit 6 of the Connect Flags byte.
 531
 532 If the Password Flag is set to 0, a password MUST NOT be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-20].
 533 If the Password Flag is set to 1, a password MUST be present in the payload [MQTT-3.1.2-21].
 534 If the User Name Flag is set to 0, the Password Flag MUST be set to 0 [MQTT-3.1.2-22].

3.1.2.10 Keep Alive

535
 536 **Figure 3.5 Keep Alive bytes**

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

537
 538 The Keep Alive is a time interval measured in seconds. Expressed as a 16-bit word, it is the maximum
 539 time interval that is permitted to elapse between the point at which the Client finishes transmitting one
 540 Control Packet and the point it starts sending the next. It is the responsibility of the Client to ensure that
 541 the interval between Control Packets being sent does not exceed the Keep Alive value. In the absence of
 542 sending any other Control Packets, the Client MUST send a PINGREQ Packet [MQTT-3.1.2-23].

543
 544 The Client can send PINGREQ at any time, irrespective of the Keep Alive value, and use the PINGRESP
 545 to determine that the network and the Server are working.

546
 547 If the Keep Alive value is non-zero and the Server does not receive a Control Packet from the Client
 548 within one and a half times the Keep Alive time period, it MUST disconnect the Network Connection to the
 549 Client as if the network had failed [MQTT-3.1.2-24].

550
 551 If a Client does not receive a PINGRESP Packet within a reasonable amount of time after it has sent a
 552 PINGREQ, it SHOULD close the Network Connection to the Server.

553
 554 A Keep Alive value of zero (0) has the effect of turning off the keep alive mechanism. This means that, in
 555 this case, the Server is not required to disconnect the Client on the grounds of inactivity.

556 Note that a Server is permitted to disconnect a Client that it determines to be inactive or non-responsive
557 at any time, regardless of the Keep Alive value provided by that Client.
558
559 **Non normative comment**
560 The actual value of the Keep Alive is application specific; typically this is a few minutes. The
561 maximum value is 18 hours 12 minutes and 15 seconds.

562 **3.1.2.11 Variable header non normative example**

563 **Figure 3.6 - Variable header non normative example**

	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)	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
	Will Flag (1)								
	Clean Session (1)								
	Reserved (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

565 3.1.3 Payload

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

569 3.1.3.1 Client Identifier

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

573
574 The Client Identifier (ClientId) MUST be present and MUST be the first field in the CONNECT packet
575 payload [MQTT-3.1.3-3].

576
577 The ClientId MUST be a UTF-8 encoded string as defined in Section 1.5.3 [MQTT-3.1.3-4].

578
579 The Server MUST allow ClientIds which are between 1 and 23 UTF-8 encoded bytes in length, and that
580 contain only the characters

581 "0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ" [MQTT-3.1.3-5].

582
583 The Server MAY allow ClientId's that contain more than 23 encoded bytes. The Server MAY allow
584 ClientId's that contain characters not included in the list given above.

585
586 A Server MAY allow a Client to supply a ClientId that has a length of zero bytes, however if it does so the
587 Server MUST treat this as a special case and assign a unique ClientId to that Client. It MUST then
588 process the CONNECT packet as if the Client had provided that unique ClientId [MQTT-3.1.3-6].

589
590 If the Client supplies a zero-byte ClientId, the Client MUST also set CleanSession to 1 [MQTT-3.1.3-7].

591
592 If the Client supplies a zero-byte ClientId with CleanSession set to 0, the Server MUST respond to the
593 CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code 0x02 (Identifier rejected) and then close the Network
594 Connection [MQTT-3.1.3-8].

595
596 If the Server rejects the ClientId it MUST respond to the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK return code
597 0x02 (Identifier rejected) and then close the Network Connection [MQTT-3.1.3-9].

598 Non normative comment

599
600 A Client implementation could provide a convenience method to generate a random ClientId. Use
601 of such a method should be actively discouraged when the CleanSession is set to 0.

602 3.1.3.2 Will Topic

603 If the Will Flag is set to 1, the Will Topic is the next field in the payload. The Will Topic MUST be a UTF-8
604 encoded string as defined in Section 1.5.3 [MQTT-3.1.3-10].

605 3.1.3.3 Will Message

606 If the Will Flag is set to 1 the Will Message is the next field in the payload. The Will Message defines the
607 Application Message that is to be published to the Will Topic as described in Section 3.1.2.5. This field
608 consists of a two byte length followed by the payload for the Will Message expressed as a sequence of
609 zero or more bytes. The length gives the number of bytes in the data that follows and does not include the
610 2 bytes taken up by the length itself.

611

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

614 **3.1.3.4 User Name**

615 If the User Name Flag is set to 1, this is the next field in the payload. The User Name MUST be a UTF-8
616 encoded string as defined in Section 1.5.3 [MQTT-3.1.3-11]. It can be used by the Server for
617 authentication and authorization.

618 **3.1.3.5 Password**

619 If the Password Flag is set to 1, this is the next field in the payload. The Password field contains 0 to
620 65535 bytes of binary data prefixed with a two byte length field which indicates the number of bytes used
621 by the binary data (it does not include the two bytes taken up by the length field itself).

622 **Figure 3.7 - Password bytes**

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.							

623

624 **3.1.4 Response**

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

- 628
- 629 1. If the Server does not receive a CONNECT Packet within a reasonable amount of time after the
630 Network Connection is established, the Server SHOULD close the connection.
 - 631 2. The Server MUST validate that the CONNECT Packet conforms to section 3.1 and close the
632 Network Connection without sending a CONNACK if it does not conform [MQTT-3.1.4-1].
 - 633 3. The Server MAY check that the contents of the CONNECT Packet meet any further restrictions
634 and MAY perform authentication and authorization checks. If any of these checks fail, it SHOULD
635 send an appropriate CONNACK response with a non-zero return code as described in section 3.2
636 and it MUST close the Network Connection.

637

638

639

640 If validation is successful the Server performs the following steps.

- 641
- 642 1. If the ClientId represents a Client already connected to the Server then the Server MUST
643 disconnect the existing Client [MQTT-3.1.4-2].
 - 644 2. The Server MUST perform the processing of CleanSession that is described in section 3.1.2.4
645 [MQTT-3.1.4-3].
 - 646 3. The Server MUST acknowledge the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK Packet containing a
647 zero return code [MQTT-3.1.4-4].
- 648
- 649

650
651 4. Start message delivery and keep alive monitoring.
652
653 Clients are allowed to send further Control Packets immediately after sending a CONNECT Packet;
654 Clients need not wait for a CONNACK Packet to arrive from the Server. **If the Server rejects the**
655 **CONNECT, it MUST NOT process any data sent by the Client after the CONNECT Packet** [MQTT-3.1.4-
656 5].
657
658 **Non normative comment**
659 Clients typically wait for a CONNACK Packet, However, if the Client exploits its freedom to send
660 Control Packets before it receives a CONNACK, it might simplify the Client implementation as it
661 does not have to police the connected state. The Client accepts that any data that it sends before it
662 receives a CONNACK packet from the Server will not be processed if the Server rejects the
663 connection.

664 **3.2 CONNACK – Acknowledge connection request**

665 The CONNACK Packet is the packet sent by the Server in response to a CONNECT Packet received
666 from a Client. **The first packet sent from the Server to the Client MUST be a CONNACK Packet** [MQTT-
667 3.2.0-1].
668
669 If the Client does not receive a CONNACK Packet from the Server within a reasonable amount of time,
670 the Client SHOULD close the Network Connection. A "reasonable" amount of time depends on the type of
671 application and the communications infrastructure.

672 **3.2.1 Fixed header**

673 The fixed header format is illustrated in [Figure 3.8 – CONNACK Packet fixed header](#).

674 **Figure 3.8 – CONNACK Packet fixed header**

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

675
676 **Remaining Length field**
677 This is the length of the variable header. For the CONNACK Packet this has the value 2.

678 **3.2.2 Variable header**

679 The variable header format is illustrated in [Figure 3.9 – CONNACK Packet variable header](#).

680 **Figure 3.9 – CONNACK Packet variable header**

	Description	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Connect Acknowledge Flags		Reserved							SP ¹
byte 1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X

Connect Return code									
byte 2		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

3.2.2.1 Connect Acknowledge Flags

Byte 1 is the "Connect Acknowledge Flags". Bits 7-1 are reserved and MUST be set to 0.

Bit 0 (SP¹) is the Session Present Flag.

3.2.2.2 Session Present

Position: bit 0 of the Connect Acknowledge Flags.

If the Server accepts a connection with CleanSession set to 1, the Server MUST set Session Present to 0 in the CONNACK packet in addition to setting a zero return code in the CONNACK packet [MQTT-3.2.2-1].

