welcome: please sign in location: id3v2.4.0-frames

\$Id: id3v2.4.0-frames.txt,v 1.1 2003/07/27 18:28:34 id3 Exp \$

Informal standard M. Nilsson
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ID3 tag version 2.4.0 - Native Frames

Status of this document

This document is an informal standard and replaces the ID3v2.3.0 standard [ID3v2]. A formal standard will use another revision number even if the content is identical to document. The contents in this document may change for clarifications but never for added or altered functionallity.

Distribution of this document is unlimited.

## Abstract

This document describes the frames natively supported by ID3v2.4.0, which is a revised version of the ID3v2 informal standard [ID3v2.3.0] version 2.3.0. The ID3v2 offers a flexible way of storing audio meta information within audio file itself. The information may be technical information, such as equalisation curves, as well as title, performer, copyright etc.

ID3v2.4.0 is meant to be as close as possible to ID3v2.3.0 in order to allow for implementations to be revised as easily as possible.

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# 2. Conventions in this document

Text within "" is a text string exactly as it appears in a tag. Numbers preceded with \$ are hexadecimal and numbers preceded with % are binary. \$xx is used to indicate a byte with unknown content. %x is used to indicate a bit with unknown content. The most significant bit (MSB) of a byte is called 'bit 7' and the least significant bit (LSB) is called 'bit 0'.

A tag is the whole tag described the ID3v2 main structure document [ID3v2-strct]. A frame is a block of information in the tag. The tag consists of a header, frames and optional padding. A field is a piece of information; one value, a string etc. A numeric string is a string that consists of the characters "0123456789" only.

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

# Default flags

The default settings for the frames described in this document can be

divided into the following classes. The flags may be set differently if found more suitable by the software.

1. Discarded if tag is altered, discarded if file is altered.

None.

2. Discarded if tag is altered, preserved if file is altered.

None.

3. Preserved if tag is altered, discarded if file is altered.

ASPI, AENC, ETCO, EQU2, MLLT, POSS, SEEK, SYLT, SYTC, RVA2, TENC, TLEN

4. Preserved if tag is altered, preserved if file is altered.

The rest of the frames.

#### 4. Declared ID3v2 frames

The following frames are declared in this draft.

- 4.19 AENC Audio encryption
- 4.14 APIC Attached picture
- 4.30 ASPI Audio seek point index
- 4.10 COMM Comments
- 4.24 COMR Commercial frame
- 4.25 ENCR Encryption method registration
- 4.12 EQU2 Equalisation (2)
- 4.5 ETCO Event timing codes
- 4.15 GEOB General encapsulated object
- 4.26 GRID Group identification registration
- 4.20 LINK Linked information
- 4.4 MCDI Music CD identifier
- 4.6 MLLT MPEG location lookup table
- 4.23 OWNE Ownership frame
- 4.27 PRIV Private frame
- 4.16 PCNT Play counter
- 4.17 POPM Popularimeter
- 4.21 POSS Position synchronisation frame
- 4.18 RBUF Recommended buffer size
- 4.11 RVA2 Relative volume adjustment (2)
- 4.13 RVRB Reverb
- 4.29 SEEK Seek frame

```
4.28 SIGN Signature frame
4.9 SYLT Synchronised lyric/text
4.7 SYTC Synchronised tempo codes
4.2.1 TALB Album/Movie/Show title
4.2.3 TBPM BPM (beats per minute)
4.2.2 TCOM Composer
4.2.3 TCON Content type
4.2.4 TCOP Copyright message
4.2.5 TDEN Encoding time
4.2.5 TDLY Playlist delay
4.2.5 TDOR Original release time
4.2.5 TDRC Recording time
4.2.5 TDRL Release time
4.2.5 TDTG Tagging time
4.2.2 TENC Encoded by
4.2.2 TEXT Lyricist/Text writer
4.2.3 TFLT File type
4.2.2 TIPL Involved people list
4.2.1 TIT1 Content group description
4.2.1 TIT2 Title/songname/content description
4.2.1 TIT3 Subtitle/Description refinement
4.2.3 TKEY Initial key
4.2.3 TLAN Language(s)
4.2.3 TLEN Length
4.2.2 TMCL Musician credits list
4.2.3 TMED Media type
4.2.3 TM00 Mood
4.2.1 TOAL Original album/movie/show title
4.2.5 TOFN Original filename
4.2.2 TOLY Original lyricist(s)/text writer(s)
4.2.2 TOPE Original artist(s)/performer(s)
4.2.4 TOWN File owner/licensee
4.2.2 TPE1 Lead performer(s)/Soloist(s)
4.2.2 TPE2 Band/orchestra/accompaniment
4.2.2 TPE3 Conductor/performer refinement
4.2.2 TPE4 Interpreted, remixed, or otherwise modified by
4.2.1 TPOS Part of a set
4.2.4 TPRO Produced notice
4.2.4 TPUB Publisher
4.2.1 TRCK Track number/Position in set
4.2.4 TRSN Internet radio station name
4.2.4 TRSO Internet radio station owner
4.2.5 TSOA Album sort order
4.2.5 TSOP Performer sort order
4.2.5 TSOT Title sort order
4.2.1 TSRC ISRC (international standard recording code)
4.2.5 TSSE Software/Hardware and settings used for encoding
4.2.1 TSST Set subtitle
4.2.2 TXXX User defined text information frame
4.1 UFID Unique file identifier
4.22 USER Terms of use
     USLT Unsynchronised lyric/text transcription
4.3.1 WCOM Commercial information
```

```
4.3.1 WCOP Copyright/Legal information
```

- 4.3.1 WOAF Official audio file webpage
- 4.3.1 WOAR Official artist/performer webpage
- 4.3.1 WOAS Official audio source webpage
- 4.3.1 WORS Official Internet radio station homepage
- 4.3.1 WPAY Payment
- 4.3.1 WPUB Publishers official webpage
- 4.3.2 WXXX User defined URL link frame

# 4.1. Unique file identifier

This frame's purpose is to be able to identify the audio file in a database, that may provide more information relevant to the content. Since standardisation of such a database is beyond this document, all UFID frames begin with an 'owner identifier' field. It is a null-terminated string with a URL [URL] containing an email address, or a link to a location where an email address can be found, that belongs to the organisation responsible for this specific database implementation. Questions regarding the database should be sent to the indicated email address. The URL should not be used for the actual database queries. The string "http://www.id3.org/dummy/ufid.html" should be used for tests. The 'Owner identifier' must be non-empty (more than just a termination). The 'Owner identifier' is then followed by the actual identifier, which may be up to 64 bytes. There may be more than one "UFID" frame in a tag, but only one with the same 'Owner identifier'.

