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**Access-Network-Identifier Option in DHCP**  
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**Abstract**

This document specifies the format and mechanism that is to be used for encoding access network identifiers in DHCPv4 and DHCPv6 messages by defining new access network identifier options and sub-options.

**Requirements Language**

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

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## **1. Introduction**

Access network identification of a network device has a range of application. For e.g. The local mobility anchor in a Proxy Mobile IPv6 domain is able to provide access network and access operator specific handling or policing of the mobile node traffic using information about the access network to which the mobile node is attached.

This document specifies Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol v4 (DHCPv4) [[RFC2131](#)] and Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol v6 (DHCPv6) [[RFC3315](#)] options for access network identification that is added by Client or Relay agent in the DHCPv4 or DHCPv6 messages towards the Server.

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) client or DHCP relay agent aware of the access network and access operator add this information in the DHCP messages. This information can be used to provide differentiated services and policing of traffic based on the access network to which a client is attached. Examples of how this information can be used in mobile networks can be found in [[RFC6757](#)]

## **2. Motivation**

Proxy mobile IPv6 [[RFC5213](#)] can be used for supporting network-based mobility management in various type of network deployments. The network architectures, such as Service provider Wi-Fi access aggregation or, WLAN integrated mobile packet core are examples where Proxy Mobile IPv6 is a component of the overall architecture. Some of these architectures require the ability of the local mobility anchor (LMA) [[RFC5213](#)] to provide differentiated services and policing of traffic to the mobile nodes based on the access network to which they are attached. Policy systems in mobility architectures such as PCC [[TS23203](#)] and ANDSF [[TS23402](#)] in 3GPP system allow configuration of policy rules with conditions based on the access network information. For example, the service treatment for the mobile node's traffic may be different when they are attached to a access network owned by the home operator than when owned by a roaming partner. The service treatment can also be different based on the configured Service Set Identifiers (SSID) in case of IEEE 802.11 based access networks. Other examples of services include the operator's ability to apply tariff based on the location.

The PMIPv6 extension as specified in [[RFC6757](#)] defines PMIPv6 options to carry access network identifiers in PMIPv6 signaling from Mobile Access Gateway (MAG) to LMA. MAG can learn this information from DHCP options as inserted by DHCP client or Relay agent before MAG.



Service Set Identifier Service Set Identifier (SSID) identifies the name of the IEEE 802.11 network. SSID differentiates from one network to the other.



Vendor ID The Vendor ID is the SMI Network Management Private Enterprise Code of the IANA-maintained Private Enterprise Numbers registry [[SMI](#)].

#### 4. DHCPv4 Access-Network-Identifier Option

Access network identifier option carries information to identify the access network to which the client is attached to. This information includes access technology type, network identifier and access network operator identifiers.

The format of the DHCPv4 Access-Network-Identifier option is shown below.

Code	Len	ANI Sub-options				
code	len	s1	s2	s2	...	sn

code: 8-bit code carrying Access Network Identifier sub-options,  
 If added by relay agent: Relay Agent Information Option (82)  
 If added by client: OPTION\_ACCESS\_NETWORK\_ID (TBD1)

len: 8 bit indicating total length of the included suboptions.

ANI Sub-options: The ANI Sub-options consists of a sequence of SubOpt/Length/Value tuples for each sub-option, encoded in the following manner:

SubOpt	Len	Sub-option Value				
code	N	s1	s2	s3	s4	SN

ANI Sub-options are defined in following sections.

##### 4.1. DHCPv4 Access-Network-Identifier Sub-options

Access network identifier information will be defined in multiple sub-options. The initial assignment of DHCP access network identifier Sub-options is as follows:





Sub-option Code	Sub-Option Description
-----	-----
TBD7	Access-Network-Type Sub-option
TBD8	Network-Name Sub-option
TBD9	AP-Name Sub-option
TBD10	Operator-Identifier Sub-option
TBD11	Operator-Realm Sub-option

## 5. DHCPv6 Access-Network-Identifier options

The Access Network Identifier option defined here will be added by DHCPv6 client in upstream DHCPv6 messages or by the Relay in Relay-forward messages.

Option Code	Description
-----	-----
TBD2	OPTION_ANI_ATT
TBD3	OPTION_ANI_NETWORK_NAME
TBD4	OPTION_ANI_AP_NAME
TBD5	OPTION_ANI_OPERATOR_ID
TBD6	OPTION_ANI_OPERATOR_REALM

## 6. DHCPv4 and DHCPv6 Access-Network-Identifier Options

This section defines DHCPv4 suboption and DHCPv6 options for access network identification.

