

**Data Types in the Remote Authentication
Dial-In User Service Protocol (RADIUS)
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Abstract

RADIUS specifications have used data types for two decades without defining them as managed entities. During this time, RADIUS implementations have named the data types, and have used them in attribute definitions. This document updates the specifications to better follow established practice. We do this by naming the data types defined in [RFC 6158](#), which have been used since at least [RFC 2865](#). We provide an IANA registry for the data types, and update the RADIUS Attribute Type registry to include a "Data Type" field for each attribute. Finally, we recommend that authors of RADIUS specifications use these types in preference to existing practice.

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1. Introduction

RADIUS specifications have historically defined attributes in terms of name, type value, and data type. Of these three pieces of information, only the type value is managed by IANA. There is no management of, or restriction on, the attribute name, as discussed in [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.7.1](#). There is no management of data type name or definition. This document defines an IANA registry for data types, and updates the RADIUS Attribute Type registry to use those newly defined data types.

In this section, we review the use of data types in specifications and implementations. We highlight ambiguities and inconsistencies. The rest of this document is devoted to resolving those problems.

1.1. Specification use of Data Types

A number of data type names and definitions are given in [\[RFC2865\] Section 5](#), at the bottom of page 25. These data types are named and clearly defined. However, this practice was not continued in later specifications.

Specifically, [\[RFC2865\]](#) defines attributes of data type "address" to carry IPv4 addresses. Despite this definition, [\[RFC3162\]](#) defines attributes of data type "Address" to carry IPv6 addresses. We suggest that the use of the word "address" to refer to disparate data types is problematic.

Other failures are that [\[RFC3162\]](#) does not give a data type name and definition for the data types IPv6 address, Interface-Id, or IPv6 prefix. [\[RFC2869\]](#) defines Event-Timestamp to carry a time, but does not re-use the "time" data type defined in [\[RFC2865\]](#). Instead, it just repeats the "time" definition. [\[RFC6572\]](#) defines multiple attributes which carry IPv4 prefixes. However, an "IPv4 prefix" data type is not named, defined as a data type, or called out as an addition to RADIUS. Further, [\[RFC6572\]](#) does not follow the recommendations of [\[RFC6158\]](#), and does not explain why it fails to follow those recommendations.

These ambiguities and inconsistencies need to be resolved.

1.2. Implementation use of Data Types

RADIUS implementations often use "dictionaries" to map attribute names to type values, and to define data types for each attribute. The data types in the dictionaries are defined by each implementation, but correspond to the "ad hoc" data types used in the specifications.

In effect, implementations have seen the need for well-defined data types, and have created them. It is time for RADIUS specifications to follow this practice.

This document requires no changes to any RADIUS implementation, past, present, or future. It instead documents existing practice, in order to simplify the process of writing RADIUS specifications, to clarify the interpretation of RADIUS standards, and to improve the communication between specification authors and IANA.

1.3. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)].

2. Data Type Definitions

This section defines the new data types. For each data type, it gives a definition, a name, a number, a length, and an encoding format. Where relevant, it describes subfields contained within the data type. These definitions have no impact on existing RADIUS implementations. There is no requirement that implementations use these names.

Where possible, the name of each data type has been taken from previous specifications. In some cases, a different name has been chosen. The change of name is sometimes required to avoid ambiguity (i.e. "address" versus "Address"). Otherwise, the new name has been chosen to be compatible with [\[RFC2865\]](#), or with use in common implementations. In some cases, new names are chosen to clarify the interpretation of the data type.

The numbers assigned herein for the data types have no meaning other than to permit them to be tracked by IANA. As RADIUS does not encode information about data types in a packet, the numbers assigned to a data type will never occur in a packet.

The encoding of each data type is taken from previous specifications. The fields are transmitted from left to right.

Where the data types have inter-dependencies, the simplest data type is given first, and dependent ones are given later.

We do not create specific data types for the "tagged" attributes, as discussed in [\[RFC2868\]](#). That specification defines the "tagged" attributes as being backwards compatible with pre-existing data types. In addition, [\[RFC6158\] Section 2.1](#) says that "tagged" attributes should not be used. There is therefore no benefit to defining additional data types for these attributes.

Similarly, we do not create data types for some attributes having complex structure, such as CHAP-Password, ARAP-Features, or Location-Capable. We need to strike a balance between correcting earlier mistakes, and making this document more complex. In some cases, it is better to treat complex attributes as being of type "string", even though they need to be interpreted by RADIUS implementations.

Implementations not supporting a particular data type **MUST** treat attributes of that data type as being of data type "string". See [Section 2.6](#), below for a definition of the "string" data type.