# 4.2. Text information frames

The text information frames are often the most important frames, containing information like artist, album and more. There may only be one text information frame of its kind in an tag. All text information frames supports multiple strings, stored as a null separated list, where null is repersented by the termination code for the charater encoding. All text frame identifiers begin with "T". Only text frame identifiers begin with "T", with the exception of the "TXXX" frame. All the text information frames have the following format:

# 4.2.1. Identification frames

#### TIT1

The 'Content group description' frame is used if the sound belongs to a larger category of sounds/music. For example, classical music is

often sorted in different musical sections (e.g. "Piano Concerto", "Weather - Hurricane").

## TIT2

The 'Title/Songname/Content description' frame is the actual name of the piece (e.g. "Adagio", "Hurricane Donna").

## TIT3

The 'Subtitle/Description refinement' frame is used for information directly related to the contents title (e.g. "Op. 16" or "Performed live at Wembley").

### **TALB**

The 'Album/Movie/Show title' frame is intended for the title of the recording (or source of sound) from which the audio in the file is taken.

#### **TOAL**

The 'Original album/movie/show title' frame is intended for the title of the original recording (or source of sound), if for example the music in the file should be a cover of a previously released song.

#### TRCK

The 'Track number/Position in set' frame is a numeric string containing the order number of the audio-file on its original recording. This MAY be extended with a "/" character and a numeric string containing the total number of tracks/elements on the original recording. E.g. "4/9".

## **TPOS**

The 'Part of a set' frame is a numeric string that describes which part of a set the audio came from. This frame is used if the source described in the "TALB" frame is divided into several mediums, e.g. a double CD. The value MAY be extended with a "/" character and a numeric string containing the total number of parts in the set. E.g. "1/2".

#### **TSST**

The 'Set subtitle' frame is intended for the subtitle of the part of a set this track belongs to.

## TSRC

The 'ISRC' frame should contain the International Standard Recording Code [ISRC] (12 characters).

## 4.2.2. Involved persons frames

## TPE1

The 'Lead artist/Lead performer/Soloist/Performing group' is used for the main artist.

#### TPE2

The 'Band/Orchestra/Accompaniment' frame is used for additional information about the performers in the recording.

#### TPE3

The 'Conductor' frame is used for the name of the conductor.

## TPE4

The 'Interpreted, remixed, or otherwise modified by' frame contains more information about the people behind a remix and similar interpretations of another existing piece.

#### **TOPE**

The 'Original artist/performer' frame is intended for the performer of the original recording, if for example the music in the file should be a cover of a previously released song.

### **TEXT**

The 'Lyricist/Text writer' frame is intended for the writer of the text or lyrics in the recording.

## **TOLY**

The 'Original lyricist/text writer' frame is intended for the text writer of the original recording, if for example the music in the file should be a cover of a previously released song.

## **TCOM**

The 'Composer' frame is intended for the name of the composer.

#### **TMCL**

The 'Musician credits list' is intended as a mapping between instruments and the musician that played it. Every odd field is an instrument and every even is an artist or a comma delimited list of artists.

## **TIPL**

The 'Involved people list' is very similar to the musician credits list, but maps between functions, like producer, and names.

# TENC

The 'Encoded by' frame contains the name of the person or organisation that encoded the audio file. This field may contain a copyright message, if the audio file also is copyrighted by the encoder.

## 4.2.3. Derived and subjective properties frames

#### **TBPM**

The 'BPM' frame contains the number of beats per minute in the main part of the audio. The BPM is an integer and represented as a numerical string.

### TLEN

The 'Length' frame contains the length of the audio file in milliseconds, represented as a numeric string.

#### TKEY

The 'Initial key' frame contains the musical key in which the sound starts. It is represented as a string with a maximum length of three

```
characters. The ground keys are represented with "A","B","C","D","E", "F" and "G" and halfkeys represented with "b" and "#". Minor is represented as "m", e.g. "Dbm" $00. Off key is represented with an "o" only.
```

#### TLAN

The 'Language' frame should contain the languages of the text or lyrics spoken or sung in the audio. The language is represented with three characters according to ISO-639-2 [ISO-639-2]. If more than one language is used in the text their language codes should follow according to the amount of their usage, e.g. "eng" \$00 "sve" \$00.

### **TCON**

The 'Content type', which ID3v1 was stored as a one byte numeric value only, is now a string. You may use one or several of the ID3v1 types as numerical strings, or, since the category list would be impossible to maintain with accurate and up to date categories, define your own. Example: "21" \$00 "Eurodisco" \$00

You may also use any of the following keywords:

```
RX Remix
CR Cover
```

#### **TFLT**

The 'File type' frame indicates which type of audio this tag defines. The following types and refinements are defined:

```
MIME MIME type follows
MPG MPEG Audio

/1 MPEG 1/2 layer I

/2 MPEG 1/2 layer II

/3 MPEG 1/2 layer III

/2.5 MPEG 2.5

/AAC Advanced audio compression

VQF Transform-domain Weighted Interleave Vector Quantisation
PCM Pulse Code Modulated audio
```

but other types may be used, but not for these types though. This is used in a similar way to the predefined types in the "TMED" frame, but without parentheses. If this frame is not present audio type is assumed to be "MPG".

