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F. Brockners
S. Bhandari
C. Pignataro
Cisco
H. Gredler
RtBrick Inc.
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Encapsulations for In-band OAM Data
draft-brockners-inband-oam-transport-00

Abstract

In-band operation, administration and maintenance (OAM) records operational and telemetry information in the packet while the packet traverses a path between two points in the network. In-band OAM is to complement current out-of-band OAM mechanisms based on ICMP or other types of probe packets. This document outlines how in-band OAM data records can be transported in protocols such as NSH, Segment Routing, VXLAN-GPE, native IPv6 (via extension header), and IPv4. Transport options are currently investigated as part of an implementation study. This document is intended to only serve informational purposes.

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[1.](#) Introduction

This document discusses transport mechanisms for "in-band" operation, administration, and maintenance (OAM) data records. In-band OAM records OAM information within the packet while the packet traverses a particular network domain. The term "in-band" refers to the fact that the OAM data is added to the data packets rather than is being sent within packets specifically dedicated to OAM. A discussion of the motivation and requirements for in-band OAM can be found in [[draft-brockners-inband-oam-requirements](#)]. Data types and data formats for in-band OAM are defined in [[draft-brockners-inband-oam-data](#)].

This document outlines transport encapsulations for the in-band OAM data defined in [[draft-brockners-inband-oam-data](#)]. This document is to serve informational purposes only. As part of an in-band OAM implementation study different protocol encapsulations for in-band OAM data are being explored. Once data formats and encapsulation approaches are settled, protocol specific specifications for in-band OAM data transport will address the standardization aspect.

The data for in-band OAM defined in [[draft-brockners-inband-oam-data](#)] can be carried in a variety of protocols based on the deployment needs. This document discusses transport of in-band OAM data for the following protocols:

- o IPv6
- o VXLAN-GPE
- o NSH
- o Segment Routing (IPv6 and MPLS)

This list is non-exhaustive, as it is possible to carry the in-band OAM data in several other protocols and transports.

A feasibility study of in-band OAM is currently underway as part of the FD.io project [[FD.io](#)]. The in-band OAM implementation study should be considered as a "tool box" to showcase how "in-band" OAM can complement probe-packet based OAM mechanisms for different deployments and packet transport formats. For details, see the open source code in the FD.io [[FD.io](#)].

2. Conventions

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](#)].

Abbreviations used in this document:

MTU:	Maximum Transmit Unit
OAM:	Operations, Administration, and Maintenance
SR:	Segment Routing
SID:	Segment Identifier
NSH:	Network Service Header

POT: Proof of Transit

SFC: Service Function Chain

VXLAN-GPE: Virtual eXtensible Local Area Network, Generic Protocol Extension

3. In-Band OAM Metadata Transport in IPv6

This mechanisms of in-band OAM in IPv6 complement others proposed to enhance diagnostics of IPv6 networks, such as the IPv6 Performance and Diagnostic Metrics Destination Option described in [[I-D.ietf-ippm-6man-pdm-option](#)]. The IP Performance and Diagnostic Metrics Destination Option is destination focused and specific to IPv6, whereas in-band OAM is performed between end-points of the network or a network domain where it is enabled and used.

A historical note: The idea of IPv6 route recording was originally introduced by [[draft-kitamura-ipv6-record-route](#)] back in year 2000. With IPv6 now being generally deployed and new concepts such as Segment Routing [[I-D.ietf-spring-segment-routing](#)] being introduced, it is imperative to further mature the operations, administration, and maintenance mechanisms available to IPv6 networks.

The in-band OAM options translate into options for an IPv6 extension header. The extension header would be inserted by either a host source of the packet, or by a transit/domain-edge node.

3.1. In-band OAM in IPv6 Hop by Hop Extension Header

This section defines in-band OAM for IPv6 transport. In-band OAM data is transported as an IPv6 hop-by-hop extension header.

3.1.1. In-band OAM Hop by Hop Options

Brief recap of the IPv6 hop-by-hop header as well as the options used for carrying in-band OAM data:

2. Proof of Transit Option: The in-band OAM POT option defined in [\[draft-brockners-inband-oam-data\]](#) is represented as a IPv6 option in hop by hop extension header by allocating following type:

Option Type: 001xxxxxx 8-bit identifier of the type of option.
 xxxxxx=TBD_IANA_POT_OPTION_IPV6.

3. Edge to Edge Option: The in-band OAM E2E option defined in [\[draft-brockners-inband-oam-data\]](#) is represented as a IPv6 option in hop by hop extension header by allocating following type:

Option Type: 000xxxxxx 8-bit identifier of the type of option.
 xxxxxx=TBD_IANA_E2E_OPTION_IPV6.

