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**Multiplexing Scheme Updates for Secure Real-time Transport Protocol  
(SRTP) Extension for Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS)  
draft-ietf-avtc core-rfc5764-mux-fixes-01**

Abstract

This document defines how Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS), Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP), Real-time Transport Control Protocol (RTCP), Session Traversal Utilities for NAT (STUN), Traversal Using Relays around NAT (TURN), and Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP) over UDP packets are multiplexed on a single receiving socket. It overrides the guidance from SRTP Extension for DTLS [[RFC5764](#)], which suffered from three issues described and fixed in this document.

Status of This Memo

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**[1. Introduction](#)**

[Section 5.1.2](#) of Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (SRTP)

Extension

for DTLS [[RFC5764](#)] defines a scheme for a Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP) [[RFC3550](#)] receiver to demultiplex Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS) [[RFC6347](#)], Session Traversal Utilities for NAT (STUN) [[RFC5389](#)] and Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (SRTP)/Secure Real-time Transport Control Protocol (SRTCP) [[RFC3711](#)] packets that are arriving on the RTP port. Unfortunately, this demultiplexing scheme has created problematic issues:

1. It implicitly allocated codepoints for new STUN methods without an IANA registry reflecting these new allocations.
2. It implicitly allocated codepoints for new Transport Layer Security (TLS) ContentTypes without an IANA registry reflecting these new allocations.
3. It did not take into account the fact that the Traversal Using Relays around NAT (TURN) usage of STUN can create TURN channels that also need to be demultiplexed with the other packet types explicitly mentioned in [Section 5.1.2 of RFC 5764](#).
4. The current ranges are not efficiently allocated making it harder to introduce new protocols that might require multiplexing.

These flaws in the demultiplexing scheme were unavoidably inherited by other documents, such as [[RFC7345](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-mmusic-sdp-bundle-negotiation](#)]. These will need to be corrected with the updates this document provides.

### **1.1. Implicit Allocation of Codepoints for New STUN Methods**

The demultiplexing scheme in [[RFC5764](#)] states that the receiver can identify the packet type by looking at the first byte. If the value of this first byte is 0 or 1, the packet is identified to be STUN. The problem that arises as a result of this implicit allocation is that this restricts the codepoints for STUN methods (as described in [Section 18.1 of \[RFC5389\]](#)) to values between 0x000 and 0x07F, which in turn reduces the number of possible STUN method codepoints assigned by IETF Review (i.e., the range from (0x000 - 0x7FF) from 2048 to only 128 and entirely obliterating those STUN method codepoints assigned by Designated Expert (i.e., the range 0x800 - 0xFFFF).

To preserve the Designated Expert range, this document allocates the value 2 and 3 to also identify STUN methods.

The IANA Registry for STUN methods is modified to mark the codepoints

from 0x100 to 0xFFFF as Reserved. These codepoints can still be allocated, but require IETF Review with a document that will properly evaluate the risk of an assignment overlapping with other registries.

In addition, this document also updates the IANA registry such that the STUN method codepoints assigned in the 0x080-0x0FF range are also

assigned via Designated Expert. The proposed changes to the STUN Method Registry are:

OLD:

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0x000-0x7FF	IETF Review
0x800-0xFFFF	Designated Expert

NEW:

0x000-0x07F	IETF Review
0x080-0x0FF	Designated Expert
0x100-0xFFFF	Reserved

### **1.2. Multiplexing Byte Allocation for SCTP over UDP**

[I-D.ietf-tram-stunbis] defines two new transports for STUN, SCTP over UDP and SCTP over DTLS over UDP. This document allocates the value 5 as to multiplex SCTP over STUN. This value restricts the source and destination port numbers that can be used by SCTP over UDP.

