



Audio management

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65 Apertis audio management was previously built around PulseAudio but with
66 the move to the Flatpak-based application framework [PipeWire](#)¹ offers a better
67 match for the use-cases below. Compared to PulseAudio, PipeWire natively
68 supports containerized applications and keeps policy management separate from
69 the core routing system, making it much easier to tailor for specific products.

70 Applications can use PipeWire through [its native API](#)², as the final layer to
71 access sound features. This does not mean that applications have to deal directly
72 with PipeWire: applications can still make use of their preferred sound APIs as
73 intermediate layers for manipulating audio streams, with support being available
74 for the PulseAudio API, for GStreamer or for the ALSA API.

75 In an analogous manner, applications can capture sound for various purposes.
76 For instance, speech recognition or voice recorder applications may need to
77 capture input from the microphone. The sound will be captured from PipeWire.
78 ALSA users can use `pcm_pipewire`. GStreamer users can use `pipewiresrc`.

79 Terminology and concepts

80 See also the [Apertis glossary](#)³ for background information on terminology.

81 Standalone setup

82 A standalone setup is an installation of Apertis which has full control of the
83 audio driver. Apertis running in a virtual machine is an example of a standalone

¹<https://pipewire.org/>

²<https://pipewire.github.io/pipewire/>

³<https://em.pages.apertis.org/apertis-website/glossary/>

84 setup.

85 **Hybrid setup**

86 A hybrid setup is an installation of Apertis in which the audio driver is not fully
87 controlled by Apertis. An example of this is when Apertis is running under an
88 hypervisor or using an external audio router component such as [GENIVI audio
89 manager](#)⁴. In this case, the Apertis system can be referred to as Consumer
90 Electronics domain (CE), and the other domain can be referred to as Automotive
91 Domain (AD).

92 **Different audio sources for each domain**

93 Among others, a standalone Apertis system can generate the following sounds:

- 94 • Application sounds
- 95 • Bluetooth sounds, for example music streamed from a phone or voice call
96 sent from a handsfree car kit
- 97 • Any kind of other event sounds, for example somebody using the SDK
98 can generate event sounds using an appropriate command line

99 A hybrid Apertis system can generate the same sounds as a standalone sys-
100 tem, plus some additional sounds not always visible to Apertis. For example,
101 hardware sources further down the audio pipeline such as:

- 102 • FM Radio
- 103 • CD Player
- 104 • Driver assistance systems

105 In this case, some interfaces should be provided to interact with the additional
106 sound sources.

107 **Mixing, corking, ducking**

108 *Mixing* is the action of playing simultaneously from several sound sources.

109 *Corking* is a request from the audio router to pause an application.

110 *Ducking* is the action of lowering the volume of a background source, while
111 mixing it with a foreground source at normal volume.

112 **Use cases**

113 The following section lists examples of usages requiring audio management. It
114 is not an exhaustive list, unlimited combinations exists. Discussion points will
115 be highlighted at the end of some use cases.

⁴<http://docs.projects.genivi.org/AudioManager/>

116 **Application developer**

117 An application developer uses the SDK in a virtual machine to develop an
118 application. He needs to play sounds. He may also need to record sounds or
119 test their application on a reference platform. This is a typical standalone setup.

120 **Car audio system**

121 In a car, Apertis is running in a hypervisor sharing the processor with a real
122 time operating system controlling the car operations. Apertis is only used for
123 applications and web browsing. A sophisticated Hi-Fi system is installed under
124 a seat and accessible via a network interface. This is a hybrid setup.

125 **Different types of sources**

126 Some systems classify application sound sources in categories. It's important to
127 note that no standard exists for those categories.