If the Server accepts a connection with CleanSession set to 0, the value set in Session Present depends on whether the Server already has stored Session state for the supplied client ID. If the Server has stored Session state, it MUST set Session Present to 1 in the CONNACK packet [MQTT-3.2.2-2]. If the Server does not have stored Session state, it MUST set Session Present to 0 in the CONNACK packet. This is in addition to setting a zero return code in the CONNACK packet [MQTT-3.2.2-3].

The Session Present flag enables a Client to establish whether the Client and Server have a consistent view about whether there is already stored Session state.

Once the initial setup of a Session is complete, a Client with stored Session state will expect the Server to maintain its stored Session state. In the event that the value of Session Present received by the Client from the Server is not as expected, the Client can choose whether to proceed with the Session or to disconnect. The Client can discard the Session state on both Client and Server by disconnecting, connecting with Clean Session set to 1 and then disconnecting again.

If a server sends a CONNACK packet containing a non-zero return code it MUST set Session Present to 0 [MQTT-3.2.2-4].

3.2.2.3 Connect Return code

Byte 2 in the Variable header.

The values for the one byte unsigned Connect Return code field are listed in Table 3.1 – Connect Return code values. 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 send a CONNACK packet containing the appropriate non-zero Connect return code from this table. If a server sends a CONNACK packet containing a non-zero return code it MUST then close the Network Connection [MQTT-3.2.2-5].

Table 3.1 – Connect Return code values

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 the return codes listed in Table 3.1 – Connect Return code values are deemed applicable, then the Server MUST close the Network Connection without sending a CONNACK [MQTT-3.2.2-6].

3.2.3 Payload

The CONNACK Packet has no payload.

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

Figure 3.10 – PUBLISH Packet fixed header illustrates the fixed header format:

Figure 3.10 – PUBLISH Packet fixed header

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							

3.3.1.1 DUP

Position: byte 1, bit 3.

If the DUP flag is set to 0, it indicates that this is the first occasion that the Client or Server has attempted to send this MQTT PUBLISH Packet. If the DUP flag is set to 1, it indicates that this might be re-delivery of an earlier attempt to send the Packet.

The DUP flag MUST be set to 1 by the Client or Server when it attempts to re-deliver a PUBLISH Packet [MQTT-3.3.1.-1]. The DUP flag MUST be set to 0 for all QoS 0 messages [MQTT-3.3.1-2].

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 is set independently to the incoming PUBLISH packet, its value MUST be determined solely by whether the outgoing PUBLISH packet is a retransmission [MQTT-3.3.1-3].

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 flag set to 0 that contains a repetition of an Application Message that it received earlier, but with a different Packet Identifier. Section 2.3.1 provides more information about Packet Identifiers.

3.3.1.2 QoS

Position: byte 1, bits 2-1.

This field indicates the level of assurance for delivery of an Application Message. The QoS levels are listed in the [Table 3.2 - QoS definitions](#), below.

Table 3.2 - QoS definitions

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
-	1	1	Reserved – must not be used

A PUBLISH Packet MUST NOT have both QoS bits set to 1. If a Server or Client receives a PUBLISH Packet which has both QoS bits set to 1 it MUST close the Network Connection [MQTT-3.3.1-4].

3.3.1.3 RETAIN

Position: byte 1, bit 0.

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-3.3.1-5]. When a new subscription is established, the last retained message, if any, on each matching topic name MUST be sent to the subscriber [MQTT-3.3.1-6]. 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 choose to discard it at any time - if this happens there will be no retained message for that topic [MQTT-3.3.1-7]. See Section 4.1 for more information on 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-3.3.1-8]. 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-3.3.1-9].

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-3.3.1-10]. "As normal" means that the RETAIN flag is

784 not set in the message received by existing Clients. A zero byte retained message MUST NOT be stored
785 as a retained message on the Server [MQTT-3.3.1-11].

787 If the RETAIN flag is 0, in a PUBLISH Packet sent by a Client to a Server, the Server MUST NOT store
788 the message and MUST NOT remove or replace any existing retained message [MQTT-3.3.1-12].

790 **Non normative comment**
791 Retained messages are useful where publishers send state messages on an irregular basis. A
792 new subscriber will receive the most recent state.

794 **Remaining Length field**
795 This is the length of variable header plus the length of the payload.

796 **3.3.2 Variable header**

797 The variable header contains the following fields in the order: Topic Name, Packet Identifier.

798 **3.3.2.1 Topic Name**

799 The Topic Name identifies the information channel to which payload data is published.

801 The Topic Name MUST be present as the first field in the PUBLISH Packet Variable header. It MUST be
802 a UTF-8 encoded string [MQTT-3.3.2-1] as defined in section 1.5.3.

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

804 The Topic Name in a PUBLISH Packet sent by a Server to a subscribing Client MUST match the
805 Subscription's Topic Filter according to the matching process defined in Section 4.7 [MQTT-3.3.2-3].
806 However, since the Server is permitted to override the Topic Name, it might not be the same as the Topic
807 Name in the original PUBLISH Packet.

808 **3.3.2.2 Packet Identifier**

809 The Packet Identifier field is only present in PUBLISH Packets where the QoS level is 1 or 2. Section
810 2.3.1 provides more information about Packet Identifiers.

811 **3.3.2.3 Variable header non normative example**

812 Figure 3.11 - Publish Packet variable header non normative example illustrates an example variable
813 header for the PUBLISH Packet briefly described in Table 3.3 - Publish Packet non normative example.

814 **Table 3.3 - Publish Packet non normative example**

Field	Value
Topic Name	a/b
Packet Identifier	10

815

816 **Figure 3.11 - Publish Packet variable header non normative example**

	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

817

818 **3.3.3 Payload**

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

823 **3.3.4 Response**

824 The receiver of a PUBLISH Packet MUST respond according to Table 3.4 - Expected Publish Packet
825 response as determined by the QoS in the PUBLISH Packet [MQTT-3.3.4-1].

826 **Table 3.4 - Expected Publish Packet response**

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

827

828 **3.3.5 Actions**

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

831

832 The Server uses a PUBLISH Packet to send an Application Message to each Client which has a
833 matching subscription.

834

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

840

841 The action of the recipient when it receives a PUBLISH Packet depends on the QoS level as described in
842 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

Figure 3.12 - PUBACK Packet 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

This contains the Packet Identifier from the PUBLISH Packet that is being acknowledged.

Figure 3.13 – PUBACK Packet 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

The PUBACK Packet has no payload.

3.4.4 Actions

This is fully described in Section 4.3.2.

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 exchange.

3.5.1 Fixed header

Figure 3.14 – PUBREC Packet 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.

Figure 3.15 – PUBREC Packet 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

The PUBREC Packet has no payload.

3.5.4 Actions

This is fully described in Section 4.3.3.

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 exchange.

3.6.1 Fixed header

Figure 3.16 – PUBREL Packet 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

884 Bits 3,2,1 and 0 of the fixed header in the PUBREL Control Packet are reserved and MUST be set to
885 0,0,1 and 0 respectively. The Server MUST treat any other value as malformed and close the Network
886 Connection [MQTT-3.6.1-1].

887
888 **Remaining Length field**

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

890 **3.6.2 Variable header**

891 The variable header contains the same Packet Identifier as the PUBREC Packet that is being
892 acknowledged.

893 **Figure 3.17 – PUBREL Packet variable header**

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

894
895 **3.6.3 Payload**

896 The PUBREL Packet has no payload.

897 **3.6.4 Actions**

898 This is fully described in Section 4.3.3.

899 **3.7 PUBCOMP – Publish complete (QoS 2 publish received, part 3)**

900
901 The PUBCOMP Packet is the response to a PUBREL Packet. It is the fourth and final packet of the QoS
902 2 protocol exchange.

903 **3.7.1 Fixed header**

904 **Figure 3.18 – PUBCOMP Packet 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

905
906 **Remaining Length field**

907 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.

Figure 3.19 – PUBCOMP Packet variable header

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

3.7.3 Payload

The PUBCOMP Packet has no payload.

3.7.4 Actions

This is fully described in Section 4.3.3.

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 Application Messages to the Client.

3.8.1 Fixed header

Figure 3.20 – SUBSCRIBE Packet 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. Section 2.3.1 provides more information about Packet Identifiers.

3.8.2.1 Variable header non normative example

Figure 3.21 shows a variable header with Packet Identifier set to 10.

Figure 3.21 - Variable header with a Packet Identifier of 10, Non normative example

	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 in a SUBSCRIBE packet payload MUST be UTF-8 encoded strings as defined in Section 1.5.3 [MQTT-3.8.3-1]. A Server SHOULD support Topic filters that contain the wildcard characters defined in Section 4.7.1. If it chooses not to support topic filters that contain wildcard characters it MUST reject any Subscription request whose filter contains them [MQTT-3.8.3-2]. Each filter is followed by a byte called the Requested QoS. This gives the maximum QoS level at which the Server can send Application Messages 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-3.8.3-3]. See section 4.8 for information about handling errors.

