

[MS-OXOTASK]: Task-Related Objects Protocol Specification

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Revision Summary			
Author	Date	Version	Comments
Microsoft Corporation	April 4, 2008	0.1	Initial Availability

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1 Introduction

This document specifies the Task-Related Objects Protocol, which defines several objects that model the electronic equivalent of tasks, task assignments, and task updates. These objects maintain basic task information, such as a description, notes, due date, reminder time, status, assignment acceptance, and more.

1.1 Glossary

The following terms are defined in [MS-OXGLOS]

EntryID
attachment object
BCC recipient
CC recipient
Folder object
GUID
message object
primary recipient
property (1)
public folder
recipient
recurrence pattern
reminder
special folder
task object
task request
Unicode
UTC

The following terms are specific to this document:

display name: A label used to identify an object to the user.
recurring task: A series of tasks described by a **recurrence pattern**.
task acceptance: A **message object** used to convey acceptance of a task assignment.
task assignee: A user to whom a task has been assigned.
task assigner: A user who assigns a task to another user.
task communications: Collectively, **task requests**, **task acceptances**, **task rejections**, and **task updates**.
task owner: The user responsible for updating a task. For unassigned tasks, the local user is the owner; the **task assignee** is the owner of assigned tasks.
task rejection: A **message object** used to convey rejection of a task assignment.
task responses: Collectively, **task acceptances** and **task rejections**.

task update: A **message object** used by a **task assignee** to send task changes to a task assigner.

MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT: These terms (in all caps) are used as described in [RFC2119]. All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

1.2 References

1.2.1 Normative References

[MS-DTYP] Microsoft Corporation, "Windows Data Types", March 2007, <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111558>.

[MS-OXCMSG] Microsoft Corporation, "Message and Attachment Object Protocol Specification", April 2008.

[MS-OXCPRPT] Microsoft Corporation, "Property and Stream Object Protocol Specification", April 2008.

[MS-OXCTABL] Microsoft Corporation, "Table Object Protocol Specification", April 2008.

[MS-OXGLOS] Microsoft Corporation, "Office Exchange Protocols Master Glossary", April 2008.

[MS-OXOCAL] Microsoft Corporation, "Appointment and Meeting Object Protocol Specification", April 2008.

[MS-OXOMSG] Microsoft Corporation, "E-mail Object Protocol Specification", April 2008.

[MS-OXORMDR] Microsoft Corporation, "Reminder Settings Protocol Specification", April 2008.

[MS-OXPROPS] Microsoft Corporation, "Office Exchange Protocols Master Property List Specification", April 2008.

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>.

1.2.2 Informative References

None.

1.3 Protocol Overview (Synopsis)

The Task-Related Objects Protocol provides an electronic mechanism for tracking tasks, to-do items, and assignments.

The Task-Related Objects Protocol allows the representation of task-related message objects in a messaging store. It extends the Message and Attachment Object Protocol in that it defines new properties and adds restrictions to the properties that are defined by the Message and Attachment Object Protocol. For details about the Message and Attachment Object Protocol, see [MS-OXCMSG].

The task representation is a **task object**. The properties that are specific to a task object facilitate retaining information about the task's due date, assignment status, and anticipated work effort, among other things. A task object is stored in a **folder object**. The Task-Related Objects Protocol specifies how a task object is created and manipulated. It also specifies how task assignments are made, confirmed, and updated through the use of task communications, which include **task requests**, **task acceptances**, **task rejections**, and **task updates**. The Task-Related Objects Protocol also specifies how a series of tasks can be generated from a single task object with a **recurrence pattern**.

1.4 Relationship to Other Protocols

The Task-Related Objects Protocol has the same dependencies as the Message and Attachment Object Protocol, which it extends. For details about the Message and Attachment Object Protocol, see [MS-OXCMSG].

The Task-Related Objects Protocol is a peer of the E-mail Object Protocol, and uses a subset of the properties and ROPs specified in [MS-OXOMSG].

1.5 Prerequisites/Preconditions

The Task-Related Objects Protocol has the same prerequisites and preconditions as the Message and Attachment Object Protocol.

1.6 Applicability Statement

None.

1.7 Versioning and Capability Negotiation

None.

1.8 Vendor-Extensible Fields

This protocol provides no vendor-extensibility beyond what is already specified in [MS-OXCMSG].

1.9 Standards Assignments

None.

2 Messages

2.1 Transport

The Task-Related Objects Protocol uses the protocols as specified in [MS-OXCPRPT] and [MS-OXCMSG] as its primary transport mechanism.

2.2 Message Syntax

A task object and a **task communication** can be created and modified by clients and servers. Except where noted below, this section defines constraints under which both clients and servers operate.

Clients operate on task objects and task communications by using the Message and Attachment Object protocol, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG]. How a server operates on task objects and task communications is implementation-dependent, but the results of any such operations have to be exposed to clients in a manner that is consistent with the Task-Related Objects Protocol.

Unless otherwise specified below, a task object and a task communication adhere to all property constraints specified in [MS-OXPROPS] and all property constraints specified in [MS-OXCMSG]. A task object and a task communication MAY <1><2><3> also contain other properties, which are specified in [MS-OXPROPS], but these properties have no impact on the Task-Related Objects Protocol.

2.2.1 Folder Properties

Properties in this section are set on a folder object in which task objects are stored.

2.2.1.1 PidTagOrdinalMost

Type: PtypInteger32

Contains a positive number whose negative is less than or equal to the value of PidLidTaskOrdinal of all task objects in the folder. This **property** MUST be updated to maintain this condition whenever the PidLidTaskOrdinal property of any task object in the folder changes in a way that would violate the condition.

2.2.2 Task Object Properties

This section specifies property requirements for task objects.

