

Volume Offset Control Service

Bluetooth® Service Specification

- **Revision:** v1.0
- **Revision Date:** 2020-12-15
- **Group Prepared By:** Generic Audio Working Group

Abstract:

This specification describes the service that exposes the volume offset of an audio output.



Revision History

| Revision Number | Date | Comments |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| v1.0 | 2020-12-15 | Adopted by the Bluetooth SIG Board of Directors. |

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1 Introduction

This service enables a device to expose the volume offset of an audio output.

1.1 Conformance

If conformance to this specification is claimed, all capabilities indicated as mandatory for this specification shall be supported in the specified manner (process-mandatory). This also applies for all optional and conditional capabilities for which support is indicated.

1.2 Service dependencies

This service is not dependent upon any other services.

1.3 Bluetooth Core Specification release compatibility

This specification is compatible with any version of the Bluetooth Core Specification [1] that includes the Generic Attribute Profile (GATT).

1.4 GATT sub-procedure requirements

Requirements in this section represent a minimum set of server requirements. Other GATT sub-procedures may be used if supported by both the client and server.

Requirements in this section are defined as “Mandatory” (M), “Optional” (O), “Excluded” (X), and “Conditional” (C.n). Conditional statements (C.n) are listed directly below the table in which they appear.

[Table 1.1](#) summarizes additional GATT sub-procedure requirements beyond those required by all GATT servers over Unenhanced Attribute Protocol (ATT) bearers.

| GATT Sub-Procedure | Requirements |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Write Characteristic Values | M |
| Notifications | M |
| Read Characteristic Descriptors | M |
| Write Characteristic Descriptors | M |

Table 1.1: GATT sub-procedure requirements, Unenhanced ATT bearers

1.5 Transport dependencies

This service uses GATT and therefore has no additional transport dependencies.

Notifications with GATT are considered unreliable when used with an Unenhanced ATT bearer.

An Enhanced ATT bearer can be used for reliability of Notifications and can be specified by a higher-layer profile.

1.6 Application error codes

This service defines the ATT Application Error code shown in [Table 1.2](#).



| Name | Error Code | Description |
|------------------------|------------|---|
| Invalid Change Counter | 0x80 | The Change_Counter operand value does not match the Change_Counter field value of the Volume Offset State characteristic. |
| Opcode Not Supported | 0x81 | An invalid opcode has been used in a control point procedure. |
| Value Out of Range | 0x82 | An operand value used in a control point procedure is outside the permissible range. |

Table 1.2: Application error codes

1.7 Byte transmission order

All characteristics used with this service shall be transmitted with the least significant octet (LSO) first (i.e., little endian). The LSO is identified in the characteristic definitions in the Bluetooth SIG Assigned Numbers [3].

1.8 Language

1.8.1 Language conventions

The Bluetooth SIG has established the following conventions for use of the words **shall**, **must**, **will**, **should**, **may**, **can**, **is**, and **note** in the development of specifications:

| | |
|--------|--|
| shall | <u>is required to</u> – used to define requirements. |
| must | is used to express: a natural consequence of a previously stated mandatory requirement. OR an indisputable statement of fact (one that is always true regardless of the circumstances). |
| will | <u>it is true that</u> – only used in statements of fact. |
| should | <u>is recommended that</u> – used to indicate that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, but not required. |
| may | <u>is permitted to</u> – used to allow options. |
| can | <u>is able to</u> – used to relate statements in a causal manner. |
| is | <u>is defined as</u> – used to further explain elements that are previously required or allowed. |
| note | Used to indicate text that is included for informational purposes only and is not required in order to implement the specification. Each note is clearly designated as a “Note” and set off in a separate paragraph. |

For clarity of the definition of those terms, see Core Specification Volume 1, Part E, Section 1.

1.8.2 Reserved for Future Use

Where a field in a packet, Protocol Data Unit (PDU), or other data structure is described as "Reserved for Future Use" (irrespective of whether in uppercase or lowercase), the device creating the structure shall



set its value to zero unless otherwise specified. Any device receiving or interpreting the structure shall ignore that field; in particular, it shall not reject the structure because of the value of the field.

Where a field, parameter, or other variable object can take a range of values, and some values are described as "Reserved for Future Use," a device sending the object shall not set the object to those values. A device receiving an object with such a value should reject it, and any data structure containing it, as being erroneous; however, this does not apply in a context where the object is described as being ignored or it is specified to ignore unrecognized values.

When a field value is a bit field, unassigned bits can be marked as Reserved for Future Use and shall be set to 0. Implementations that receive a message that contains a Reserved for Future Use bit that is set to 1 shall process the message as if that bit was set to 0, except where specified otherwise.

The acronym RFU is equivalent to Reserved for Future Use.

1.8.3 Prohibited

When a field value is an enumeration, unassigned values can be marked as "Prohibited." These values shall never be used by an implementation, and any message received that includes a Prohibited value shall be ignored and shall not be processed and shall not be responded to.

Where a field, parameter, or other variable object can take a range of values, and some values are described as "Prohibited," devices shall not set the object to any of those Prohibited values. A device receiving an object with such a value should reject it, and any data structure containing it, as being erroneous.