128 Both standalone and hybrid systems can generate different sound categories.

129 **Example 1**

130 In one system of interest, sounds are classified as *main sources*, and *interrupt*
131 *sources*. Main sources will generally represent long duration sound sources. The
132 most common case are media players, but it could be sound sources emanating
133 from web radio, or games. As a rule of thumb, the following can be used: when
134 two main sources are playing at the same time, neither is intelligible. Those
135 will often require an action from the user to start playing, should it be turn
136 ignition on, press a play button on the steering wheel or the touchscreen. As a
137 consequence, only policy mechanisms ensure that only one main source can be
138 heard at a time.

139 Interrupt sources will generally represent short duration sound sources, they
140 are emitted when an unsolicited event occurs. This could be when a message is
141 received in any application or email service.

142 **Example 2**

143 In another system of interest, sounds are classified as *main sources*, *interrupt*
144 *sources* and *chimes*. Unlike the first example, in this system, a source is con-
145 sidered a main source if it is an infinite or loopable source, which can only be
146 interrupted by another main source such FM radio or CD player. Interrupt
147 sources are informational sources such as navigation instructions, and chimes
148 are unsolicited events of short duration. Each of these sound sources is not
149 necessarily generated by an application. It could come from a system service
150 instead.

151 **Navigation instruction**

152 While some music from FM Radio is playing, a new navigation instruction has
153 to be given to the driver: the navigation instructions should be mixed with the
154 music.

155 **Traffic bulletin**

156 Many audio sources can be paused. For example, a CD player can be paused,
157 as can media files played from local storage (including USB mass storage), and
158 some network media such as Spotify.

159 While some music from one of these sources is playing, a new traffic bulletin
160 is issued: the music could be paused and the traffic bulletin should be heard.
161 When it is finished, the music can continue from the point where the playback
162 was paused.

163 By their nature, some sound sources cannot be paused. For example, FM or
164 DAB radio cannot be paused.

165 While some music from a FM or DAB radio is playing, a new traffic bulletin
166 is issued. Because the music cannot be paused, it should be silenced and the
167 traffic bulletin should be heard. When it is finished, the music can be heard
168 again.

169 Bluetooth can be used when playing a game or watching live TV. As with the
170 radio use-case, Bluetooth cannot be paused.

171 **USB drive**

172 While some music from the radio is playing, a new USB drive is inserted. If
173 setting *automatic playback from USB drive* is enabled, the Radio sound stops
174 and the USB playback begins.

175 **Rear sensor sound**

176 While some music from the radio is playing, the driver selects rear gear, the rear
177 sensor sound can be heard mixed with the music.

178 **Blind spot sensor**

179 While some music from Bluetooth is playing, a car passes through the driver's
180 blind spot: a short notification sound can be mixed with the music.

181 **Seat belt**

182 While some music from the CD drive is playing, the passenger removes their
183 seat belt: a short alarm sound can be heard mixed with the music.

184 **Phone call**

185 While some music from the CD drive is playing, a phone call is received: the
186 music should be paused to hear the phone ringing and being able to answer the
187 conversation. In this case, another possibility could be to notify the phone call
188 using a ring sound, mixed in the music, and then pause the music only if the
189 call is answered.

190 **Resume music**

191 If music playback has been interrupted by a phone call and the phone call has
192 ended, music playback can be resumed.

193 **VoIP**

194 The driver wishes to use internet telephony/VoIP without noticing any difference
195 due to being in a car.

196 **Emergency call priority**

197 While a phone call to emergency services is ongoing, an app-bundle process
198 attempts to initiate lower-priority audio playback, for example playing music.
199 The lower-priority audio must not be heard. The application receives the infor-
200 mation that it cannot play.

201 **Mute**

202 The user can press a [mute hard-key](#)⁵. In this case, and according to OEM-
203 specific rules, all sources of a specific category could be muted. For example, all
204 *main* sources could be muted. The OEM might require that some sources are
205 never muted even if the user pressed such a hard-key.