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.

Figure 3.22 – SUBSCRIBE Packet payload format

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, or QoS is not 0,1 or 2 [MQTT-3.8.3-4].

3.8.3.1 Payload non normative example

Figure 3.23 - Payload byte format non normative example shows the payload for the SUBSCRIBE Packet briefly described in Table 3.5 - Payload non normative example.

Table 3.5 - Payload non normative example

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

Figure 3.23 - Payload byte format non normative example

	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 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
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 LSB (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].

973 The Server is permitted to start sending PUBLISH packets matching the Subscription before the Server
974 sends the SUBACK Packet.

975

976 If a Server receives a SUBSCRIBE Packet containing a Topic Filter that is identical to an existing
977 Subscription's Topic Filter then it MUST completely replace that existing Subscription with a new
978 Subscription. The Topic Filter in the new Subscription will be identical to that in the previous Subscription,
979 although its maximum QoS value could be different. Any existing retained messages matching the Topic
980 Filter MUST be re-sent, but the flow of publications MUST NOT be interrupted [MQTT-3.8.4-3].

981

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

984

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

988

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

997

998 Non normative examples

999

1000 If a subscribing Client has been granted maximum QoS 1 for a particular Topic Filter, then a QoS
1001 0 Application Message matching the filter is delivered to the Client at QoS 0. This means that at
1002 most one copy of the message is received by the Client. On the other hand a QoS 2 Message
1003 published to the same topic is downgraded by the Server to QoS 1 for delivery to the Client, so
1004 that Client might receive duplicate copies of the Message.

1005

1006 If the subscribing Client has been granted maximum QoS 0, then an Application Message
1007 originally published as QoS 2 might get lost on the hop to the Client, but the Server should never
1008 send a duplicate of that Message. A QoS 1 Message published to the same topic might either get
1009 lost or duplicated on its transmission to that Client.

1010

1011 Non normative comment

1012 Subscribing to a Topic Filter at QoS 2 is equivalent to saying "I would like to receive Messages
1013 matching this filter at the QoS with which they were published". This means a publisher is
1014 responsible for determining the maximum QoS a Message can be delivered at, but a subscriber is
1015 able to require that the Server downgrades the QoS to one more suitable for its usage.

1016 3.9 SUBACK – Subscribe acknowledgement

1017 A SUBACK Packet is sent by the Server to the Client to confirm receipt and processing of a SUBSCRIBE
1018 Packet.

1019

1020 A SUBACK Packet contains a list of return codes, that specify the maximum QoS level that was granted
1021 in each Subscription that was requested by the SUBSCRIBE.

1022 **3.9.1 Fixed header**

1023 **Figure 3.24 – SUBACK Packet fixed header**

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							

1024

1025 **Remaining Length field**

1026 This is the length of variable header (2 bytes) plus the length of the payload.

1027 **3.9.2 Variable header**

1028 The variable header contains the Packet Identifier from the SUBSCRIBE Packet that is being

1029 acknowledged. [Figure 3.25 - variable header format](#) below illustrates the format of the variable header.

1030 **Figure 3.25 – SUBACK Packet variable header**

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

1031 **3.9.3 Payload**

1032 The payload contains a list of return codes. Each return code corresponds to a Topic Filter in the

1033 SUBSCRIBE Packet being acknowledged. **The order of return codes in the SUBACK Packet MUST**

1034 **match the order of Topic Filters in the SUBSCRIBE Packet [MQTT-3.9.3-1].**

1035

1036 [Figure 3.26 - Payload format](#) below illustrates the Return Code field encoded in a byte in the Payload.

1037 **Figure 3.26 – SUBACK Packet payload format**

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

1038

1039 Allowed return codes:

1040 0x00 - Success - Maximum QoS 0

1041 0x01 - Success - Maximum QoS 1

1042 0x02 - Success - Maximum QoS 2

1043 0x80 - Failure

1044

1045 **SUBACK return codes other than 0x00, 0x01, 0x02 and 0x80 are reserved and MUST NOT be**

1046 **used [MQTT-3.9.3-2].**

3.9.3.1 Payload non normative example

Figure 3.27 - Payload byte format non normative example shows the payload for the SUBACK Packet briefly described in Table 3.6 - Payload non normative example.

Table 3.6 - Payload non normative example

Success - Maximum QoS 0	0
Success - Maximum QoS 2	2
Failure	128

Figure 3.27 - Payload byte format non normative example

	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

3.10 UNSUBSCRIBE – Unsubscribe from topics

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

3.10.1 Fixed header

Figure 3.28 – UNSUBSCRIBE Packet Fixed header

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							

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-3.10.1-1].

Remaining Length field

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

3.10.2 Variable header

The variable header contains a Packet Identifier. Section 2.3.1 provides more information about Packet Identifiers.

Figure 3.29 – UNSUBSCRIBE Packet variable header

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

byte 1	Packet Identifier MSB
byte 2	Packet Identifier LSB

1068

1069 **3.10.3 Payload**

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1076

The payload for the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet contains the list of Topic Filters that the Client wishes to unsubscribe from. The Topic Filters in an UNSUBSCRIBE packet MUST be UTF-8 encoded strings as defined in Section 1.5.3, packed contiguously [MQTT-3.10.3-1].
The Payload of an UNSUBSCRIBE packet MUST contain at least one Topic Filter. An UNSUBSCRIBE packet with no payload is a protocol violation [MQTT-3.10.3-2]. See section 4.8 for information about handling errors.

1077 **3.10.3.1 Payload non normative example**

1078
1079

Figure 3.30 - Payload byte format non normative example show the payload for the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet briefly described in Table3.7 - Payload non normative example.

1080 **Table3.7 - Payload non normative example**

Topic Filter	"a/b"
Topic Filter	"c/d"

1081 **Figure 3.30 - Payload byte format non normative example**

	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 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
Topic Filter									
byte 6	Length MSB (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
byte 7	Length LSB (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

1082 **3.10.4 Response**

1083
1084
1085

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

1086 occurs [MQTT-3.10.4-1].
1087
1088 If a Server deletes a Subscription:
1089 • It MUST stop adding any new messages for delivery to the Client [MQTT-3.10.4-2].
1090 • It MUST complete the delivery of any QoS 1 or QoS 2 messages which it has started to send to
1091 the Client [MQTT-3.10.4-3].
1092 • It MAY continue to deliver any existing messages buffered for delivery to the Client.
1093
1094 The Server MUST respond to an UNSUBSCRIBE request by sending an UNSUBACK packet. The
1095 UNSUBACK Packet MUST have the same Packet Identifier as the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet [MQTT-
1096 3.10.4-4]. Even where no Topic Subscriptions are deleted, the Server MUST respond with an
1097 UNSUBACK [MQTT-3.10.4-5].
1098
1099 If a Server receives an UNSUBSCRIBE packet that contains multiple Topic Filters it MUST handle that
1100 packet as if it had received a sequence of multiple UNSUBSCRIBE packets, except that it sends just one
1101 UNSUBACK response [MQTT-3.10.4-6].

1102 **3.11 UNSUBACK – Unsubscribe acknowledgement**

1103
1104 The UNSUBACK Packet is sent by the Server to the Client to confirm receipt of an UNSUBSCRIBE
1105 Packet.

1106 **3.11.1 Fixed header**

1107 **Figure 3.31 – UNSUBACK Packet fixed header**

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

1108 **Remaining Length field**
1109 This is the length of the variable header. For the UNSUBACK Packet this has the value 2.

1110 **3.11.2 Variable header**

1111 The variable header contains the Packet Identifier of the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet that is being
1112 acknowledged.

1113 **Figure 3.32 – UNSUBACK Packet variable header**

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

1115 **3.11.3 Payload**

1116 The UNSUBACK Packet has no payload.

1117

1118 **3.12 PINGREQ – PING request**

1119 The PINGREQ Packet is sent from a Client to the Server. It can be used to:

- 1120 1. Indicate to the Server that the Client is alive in the absence of any other Control Packets being
1121 sent from the Client to the Server.
- 1122 2. Request that the Server responds to confirm that it is alive.
- 1123 3. Exercise the network to indicate that the Network Connection is active.

1124

1125 This Packet is used in Keep Alive processing, see Section 3.1.2.10 for more details.

1126 **3.12.1 Fixed header**

1127 **Figure 3.33 – PINGREQ Packet fixed header**

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

1128

1129 **3.12.2 Variable header**

1130 The PINGREQ Packet has no variable header.

1131 **3.12.3 Payload**

1132 The PINGREQ Packet has no payload.

1133 **3.12.4 Response**

1134 The Server MUST send a PINGRESP Packet in response to a PINGREQ Packet [MQTT-3.12.4-1].

1135 **3.13 PINGRESP – PING response**

1136 A PINGRESP Packet is sent by the Server to the Client in response to a PINGREQ Packet. It indicates
1137 that the Server is alive.

