Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)

Chapter 5

Introduction

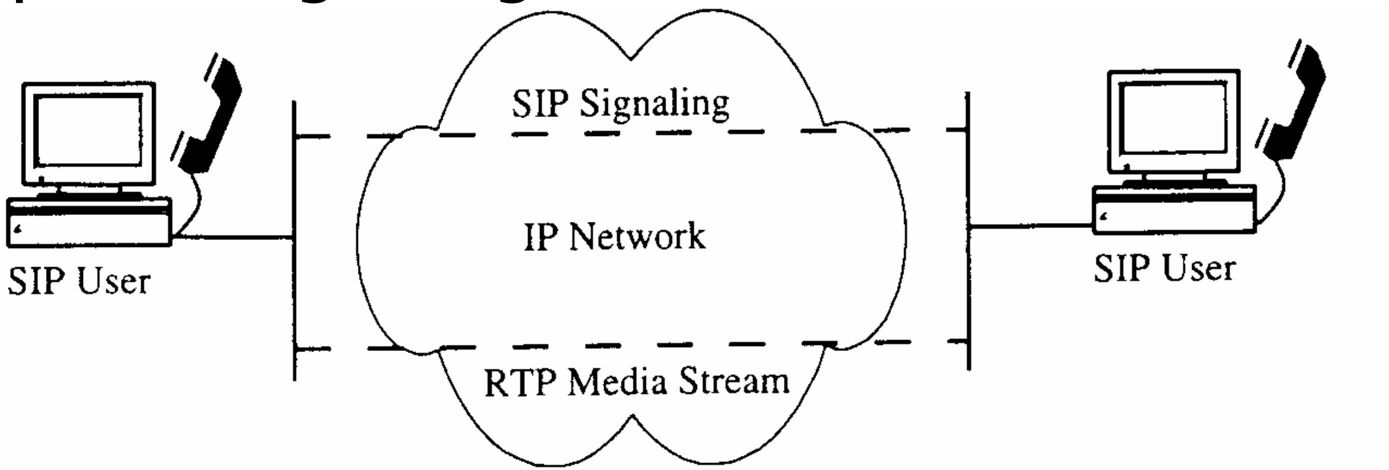
- A powerful alternative to H.323
- More flexible, simpler
- Easier to implement
  - Advanced features
- Better suited to the support of intelligent user devices
- A part of IETF multimedia data and control architecture
- SDP, RTSP (Real-Time Streaming Protocol), SAP (Session Announcement Protocol)

The Popularity of SIP

- Originally Developed in the MMUSIC (Multiparty Multimedia Session Control)
  - A separate SIP working group
  - RFC 2543
  - Many developers
  - The latest version: RFC 3261
- SIP + MGCP/MEGACO
  - The VoIP signaling in the future
- "bake-off"
  - Various vendors come together and test their products against each other
    - to ensure that they have implemented the specification correctly
    - to ensure compatibility with other implementations

SIP Architecture

- A signaling protocol
  - The setup, modification, and tear-down of multimedia sessions
- SIP + SDP
  - Describe the session characteristics
- Separate signaling and media streams

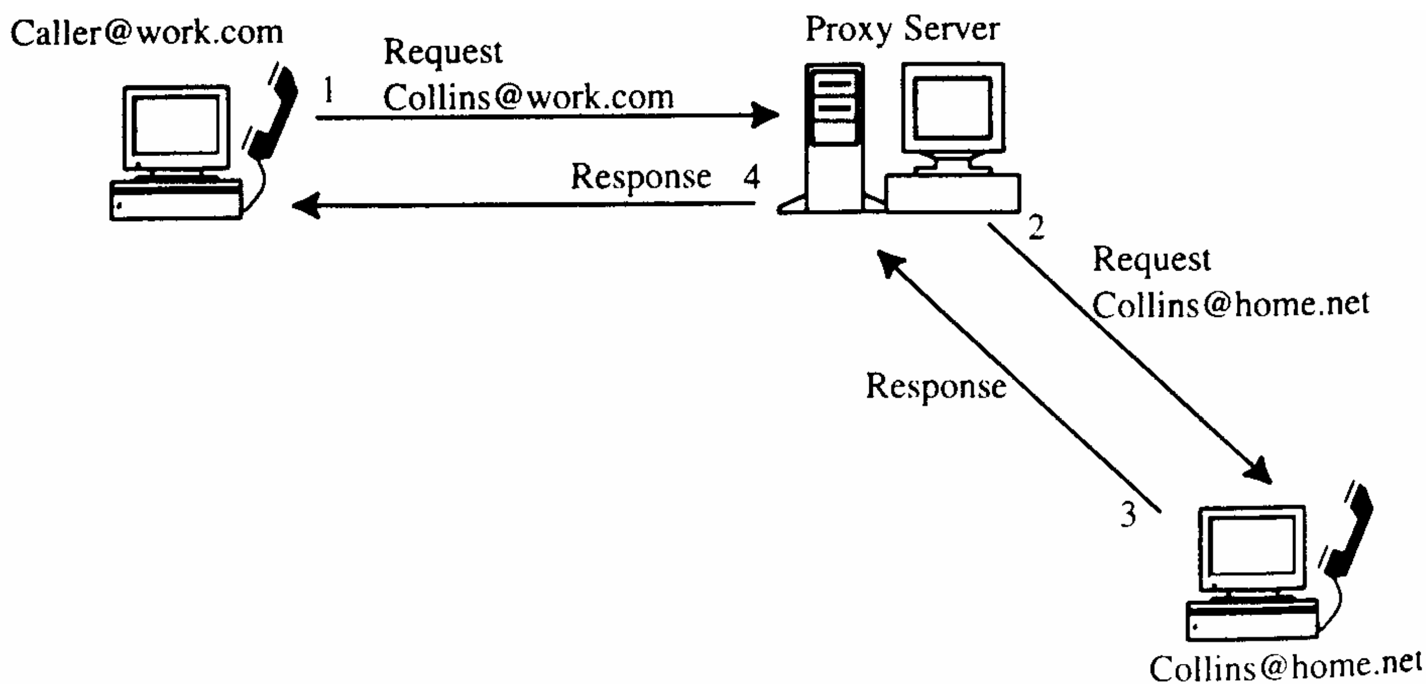


SIP Network Entities [1/4]

