

Dynamic Host Configuration (dhc)
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Informational
Expires: September 12, 2016

F. Gont
SI6 Networks / UTN-FRH
W. Liu
Huawei Technologies
March 11, 2016

**A Method for Generating Semantically Opaque Interface Identifiers with
Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6)
draft-gont-dhcpv6-stable-privacy-addresses-01**

Abstract

This document describes a method for selecting IPv6 Interface Identifiers that can be employed by Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6) servers when leasing non-temporary IPv6 addresses to DHCPv6 clients. This method is a DHCPv6 server side algorithm, that does not require any updates to the existing DHCPv6 specifications. The aforementioned method results in stable addresses within each subnet, even in the presence of multiple DHCPv6 servers or DHCPv6 server reinstallments. It is a DHCPv6-variant of the method specified in [RFC 7217](#) for IPv6 Stateless Address Autoconfiguration.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-Drafts is at <http://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/>.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

This Internet-Draft will expire on September 12, 2016.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2016 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to [BCP 78](#) and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents

(<http://trustee.ietf.org/license-info>) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Simplified BSD License text as described in Section 4.e of the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Simplified BSD License.

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Applicability and Design Goals	3
3.	Method Specification	4
4.	IANA Considerations	7
5.	Security Considerations	7
6.	Acknowledgements	7
7.	References	8
7.1.	Normative References	8
7.2.	Informative References	8
	Authors' Addresses	9

[1.](#) Introduction

The benefits of stable IPv6 addresses are discussed in [[I-D.ietf-6man-ipv6-address-generation-privacy](#)]. Providing address stability across server re-installations or when a database of previous DHCPv6 address leases is unavailable is of use not only when a DHCPv6 server must be re-installed or the address-lease database becomes corrupted, but is also of use when implementation constraints (e.g., a DHCPv6 server implementation on an embedded device) make it impossible for a DHCPv6 server implementation to maintain a database of previous DHCPv6 address leases. Additionally, [[RFC7031](#)] describes scenarios where multiple DHCPv6 servers are required to run in such a way as to provide increased availability in case of server failure.

This document describes a method for selecting IPv6 Interface Identifiers that can be employed by Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6) servers when leasing non-temporary IPv6 addresses to DHCPv6 clients (i.e., to be employed with IA_NA options). This method is a DHCPv6 server side algorithm, that does not require any updates to the existing DHCPv6 specifications. The aforementioned method has the following properties:

- o The resulting IPv6 addresses remain stable within each subnet for the same network interface of the same client, even when different DHCPv6 servers (implementing this specification) are employed.

- o Predicting the IPv6 addresses that will be generated by the method specified in this document, even with knowledge of the IPv6 addresses generated for other nodes within the same network, becomes very difficult.

The method specified in this document achieves the aforementioned properties by means of a calculated technique as opposed to e.g. state-sharing among DHCPv6 servers. This approach has been already suggested in [\[RFC7031\]](#). We note that the method described in this document is essentially a DHCPv6-version of the "Method for Generating Semantically Opaque Interface Identifiers with IPv6 Stateless Address Autoconfiguration (SLAAC)" specified in [\[RFC7217\]](#).

2. Applicability and Design Goals

This document simply describes one possible approach for selecting IPv6 Interface Identifiers to be employed by Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6) servers when leasing non-temporary IPv6 addresses to DHCPv6 clients, with the following properties:

- o The resulting IPv6 addresses remain stable within each subnet for the same network interface of the same client.
- o The resulting IPv6 addresses cannot be predicted by an attacker without knowledge of a secret key.
- o The resulting IPv6 addresses remain stable across DHCPv6 server re-installations, or even a database of previous DHCPv6 address leases is not available.
- o The resulting IPv6 addresses remain stable when different DHCPv6 servers (implementing this specification) are employed on the same network.

We note that the algorithm specified in this document employs a (lightweight) calculated technique (as opposed to e.g. state-sharing among DHCPv6 servers) to achieve address stability in scenarios where multiple DHCPv6 servers are required to run in such a way as to provide increased availability, without the need of an additional protocol to synchronize the lease databases of DHCPv6 servers.

Finally, we note that the algorithm in this document is only meant to mitigate IPv6 address-based location tracking, device-specific vulnerability exploitation, and host scanning (please see [\[I-D.ietf-6man-ipv6-address-generation-privacy\]](#)). There are a number of ways in which DHCPv6 affects user privacy, which the algorithm specified in this document does not mitigate (and does not intend

to). Please see [[I-D.ietf-dhc-anonymity-profile](#)] for a comprehensive discussion of how DHCPv6 may affect user privacy.

3. Method Specification

Implementations should provide the means for a system administrator to enable or disable the use of this algorithm for generating IPv6 addresses.