206 **Audio recording**

207 Some apps might want to initiate speech recognition. They need to capture
208 input from a microphone.

209 **Microphone mute**

210 If the user presses a “mute microphone” button (sometimes referred to as a
211 “secrecy” button) during a phone call, the sound coming from the microphone
212 should be muted. If the user presses this button in an application during a video
213 conference call, the sound coming from the microphone should be muted.

⁵<https://em.pages.apertis.org/apertis-website/concepts/hardkeys/>

214 **Application crash**

215 The Internet Radio application is playing music. It encounters a problem and
216 crashes. The audio manager should know that the application no longer exists.
217 In an hybrid use case, the other audio routers could be informed that the audio
218 route is now free. It is then possible to fall back to a default source.

219 **Web applications**

220 Web applications should be able to play a stream or record a stream.

221 **Control malicious application**

222 An application should not be able to use an audio role for which it does not
223 have permission. For example, a malicious application could try to simulate a
224 phone call and deliver advertising.

225 **Multiple roles**

226 Some applications can receive both a standard media stream and traffic infor-
227 mation.

228 **External audio router**

229 In order to decide priorities, an external audio router can be involved. In this
230 case, Apertis would only be providing a subset of the possible audio streams,
231 and an external audio router could take policy decisions, to which Apertis could
232 only conform.

233 **Non-use-cases**

234 **Automatic actions on streams**

235 It is not the purpose of this document to discuss the action taken on a media
236 when it is preempted by another media. Deciding whether to cork or silence a
237 stream is a user interface decision. As such it is OEM dependent.

238 **Streams' priorities**

239 The audio management framework defined by this document is intended to
240 provide mechanism, not policy: it does not impose a particular policy, but
241 instead provides a mechanism by which OEMs can impose their chosen policies.

242 **Multiple independent systems**

243 Some luxury cars may have multiple IVI touchscreens and/or sound systems,
244 sometimes referred to as [multi-seat](#)⁶ (please note that this jargon term comes

⁶<https://em.pages.apertis.org/apertis-website/concepts/multiuser/#multi-seat-logged-seats>

245 from desktop computing, and one of these “seats” does not necessarily corre-
246 spond to a space where a passenger could sit). We will assume that each of
247 these “seats” is a separate container, virtual machine or physical device, run-
248 ning a distinct instance of the Apertis CE domain.

249 **Requirements**

250 **Standalone operation**

251 The audio manager must support standalone operation, in which it accesses
252 audio hardware directly ([Application developer](#)).

253 **Integrated operation**

254 The audio manager must support integrated operation, in which it cannot access
255 the audio hardware directly, but must instead send requests and audio streams
256 to the hybrid system. ([Different types of sources](#), [External audio router](#)).

257 **Priority rules**

258 It must be possible to implement OEM-specific priority rules, in which it is
259 possible to consider one stream to be higher priority than another.

260 When a lower-priority stream is pre-empted by a higher-priority stream, it must
261 be possible for the OEM-specific rules to choose between at least these actions:

- 262 • silence the lower-priority stream, with a notification to the application so
263 that it can pause or otherwise minimise its resource use (corking)
- 264 • leave the lower-priority stream playing, possibly with reduced volume
265 (ducking)
- 266 • terminate the lower-priority stream altogether

267 It must be possible for the audio manager to lose the ability to play audio
268 (audio resource deallocation). In this situation, the audio manager must notify
269 the application with a meaningful error.

270 When an application attempts to play audio and the audio manager is unable
271 to allocate a necessary audio resource (for example because a higher-priority
272 stream is already playing), the audio manager must inform the application using
273 an appropriate error message. ([Emergency call priority](#))

274 **Multiple sound outputs**

275 The audio manager should be able to route sounds to several sound outputs. ([Different types of sources](#)).
276

277 **Remember preempted source**

278 It should be possible for an audio source that was preempted to be remembered
279 in order to resume it after interruption. This is not a necessity for all types

280 of streams. Some OEM-specific code could select those streams based on their
281 roles. ([Traffic bulletin](#), [Resume music](#))