2.2.2.1 Additional Property Constraints

In some cases, the task object has specific requirements for properties that are otherwise inherited. This section specifies these specific requirements.

2.2.2.1.1 PidTagMessageClass

Type: PtypString8, case-insensitive

Specifies the type of the **message object**. The value MUST be “IPM.Task” or begin with “IPM.Task.”.

2.2.2.1.2 Body properties

The specifications in [MS-OXCMSG] regarding Rich Text body properties apply to task objects.

2.2.2.1.3 PidLidCommonStart

Type: PtypTime, UTC

This value MUST be the UTC equivalent of PidLidTaskStartDate.

2.2.2.1.4 PidLidCommonEnd

Type: PtypTime, UTC

This value MUST be the UTC equivalent of PidLidTaskDueDate.

2.2.2.1.5 PidTagIconIndex

Type: PtypInteger32

Specifies which icon is to be used by a user interface to represent this task object. The value MUST be one of the following:

Value	Meaning
0x00000501	The task object has not been assigned and is a recurring task .
0x00000502	The task object is the task assignee's copy of the task object.
0x00000503	The task object is the task assigner's copy of the task object.
0x00000500	None of the other conditions apply.

2.2.2.2 Task Object Specific Properties

2.2.2.2.1 PidLidTaskMode

Type: PtypInteger32

Specifies the assignment status of the task object. The value MUST be one of the following:

Value	Meaning
0x00000000	The task object is not assigned.
0x00000001	The task object is embedded in a task request.
0x00000002	The task object has been accepted by the task assignee.
0x00000003	The task object was rejected by the task assignee.
0x00000004	The task object is embedded in a task update.
0x00000005	The task object was assigned to the task assigner (self-delegation).

2.2.2.2.2 PidLidTaskStatus

Type: PtypInteger32

Specifies the status of the user's progress of the task. The value MUST be set to one of the following:

Value	Meaning
0x00000000	The user has not started work on the task object. If this value is set, PidLidPercentComplete MUST be 0.0.
0x00000001	The user's work on this task object is in progress. If this value is set, PidLidPercentComplete MUST be greater than 0.0 and less than 1.0.
0x00000002	The user's work on this task object is complete. If this value is set, PidLidPercentComplete MUST be 1.0, PidLidTaskDateCompleted MUST be the current date, and PidLidTaskComplete MUST be 0x01.
0x00000003	The user is waiting on somebody else.
0x00000004	The user has deferred work on the task object.

2.2.2.2.3 PidLidPercentComplete

Type: PtypFloating64

Indicates the progress the user has made on a task. The value MUST be a number greater than or equal to 0.0 and less than or equal to 1.0, where 1.0 indicates that work is completed and 0.0 indicates that work has not begun.

2.2.2.2.4 PidLidTaskStartDate

Type: PtypTime, in the user's local time zone.

The date on which the user expects work on the task to begin. If left unset, the task does not have a start date. A value of 0x5AE980E0 (1,525,252,320) also means that the task does not have a start date. If the task has a start date, the value MUST have a time component of 12:00 midnight, and PidLidTaskDueDate and PidLidCommonStart MUST also be set.

2.2.2.2.5 PidLidTaskDueDate

Type: PtypTime, in the user's local time zone

The date by which the user expects work on the task to be complete. The task has no due date if this property is unset or set to 0x5AE980E0 (1,525,252,320). However, a due date is optional only if no start date is indicated in PidLidTaskStartDate. If the task has a due date, the value MUST have a time component of 12:00 midnight, and PidTagCommonEnd MUST also be set. If PidLidTaskStartDate has a start date, then the value of this property MUST be greater than or equal to the value of PidLidTaskStartDate.

2.2.2.2.6 PidLidTaskResetReminder

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates whether future instances of recurring tasks need **reminders**, even though PidLidTaskReminderSet is 0x00. This value is set to 0x01 when the task's reminder is dismissed, and set to 0x00 otherwise. If left unset, a default of 0x00 is assumed.

As specified in [MS-OXORMDR], the PidLidReminderSet property indicates whether a reminder is set on the task object. However, this property only indicates the presence of a

reminder on a single task object. It can't be used alone to determine whether a future instance of a recurring task needs a reminder.

This is best understood by example. Suppose that the user desires reminders for a series of recurring tasks. The client creates a task object and sets PidLidReminderSet to 0x01. At the appropriate time, the client presents the user with a reminder. When the user dismisses the reminder, the client sets PidLidReminderSet to 0x00 (and sets PidLidResetReminder to 0x01). Later, the user completes the task and the client generates a new occurrence of the task object. As stated, the user wanted the new occurrence to have a reminder, but the last known value of PidLidReminderSet was 0x00. The client uses the 0x01 value of PidLidTaskResetReminder to decide that the user had set and dismissed a reminder on a previous occurrence of the task. If the value had been 0x00, the client would decide that the user had never set a reminder on the task at all. The client sets a new reminder, as specified in [MS-OXCRMDR], if either PidLidReminderSet or PidLidResetReminder is 0x01.

2.2.2.2.7 PidLidTaskAccepted

Type: PidTypeBoolean

Indicates whether a task assignee has replied to a task request for this task object. The client sets this property to 0x00 for a new task object and to 0x01 when a task object is either accepted or rejected. If left unset, a value of 0x00 is assumed.

2.2.2.2.8 PidLidTaskDeadOccur

Type: PidTypeBoolean

Indicates whether new occurrences remain to be generated.

A recurrence pattern is no longer in effect when its final instance is in the past or its specified number of instances has been generated.

The client sets this property to 0x00 for a new task object and to 0x01 when it generates the last instance of a recurring task. Also, when copying a task object as part of generating a new instance, this property is set to 0x01 on the copy (which is the completed instance).

2.2.2.2.9 PidLidTaskDateCompleted

Type: PidTypeTime, in UTC.

