

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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



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This standard is the USB-IF publication USB Power Delivery Specification Revision 3.0 V.1.0a and ECNs as of 2 August 2016.

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Universal Serial Bus Power Delivery Specification

Revision 3.0, V1.0a. 25 March 2016 + ECNs 2 August 2016

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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 may 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:

- a) Works seamlessly with legacy USB Devices
- b) Compatible with existing spec-compliant USB cables
- c) Minimizes potential damage from non-compliant cables (e.g. ‘Y’ cables etc.)