- Clients
  - User agent clients
  - Application programs sending SIP requests
- Servers
  - Responds to clients' requests
- Clients and servers may be in the same platform
- Proxy
  - Acts as both clients and servers

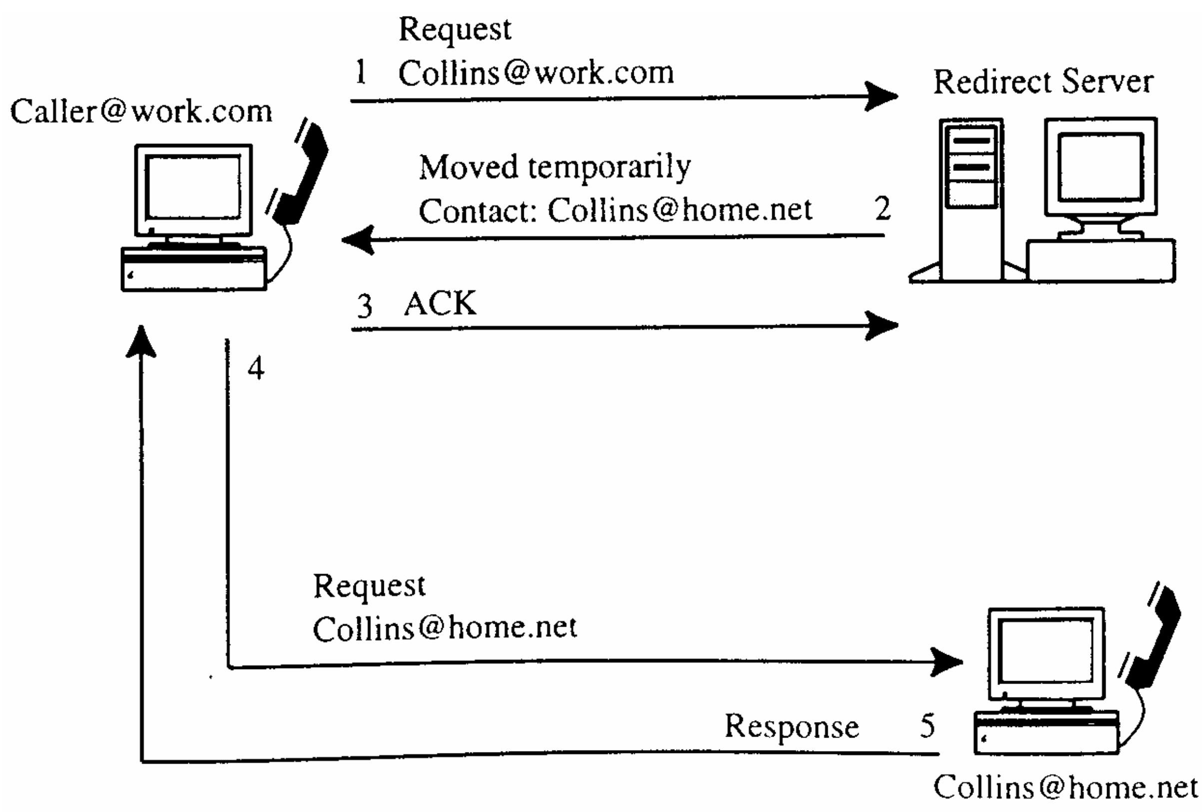
SIP Network Entities [2/4]

- Four types of servers
  - Proxy servers
    - Handle requests or forward requests to other servers
    - Can be used for call forwarding, time-of-day routing, or follow-me services



SIP Network Entities [3/4]

- Redirect servers
  - Map the destination address to zero or more new addresses

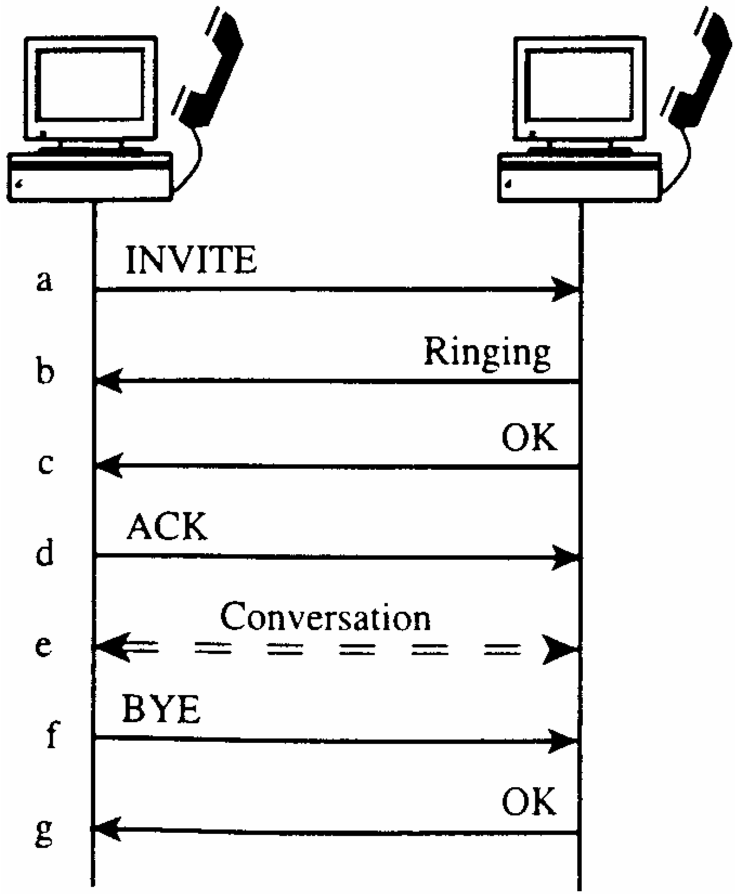


SIP Network Entities [4/4]