The date when the user completed work on the task. MAY be left unset; if set, this property MUST have a time component of 12:00 midnight in the local time zone, converted to UTC.

2.2.2.2.10 PidLidTaskLastUpdate

Type: PidTypeTime, in UTC

The date and time of the most recent change made to the task object (indicated by PidLidTaskHistory).

2.2.2.2.11 PidLidTaskActualEffort

Type: PtypInteger32

Indicates the number of minutes that the user actually spent working on a task. The value MUST be greater than or equal to zero and less than 0x5AE980DF (1,525,252,319), where 480 minutes equal one day and 2400 minutes equal one week (8 hours in a work day and 5 work days in a work week).

2.2.2.2.12 PidLidTaskEstimatedEffort

Type: PtypInteger32

Indicates the number of minutes that the user expects to work on a task. The value MUST be greater than or equal to zero and less than 0x5AE980DF (1,525,252,319), where 480 minutes equal one day and 2400 minutes equal one week (8 hours in a work day and 5 work days in a work week).

2.2.2.2.13 PidLidTaskVersion

Type: PtypInteger32

Indicates which copy is the latest update of a task object. An update with a lower version than the task object is ignored. When embedding a task object in a task communication, the client sets the current version of the embedded task object on the task communication as well.

2.2.2.2.14 PidLidTaskState

Type: PtypInteger32

Indicates the current assignment state of the task object; MUST be one of the following:

Value	Meaning
0x00000001	The task object is not assigned.
0x00000002	The task object is the task assignee's copy of an assigned task object.
0x00000003	The task object is the task assigner's copy of an assigned task object.
0x00000004	The task object is the task assigner's copy of a rejected task object.
0x00000000	This task object was created to correspond to a task object that was embedded in a task rejection but could not be found locally.

2.2.2.2.15 PidLidTaskRecur

Type: PtypBinary

Contains a RecurrencePattern structure that provides information about recurring tasks. For a complete specification of the format of the RecurrencePattern structure, see the RecurrencePattern Structure section of the PidLidApptRecur property as specified in [MS-OXOCAL].

2.2.2.2.16 PidLidTaskAssigners

Type: PtypBinary

Contains a stack of entries, each representing a task assigner. The most recent task assigner (that is, the top of the stack) appears at the end.

Size in bytes	Type	Name	Notes
4	PtypInteger32	cAssigners	Number of task assigners
4	PtypInteger32	cbAssigner	Size of the task assigner data to follow, in BYTES
variable	Address Book EntryID	EID	Task assigner's Address Book EntryID
Variable	PtypString8	szDisplayName	Task assigner's display name .
Variable	PtypString, as Unicode	wzDisplayName	Task assigner's display name.
Next task assigner's data begin here; there are cAssigners of them.			

When the client receives a task request, it appends to this property an entry representing the sender of the task request, pursuant to the structure specified above.

When the client receives a task rejection, the client removes the last task assigner entry from this property, pursuant to the structure specified above.

When the client sends a **task response**, the client sends it to the last task assigner listed in the value of this property. <4>

2.2.2.2.17 PidLidTaskStatusOnComplete

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates whether the task assignee has been requested to send an e-mail update when the task assignee completes the assigned task.

2.2.2.2.18 PidLidTaskHistory

Type: PtypInteger32.

Indicates the type of change that was last made to the task object. When setting the value of this property, the PidLidTaskLastUpdate property MUST also be set to the current time.

The value MUST be one of the following (listed in order of decreasing priority):

Value	Meaning
0x00000004	The PidLidTaskDueDate property changed.
0x00000003	Another property was changed.
0x00000001	The task assignee accepted this task object.
0x00000002	The task assignee rejected this task object.
0x00000005	The task object has been assigned to a task assignee.
0x00000000	No changes were made.

2.2.2.2.19 PidLidTaskUpdates

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates whether the task assignee has been requested to send a task update when the assigned task object changes.

2.2.2.2.20 PidLidTaskComplete

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates that the task has been completed.

2.2.2.2.21 PidLidTaskFCreator

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates that the task object was originally created by the action of the current user or user agent instead of by the processing of a task request. The client sets this to 0x01 when the user creates the task and to 0x00 when the task was assigned by another user. If left unset, a value of 0x01 is assumed.

2.2.2.2.22 PidLidTaskOwner

Type: PtypString

The name of the **task owner**.

2.2.2.2.23 PidLidTaskMultipleRecipients

Type: PtypInteger32

Provides optimization hints about the **recipients** of a task object.

This property MAY be left unset; if set, it MUST be set to a bitwise OR of zero or more of the following values:

Name	Value	Meaning
Sent	0x00000001	The task object has multiple primary recipients .
Received	0x00000002	Although the “Sent” hint was not present, the client detected that the task object has multiple primary recipients.
Reserved	0x00000004	This value is reserved<5>.

2.2.2.2.24 PidLidTaskAssigner

Type: PtypString

The name of the user that last assigned the task. Left unset if the task has not been assigned.

Since this property is set by the client after the task assignee receives a task request, the property will not be set on the task assigner’s copy of the task object.

When the client adds or removes a task assigner from the stack of task assigners listed in the PidLidTaskAssigners, this property MUST be set to the added or removed task assigner.

2.2.2.2.25 PidLidTaskLastUser

Type: PtypString

The name of the most recent user to have been the task's owner.

Before a client sends a task request, it sets this property to the name of the task assigner.

Before a client sends a task acceptance, it sets this property to the name of the task assignee.

Before a client sends a task rejection, it sets this property to the name of the task assigner.

2.2.2.2.26 PidLidTaskOrdinal

Type: PtypInteger32

An aid to custom sorting of task objects. MAY be left unset; if set, MUST be greater than 0x800186A0 (-2,147,383,648) and less than 0x7FFE7960 (2,147,383,648) and MUST be unique among task objects in the same folder.