The definitions below use specialized names for various fields of attributes and data types. These names serve to address ambiguity of

the field names in previous specifications. For example, the term "Value" is used in [\[RFC2865\] Section 5](#) to define a field which carries the contents of attribute. It is then used in later sections as the sub-field of attribute contents. The result is that the field is defined as recursively containing itself. Similarly, "String" is used both as a data type, and as a sub-field of other data types.

This document uses slightly different terminology than previous specifications, in order to be avoid ambiguity. The first addition is the following term:

Attr-Data

The "Value" field of an Attribute as defined in [\[RFC2865\] Section 5](#). The contents of this field MUST be a valid data type as defined in the RADIUS Data Type registry.

In this document, we use the term "Value" only to refer to the contents of a data type, where that data type cannot carry other data types. In other cases, we refer to the contents of a data type as "Type-Data", to distinguish it from data of other types. For example, a data type "vsa" will contain a data field called "VSA-Data".

These terms are used in preference to the term "String", which was used in multiple incompatible ways. It is RECOMMENDED that future specifications use the new terms in order to maintain consistent definitions, and to avoid ambiguities.

[2.1.](#) integer

The "integer" data type encodes a 32-bit unsigned integer in network byte order. Where the range of values for a particular attribute is limited to a sub-set of the values, specifications MUST define the valid range. Values outside of the allowed ranges SHOULD be treated as invalid.

Name

integer

Number

1

Length

Four octets

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|      Value      |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

2.2. enum

The "enum" data type encodes a 32-bit unsigned integer in network byte order. It differs from the "integer" data type only in that it is used to define enumerated types, such as Service-Type. Specifications MUST define a valid set of enumerated values, along with a unique name for each value.

Name

enum

Number

2

Length

Four octets

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|      Value      |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

2.3. ipv4addr

The "ipv4addr" data type encodes an IPv4 address in network byte order. Where the range of address for a particular attribute is limited to a sub-set of possible addresses, specifications MUST define the valid range(s). Values outside of the allowed range SHOULD be treated as invalid.

Name

2.5. text

The "text" data type encodes UTF-8 text [[RFC3629](#)]. The maximum length of the text is given by the encapsulating attribute. Where the range of lengths for a particular attribute is limited to a sub-set of possible lengths, specifications MUST define the valid range(s).

Note that the "text" type does not terminate with a NUL octet (hex 00). The Attribute has a Length field and does not use a terminator. Texts of length zero (0) MUST NOT be sent; omit the entire attribute instead.

Name

text

Number

5

Length

One or more octets.

Format

```

0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
+---+---+---+---+
| Value   ...
+---+---+---+---+
```

2.6. string

The "string" data type encodes binary data, as a sequence of undistinguished octets. Where the range of lengths for a particular attribute is limited to a sub-set of possible lengths, specifications MUST define the valid range(s).

Note that the "string" data type does not terminate with a NUL octet (hex 00). The Attribute has a Length field and does not use a terminator. Strings of length zero (0) MUST NOT be sent; omit the entire attribute instead.

Where there is a need to encapsulate complex data structures, and

TLVs cannot be used, the "string" data type MUST be used. This requirement include encapsulation of data structures defined outside of RADIUS, which are opaque to the RADIUS infrastructure. It also includes encapsulation of some data structures which are not opaque to RADIUS, such as the contents of CHAP-Password.

There is little reason to define a new RADIUS data type for only one attribute. However, where the complex data type cannot be represented as TLVs, and is expected to be used in many attributes, a new data type SHOULD be defined.

These requirements are stronger than [[RFC6158](#)], which makes the above encapsulation a "SHOULD". This document defines data types for use in RADIUS, so there are few reasons to avoid using them.

Name

string

Number

6

Length

One or more octets.

Format

```

0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
+---+---+---+---+
| Octets    ...
+---+---+---+---+
```

[2.7.](#) concat

The "concat" data type permits the transport of more than 253 octets of data in a "standard space" [[RFC6929](#)] attribute. It is otherwise identical to the "string" data type.

If multiple attributes of this data type are contained in a packet, all attributes of the same type code MUST be in order and they MUST be consecutive attributes in the packet.

The amount of data transported in a "concat" data type can be no more than the RADIUS packet size. In practice, the requirement to

transport multiple attributes means that the limit may be substantially smaller than one RADIUS packet. As a rough guide, is RECOMMENDED that this data type transport no more than 2048 octets of data.

The "concat" data type MAY be used for "standard space" attributes. It MUST NOT be used for attributes in the "short extended space" or the "long extended space". It MUST NOT be used in any field or subfields of the following data types: "tlv", "vsa", "extended", "long-extended", or "evs".

Name

concat

Number

7

Length

One or more octets.

Format

```

0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
+---+---+---+---+
|  Octets    ...
+---+---+---+---+
```

[2.8.](#) ifid

The "ifid" data type encodes an Interface-Id as an 8-octet string in network byte order.