- A user agent server
  - Accepts SIP requests and contacts the user
  - The user responds → an SIP response
  - A SIP device
  - E.g., a SIP-enabled telephone
- A registrar
  - Accepts SIP REGISTER requests
    - Indicating that the user is at a particular address
    - Personal mobility
  - Typically combined with a proxy or redirect server

SIP Call Establishment

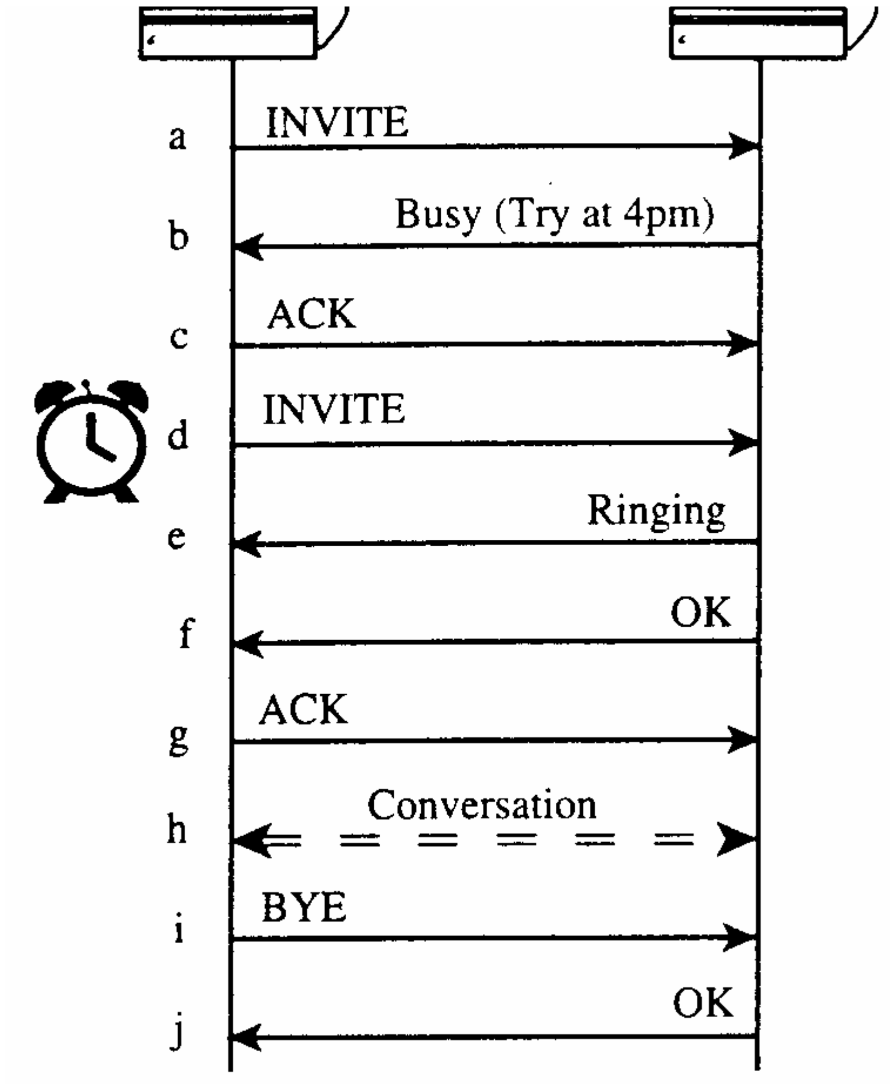
- It is simple, which contains a number of interim responses.



SIP Advantages

- Attempt to keep the signaling as simple as possible
- Offer a great deal of flexibility
  - Does not care what type of media is to be exchanged during a session or the type of transport to be used for the media
- Various pieces of information can be included within the messages
  - Including non-standard information
  - Enable the users to make intelligent decisions
    - The control of the intelligent features is placed in the hands of the customer, not the network operator.
  - E.g., SUBJECT header

Call Completion to Busy Subscriber Service



Overview of SIP Messaging Syntax

- Text-based
  - Similar to HTTP
  - Disadvantage – more bandwidth consumption
- SIP messages
  - message = start-line
    *message-header CRLF
    [message-body]
  - start-line = request-line | status-line
- Request-line specifies the type of request
- The response line indicates the success or failure of a given request.

- Message headers
  - Additional information of the request or response
  - E.g.,
    - The originator and recipient
    - Retry-after header
    - Subject header
- Message body
  - Describe the type of session
  - The most common structure for the message body is SDP (Session Description Protocol).
  - Could include an ISDN User Part message
  - Examined only at the two ends