1138

1139 This Packet is used in Keep Alive processing, see Section 3.1.2.10 for more details.

1140 **3.13.1 Fixed header**

1141 **Figure 3.34 – PINGRESP Packet fixed header**

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

1142

1143 **3.13.2 Variable header**

1144 The PINGRESP Packet has no variable header.

1145 **3.13.3 Payload**

1146 The PINGRESP Packet has no payload.

1147 **3.14 DISCONNECT – Disconnect notification**

1148 The DISCONNECT Packet is the final Control Packet sent from the Client to the Server. It indicates that
1149 the Client is disconnecting cleanly.

1150 **3.14.1 Fixed header**

1151 **Figure 3.35 – DISCONNECT Packet fixed header**

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

1152 The Server MUST validate that reserved bits are set to zero and disconnect the Client if they are not zero
1153 [MQTT-3.14.1-1].

1154 **3.14.2 Variable header**

1155 The DISCONNECT Packet has no variable header.

1156 **3.14.3 Payload**

1157 The DISCONNECT Packet has no payload.

1158 **3.14.4 Response**

1159 After sending a DISCONNECT Packet the Client:

- 1160 • MUST close the Network Connection [MQTT-3.14.4-1].
- 1161 • MUST NOT send any more Control Packets on that Network Connection [MQTT-3.14.4-2].
- 1162

1163 On receipt of DISCONNECT the Server:

- 1164 • MUST discard any Will Message associated with the current connection without publishing it, as
1165 described in Section 3.1.2.5 [MQTT-3.14.4-3].

- 1166
- SHOULD close the Network Connection if the Client has not already done so.

1167

4 Operational behavior

1168

4.1 Storing state

1169

It is necessary for the Client and Server to store Session state in order to provide Quality of Service

1170

guarantees. The Client and Server MUST store Session state for the entire duration of the Session

1171

[MQTT-4.1.0-1]. A Session MUST last at least as long it has an active Network Connection [MQTT-4.1.0-

1172

2].

1173

1174

Retained messages do not form part of the Session state in the Server. The Server SHOULD retain such messages until deleted by a Client.

1175

1176

1177

Non normative comment

1178

The storage capabilities of Client and Server implementations will of course have limits in terms of capacity and may be subject to administrative policies such as the maximum time that Session state is stored between Network Connections. Stored Session state can be discarded as a result of an administrator action, including an automated response to defined conditions. This has the effect of terminating the Session. These actions might be prompted by resource constraints or for other operational reasons. It is prudent to evaluate the storage capabilities of the Client and Server to ensure that they are sufficient.

1179

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Non normative comment

1187

It is possible that hardware or software failures may result in loss or corruption of Session state stored by the Client or Server.

1188

1189

1190

Non normative comment

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Normal operation of the Client or Server could 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 might determine that based on external knowledge, a message or messages can no longer be delivered to any current or future client.

1192

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1198

Non normative comment

1199

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

1200

1201

1202

4.1.1 Non normative example

1203

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 have determined 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.

1204

1205

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1207

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.

1208

1209

1210 **4.2 Network Connections**

1211 The MQTT protocol requires an underlying transport that provides an ordered, lossless, stream of bytes
1212 from the Client to Server and Server to Client.

1214 **Non normative comment**

1215 The transport protocol used to carry MQTT 3.1 was TCP/IP as defined in [RFC793]. TCP/IP can
1216 be used for MQTT 3.1.1. The following are also suitable:

- 1217
 - TLS [RFC5246]
 - WebSocket [RFC6455]

1219 **Non normative comment**

1220 TCP ports 8883 and 1883 are registered with IANA for MQTT TLS and non TLS communication
1221 respectively.

1223 Connectionless network transports such as User Datagram Protocol (UDP) are not suitable on their own
1224 because they might lose or reorder data.

1225 **4.3 Quality of Service levels and protocol flows**

1226 MQTT delivers Application Messages according to the Quality of Service (QoS) levels defined here. The
1227 delivery protocol is symmetric, in the description below the Client and Server can each take the role of
1228 either Sender or Receiver. The delivery protocol is concerned solely with the delivery of an application
1229 message from a single Sender to a single Receiver. When the Server is delivering an Application
1230 Message to more than one Client, each Client is treated independently. The QoS level used to deliver an
1231 Application Message outbound to the Client could differ from that of the inbound Application Message.

1232 The non-normative flow diagrams in the following sections are intended to show possible implementation
1233 approaches.

1234 **4.3.1 QoS 0: At most once delivery**

1235 The message is delivered according to the capabilities of the underlying network. No response is sent by
1236 the receiver and no retry is performed by the sender. The message arrives at the receiver either once or
1237 not at all.

1239 **In the QoS 0 delivery protocol, the Sender**

- 1240
 - **MUST send a PUBLISH packet with QoS=0, DUP=0 [MQTT-4.3.1-1].**

1242 **In the QoS 0 delivery protocol, the Receiver**

- 1243
 - Accepts ownership of the message when it receives the PUBLISH packet.

1244 **Figure 4.1 – QoS 0 protocol flow diagram, non normative example**

Sender Action	Control Packet	Receiver Action
PUBLISH QoS 0, DUP=0		
	----->	
		Deliver Application Message to appropriate onward recipient(s)

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4.3.2 QoS 1: At least once delivery

This quality of service ensures that the message arrives at the receiver at least once. A QoS 1 PUBLISH Packet has a Packet Identifier in its variable header and is acknowledged by a PUBACK Packet. Section 2.3.1 provides more information about Packet Identifiers.

In the QoS 1 delivery protocol, the Sender

- MUST assign an unused Packet Identifier each time it has a new Application Message to publish.
- MUST send a PUBLISH Packet containing this Packet Identifier with QoS=1, DUP=0.
- MUST treat the PUBLISH Packet as “unacknowledged” until it has received the corresponding PUBACK packet from the receiver. See Section 4.4 for a discussion of unacknowledged messages.

[MQTT-4.3.2-1].

The Packet Identifier becomes available for reuse once the Sender has received the PUBACK Packet.

Note that a Sender is permitted to send further PUBLISH Packets with different Packet Identifiers while it is waiting to receive acknowledgements.

In the QoS 1 delivery protocol, the Receiver

- MUST respond with a PUBACK Packet containing the Packet Identifier from the incoming PUBLISH Packet, having accepted ownership of the Application Message
- After it has sent a PUBACK Packet the Receiver MUST treat any incoming PUBLISH packet that contains the same Packet Identifier as being a new publication, irrespective of the setting of its DUP flag.

[MQTT-4.3.2-2].

Figure 4.2 – QoS 1 protocol flow diagram, non normative example

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.

1277 **4.3.3 QoS 2: Exactly once delivery**

1278 This is the highest quality of service, for use when neither loss nor duplication of messages are

1279 acceptable. There is an increased overhead associated with this quality of service.

1280

1281 A QoS 2 message has a Packet Identifier in its variable header. Section 2.3.1 provides more information

1282 about Packet Identifiers. The receiver of a QoS 2 PUBLISH Packet acknowledges receipt with a two-step

1283 acknowledgement process.

1284

1285 **In the QoS 2 delivery protocol, the Sender**

- 1286 • MUST assign an unused Packet Identifier when it has a new Application Message to publish.
- 1287 • MUST send a PUBLISH packet containing this Packet Identifier with QoS=2, DUP=0.
- 1288 • MUST treat the PUBLISH packet as “unacknowledged” until it has received the corresponding
- 1289 PUBREC packet from the receiver. See Section 4.4 for a discussion of unacknowledged
- 1290 messages.
- 1291 • MUST send a PUBREL packet when it receives a PUBREC packet from the receiver. This
- 1292 PUBREL packet MUST contain the same Packet Identifier as the original PUBLISH packet.
- 1293 • MUST treat the PUBREL packet as “unacknowledged” until it has received the corresponding
- 1294 PUBCOMP packet from the receiver.
- 1295 • MUST NOT re-send the PUBLISH once it has sent the corresponding PUBREL packet.

1296 [MQTT-4.3.3-1].

1297 The Packet Identifier becomes available for reuse once the Sender has received the PUBCOMP Packet.

1298

1299 Note that a Sender is permitted to send further PUBLISH Packets with different Packet Identifiers while it

1300 is waiting to receive acknowledgements.