Name

ifid

Number

8

Length

Eight octets

Format

[illegible]

2.9. ipv6addr

The "ipv6addr" data type encodes an IPv6 address in network byte order. Where the range of address for a particular attribute is limited to a sub-set of possible addresses, specifications **MUST** define the valid range(s).

Name

ipv6addr

Number

9

Length

Sixteen octets

Format

[illegible]

2.10. ipv6prefix

The "ipv6prefix" data type encodes an IPv6 prefix, using both a prefix length and an IPv6 address in network byte order.

Name

ipv6prefix

Number

10

Length

At least two, and no more than eighteen octets.

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|      Reserved      | Prefix-Length | Prefix ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
... Prefix ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
... Prefix ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
... Prefix
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Subfields

Reserved

This field, which is reserved and MUST be present, is always set to zero.

Prefix-Length

The length of the prefix, in bits. At least 0 and no larger than 128.

Prefix

The Prefix field is up to 16 octets in length. Bits outside of the Prefix-Length, if included, must be zero.

[2.11.](#) **ipv4prefix**

The "ipv4prefix" data type encodes an IPv4 prefix, using both a prefix length and an IPv4 address in network byte order.

Name

ipv4prefix

Number

11

Length

At least two, and no more than eighteen octets.

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|      Reserved      | Prefix-Len| Prefix ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
      ... Prefix      |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Subfields

Reserved

This field, which is reserved and MUST be present, is always set to zero.

Prefix-Length

A 6-bit unsigned integer containing the length of the prefix, in bits. The values MUST be no larger than 32.

Prefix

The Prefix field is 4 octets in length. Bits outside of the Prefix-Length must be zero. Unlike the "ipv6prefix" data type, this field is fixed length. If the address is all zeros (i.e. "0.0.0.0", then the Prefix-Length MUST be set to 32.

2.12. integer64

The "integer64" data type encodes a 64-bit unsigned integer in network byte order. Where the range of values for a particular attribute is limited to a sub-set of the values, specifications MUST define the valid range(s).

Name

integer64

Number

12

Length

Eight octets

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|      Value ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
      ... Value
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

2.13. tlv

The "tlv" data type encodes a type-length-value, as defined in [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.3](#).

Name

tlv

Number

13

Length

Three or more octets

Format


```

      0               1               2               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|  TLV-Type   |  TLV-Length   |    TLV-Data ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Subfields

TLV-Type

This field is one octet. Up-to-date values of this field are specified according to the policies and rules described in [\[RFC6929\] Section 10](#). Values 254-255 are "Reserved" for use by future extensions to RADIUS. The value 26 has no special meaning, and MUST NOT be treated as a Vendor Specific attribute.

The TLV-Type is meaningful only within the context defined by "Type" fields of the encapsulating Attributes, using the dotted-number notation introduced in [\[RFC6929\]](#).

A RADIUS server MAY ignore Attributes with an unknown "TLV-Type".

A RADIUS client MAY ignore Attributes with an unknown "TLV-Type".

A RADIUS proxy SHOULD forward Attributes with an unknown "TLV-Type" verbatim.

TLV-Length

The TLV-Length field is one octet, and indicates the length of this TLV including the TLV-Type, TLV-Length and TLV-Value fields. It MUST have a value between 3 and 255. If a client or server receives a TLV with an invalid TLV-Length, then the attribute which encapsulates that TLV MUST be considered to be an "invalid attribute", and handled as per [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.8](#).

TLVs having TLV-Length of zero (0) MUST NOT be sent; omit the entire TLV instead.

TLV-Data

The TLV-Data field is one or more octets and contains information specific to the Attribute. The format and length of the TLV-Data field is determined by the TLV-Type and TLV-

Length fields.

The TLV-Data field MUST contain only known RADIUS data types. The TLV-Data field MUST NOT contain any of the following data types: "concat", "vsa", "extended", "long-extended", or "evs".

[2.14.](#) vsa

The "vsa" data type encodes Vendor-Specific data, as given in [\[RFC2865\] Section 5.26](#). It is used only in the Attr-Data field of a Vendor-Specific Attribute. It MUST NOT appear in the contents of any other data type.

Name

vsa

Number

14

Length

Five or more octets

Format

```

      0                      1                      2                      3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|                               Vendor-Id                               |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|  VSA-Data  ....
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Subfields

Vendor-Id

The 4 octets are the Network Management Private Enterprise Code [\[PEN\]](#) of the Vendor in network byte order.

VSA-Data

The VSA-Data field is one or more octets. The actual format of the information is site or application specific, and a robust implementation SHOULD support the field as undistinguished

octets.

The codification of the range of allowed usage of this field is outside the scope of this specification.