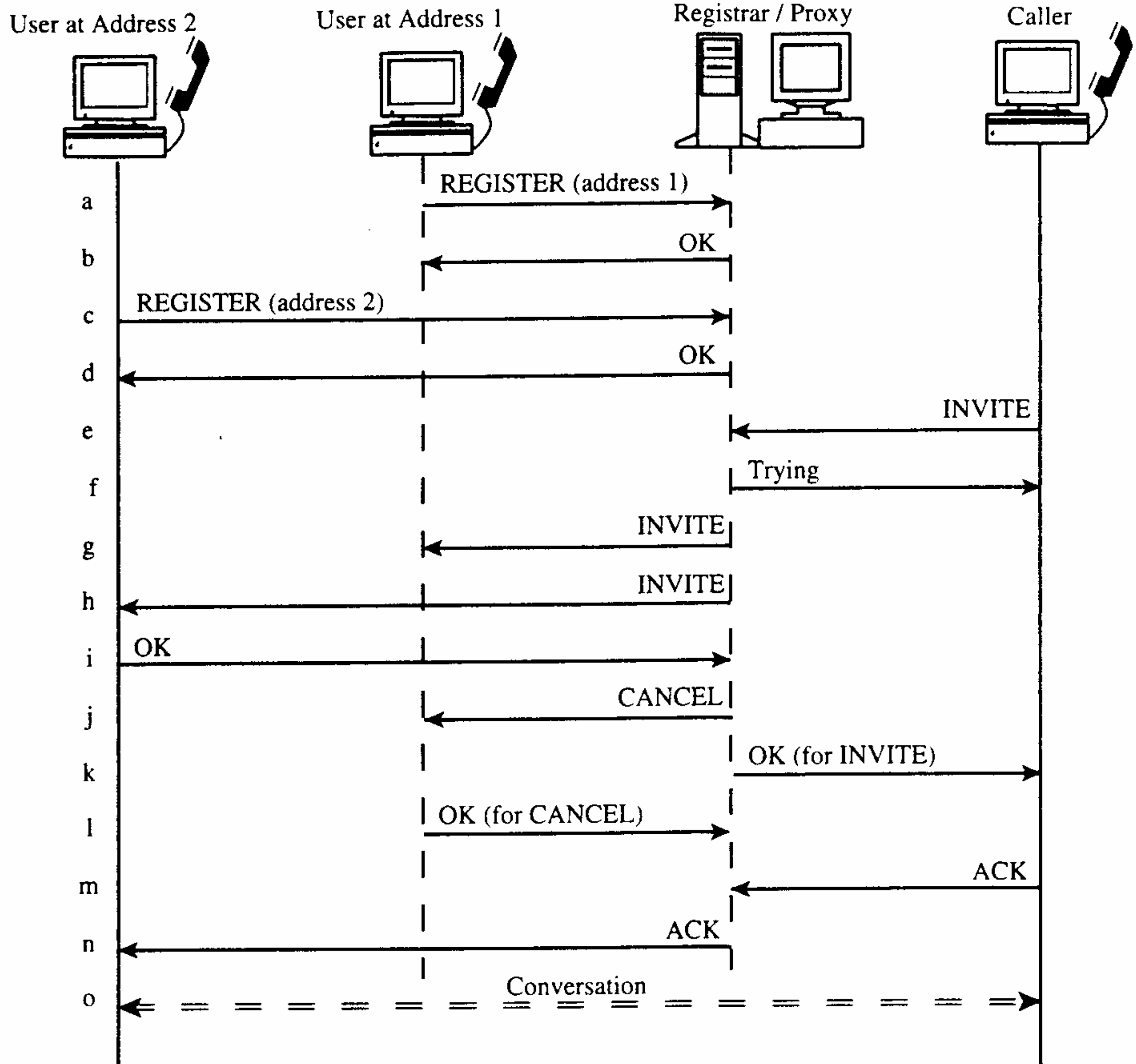
SIP Requests [1/2]

- Method SP Request-URI SP SIP-version CRLF
- Request-URI
  - The address of the destination
- Methods
  - INVITE, ACK, OPTIONS, BYE, CANCLE, REGISTER
  - INVITE
    - Initiate a session
    - Information of the calling and called parties
    - The type of media
    - $\sim$IAM (initial address message) of ISUP
    - ACK only when receiving the final response

SIP Requests [2/2]

- BYE
  - Terminate a session
  - Can be issued by either the calling or called party
- Options
  - Query a server as to its capabilities
    - A particular type of media
- CANCEL
  - Terminate a pending request
  - E.g., an INVITE did not receive a final response
- REGISTER
  - Log in and register the address with a SIP server
  - “all SIP servers” – multicast address (224.0.1.1750)
  - Can register with multiple servers
  - Can have several registrations with one server

"One number" service



SIP INFO Method

- Specified in RFC 2976
  - For transferring information during an ongoing session
- The transfer of DTMF digits
- The transfer of account balance information
  - Pre-paid service
- The transfer of mid-call signaling information

SIP Responses

- SIP Version SP Status Code SP Reason-Phrase CRLF
- Reason-Phrase
  - A textual description of the outcome
  - Could be presented to the user
- status code
  - A three-digit number
  - 1XX Informational
  - 2XX Success (only code 200 is defined)
  - 3XX Redirection
  - 4XX Request Failure
  - 5XX Server Failure
  - 6XX Global Failure
  - All responses, except for 1XX, are considered final
    - Should be ACKed

SIP Addressing

- SIP URLs (Uniform Resource Locators)
  - user@host
  - sip:collins@home.net
  - sip:3344556789@telco.net

Message Headers

- Provide further information about the message
- E.g.,
  - To:header in an INVITE
    - The called party
  - From:header
    - The calling party
- Four main categories
  - General, Request, Response, and Entity headers

General Headers

- Used in both requests and responses
- Basic information
  - E.g., To:, From:, Call-ID: (uniquely identifies a specific invitation to a session), …
- Contact:
  - Provides a URL for use in future communication regarding a particular session
  - Examples 1: In a SIP INVITE, the Contact header might be different from the From header.
    - An third-party administrator initiates a multiparty session.
  - Example 2: Used in response, it is useful for directing further requests directly to the called user.
  - Example 3: It is used to indicate a more appropriate address if an INVITE issued to a given URI failed to reach the user.

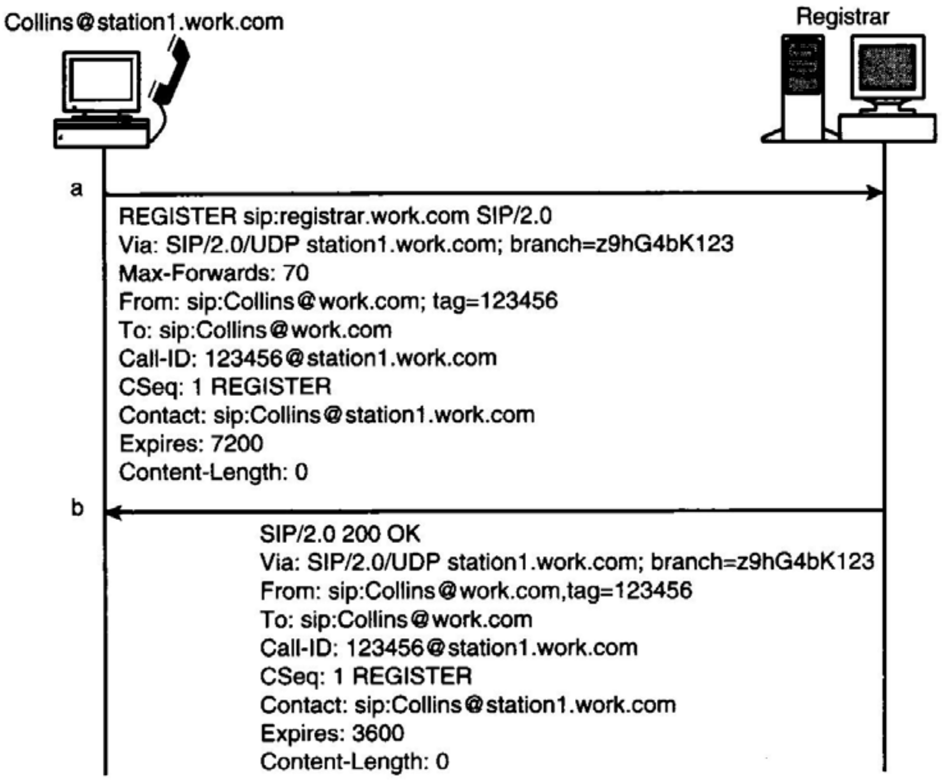
- Request Headers
  - Apply only to SIP requests
  - Addition information about the request or the client
  - E.g.,
    - Subject:
    - Priority:, urgency of the request (emergency, urgent, normal, or non-urgent)
- Response Headers
  - Further information about the response that cannot be included in the status line
  - E.g.,
    - Unsupported
    - Retry-After

