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IPPM Considerations for the IPv6 PDM Extension Header draft-elkins-ippm-pdm-metrics-03

Abstract

To diagnose performance and connectivity problems, metrics on real (non-synthetic) transmission are critical for timely end-to-end problem resolution. Such diagnostics may be real-time or after the fact, but must not impact an operational production network. These metrics are defined in the IPv6 Performance and Diagnostic Metrics Destination Option (PDM). The base metrics are: packet sequence number and packet timestamp. Other metrics may be derived from these for use in diagnostics. This document specifies such metrics, their calculation, and usage.

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1 Introduction

To diagnose performance and connectivity problems, metrics on real (non-synthetic) transmission are critical for timely end-to-end problem resolution. Such diagnostics may be real-time or after the fact, but must not impact an operational production network. These metrics are defined in the IPv6 Performance and Diagnostic Metrics Destination Option (PDM). The base metrics are: packet sequence number and packet timestamp. Other metrics may be derived from these for use in diagnostics. This document specifies such metrics, their calculation, and usage.

For background, please see <u>draft-ackermann-ntp-pdm-ntp-usage-00</u> [NTPPDM], <u>draft-elkins-6man-ipv6-pdm-dest-option-03</u> [ELKPDM], <u>draft-</u> <u>elkins-v6ops-ipv6-packet-sequence-needed-01</u> [ELKPSN], <u>draft-elkins-</u> <u>v6ops-ipv6-pdm-recommended-usage-01</u> [ELKUSE], and <u>draft-elkins-v6ops-</u> <u>ipv6-end-to-end-rt-needed-01</u> [ELKRSP]. These drafts are companions to this document.

As defined in <u>RFC2460</u> [<u>RFC2460</u>], destination options are carried by the IPv6 Destination Options extension header. Destination options include optional information that need be examined only by the IPv6 node given as the destination address in the IPv6 header, not by routers in between.

The PDM DOH will be carried by each packet in the network, if this is configured. That is, the PDM DOH is optional. If the user of the OS configures the PDM DOH to be used, then it will be carried in the packet.

The metrics in the PDM are for 'real' data. That is, they are of the traffic actually traveling on the network.

<u>1.1</u> Packet Identification Data

Each packet contains information about the sender and receiver. In IP protocol the identifying information is called a "5-tuple". The flows described below are for the set of packets flowing between A and B without consideration of any other packets sent to any other device from Host A or Host B.

The 5-tuple consists of:

SADDR : IP address of the sender SPORT : Port for sender DADDR : IP address of the destination DPORT : Port for destination PROTC : Protocol for upper layer (ex. TCP, UDP, ICMP, etc.)

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1.2 Data in the PDM Destination Option Headers

The IPv6 Performance and Diagnostic Metrics Destination Option (PDM) is an implementation of the Destination Options Header (Next Header value = 60). Two types of PDM are defined. PDM type 1 requires time synchronization. PDM type 2 does not require time synchronization.

PDM type 1 and PDM type 2 are mutually exclusive. That is, a 5-tuple can either both send PDM type 1 or both send PDM type 2.

PDM type 1 contains the following fields:

PSNTP : Packet Sequence Number This Packet
TSTP : Timestamp This Packet
PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received
TSLR : Timestamp Last Received

PDM type 2 contains the following fields:

PSNTP : Packet Sequence Number This Packet
PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received
DELTALR : Delta Last Received
PSNLS : Packet Sequence Number Last Sent
DELTALS : Delta Last Sent

The metrics which may be derived from these fields will be discussed in the following sections.

2 Metrics Derived from the PDM Destination Options

A number of metrics may be derived from the data contained in the PDM. Some are relationships between two packets, others require analysis of multiple packets or multiple protocols.

These metrics fall into the following categories:

- 1. Base derived metrics
- 2. Metrics used for triage
- 3. Metrics used for network diagnostics
- 4. Metrics used for session classification
- 5. Metrics used for end user performance optimization

It must be understood that when a metric is discussed, it includes the average, median, and other statistical variations of that metric.

In the next section, we will discuss the base metrics. In later sections, we will discuss the more advanced metrics and their uses.

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<u>3</u> Base Derived Metrics

The base metrics which may be derived from the PDM are:

- 1. One-way delay
- 2. Round-trip delay
- 3. Server delay

3.1 One-Way Delay

One-way delay is the time taken to traverse the path one way between one network device to another. The path from A to B is distinguished from the path from B to A. For many reasons, the paths may have different characteristics and may have different delays. One-way delay is discussed in "A One-way Delay Metric for IPPM" [<u>RFC2679</u>].