3.1.2. Procedure at the Ingress Edge to Insert the In-band OAM Header

In an administrative domain where in-band OAM is used, insertion of the in-band OAM header is enabled at the required edge nodes by means of configuration.

Such a config SHOULD allow selective enablement of in-band OAM header insertion for a subset of traffic (e.g., one or several "pipes").

Further the ingress edge node should be aware of maximum size of the header that can be inserted. Details on how the maximum size/size of the in-band OAM domain are retrieved are outside the scope of this document.

Let n = max number of nodes to be allocated;
 (Based on PMTU advertised in the domain)

Let k = number of node data that can be allocated by this node
 Let $node_data_size$ = size of each $node_data$ based on in-band OAM type

```

if (packet matches traffic for which in-band OAM is enabled) {
  Create in-band OAM hbyh ext header with  $k$  node data preallocated
  Increment payload length in IPv6 header :
      with size of in-band OAM hbyh ext header
  Populate node data at :
      (size of in-band OAM hbyh header = 8) +  $k * node\_data\_size$ 
  from the beginning of the header
  Set segments left to :  $k - 1$ 
}

```


3.1.3. Procedure at Intermediate Nodes

If a network node receives a packet with an in-band OAM header and it is enabled to process in-band OAM data it performs the following:

```
k = number of node data that this node can allocate
if (in-band OAM ext hbyh header is present) {
    if (Segments Left > 0) {
        populate node data at :
            node_data_start[Segments Left]
        Segments Left = Segments Left - 1
    }
}
```

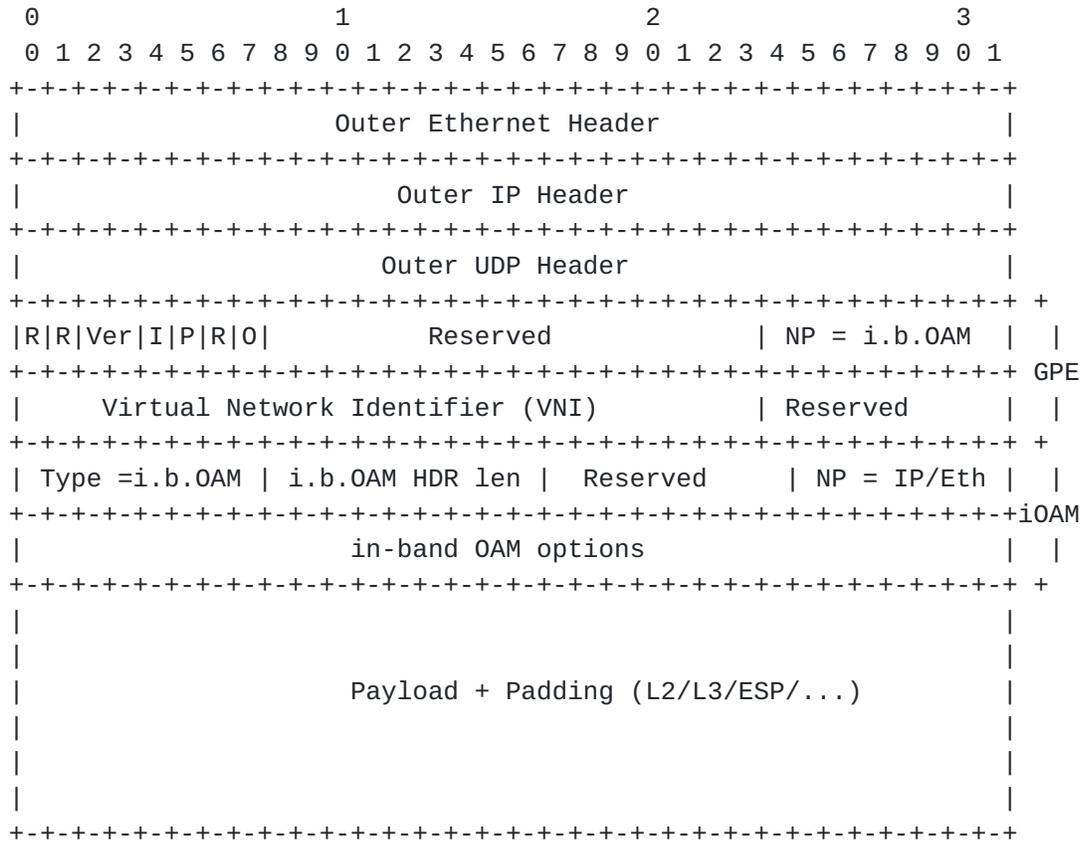
3.1.4. Procedure at the Egress Edge to Remove the In-band OAM Header

```
egress_edge = list of interfaces where in-band OAM hbyh ext
                header is to be stripped
Before forwarding packet out of interfaces in egress_edge list:
if (in-band OAM hbyh ext header is present) {
    remove the in-band OAM hbyh ext header,
    possibly store the record along with additional
    fields for analysis and export
    Decrement Payload Length in IPv6 header
    by size of in-band OAM ext header
}
```

4. In-band OAM Metadata Transport in VXLAN-GPE

VXLAN-GPE [[I-D.ietf-nvo3-vxlan-gpe](#)] encapsulation is somewhat similar to IPv6 extension headers in that a series of headers can be contained in the header as a linked list. The different in-band OAM types are added as options within a new in-band OAM protocol header in VXLAN GPE.