1301

1302 **In the QoS 2 delivery protocol, the Receiver**

- 1303 • MUST respond with a PUBREC containing the Packet Identifier from the incoming PUBLISH
- 1304 Packet, having accepted ownership of the Application Message.
- 1305 • Until it has received the corresponding PUBREL packet, the Receiver MUST acknowledge any
- 1306 subsequent PUBLISH packet with the same Packet Identifier by sending a PUBREC. It MUST
- 1307 NOT cause duplicate messages to be delivered to any onward recipients in this case.
- 1308 • MUST respond to a PUBREL packet by sending a PUBCOMP packet containing the same
- 1309 Packet Identifier as the PUBREL.
- 1310 • After it has sent a PUBCOMP, the receiver MUST treat any subsequent PUBLISH packet that
- 1311 contains that Packet Identifier as being a new publication.

1312 [MQTT-4.3.3-2].

1313

1314 **Figure 4.3 – QoS 2 protocol flow diagram, non normative example**

Sender Action	Control Packet	Receiver Action
Store message		
PUBLISH QoS 2, DUP 0 <Packet Identifier>		
	----->	

		Method A, Store message or Method B, 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>		
	----->	
		Method A, Initiate onward delivery of the Application Message ¹ then discard message or Method B, 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.

Figure 4.3 shows that there are two methods by which QoS 2 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 Method A or Method B is implementation specific. As long as an implementation chooses exactly one of these approaches, this does not affect the guarantees of a QoS 2 flow.

4.4 Message delivery retry

When a Client reconnects with CleanSession set to 0, both the Client and Server MUST re-send any unacknowledged PUBLISH Packets (where QoS > 0) and PUBREL Packets using their original Packet Identifiers [MQTT-4.4.0-1]. This is the only circumstance where a Client or Server is REQUIRED to redeliver messages.

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

When a Server takes ownership of an incoming Application Message it MUST add it to the Session state of those clients that have matching Subscriptions. Matching rules are defined in Section 4.7 [MQTT-4.5.0-1].

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. A Client could also receive messages 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-4.5.0-2].

4.6 Message ordering

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

- When it re-sends any PUBLISH packets, it MUST re-send 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 re-send 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.

1377 4.7 Topic Names and Topic Filters

1378 4.7.1 Topic wildcards

1379 The topic level separator is used to introduce structure into the Topic Name. If present, it divides the
1380 Topic Name into multiple “topic levels”.

1381 A subscription’s Topic Filter can contain special wildcard characters, which allow you to subscribe to
1382 multiple topics at once.

1383 The wildcard characters can be used in Topic Filters, but MUST NOT be used within a Topic Name
1384 [MQTT-4.7.1-1].

1385 4.7.1.1 Topic level separator

1386 The forward slash (‘/’ U+002F) is used to separate each level within a topic tree and provide a hierarchical
1387 structure to the Topic Names. The use of the topic level separator is significant when either of the two
1388 wildcard characters is encountered in Topic Filters specified by subscribing Clients. Topic level separators
1389 can appear anywhere in a Topic Filter or Topic Name. Adjacent Topic level separators indicate a zero
1390 length topic level.

1391 4.7.1.2 Multi-level wildcard

1392 The number sign (‘#’ U+0023) is a wildcard character that matches any number of levels within a topic.
1393 The multi-level wildcard represents the parent and any number of child levels. The multi-level wildcard
1394 character MUST be specified either on its own or following a topic level separator. In either case it MUST
1395 be the last character specified in the Topic Filter [MQTT-4.7.1-2].

1396

1397 Non normative comment

1398 For example, if a Client subscribes to “sport/tennis/player1/#”, it would receive messages
1399 published using these topic names:

- 1400 • “sport/tennis/player1”
- 1401 • “sport/tennis/player1/ranking”
- 1402 • “sport/tennis/player1/score/wimbledon”

1403

1404 Non normative comment

- 1405 • “sport/#” also matches the singular “sport”, since # includes the parent level.
- 1406 • “#” is valid and will receive every Application Message
- 1407 • “sport/tennis/#” is valid
- 1408 • “sport/tennis#” is not valid
- 1409 • “sport/tennis/#/ranking” is not valid

1410 4.7.1.3 Single level wildcard

1411 The plus sign (‘+’ U+002B) is a wildcard character that matches only one topic level.

1412

1413 The single-level wildcard can be used at any level in the Topic Filter, including first and last levels. Where
1414 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
1415 level in the Topic Filter and can be used in conjunction with the multilevel wildcard.

1416

1417 Non normative comment

For example, “sport/tennis/+” matches “sport/tennis/player1” and “sport/tennis/player2”, but not “sport/tennis/player1/ranking”. Also, because the single-level wildcard matches only a single level, “sport/+” does not match “sport” but it does match “sport/”.

Non normative comment

- “+” is valid
- “+/tennis/#” is valid
- “sport+” is not valid
- “sport+/player1” is valid
- “/finance” matches “+/+” and “/+”, but not “+”

4.7.2 Topics beginning with \$

The Server MUST NOT match Topic Filters starting with a wildcard character (# or +) with Topic Names beginning with a \$ character [MQTT-4.7.2-1]. The Server SHOULD prevent Clients from using such Topic Names to exchange messages with other Clients. Server implementations MAY use Topic Names that start with a leading \$ character for other purposes.

Non normative comment

- \$SYS/ has been widely adopted as a prefix to topics that contain Server-specific information or control APIs
- Applications cannot use a topic with a leading \$ character for their own purposes

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 has to 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) [Unicode] [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 1.5.3

1461 There is no limit to the number of levels in a Topic Name or Topic Filter, other than that imposed by the
1462 overall length of a UTF-8 encoded string.

1463 When it performs subscription matching the Server MUST NOT perform any normalization of Topic
1464 Names or Topic Filters, or any modification or substitution of unrecognized characters [MQTT-4.7.3-4].
1465 Each non-wildcarded level in the Topic Filter has to match the corresponding level in the Topic Name
1466 character for character for the match to succeed.

1467

1468 **Non normative comment**

1469 The UTF-8 encoding rules mean that the comparison of Topic Filter and Topic Name could be
1470 performed either by comparing the encoded UTF-8 bytes, or by comparing decoded Unicode
1471 characters

1472

1473 **Non normative comment**

- 1474
- “ACCOUNTS” and “Accounts” are two different topic names
 - “Accounts payable” is a valid topic name
 - “/finance” is different from “finance”
- 1475
1476
1477

1478 An Application Message is sent to each Client Subscription whose Topic Filter matches the Topic Name
1479 attached to an Application Message. The topic resource MAY be either predefined in the Server by an
1480 administrator or it MAY be dynamically created by the Server when it receives the first subscription or an
1481 Application Message with that Topic Name. The Server MAY also use a security component to selectively
1482 authorize actions on the topic resource for a given Client.

1483 **4.8 Handling errors**

1484

1485 Unless stated otherwise, if either the Server or Client encounters a protocol violation, it MUST close the
1486 Network Connection on which it received that Control Packet which caused the protocol violation [MQTT-
1487 4.8.0-1].

1488 A Client or Server implementation might encounter a Transient Error (for example an internal buffer full
1489 condition) that prevents successful processing of an MQTT packet.

1490 If the Client or Server encounters a Transient Error while processing an inbound Control Packet it MUST
1491 close the Network Connection on which it received that Control Packet [MQTT-4.8.0-2]. If a Server
1492 detects a Transient Error it SHOULD NOT disconnect or have any other effect on its interactions with any
1493 other Client.

1494

5 Security

1495

5.1 Introduction

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1498

1499

This Chapter is provided for guidance only and is **Non Normative**. However, it is strongly recommended that Server implementations that offer TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) SHOULD use TCP port 8883 (IANA service name: secure-mqtt).

1500

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

1501

- Devices could be compromised

1502

- Data at rest in Clients and Servers might be accessible

1503

- Protocol behaviors could have side effects (e.g. "timing attacks")

1504

- Denial of Service (DoS) attacks

1505

- Communications could be intercepted, altered, re-routed or disclosed

1506

- Injection of spoofed Control Packets

1507

1508

1509

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

1510

- Authentication of users and devices

1511

- Authorization of access to Server resources

1512

- Integrity of MQTT Control Packets and application data contained therein

1513

- Privacy of MQTT Control Packets and application data contained therein

1514

1515

1516

1517

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 [\[RFC5246\]](#).

1518

1519

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1521

In addition to technical security issues there could also be geographic (e.g. U.S.-EU SafeHarbor [\[USEUSAFEHARB\]](#)), industry specific (e.g. PCI DSS [\[PCIDSS\]](#)) and regulatory considerations (e.g. Sarbanes-Oxley [\[SARBANES\]](#)).

1522

5.2 MQTT solutions: security and certification

1523

1524

1525

An implementation might 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 [\[NSAB\]](#).