### **1.3. Implicit Allocation of New Codepoints for TLS ContentTypes**

The demultiplexing scheme in [[RFC5764](#)] dictates that if the value of the first byte is between 20 and 63 (inclusive), then the packet is identified to be DTLS. The problem that arises is that this restricts the TLS ContentType codepoints (as defined in [Section 12 of \[RFC5246\]\(#\)](#)) to this range, and by extension implicitly allocates ContentType codepoints 0 to 19 and 64 to 255. Unlike STUN, TLS is a mature protocol that is already well established and widely implemented and thus we expect only relatively few new codepoints to be assigned in the future. With respect to TLS packet identification, this document simply explicitly reserves the codepoints from 0 to 19 and from 64 to 255. These codepoints can still be allocated, but require Standards Action with a document that will properly evaluate the risk of an assignment overlapping with other registries. The proposed changes to the TLS ContentTypes Registry are:

OLD:

0-19	Unassigned
20	change_cipher_spec
21	alert
22	handshake
23	application_data
24	heartbeat
25-255	Unassigned

NEW:



- 0-19 Reserved (MUST be allocated with Standards Action)
- 20 change\_cipher\_spec
- 21 alert
- 22 handshake
- 23 application\_data
- 24 heartbeat
- 25-63 Unassigned
- 64-255 Reserved (MUST be allocated with Standards Action)

### 1.4. Multiplexing of TURN Channels

When used with ICE [[RFC5245](#)], an [RFC 5764](#) implementation can receive packets on the same socket from three different paths, as shown in Figure 1:

1. Directly from the source
2. Through a NAT
3. Relayed by a TURN server

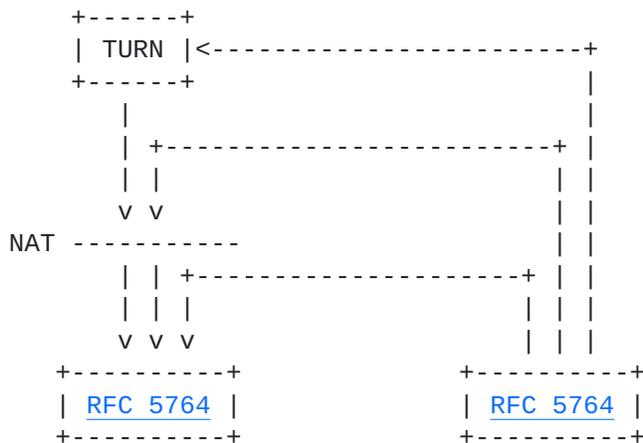


Figure 1: Packet Reception by an [RFC 5764](#) Implementation

Even if the ICE algorithm succeeded in selecting a non-relayed path, it is still possible to receive data from the TURN server. For instance, when ICE is used with aggressive nomination the media path can quickly change until it stabilizes. Also, freeing ICE candidates is optional, so the TURN server can restart forwarding STUN connectivity checks during an ICE restart.

TURN channels are an optimization where data packets are exchanged with a 4-byte prefix, instead of the standard 36-byte STUN overhead (see [Section 2.5 of \[RFC5766\]](#)). The problem is that the [RFC 5764](#)



demultiplexing scheme does not define what to do with packets received over a TURN channel since these packets will start with a first byte whose value will be between 64 and 127 (inclusive). If the TURN server was instructed to send data over a TURN channel, then

the current [RFC 5764](#) demultiplexing scheme will reject these packets.

Current implementations violate [RFC 5764](#) for values 64 to 127 (inclusive) and they instead parse packets with such values as TURN.

In order to prevent future documents from assigning values from the unused range to a new protocol, this document modifies the [RFC 5764](#) demultiplexing algorithm to properly account for TURN channels by allocating the values from 64 to 79 for this purpose.

An implementation that uses the source IP address and port to identify TURN channel messages MAY not need to restrict the channel numbers to the above range.

### **[1.5.](#) Demultiplexing Algorithm Test Order**

This document also changes the demultiplexing algorithm by imposing the order in which the first byte is tested against the list of existing protocol ranges. This is done in order to ensure that all implementations fail identically in the presence of a new range.

## **[2.](#) Terminology**

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)]

when

they appear in ALL CAPS. When these words are not in ALL CAPS (such as "must" or "Must"), they have their usual English meanings, and

are

not to be interpreted as [RFC 2119](#) key words.