282 **Audio recording**

283 App-bundles must be able to record audio if given appropriate permission. (
284 [Audio recording](#))

285 **Latency**

286 The telephony latency must be as low as possible. The user must be able to
287 hold a conversation on the phone or in a VoIP application without noticing any
288 form of latency. ([VoIP](#))

289 **Security**

290 The audio manager should not trust applications for managing audio. If some
291 faulty or malicious application tries to play or record an audio stream for which
292 permission wasn't granted, the proposed audio management design should not
293 allow it. ([Application crash](#), [Control malicious application](#))

294 **Muting output streams**

295 During the time an audio source is preempted, the audio framework must notify
296 the application that is providing it, so that the application can make an attempt
297 to reduce its resource usage. For example, a DAB radio application might stop
298 decoding the received DAB data. ([Mute](#), [Traffic bulletin](#))

299 **Muting input streams**

300 The audio framework should be able to mute capture streams. During that
301 time, the audio framework must notify the application that are using it, so
302 that the application can update user interface and reduce its resource usage. (
303 [Microphone mute](#))

304 **Control source activity**

305 Audio management should be able to set each audio source to the playing,
306 stopped or paused state based on priority. ([Resume music](#))

307 **Per stream priority**

308 We might want to mix and send multiple streams from one application to the
309 automotive domain. An application might want to send different types of alert.
310 For instance, a new message notification may have higher priority than 'some
311 contact published a new photo'. ([Multiple roles](#))

312 **GStreamer support**

313 GStreamer should be supported.

314 **Approach**

315 PulseAudio embeds a default audio policy so, for instance, if you plug an head-
316 set on your laptop aux slot, it silences the laptop speakers. PipeWire has no
317 embedded logic to do that, and relies on something else to control it, which
318 suites the needs for Apertis better since it also targets special use-cases that
319 don't really match the desktop ones, and this separation brings more flexibility.

320 [WirePlumber](#)⁷ is a service that provides the policy logic for PipeWire. It's where
321 the default policy like the one above is implemented, but unlike PulseAudio is
322 explicitly designed to let people customize it. PipeWire and WirePlumber is
323 what AGL has used to replace their previous audio manager in their latest
324 Happy Halibut 8.0.0 release.

325 The overall approach is to adopt WirePlumber as the reference solution, but the
326 separation between audio management and audio policy means that product
327 teams can replace it with a completely different implementation with ease.

328 **Streams metadata in applications**

329 PipeWire provides the ability to attach metadata to a stream. The function
330 `pw_fill_stream_properties()`⁸ is used to attach metadata to a stream during cre-
331 ation. The current convention in usage is to use a metadata named `media.role`,
332 which can be set to values describing the nature of the stream, such as `Movie`,
333 `Music`, `Camera`, `Notification`, and other defined by PipeWire.

334 See also [GStreamer support].

335 **Requesting permission to use audio in applications**

336 Each audio role is associated with a permission. Before an application can start
337 playback a stream, the audio manager will check whether it has the permission
338 to do so. See [Identification of applications]. [Application bundle metadata](#)⁹
339 describes how to manage the permissions requested by an application. The
340 application can also use bundle metadata to store the default role used by all
341 streams in the application if this is not specified at the stream level.

342 **Audio routing principles**

343 The request to open an audio route is emitted in two cases:

⁷<https://gitlab.freedesktop.org/pipewire/wireplumber>

⁸https://pipewire.github.io/pipewire/classpw___pipewire.html#a841dbb7608dc9cdda4a320d33fbbd39a

⁹<https://em.pages.apertis.org/apertis-website/concepts/application-bundle-metadata/>

- 344 • when a new stream is created
- 345 • before a stream changes state from Paused to Playing (uncork)

346 In both cases, before starting playback, the audio manager must check the
347 priority against the business rules, or request the appropriate priority to the
348 external audio router. If the authorization is not granted, the application should
349 stop trying to request the stream and notify the user that an undesirable event
350 occurred.

