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A Uniform Resource Name (URN) Namespace for Enterprise YANG Modules
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Abstract

This document describes the Namespace Identifier (NID) for Uniform Resource Namespace (URN) resources to uniquely identify enterprise YANG modules. This document defines a single top level "rdns" Namespace identifier (NID), with which organizations and enterprises can define Uniform Resource Name (URN) Namespaces to uniquely identify enterprise YANG modules.

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[1.](#) Introduction

The use of a standard data modeling language YANG [[RFC6020](#)] together with Network Configuration Protocol (NETCONF) [[RFC6241](#)] allows for the creation of a standard network management interface. A networking device that supports such a standard network configuration interface supports NETCONF as well as a set of YANG modules, allowing administrators to manage data defined by the supported YANG modules in a single uniform manner, regardless of the make and model of the device.

To identify YANG modules, [RFC 6020 Section 5.3](#) [[RFC6020](#)] requires that each YANG module, whether it is a standard YANG module or not, specifies an XML namespace [[XML-NAMES](#)], and that the XML namespace must be a globally unique Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) [[RFC3986](#)]. To date, IETF standard YANG modules registers their XML namespaces with the IETF XML namespaces [[RFC3688](#)] that fall under the "ietf" Namespace Identifier (NID). Various standards governing bodies such as IEEE are also in the process of registering NIDs for their respective standard YANG module XML namespaces.

As a shortcut, this document registers the "rdns" NID for

organizations such as commercial companies or open source communities to create globally unique XML namespaces when they create and publish enterprise YANG modules. An organization can use the "rdns" NID and append its registered domain name in reverse, followed by a string that is unique within its organization, to create a globally unique XML namespace for its enterprise YANG module without incurring extra effort to register a new NID.

[2.](#) Keywords

The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and

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"OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#).

[3.](#) URN Specification for Enterprise YANG Module Namespace Identifier

Namespace ID:

Request "rdns"

Registration Information:

Version Number: 1

Date: <when submitted to IANA>

Declared Registrant of the Namespace:

Registering organization: IETF Netmod Working Group

Designated contact: ichen@kuatrotech.com

Declaration of Syntactic Structure:

URNs that use the "rdns" NID shall have the following structures:

```
"rdns" URN      ::= urn:rdns:<reverse-dns>:<dss>
<reverse-dns>   ::= registered domain name in reverse, each label
                   separated by a colon (":")
<dss>           ::= 1*<URN chars>
```

The reverse registered domain name <reverse-dns> is a mandatory string that is an organization's complete registered domain name in reverse. The structure of the string is an organization's domain name from the least specific label to the most specific label, using colons (":") to separate labels. The <reverse-dns> string is based on the A-label form [[RFC5890](#)] for internationalized labels, i.e., the labels as turned into ASCII by Punycode.

The domain specific string <dss> is a mandatory string with at least one URN character. The structure of the string <dss> is opaque, because it is defined by the organization encoded in <reverse-dns>. <dss> is a string for the organization to identify the name or hierarchies of names the organization uses to identify its enterprise YANG module.

Relevant Ancillary Documentation:

See [[RFC1034](#)] and [[RFC1035](#)] for definitions and conventions of

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registered domain names, and [[RFC5890](#)] for the A-label form for internationalized labels within domain names.

Identifier Uniqueness Considerations:

An organization that provides the domain specific string <dss> MUST guarantee the uniqueness of <dss> within its organization. Using a <dss> that is unique within an organization in conjunction with a globally unique registered domain name (albeit in reverse) and the new "rdns" top-level NID, a URN is guaranteed to be globally unique.

Identifier Persistence Considerations:

Persistence of an "rdns" URN is dependent upon the organization that owns the registered domain name encoded in the URN to continue to own the domain name and also to not reassign the URN to a different YANG module. Organizations that change their domain names MUST republish their enterprise YANG modules to use "rdns" URNs with the new domain name.

In practice, an administrator consciously installs YANG modules in a device. Thus, in the unlikely event that there is a collision due to changing domain names, the administrator can detect the collision and rectify the situation by requesting that the offending organization republish its YANG modules with the correct "rdns" URNs.

Process of Identifier Assignment:

The assignment of an "rdns" URN is delegated to the organization that has registered the domain name encoded in the URN.

For example, Ericsson registers for the domain name `ericsson.com` and can assign URNs with the prefix `urn:rdns:com:ericsson`, where the `<reverse-dns>` portion of the URN is `com:ericsson`. As mentioned above, the `<dss>` portion of the URN is assigned by the registrant of the domain name `ericsson.com`.

Process for Identifier Resolution:

"rdns" URNs are not intended to be accessible for global resolution. Rather, they are only intended to uniquely identify enterprise YANG modules (within a networking device). Resolution of an "rdns" URN is delegated to the organization owning a registered domain name encoded in the URN. If an organization that owns the registered domain name wishes for its "rdns" URNs to be

resolvable, then the organization must register with the Resolution Discovery System [[RFC2276](#)].

Rules for Lexical Equivalence:

"rdns" URNs are meant to be XML namespaces, and should follow the rules from both [[RFC2114](#)] and [[XML-NAMES](#)] when evaluating for lexical equivalence. [[RFC2114](#)] requires that the "urn:rdns" portion of the "rdns" URNs be case-insensitive. On the other hand, Section 2.3 of [[XML-NAMES](#)] specifies that two XML namespaces are identical if and only if the strings are identical. Combining the rules from [[RFC2114](#)] and [[XML-NAMES](#)], when evaluating "rdns" URNs for lexical equivalence, the "urn:rdns" portion of "rdns" URNs should be case-insensitive for matches, while the `<reverse-dns>` and `<dss>` portions should be case-sensitive for matches.

Conformance with URN Syntax:

No special considerations.

Validation Mechanism:

Validation mechanism is controlled by the organization that owns the registered domain name. If an "rdns" URN contains an invalid domain name in the <reverse-dns> portion, then the URN is invalid.

In reality, an "rdns" URN is only meaningful in the context of YANG modules installed and supported in a device. Consequently, the "rdns" URNs in use should all be valid.

Scope:

The scope of an "rdns" URN is limited to enterprise YANG modules.

[4.](#) Namespace Considerations

[RFC6020] suggests that for enterprise YANG modules to have globally unique XML namespaces, one possibility is to use Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) based on an organization's registered domain name. However, in addition to being a globally unique identifier, a URL is also a resource locator, providing information about the resource's primary access mechanism. Consequently, an enterprise YANG module using a URL as its XML namespace also identifies the location of the resource, which is not necessarily the desired outcome. For example, an enterprise forced to use a URL `http://www.example.com/yang/ospf` as its YANG module XML namespace might not wish to make the YANG module available via HTTP [[RFC2616](#)], even though that is what using a URL implies. Using "rdns" URNs defined in this document yields globally

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unique XML namespaces which do not have the side effect of URLs that imply how to obtain resources.

[5.](#) Community Considerations

The "rdns" NID is intended for organizations such as enterprises and open source communities to easily create globally unique XML namespaces for enterprise YANG modules, without the need for all

organizations to register their own NIDs.

6. Security Considerations

This document does not introduce new security considerations beyond those associated with the use and resolution of URNs in general.

7. IANA Considerations

This document defines a new URN NID registration for "rdns" in IANA's "Formal URN Namespace" registry. The completed registration template is in [Section 3](#).

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