#### **TMED**

The 'Media type' frame describes from which media the sound originated. This may be a text string or a reference to the predefined media types found in the list below. Example: "VID/PAL/VHS" \$00.

```
DIG Other digital media
  /A Analogue transfer from media

ANA Other analogue media
  /WAC Wax cylinder
  /8CA 8-track tape cassette
```

```
CD
       Analogue transfer from media
  / A
  /DD
        DDD
  /AD
       ADD
  /AA
       AAD
LD
       Laserdisc
TT
      Turntable records
  /33
        33.33 rpm
  /45
        45 rpm
  /71
        71.29 rpm
  /76
        76.59 rpm
  /78
        78.26 rpm
  /80
        80 rpm
MD
       MiniDisc
       Analogue transfer from media
  / A
DAT
      DAT
  / A
       Analogue transfer from media
  /1
        standard, 48 kHz/16 bits, linear
  /2
        mode 2, 32 kHz/16 bits, linear
  /3
        mode 3, 32 kHz/12 bits, non-linear, low speed
  /4
        mode 4, 32 kHz/12 bits, 4 channels
  /5
        mode 5, 44.1 kHz/16 bits, linear
        mode 6, 44.1 kHz/16 bits, 'wide track' play
  /6
DCC
      DCC
  / A
       Analogue transfer from media
DVD
       Analogue transfer from media
 / A
     Television
        PAL
  /PAL
  /NTSC
         NTSC
  /SECAM SECAM
VID
    Video
  /PAL
         PAL
  /NTSC
         NTSC
  /SECAM SECAM
  /VHS
         VHS
  /SVHS S-VHS
        BETAMAX
  /BETA
RAD
      Radio
  /FM
       FΜ
  /AM
       AM
  /LW
       LW
  /MW
       MW
TEL
      Telephone
  / I
       ISDN
```

**TRSN** 

```
MC
          MC (normal cassette)
      /4
           4.75 cm/s (normal speed for a two sided cassette)
      /9
            9.5 \text{ cm/s}
      / I
           Type I cassette (ferric/normal)
      /II
           Type II cassette (chrome)
      /III Type III cassette (ferric chrome)
           Type IV cassette (metal)
      /IV
    REE
           Reel
      /9
           9.5 \text{ cm/s}
      /19
          19 cm/s
      /38
           38 cm/s
      /76
           76 cm/s
      / I
           Type I cassette (ferric/normal)
      /II
           Type II cassette (chrome)
      /III Type III cassette (ferric chrome)
      /IV
           Type IV cassette (metal)
  TMOO
  The 'Mood' frame is intended to reflect the mood of the audio with a
  few keywords, e.g. "Romantic" or "Sad".
4.2.4.
        Rights and license frames
  TC0P
  The 'Copyright message' frame, in which the string must begin with a
  year and a space character (making five characters), is intended for
  the copyright holder of the original sound, not the audio file
   itself. The absence of this frame means only that the copyright
   information is unavailable or has been removed, and must not be
   interpreted to mean that the audio is public domain. Every time this
   field is displayed the field must be preceded with "Copyright " (C) "
   ", where (C) is one character showing a C in a circle.
  TPR0
   The 'Produced notice' frame, in which the string must begin with a
  year and a space character (making five characters), is intended for
   the production copyright holder of the original sound, not the audio
   file itself. The absence of this frame means only that the production
   copyright information is unavailable or has been removed, and must
   not be interpreted to mean that the audio is public domain. Every
   time this field is displayed the field must be preceded with
   "Produced " (P) " ", where (P) is one character showing a P in a
   circle.
  TPUB
   The 'Publisher' frame simply contains the name of the label or
   publisher.
  TOWN
  The 'File owner/licensee' frame contains the name of the owner or
   licensee of the file and it's contents.
```

10 of 32 2024-12-22, 21:40

The 'Internet radio station name' frame contains the name of the

internet radio station from which the audio is streamed.

#### TRS0

The 'Internet radio station owner' frame contains the name of the owner of the internet radio station from which the audio is streamed.

## 4.2.5. Other text frames

#### TOFN

The 'Original filename' frame contains the preferred filename for the file, since some media doesn't allow the desired length of the filename. The filename is case sensitive and includes its suffix.

### **TDLY**

The 'Playlist delay' defines the numbers of milliseconds of silence that should be inserted before this audio. The value zero indicates that this is a part of a multifile audio track that should be played continuously.

#### **TDEN**

The 'Encoding time' frame contains a timestamp describing when the audio was encoded. Timestamp format is described in the ID3v2 structure document [ID3v2-strct].

#### **TDOR**

The 'Original release time' frame contains a timestamp describing when the original recording of the audio was released. Timestamp format is described in the ID3v2 structure document [ID3v2-strct].

### **TDRC**

The 'Recording time' frame contains a timestamp describing when the audio was recorded. Timestamp format is described in the ID3v2 structure document [ID3v2-strct].

# TDRL

The 'Release time' frame contains a timestamp describing when the audio was first released. Timestamp format is described in the ID3v2 structure document [ID3v2-strct].

### **TDTG**

The 'Tagging time' frame contains a timestamp describing then the audio was tagged. Timestamp format is described in the ID3v2 structure document [ID3v2-strct].

## **TSSE**

The 'Software/Hardware and settings used for encoding' frame includes the used audio encoder and its settings when the file was encoded. Hardware refers to hardware encoders, not the computer on which a program was run.

### TS0A

The 'Album sort order' frame defines a string which should be used instead of the album name (TALB) for sorting purposes. E.g. an album named "A Soundtrack" might preferably be sorted as "Soundtrack".

#### **TSOP**

The 'Performer sort order' frame defines a string which should be used instead of the performer (TPE2) for sorting purposes.

