

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



Universal serial bus interfaces for data and power –  
Part 1-2: Common components – USB Power Delivery specification



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**Universal serial bus interfaces for data and power –  
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INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

ICS 29.220; 33.120; 35.200

ISBN 978-2-8322-5581-0

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### UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUS INTERFACES FOR DATA AND POWER –

#### Part 1-2: Common components – USB Power Delivery specification

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This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2017 and constitutes a technical revision.

The text of this standard was prepared by the USB Implementers Forum (USB-IF). The structure and editorial rules used in this publication reflect the practice of the organization which submitted it.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

| CDV          | Report on voting |
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This standard is the USB-IF publication USB Power Delivery Specification Revision 3.0 V.1.1 and ECNs through 12 June 2017.

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# **Universal Serial Bus Power Delivery Specification**

***Revision:***            **3.0**

***Version:***            **1.1+ ECNs through 12 June 2017**

***Release date:***    **12 January 2017**

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## Revision History

| Revision | Version  | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Issue Date       |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.0      | 1.0      | Initial release Revision 1.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 5 July, 2012     |
| 1.0      | 1.1      | Including errata through 31-October-2012                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 31 October 2012  |
| 1.0      | 1.2      | Including errata through 26-June-2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 26 June, 2013    |
| 1.0      | 1.3      | Including errata through 11-March-2014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 11 March 2014    |
| 2.0      | 1.0      | Initial release Revision 2.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 11 August 2014   |
| 2.0      | 1.1      | Including errata through 7-May 2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 7 May 2015       |
| 2.0      | 1.2      | Including errata through 25-March-2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 March 2016    |
| 2.0      | 1.3      | Including errata through 11-January-2017                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 11 January 2017  |
| 3.0      | 1.0      | Initial release Revision 3.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 11 December 2015 |
| 3.0      | 1.0a     | Including errata through 25-March-2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 March 2016    |
| 3.0      | 1.1      | Including errata through 12-January-2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 12 January 2017  |
| 3.0      | 1.1+ECNs | Markup including ECNs through 12-June-2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add VPD Product Type</li> <li>• Specification Revision Interoperability</li> <li>• VCONN_Swap Clarification</li> <li>• Chapter 7 Source and Sink Behavior</li> <li>• Battery Numbering</li> <li>• Chunking Clarification</li> <li>• FR_Swap State Operation</li> <li>• GoodCRC Specification Revision</li> <li>• Slew Rate Exception for Source</li> </ul> | 12 June 2017     |

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## 1 Introduction

USB has evolved from a data interface capable of supplying limited power to a primary provider of power with a data interface. Today many devices charge or get their power from USB ports contained in laptops, cars, aircraft or even wall sockets. USB has become a ubiquitous power socket for many small devices such as cell phones, MP3 players and other hand-held devices. Users need USB to fulfill their requirements not only in terms of data but also to provide power to, or charge, their devices simply, often without the need to load a driver, in order to carry out “traditional” USB functions.

There are however, still many devices which either require an additional power connection to the wall, or exceed the USB rated current in order to operate. Increasingly, international regulations require better energy management due to ecological and practical concerns relating to the availability of power. Regulations limit the amount of power available from the wall which has led to a pressing need to optimize power usage. The USB Power Delivery Specification has the potential to minimize waste as it becomes a standard for charging devices that are not satisfied by [\[USBBC 1.2\]](#).

Wider usage of wireless solutions is an attempt to remove data cabling but the need for “tethered” charging remains. In addition, industrial design requirements drive wired connectivity to do much more over the same connector.

USB Power Delivery is designed to enable the maximum functionality of USB by providing more flexible power delivery along with data over a single cable. Its aim is to operate with and build on the existing USB ecosystem; increasing power levels from existing USB standards, for example Battery Charging, enabling new higher power use cases such as USB powered Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) and printers.

With USB Power Delivery the power direction is no longer fixed. This enables the product with the power (Host or Peripheral) to provide the power. For example, a display with a supply from the wall can power, or charge, a laptop. Alternatively, USB power bricks or chargers are able to supply power to laptops and other battery powered devices through their, traditionally power providing, USB ports.

