



## Using Aliases

SkyTel WCTP 1.1/WCTP 1.2 Beta Release 1

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### 1 Introduction

An **alias** is a string of characters that is recognized by a carrier as representing an enterprise host's address. Benefits of using an alias includes

- Decreasing the number of characters that a device sends over the air by replacing the address with the shorter alias string.
- Easier management of WCTP address changes by limiting updates of the changes to alias registration at the carrier gateway rather than pushing changes to wireless devices.

### 2 Carrier Alias

A **carrier alias** is an alias defined only for use with a particular carrier gateway. Other carriers will not recognize a carrier alias unless it has also been registered with the other carrier gateways. Registration and maintenance of carrier aliases is specific to each carrier gateway and is beyond the scope of this specification. An enterprise may choose to use a carrier alias if

- Minimizing the number of characters sent over the air is important.
- The URI used is expected to change.
- Traffic will be limited to a single carrier's devices.

### 3 Global Alias

Alternatively, a **global alias** is an alias that is recognized by all cooperating carriers as resolving to the same WCTP address. Use of a global alias prevents an enterprise from having to register an alias to multiple carrier gateways. Global aliases offer the following benefits

- Single point of alias registration for all cooperating gateways.
- Guaranteed unique alias for all cooperating gateways.

At this time an entity for managing global aliases has not been established. Until this entity has been defined, global aliases will not be available.



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### 4 Attributes

An alias may be used to resolve a WCTP address for the following attributes or elements

- Recipient address when used by a wireless device to send to a wire-line application.
- **senderID** when using the **wctp-SubmitRequest**, **wctp-SendMsgMulti**, or **wctp-MessageReply** operations.
- **sendResponseToID** when using the **wctp-SubmitRequest**, **wctp-SendMsgMulti**, or **wctpMessageReply** operations.
- Value for **wctp-ReturnToSvc** operation.

### 5 Format

An alias is an alphanumeric string. It must contain at least one alpha character and may contain an exclamation point ('!'). All carrier aliases must contain an exclamation point as the first character of the alias string. Global aliases may not contain an exclamation point. The explicit format and allowable character set is defined in the *Attribute Characterization* document.

### 6 Usage

An alias may represent either the entire WCTP address or the entire WCTP transport address. The replacement value of an alias representing the entire WCTP address is as follows:

```
[entity@][protocol:][[/]domain[:port][[/path]
```

The replacement value of an alias representing the entire WCTP transport address is as follows:

```
[protocol:][[/]domain[:port][[/path]
```

An entity may be specified with an alias that has been defined only as the transport address. It is invalid however to specify an entity with an alias that has been defined as a WCTP address that includes an entity specification.



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## 7 Examples

Table 1 – Valid Aliases

Alias	Type	Replace Value	Resolves To
acme	Global	wctp.acme.com:8080/wctp	wctp.acme.com:8080/wctp
asis	Global	asis.com	asis.com:80 <sup>1</sup>
!pacme	Carrier	person@acme.com/wctp	person@acme.com:80/wctp
bacme	Global	bob@acme.com	bop@acme.com:80/wctp

Table 2 – Invalid Aliases

Alias	Reason
acme.com	An alias cannot contain '.' or any other special characters (except '!').
acme!	The first character of a Carrier Alias may be an exclamation point. All other usage of the exclamation point in an alias is invalid.
p@acme	An alias cannot contain '@' or any other special characters (except '!').

Table 3 – Valid Usage

Recipient address	Alias	Replacement Value	Resolves To
acme	acme	acme.com	acme.com:80
bob@acme	acme	acme.com	bob@acme.com:80
bacme	bacme	bob@acme.com	bob@acme.com:80

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<sup>1</sup> Although there is no default path when resolving an alias, the port always defaults to 80 if not specified.



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Table 4 – Invalid Usage

Recipient Address	Alias	Replacement Value	Explanation
http://acme	acme	acme.com	Alias must be entire WCTP or Transport Address
wctp.acme/wctp	acme	acme.com	Alias must be entire WCTP or Transport Address
bob@bacme	bacme	bob@acme.com	This would resolve to bob@bob@acme.com:80/wctp which is invalid.