## **TSOT**

The 'Title sort order' frame defines a string which should be used instead of the title (TIT2) for sorting purposes.

#### 4.2.6. User defined text information frame

This frame is intended for one-string text information concerning the audio file in a similar way to the other "T"-frames. The frame body consists of a description of the string, represented as a terminated string, followed by the actual string. There may be more than one "TXXX" frame in each tag, but only one with the same description.

## 4.3. URL link frames

With these frames dynamic data such as webpages with touring information, price information or plain ordinary news can be added to the tag. There may only be one URL [URL] link frame of its kind in an tag, except when stated otherwise in the frame description. If the text string is followed by a string termination, all the following information should be ignored and not be displayed. All URL link frame identifiers begins with "W". Only URL link frame identifiers begins with "W", except for "WXXX". All URL link frames have the following format:

## 4.3.1. URL link frames - details

## WCOM

The 'Commercial information' frame is a URL pointing at a webpage with information such as where the album can be bought. There may be more than one "WCOM" frame in a tag, but not with the same content.

#### **WCOP**

The 'Copyright/Legal information' frame is a URL pointing at a webpage where the terms of use and ownership of the file is described.

#### WOAF

The 'Official audio file webpage' frame is a URL pointing at a file specific webpage.

#### **WOAR**

The 'Official artist/performer webpage' frame is a URL pointing at the artists official webpage. There may be more than one "WOAR" frame in a tag if the audio contains more than one performer, but not with the same content.

#### WOAS

The 'Official audio source webpage' frame is a URL pointing at the official webpage for the source of the audio file, e.g. a movie.

### **WORS**

The 'Official Internet radio station homepage' contains a URL pointing at the homepage of the internet radio station.

## **WPAY**

The 'Payment' frame is a URL pointing at a webpage that will handle the process of paying for this file.

#### **WPUB**

The 'Publishers official webpage' frame is a URL pointing at the official webpage for the publisher.

# 4.3.2. User defined URL link frame

This frame is intended for URL [URL] links concerning the audio file in a similar way to the other "W"-frames. The frame body consists of a description of the string, represented as a terminated string, followed by the actual URL. The URL is always encoded with ISO-8859-1 [ISO-8859-1]. There may be more than one "WXXX" frame in each tag, but only one with the same description.

## 4.4. Music CD identifier

This frame is intended for music that comes from a CD, so that the CD can be identified in databases such as the CDDB [CDDB]. The frame consists of a binary dump of the Table Of Contents, TOC, from the CD, which is a header of 4 bytes and then 8 bytes/track on the CD plus 8 bytes for the 'lead out', making a maximum of 804 bytes. The offset to the beginning of every track on the CD should be described with a four bytes absolute CD-frame address per track, and not with absolute time. When this frame is used the presence of a valid "TRCK" frame is REQUIRED, even if the CD's only got one track. It is recommended that this frame is always added to tags originating from CDs. There may only be one "MCDI" frame in each tag.

```
4.5. Event timing codes
   This frame allows synchronisation with key events in the audio. The
   header is:
     <Header for 'Event timing codes', ID: "ETCO">
    Time stamp format
                         $xx
   Where time stamp format is:
     $01 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using MPEG [MPEG] frames as unit
     $02 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using milliseconds as unit
   Absolute time means that every stamp contains the time from the
   beginning of the file.
   Followed by a list of key events in the following format:
    Type of event
                    $xx
    Time stamp
                    $xx (xx ...)
   The 'Time stamp' is set to zero if directly at the beginning of the
   sound or after the previous event. All events MUST be sorted in
   chronological order. The type of event is as follows:
     $00 padding (has no meaning)
     $01 end of initial silence
     $02 intro start
     $03 main part start
     $04 outro start
     $05 outro end
     $06 verse start
     $07 refrain start
     $08 interlude start
     $09 theme start
     $0A variation start
     $0B key change
     $0C time change
     $0D momentary unwanted noise (Snap, Crackle & Pop)
     $0E sustained noise
     $0F sustained noise end
     $10 intro end
     $11 main part end
     $12 verse end
     $13 refrain end
     $14 theme end
     $15 profanity
     $16 profanity end
     $17-$DF reserved for future use
     $E0-$EF not predefined synch 0-F
     $F0-$FC reserved for future use
     $FD audio end (start of silence)
```

```
$FE audio file ends
```

\$FF one more byte of events follows (all the following bytes with
 the value \$FF have the same function)

Terminating the start events such as "intro start" is OPTIONAL. The 'Not predefined synch's (\$E0-EF) are for user events. You might want to synchronise your music to something, like setting off an explosion on-stage, activating a screensaver etc.

There may only be one "ETCO" frame in each tag.

# 4.6. MPEG location lookup table

To increase performance and accuracy of jumps within a MPEG [MPEG] audio file, frames with time codes in different locations in the file might be useful. This ID3v2 frame includes references that the software can use to calculate positions in the file. After the frame header follows a descriptor of how much the 'frame counter' should be increased for every reference. If this value is two then the first reference points out the second frame, the 2nd reference the 4th frame, the 3rd reference the 6th frame etc. In a similar way the 'bytes between reference' and 'milliseconds between reference' points out bytes and milliseconds respectively.

Each reference consists of two parts; a certain number of bits, as defined in 'bits for bytes deviation', that describes the difference between what is said in 'bytes between reference' and the reality and a certain number of bits, as defined in 'bits for milliseconds deviation', that describes the difference between what is said in 'milliseconds between reference' and the reality. The number of bits in every reference, i.e. 'bits for bytes deviation'+'bits for milliseconds deviation', must be a multiple of four. There may only be one "MLLT" frame in each tag.

```
<Header for 'Location lookup table', ID: "MLLT">
MPEG frames between reference $xx xx
Bytes between reference $xx xx xx
Milliseconds between reference $xx xx xx
Bits for bytes deviation $xx
Bits for milliseconds dev. $xx
```

Then for every reference the following data is included;

```
Deviation in bytes %xxx....

Deviation in milliseconds %xxx....
```

# 4.7. Synchronised tempo codes

For a more accurate description of the tempo of a musical piece, this frame might be used. After the header follows one byte describing which time stamp format should be used. Then follows one or more tempo codes. Each tempo code consists of one tempo part and one time part. The tempo is in BPM described with one or two bytes. If the first byte has the value \$FF, one more byte follows, which is added

to the first giving a range from 2 - 510 BPM, since \$00 and \$01 is reserved. \$00 is used to describe a beat-free time period, which is not the same as a music-free time period. \$01 is used to indicate one single beat-stroke followed by a beat-free period.