A DHCPv6 server implementing this specification must select the IPv6 addresses to be leased with the following algorithm:

1. Compute a random (but stable) identifier with the expression:

$$\text{RID} = \text{F}(\text{Prefix} \mid \text{Client_DUID} \mid \text{IAID} \mid \text{Counter} \mid \text{secret_key})$$

Where:

RID:

Random (but stable) Identifier

F():

A pseudorandom function (PRF) that must not be computable from the outside (without knowledge of the secret key). F() must also be difficult to reverse, such that it resists attempts to obtain the secret key, even when given samples of the output of F() and knowledge or control of the other input parameters. F() should produce an output of at least 64 bits. F() could be implemented as a cryptographic hash of the concatenation of each of the function parameters. The default algorithm to be employed for F() should be SHA-256 [[FIPS-SHS](#)]. An implementation may provide the means for selecting other algorithms. Note: MD5 [[RFC1321](#)] is considered unacceptable for F() [[RFC6151](#)].

Prefix:

The prefix employed for the local subnet, as a 128-bit unsigned integer in network byte order (with the unused bits set to 0). If multiple servers operate on the same network to provide increased availability, all such DHCPv6 servers must be configured with the same Prefix. It is the administrator's responsibility that the aforementioned requirement is met.

|:

An operator representing "concatenation".

Client_DUID:

The DUID value contained in the Client Identifier option received in the DHCPv6 client message. The DUID can be treated as an array of 8-bit unsigned integers.

IAID:

The IAID value contained in the IA_NA option received in the client message. It must be interpreted as a 32-bit unsigned integer in network byte order.

secret_key:

A secret key configured by the DHCPv6 server administrator, which must not be known by the attacker. It must be encoded as an array of 8-bit unsigned integers. An implementation of this specification must provide an interface for viewing and changing the secret key. All DHCPv6 servers leasing addresses from the same address range must employ the same secret key.

Counter:

A 32-bit unsigned integer in network byte order, that is employed to resolve address conflicts. It must be initialized to 0.

2. A candidate IPv6 address (IPV6_ADDR) to be leased is obtained by concatenating as many bits as necessary from the RID value computed in the previous step (starting from the least significant bit) to the Prefix employed in the equation above as follows:

$$\text{IPV6_ADDR} = \text{IPV6_ADDR_LOW} + \text{RID} \% (\text{IPV6_ADDR_HI} - \text{IPV6_ADDR_LOW} + 1)$$

where:

IPV6_ADDR:

The candidate IPv6 address to be leased.

IPV6_ADDR_HI:

An IPv6 address specifying the upper boundary of the IPv6 address pool from which the DHCPv6 server leases IPv6 addresses. If an address range is not explicitly selected, IPV6_ADDR_HI must be set to the IPv6 address from Prefix (see the expression above) that has all of the bits of the Interface Identifier set to 1.

IPV6_ADDR_LOW:

An IPv6 address specifying the lower boundary of the IPv6 address pool from which the DHCPv6 server leases IPv6 addresses. If an address range is not explicitly selected,

IPv6_ADDR_LOW must be set to the IPv6 address from Prefix (see the expression above) that has all of the bits of the Interface Identifier set to 0.

3. The Interface Identifier of the selected IPv6 address must be compared against the reserved IPv6 Interface Identifiers [[RFC5453](#)] [[IANA-RESERVED-IID](#)]. In the event that an unacceptable identifier has been generated, the Counter variable should be incremented by 1, and a new IPv6 address should be computed with the updated Counter value.
4. If the resulting address is not available (e.g., there is a conflicting binding), the server should increment the Counter variable, and a new Interface ID and IPv6 address should be computed with the updated Counter value.

This document requires that SHA-256 be the default function to be used for F(), such that, all other configuration parameters being the same, different implementations of this specification result in the same IPv6 addresses.

Including the Prefix in the PRF computation causes the Interface Identifier to be different for each address from a different prefix assigned to the same client. This mitigates the correlation of activities of multi-homed nodes (since each of the corresponding addresses will employ a different Interface ID), host-tracking (since the network prefix will change as the node moves from one network to another), and any other attacks that benefit from predictable Interface Identifiers [[I-D.ietf-6man-ipv6-address-generation-privacy](#)].

As required by [[RFC3315](#)], an IAID is associated with each of the client's network interfaces, and is consistent across restarts of the DHCPv6 client.

The Counter parameter provides the means to intentionally cause this algorithm to produce different IPv6 addresses (all other parameters being the same). This can be of use to resolve address conflicts (e.g. the resulting address having a conflicting binding).

Note that the result of F() in the algorithm above is no more secure than the secret key. If an attacker is aware of the PRF that is being used by the DHCPv6 server (which we should expect), and the attacker can obtain enough material (i.e. addresses generated by the DHCPv6 server), the attacker may simply search the entire secret-key space to find matches. To protect against this, the secret key should be of at least 128 bits. Key lengths of at least 128 bits should be adequate.

Providing a mechanism to display and change the `secret_key` is crucial for having different DHCPv6 servers produce the same IPv6 addresses, and for causing a replacement system to generate the same IPv6 addresses as the system being replaced. We note that since the privacy of the scheme specified in this document relies on the secrecy of the `secret_key` parameter, implementations should constrain access to the `secret_key` parameter to the extent practicable (e.g., require superuser privileges to access it). Furthermore, in order to prevent leakages of the `secret_key` parameter, it should not be used for any other purposes than being a parameter to the scheme specified in this document.