Whenever the client sets this property to a number less than the negative of the current value of PidTagOrdinalMost on the folder, it MUST also update PidTagOrdinalMost on the folder.

The PidTagOrdinalMost property of the folder provides an efficient way to determine a unique value among task objects in the same folder.

2.2.2.2.27 PidLidTaskLastDelegate

Type: PtypString

The name of the user who most recently assigned the task, or the user to whom it was most recently assigned.

Before sending a task request, the client sets this property to the name of the task assigner.

Before sending a task response, the client sets this property to the name of the task assignee.

2.2.2.2.28 PidLidTaskFRecurring

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates whether the task includes a recurrence pattern. If left unset, a default value of 0x00 is assumed. If set to 0x01, the PidLidTaskRecur and PidLidTaskDeadOccur properties MUST also be set, as specified above.

2.2.2.2.29 PidLidTaskOwnership

Type: PtypInteger32

Indicates the role of the current user relative to the task object. MUST be one of the following values:

Value	Meaning
0x00000000	The task object is not assigned.
0x00000001	The task object is the task assigner's copy of the task object.
0x00000002	The task object is the task assignee's copy of the task object.

2.2.2.2.30 PidLidTaskAcceptanceState

Type: PtypInteger32

Indicates the acceptance state of the task. MUST be one of the following values:

Value	Meaning
0x00000000	The task object is not assigned.
0x00000001	The task object's acceptance status is unknown.
0x00000002	The task assignee has accepted the task object. This value is set when the client processes a task acceptance.
0x00000003	The task assignee has rejected the task object. This value is set when the client processes a task rejection.

2.2.2.2.31 PidLidTaskFFixOffline

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates the accuracy of PidLidTaskOwner.

Value	Meaning
0x00 or unset	The value for PidLidTaskOwner is correct.
0x01	The client cannot determine an accurate value for PidLidTaskOwner.

When setting a value of 0x01, the client MAY also set the PidLidTaskOwner property to a generic owner name, such as "Unknown".

A client that discovers a value of 0x01 in this property and that can determine an accurate owner name updates PidLidTaskOwner and sets the value of this property to 0x00.

2.2.2.32 PidLidTaskGlobalId

Type: PtypBinary

A unique **GUID** for this task, used to locate an existing task upon receipt of a task response or task update. This property is left unset for unassigned tasks.

2.2.3 Task Communications Properties

This section specifies property requirements that are specific to task requests, task acceptances, task rejections, and task updates (collectively, task communications).

2.2.3.1 PidTagProcessed

Type: PtypBoolean

Indicates whether a client has already processed a received task communication. Left unset until processing has completed, then set to 0x01.

2.2.3.2 PidLidTaskMode

Type: PtypInteger32

Specifies the assignment status of the embedded task object. The value MUST be the same value that is stored in the PidLidTaskMode property of the embedded task object.

2.2.3.3 Additional Property Constraints

In some cases, the task communication has specific requirements for properties that are otherwise inherited. This section specifies these specific requirements.

2.2.3.3.1 PidTagMessageClass

Type: PtypString8, case-insensitive

Specifying the type of the message object. The value MUST be one of the following strings:

String	Type of Task Communication
"IPM.TaskRequest"	task request
"IPM.TaskRequest.Accept"	task acceptance
"IPM.TaskRequest.Decline"	task rejection
"IPM.TaskRequest.Update"	task update

2.2.3.3.2 PidTagIconIndex

Type: PtypInteger32

Specifies which icon is to be used by a user interface to represent this task communication. The value MUST be one of the following:

Value	Type of Task Communication
0x00000504	task request
0x00000505	task acceptance
0x00000506	task rejection
0x00000500	task update
0xFFFFFFF	Unspecified

3 Protocol Details

General protocol details, as specified in [MS-OXPROPS] and [MS-OXCMSG], apply, unless otherwise specified below.

3.1 Client Details

The client role is to create and manipulate task message objects, and otherwise operates in its roles as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].

3.1.1 Abstract Data Model

This section describes a conceptual model of possible data organization that an implementation maintains to participate in this protocol. The described organization is provided to facilitate the explanation of how the protocol behaves. This document does not mandate that implementations adhere to this model as long as their external behavior is consistent with that described in this document.

3.1.1.1 Task Objects and Task Communications

Task objects and task communications extend the property bag object, as specified in [MS-OXCPRPT].

3.1.1.2 Folder Objects for Task Objects

A task object is created in the Tasks **special folder** unless the end user or user agent explicitly specifies another folder object.

3.1.2 Timers

None.

3.1.3 Initialization

None.

3.1.4 Higher-Layer Triggered Events

3.1.4.1 Creation of Task Objects and Task Communications

To create task objects and task communications, the client or server creates a message object as specified in [MS-OXCMSG], sets properties in accordance with the requirements in section 2 and [MS-OXCPRPT], and saves and/or submits the resulting message objects as specified in [MS-OXCMSG] and [MS-OXOMSG].

3.1.4.2 Modification of Task Objects and Task Communications

When modifying task objects and task communications, the client or server opens a message object as specified in [MS-OXCMSG], modifies any of the properties in accordance with the requirements in section 2 and [MS-OXCPRPT], and saves the message object as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].

3.1.4.3 Embedding Task Objects

A task communication conveys a request or response about a task object. In order to identify the task object, the client embeds a copy of the task object as an **attachment object** within the task communication (the embedding object).

To embed a task object, the client **MUST** follow these steps, in order:

1. Create an attachment object on the embedding object, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG]. This attachment **MUST** be the first attachment object created on the embedding object.
2. Set PidTagAttachMethod to afEmbeddedMessage (0x00000005), PidTagRenderingPosition to 0xFFFFFFFF, and PidTagAttachmentHidden to 0x01, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG] <6>.
3. Open the attachment object as an embedded message object, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].