The tempo descriptor is followed by a time stamp. Every time the tempo in the music changes, a tempo descriptor may indicate this for the player. All tempo descriptors MUST be sorted in chronological order. The first beat-stroke in a time-period is at the same time as the beat description occurs. There may only be one "SYTC" frame in each tag.

Where time stamp format is:

```
$01 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using MPEG [MPEG] frames as unit
$02 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using milliseconds as unit
```

Absolute time means that every stamp contains the time from the beginning of the file.

# 4.8. Unsynchronised lyrics/text transcription

This frame contains the lyrics of the song or a text transcription of other vocal activities. The head includes an encoding descriptor and a content descriptor. The body consists of the actual text. The 'Content descriptor' is a terminated string. If no descriptor is entered, 'Content descriptor' is \$00 (00) only. Newline characters are allowed in the text. There may be more than one 'Unsynchronised lyrics/text transcription' frame in each tag, but only one with the same language and content descriptor.

## 4.9. Synchronised lyrics/text

This is another way of incorporating the words, said or sung lyrics, in the audio file as text, this time, however, in sync with the audio. It might also be used to describing events e.g. occurring on a stage or on the screen in sync with the audio. The header includes a content descriptor, represented with as terminated text string. If no descriptor is entered, 'Content descriptor' is \$00 (00) only.

```
Content type
                       $xx
 Content descriptor <text string according to encoding> $00 (00)
                $00 is other
Content type:
                $01 is lyrics
                $02 is text transcription
                $03 is movement/part name (e.g. "Adagio")
                $04 is events (e.g. "Don Quijote enters the stage")
                $05 is chord (e.g. "Bb F Fsus")
                $06 is trivia/'pop up' information
                $07 is URLs to webpages
                $08 is URLs to images
Time stamp format:
  $01 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using MPEG [MPEG] frames as unit
  $02 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using milliseconds as unit
Absolute time means that every stamp contains the time from the
beginning of the file.
The text that follows the frame header differs from that of the
unsynchronised lyrics/text transcription in one major way. Each
syllable (or whatever size of text is considered to be convenient by
the encoder) is a null terminated string followed by a time stamp
denoting where in the sound file it belongs. Each sync thus has the
following structure:
  Terminated text to be synced (typically a syllable)
  Sync identifier (terminator to above string) $00 (00)
                                                 $xx (xx ...)
 Time stamp
The 'time stamp' is set to zero or the whole sync is omitted if
located directly at the beginning of the sound. All time stamps
should be sorted in chronological order. The sync can be considered
as a validator of the subsequent string.
Newline characters are allowed in all "SYLT" frames and MUST be used
after every entry (name, event etc.) in a frame with the content type
$03 - $04.
A few considerations regarding whitespace characters: Whitespace
separating words should mark the beginning of a new word, thus
occurring in front of the first syllable of a new word. This is also
valid for new line characters. A syllable followed by a comma should
not be broken apart with a sync (both the syllable and the comma
should be before the sync).
An example: The "USLT" passage
```

"Strang" \$00 xx xx "ers" \$00 xx xx " in" \$00 xx xx " the" \$00 xx xx " night" \$00 xx xx 0A "Ex" \$00 xx xx "chang" \$00 xx xx "ing" \$00 xx

"Strangers in the night" \$0A "Exchanging glances"

would be "SYLT" encoded as:

```
xx "glan" $00 xx xx "ces" $00 xx xx
```

There may be more than one "SYLT" frame in each tag, but only one with the same language and content descriptor.

### 4.10. Comments

This frame is intended for any kind of full text information that does not fit in any other frame. It consists of a frame header followed by encoding, language and content descriptors and is ended with the actual comment as a text string. Newline characters are allowed in the comment text string. There may be more than one comment frame in each tag, but only one with the same language and content descriptor.

# 4.11. Relative volume adjustment (2)

This is a more subjective frame than the previous ones. It allows the user to say how much he wants to increase/decrease the volume on each channel when the file is played. The purpose is to be able to align all files to a reference volume, so that you don't have to change the volume constantly. This frame may also be used to balance adjust the audio. The volume adjustment is encoded as a fixed point decibel value, 16 bit signed integer representing (adjustment\*512), giving +/- 64 dB with a precision of 0.001953125 dB. E.g. +2 dB is stored as \$04 00 and -2 dB is \$FC 00. There may be more than one "RVA2" frame in each tag, but only one with the same identification string.

The 'identification' string is used to identify the situation and/or device where this adjustment should apply. The following is then repeated for every channel

```
Type of channel $xx

Volume adjustment $xx xx

Bits representing peak $xx

Peak volume $xx (xx ...)
```

Type of channel: \$00 Other \$01 Master volume

\$01 Master Volume \$02 Front right \$03 Front left \$04 Back right \$05 Back left \$06 Front centre

\$07 Back centre
\$08 Subwoofer

Bits representing peak can be any number between 0 and 255. 0 means that there is no peak volume field. The peak volume field is always padded to whole bytes, setting the most significant bits to zero.

# 4.12. Equalisation (2)

This is another subjective, alignment frame. It allows the user to predefine an equalisation curve within the audio file. There may be more than one "EQU2" frame in each tag, but only one with the same identification string.