Entity Headers

- Indicate the type and format of information included in the message body
- Content-Length: the length of the message body
- Content-Type: the media type of the message body
  - E.g., application/sdp
- Content-Encoding: for message compression
- Content Disposition: how a message part should be interpreted
  - session, alert …

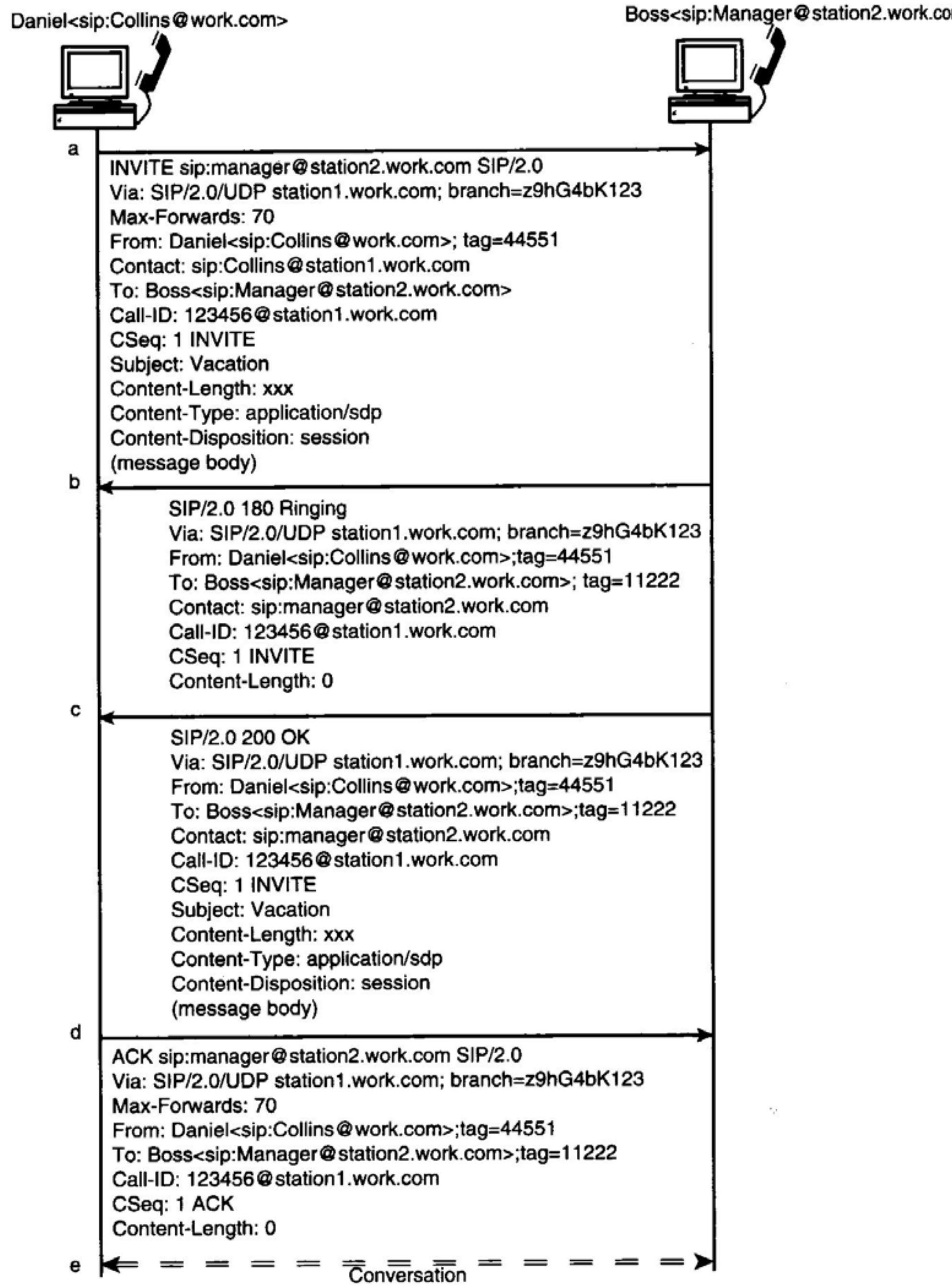
Examples of SIP Message Sequences

- Registration
  - Via:
  - From: and To:
  - Call-ID:
    - host-specific
  - Contact: (for future SIP message transmission)
    - *
  - Content-Length:
    - Zero, no msg body
  - CSeq:
    - A response to any request must use the same value of CSeq as used in the request.
  - Expires:
    - TTL
    - 0, unreg