351 If an application stops playback, the audio manager will be informed. It will in
352 turn notify the external audio router of the new situation, or handle it according
353 to business rules.

354 An application that has playback can be requested to pause by the audio man-
355 ager, for example if a higher priority sound must be heard.

356 Applications can use the PipeWire event API to subscribe to events. In partic-
357 ular, applications can be notified about their mute status. If an event occurs,
358 such as mute or unmute, the callback will be executed. For example, an applica-
359 tion playing media from a source such as a CD or USB storage would typically
360 respond to the mute event by pausing playback, so that it can later resume from
361 the same place. An application playing a live source such as on-air FM radio
362 cannot pause in a way that can later be resumed from the same place, but would
363 typically respond to the mute event by ceasing to decode the source, so that it
364 does not waste CPU cycles by decoding audio that the user will not hear.

365 **Standalone routing module maps streams metadata to priority**

366 An internal priority module can be written. This module would associate a
367 priority to all different streams' metadata. It is loaded statically from the config
368 file. See [Routing data structure example](#) for an example of data structure.

369 **Hybrid routing module maps stream metadata to external audio 370 router calls**

371 In the hybrid setup, the audio routing functions could be implemented in a
372 separate module that maps audio events to automotive domain calls. However
373 this module does not perform the priority checks. Those are executed in the
374 automotive domain because they can involve a different feature set.

375 **Identification of applications**

376 Flatpak applications are wrapped in containers and are identified by an unique
377 app-id which can be used by the policy manager. Such app-id is encoded in the
378 name of the [transient systemd scope wrapping each application instance](#)¹⁰ and
379 can be retrieved easily.

¹⁰<https://github.com/flatpak/flatpak/wiki/Sandbox#the-current-flatpak-sandbox>

380 If AppArmor support is added to Flatpak, AppArmor profiles could also be
381 used to securely identify applications.

382 **Web application support**

383 Web applications are just like any other application. However, the web engine
384 JavaScript API does not provide a way to select the media role. All streams
385 emanating from the same web application bundle would thus have the same
386 role. Since each web application is running in its own process, AppArmor can
387 be used to differentiate them. Web application support for corking depends on
388 the underlying engine. WebKitGTK+ has the necessary support. See [changeset](https://trac.webkit.org/changeset/145811)
389 [145811](https://trac.webkit.org/changeset/145811)¹¹.

390 **Implementation of priority within streams**

391 The policy manager should be able to cork streams: when a new stream with a
392 certain role is started, all other streams within a user defined list of roles will
393 get corked.

394 **Corking streams**

395 Depending on the audio routing policy, audio streams might be “corked”,
396 “ducked” or simply silenced (moved to a null sink).

397 As long as the role is properly defined, the application developer does not have
398 to worry about what happens to the stream except corking. Corking is part of
399 PipeWire API and can happen at any time. Corking *should* be supported by
400 applications. It is even possible that a stream is corked before being started.

401 If an application is not able to cork itself, the audio manager should enforce
402 corking by muting the stream as soon as possible. However, this has the side
403 effect that the stream between the corking request and the effective corking
404 in the application will be lost. A threshold delay can be implemented to give
405 an application enough time to cork itself. The policy of the external audio
406 manager must also be considered: if this audio manager has already closed the
407 audio route when notifying the user, then the data will already be discarded. If
408 the audio manager synchronously requests pause, then the application can take
409 appropriate time to shutdown.

410 **Ensuring a process does not overrides its priorities**

411 Additionally to request a stream to cork, a stream could be muted so any data
412 still being received would be silenced.

¹¹<https://trac.webkit.org/changeset/145811>

413 **GStreamer support**

414 GStreamer support is straightforward. `pipewiresink` support the `stream-`
415 `properties` parameter. This parameter can be used to specify the `media.role`.
416 The GStreamer pipeline states already changes from `GST_STATE_PLAYING` to
417 `GST_STATE_PAUSED` when corking is requested.