<Header of 'Equalisation (2)', ID: "EQU2">
Interpolation method \$xx
Identification <text string> \$00

The 'interpolation method' describes which method is preferred when an interpolation between the adjustment point that follows. The following methods are currently defined:

\$00 Band

No interpolation is made. A jump from one adjustment level to another occurs in the middle between two adjustment points.

\$01 Linear
 Interpolation between adjustment points is linear.

The 'identification' string is used to identify the situation and/or device where this adjustment should apply. The following is then repeated for every adjustment point

Frequency \$xx xx Volume adjustment \$xx xx

The frequency is stored in units of 1/2 Hz, giving it a range from 0 to 32767 Hz.

The volume adjustment is encoded as a fixed point decibel value, 16 bit signed integer representing (adjustment\*512), giving +/- 64 dB with a precision of 0.001953125 dB. E.g. +2 dB is stored as  $\$04\ 00$  and -2 dB is  $\$FC\ 00$ .

Adjustment points should be ordered by frequency and one frequency should only be described once in the frame.

## 4.13. Reverb

Yet another subjective frame, with which you can adjust echoes of different kinds. Reverb left/right is the delay between every bounce in ms. Reverb bounces left/right is the number of bounces that should be made. \$FF equals an infinite number of bounces. Feedback is the amount of volume that should be returned to the next echo bounce. \$00 is 0%, \$FF is 100%. If this value were \$7F, there would be 50% volume

reduction on the first bounce, 50% of that on the second and so on. Left to left means the sound from the left bounce to be played in the left speaker, while left to right means sound from the left bounce to be played in the right speaker.

'Premix left to right' is the amount of left sound to be mixed in the right before any reverb is applied, where \$00 id 0% and \$FF is 100%. 'Premix right to left' does the same thing, but right to left. Setting both premix to \$FF would result in a mono output (if the reverb is applied symmetric). There may only be one "RVRB" frame in each tag.

```
<Header for 'Reverb', ID: "RVRB">
Reverb left (ms)
                                 $xx xx
Reverb right (ms)
                                 $xx xx
Reverb bounces, left
                                 $xx
Reverb bounces, right
                                 $xx
Reverb feedback, left to left
                                 $xx
Reverb feedback, left to right
                                 $xx
Reverb feedback, right to right $xx
Reverb feedback, right to left
                                 $xx
Premix left to right
                                 $xx
Premix right to left
                                 $xx
```

# 4.14. Attached picture

This frame contains a picture directly related to the audio file. Image format is the MIME type and subtype [MIME] for the image. In the event that the MIME media type name is omitted, "image/" will be implied. The "image/png" [PNG] or "image/jpeg" [JFIF] picture format should be used when interoperability is wanted. Description is a short description of the picture, represented as a terminated text string. There may be several pictures attached to one file, each in their individual "APIC" frame, but only one with the same content descriptor. There may only be one picture with the picture type declared as picture type \$01 and \$02 respectively. There is the possibility to put only a link to the image file by using the 'MIME type' "-->" and having a complete URL [URL] instead of picture data. The use of linked files should however be used sparingly since there is the risk of separation of files.

```
$06 Media (e.g. label side of CD)
$07 Lead artist/lead performer/soloist
$08 Artist/performer
$09 Conductor
$0A Band/Orchestra
$0B Composer
$0C Lyricist/text writer
$0D Recording Location
$0E During recording
$0F During performance
$10 Movie/video screen capture
$11 A bright coloured fish
$12 Illustration
$13 Band/artist logotype
$14 Publisher/Studio logotype
```

# 4.15. General encapsulated object

In this frame any type of file can be encapsulated. After the header, 'Frame size' and 'Encoding' follows 'MIME type' [MIME] represented as as a terminated string encoded with ISO 8859-1 [ISO-8859-1]. The filename is case sensitive and is encoded as 'Encoding'. Then follows a content description as terminated string, encoded as 'Encoding'. The last thing in the frame is the actual object. The first two strings may be omitted, leaving only their terminations. MIME type is always an ISO-8859-1 text string. There may be more than one "GEOB" frame in each tag, but only one with the same content descriptor.

## 4.16. Play counter

This is simply a counter of the number of times a file has been played. The value is increased by one every time the file begins to play. There may only be one "PCNT" frame in each tag. When the counter reaches all one's, one byte is inserted in front of the counter thus making the counter eight bits bigger. The counter must be at least 32-bits long to begin with.

#### 4.17. Popularimeter

The purpose of this frame is to specify how good an audio file is. Many interesting applications could be found to this frame such as a playlist that features better audio files more often than others or it could be used to profile a person's taste and find other 'good'

files by comparing people's profiles. The frame contains the email address to the user, one rating byte and a four byte play counter, intended to be increased with one for every time the file is played. The email is a terminated string. The rating is 1-255 where 1 is worst and 255 is best. 0 is unknown. If no personal counter is wanted it may be omitted. When the counter reaches all one's, one byte is inserted in front of the counter thus making the counter eight bits bigger in the same away as the play counter ("PCNT"). There may be more than one "POPM" frame in each tag, but only one with the same email address.

# 4.18. Recommended buffer size

Sometimes the server from which an audio file is streamed is aware of transmission or coding problems resulting in interruptions in the audio stream. In these cases, the size of the buffer can be recommended by the server using this frame. If the 'embedded info flag' is true (1) then this indicates that an ID3 tag with the maximum size described in 'Buffer size' may occur in the audio stream. In such case the tag should reside between two MPEG [MPEG] frames, if the audio is MPEG encoded. If the position of the next tag is known, 'offset to next tag' may be used. The offset is calculated from the end of tag in which this frame resides to the first byte of the header in the next. This field may be omitted. Embedded tags are generally not recommended since this could render unpredictable behaviour from present software/hardware.