3.1 Round-Trip Delay

Round-trip delay is the time taken to traverse the path both ways between one network device to another. The entire delay to travel from A to B and B to A is used. Round-trip delay cannot tell if one path is quite different from another. Round-trip delay is discussed in "A Round-trip Delay Metric for IPPM" [<u>RFC2681</u>].

3.2 Server Delay

Server delay is the interval between when a packet is received by a device and a subsequent packet is sent back in response. This may be "Server Processing Time". It may also be a delay caused by acknowledgements. Server processing time includes the time taken by the combination of the stack and application to return the response.

<u>4</u> Sample Implementation Flow (PDM Type 1)

Following is a sample simple flow with one packet sent from Host A and one packet received by Host B. The descriptions of these fields is in <u>draft-elkins-6man-ipv6-pdm-dest-option-03</u> [ELKPDM].

Time synchronization is required between Host A and Host B. See <u>draft-ackermann-ntp-pdm-ntp-usage-00</u> [NTPPDM] for a description of how an NTP implementation may be set up to achieve good time synchronization.

Each packet, in addition to the PDM, contains information on the sender and receiver. This is the 5-tuple consisting of:

SADDR : IP address of the sender SPORT : Port for sender

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DADDR : IP address of the destination DPORT : Port for destination PROTC : Protocol for upper layer (ex. TCP, UDP, ICMP, etc.)

It should be understood that the packet identification information is in each packet. We will not repeat that in each of the following steps.

4.1 Step 1 (PDM Type 1)

Packet 1 is sent from Host A to Host B. The time for Host A is set initially to 10:00AM.

The timestamp and packet sequence number are sent in the PDM.

The initial PSNTP from Host A starts at a random number. In this case, 25. The sub-second portion of the timestamp has been omitted for the sake of simplicity.

Packet 1

+		-+		+		-+
				1		
	Host		>		Host	
	А				В	
				1		
+		-+		+		-+

PDM Contents:

PSNTP : Packet Sequence Number This Packet: 25 TSTP : Timestamp This Packet: 10:00:00 PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received: -TSLR : Timestamp Last Received:

There are no derived statistics after packet 1.

4.2 Step 2 (PDM Type 1)

Packet 1 is received by Host B. The time for Host B was synchronized with Host A. Both were set initially to 10:00AM.

The timestamp and PSN for the received packet are placed in the PSNLR and TSLR fields. These are from the point of view of B. That is, they indicate when the packet from A was received and which packet it was.

The PDM is not sent at this point. It is only prepared. It will be

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sent when the response to packet 1 is sent by Host B.

Packet 1 Received

+		-+		+		-+
1				I		
	Host		>	1	Host	
	А			1	В	
1				1		
+		-+		+		-+

PDM Contents:

PSNTP	1	Packet Sequence Number This Packet:	-
TSTP	:	Timestamp This Packet:	-
PSNLR	:	Packet Sequence Number Last Received:	25
TSLR	:	Timestamp Last Received:	10:00:03

At this point, the following metric may be derived: one-way delay. In fact, we now know the one-way delay and the path. We will call this path 1. This will be the outbound path from the point of view of Host A and the inbound path from the point of view of Host B.

The calculation of one-way delay (path 1) is as follows:

One-way delay (path 1) = Time packet 1 was received by B - Time Packet 1 was sent by A

If we make the substitutions from our sample case above, then:

One-way delay (path 1) = 10:00:03 - 10:00:00 or 3 seconds

4.3 Step 3 (PDM Type 1)

Packet 2 is sent from Host B to Host A. The initial PSNTP from Host B starts at a random number. In this case, 12.

Packet 2

+		-+		+		- +
				1		
	Host		<		Host	
	А			1	В	
				1		
+		-+		+		- +

PDM Contents:

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PSNTP : Packet Sequence Number This Packet:12TSTP : Timestamp This Packet:10:00:07PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received:25TSLR : Timestamp Last Received:10:00:03

After Packet 2 is sent, the following metric may be derived: server delay.