4. Set the appropriate properties of the embedded message object (the embedded task object) as specified throughout this document.
5. If the original task object has a PidLidTaskGlobalId property, then copy it to the embedded task object. Otherwise, set the value of the embedded task object's PidLidTaskGlobalId property to a new, unique GUID.
6. Save the embedded message object, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].
7. Save the attachment object, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].
8. Release the message object, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].
9. Release the attachment object, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].

3.1.4.4 Creating Task Objects and Task Communications

Task objects and task communications are all created the same way. They differ in the properties and property values that are set on them.

To create a task object or task communication, the client creates a message object as specified in [MX-OXCMSG] and sets the type-specific properties as specified in Section 2 of this document. To send task communications, the client addresses them to the appropriate recipients, as specified in [MS-OXOMSG], and submits the message object, as specified in [MS-OXOMSG]. When creating task communications, the client also embeds the related task object, as specified above, and submits the task communications for delivery, as specified in [MS-OXOMSG].

When the client accepts a task request, the client creates a local task object and copies to it the relevant properties from the task request's embedded task object.

When the client receives a task request, it adds the sender to the **CC recipients** list if the value of PidLidTaskUpdates is non-zero.

3.1.4.5 Receiving Updates

When a client receives a task response or a task update, it contains an embedded task object, which is an update to a local task object that client already has. The client uses the embedded task object's PidLidTaskGlobalId property to locate the local task object (see [MS-OXCTABL] for a specification of using a restriction to find a message object). If the client can locate the local task object, it copies any relevant properties from the embedded task object to the local task object.

3.1.4.6 Task Communications

Before the client sends a task request, it computes the name of the task's new owner by retrieving the primary recipients from the task object. If there is only one primary recipient, then its display name is the name of the new owner. If there are multiple primary recipients, the new owner name is derived by concatenating the display names of all the primary recipients, separated with semicolons (";"). The client sets the value of the task object's PidLidTaskOwner property with this new owner name. The client also sets the value of the task object's PidLidTaskGlobalId property to a new, unique GUID if it doesn't already have one.

When the client receives a task request, it appends an entry representing the sender of the task request to the task object's PidLidTaskAssigners property and sets the value of the task object's PidLidTaskOwner property to the name of the task assignee. The client also adds the sender to the task object's **BCC recipients** if the value of the task object's PidLidTaskUpdates property is non-zero.

Before the client sends a task response, it addresses the response to the last task assigner listed in the task object's PidLidTaskAssigners property.

Before the client sends a task rejection, it removes the last entry from the value of the task object's PidLidTaskAssigners property. The client sets the value of the task object's PidLidTaskOwner property to the name from this last entry.

3.1.4.7 Recipients in Task Objects

Clients do not submit task objects to servers for delivery to other users, even though they support recipients, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG]. Instead, clients embed task objects within task communications, as specified above, for delivery to other users.

Yet, recipients are still meaningful for task objects. The client adds a user as a CC recipient if that user desires to receive task updates. The client adds a user as a BCC recipient if that user desires to receive an e-mail status report when the task is completed.

When the client changes a task object, it sends a task update to all of the CC recipients if PidLidTaskUpdates is non-zero.

When the client marks a task object as complete (by setting the value of the PidLidTaskStatus property), it sends an e-mail status report to all of the BCC recipients if PidLidTaskStatusOnComplete is non-zero.

Task requests can be assigned to one task assignee only. If a task request has more than one primary recipient, then the task object is *shared*, not *assigned*, and the client does not send task responses or task updates.

3.1.4.8 Generating Instances of Recurring Tasks

The client does not generate all instances of a recurring task at once. It begins by generating an initial instance only. In many cases, this instance will already exist when a recurrence pattern is added to it.

3.1.4.8.1 Deciding Whether to Generate a New Instance

The client considers generating a new instance of the recurring task when the prior instance: (a) is completed (the PidLidTaskStatus property is marked as Complete); (b) is deleted; (c) is given a new recurring start date or due date.

While considering whether to generate a new instance of a recurring task, the client does not generate a new instance if the value of the PidLidTaskFRecurring property is 0x00 or if the value of the PidLidTaskDeadOccur property is 0x01.

The client also considers the criteria specified in the recurrence pattern. For details, see [MS-OXOCAL]. If the recurrence pattern specifies a valid end date and a positive count of occurrences, then the client decrements the count of occurrences, saves the new recurrence pattern, and generates a new instance. If the occurrence count reaches 0, the client sets the value of the PidLidTaskDeadOccur property to 0x01.

3.1.4.8.2 New Instance Dates

Some recurrence patterns are “sliding”, as specified in [MS-OXOCAL]. In such cases, the recurrence pattern does not specify the absolute date of each occurrence. Rather, the recurrence pattern specifies a date that is relative to the completion date of the prior instance. The client computes the date of the new instance accordingly.

Having determined from the recurrence pattern the appropriate date for a new instance, the client determines and sets the values for the new instance’s start date and due date properties. The new values of these properties are determined by combining the prior instance’s values of these properties with the newly calculated instance date, as follows: If the prior instance does not have a start date, then neither does the new instance and the new due date is the newly calculated instance date. Otherwise, the new start date is the newly calculated instance date and the new instance and the new due date is the sum of the new start date and the difference between the old due date and the old start date. In other words, new due date = new start date + (old due date - old start date).