USB Power Delivery enables hubs to become the means to optimize power management across multiple peripherals by allowing each device to take only the power it requires, and to get more power when required for a given application. For example battery powered devices can get increased charging current and then give it back temporarily when the user's HDD requires spinning up. **Optionally** the hubs can communicate with the PC to enable even more intelligent and flexible management of power either automatically or with some level of user intervention.

USB Power Delivery allows Low Power cases such as headsets to negotiate for only the power they require. This provides a simple solution that enables USB devices to operate at their optimal power levels.

The Power Delivery Specification, in addition to providing mechanisms to negotiate power also can be used as a side-band channel for standard and vendor defined messaging. Power Delivery enables alternative modes of operation by providing the mechanisms to discover, enter and exit Alternate Modes. The specification also enables discovery of cable capabilities such as supported speeds and current levels.

### 1.1 Overview

This specification defines how USB Devices can negotiate for more current and/or higher or lower voltages over the USB cable (using the USB Type-C CC wire as the communications channel) than are defined in the [\[USB 2.0\]](#), [\[USB 3.1\]](#), [\[USB Type-C 1.2\]](#) or [\[USBBC 1.2\]](#) specifications. It allows Devices with greater power requirements than can be met with today's specification to get the power they require to operate from  $V_{BUS}$  and negotiate with external power sources (e.g. Wall Warts). In addition, it allows a Source and Sink to swap power roles such that a Device could supply power to the Host. For example, a display could supply power to a notebook to charge its battery.

The USB Power Delivery Specification is guided by the following principles:

1. Works seamlessly with legacy USB Devices
2. Compatible with existing spec-compliant USB cables
3. Minimizes potential damage from non-compliant cables (e.g. ‘Y’ cables etc.)
4. Optimized for low-cost implementations

This specification defines mechanisms to discover, enter and exit Modes defined either by a standard or by a particular vendor. These Modes can be supported either by the Port Partner or by a cable connecting the two Port Partners.

The specification defines mechanisms to discover the capabilities of cables which can communicate using Power Delivery.

This specification adds a mechanism to swap the data roles such that the upstream facing Port becomes the downstream facing Port and vice versa. It also enables a swap of the end supplying  $V_{\text{CONN}}$  to a powered cable.

## 1.2 Purpose

The USB Power Delivery specification defines a power delivery system covering all elements of a USB system including: Hosts, Devices, Hubs, Chargers and cable assemblies. This specification describes the architecture, protocols, power supply behavior, connectors and cabling necessary for managing power delivery over USB at up to 100W. This specification is intended to be fully compatible and extend the existing USB infrastructure. It is intended that this specification will allow system OEMs, power supply and peripheral developers adequate flexibility for product versatility and market differentiation without losing backwards compatibility.

USB Power Delivery is designed to operate independently of the existing USB bus defined mechanisms used to negotiate power which are:

- [\[USB 2.0\]](#), [\[USB 3.1\]](#) in band requests for high power interfaces.
- [\[USBBC 1.2\]](#) mechanisms for supplying higher power (not mandated by this specification).
- [\[USB Type-C 1.2\]](#) mechanisms for supplying higher power

Initial operating conditions remain the USB Default Operation as defined in [\[USB 2.0\]](#), [\[USB 3.1\]](#), [\[USB Type-C 1.2\]](#) or [\[USBBC 1.2\]](#).

- The DFP sources **vSafe5V** over  $V_{\text{BUS}}$ .
- The UFP consumes power from  $V_{\text{BUS}}$ .

## 1.3 Scope

This specification is intended as an extension to the existing [\[USB 2.0\]](#), [\[USB 3.1\]](#), [\[USB Type-C 1.2\]](#) and [\[USBBC 1.2\]](#) specifications. It addresses only the elements required to implement USB Power Delivery. It is targeted at power supply vendors, manufacturers of [\[USB 2.0\]](#), [\[USB 3.1\]](#), [\[USB Type-C 1.2\]](#) and [\[USBBC 1.2\]](#) Platforms, Devices and cable assemblies.

**Normative** information is provided to allow interoperability of components designed to this specification. Informative information, when provided, illustrates possible design implementation.

## 1.4 Conventions

### 1.4.1 Precedence

If there is a conflict between text, figures, and tables, the precedence **Shall** be tables, figures, and then text.