The calculation of server delay is as follows:

Server delay = Time Packet 2 is sent by B - Time Packet 1 was received by B

Again, making the substitutions from the sample case:

Server delay = 10:00:07 - 10:00:03 or 4 seconds

Further elaborations of server delay may be done by limiting the data length to be greater than 1. Some protocols, for example, TCP, have acknowledgements with a data length of 0 or keep-alive packets with a data length of 1. An ACK may preceed the actual response data packet. Keep-alives may be interspersed within the data flow.

4.4 Step 4 (PDM Type 1)

Packet 2 is received by Host A.

The timestamp and PSN for the received packet are placed in the PSNLR and TSLR fields. These are from the point of view of A. That is, they indicate when the packet from B was received and which packet it was.

The PDM is not sent at this point. It is only prepared. It will be sent when the NEXT packet to Host B is sent by Host A.

Packet 2 Received

+		-+		+		· - +
						Ι
	Host		<		Host	
	А				В	
+		-+		+		- +

PDM Contents:

PSNTP : Packet Sequence Number This Packet: -

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TSTP : Timestamp This Packet: PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received: 12
TSLR : Timestamp Last Received: 10:00:10

However, at this point, the following metric may be derived: one-way delay (path 2).

The calculation of one-way delay (path 2) is as follows:

One-way delay (path 2) = Time packet 2 received by A - Time packet 2 sent by B

If we make the substitutions from our sample case above, then:

One-way delay (path 2) = 10:00:10 - 10:00:07 or 3 seconds

4.5 Step 5 (PDM Type 1)

Packet 3 is sent from Host A to Host B.

Packet 3

+		- +		+		- +
	Host		>		Host	
Ι	А				В	
+		+		+		- +

PDM Contents:

PSNTP : Packet Sequence Number This Packet:26TSTP : Timestamp This Packet:10:00:50PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received:12TSLR : Timestamp Last Received:10:00:10

At this point the PDM flows across the network revealing the last received timestamp and PSN.

<u>5</u> Sample Implementation Flow (PDM 2)

Following is a sample simple flow for PDM type 2 with one packet sent from Host A and one packet received by Host B. PDM type 2 does not require time synchronization between Host A and Host B. The calculations to derive meaningful metrics for network diagnostics is shown below each packet sent or received.

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Each packet, in addition to the PDM contains information on the sender and receiver. As discussed before, a 5-tuple consists of:

SADDR : IP address of the sender SPORT : Port for sender DADDR : IP address of the destination DPORT : Port for destination PROTC : Protocol for upper layer (ex. TCP, UDP, ICMP, etc)

It should be understood that the packet identification information is in each packet. We will not repeat that in each of the following steps.

5.1 Step 1 (PDM Type 2)

Packet 1 is sent from Host A to Host B. The time for Host A is set initially to 10:00AM.

The timestamp and packet sequence number are noted by the sender internally. The packet sequence number and timestamp are sent in the packet.

Packet 1

+		- +		+		-+
	Host		>		Host	
	А				В	
+		+		+		-+

PDM type 2 Contents:

PSNTP	:	Packet Sequence Numb	ber	This	Packet:	25
PSNLR	:	Packet Sequence Numb	ber	Last	Received:	-
DELTALR	:	Delta Last Received:				-
PSNLS	:	Packet Sequence Numb	ber	Last	Sent:	-
DELTALS	:	Delta Last Sent:				-

Internally, within the sender, Host A, it must keep:

PSNTP	1	Packet S	Sequence	Number	This	Packet:	25
TSTP	:	Timestan	np This F	Packet:			10:00:00

Note, the initial PSNTP from Host A starts at a random number. In this case, 25. The sub-second portion of the timestamp has been omitted for the sake of simplicity.

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There are no derived statistics after packet 1.

5.2 Step 2 (PDM Type 2)

Packet 1 is received at Host B. His time is set to one hour later than Host A. In this case, 11:00AM

Internally, within the receiver, Host B, it must keep:

PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received:25TSLR : Timestamp Last Received:11:00:03

Note, this timestamp is in Host B time. It has nothing whatsoever to do with Host A time.

At this point, we have no derived statistics. In PDM type 1, the derived statistic one-way delay (path 1) could have been calculated. In PDM type 2, this is not possible because there is no time synchronization.

5.3 Step 3 (PDM Type 2)

Packet 2 is sent by Host B to Host A. Note, the initial PSNTP from Host B starts at a random number. In this case, 12. Before sending the packet, Host B does a calculation of deltas. Since Host B knows when it is sending the packet, and it knows when it received the previous packet, it can do the following calculation:

Sending time (packet 2) - receive time (packet 1)

We will call the result of this calculation: Delta Last Received.