It SHOULD be encoded as a sequence of "tlv" fields. The interpretation of the TLV-Type and TLV-Data fields are dependent on the vendor's definition of that attribute.

The "vsa" data type MUST be used as contents of the Attr-Data field of the Vendor-Specific attribute. The "vsa" data type MUST NOT appear in the contents of any other data type.

2.15. extended

The "extended" data type encodes the "Extended Type" format, as given in [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.1](#). It is used only in the Attr-Data field of an Attribute allocated from the "standard space". It MUST NOT appear in the contents of any other data type.

Name

extended

Number

15

Length

Two or more octets

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
| Extended-Type | Ext-Data ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Subfields

Extended-Type

The Extended-Type field is one octet. Up-to-date values of this field are specified according to the policies and rules described in [\[RFC6929\] Section 10](#). Unlike the Type field

defined in [\[RFC2865\] Section 5](#), no values are allocated for experimental or implementation-specific use. Values 241-255 are reserved and MUST NOT be used.

The Extended-Type is meaningful only within a context defined by the Type field. That is, this field may be thought of as defining a new type space of the form "Type.Extended-Type". See [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.5](#) for additional discussion.

A RADIUS server MAY ignore Attributes with an unknown "Type.Extended-Type".

A RADIUS client MAY ignore Attributes with an unknown "Type.Extended-Type".

Ext-Data

The contents of this field MUST be a valid data type as defined in the RADIUS Data Type registry. The Ext-Data field MUST NOT contain any of the following data types: "concat", "vsa", "extended", "long-extended", or "evs".

The Ext-Data field is one or more octets.

Implementations supporting this specification MUST use the Identifier of "Type.Extended-Type" to determine the interpretation of the Ext-Data field.

[2.16.](#) long-extended

The "long-extended" data type encodes the "Long Extended Type" format, as given in [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.2](#). It is used only in the Attr-Data field of an Attribute. It MUST NOT appear in the contents of any other data type.

Name

long-extended

Number

16

Length

Three or more octets

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
| Extended-Type |M| Reserved   | Ext-Data ...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Subfields

Extended-Type

This field is identical to the Extended-Type field defined above in [Section 2.13](#).

M (More)

The More field is one (1) bit in length, and indicates whether or not the current attribute contains "more" than 251 octets of data. The More field MUST be clear (0) if the Length field has value less than 255. The More field MAY be set (1) if the Length field has value of 255.

If the More field is set (1), it indicates that the Ext-Data field has been fragmented across multiple RADIUS attributes. When the More field is set (1), the attribute MUST have a Length field of value 255; there MUST be an attribute following this one; and the next attribute MUST have both the same Type and Extended Type. That is, multiple fragments of the same value MUST be in order and MUST be consecutive attributes in the packet, and the last attribute in a packet MUST NOT have the More field set (1).

That is, a packet containing a fragmented attribute needs to contain all fragments of the attribute, and those fragments need to be contiguous in the packet. RADIUS does not support inter-packet fragmentation, which means that fragmenting an attribute across multiple packets is impossible.

If a client or server receives an attribute fragment with the "More" field set (1), but for which no subsequent fragment can be found, then the fragmented attribute is considered to be an "invalid attribute", and handled as per [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.8](#).

Reserved

This field is 7 bits long, and is reserved for future use. Implementations MUST set it to zero (0) when encoding an

attribute for sending in a packet. The contents SHOULD be ignored on reception.

Future specifications may define additional meaning for this field. Implementations therefore MUST NOT treat this field as invalid if it is non-zero.

Ext-Data

The contents of this field MUST be a valid data type as defined in the RADIUS Data Type registry. The Ext-Data field MUST NOT contain any of the following data types: "concat", "vsa", "extended", "long-extended", or "evs".

The Ext-Data field is one or more octets.

Implementations supporting this specification MUST use the Identifier of "Type.Extended-Type" to determine the interpretation of the Ext-Data field.

The length of the data MUST be taken as the sum of the lengths of the fragments (i.e. Ext-Data fields) from which it is constructed. Any interpretation of the resulting data MUST occur after the fragments have been reassembled. If the reassembled data does not match the expected format, each fragment MUST be treated as an "invalid attribute", and the reassembled data MUST be discarded.

We note that the maximum size of a fragmented attribute is limited only by the RADIUS packet length limitation. Implementations MUST be able to handle the case where one fragmented attribute completely fills the packet.

[2.17.](#) evs

The "evs" data type encodes an "Extended Vendor-Specific" attribute, as given in [\[RFC6929\] Section 2.4](#). The "evs" data type is used solely to extend the Vendor Specific space. It MAY appear inside of an "extended" or a "long-extended" data type. It MUST NOT appear in the contents of any other data type.

