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Title On SyncSampleBox and movie fragments
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1 Introduction

It is not clear from the specification how to interpret the absence of a sync sample table in the case of movie fragments. This contribution reviews the issue and suggests modifying the specification.

2 SyncSampleTable

The specification says:

“If the `SyncSampleBox` is not present, every sample is a sync sample.”

It does not however say if “every sample” mean “every sample in the track sample table” or “every sample in the track” (including fragments).

Many implementations follow the strict interpretation “all samples are sync” (including in movie fragments) and many packagers include an empty `SyncSampleTable` to warn that there will be non-sync samples. CMAF seems to have the opposite interpretation.

Since each sample in a movie fragment has a `sample_is_non_sync_sample` flag set or not, it is reasonable to assume that the intended design of the sync sample table was to cover only samples documented in the movie box, not in fragments (especially since fragments did not exist at that time!).

We would like to have this written clearly in the specification. However, such a change in the specification might break existing products, and it would be nice to liaise to the various bodies using ISOBMFF to warn them about the change.

3 Conclusion

We recommend issuing a COR on file format and liaise with necessary bodies.