418 **Remembering the previously playing stream**

419 If a stream was playing and has been preempted, it may be desirable to switch
420 back to this stream after the higher priority stream is terminated. To that effect,
421 when a new stream start playing, a pointer to the stream that was currently
422 playing (or an id) could be stored in a stack. The termination of a playing
423 stream could restore playback of the previously suspended stream.

424 **Using different sinks**

425 A specific `media.role` metadata value should be associated to a priority and
426 a target sink. This allows to implement requirements of a sink per stream
427 category. For example, one sink for main streams and another sink for interrupt
428 streams. The default behavior is to mix together all streams sent to the same
429 sink.

430 **Routing data structure example**

431 The following table document routing data for defining a A-IVI inspired stream
432 routing. This is an example, and in an OEM variant of Apertis it would be
433 replaced with the business rules that would fulfill the OEM's requirements

434 App-bundle metadata defines whether the application is allowed to use this
435 audio role, if not defined, the application is not allowed to use the role. From
436 the role, priorities between stream could be defined as follows:

437 In a standalone setup:

role	priority	sink	action
music	0 (lowest)	main_sink	cork
phone	7 (highest)	main_sink	cork
ringtone	7 (highest)	alert_sink	mix
customringtone	7 (highest)	main_sink	cork
new_email	1	alert_sink	mix
traffic_info	6	alert_sink	mix
gps	5	main_sink	duck

438 In a hybrid setup, the priority would be expressed in a data understandable
439 by the automotive domain. The action meaning would be only internal to CE
440 domain. Since the CE domain do not know what is happening in the automotive

441 domain.

role	priority	sink	action
music	MAIN_APP1	main_sink	cork
phone	MAIN_APP2	main_sink	cork
ringtone	MAIN_APP3	alert_sink	mix
customringtone	MAIN_APP3	main_sink	cork
new_email	ALERT1	alert_sink	mix
traffic_info	INFO1	alert_sink	mix
gps	INFO2	main_sink	mix

442 WirePlumber policy samples

443 All the policies in WirePlumber are completely scriptable and written in Lua.

444 The Lua API Documentation can be found [here](#)¹².

445 The default roles, priorities and related actions are defined in `/etc/wireplumber/policy.lua.d/50-`
446 `endpoints-config.lua` and can be re-written to support the standalone setup
447 defined in [Routing data structure example](#):

```
448 default_policy.policy.roles = {
449     -- main sink
450     ["Multimedia"] = { ["priority"] = 0, ["action.default"] = "cork", ["alias"] = { "Movie", "Music", "Game" }, },
451     ["GPS"]        = { ["priority"] = 5, ["action.default"] = "duck", },
452     ["Phone"]      = { ["priority"] = 7, ["action.default"] = "cork", ["alias"] = { "CustomRingtone" }, },
453
454     -- alert sink
455     ["New_email"]  = { ["priority"] = 1, ["action.default"] = "mix", },
456     ["Traffic_info"] = { ["priority"] = 6, ["action.default"] = "mix", },
457     ["Ringtone"]  = { ["priority"] = 7, ["action.default"] = "mix", },
458 }
459
460 default_policy.endpoints = {
461     ["endpoint.multimedia"] = { ["media.class"] = "Audio/Sink", ["role"] = "Multimedia", },
462     ["endpoint.gps"]       = { ["media.class"] = "Audio/Sink", ["role"] = "GPS", },
463     ["endpoint.phone"]     = { ["media.class"] = "Audio/Sink", ["role"] = "Phone", },
464     ["endpoint.ringtone"]  = { ["media.class"] = "Audio/Sink", ["role"] = "Ringtone", },
465     ["endpoint.new_email"] = { ["media.class"] = "Audio/Sink", ["role"] = "New_email", },
466     ["endpoint.traffic_info"] = { ["media.class"] = "Audio/Sink", ["role"] = "Traffic_info", },
467 }
```

