Abstract

The chapter is part of the handbook titled “SIP Handbook: Services, Technologies, and Security of Session Initiation Protocol” and it discusses issues related to NAT/firewall presence between SIP UAs: indeed NAT and firewalls are not transparent to SIP UAs since NATs dynamically modify network addresses and ports while firewalls may block incoming connections, making impossible to call UAs placed behind them. The chapter covers these aspects in detail, pointing out the weaknesses of the SIP protocol that cause communication failures. Then the state of the art solutions for NAT/firewall traversal are exposed showing how they are currently applied to SIP based UAs. In more detail solutions specific for SIP signalling flows are discussed separately from solutions designed for media flows (that need to be established without intermediary nodes that may cause severe performance loss).