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5G Wireless Wireline Convergence User Plane Encapsulation (5WE)

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Abstract

As part of providing wireline access to the 5G Core (5GC), deployed wireline networks carry user data between 5G residential gateways and the 5G Access Gateway Function (AGF). The encapsulation method specified in this document supports the multiplexing of traffic for multiple PDU sessions within a VLAN delineated access circuit, permits legacy equipment in the data path to snoop certain packet fields, carries 5G QoS information associated with the packet data, and provides efficient encoding.

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	2
1.1.	Requirements Language.....	3
1.2.	Acronyms.....	4
2.	Data Encapsulation Format.....	4
3.	Acknowledgements.....	5
4.	Security Considerations.....	5
5.	IANA Considerations.....	6
6.	References.....	6
6.1.	Normative References.....	6
6.2.	Informative References.....	6
7.	Authors' Addresses.....	7

[1.](#) Introduction

Converged 5G ("fifth generation") wireline networks carry user data between 5G residential gateways (5G-RG) and the 5G Access Gateway Function (identified as an Fixed-AGF (FAGF) by 3GPP in [TS23716]) across deployed access networks based on Broadband Forum [TR101] and [TR178].

The transport encapsulation used needs to meet a variety of requirements including the following:

- The ability to multiplex multiple logical connections (Protocol Data Unit (PDU) Sessions as defined by 3GPP) within a VLAN identified point to point logical circuit between a 5G-RG and an FAGF.
- To allow unmodified legacy equipment in the data path to identify the encapsulation and snoop specific fields in the payload. Some access nodes in the data path between the 5G-RG and the FAGF (Such as digital subscriber loop access multiplexers (DSLAMs) and optical line terminations (OLTs)) currently snoop into packets identified by specific Ethertypes to identify protocols such as the point to point protocol over ethernet (PPPoE), IP, ARP, and

IGMP. This may be for the purpose of enhanced QoS, policing of identifiers and other applications. Some deployments are dependent upon this snooping. Such devices are able to do this for PPPoE or IP over ethernet (IPoE) packet encodings but would be unable to do so if a new encapsulation, or an existing encapsulation using a new Ethertype, were used.

- To carry per packet 5G QoS information.
- Fixed access is very sensitive to the complexity of residential gateways, therefore encapsulation overhead and efficiency is an important consideration.

A modified [[RFC2516](#)] PPPoE data encapsulation (referred to as the 5G WWC user plane Encapsulation or 5WE) can address these requirements. Currently deployed access nodes do not police the VER, TYPE and CODE fields of an [RFC 2516](#) header, and only perform limited policing of stateful functions with respect to the procedures documented in [RFC 2516](#). Therefore, these fields may be repurposed to:

- Identify that the mode of operation for packets encapsulated in such a fashion uses non-access stratum (NAS, a logical control interface between user equipment (UE) and 5GC as specified by 3GPP) based 5G WWC session establishment and life cycle maintenance procedures as documented in [TS23502][TS23716] instead of legacy PPP/PPPoE session establishment procedures (i.e. PADI discipline, LCP, NCP etc.).
- Permit the session ID field to be used to identify the 5G PDU session the encapsulated packet is part of.
- Communicate per-packet 5G QoS Flow Identifier (QFI) and Reflective QoS Indication (RQI) information from the 5GC to the 5G-RG.

This 5G specific repurposing of fields results in an encapsulation uniquely applicable to the requirements for the communication of PDU session traffic between the subscriber premises and the 5G system over wireline networks. The 8 byte [RFC 2516](#) data packet header is also the most frugal of the encapsulations that are currently supported by legacy access equipment that could be adapted to meet these requirements. This encapsulation is not suitable for other network environments, e.g., general use over the public Internet.