For applications like streaming audio it might be an idea to embed tags into the audio stream though. If the clients connects to individual connections like HTTP and there is a possibility to begin every transmission with a tag, then this tag should include a 'recommended buffer size' frame. If the client is connected to a arbitrary point in the stream, such as radio or multicast, then the 'recommended buffer size' frame SHOULD be included in every tag.

The 'Buffer size' should be kept to a minimum. There may only be one "RBUF" frame in each tag.

## 4.19. Audio encryption

This frame indicates if the actual audio stream is encrypted, and by whom. Since standardisation of such encryption scheme is beyond this document, all "AENC" frames begin with a terminated string with a URL containing an email address, or a link to a location where an

email address can be found, that belongs to the organisation responsible for this specific encrypted audio file. Questions regarding the encrypted audio should be sent to the email address specified. If a \$00 is found directly after the 'Frame size' and the audio file indeed is encrypted, the whole file may be considered useless.

After the 'Owner identifier', a pointer to an unencrypted part of the audio can be specified. The 'Preview start' and 'Preview length' is described in frames. If no part is unencrypted, these fields should be left zeroed. After the 'preview length' field follows optionally a data block required for decryption of the audio. There may be more than one "AENC" frames in a tag, but only one with the same 'Owner identifier'.

### 4.20. Linked information

To keep information duplication as low as possible this frame may be used to link information from another ID3v2 tag that might reside in another audio file or alone in a binary file. It is RECOMMENDED that this method is only used when the files are stored on a CD-ROM or other circumstances when the risk of file separation is low. The frame contains a frame identifier, which is the frame that should be linked into this tag, a URL [URL] field, where a reference to the file where the frame is given, and additional ID data, if needed. Data should be retrieved from the first tag found in the file to which this link points. There may be more than one "LINK" frame in a tag, but only one with the same contents. A linked frame is to be considered as part of the tag and has the same restrictions as if it was a physical part of the tag (i.e. only one "RVRB" frame allowed, whether it's linked or not).

Frames that may be linked and need no additional data are "ASPI", "ETCO", "EQU2", "MCID", "MLLT", "OWNE", "RVA2", "RVRB", "SYTC", the text information frames and the URL link frames.

The "AENC", "APIC", "GEOB" and "TXXX" frames may be linked with the content descriptor as additional ID data.

The "USER" frame may be linked with the language field as additional ID data.

The "PRIV" frame may be linked with the owner identifier as additional ID data.

The "COMM", "SYLT" and "USLT" frames may be linked with three bytes of language descriptor directly followed by a content descriptor as additional ID data.

# 4.21. Position synchronisation frame

This frame delivers information to the listener of how far into the audio stream he picked up; in effect, it states the time offset from the first frame in the stream. The frame layout is:

Where time stamp format is:

```
$01 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using MPEG frames as unit
$02 Absolute time, 32 bit sized, using milliseconds as unit
```

and position is where in the audio the listener starts to receive, i.e. the beginning of the next frame. If this frame is used in the beginning of a file the value is always 0. There may only be one "POSS" frame in each tag.

## 4.22. Terms of use frame

This frame contains a brief description of the terms of use and ownership of the file. More detailed information concerning the legal terms might be available through the "WCOP" frame. Newlines are allowed in the text. There may be more than one 'Terms of use' frame in a tag, but only one with the same 'Language'.

# 4.23. Ownership frame

The ownership frame might be used as a reminder of a made transaction or, if signed, as proof. Note that the "USER" and "TOWN" frames are good to use in conjunction with this one. The frame begins, after the frame ID, size and encoding fields, with a 'price paid' field. The first three characters of this field contains the currency used for the transaction, encoded according to ISO 4217 [ISO-4217] alphabetic currency code. Concatenated to this is the actual price paid, as a numerical string using "." as the decimal separator. Next is an 8 character date string (YYYYYMMDD) followed by a string with the name of the seller as the last field in the frame. There may only be one "OWNE" frame in a tag.

```
<Header for 'Ownership frame', ID: "OWNE">
```

```
Text encoding $xx

Price paid <text string> $00

Date of purch. <text string>
Seller <text string according to encoding>
```

### 4.24. Commercial frame

This frame enables several competing offers in the same tag by bundling all needed information. That makes this frame rather complex but it's an easier solution than if one tries to achieve the same result with several frames. The frame begins, after the frame ID, size and encoding fields, with a price string field. A price is constructed by one three character currency code, encoded according to ISO 4217 [ISO-4217] alphabetic currency code, followed by a numerical value where "." is used as decimal separator. In the price string several prices may be concatenated, separated by a "/" character, but there may only be one currency of each type.

The price string is followed by an 8 character date string in the format YYYYMMDD, describing for how long the price is valid. After that is a contact URL, with which the user can contact the seller, followed by a one byte 'received as' field. It describes how the audio is delivered when bought according to the following list:

```
$00 Other
$01 Standard CD album with other songs
$02 Compressed audio on CD
$03 File over the Internet
$04 Stream over the Internet
$05 As note sheets
$06 As note sheets in a book with other sheets
$07 Music on other media
$08 Non-musical merchandise
```

Next follows a terminated string with the name of the seller followed by a terminated string with a short description of the product. The last thing is the ability to include a company logotype. The first of them is the 'Picture MIME type' field containing information about which picture format is used. In the event that the MIME media type name is omitted, "image/" will be implied. Currently only "image/png" and "image/jpeg" are allowed. This format string is followed by the binary picture data. This two last fields may be omitted if no picture is attached. There may be more than one 'commercial frame' in a tag, but no two may be identical.

## 4.25. Encryption method registration

To identify with which method a frame has been encrypted the encryption method must be registered in the tag with this frame. The 'Owner identifier' is a null-terminated string with a URL [URL] containing an email address, or a link to a location where an email address can be found, that belongs to the organisation responsible for this specific encryption method. Questions regarding the encryption method should be sent to the indicated email address. The 'Method symbol' contains a value that is associated with this method throughout the whole tag, in the range \$80-F0. All other values are reserved. The 'Method symbol' may optionally be followed by encryption specific data. There may be several "ENCR" frames in a tag but only one containing the same symbol and only one containing the same owner identifier. The method must be used somewhere in the tag. See the description of the frame encryption flag in the ID3v2 structure document [ID3v2-strct] for more information.