Finally, the client sets the new instance’s reminder properties, as specified in [MS-OXORMDR]. In particular, the client sets the new instance’s PidLidReminderSet property to 0x01 if the reminder time has not already passed and (a) the prior instance’s PidLidReminderSet property is 0x01, or (b) the prior instance’s PidLidTaskResetReminder property is 0x01. If the reminder time has already passed but either condition (a) or (b) applies, then the client sets PidLidTaskResetReminder to 0x01 so that future instances can continue to follow the same logic.

3.1.4.8.3 Archive Instances

If a new instance is warranted, the client does not create a new task object for the new instance. A new task object would have distinct values for properties (PidTagSearchKey, PidTagEntryId, and others) that might affect later efforts to locate and identify the task object. Instead, the client updates the properties of the existing task object and uses it as the new instance. If desired, the client first creates a new task object to represent the now-completed task.

To create a task object to represent the now-completed task, the client creates a new task object, as usual. Then, the client copies any relevant recipients, attachments, and properties, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG], from the prior task object to the new task object, with these exceptions:

Property	Action
PidLidTaskOwnership	Set to 0, “not assigned”
PidLidTaskAcceptanceState	Set to 0, “not assigned”
PidLidTaskState	Set to 1, “not assigned”
PidLidTaskMode	Set to 0, “not assigned”
PidLidTaskOrdinal	Set to a unique ordinal
PidTagReadReceiptRequested	Set to 0x00
PidTagOriginatorDeliveryReportRequested	Set to 0x00
PidLidTaskAssigner	Set to “”, empty string
PidTagSenderName	Delete
PidTagSenderEmailAddress	Delete
PidTagSenderAddrType	Delete
PidTagSenderEntryId	Delete
PidTagSenderSearchKey	Delete
PidTagSentRepresentingName	Delete
PidTagSentRepresentingEmailAddress	Delete
PidTagSentRepresentingAddrType	Delete
PidTagSentRepresentingEntryId	Delete
PidTagSentRepresentingSearchKey	Delete
PidLidTaskAssigners	Delete
PidLidTaskFFixOffline	Set to 0x00
PidLidTaskDeadOccur	Set to 0x01
PidLidTaskStatus	Set to 2, “complete”
PidLidTaskComplete	Set to 0x01
PidLidPercentComplete	Set to 1.0, “100%”

3.1.4.9 Public Folders

Task objects in **public folders** are not assigned. That is, the client does not create task requests for task objects in public folders.

The client does not allow users to accept or reject task requests in public folders.

3.1.5 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules

None.

3.1.6 Timer Events

None.

3.1.7 Other Local Events

None.

3.2 Server Details

The server role for this protocol is as specified in [MS-OXCPRPT].

4 Protocol Examples

All of the examples that follow use property identifiers that are provided by the server. The client asks the server to perform a mapping from property names to property identifiers using RopGetPropertyIdsFromNames:

Property	Property Set GUID	Name or ID
PidLidTaskComplete	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x0000811C
PidLidTaskStatus	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008101
PidLidPercentComplete	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008102
PidLidTaskActualEffort	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008110
PidLidTaskEstimatedEffort	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008111
PidLidTaskUpdates	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x0000811B
PidLidTaskStatusOnComplete	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008119
PidLidTaskFFixOffline	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x0000812C
PidLidTaskOwnership	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008129
PidLidTaskAcceptanceState	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x0000812A
PidLidTaskState	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008148
PidLidTaskOrdinal	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008123
PidLidTaskHistory	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x0000811A
PidLidTaskLastUpdate	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008115
PidLidTaskLastUser	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008122
PidLidTaskLastDelegate	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008125
PidLidTaskVersion	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008112
PidLidTaskOwner	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x0000811F
PidLidTaskFRecurring	{00062003-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008126
PidLidTaskMode	{00062008-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008518
PidLidTaskGlobalId	{00062008-0000-0000-C000-00000000046}	0x00008519

The server might respond with the following identifiers, which will be used in the examples that follow (the actual identifiers are at the discretion of the server):

Property	Property Identifier
PidLidTaskComplete	0x8149
PidLidTaskStatus	0x8146
PidLidPercentComplete	0x8147
PidLidTaskActualEffort	0x814D
PidLidTaskEstimatedEffort	0x814E
PidLidTaskUpdates	0x82C3
PidLidTaskStatusOnComplete	0x82C4
PidLidTaskFFixOffline	0x8156
PidLidTaskOwnership	0x8154
PidLidTaskAcceptanceState	0x8151
PidLidTaskState	0x8148

PidLidTaskOrdinal	0x815D
PidLidTaskHistory	0x8150
PidLidTaskLastUpdate	0x8153
PidLidTaskLastUser	0x8152
PidLidTaskLastDelegate	0x82C5
PidLidTaskVersion	0x8158
PidLidTaskOwner	0x801B
PidLidTaskFRecurring	0x814B
PidLidTaskMode	0x8212
PidLidTaskGlobalId	0x8211

4.1 Sending a Task Request

Mary North assigns a task to her coworker, Paul West. The following is a description of what a client might do to accomplish Mary's intentions.

The client begins by obtaining property identifiers from the server as demonstrated above.