### 6.1. Access-Network-Type option

This option is used for exchanging the type of the access technology the client is attached to the network. There can only be a single instance of this specific option in any DHCPv6 message or single instance of this specific sub-option in DHCPv4 OPTION\_ACCESS\_NETWORK\_ID or Relay Agent information option. Its format is as follows:



## DHCPv4:

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| suboption-code|  Length      |             ATT             |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

suboption-code: 8-bit code, it should be set to value of (TBD7),  
indicating that its a Access-Network-Type sub-option

Length: 8-bit unsigned integer indicating the length of this suboption  
in octets, excluding the suboption-code and length fields.  
This field MUST be set to 2.

## DHCPv6:

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Option Code (TBD2)      |             OptLen             |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                ATT                                +
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

option-code: 16-bit code OPTION\_ANI\_ATT (TBD2)  
option-length: 16-bit unsigned integer indicating length  
in octets of this option

Common format applicable to DHCPv4 and DHCPv6:  
Access Technology Type (ATT)

An 16-bit field that specifies the access technology through  
which the client is connected to the access link.

The values is as populated from the IANA name space  
Access Technology Type Option type values as requested in [[RFC5213](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5213)]

0: Reserved	("Reserved")
1: Virtual	("Logical Network Interface")
2: PPP	("Point-to-Point Protocol")
3: IEEE 802.3	("Ethernet")
4: IEEE 802.11a/b/g	("Wireless LAN")
5: IEEE 802.16e	("WIMAX")



## 6.2. Network-Identifier options

These options can be used for carrying the name of the access network (e.g., a SSID in case of IEEE 802.11 Access Network, or PLMN Identifier [TS23003] in case of 3GPP access ) and Access Point name, to which the client is attached. There can only be a single instance of each of these options in any DHCPv6 message or single instance of each of these sub-options in DHCPv4 OPTION\_ACCESS\_NETWORK\_ID or Relay Agent information option. The format of these options is defined below.

DHCPv4:

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|suboption code |   Length           |                               ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Network Name (e.g., SSID or PLMNID)   ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

suboption code: 8-bit code, it should be set to value of (TBD8), indicating that its a Network-Name sub-option

Length: 8-bit indicating Total length of this sub option, excluding the suboption code and length fields.  
The value can be in the range of 2 to 32 octets.

DHCPv6:

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Option Code (TBD3)   |   OptLen           |                               ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Network Name (e.g., SSID or PLMNID)   ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

option-code: 16-bit code OPTION\_ANI\_NETWORK\_NAME (TBD3)  
option-length: 16-bit unsigned integer indicating length in octets of this option. The value can be in the range of 2 to 32 octets.

Common format applicable to DHCPv4 and DHCPv6:



Network Name: The name of the access network to which the mobile node is attached. The type of the Network Name is dependent on the access technology to which the mobile node is attached. If it is 802.11 access, the Network Name MUST be the SSID of the network. If the access network is 3GPP access, the Network Name is the PLMN Identifier of the network. If the access network is 3GPP2 access, the Network Name is the Access Network Identifier [\[ANI\]](#).

When encoding the PLMN Identifier, both the Mobile Network Code (MNC) [\[TS23003\]](#) and Mobile Country Code (MCC) [\[TS23003\]](#) MUST be 3 digits. If the MNC in use only has 2 digits, then it MUST be preceded with a '0'. Encoding MUST be UTF-8.





## DHCPv4:

```

      0                               1                               2                               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|suboption code |   Length           |~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                     Access-Point Name             |~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

suboption code: 8-bit code, it should be set to value of (TBD9),  
indicating that its a Network-AP-Name sub-option

Length: 8-bit indicating Total length of this sub option,  
excluding the suboption code and length fields.  
The value can be in the range of 2 to 32 octets.

## DHCPv6:

```

      0                               1                               2                               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Option Code (TBD3)   |   OptLen           |~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                     Access-Point Name             |~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

option-code: 16-bit code OPTION\_ANI\_AP\_NAME (TBD4)  
option-length: 16-bit unsigned integer indicating length  
in octets of this option. The value can be in the  
range of 2 to 32 octets.

Common format applicable to DHCPv4 and DHCPv6:

Access-Point Name: The name of the access point (physical device name) to which the mobile node is attached. This is the identifier that uniquely identifies the access point. While Network Name (e.g., SSID) identifies the operator's access network, Access-Point Name identifies a specific network device in the network to which the mobile node is attached. In some deployments, the Access-Point Name can be set to the Media Access Control (MAC) address of the device or some unique identifier that can be used by the policy systems in the operator network to unambiguously identify the device. The string is carried in UTF-8 representation.



