

## Sending text messages to Pagers and to Cellular phones

### QUESTION...

(1) Why can I send a text message to a cellular phone but not to a pager?

### ANSWER...

- (1) Pagers accept messages only in **TAP protocol**.
- (2) Cellular phones accept messages in SMSC protocol **OR** on in TAP protocol.
- (3) I believe that your software may be sending messages to pagers in SMSC protocol. The pager cannot read SMSC protocol and discards the message.

### SOLUTION...

(1) Send messages to pagers in TAP protocol.

### TAP protocol (for pagers)...

- (1) TAP protocol is used by paging service providers to send short text messages to **pagers**.
- (2) A copy of the **TAP protocol** is attached.
- (3) TAP protocol will not accept messages from devices that send messages exclusively in SMSC protocol.
- (4) TAP protocol will accept messages from devices that send messages in TAP-SMSC protocol (an intelligent protocol).

### TAP-SMSC protocol (for cellular phones)...

- (1) TAP-SMSC protocol is used by cellular service providers to send short text messages to **cellular phones**.
- (2) TAP-SMSC protocol accepts messages that are sent in either **TAP protocol or in SMSC protocol**.
- (3) **TAP protocol** messages are sent to cellular phones **without** confirmation back to the sender that the message was actually received by the cellular phone.
- (4) **SMSC protocol** messages are sent to cellular phones **with** confirmation back to the sender that the message was actually received by the pager.
- (5) SMSC message confirmation can take up to several days if the phone is in a poor coverage area, which is common in rural areas and in big buildings or if the cellular phone's battery is dead.

**If you need to receive short messages quickly, and without worrying if the recipient's battery is dead...**

- (1) **You should use pagers, and TAP protocol.**
- (2) Pagers generally have a stronger signal (for building penetration) and a greater coverage area (for rural areas) than is the case for cellular phones. This is why **pagers are most commonly used for applications that require short text messages to be received quickly**. Pager batteries last well over a month and give a low battery indication for about a week. They use AA or AAA cells, and you can carry spares in your glove box. Cellular phones, in contrast can exhaust their battery **suddenly** on a single phone call, or when the cellular phone travels into an analog service area.

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