In-band OAM header in VXLAN GPE header:



The VXLAN-GPE header and fields are defined in [\[I-D.ietf-nvo3-vxlan-gpe\]](#). in-band OAM specific fields and header are defined here:

Type: 8-bit unsigned integer defining in-band OAM header type

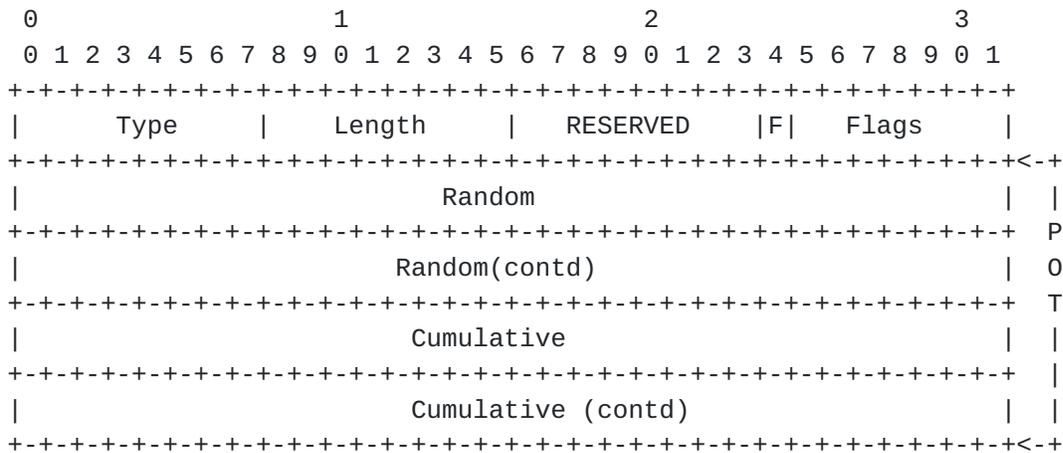
in-band OAM HDR len: 8-bit unsigned integer. Length of the in-band OAM HDR in 8-octet units

in-band OAM options: Variable-length field, of length such that the complete in-band OAM header is an integer multiple of 8 octets long. Contains one or more TLV-encoded options of the format:

6. In-band OAM Metadata Transport in Segment Routing

6.1. In-band OAM in SR with IPv6 Transport

Similar to NSH, a service chain or path defined using Segment Routing for IPv6 can be verified using the in-band OAM "Proof of Transit" approach. The Segment Routing Header (SRH) for IPv6 offers the ability to transport TLV structured data, similar to what NSH does (see [I-D.ietf-6man-segment-routing-header]). A new "POT TLV" is defined for the SRH which is to carry proof of transit in-band OAM data.



Type: To be assigned by IANA.

Length: 18.

RESERVED: 8 bits. SHOULD be unset on transmission and MUST be ignored on receipt.

F: 1 bit. Indicates which POT-profile is active. 0 means the even POT-profile is active, 1 means the odd POT-profile is active.

Flags: 8 bits. No flags are defined in this document.

Random: 64-bit per packet random number.

Cumulative: 64-bit cumulative value that is updated at specific nodes that form the service path to be verified.

6.2. In-band OAM in SR with MPLS Transport

In-band OAM "Proof of Transit" data can also be carried as part of the MPLS label stack. Details will be addressed in a future version of this document.

7. IANA Considerations

IANA considerations will be added in a future version of this document.

8. Manageability Considerations

Manageability considerations will be addressed in a later version of this document..

9. Security Considerations

Security considerations will be addressed in a later version of this document. For a discussion of security requirements of in-band OAM, please refer to [[draft-brockners-inband-oam-requirements](#)].

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Authors' Addresses

Frank Brockners
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Hansaallee 249, 3rd Floor
DUESSELDORF, NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN 40549
Germany

Email: fbrockne@cisco.com

Shwetha Bhandari
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Cessna Business Park, Sarjapura Marathalli Outer Ring Road
Bangalore, KARNATAKA 560 087
India

Email: shwethab@cisco.com

Carlos Pignataro
Cisco Systems, Inc.
7200-11 Kit Creek Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
United States

Email: cpignata@cisco.com

Hannes Gredler
RtBrick Inc.

Email: hannes@rtbrick.com