Name

evs

Number

17

Length

Six or more octets

Format

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Vendor-Id                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Vendor-Type | EVS-Data ....                                           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Subfields

Vendor-Id

The 4 octets are the Network Management Private Enterprise Code [\[PEN\]](#) of the Vendor in network byte order.

Vendor-Type

The Vendor-Type field is one octet. Values are assigned at the sole discretion of the Vendor.

EVS-Data

The EVS-Data field is one or more octets. It SHOULD encapsulate a previously defined RADIUS data type. Non-standard data types SHOULD NOT be used. We note that the EVS-Data field may be of data type "tlv".

The actual format of the information is site or application specific, and a robust implementation SHOULD support the field as undistinguished octets. We recognise that Vendors have complete control over the contents and format of the Ext-Data field, while at the same time recommending that good practices be followed.

Further codification of the range of allowed usage of this field is outside the scope of this specification.

3. Updated Registries

This section defines a new IANA registry for RADIUS data types, and updates the existing RADIUS Attribute Type registry.

3.1. Create a Data Type Registry

This section defines a new RADIUS registry, called "Data Type". Allocation in this registry requires IETF Review. The "Registration Procedures" for this registry are "Standards Action".

The registry contains three columns of data, as follows.

Value

The number of the data type. The value field is an artifact of the registry, and has no on-the-wire meaning.

Description

The name of the data type. The name field is used only for the registry, and has no on-the-wire meaning.

Reference

The specification where the data type was defined.

The initial contents of the registry are as follows.

Value	Description	Reference
-----	-----	-----
1	integer	[RFC2865], TBD
2	enum	[RFC2865], TBD
3	ipv4addr	[RFC2865], TBD
4	time	[RFC2865], TBD
5	text	[RFC2865], TBD
6	string	[RFC2865], TBD
7	concat	TBD
8	ifid	[RFC3162], TBD
9	ipv6addr	[RFC3162], TBD
10	ipv6prefix	[RFC3162], TBD
11	ipv4prefix	[RFC6572], TBD
12	integer64	[RFC6929], TBD
13	tlv	[RFC6929], TBD
14	evs	[RFC6929], TBD
15	extended	[RFC6929], TBD
16	long-extended	[RFC6929], TBD

3.2. Updates to the Attribute Type Registry

This section updates the RADIUS Attribute Type Registry to have a new column, which is inserted in between the existing "Description" and "Reference" columns. The new column is named "Data Type". The contents of that column are the name of a data type, corresponding to the attribute in that row, or blank if the attribute type is unassigned. The name of the data type is taken from the RADIUS Data Type registry, defined above.

The updated registry follows in CSV format.

Value	Description	Data Type	Reference
1	User-Name	string	[RFC2865]
2	User-Password	string	[RFC2865]
3	CHAP-Password	string	[RFC2865]
4	NAS-IP-Address	ipv4addr	[RFC2865]
5	NAS-Port	integer	[RFC2865]
6	Service-Type	enum	[RFC2865]
7	Framed-Protocol	enum	[RFC2865]
8	Framed-IP-Address	ipv4addr	[RFC2865]
9	Framed-IP-Netmask	ipv4addr	[RFC2865]
10	Framed-Routing	enum	[RFC2865]
11	Filter-Id	text	[RFC2865]
12	Framed-MTU	integer	[RFC2865]
13	Framed-Compression	enum	[RFC2865]
14	Login-IP-Host	ipv4addr	[RFC2865]
15	Login-Service	enum	[RFC2865]
16	Login-TCP-Port	integer	[RFC2865]
17	Unassigned		
18	Reply-Message	text	[RFC2865]
19	Callback-Number	text	[RFC2865]
20	Callback-Id	text	[RFC2865]
21	Unassigned		
22	Framed-Route	text	[RFC2865]
23	Framed-IPX-Network	ipv4addr	[RFC2865]
24	State	string	[RFC2865]
25	Class	string	[RFC2865]
26	Vendor-Specific	vsa	[RFC2865]
27	Session-Timeout	integer	[RFC2865]
28	Idle-Timeout	integer	[RFC2865]
29	Termination-Action	enum	[RFC2865]
30	Called-Station-Id	text	[RFC2865]
31	Calling-Station-Id	text	[RFC2865]
32	NAS-Identifier	text	[RFC2865]
33	Proxy-State	string	[RFC2865]
34	Login-LAT-Service	text	[RFC2865]
35	Login-LAT-Node	text	[RFC2865]