1526

1527

1528

1529

Guidance on using MQTT within the NIST Cyber Security Framework [\[NISTCSF\]](#) can be found in the MQTT supplemental publication, MQTT and the NIST Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity [\[MQTT NIST\]](#). The use of industry proven, independently verified and certified technologies will help meet compliance requirements.

1530 **5.3 Lightweight cryptography and constrained devices**

1531 Advanced Encryption Standard [\[AES\]](#) and Data Encryption Standard [\[DES\]](#) are widely adopted.

1532

1533 ISO 29192 [\[ISO29192\]](#) makes recommendations for cryptographic primitives specifically tuned to perform
1534 on constrained “low end” devices.

1535 **5.4 Implementation notes**

1536 There are many security concerns to consider when implementing or using MQTT. The following section
1537 should not be considered a “check list”.

1538

1539 An implementation might want to achieve some, or all, of the following:

1540 **5.4.1 Authentication of Clients by the Server**

1541 The CONNECT Packet contains Username and Password fields. Implementations can choose how to
1542 make use of the content of these fields. They may provide their own authentication mechanism, use an
1543 external authentication system such as LDAP [\[RFC4511\]](#) or OAuth [\[RFC6749\]](#) tokens, or leverage
1544 operating system authentication mechanisms.

1545

1546 Implementations passing authentication data in clear text, obfuscating such data elements or requiring no
1547 authentication data should be aware this can give rise to Man-in-the-Middle and replay attacks. Section
1548 5.4.5 introduces approaches to ensure data privacy.

1549

1550 A Virtual Private Network (VPN) between the Clients and Servers can provide confidence that data is only
1551 being received from authorized Clients.

1552

1553 Where TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) is used, SSL Certificates sent from the Client can be used by the Server to
1554 authenticate the Client.

1555

1556 An implementation might allow for authentication where the credentials are sent in an Application
1557 Message from the Client to the Server.

1558 **5.4.2 Authorization of Clients by the Server**

1559 An implementation may restrict access to Server resources based on information provided by the Client
1560 such as User Name, Client Identifier, the hostname/IP address of the Client, or the outcome of
1561 authentication mechanisms.

1562 **5.4.3 Authentication of the Server by the Client**

1563 The MQTT protocol is not trust symmetrical: it provides no mechanism for the Client to authenticate the
1564 Server.

1565

1566 Where TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) is used, SSL Certificates sent from the Server can be used by the Client to
1567 authenticate the Server. Implementations providing MQTT service for multiple hostnames from a single IP
1568 address should be aware of the Server Name Indication extension to TLS defined in section 3 of RFC

1569 6066 [RFC6066]. This allows a Client to tell the Server the hostname of the Server it is trying to connect
1570 to.

1571

1572 An implementation might allow for authentication where the credentials are sent in an Application
1573 Message from the Server to the Client.

1574

1575 A VPN between Clients and Servers can provide confidence that Clients are connecting to the intended
1576 Server.

1577 **5.4.4 Integrity of Application Messages and Control Packets**

1578 Applications can independently include hash values in their Application Messages. This can provide
1579 integrity of the contents of Publish Control Packets across the network and at rest.

1580

1581 TLS [RFC5246] provides hash algorithms to verify the integrity of data sent over the network.

1582

1583 The use of VPNs to connect Clients and Servers can provide integrity of data across the section of the
1584 network covered by a VPN.

1585 **5.4.5 Privacy of Application Messages and Control Packets**

1586 TLS [RFC5246] can provide encryption of data sent over the network. There are valid TLS cipher suites
1587 that include a NULL encryption algorithm that does not encrypt data. To ensure privacy Clients and
1588 Servers should avoid these cipher suites.

1589

1590 An application might independently encrypt the contents of its Application Messages. This could provide
1591 privacy of the Application Message both over the network and at rest. This would not provide privacy for
1592 other properties of the Application Message such as Topic Name.

1593

1594 Client and Server implementations can provide encrypted storage for data at rest such as Application
1595 Messages stored as part of a Session.

1596

1597 The use of VPNs to connect Clients and Servers can provide privacy of data across the section of the
1598 network covered by a VPN.

1599 **5.4.6 Non-repudiation of message transmission**

1600 Application designers might need to consider appropriate strategies to achieve end to end non-
1601 repudiation.

1602 **5.4.7 Detecting compromise of Clients and Servers**

1603 Client and Server implementations using TLS [RFC5246] should provide capabilities to ensure that any
1604 SSL certificates provided when initiating a TLS [RFC5246] connection are associated with the hostname
1605 of the Client connecting or Server being connected to.

1606

1607 Client and Server implementations using TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) can choose to provide capabilities to check
1608 Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs [\[RFC5280\]](#)) and Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) [\[RFC6960\]](#)
1609 to prevent revoked certificates from being used.

1610
1611 Physical deployments might combine tamper-proof hardware with the transmission of specific data in
1612 Application Messages. For example a meter might have an embedded GPS to ensure it is not used in an
1613 unauthorized location. [\[IEEE 802.1AR\]](#) is a standard for implementing mechanisms to authenticate a
1614 device's identity using a cryptographically bound identifier.

1615 **5.4.8 Detecting abnormal behaviors**

1616 Server implementations might monitor Client behavior to detect potential security incidents. For example:

- 1617 • Repeated connection attempts
- 1618 • Repeated authentication attempts
- 1619 • Abnormal termination of connections
- 1620 • Topic scanning (attempts to send or subscribe to many topics)
- 1621 • Sending undeliverable messages (no subscribers to the topics)
- 1622 • Clients that connect but do not send data

1623
1624 Server implementations might disconnect Clients that breach its security rules.
1625

1626 Server implementations detecting unwelcome behavior might implement a dynamic block list based on
1627 identifiers such as IP address or Client Identifier.

1628
1629 Deployments might use network level controls (where available) to implement rate limiting or blocking
1630 based on IP address or other information.

1631 **5.4.9 Other security considerations**

1632 If Client or Server SSL certificates are lost or it is considered that they might be compromised they should
1633 be revoked (utilizing CRLs [\[RFC5280\]](#) and/or OSCP [\[RFC6960\]](#)).

1634
1635 Client or Server authentication credentials, such as User Name and Password, that are lost or considered
1636 compromised should be revoked and/or reissued.

1637
1638 In the case of long lasting connections:

- 1639 • Client and Server implementations using TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) should allow for session renegotiation
1640 to establish new cryptographic parameters (replace session keys, change cipher suites, change
1641 authentication credentials).
- 1642 • Servers may disconnect Clients and require them to re-authenticate with new credentials.

1643
1644 Constrained devices and Clients on constrained networks can make use of TLS session resumption
1645 [\[RFC5077\]](#), in order to reduce the costs of reconnecting TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) sessions.

1646

1647 Clients connected to a Server have a transitive trust relationship with other Clients connected to the same
1648 Server and who have authority to publish data on the same topics.

1649 **5.4.10 Use of SOCKS**

1650 Implementations of Clients should be aware that some environments will require the use of SOCKSv5
1651 [\[RFC1928\]](#) proxies to make outbound Network Connections. Some MQTT implementations could make
1652 use of alternative secured tunnels (e.g. SSH) through the use of SOCKS. Where implementations choose
1653 to use SOCKS, they should support both anonymous and user-name password authenticating SOCKS
1654 proxies. In the latter case, implementations should be aware that SOCKS authentication might occur in
1655 plain-text and so should avoid using the same credentials for connection to a MQTT Server.

1656 **5.4.11 Security profiles**

1657 Implementers and solution designers might wish to consider security as a set of profiles which can be
1658 applied to the MQTT protocol. An example of a layered security hierarchy is presented below.

1659 **5.4.11.1 Clear communication profile**

1660 When using the clear communication profile, the MQTT protocol runs over an open network with no
1661 additional secure communication mechanisms in place.

1662 **5.4.11.2 Secured network communication profile**

1663 When using the secured network communication profile, the MQTT protocol runs over a physical or virtual
1664 network which has security controls e.g., VPNs or physically secure network.

1665 **5.4.11.3 Secured transport profile**

1666 When using the secured transport profile, the MQTT protocol runs over a physical or virtual network and
1667 using TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) which provides authentication, integrity and privacy.

1668

1669 TLS [\[RFC5246\]](#) Client authentication can be used in addition to – or in place of – MQTT Client
1670 authentication as provided by the Username and Password fields.

1671 **5.4.11.4 Industry specific security profiles**

1672 It is anticipated that the MQTT protocol will be designed into industry specific application profiles, each
1673 defining a threat model and the specific security mechanisms to be used to address these threats.
1674 Recommendations for specific security mechanisms will often be taken from existing works including:

1675

1676 [\[NISTCSF\]](#) NIST Cyber Security Framework

1677 [\[NIST7628\]](#) NISTIR 7628 Guidelines for Smart Grid Cyber Security

1678 [\[FIPS1402\]](#) Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules (FIPS PUB 140-2)

1679 [\[PCIDSS\]](#) PCI-DSS Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard

1680 [\[NSAB\]](#) NSA Suite B Cryptography

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7 Conformance

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

An MQTT implementation MAY conform as both an MQTT Client and MQTT Server implementation. A Server that both accepts inbound connections and establishes outbound connections to other Servers MUST conform as both an MQTT Client and MQTT Server [MQTT-7.0.0-1].