We note that all of the bits in the resulting Interface IDs are treated as "opaque" bits [RFC7136]. For example, the universal/local bit of Modified EUI-64 format identifiers is treated as any other bit of such identifier.

4. IANA Considerations

There are no IANA registries within this document. The RFC-Editor can remove this section before publication of this document as an RFC.

5. Security Considerations

The method specified in this document results in IPv6 Interface Identifiers (and hence IPv6 addresses) that do not follow any specific pattern. Thus, attacks that rely on predictable Interface IDs (such as [I-D.ietf-opsec-ipv6-host-scanning]) are mitigated.

The method specified in this document neither mitigates nor exacerbates the security considerations for DHCPv6 discussed in [RFC3315], and does not mitigate a range of other privacy implications associated with DHCPv6. Please read [I-D.ietf-dhc-anonymity-profile] for a comprehensive assessment of the privacy implications of DHCPv6.

Finally, we note that an attacker that is able to attach to each of the links to which the victim attaches would still be able to correlate the activities of the victim across networks.

6. Acknowledgements

This document is based on [RFC7217], authored by Fernando Gont.

The authors would like to thank Marc Blanchet, Stephane Bortzmeyer, Tatuya Jinmei, Andre Kostur, Tomek Mrugalski, Hosnieh Rafiee, Jim

Schaad, Jean-Francois Tremblay, Tina Tsou, and Bernie Volz, for providing valuable comments on earlier versions of this documents.

The authors would like to thank Ted Lemon, who kindly answered some DHCPv6-related questions.

Finally, the authors would like to thank Nevil Brownlee for his guidance while pursuing this document.

7. References

7.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>>.
- [RFC2460] Deering, S. and R. Hinden, "Internet Protocol, Version 6 (IPv6) Specification", [RFC 2460](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC2460, December 1998, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2460>>.
- [RFC3315] Droms, R., Ed., Bound, J., Volz, B., Lemon, T., Perkins, C., and M. Carney, "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6)", [RFC 3315](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC3315, July 2003, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3315>>.
- [RFC4291] Hinden, R. and S. Deering, "IP Version 6 Addressing Architecture", [RFC 4291](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4291, February 2006, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4291>>.
- [RFC5453] Krishnan, S., "Reserved IPv6 Interface Identifiers", [RFC 5453](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5453, February 2009, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5453>>.
- [RFC7136] Carpenter, B. and S. Jiang, "Significance of IPv6 Interface Identifiers", [RFC 7136](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7136, February 2014, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7136>>.

7.2. Informative References

- [FIPS-SHS] FIPS, , "Secure Hash Standard (SHS)", Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 180-4, March 2012, <<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips180-4/fips-180-4.pdf>>.

[I-D.ietf-6man-ipv6-address-generation-privacy]

Cooper, A., Gont, F., and D. Thaler, "Privacy Considerations for IPv6 Address Generation Mechanisms", [draft-ietf-6man-ipv6-address-generation-privacy-08](#) (work in progress), September 2015.

[I-D.ietf-dhc-anonymity-profile]

Huitema, C., Mrugalski, T., and S. Krishnan, "Anonymity profile for DHCP clients", [draft-ietf-dhc-anonymity-profile-08](#) (work in progress), February 2016.

[I-D.ietf-opsec-ipv6-host-scanning]

Gont, F. and T. Chown, "Network Reconnaissance in IPv6 Networks", [draft-ietf-opsec-ipv6-host-scanning-08](#) (work in progress), August 2015.

[IANA-RESERVED-IID]

Reserved IPv6 Interface Identifiers, ,
"http://www.iana.org/assignments/ipv6-interface-ids/
ipv6-interface-ids.xml".

[RFC1321] Rivest, R., "The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm", [RFC 1321](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC1321, April 1992,
<<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc1321>>.

[RFC6151] Turner, S. and L. Chen, "Updated Security Considerations for the MD5 Message-Digest and the HMAC-MD5 Algorithms", [RFC 6151](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC6151, March 2011,
<<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6151>>.

[RFC7031] Mrugalski, T. and K. Kinnear, "DHCPv6 Failover Requirements", [RFC 7031](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7031, September 2013, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7031>>.

[RFC7217] Gont, F., "A Method for Generating Semantically Opaque Interface Identifiers with IPv6 Stateless Address Autoconfiguration (SLAAC)", [RFC 7217](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7217, April 2014,
<<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7217>>.

Authors' Addresses

Fernando Gont
SI6 Networks / UTN-FRH
Evaristo Carriego 2644
Haedo, Provincia de Buenos Aires 1706
Argentina

Phone: +54 11 4650 8472
Email: fgont@si6networks.com
URI: <http://www.si6networks.com>

Will(Shucheng) Liu
Huawei Technologies
Bantian, Longgang District
Shenzhen 518129
P.R. China

Email: liushucheng@huawei.com