To create the task request, the client uses RopCreateMessage. The server returns a success code and a handle to a message object. The client uses RopSetProperties to transmit Mary's data to the server:

Property	Property Identifier	Type	Value
PidTagMessageClass	0x001A	0x001F (PTypString)	"IPM.TaskRequest"
PidTagIconIndex	0x1080	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0xFFFFFFFF

The client provides the actual task object in an embedded message object. The protocol creates an attachment object into which it will embed the task object by using RopCreateAttachment, which returns a handle to the new attachment object. The client then uses this handle with RopSetProperties to set the Attachment Method to afEmbeddedMessage (0x00000005):

Property	Property Identifier	Type	Value
PidTagAttachMethod	0x3705	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0x00000005 (afEmbeddedMessage)
PidTagRenderingPosition	0x370B	0x0040 (PTypTime)	4501/01/01
PidTagAttachmentHidden	0x7FFE	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01

The client acquires the handle to the embedded message object within the attachment object by using RopOpenEmbeddedMessage, which can be used as a task object. The client sets the

desired properties for this task object and/or copies them from a local task object using RopSetProperties:

Property	Property Identifier	Type	Value
PidTagMessageClass	0x001A	0x001F (PTypString)	“IPM.Task”
PidTagIconIndex	0x1080	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0x00000500
PidLidTaskComplete	0x8149	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidPercentComplete	0x8147	0x0005 (PtypFloating64)	0.0
PidLidTaskStatus	0x8146	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0 (Not started)
PidLidTaskActualEffort	0x814D	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskEstimatedEffort	0x814E	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskUpdates	0x82C3	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskStatusOnComplete	0x82C4	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskFFixOffline	0x8156	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskOwnership	0x8154	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0 (Not assigned)
PidLidTaskAcceptanceState	0x8151	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0 (Not assigned)
PidLidTaskState	0x8148	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	1 (Not assigned)
PidLidTaskOrdinal	0x815D	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	-1000
PidLidTaskHistory	0x8150	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0x00000005 (sent with a task request)
PidLidTaskLastUpdate	0x8153	0x0040 (PTypTime)	2008/02/19
PidLidTaskLastUser	0x8152	0x001F (PTypString)	“Mary North”
PidLidTaskLastDelegate	0x82C5	0x001F (PTypString)	“Mary North”
PidLidTaskVersion	0x8158	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	1
PidLidTaskOwner	0x801B	0x001F (PTypString)	“Mary North”
PidLidTaskFRecurring	0x814B	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskMode	0x8212	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	1 (embedded in a task request)

PidLidTaskGlobalId	0x8211	0x0102 (PTypBinary)	0E B0 1E 03 85 02 EF 4B 9A 14 50 83 B3 BB 4D E9
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The client then sets other attachment properties as specified in [MS_OXCMSG].

The client saves and closes the embedded message object by using, in order, RopSaveChangesMessage (embedded task object handle), RopSaveChangesAttachment (attachment handle), RopRelease (embedded task object handle), and RopRelease (attachment handle).

The client uses RopAddRecipients to add Paul's recipient information to the Task Request. See [MS-OXOMSG] for details.

When Mary is ready to send her task request, the client uses RopSaveChanges to commit the properties to the server, RopSubmitMessage to send it, and then RopRelease to release the task request object.

4.2 Processing a Task Update

Russell King assigned a task to Scott Bishop. Scott updated some of the task properties, such as percent completed, and sent an update. Russell has now received a task update and needs to merge Scott's changes into his own copy of the task. The following is a description of what a client might do to process the update.

The client begins by obtaining property identifiers from the server as demonstrated above.

The client obtains a handle to the task update using RopOpenMessage. The updated task information is part of the task object that is embedded within the first attachment of the task update. To get the attachment, the client uses the handle to the task update with RopOpenAttachment. The client gets a handle to the embedded message object from this attachment using RopOpenEmbeddedMessage, which can then be used as the task object. The client reads properties from the embedded task object using RopGetPropertiesSpecific:

Property	Property Identifier	Type	Value obtained from server
PidLidTaskStatus	0x8146	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0 (Not started)
PidLidTaskPercentComplete	0x8147	0x0005 (PtypFloating64)	0.0 (0%)
PidLidTaskDueDate	0x8145	0x0040 (PTypTime)	<not found>
PidLidTaskStartDate	0x8144	0x0040 (PTypTime)	<not found>
PidLidTaskActualEffort	0x814D	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskEstimatedEffort	0x814E	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskDateCompleted	0x814A	0x0040 (PTypTime)	<not found>
PidLidTaskAccepted	0x82C2	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskResetReminder	0x815C	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	<not found>
PidLidTaskMultipleRecipients	0x814F	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskUpdates	0x82C3	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskStatusOnComplete	0x82C4	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01

PidLidTaskDeadOccur	0x814C	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	<not found>
PidLidTaskComplete	0x8149	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskFFixOffline	0x8156	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskOwnership	0x8154	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	2 (task assignee's copy)
PidLidTaskAcceptanceState	0x8151	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0 (Not assigned)
PidLidTaskHistory	0x8150	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	1 (Accepted)
PidLidTaskLastUpdate	0x8153	0x0040 (PTypTime)	2008/02/19
PidLidTaskLastUser	0x8152	0x001F (PTypString)	"Scott Bishop"
PidLidTaskLastDelegate	0x82C5	0x001F (PTypString)	"Scott Bishop"
PidLidTaskRole	0x8157	0x001F (PTypString)	" "
PidLidTaskVersion	0x8158	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	4
PidLidTaskState	0x8148	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	2 (task assignee's copy)
PidLidTaskAssigners	0x82C8	0x0102 (PTypBinary)	<binary data>
PidLidTaskRecur	0x815B	0x0102 (PTypBinary)	<not found>
PidLidTaskAssigner	0x8159	0x001F (PTypString)	"Russell King"
PidLidTaskOwner	0x801B	0x001F (PTypString)	"Scott Bishop"
PidLidTaskFCreator	0x82CA	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskOrdinal	0x815D	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	-1000
PidLidTaskFRecurring	0x814B	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidCommonStart	0x81BD	0x0040 (PTypTime)	<not found>
PidLidCommonEnd	0x81BC	0x0040 (PTypTime)	<not found>
PidLidTaskGlobalId	0x8211	0x0102 (PTypBinary)	0E B0 1E 03 85 02 EF 4B 9A 14 50 83 B3 BB 4D E9

The client will use the value of the PidLidTaskGlobalId to locate the task object locally and will then use the values of the other properties to copy to the local task object.