That is:

DELTALR = Sending time (packet 2) - receive time (packet 1)

Note, both sending time and receive time are saved internally in Host B. They do not travel in the packet. Only the Delta is in the packet.

Assume that within Host B is the following:

PSNLR	:	Packet Sequence Number Last Received	:	25
TSLR	:	Timestamp Last Received	:	11:00:03
PSNTP	:	Packet Sequence Number This Packet	:	12
TSTP	:	Timestamp This Packet	:	11:00:07

Hence, DELTALR becomes:

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4 seconds = 11:00:07 - 11:00:03

Let us look at the PDM, and then we will look at the derived metrics at this point.

Packet 2

+		-+	+		+
		1			
	Host	<	-	Host	
	А			В	
+		- +	+		+

PDM Type 2 Contents:

PSNTP	:	Packet Sequence Number This Packet:	12
PSNLR	:	Packet Sequence Number Last Received:	25
DELTALR	:	Delta Last Received:	4
PSNLS	:	Packet Sequence Number Last Sent:	-
DELTALS	:	Delta Last Sent:	-

After Packet 2, the following metrics may be derived:

Server delay = DELTALR

Metrics left to be calculated are the path delay for path 2. This may be calculated when Packet 3 is sent. Clearly, if there is NO next packet for the 5-tuple, then this value will be missing.

5.4 Step 4 (PDM Type 2)

Packet 2 is received at Host A. Remember, its time is set to one hour earlier than Host B. It will keep internally:

PSNLR : Packet Sequence Number Last Received: 12 TSLR : Timestamp Last Received : 10:00:12

Note, this timestamp is in Host A time. It has nothing whatsoever to do with Host B time.

At this point, we have two derived metrics:

1. Two-way delay or Round Trip time

2. Total end-to-end time

The formula for end-to-time is:

