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PIM Join Attribute Assignment Policy Update
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Abstract

This document updates the assignment policy of the PIM Join Attribute registry, changing the assignment policy from IETF Review to Specification Required.

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1. Introduction

This document changes the assignment policy of the PIM Join Attribute registry from IETF Review to Specification Required. The assignment policies are defined in [RFC5226]. With this change there is no longer a need for an RFC to be published to assign new join attributes, but a specification must be publicly available, and it will be reviewed by a Designated Expert as defined in [RFC5226].

2. Motivation

The assignment policy for the PIM Join Attribute registry was initially IETF Review as specified in [RFC5384]. However, this requires an RFC to be published prior to assignment. There are cases where there is a strong desire to deploy a new protocol or product relying on new Join Attributes without having to wait for the IETF standardisation process. By changing the policy to Specification Required, there will still be a public specification and a review process to ensure it is technically sound, but without waiting for an RFC to be published.

3. Review Criteria

The expert is expected to ensure that the specification is of sufficient quality to ensure interoperability between implementations, that it does not conflict with how PIM operates, that it will not cause potential deployment issues, and that it does not conflict with other multicast protocols or work in the IETF. Also, potential security implications must be considered.

In line with [RFC5384], join attribute specifications are required to specify the procedure to apply if there are multiple instances of the same attribute type. Also it should be considered whether it is appropriate for the attribute to be transitive or not. The conflict resolution procedure must also be considered. If a procedure is

specified, does it work as desired, or if not specified, is the default procedure specified in [RFC5384] appropriate for the attribute.

4. Security Considerations

This document by itself only changes a registry assignment policy which does not have any security issues in itself. When a Designated Expert reviews a new attribute specification, it is expected that the reviewer also considers the security aspects.

5. IANA Considerations

The assignment policy for the PIM Join Attribute registry is changed to Specification Required. IANA will need to update the registry description and accept and process assignment requests accordingly.

6. Acknowledgments

There have been discussions about assignment policies for the Join Attribute registry in the PIM WG, with several participants, William Atwood in particular. Based on this the author believes that this document is needed to change the assignment policy.

7. References

7.1. Informative References

[RFC5226] Narten, T. and H. Alvestrand, "Guidelines for Writing an IANA Considerations Section in RFCs", BCP 26, RFC 5226, May 2008.

7.2. Normative References

[RFC5384] Boers, A., Wijnands, I., and E. Rosen, "The Protocol Independent Multicast (PIM) Join Attribute Format", RFC 5384, November 2008.

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