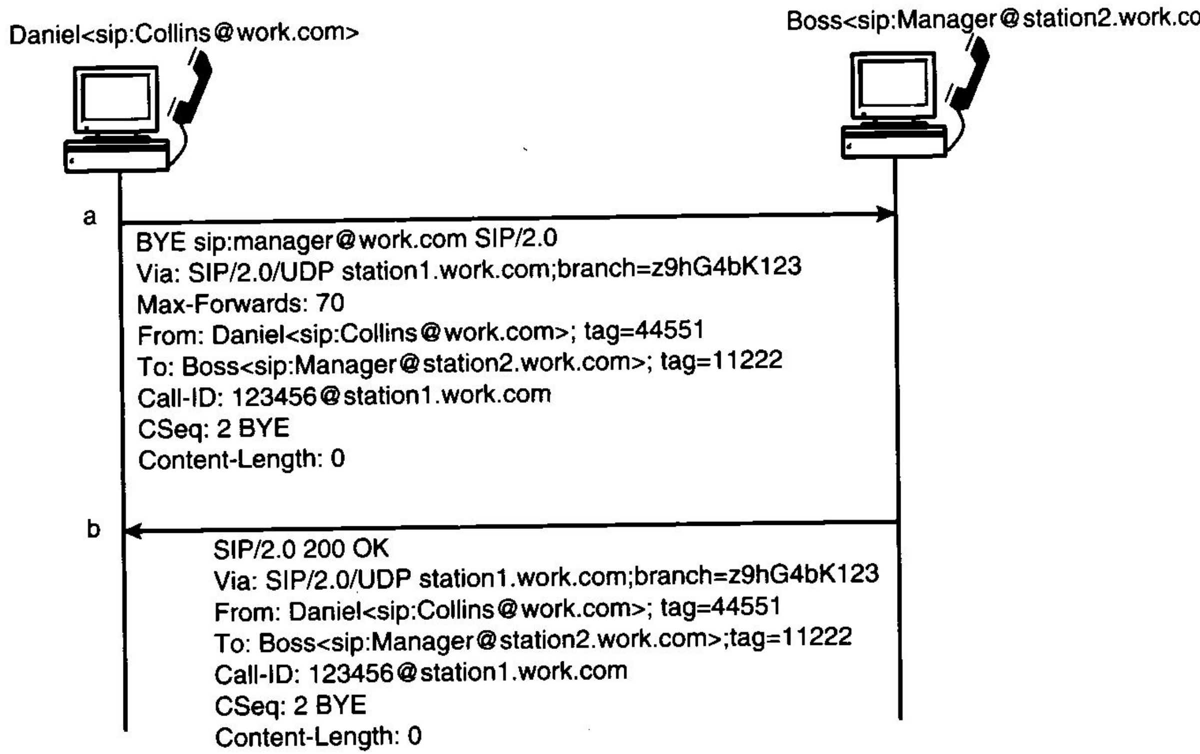
Invitation

- A two-party call
  - Subject:
    - optional
  - Content-Type:
    - application/sdp
  - A dialog ID
    - To identify a peer-to-peer relationship between two user agents
    - Tag in From
    - Tag in To
    - Call-ID