### 6.3. Operator identifier options

The Operator identifier options can be used for carrying the operator identifier of the access network to which the client is attached. There can only be a single instance of each of these options in any DHCPv6 message or single instance of each of these sub-options in DHCPv4 `OPTION_ACCESS_NETWORK_ID` or Relay Agent information option. The format of these options is defined below.

DHCPv4:

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| suboptioncode |      Length      |                                     ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
~      Operator Enterprise ID      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

suboption code: 8 bit code, It should be set to value of (TBD10),  
indicating that it is Operator-Identifier sub-option

Length: Total length of this sub option, excluding the suboption code  
and length fields.

DHCPv6:

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Option Code (TBD4)      |      OptLen      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Operator Enterprise ID      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

option-code: 16-bit code `OPTION_ANI_OPERATOR_ID` (TBD5)  
option-length: 16-bit unsigned integer indicating length  
in octets of this option.

Common format applicable to DHCPv4 and DHCPv6:

Operator Enterprise ID: Vendor ID as a four octet  
Private Enterprise Number [[SMI](#)].



## DHCPv4:

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| suboptioncode |      Length      |                                     ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
~                                     Operator Realm                                     ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

suboption code: 8 bit code, It should be set to value of (TBD11), indicating that it is Operator-Realm sub-option

Length: Total length of this sub option, excluding the suboption code and length fields.

## DHCPv6:

```

      0               1               2               3
      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Option Code (TBD4)      |      OptLen      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
~                                     Operator Realm                                     ~
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

option-code: 16-bit code OPTION\_ANI\_OPERATOR\_REALM (TBD6)

option-length: 16-bit unsigned integer indicating length in octets of this option.

Common format applicable to DHCPv4 and DHCPv6:

Operator Realm: Realm of the operator. Realm names are required to be unique, and are piggybacked on the administration of the DNS namespace. Realms are encoded using a domain name encoding defined in [[RFC1035](#)]. Up to 253 octets of the operator realm.

## 7. Client Behavior

All hosts or clients MAY include access network identifier options in all the upstream DHCP messages to inform the receiver about the access network it is attached to.



## **8. Relay Agent Behavior**

DHCP Relay Agents MAY include these options before forwarding the DHCP message to provide information about the access network over which DHCP messages from the client is received.

## **9. Server Behavior**

If DHCP Server is unable to understand this option it MUST be ignored. There is no requirement that a server return this option and its data in a downstream DHCP message. If DHCP Server is able to process these options it MAY use it for address pool selection policy decisions if configured. It MAY store this information along with the lease for logging and audit purpose.

## **10. IANA Considerations**

This document defines DHCPv4 Access Network Identifier option which requires assignment of DHCPv4 option code TBD1 assigned from "Bootp and DHCP options" registry (<http://www.iana.org/assignments/bootp-dhcp-parameters/bootp-dhcp-parameters.xml>), as specified in [RFC2939].

IANA is requested to assign Sub-option codes for the following DHCPv4 Sub-options from the "DHCP Relay Agent Sub-Option Codes"

Sub-option Code	Sub-Option Description
-----	-----
TBD7	Access-Network-Type Sub-option
TBD8	Network-Name Sub-option
TBD9	AP-Name Sub-option
TBD10	Operator-Identifier Sub-option
TBD11	Operator-Realm Sub-option

IANA is requested to assign option codes for the following DHCPv6 options from the "DHCPv6 and DHCPv6 options" registry (<http://www.iana.org/assignments/dhcpv6-parameters/dhcpv6-parameters.xml>).





Option Code	Description
-----	-----
TBD2	OPTION_ANI_ATT
TBD3	OPTION_ANI_NETWORK_NAME
TBD4	OPTION_ANI_AP_NAME
TBD5	OPTION_ANI_OPERATOR_ID
TBD6	OPTION_ANI_OPERATOR_REALM

## **11. Security Considerations**

Since there is no privacy protection for DHCP messages, an eavesdropper who can monitor the link between the DHCP server, relay agent and client can discover access network information.

To minimize the unintended exposure of this information, this option SHOULD be included by DHCP entities only when it is configured. Where critical decisions might be based on the value of this option, DHCP authentication as defined in "Authentication for DHCP Messages" [[RFC3118](#)] and "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6)" [[RFC3315](#)] SHOULD be used to protect the integrity of the DHCP options. Link-layer confidentiality and integrity protection may also be employed to reduce the risk of disclosure and tampering.

Security issues related DHCPv6 are described in [section 23 of \[RFC3315\]](#).

## **12. Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank Kim Kinnear, Ted Lemon, Gaurav Halwasia, Bernie Volz for their valuable inputs.

## **13. Change log**

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