468 And, for example, a policy to automatically switch Bluetooth from A2DP to
469 HSP/HFP profile when a specific application starts, e.g. Zoom, could be defined
470 like:

¹²https://pipewire.pages.freedesktop.org/wireplumber/lua_api.html

```

471 #!/usr/bin/wpexec
472 --
473 -- WirePlumber
474 --
475 -- Copyright © 2021 Collabora Ltd.
476 --   @author George Kiagiadakis <george.kiagiadakis@collabora.com>
477 --
478 -- SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
479 --
480 -- This is an example of a standalone policy making script. It can be executed
481 -- either on top of another instance of wireplumber or pipewire-media-session,
482 -- as a standalone executable, or it can be placed in WirePlumber's scripts
483 -- directory and loaded together with other scripts.
484 --
485 -- The script basically watches for a client application called
486 -- "ZOOM VoiceEngine", and when it appears (i.e. Zoom starts), it switches
487 -- the profile of all connected bluetooth devices to the "headset-head-unit"
488 -- (a.k.a HSP Headset Audio) profile. When Zoom exits, it switches again the
489 -- profile of all bluetooth devices to A2DP Sink.
490 --
491 -- The script can be customized further to look for other clients and/or
492 -- change the profile of a specific device, by customizing the constraints.
493 -----
494 -
495
496 devices_om = ObjectManager {
497     Interest { type = "device",
498         Constraint { "device.api", "=", "bluez5" },
499     }
500 }
501
502 clients_om = ObjectManager {
503     Interest { type = "client",
504         Constraint { "application.name", "=", "ZOOM VoiceEngine" },
505     }
506 }
507
508 function set_profile(profile_name)
509     for device in devices_om:iterate() do
510         local index = nil
511         local desc = nil
512
513         for profile in device:iterate_params("EnumProfile") do
514             local p = profile:parse()
515             if p.properties.name == profile_name then
516                 index = p.properties.index

```



```

517         desc = p.properties.description
518         break
519     end
520 end
521
522 if index then
523     local pod = Pod.Object {
524         "Spa:Pod:Object:Param:Profile", "Profile",
525         index = index
526     }
527
528     print("Setting profile of '"
529         .. device.properties["device.description"]
530         .. "' to: " .. desc)
531     device:set_params("Profile", pod)
532 end
533 end
534 end
535
536 clients_om:connect("object-added", function (om, client)
537     print("Client '" .. client.properties["application.name"] .. "' connected")
538     set_profile("headset-head-unit")
539 end)
540
541 clients_om:connect("object-removed", function (om, client)
542     print("Client '" .. client.properties["application.name"] .. "' disconnected")
543     set_profile("a2dp-sink")
544 end)
545
546 devices_om:activate()
547 clients_om:activate()

```

548 **Testability**

549 The key point to keep in mind for testing is that several applications can execute
550 in parallel and use PipeWire APIs (and the library API) concurrently. The
551 testing should try to replicate this. However testing possibilities are limited
552 because the testing result depends on the audio policy.

553 **Application developer testing**

554 The application developer is requested to implement corking and error path.
555 Testing those features will depend on the policy in use.

556 Having a way to identify the *lowest* and *highest* priority definition in the policy
557 could be enough for the application developer. Starting a stream with the lowest

558 priority would not succeed if a stream is already running. Starting a stream with
559 the highest priority would cork all running streams.

560 The developer may benefit from the possibility to customize the running policy.

561 **Testing the complete design**

562 Testability of the complete design must be exercised from application level. It
563 consist of emulating several applications each creating independent connections
564 with different priorities, and verifying that the interactions are reliable. The
565 policy module could be provisionned with a dedicated test policy for which the
566 results are already known.