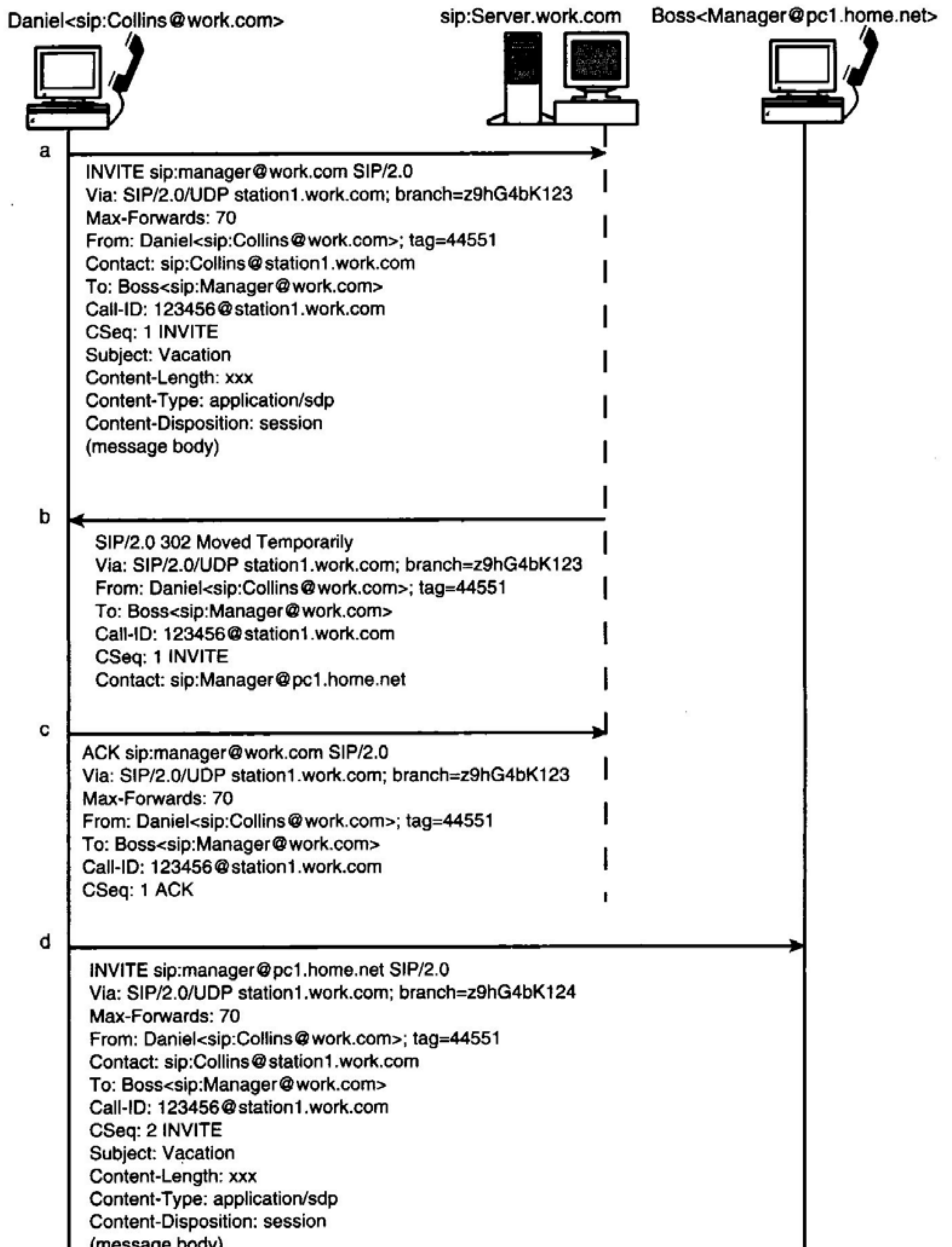
Termination of a Call

- Cseq:
  - Has changed



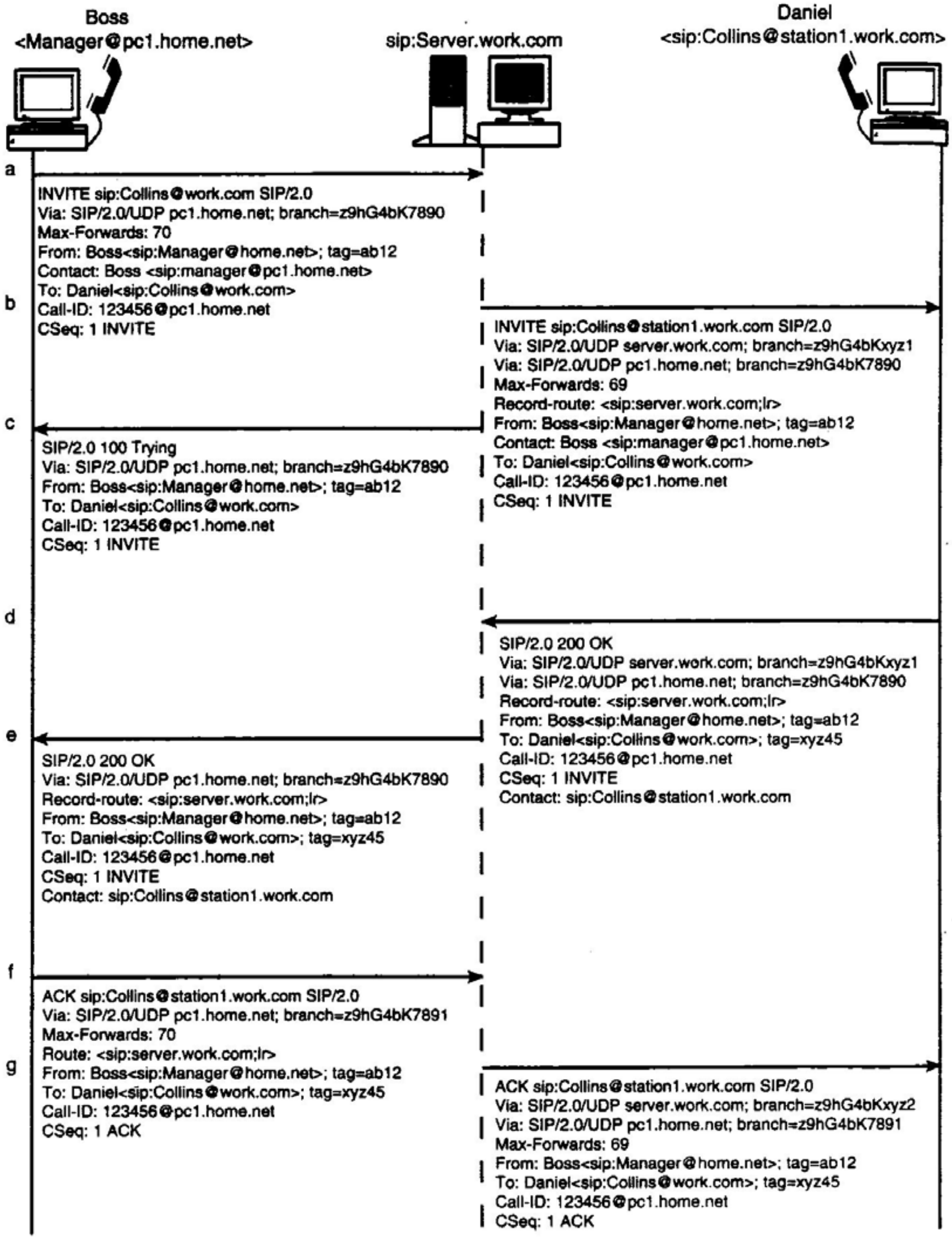
Redirect Servers

- An alternative address
  - 302, Moved temporarily
- Another INVITE
  - Same Call-ID
  - CSeq ++



Proxy Servers

- Sits between a user-agent client and the far-end user-agent server
- Numerous proxies can reside in a chain between the caller and callee.
- The last proxy may change the Request-URI.
- Via:
  - The path taken by a request
  - Loop detected, 482 (status code)
  - For a response
    - The 1^{st} Via: header
    - Checked
    - Removed
  - Branch: used to distinguish between multiple responses to the same request
    - Forking Proxy: Issue a single request to multiple destinations