## **[3.](#) [RFC 5764](#) Updates**

This document updates the text in [Section 5.1.2 of \[RFC5764\]](#) as follows:

OLD TEXT

The process for demultiplexing a packet is as follows. The receiver looks at the first byte of the packet. If the value of this byte is 0 or 1, then the packet is STUN. If the value is in between 128 and 191 (inclusive), then the packet is RTP (or RTCP, if both RTCP and RTP are being multiplexed over the same destination port). If the value is between 20 and 63 (inclusive), the packet is DTLS. This process is summarized in Figure 3.

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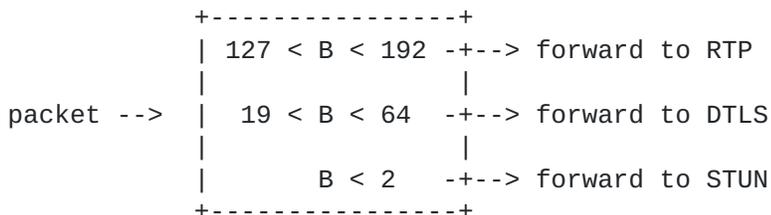


Figure 3: The DTLS-SRTP receiver's packet demultiplexing algorithm.

Here the field B denotes the leading byte of the packet.

END OLD TEXT

NEW TEXT

The process for demultiplexing a packet is as follows. The receiver looks at the first byte of the packet. If the value of this byte is in between 0 and 3 (inclusive), then the packet is STUN. Then if the value is 5, then the packet is SCTP. Then if the value is between 20 and 63 (inclusive), the packet is DTLS. Then if the value is between 64 and 79 (inclusive), the packet is TURN Channel. Then if the value is in between 128 and 191 (inclusive), then the packet is RTP (or RTCP, if both RTCP and RTP are being multiplexed over the same destination port). Else if the value does not match any known range then the packet MUST be dropped and an alert MAY be logged. This process is summarized in Figure 3. When new values or ranges are added, they MUST be tested in ascending order.

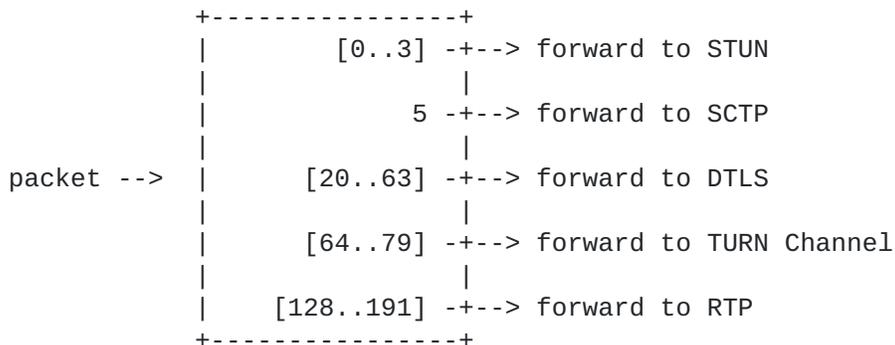


Figure 3: The DTLS-SRTP receiver's packet demultiplexing algorithm.

END NEW TEXT

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#### **4. Implementation Status**

[[Note to RFC Editor: Please remove this section and the reference to [RFC6982](#) before publication.]]

This section records the status of known implementations of the protocol defined by this specification at the time of posting of this

Internet-Draft, and is based on a proposal described in [RFC6982](#). The description of implementations in this section is intended to assist the IETF in its decision processes in progressing drafts to RFCs. Please note that the listing of any individual implementation here does not imply endorsement by the IETF. Furthermore, no effort has been spent to verify the information presented here that was supplied by IETF contributors. This is not intended as, and must not

be construed to be, a catalog of available implementations or their features. Readers are advised to note that other implementations may exist.