567 **Requirements**

568 This design fullfill the following requirements:

- 569 • [Standalone operation] and [Integrated operation] are provided using se-
570 parate sets of configuration files.
- 571 • [Priority rules] are provided by the policy manager.
- 572 • the audio manager library interface is aware of [Multiple sound outputs].
- 573 • [Remember preempted source] can be implemented in the policy manager.
- 574 • [Audio recording] will use the same mechanisms.
- 575 • [Latency] is implemented by not adding additional audio processing layer.
- 576 • [Security] is implemented by relying on the Flatpak containerization,
577 which could be further hardened by adding AppArmor support.
- 578 • [Muting output streams] and [Control source activity] uses PipeWire cork-
579 ing infrastructure.
- 580 • [Per stream priority] uses the PipeWire API.
- 581 • [GStreamer support] is provided indirectly thanks to existing plugins.

582 **Open questions**

583 **Roles**

- 584 • Do we need to define roles that the application developer can use?

585 It's not possible to guarantee that an OEM's policies will not nullify an
586 audio role that is included in Apertis. However, if we do not provide
587 some roles, there is no hope of ever having an application designed for one
588 system work gracefully on another.

- 589 • Should we define roles for input?

590 Probably, yes, speech recognition input could have a higher priority than
591 phone call input. (Imagine the use case where someone is taking a call,
592 is not currently talking on the call, and wants to change their navigation
593 destination: they press the speech recognition hard-key, tell the navigation
594 system to change destination, then input switches back to the phone call.)

- 595 • Should we define one or several audio roles not requiring permission for
596 use?

597 No, it is explicitly recommended that every audio role requires permis-
598 sion. An app-store curator from the OEM could still give permission to
599 every application requesting a role.

600 Policies

- 601 • How can we ensure matching between the policy and application defined
602 roles?

603 Each permission in the permission set should be matched with a media
604 role. The number of different permissions should be kept to a minimum.

- 605 • Should applications start stream corked?

606 It must be done on both the application side and the audio manager side.
607 Applications cannot be trusted. As soon as a stream opens, the PipeWire
608 process must cork it - before the first sample comes out. Otherwise a ma-
609 licious application could play undesirable sounds or noises while the audio
610 manager is still thinking about what to do with that stream. The au-
611 dio manager might be making this decision asynchronously, by asking for
612 permission from the automotive domain. The audio manager can choose
613 uncork, leave corked or kill, according to its policies. On the application
614 side, it is only possible to *suggest* the best way for an application to behave
615 in order to obtain the best user experience.

- 616 • Should we use `media.role` or define an apertis specific stream property?

617 Summary of recommendations

- 618 • PipeWire is adopted as audio router and WirePlumber as policy manager.
619 • Applications keep using the PulseAudio API or higher level APIs like
620 GStreamer to be compatible with the legacy system.
621 • The default WirePlumber policy is extended to address the use-cases de-
622 scribed here.
623 • Static sets of configuration files can implement different policies depending
624 on hybrid setup or standalone setup.
625 • Each OEM must derive from those policies to implement their business
626 rules.
627 • WirePlumber must be modified to check that the application have the
628 permission to use the requested role and, if the `media.role` is not provided
629 in the stream, it must check if a default value is provided in the application
630 bundle metadata.
631 • If AppArmor support is made available in Flatpak, WirePlumber must be
632 modified to check for AppArmor identity of client applications.
633 • The application bundle metadata contains a default audio role for all
634 streams within an application.

- 635 • The application bundle metadata must contain a permission request for
- 636 each audio role in use in an application.
- 637 • For each stream, an application can choose an audio role and communicate
- 638 it to PipeWire at stream creation.
- 639 • The policy manager monitors creation and state changes of streams.
- 640 • Depending on business rules, the policy manager can request an applica-
- 641 tion to cork or mute.
- 642 • GStreamer's `pipewiresink` support a `stream.properties` parameter.
- 643 • A tool for corking a stream could be implemented.