The client uses a handle to the Tasks special folder and RopGetContentsTable to get a handle to the folder's Contents Table. Using this handle, the client uses RopSetColumns:

Property	Property Identifier	Type
PidTagFID	0x6748	0x0014 (PtypInteger64)
PidTagMID	0x674A	0x0014 (PtypInteger64)

With the proper column set, the client can now search for the local task object whose PidLidTaskGlobalId matches the one found in the embedded task object. The client performs the search with RopFindRow:

Condition Type	Relational Operator	Property Identifier	Property Data
0x04 (RES_PROPERTY)	0x04 (RELOP_EQ)	0x8211 (PidLidTaskGlobalId)	0E B0 1E 03 85 02 EF 4B 9A 14 50 83 B3 BB 4D E9

Having completed the search, the client releases the handle to the contents table with ROPRelease.

If the search succeeded, the client will have located the PidTagFID and PidTagMID for the local task object. The client uses these values to open a handle to the local task object using RopOpenMessage. The client will now use RopSetProperties to update the properties of the local task object, copying the properties from the embedded task object, as appropriate:

Property	Property Identifier	Type	Value
PidLidTaskStatus	0x8146	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0 (Not started)
PidLidTaskPercentComplete	0x8147	0x0005 (PtypFloating64)	0.0 (0%)
PidLidTaskActualEffort	0x814D	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskEstimatedEffort	0x814E	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskAccepted	0x82C2	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskMultipleRecipients	0x814F	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	0
PidLidTaskUpdates	0x82C3	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskStatusOnComplete	0x82C4	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskComplete	0x8149	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskFFixOffline	0x8156	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskOwnership	0x8154	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	1 (task assigner's copy)
PidLidTaskAcceptanceState	0x8151	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	2 (Accepted)
PidLidTaskHistory	0x8150	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	1 (Accepted)
PidLidTaskLastUpdate	0x8153	0x0040 (PTypTime)	2008/02/19
PidLidTaskLastUser	0x8152	0x001F (PTypString)	“Scott Bishop”

PidLidTaskLastDelegate	0x82C5	0x001F (PTypString)	“Scott Bishop”
PidLidTaskRole	0x8157	0x001F (PTypString)	“”
PidLidTaskVersion	0x8158	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	4
PidLidTaskState	0x8148	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	3 (task assigner’s copy of an accepted task object)
PidLidTaskAssigner	0x8159	0x001F (PTypString)	“”
PidLidTaskOwner	0x801B	0x001F (PTypString)	“Scott Bishop”
PidLidTaskFCreator	0x82CA	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x01
PidLidTaskOrdinal	0x815D	0x0003 (PTypInteger32)	-1000
PidLidTaskFRecurring	0x814B	0x000B (PTypBoolean)	0x00
PidLidTaskGlobalId	0x8211	0x0102 (PTypBinary)	0E B0 1E 03 85 02 EF 4B 9A 14 50 83 B3 BB 4D E9

The client saves and closes the local task object, embedded task object, and attachment by using, in order, RopSaveChangesMessage (local task object handle), RopRelease (embedded task object handle), RopRelease (attachment handle), and RopRelease (local task object handle).

5 Security

5.1 Security Considerations for Implementers

There are no special security considerations specific to the Task-Related Objects Protocol. General security considerations pertaining to the underlying transport apply, as specified in [MS-OXCMSG].

5.2 Index of Security Parameters

None.

6 Appendix A: Office/Exchange Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following versions of Office and Exchange:

- Office 2003 with Service Pack 3 applied
- Exchange 2003 with Service Pack 2 applied
- Office 2007 with Service Pack 1 applied
- Exchange 2007 with Service Pack 1 applied

Exceptions, if any, are noted below. Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification prescribed using the terms SHOULD or SHOULD NOT implies Office/Exchange behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term MAY implies that Office/Exchange does not follow the prescription.

1 Outlook 2003 SP3 and Outlook 2007 SP1 set the following properties regardless of user input; their values have no meaning in the context of this protocol.

PidLidAgingDontAgeMe, PidLidCurrentVersion, PidLidCurrentVersionName, PidLidPrivate, PidLidSideEffects, PidLidValidFlagStringProof, PidTagAlternateRecipientAllowed, PidTagClientSubmitTime, PidTagDeleteAfterSubmit, PidTagImportance, PidTagMessageDeliveryTime, PidTagMessageLocaleId, PidTagNormalizedSubject, PidTagOriginatorDeliveryReportRequested, PidTagPriority, PidTagReadReceiptRequested, PidTagSensitivity

2 Outlook 2003 SP3 and Outlook 2007 SP1 set the following properties on task objects regardless of user input; their values have no meaning in the remaining contexts of this protocol.

PidLidTaskNoCompute, PidLidTaskRole, PidLidTaskCustomFlags, PidLidTeamTask

3 Outlook 2007 SP1 sets the following properties regardless of user input; their values have meaning in the context of this protocol only when applied to task objects.

PidLidPercentComplete, PidLidTaskActualEffort, PidLidTaskComplete, PidLidTaskAssigner, PidLidTaskAcceptanceState, PidLidTaskEstimatedEffort, PidLidTaskFFixOffline, PidLidTaskFRecurring, PidLidTaskOrdinal, PidLidTaskOwnership, PidLidTaskState, PidLidTaskStatus.

4 Outlook 2003 SP3 and Outlook 2007 SP1 sometimes delete the stack of assigners incorrectly, leaving only the most recent assigner.

5 Outlook 2003 SP3 and Outlook 2007 SP1 sometimes set this property to indicate that the task object is a "Team Task." However, the distinction is no longer meaningful.

6 Outlook 2003 SP3 and Outlook 2007 SP1 set the rendering position and hidden flag in a separate ROPSetProperties request, after opening the embedded message.

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