According to [RFC6982](#), "this will allow reviewers and working groups

to assign due consideration to documents that have the benefit of running code, which may serve as evidence of valuable experimentation

and feedback that have made the implemented protocols more mature.

It is up to the individual working groups to use this information as they see fit".

Note that there is currently no implementation declared in this section, but the intent is to add [RFC 6982](#) templates here from implementers that support the modifications in this document.

#### **5. Security Considerations**

This document simply updates existing IANA registries and does not introduce any specific security considerations beyond those detailed in [RFC5764](#).

#### **6. IANA Considerations**

##### **6.1. STUN Methods**

This specification contains the registration information for reserved

STUN Methods codepoints, as explained in [Section 1.1](#) and in accordance with the procedures defined in [Section 18.1 of \[RFC5389\]](#).

Value: 0x100-0xFFFF

Name: Reserved (MUST be allocated with IETF Review)

Reference: [RFC5764](#), RFCXXXX

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This specification also reassigns the ranges in the STUN Methods Registry as follow:

Range: 0x000-0x07F

Registration Procedures: IETF Review

Range: 0x080-0xFF

Registration Procedures: Designated Expert

## **6.2. TLS ContentType**

This specification contains the registration information for reserved

TLS ContentType codepoints, as explained in [Section 1.3](#) and in accordance with the procedures defined in [Section 12 of \[RFC5246\]](#).

Value: 0-19

Description: Reserved (MUST be allocated with Standards Action)

DTLS-OK: N/A

Reference: [RFC5764](#), RFCXXXX

Value: 64-255

Description: Reserved (MUST be allocated with Standards Action)

DTLS-OK: N/A

Reference: [RFC5764](#), RFCXXXX

## **6.3. TURN Channel Numbers**

This specification contains the registration information for reserved

TURN Channel Numbers codepoints, as explained in [Section 1.4](#) and in accordance with the procedures defined in [Section 18 of \[RFC5766\]](#).

Value: 0x5000-0xFFFF

Name: Reserved

Reference: RFCXXXX

[RFC EDITOR NOTE: Please replace RFCXXXX with the RFC number of this document.]



## 7. Acknowledgements

The implicit STUN Method codepoint allocations problem was first reported by Martin Thomson in the RTCWEB mailing-list and discussed further with Magnus Westerlund.

Thanks to Simon Perreault, Colton Shields, Cullen Jennings, Colin Perkins, Magnus Westerlund, Paul Jones, Jonathan Lennox, Varun Singh and Justin Uberti for the comments, suggestions, and questions that helped improve this document.

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### 8.1. Normative References

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- [RFC6347] Rescorla, E. and N. Modadugu, "Datagram Transport Layer Security Version 1.2", [RFC 6347](#), January 2012.



## **8.2. Informative References**

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## **Appendix A. Release notes**

This section must be removed before publication as an RFC.

### **A.1. Modifications between [draft-ietf-avtc core-rfc5764-mux-fixes-01](#) and [draft-ietf-avtc core-rfc5764-mux-fixes-00](#)**

- o Instead of allocating the values that are common on each registry, the specification now only reserves them, giving the possibility to allocate them in case muxing is irrelevant.
- o STUN range is now 0-3m with 2-3 being Designated Expert.
- o TLS ContentType 0-19 and 64-255 are now reserved.
- o Add SCTP over UDP value.
- o If an implementation uses the source IP address/port to separate TURN channels packets then the whole channel numbers are available.
- o If not the prefix is between 64 and 79.
- o First byte test order is now by incremental values, so failure is deterministic.



- o Redraw the demuxing diagram.

**A.2.** Modifications between [draft-ietf-avtcare-rfc5764-mux-fixes-00](#) and [draft-petithuguenin-avtcare-rfc5764-mux-fixes-02](#)

- o Adoption by WG.
- o Add reference to STUNbis.

**A.3.** Modifications between [draft-petithuguenin-avtcare-rfc5764-mux-fixes-00](#) and [draft-petithuguenin-avtcare-rfc5764-mux-fixes-01](#)

- o Change affiliation.

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