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```
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Time Last Received - Time Last Sent
For example, packet 25 was sent by Host A at 10:00:00. Packet 12 was
received by Host A at 10:00:12 so:
End-to-End response time = 10:00:12 - 10:00:00 or 12
This derived metric we will call DELTALS or Delta Last Sent.
To calculate two-way delay, the formula is:
Two-way delay = DELTALS - DELTALR
Or:
Two-way delay = 12 - 4 or 8
```

Now, the only problem is that at this point all metrics are in the Host and not exposed in a packet. To do that, we need a third packet.

<u>5.5</u> Step 5 (PDM Type 2)

Packet 3 is sent from Host A to Host B.

Packet 3

+		· - +	+		+
I					
	Host	>	>	Host	
	А			В	
+		-+	+		- +

PDM Type 2 Contents:

PSNTP	:	Packet Sequence Number This Packet:	26
PSNLR	:	Packet Sequence Number Last Received:	12
DELTALR	:	Delta Last Received:	*
PSNLS	:	Packet Sequence Number Last Sent:	25
DELTALS	:	Delta Last Sent:	12

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6 Derived Metrics : Advanced

A number of more advanced metrics may be derived from the data contained in the PDM. Some are relationships between two packets, others require analysis of multiple packets. The more advanced metrics fall into the categories shown below:

- 1. Metrics used for triage
- 2. Metrics used for network diagnostics
- 3. Metrics used for session classification
- 4. Metrics used for end user performance optimization

We will discuss each of these in turn.

6.1 Advanced Derived Metrics : Triage

In this case, triage means to distinguish between problems occurring on the network paths or the server. The PDM provides one-way delay and server delay. This will enable distinguishing which path is a bottleneck as well as whether the server is a bottleneck.

6.2 Advanced Derived Metrics : Network Diagnostics

The data provided by the PDM may be used in combination with data fields in other protocols. We will call this Inter-Protocol Network Diagnostics (IPND).

The PDM also allows us to use only a single trace point for a number of diagnostic situations where today we need to trace at multiple points to get required data. In diagnostics, there is often the question of did the end device really send the packet and it got lost in the network or did it not send it at all.

So, what is done is that diagnostic traces are run at both client and server to get the required data. With the data provided by the PDM, in a number of the cases, this will not be necessary.

For example, taking PDM values along with data fields in the TCP protocol, the following may be found:

- 1. Retransmit duplication (RD)
- 2. ACK lag (AL)
- 3. Third-party connection reset (TPCR)
- 4. Elapsed time connection reset (ETCR)

A description of these follows.

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6.2.1 Retransmit Duplication (RD)

The TCP protocol will retransmit segments given indications from the partner that it has not received them. The retransmitted segments contain the TCP sequence number and acknowledgement. The sequence number is started at a random number and increased by the amount of data sent in each packet.

Consider the following scenario. There is a packet sequence number in the packet at the IP layer. This is in the PDM that we have defined. The TCP sequence number already exists in the protocol.

Host A sends the following packets:

IP PSN 20, TCP SEQ 10 IP PSN 21, TCP SEQ 11 IP PSN 22, TCP SEQ 12

Host B receives:

IP PSN 20, TCP SEQ 10 IP PSN 22, TCP SEQ 12

Host B indicates to Host A to resend packet with TCP SEQ 2. Retransmits are done at the TCP layer.

Host A sends the following packet:

IP PSN 23, TCP SEQ 11

The packet never reaches B. B waits until a timeout for retransmits expires. It asks for the packet again.

Host A sends the following packet:

IP PSN 24, TCP SEQ 11

This time, it reaches Host B. Having the combination of PSN (as provided in the PDM) and the TCP sequence number allows us to see whether the problem is that the network is losing the packet or somehow, the sender is not sending the packet correctly.

As we said before, this also allows us a single trace point rather than at the client and server to get the required data.

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6.2.2 ACK Lag (AL)

Some protocols, such as TCP, acknowledge packets. The PDM will allow or a calculation of rate of ACKs. Clients can be reconfigured to optimize acknowledgements and to speed traffic flow.

6.2.3 Third-party Connection Reset (TPCR)

Connections may be aborted by a packet containing a particular flag. In the TCP protocol, this is the RESET flag. Sometimes a thirdparty, for example, a VPN router, will abort the connection. This may happen because the router is overloaded, the traffic is too noisy, or other reasons. This can also be quite hard to detect because the third-party will spoof the address of the sender.

Much time can be spent by the two endpoints pointing fingers at the other for having dropped the connection.

Such a third-party spoofer would likely not have the PDM Destination Option. Routers and other middle boxes are not required to support the Destination Options Extension Header. Even if a PDM DOH was generated, it would most likely violate the pattern of PSNs and time stamps being used. This would be a clue to the diagnostician that the TPCR event has occurred.

6.2.4 Potential Hang (PH)

Connections may be aborted by a packet containing a particular flag. In the TCP protocol, this is the RESET flag. Sometimes this is done because a set amount of time has elapsed without activity. The PSN in the PDM can be used to determine the last packet sent by the partner and if a response is required -- a "hang" situation.

This can be distinguished from connections which are set to be aborted after a certain period of inactivity.

6.3 Advanced Metrics : Session Classification

The PDM may be used to classify sessions as follows:

One way traffic flow Two way traffic flow One way traffic flow with keep-alive Two way traffic flow with keep-alive Multiple send traffic flow Multiple receive traffic flow Full duplex traffic flow Half duplex traffic flow

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Immediate ACK data flow Delayed ACK data flow Proxied ACK data flow

A session classification system will assist the network diagnostician. This system will also help in categorizing the server delay.

7 Use Cases

The scheme outlined above can also handle the following types of cases:

- 1. Host clocks not synchronized (shown above)
- 2. IP fragmentation
- 3. Multiple sends from one side (multiple segments)
- 4. Out of order segments
- 5. Retransmits
- 6. One-way transmit only (ex. FTP)
- 7. One-way transmit only
 - (e.g.real time transports and streaming protocols)
- 8. Duplicate ACKs
- 9. Duplicate segments
- 10. Delayed ACKs
- 11. ACKs preceeding send for another reason
- 12. Proxy servers
- 13. Full duplex traffic
- 14. Keep alive (0 / 1 byte segments, larger segments)
- 15. No response from other side
- 16. Drop without retransmit (real time transports)
- 17. Looped packets (where the same packet may pass the same point multiple times without duplication)
- 18. Multihoming via SHIM6

8 Security Considerations

There are no security considerations.

9 IANA Considerations

There are no IANA considerations.

10.1 Normative References

[RFC2460] Deering, S. and R. Hinden, "Internet Protocol, Version 6 (IPv6) Specification", <u>RFC 2460</u>, December 1998.

[Page 18]

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11 Acknowledgments

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