36, Login-LAT-Group, string, [[RFC2865](#)]
37, Framed-AppleTalk-Link, integer, [[RFC2865](#)]
38, Framed-AppleTalk-Network, integer, [[RFC2865](#)]
39, Framed-AppleTalk-Zone, text, [[RFC2865](#)]
40, Acct-Status-Type, enum, [[RFC2866](#)]
41, Acct-Delay-Time, integer, [[RFC2866](#)]
42, Acct-Input-Octets, integer, [[RFC2866](#)]
43, Acct-Output-Octets, integer, [[RFC2866](#)]
44, Acct-Session-Id, text, [[RFC2866](#)]
45, Acct-Authentic, enum, [[RFC2866](#)]
46, Acct-Session-Time, integer, [[RFC2866](#)]
47, Acct-Input-Packets, integer, [[RFC2866](#)]
48, Acct-Output-Packets, integer, [[RFC2866](#)]
49, Acct-Terminate-Cause, enum, [[RFC2866](#)]
50, Acct-Multi-Session-Id, text, [[RFC2866](#)]
51, Acct-Link-Count, integer, [[RFC2866](#)]
52, Acct-Input-Gigawords, integer, [[RFC2869](#)]
53, Acct-Output-Gigawords, integer, [[RFC2869](#)]
54, Unassigned, ,
55, Event-Timestamp, time, [[RFC2869](#)]
56, Egress-VLANID, integer, [[RFC4675](#)]
57, Ingress-Filters, enum, [[RFC4675](#)]
58, Egress-VLAN-Name, text, [[RFC4675](#)]
59, User-Priority-Table, string, [[RFC4675](#)]
60, CHAP-Challenge, string, [[RFC2865](#)]
61, NAS-Port-Type, enum, [[RFC2865](#)]
62, Port-Limit, integer, [[RFC2865](#)]
63, Login-LAT-Port, text, [[RFC2865](#)]
64, Tunnel-Type, enum, [[RFC2868](#)]
65, Tunnel-Medium-Type, enum, [[RFC2868](#)]
66, Tunnel-Client-Endpoint, text, [[RFC2868](#)]
67, Tunnel-Server-Endpoint, text, [[RFC2868](#)]
68, Acct-Tunnel-Connection, text, [[RFC2867](#)]
69, Tunnel-Password, text, [[RFC2868](#)]
70, ARAP-Password, string, [[RFC2869](#)]
71, ARAP-Features, string, [[RFC2869](#)]
72, ARAP-Zone-Access, enum, [[RFC2869](#)]
73, ARAP-Security, integer, [[RFC2869](#)]
74, ARAP-Security-Data, text, [[RFC2869](#)]
75, Password-Retry, integer, [[RFC2869](#)]
76, Prompt, enum, [[RFC2869](#)]
77, Connect-Info, text, [[RFC2869](#)]
78, Configuration-Token, text, [[RFC2869](#)]
79, EAP-Message, concat, [[RFC2869](#)]
80, Message-Authenticator, string, [[RFC2869](#)]
81, Tunnel-Private-Group-ID, text, [[RFC2868](#)]
82, Tunnel-Assignment-ID, text, [[RFC2868](#)]
83, Tunnel-Preference, integer, [[RFC2868](#)]

84, ARAP-Challenge-Response, string, [[RFC2869](#)]
85, Acct-Interim-Interval, integer, [[RFC2869](#)]
86, Acct-Tunnel-Packets-Lost, integer, [[RFC2867](#)]
87, NAS-Port-Id, text, [[RFC2869](#)]
88, Framed-Pool, text, [[RFC2869](#)]
89, CUI, string, [[RFC4372](#)]
90, Tunnel-Client-Auth-ID, text, [[RFC2868](#)]
91, Tunnel-Server-Auth-ID, text, [[RFC2868](#)]
92, NAS-Filter-Rule, text, [[RFC4849](#)]
93, Unassigned,,
94, Originating-Line-Info, string, [[RFC7155](#)]
95, NAS-IPv6-Address, ipv6addr, [[RFC3162](#)]
96, Framed-Interface-Id, ifid, [[RFC3162](#)]
97, Framed-IPv6-Prefix, ipv6prefix, [[RFC3162](#)]
98, Login-IPv6-Host, ipv6addr, [[RFC3162](#)]
99, Framed-IPv6-Route, text, [[RFC3162](#)]
100, Framed-IPv6-Pool, text, [[RFC3162](#)]
101, Error-Cause Attribute, enum, [[RFC3576](#)]
102, EAP-Key-Name, string, [[RFC4072](#)] [RFC7268]
103, Digest-Response, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
104, Digest-Realm, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
105, Digest-Nonce, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
106, Digest-Response-Auth, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
107, Digest-Nextnonce, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
108, Digest-Method, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
109, Digest-URI, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
110, Digest-Qop, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
111, Digest-Algorithm, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
112, Digest-Entity-Body-Hash, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
113, Digest-CNonce, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
114, Digest-Nonce-Count, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
115, Digest-Username, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
116, Digest-Opaque, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
117, Digest-Auth-Param, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
118, Digest-AKA-Auts, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
119, Digest-Domain, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
120, Digest-Stale, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
121, Digest-HA1, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
122, SIP-AOR, text, [[RFC5090](#)]
123, Delegated-IPv6-Prefix, ipv6prefix, [[RFC4818](#)]
124, MIP6-Feature-Vector, string, [[RFC5447](#)]
125, MIP6-Home-Link-Prefix, ipv6prefix, [[RFC5447](#)]
126, Operator-Name, text, [[RFC5580](#)]
127, Location-Information, string, [[RFC5580](#)]
128, Location-Data, string, [[RFC5580](#)]
129, Basic-Location-Policy-Rules, string, [[RFC5580](#)]
130, Extended-Location-Policy-Rules, string, [[RFC5580](#)]
131, Location-Capable, enum, [[RFC5580](#)]