# 4.26. Group identification registration

This frame enables grouping of otherwise unrelated frames. This can be used when some frames are to be signed. To identify which frames belongs to a set of frames a group identifier must be registered in the tag with this frame. The 'Owner identifier' is a null-terminated string with a URL [URL] containing an email address, or a link to a location where an email address can be found, that belongs to the organisation responsible for this grouping. Questions regarding the grouping should be sent to the indicated email address. The 'Group symbol' contains a value that associates the frame with this group throughout the whole tag, in the range \$80-F0. All other values are reserved. The 'Group symbol' may optionally be followed by some group specific data, e.g. a digital signature. There may be several "GRID" frames in a tag but only one containing the same symbol and only one containing the same owner identifier. The group symbol must be used somewhere in the tag. See the description of the frame grouping flag in the ID3v2 structure document [ID3v2-strct] for more information.

## 4.27. Private frame

This frame is used to contain information from a software producer that its program uses and does not fit into the other frames. The frame consists of an 'Owner identifier' string and the binary data.

The 'Owner identifier' is a null-terminated string with a URL [URL] containing an email address, or a link to a location where an email address can be found, that belongs to the organisation responsible for the frame. Questions regarding the frame should be sent to the indicated email address. The tag may contain more than one "PRIV" frame but only with different contents.

# 4.28. Signature frame

This frame enables a group of frames, grouped with the 'Group identification registration', to be signed. Although signatures can reside inside the registration frame, it might be desired to store the signature elsewhere, e.g. in watermarks. There may be more than one 'signature frame' in a tag, but no two may be identical.

# 4.29. Seek frame

This frame indicates where other tags in a file/stream can be found. The 'minimum offset to next tag' is calculated from the end of this tag to the beginning of the next. There may only be one 'seek frame' in a tag.

## 4.30. Audio seek point index

Audio files with variable bit rates are intrinsically difficult to deal with in the case of seeking within the file. The ASPI frame makes seeking easier by providing a list a seek points within the audio file. The seek points are a fractional offset within the audio data, providing a starting point from which to find an appropriate point to start decoding. The presence of an ASPI frame requires the existence of a TLEN frame, indicating the duration of the file in milliseconds. There may only be one 'audio seek point index' frame in a tag.

Then for every index point the following data is included;

Fraction at index (Fi) \$xx (xx)

'Indexed data start' is a byte offset from the beginning of the file. 'Indexed data length' is the byte length of the audio data being indexed. 'Number of index points' is the number of index points, as the name implies. The recommended number is 100. 'Bits per index point' is 8 or 16, depending on the chosen precision. 8 bits works well for short files (less than 5 minutes of audio), while 16 bits is advantageous for long files. 'Fraction at index' is the numerator of the fraction representing a relative position in the data. The denominator is 2 to the power of b.

Here are the algorithms to be used in the calculation. The known data must be the offset of the start of the indexed data (S), the offset of the end of the indexed data (E), the number of index points (N), the offset at index i (Oi). We calculate the fraction at index i (Fi).

Oi is the offset of the frame whose start is soonest after the point for which the time offset is (i/N \* duration).

The frame data should be calculated as follows:

```
Fi = 0i/L * 2^b (rounded down to the nearest integer)
```

Offset calculation should be calculated as follows from data in the frame:

```
0i = (Fi/2^b)*L (rounded up to the nearest integer)
```

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[CDDB] Compact Disc Data Base

```
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```

```
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   [ZLIB] P. Deutsch, Aladdin Enterprises & J-L. Gailly, "ZLIB
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7.
     Appendix
Α.
     Appendix A - Genre List from ID3v1
   The following genres is defined in ID3v1
      0.Blues
      1.Classic Rock
      2.Country
      3.Dance
      4.Disco
      5. Funk
      6.Grunge
      7.Hip-Hop
      8. Jazz
      9.Metal
     10.New Age
     11.0ldies
     12.0ther
     13.Pop
     14.R&B
     15. Rap
     16.Reggae
     17.Rock
     18. Techno
     19. Industrial
     20.Alternative
     21. Ska
     22.Death Metal
     23.Pranks
     24. Soundtrack
     25.Euro-Techno
     26.Ambient
     27.Trip-Hop
     28.Vocal
     29. Jazz+Funk
     30.Fusion
```

```
31.Trance
     32.Classical
     33.Instrumental
     34.Acid
     35. House
     36.Game
     37. Sound Clip
     38.Gospel
     39.Noise
     40.AlternRock
     41.Bass
     42.Soul
     43. Punk
     44. Space
     45.Meditative
     46.Instrumental Pop
     47.Instrumental Rock
     48.Ethnic
     49.Gothic
     50.Darkwave
     51. Techno-Industrial
     52.Electronic
     53.Pop-Folk
     54.Eurodance
     55.Dream
     56. Southern Rock
     57. Comedy
     58.Cult
     59. Gangsta
     60.Top 40
     61.Christian Rap
     62.Pop/Funk
     63.Jungle
     64.Native American
     65.Cabaret
     66.New Wave
     67.Psychedelic
     68.Rave
     69. Showtunes
     70.Trailer
     71.Lo-Fi
     72.Tribal
     73.Acid Punk
     74.Acid Jazz
     75.Polka
     76.Retro
     77.Musical
     78.Rock & Roll
     79. Hard Rock
     Author's Address
8.
   Written by
     Martin Nilsson
```

```
Rydsv�gen 246 C. 30
SE-584 34 Link�ping
Sweden
```

Email: nilsson at id3.org

id3v2.4.0-frames (last edited 2014-05-06 17:06:12 by DanONeill)

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