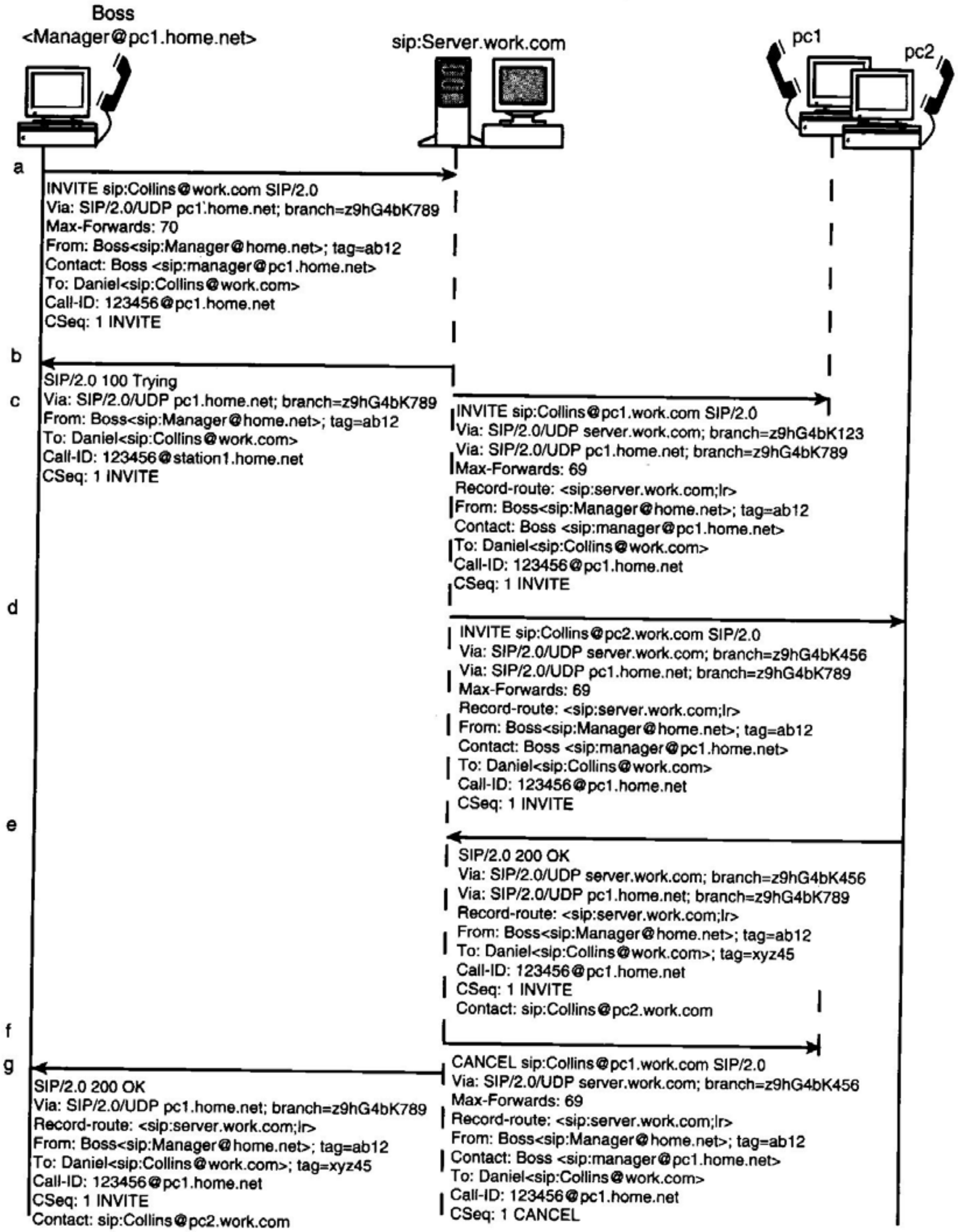

Boss
<Manager@pc1.home.net>
sip:Server.work.com
Daniel
<sip:Collins@station1.work.com>
a
INVITE sip:Collins@work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK7890
Max-Forwards: 70
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
Contact: Boss <sip:manager@pc1.home.net>
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
b
INVITE sip:Collins@station1.work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP server.work.com; branch=z9hG4bKxyz1
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK7890
Max-Forwards: 69
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
Contact: Boss <sip:manager@pc1.home.net>
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
c
SIP/2.0 100 Trying
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK7890
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
d
SIP/2.0 200 OK
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP server.work.com; branch=z9hG4bKxyz1
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK7890
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>; tag=xyz45
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
Contact: sip:Collins@station1.work.com
e
SIP/2.0 200 OK
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK7890
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>; tag=xyz45
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
Contact: sip:Collins@station1.work.com
f
ACK sip:Collins@station1.work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK7891
Max-Forwards: 70
Route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>; tag=xyz45
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 ACK
g
ACK sip:Collins@station1.work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP server.work.com; branch=z9hG4bKxyz2
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK7891
Max-Forwards: 69
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>; tag=xyz45
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 ACK

Proxy state

- Can be either stateless or stateful
- Record-Route:
  - The messages and responses may not pass through the same proxy
    - Use Contact:
  - A Proxy might require that it remains in the signaling path
    - In particular, for a stateful proxy
  - Insert its address into the Record-Route: header
  - The response includes the Record-Route: header
  - The information contained in the Record-Route: header is used in the subsequent requests related to the same call.
  - The Route: header = the Record-Route: header in reverse order

Forking Proxy

- “fork” requests
- A user is registered at several locations
  - ;branch=xxx
- In order to handle such forking, a proxy must be stateful.



Boss
<Manager@pc1.home.net>
sip:Server.work.com
pc1
pc2
a
INVITE sip:Collins@work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK789
Max-Forwards: 70
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
Contact: Boss <sip:manager@pc1.home.net>
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
b
SIP/2.0 100 Trying
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK789
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@station1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
c
INVITE sip:Collins@pc1.work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP server.work.com; branch=z9hG4bK123
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK789
Max-Forwards: 69
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
Contact: Boss <sip:manager@pc1.home.net>
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
d
INVITE sip:Collins@pc2.work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP server.work.com; branch=z9hG4bK456
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK789
Max-Forwards: 69
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
Contact: Boss <sip:manager@pc1.home.net>
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
e
SIP/2.0 200 OK
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP server.work.com; branch=z9hG4bK456
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK789
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>; tag=xyz45
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
Contact: sip:Collins@pc2.work.com
f
CANCEL sip:Collins@pc1.work.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP server.work.com; branch=z9hG4bK456
Max-Forwards: 69
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
Contact: Boss <sip:manager@pc1.home.net>
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 CANCEL
g
SIP/2.0 200 OK
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP pc1.home.net; branch=z9hG4bK789
Record-route: <sip:server.work.com;lr>
From: Boss<sip:Manager@home.net>; tag=ab12
To: Daniel<sip:Collins@work.com>; tag=xyz45
Call-ID: 123456@pc1.home.net
CSeq: 1 INVITE
Contact: sip:Collins@pc2.work.com