132, Requested-Location-Info, enum, [[RFC5580](#)]
133, Framed-Management-Protocol, enum, [[RFC5607](#)]
134, Management-Transport-Protection, enum, [[RFC5607](#)]
135, Management-Policy-Id, text, [[RFC5607](#)]
136, Management-Privilege-Level, integer, [[RFC5607](#)]
137, PKM-SS-Cert, concat, [[RFC5904](#)]
138, PKM-CA-Cert, concat, [[RFC5904](#)]
139, PKM-Config-Settings, string, [[RFC5904](#)]
140, PKM-Cryptosuite-List, string, [[RFC5904](#)]
141, PKM-SAID, text, [[RFC5904](#)]
142, PKM-SA-Descriptor, string, [[RFC5904](#)]
143, PKM-Auth-Key, string, [[RFC5904](#)]
144, DS-Lite-Tunnel-Name, text, [[RFC6519](#)]
145, Mobile-Node-Identifier, string, [[RFC6572](#)]
146, Service-Selection, text, [[RFC6572](#)]
147, PMIP6-Home-LMA-IPv6-Address, ipv6addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
148, PMIP6-Visited-LMA-IPv6-Address, ipv6addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
149, PMIP6-Home-LMA-IPv4-Address, ipv4addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
150, PMIP6-Visited-LMA-IPv4-Address, ipv4addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
151, PMIP6-Home-HN-Prefix, ipv6prefix, [[RFC6572](#)]
152, PMIP6-Visited-HN-Prefix, ipv6prefix, [[RFC6572](#)]
153, PMIP6-Home-Interface-ID, ifid, [[RFC6572](#)]
154, PMIP6-Visited-Interface-ID, ifid, [[RFC6572](#)]
155, PMIP6-Home-IPv4-HoA, ipv4prefix, [[RFC6572](#)]
156, PMIP6-Visited-IPv4-HoA, ipv4prefix, [[RFC6572](#)]
157, PMIP6-Home-DHCP4-Server-Address, ipv4addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
158, PMIP6-Visited-DHCP4-Server-Address, ipv4addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
159, PMIP6-Home-DHCP6-Server-Address, ipv6addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
160, PMIP6-Visited-DHCP6-Server-Address, ipv6addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
161, PMIP6-Home-IPv4-Gateway, ipv4addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
162, PMIP6-Visited-IPv4-Gateway, ipv4addr, [[RFC6572](#)]
163, EAP-Lower-Layer, enum, [[RFC6677](#)]
164, GSS-Acceptor-Service-Name, text, [[RFC7055](#)]
165, GSS-Acceptor-Host-Name, text, [[RFC7055](#)]
166, GSS-Acceptor-Service-Specifics, text, [[RFC7055](#)]
167, GSS-Acceptor-Realm-Name, text, [[RFC7055](#)]
168, Framed-IPv6-Address, ipv6addr, [[RFC6911](#)]
169, DNS-Server-IPv6-Address, ipv6addr, [[RFC6911](#)]
170, Route-IPv6-Information, ipv6prefix, [[RFC6911](#)]
171, Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool, text, [[RFC6911](#)]
172, Stateful-IPv6-Address-Pool, text, [[RFC6911](#)]
173, IPv6-6rd-Configuration, tlv, [[RFC6930](#)]
174, Allowed-Called-Station-Id, text, [[RFC7268](#)]
175, EAP-Peer-Id, string, [[RFC7268](#)]
176, EAP-Server-Id, string, [[RFC7268](#)]
177, Mobility-Domain-Id, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
178, Preauth-Timeout, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
179, Network-Id-Name, string, [[RFC7268](#)]