Conformant implementations MUST NOT require the use of any extensions defined outside of this specification in order to interoperate with any other conformant implementation [MQTT-7.0.0-2].

7.1 Conformance Targets

7.1.1 MQTT Server

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

1. The format of all Control Packets that the Server sends matches the format described in Chapter 2 and Chapter 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 except for those that only apply to the Client:
 - Chapter 1 - Introduction
 - Chapter 2 - MQTT Control Packet format
 - Chapter 3 - MQTT Control Packets
 - Chapter 4 - Operational behavior
 - Chapter 6 - (if MQTT is transported over a WebSocket connection)
 - Chapter 7 - Conformance Targets

A conformant Server MUST support the use of one or more underlying transport protocols that provide an ordered, lossless, stream of bytes from the Client to Server and Server to Client [MQTT-7.1.1-1]. However conformance does not depend on it supporting any specific transport protocols. A Server MAY support any of the transport protocols listed in Section 4.2, or any other transport protocol that meets the requirements of [MQTT-7.1.1-1].

7.1.2 MQTT Client

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

1. The format of all Control Packets that the Client sends matches the format described in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3.
2. It satisfies all of the MUST level requirements in the following chapters that are identified except for those that only apply to the Server:
 - Chapter 1 - Introduction
 - Chapter 2 - MQTT Control Packet format
 - Chapter 3 - MQTT Control Packets
 - Chapter 4 - Operational behavior
 - Chapter 6 - (if MQTT is transported over a WebSocket connection)

1739 - Chapter 7 - Conformance Targets

1740

1741 A conformant Client MUST support the use of one or more underlying transport protocols that provide an
1742 ordered, lossless, stream of bytes from the Client to Server and Server to Client [MQTT-7.1.2-1]. However
1743 conformance does not depend on it supporting any specific transport protocols. A Client MAY support any
1744 of the transport protocols listed in Section 4.2, or any other transport protocol that meets the requirements
1745 of [MQTT-7.1.2-1].

Appendix A. Acknowledgements (non normative)

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Appendix B. Mandatory normative statements (non normative)

This Appendix is non-normative and is provided as a convenient summary of the numbered conformance statements found in the main body of this document. See Chapter 7 for a definitive list of conformance requirements.

Normative Statement Number	Normative Statement
[MQTT-1.5.3-1]	The character data in a UTF-8 encoded string MUST be well-formed UTF-8 as defined by the Unicode specification [Unicode] and restated in RFC 3629 [RFC3629]. In particular this data MUST NOT include encodings of code points between U+D800 and U+DFFF. If a Server or Client receives a Control Packet containing ill-formed UTF-8 it MUST close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-1.5.3-2]	A 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-1.5.3-3]	A 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-2.2.2-1]	Where a flag bit is marked as "Reserved" in Table 2.2 - Flag Bits, it is reserved for future use and MUST be set to the value listed in that table.
[MQTT-2.2.2-2]	If invalid flags are received, the receiver MUST close the Network Connection.
[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 re-sends a particular Control Packet, then it MUST use the same Packet Identifier in subsequent re-sends 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-2.3.1-4]	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 or PUBREL Packet MUST contain the same Packet Identifier as the PUBLISH Packet that was originally sent.
[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 Packet sent 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]	If CleanSession is set to 0, the Server MUST resume 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 MUST create a new Session. The Client and Server MUST store the Session after the Client and Server are disconnected.
[MQTT-3.1.2-5]	After the disconnection of a Session that had CleanSession set to 0, 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 CleanSession is 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 messages 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, if the Connect request is accepted, a Will Message MUST be stored on the Server and associated with the Network Connection. The Will Message MUST be published when the Network Connection is subsequently closed unless the Will Message has been deleted by the Server on receipt of 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.
[MQTT-3.1.2-11]	If the Will Flag is set to 0 the Will QoS and Will Retain fields in the Connect Flags MUST be set to zero and the Will Topic and Will Message fields MUST NOT be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-12]	If the Will Flag is set to 0, a Will Message MUST NOT be published when this Network Connection ends.
[MQTT-3.1.2-13]	If the Will Flag is set to 0, then the Will QoS MUST be set to 0 (0x00).
[MQTT-3.1.2-14]	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-3.1.2-15]	If the Will Flag is set to 0, then the Will Retain Flag MUST be set to 0.

[MQTT-3.1.2-16]	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 message.
[MQTT-3.1.2-17]	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 message.
[MQTT-3.1.2-18]	If the User Name Flag is set to 0, a user name MUST NOT be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-19]	If the User Name Flag is set to 1, a user name MUST be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-20]	If the Password Flag is set to 0, a password MUST NOT be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-21]	If the Password Flag is set to 1, a password MUST be present in the payload.
[MQTT-3.1.2-22]	If the User Name Flag is set to 0, the Password Flag MUST be set to 0.
[MQTT-3.1.2-23]	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-3.1.2-24]	If the Keep Alive value is non-zero and 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]	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-3.1.3-3]	The Client Identifier (ClientId) MUST be present and MUST be the first field in the CONNECT packet payload.
[MQTT-3.1.3-4]	The ClientId MUST be a UTF-8 encoded string as defined in Section 1.5.3.
[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 CleanSession to 1.
[MQTT-3.1.3-8]	If the Client supplies a zero-byte ClientId with CleanSession 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-3.1.3-10]	The Will Topic MUST be a UTF-8 encoded string as defined in Section 1.5.3.
[MQTT-3.1.3-11]	The User Name MUST be a UTF-8 encoded string as defined in Section 1.5.3.
[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 CONNECT validation is successful the Server MUST perform the processing of CleanSession that is described in section 3.1.2.4.
[MQTT-3.1.4-4]	If CONNECT validation is successful the Server MUST acknowledge the CONNECT Packet with a CONNACK Packet containing a zero return code.
[MQTT-3.1.4-5]	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 the Server accepts a connection with CleanSession set to 1, the Server MUST set Session Present to 0 in the CONNACK packet in addition to setting a zero return code in the CONNACK packet.
[MQTT-3.2.2-2]	If the Server accepts a connection with CleanSession set to 0, the value set in Session Present depends on whether the Server already has stored Session state for the supplied client ID. If the Server has stored Session state, it MUST set Session Present to 1 in the CONNACK packet.
[MQTT-3.2.2-3]	If the Server does not have stored Session state, it MUST set Session Present to 0 in the CONNACK packet. This is in addition to setting a zero return code in the CONNACK packet.
[MQTT-3.2.2-4]	If a server sends a CONNACK packet containing a non-zero return code it MUST set Session Present to 0.
[MQTT-3.2.2-5]	If a server sends a CONNACK packet containing a non-zero return code it MUST then close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-3.2.2-6]	If none of the return codes listed in Table 3.1 – Connect Return code values are deemed applicable, then the Server MUST close the Network Connection without sending a CONNACK.
[MQTT-3.3.1-1]	The DUP flag MUST be set to 1 by the Client or Server when it attempts to re-deliver a PUBLISH Packet.
[MQTT-3.3.1-2]	The DUP flag MUST be set to 0 for all QoS 0 messages.
[MQTT-3.3.1-3]	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 is set independently to the incoming PUBLISH packet, its value MUST be determined solely by whether the outgoing PUBLISH packet is a retransmission.
[MQTT-3.3.1-4]	A PUBLISH Packet MUST NOT have both QoS bits set to 1. If a Server or Client receives a PUBLISH Packet which has both QoS bits set to 1 it MUST close the Network Connection.

[MQTT-3.3.1-5]	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-3.3.1-6]	When a new subscription is established, the last retained message, if any, on each matching topic name MUST be sent to the subscriber.
[MQTT-3.3.1-7]	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 choose to discard it at any time - if this happens there will be no retained message for that topic.
[MQTT-3.3.1-8]	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-3.3.1-9]	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-3.3.1-10]	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-3.3.1-11]	A zero byte retained message MUST NOT be stored as a retained message on the Server.
[MQTT-3.3.1-12]	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-3.3.2-1]	The Topic Name MUST be present as the first field in the PUBLISH Packet Variable header. It 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 in a PUBLISH Packet sent by a Server to a subscribing Client MUST match the Subscription's Topic Filter according to the matching process defined in Section 4.7.
[MQTT-3.3.4-1]	The receiver of a PUBLISH Packet MUST respond according to Table 3.4 - Expected Publish Packet response as determined by the QoS in the PUBLISH Packet.
[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 close the Network Connection.
[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-3.8.1-1]	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 Topic Filters in a SUBSCRIBE packet payload MUST be UTF-8 encoded strings as defined in Section 1.5.3.
[MQTT-3.8.3-2]	If the Server chooses not to support topic filters that contain wildcard characters it MUST reject any Subscription request whose filter contains them.
[MQTT-3.8.3-3]	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-3.8.3-4]	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, or QoS is not 0,1 or 2.
[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 that it is acknowledging.
[MQTT-3.8.4-3]	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 messages matching the Topic Filter MUST be re-sent, but the flow of publications MUST NOT be 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 Filters in an UNSUBSCRIBE packet MUST be UTF-8 encoded strings as defined in Section 1.5.3, packed contiguously.