"Prohibited" is never abbreviated.

1.8.4 Terminology

Table 1.3 defines terms that are needed to understand features used in this service.

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------------|--|
| Unenhanced ATT bearer | An ATT bearer not using the Enhanced Credit Based Flow Control Logical Link Control and Adaptation Protocol (L2CAP) channel mode introduced in Volume 3, Part A, Section 10.2 in the Bluetooth Core Specification [2]. |
| Enhanced ATT bearer | An ATT bearer using the Enhanced Credit Based Flow Control L2CAP channel mode introduced in Volume 3, Part A, Section 10.2 in [2]. |

Table 1.3: Terminology

2 Service

2.1 Declaration

There may be one or more instances of the Volume Offset Control Service (VOCS) on a device.

VOCS is instantiated to expose the offset level and location of an audio output such as a speaker.

The Attribute Type service declaration shall be set to the «Secondary Service» universally unique identifier (UUID) and the Attribute Value service declaration shall be set to «Volume Offset Control Service» as defined in the Bluetooth SIG Assigned Numbers [3]. VOCS shall only be instantiated as an included service.

2.2 Overview

This section provides an overview of the behavior and usage of the characteristics that affect the audio output's offset.

2.2.1 Volume Offset State

The Volume Offset State characteristic value consists of two fields: the Volume_Offset and Change_Counter fields.

2.2.1.1 Volume_Offset field

The Volume_Offset field value controls the offset of an individual audio output that the server controls, such as a left or right speaker. The Volume_Offset field may be used to apply balance or other leveling.

The Volume_Offset field is a unitless value and is added to the audio output's volume, such that a positive Volume_Offset value results in an increase of the audio output volume and a negative Volume_Offset value results in a decrease of the audio output volume.

2.2.1.2 Change_Counter field

The server shall increment the Change_Counter field value by one upon every change to the Volume_Offset field value. The Change_Counter field value is used in all Volume Offset Control Point commands.

The server shall initialize the Change_Counter field to an arbitrary value. The value shall be in the range of 0 to 255. An increment past 255 shall roll over to 0.

3 Service characteristics

This section defines the characteristic and descriptor requirements.

Requirements in this section are defined as “Mandatory” (M), “Optional” (O), “Excluded” (X), and “Conditional” (C.n). Conditional statements (C.n) are listed directly below the table in which they appear.

| Characteristic Name | Requirement | Mandatory Properties | Optional Properties | Security Permissions |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Volume Offset State | M | Read, Notify | None | Encryption Required |
| Audio Location | M | Read, Notify [C.1] | Write Without Response, Notify | Encryption Required |
| Volume Offset Control Point | M | Write | None | Encryption Required |
| Audio Output Description | M | Read, Notify [C.1] | Write Without Response, Notify | Encryption Required |

Table 3.1: VOCS characteristics

C.1: Mandatory to support Notify if Write Without Response is supported, otherwise Optional.

Properties not listed as Mandatory or Optional in Table 3.1 are Excluded.

3.1 Volume Offset State

The Volume Offset State characteristic shall be used to reflect the state of the audio volume to which this service applies. The value of the Volume Offset State characteristic shall use the format described in Table 3.2.

| Field Name | Size (Octets) | Format |
|----------------|---------------|--------|
| Volume_Offset | 2 | int16 |
| Change_Counter | 1 | uint8 |

Table 3.2: Volume Offset State characteristic value format

3.1.1 Volume_Offset field

The Volume_Offset field shall be set to a value that reflects the current offset that is applied to the volume of the audio output to which this service applies. This value might be used, for example, to apply a balance between left and right audio channels on the same device or an offset among many devices.

The Volume_Offset field is applied as described in Section 2.2.1.1.

3.1.2 Change_Counter field

The server shall initialize the Change_Counter field to an arbitrary value. The Change_Counter field value shall be incremented by 1 when the Volume_Offset field value changes and shall not be changed otherwise. When the Change_Counter field value reaches 255, its next increment shall be 0.



3.1.3 Volume Offset State behavior

The Volume Offset State characteristic value may be read by the client. When the Volume Offset State value changes, the server shall notify clients that have enabled the Client Characteristic Configuration Descriptor for notifications of the new value. The Volume Offset State characteristic value shall be the same for all clients.

3.2 Audio Location

The Audio Location characteristic value is a bitmask that shall be set to a value that reflects the location of an audio output that is associated with the instance of VOCS, such as Left or Right. For example, a server might have both a left and right speaker with which to control the balance. In this example, the server should instantiate VOCS for each speaker. The client may use this value to inform the user about the server audio. The Audio Location characteristic value is defined in the Bluetooth Assigned Numbers [3].

3.2.1 Audio Location behavior

The Audio Location characteristic value may be read and optionally written by the client. When the Audio Location value changes, the server shall notify clients that have enabled the Client Characteristic Configuration Descriptor for notifications of the new value if the server supports notifications of this characteristic.