180, EAPoL-Announcement, concat, [[RFC7268](#)]
181, WLAN-HESSID, text, [[RFC7268](#)]
182, WLAN-Venue-Info, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
183, WLAN-Venue-Language, string, [[RFC7268](#)]
184, WLAN-Venue-Name, text, [[RFC7268](#)]
185, WLAN-Reason-Code, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
186, WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
187, WLAN-Group-Cipher, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
188, WLAN-AKM-Suite, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
189, WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
190, WLAN-RF-Band, integer, [[RFC7268](#)]
191, Unassigned, ,
192-223, Experimental Use, , [[RFC3575](#)]
224-240, Implementation Specific, , [[RFC3575](#)]
241, Extended-Attribute-1, extended, [[RFC6929](#)]
241.{1-25}, Unassigned, ,
241.26, Extended-Vendor-Specific-1, evs, [[RFC6929](#)]
241.{27-240}, Unassigned, ,
241.{241-255}, Reserved, , [[RFC6929](#)]
242, Extended-Attribute-2, extended, [[RFC6929](#)]
242.{1-25}, Unassigned, ,
242.26, Extended-Vendor-Specific-2, evs, [[RFC6929](#)]
242.{27-240}, Unassigned, ,
242.{241-255}, Reserved, , [[RFC6929](#)]
243, Extended-Attribute-3, extended, [[RFC6929](#)]
243.{1-25}, Unassigned, ,
243.26, Extended-Vendor-Specific-3, evs, [[RFC6929](#)]
243.{27-240}, Unassigned, ,
243.{241-255}, Reserved, , [[RFC6929](#)]
244, Extended-Attribute-4, extended, [[RFC6929](#)]
244.{1-25}, Unassigned, ,
244.26, Extended-Vendor-Specific-4, evs, [[RFC6929](#)]
244.{27-240}, Unassigned, ,
244.{241-255}, Reserved, , [[RFC6929](#)]
245, Extended-Attribute-5, long-extended, [[RFC6929](#)]
245.{1-25}, Unassigned, ,
245.26, Extended-Vendor-Specific-5, evs, [[RFC6929](#)]
245.{27-240}, Unassigned, ,
245.{241-255}, Reserved, , [[RFC6929](#)]
246, Extended-Attribute-6, long-extended, [[RFC6929](#)]
246.{1-25}, Unassigned, ,
246.26, Extended-Vendor-Specific-6, evs, [[RFC6929](#)]
246.{27-240}, Unassigned, ,
246.{241-255}, Reserved, , [[RFC6929](#)]
247-255, Reserved, , [[RFC3575](#)]

4. Suggestions for Specifications

We suggest that these data types be used in new RADIUS specifications. Attributes can usually be completely described through their Attribute Type code, name, and data type. The use of "ASCII art" is then limited only to the definition of new data types, and complex data types.

Use of the new extended attributes [[RFC6929](#)] makes ASCII art even more problematic. An attribute can be allocated from the standard space, or from one of the extended spaces. This allocation decision is made after the specification has been accepted for publication. That allocation strongly affects the format of the attribute header, making it nearly impossible to create the correct ASCII art prior to final publication. Allocation from the different spaces also changes the value of the Length field, also making it difficult to define it correctly prior to final publication of the document.

The following fields SHOULD be given when defining new attributes:

Description

A description of the meaning and interpretation of the attribute.

Type

The Attribute Type code, given in the "dotted number" notation from [[RFC6929](#)]. Specifications can often leave this as "TBD", and request that IANA fill in the allocated values.

Length

A description of the length of the attribute. For attributes of variable length, a maximum length SHOULD be given.

Data Type

One of the named data types from the RADIUS Data Type registry.

Value

A description of any attribute-specific limitations on the values carried by the specified data type. If there are no attribute-specific limitations, then the description of this field can be omitted.

Where the values are limited to a subset of the possible range, valid range(s) MUST be defined.

For attributes of data type "enum", a list of enumerated values and names MUST be given, as with [\[RFC2865\] Section 5.6](#).

5. Security Considerations

This specification is concerned solely with updates to IANA registries. As such, there are no security considerations with the document itself.

However, the use of inconsistent names and poorly-defined entities in a protocol is problematic. Inconsistencies in specifications can lead to security and interoperability problems in implementations. Further, having one canonical source for the definition of data types means an implementor has fewer specifications to read. The implementation work is therefore simpler, and is more likely to be correct.

The goal of this specification is to reduce ambiguities in the RADIUS protocol, which we believe will lead to more robust and more secure implementations.

6. IANA Considerations

IANA is instructed to create one new registry as described above in [Section 3.1](#). The "TBD" text in that section should be replaced with the RFC number of this document when it is published.

IANA is instructed to update the RADIUS Attribute Type registry, as described above in [Section 3.2](#).

IANA is instructed to require that all allocation requests in the RADIUS Attribute Type Registry contain a "data type" field. That field is required to contain one of the "data type" names contained in the RADIUS Data Type registry.

7. References

7.1. Normative References

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[7.2.](#) Informative References

[RFC2868]

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[RFC3162]

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Acknowledgments

Stuff

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