[MQTT-3.10.3-2]	The Payload of an UNSUBSCRIBE packet MUST contain at least one Topic Filter. An UNSUBSCRIBE packet with no payload is a protocol violation.
[MQTT-3.10.4-1]	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-3.10.4-2]	If a Server deletes a Subscription It MUST stop adding any new messages for delivery to the Client.
[MQTT-3.10.4-3]	If a Server deletes a Subscription It MUST complete the delivery of any QoS 1 or QoS 2 messages which it has started to send to the Client.
[MQTT-3.10.4-4]	The Server MUST respond to an UNSUBSCRIBE request by sending an UNSUBACK packet. The UNSUBACK Packet MUST have the same Packet Identifier as the UNSUBSCRIBE Packet.
[MQTT-3.10.4-5]	Even where no Topic Subscriptions are deleted, the Server MUST respond with an UNSUBACK.
[MQTT-3.10.4-6]	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 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 any Will Message associated with the current connection without publishing it, as described in Section 3.1.2.5.
[MQTT-4.1.0-1]	The Client and Server MUST store Session state for the entire duration of the Session.
[MQTT-4.1.0-2]	A Session MUST last at least as long it has an active Network Connection.
[MQTT-4.3.1-1]	In the QoS 0 delivery protocol, the Sender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST send a PUBLISH packet with QoS=0, DUP=0.
[MQTT-4.3.2-1]	In the QoS 1 delivery protocol, the Sender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST assign an unused Packet Identifier each time it has a new Application Message to publish. • MUST send a PUBLISH Packet containing this Packet Identifier with QoS=1, DUP=0. • MUST treat the PUBLISH Packet as "unacknowledged" until it has received the corresponding PUBACK packet from the receiver. See Section 4.4 for a discussion of unacknowledged messages.
[MQTT-4.3.2-2]	In the QoS 1 delivery protocol, the Receiver

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST respond with a PUBACK Packet containing the Packet Identifier from the incoming PUBLISH Packet, having accepted ownership of the Application Message. • After it has sent a PUBACK Packet the Receiver MUST treat any incoming PUBLISH packet that contains the same Packet Identifier as being a new publication, irrespective of the setting of its DUP flag.
[MQTT-4.3.3-1]	<p>In the QoS 2 delivery protocol, the Sender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST assign an unused Packet Identifier when it has a new Application Message to publish. • MUST send a PUBLISH packet containing this Packet Identifier with QoS=2, DUP=0. • MUST treat the PUBLISH packet as "unacknowledged" until it has received the corresponding PUBREC packet from the receiver. See Section 4.4 for a discussion of unacknowledged messages. • MUST send a PUBREL packet when it receives a PUBREC packet from the receiver. This PUBREL packet MUST contain the same Packet Identifier as the original PUBLISH packet. • MUST treat the PUBREL packet as "unacknowledged" until it has received the corresponding PUBCOMP packet from the receiver. • MUST NOT re-send the PUBLISH once it has sent the corresponding PUBREL packet.
[MQTT-4.3.3-2]	<p>In the QoS 2 delivery protocol, the Receiver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST respond with a PUBREC containing the Packet Identifier from the incoming PUBLISH Packet, having accepted ownership of the Application Message. • Until it has received the corresponding PUBREL packet, the Receiver MUST acknowledge any subsequent PUBLISH packet with the same Packet Identifier by sending a PUBREC. It MUST NOT cause duplicate messages to be delivered to any onward recipients in this case. • MUST respond to a PUBREL packet by sending a PUBCOMP packet containing the same Packet Identifier as the PUBREL. • After it has sent a PUBCOMP, the receiver MUST treat any subsequent PUBLISH packet that contains that Packet Identifier as being a new publication.
[MQTT-4.4.0-1]	<p>When a Client reconnects with CleanSession set to 0, both the Client and Server MUST re-send any unacknowledged PUBLISH Packets (where QoS > 0) and PUBREL Packets using their original Packet Identifiers.</p>
[MQTT-4.5.0-1]	<p>When a Server takes ownership of an incoming Application Message it MUST add it to the Session state of those clients that have matching Subscriptions. Matching rules are defined in Section 4.7.</p>
[MQTT-4.5.0-2]	<p>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.</p>
[MQTT-4.6.0-1]	<p>When it re-sends any PUBLISH packets, it MUST re-send them in the order in which the original PUBLISH packets were sent (this applies to QoS 1 and QoS 2 messages).</p>
[MQTT-4.6.0-2]	<p>Client MUST send PUBACK packets in the order in which the corresponding</p>

	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-4.7.2-1]	The Server MUST NOT match Topic Filters starting with a wildcard character (# or +) with Topic Names beginning with a \$ character.
[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-4.7.3-4]	When it performs subscription matching the Server MUST NOT perform any normalization of Topic Names or Topic Filters, or any modification or substitution of unrecognized characters.
[MQTT-4.8.0-1]	Unless stated otherwise, if either the Server or Client encounters a protocol violation, it MUST close the Network Connection on which it received that Control Packet which caused the protocol violation.
[MQTT-4.8.0-2]	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 Control Packet.
[MQTT-6.0.0-1]	MQTT Control Packets MUST be sent in WebSocket binary data frames. If any other type of data frame is received the recipient MUST close the Network Connection.
[MQTT-6.0.0-2]	A single WebSocket data frame can contain multiple or partial MQTT Control Packets. The receiver MUST NOT assume that MQTT Control Packets are aligned on WebSocket frame boundaries.
[MQTT-6.0.0-3]	The client MUST include "mqtt" in the list of WebSocket Sub Protocols it offers.
[MQTT-6.0.0-4]	The WebSocket Sub Protocol name selected and returned by the server MUST

	be "mqtt".
[MQTT-7.0.0-1]	A Server that both accepts inbound connections and establishes outbound connections to other Servers MUST conform as both an MQTT Client and MQTT Server.
[MQTT-7.0.0-2]	Conformant implementations MUST NOT require the use of any extensions defined outside of this specification in order to interoperate with any other conformant implementation.
[MQTT-7.1.1-1]	A conformant Server MUST support the use of one or more underlying transport protocols that provide an ordered, lossless, stream of bytes from the Client to Server and Server to Client.
[MQTT-7.1.2-1]	A conformant Client MUST support the use of one or more underlying transport protocols that provide an ordered, lossless, stream of bytes from the Client to Server and Server to Client.

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Appendix C. Revision history (non normative)

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]	[20 th 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
[CSD04]	[28 January 2014]	[Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 112, 114, 115, 120, 117, 134, 132, 133, 130, 131, 129
[18]	[20 February 2014]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 175, 139, 176, 166, 149, 164, 140, 154, 178, 188, 181, 155, 170, 196, 173, 157, 195, 191, 150, 179, 185, 174, 163 Resolved Issues – 135, 136, 147, 161, 169, 180, 182, 184, 189, 187
[19]	[28 February 2014]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 167, 192, 141, 138, 137, 198, 165 Resolved Issues – 199, 144, 159,
[20]	[07 March 2014]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 113, 162, 158, 146 Resolved Issues – 172, 190, 202, 201
[21]	[17 March 2014]	[A Banks] [Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 151, 194, 160, 168 Resolved Issues – 205,
[22]	[27 March 2014]	[Rahul Gupta] [A Banks]	Resolved Issues – 145, 186, 142 Resolved Issues – 152, 193
[23]	[28 March 2014]	[A Banks]	Resolved Issues – 204, 148, 210, 208, 209, 171, 183, 117, 212
[24]	[7 April 2014]	[Rahul Gupta] [A Banks]	Added Table of figures Corrected Issue 209
[25]	[8 May 2014]	[Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 213, 214
[25]	[3 September 2014]	[A Banks]	Resolved Issues – 240, 242, 246
[26]	[17 September 2014]	[Rahul Gupta]	Resolved Issues – 247
[27]	[18 November 2015]	[Rahul Gupta] [A Banks]	Updated with Errata 01 for Resolved Issue - 275