3.3 Volume Offset Control Point

The Volume Offset Control Point characteristic is used to request a specific procedure to be executed by the server when a value is written to it.

3.3.1 Volume Offset Control Point procedure requirements

Table 3.3 lists the requirements for the Volume Offset Control Point procedures for the request opcodes and operands in the context of this VOCS.

| Opcode Value | Opcode | Procedure Section | Opcode Requirement | Operand |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0x01 | Set Volume Offset | 3.3.2.1 | M | Change_Counter, Volume_Offset |

Table 3.3: Volume Offset Control Point procedure requirements

3.3.2 Volume Offset Control Point behavior

The Volume Offset Control Point characteristic value may be written by the client.

If a client writes an opcode that is not supported or not defined in Table 3.3, then the server shall return an ATT Error Response with the error code Opcode Not Supported defined in Table 1.2.

If the control point procedure includes the Change_Counter field, and a client writes a Change_Counter operand that does not equal the Change_Counter field of the Volume Offset State characteristic value, then the server shall return an ATT Error Response with the error code Invalid Change Counter defined in Table 1.2.

3.3.2.1 Set Volume Offset procedure

If the Set Volume Offset opcode is written to the Volume Offset Control Point characteristic and the Change_Counter operand matches the Change_Counter field of the Volume Offset State characteristic value, then the server shall set the Volume_Offset field value to the Volume_Offset operand value. If the Set Volume Offset procedure causes the Volume_Offset field value to change, the server shall notify clients of the new Volume Offset State value, as described in Section 3.1.3.

If the Volume operand value is less than -255 or greater than 255, then the server shall return an ATT Error Response with the error code Value Out of Range defined in Table 1.2.

The Volume Offset Control Point characteristic value used for the Set Volume Offset procedure shall be formatted as listed in Table 3.4.

| Parameter | Size (Octets) | Value |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Opcode | 1 | 0x01 = Set Volume Offset Opcode |
| Change_Counter | 1 | 0x00–0xFF |
| Volume_Offset | 2 | -255 to 255 |

Table 3.4: Set Volume Offset format

3.4 Audio Output Description

The Audio Output Description characteristic shall be set to a description of the audio output that the VOCS instance describes, for example “Left Speaker” or “Right Warehouse Speaker.” The characteristic value is a UTF-8 string of zero or more characters.

3.4.1 Audio Output Description behavior

The Audio Output Description characteristic value may be read and optionally written by the client. When the Audio Output Description value changes, the server shall notify clients that have enabled the Client Characteristic Configuration Descriptor for notifications of the new value if the server supports notifications of this characteristic.

4 SDP interoperability

If VOCS is exposed over Basic Rate/Enhanced Data Rate (BR/EDR), then the service shall have the Service Discovery Protocol (SDP) record defined in [Table 4.1](#).

Requirements in this section are defined as “Mandatory” (M), “Optional” (O), “Excluded” (X), and “Conditional” (C.n). Conditional statements (C.n) are listed directly below the table in which they appear.

| Item | Definition | Type | Value | Status |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------|
| Service Class ID List | – | – | – | M |
| Service Class #0 | – | UUID | «Volume Offset Control Service» | M |
| Protocol Descriptor List | – | Data Element Sequence | – | M |
| Protocol #0 | – | UUID | «L2CAP» | M |
| Parameter #0 for Protocol #0 | Protocol/Service Multiplexer (PSM) | uint16 | PSM = ATT | M |
| Protocol #1 | – | UUID | «ATT» | M |
| Additional Protocol Descriptor List | – | Data Element Sequence | – | C.1 |
| Protocol Descriptor List | – | Data Element Sequence | – | C.1 |
| Protocol #0 | – | UUID | «L2CAP» | C.1 |
| Parameter #0 for Protocol #0 | PSM | uint16 | PSM = EATT | C.1 |
| Protocol #1 | – | UUID | «ATT» | C.1 |
| BrowseGroupList | – | – | PublicBrowseRoot Other browse UUIDs may also be included in the list. | M |

Table 4.1: SDP record

C.1: Mandatory if Enhanced Attribute Protocol (EATT), introduced in Volume 3, Part F, Section 3.2.11 in [\[2\]](#), is supported, otherwise Excluded.



5 Acronyms and abbreviations

| Acronym/Abbreviation | Meaning |
|----------------------|--|
| ATT | Attribute Protocol |
| BR/EDR | Basic Rate/Enhanced Data Rate |
| EATT | Enhanced Attribute Protocol |
| GATT | Generic Attribute Profile |
| L2CAP | Logical Link Control and Adaptation Protocol |
| LSO | least significant octet |
| PDU | Protocol Data Unit |
| PSM | Protocol/Service Multiplexer |
| RFU | Reserved for Future Use |
| SDP | Service Discovery Protocol |
| UUID | universally unique identifier |
| VOCS | Volume Offset Control Service |

Table 5.1: Acronyms and abbreviations

6 References

- [1] Bluetooth Core Specification, Version 4.0 or later
- [2] Bluetooth Core Specification, Version 5.2
- [3] Bluetooth SIG Assigned Numbers, <https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/assigned-numbers>