[1.1.1](#). Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

1.2. Acronyms

This document uses the following acronyms:

3GPP 3rd Generation Partnership Project
 5WE 5G WWC Encapsulation
 5GC 5th Generation Core (network)
 DSLAM Digital Subscriber Loop Access Multiplexer
 FAGF Fixed Network Access Gateway Function
 IPoE IP over Ethernet
 NAS Non-Access Stratum
 OLT Optical Line Termination
 PDU Protocol Data Unit
 PPPoE PPP over Ethernet
 QFI QoS Flow Identifier
 QoS Quality of Service
 RG Residential Gateway
 RQI Reflective QoS Indicator
 WWC Wireless Wireline Convergence

2. Data Encapsulation Format

The Ethernet payload [IEEE802] for PPPoE [[RFC2516](#)] is indicated by an Ethertype of 0x8864. The information following that Ethertype uses a value of 2 in the VER field for the repurposing of the PPPoE data encapsulation as the 5G WWC user plane encapsulation (5WE). The 5G WWC User Plane encapsulation is structured as follows:

```

  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
  +-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
  | VER | TYPE | QFI | R|0| SESSION_ID |
  +-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
  | LENGTH | PROTOCOL ID |
  +-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
  | DATA PAYLOAD ~
  +-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+

```

The description of each field is as follows:

VER is the version. It MUST be set to 2.

TYPE is the message type. It MUST be set to 1.

QFI encodes the 3GPP 5G QoS Flow Identifier[TS38415] to be used for mapping 5G QoS to IP DSCP/802.1 P-bits[IEEE802].

R (short for RQI) encodes the one bit Reflective QoS Indicator.

0 indicates the bit(s) MUST be sent as zero and ignored on receipt.

SESSION_ID is a 16-bit unsigned integer in network byte order. It is used to distinguish different PDU sessions that are in the VLAN delineated multiplex.

LENGTH is the length in bytes of the data payload including the initial Protocol ID. It is 16 bits in network byte order.

PROTOCOL ID is the 16 bit identifier of the data payload type encoded using values from the IANA PPP DLL protocol numbers registry. (<https://www.iana.org/assignments/ppp-numbers/ppp-numbers.xhtml#ppp-numbers-2>)

The following values are valid in this field for 5G WWC use:

0x0021: IPv4

0x0031: Ethernet (referred to in PPP as "bridging")

0x0057: IPv6

DATA PAYLOAD is encoded as per the protocol ID.

3. Acknowledgements

This memo is a result of comprehensive discussions by the Broadband Forum's Wireline Wireless Convergence Work Area.

The authors would also like to thank Joel Halpern and Dirk Von Hugo for their detailed review of this draft.

4. Security Considerations

5G NAS procedures used for session life cycle maintenance employ ciphering and integrity protection. They can be considered to be a more secure session establishment discipline than existing [RFC 2516](#) procedures, at least against man in the middle attacks.

The document's re-purposing of the [RFC 2516](#) data encapsulation will not circumvent existing anti-spoofing and other security procedures in deployed equipment. The existing access equipment will be able to identify fields that they normally process and police as per existing [RFC 2516](#) traffic.

Therefore, the security of a fixed access network using 5WE will be equivalent or superior to current practice.

5. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to create a registry on the Point-to-Point (PPP) Protocol Field Assignments IANA Web page as follows:

Registry Name: PPP Over Ethernet Versions
Registration Procedure: Expert Review
References: [[RFC2516](#)] [this document]

VER	Description	Reference
-----	-----	-----
0	reserved	[this document]
1	Classic PPPoE	[RFC2516]
2	5G WWC User Plane Encapsulation	[this document]
3-15	unassigned	[this document]

IANA is requested to add [this document] as an additional reference for Ethertype 0x8864 in the Ethertypes table on the IANA "IEEE 802 Numbers" web page. (<https://www.iana.org/assignments/ieee-802-numbers/ieee-802-numbers.xhtml#ieee-802-numbers-1>)

6. References

6.1. Normative References

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- [[RFC8174](#)] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in [RFC 2119](#) Key Words", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 8174](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC8174, May 2017, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8174>>.
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- [TS38415] 3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Radio Access Network; NG-RAN; PDU Session User Plane Protocol (Release 15), 3GPP TS38.415

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[7.](#) Authors' Addresses

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