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A Generic IPv6 Addresses Registration Solution
Using DHCPv6
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Abstract

In the IPv6 address allocation scenarios, host self-generated addresses are notionally conflicted with the network managed address architecture. These addresses need to be registered in the networking management plate for the purposes of central address administration. This document introduces a generic address registration solution using DHCPv6, and defines one new ND option and one new DHCPv6 option in order to propagate the solicitations of registering self-generated addresses. The registration procedure reuses the existing IA_NA in the DHCPv6 protocol.

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction & Requirements	3
2.	Terminology	3
3.	Overview of Generic Address Registration Solution	3
4.	Propagating the Address Registration Solicitation	4
4.1.	ND Address Registration Solicitation Option	5
4.2.	DHCPv6 Address Registration Solicitation Option	7
5.	DHCPv6 Address Registration Procedure	7
5.1.	DHCPv6 Address Registration Request	7
5.2.	DHCPv6 Address Registration Acknowledge	8
6.	Security Considerations	8
7.	IANA Considerations	9
8.	Acknowledgments	9
9.	References	9
9.1.	Normative References	9
9.2.	Informative References	10
	Author's Addresses	10

1. Introduction & Requirements

In the IPv6 address allocation scenarios, there are many host self-generated addresses, such as addresses in IPv6 Stateless Address Configuration [RFC4862, [RFC4941](#)] scenario and Cryptographically Generated Addresses (CGA, [[RFC3972](#)]), and etc. These addresses are notionally conflicted with the network managed address architecture, such as Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6, [[RFC3315](#)]) managed network or network with Access Control List.

Many operators of enterprise networks and similarly tightly administered networks have expressed the desire to be at least aware the hosts' addresses when moving to IPv6. Furthermore, they may want to stop the usage of some hosts' addresses for various reasons.

A useful way to give network administrators most of what they want, while at the same time retaining compatibility with normal stateless configuration would be: if the self-generated IPv6 addresses are used, they may need to be registered in the networking management plate. The host may be required to perform this registration since only registered IPv6 addresses may access the network resources in some scenarios.

In order to fulfill the abovementioned practice, this document introduces a new Neighbor Discovery (ND) option and a new DHCPv6 option to propagate the address registration solicitation from network management to hosts. DHCPv6 protocol is suitable to perform the address registration procedure while the address registration server may play by a DHCPv6 server or a stand-alone server. The existing IA_NA in the DHCPv6 protocol is reused for the registration procedure.

2. Terminology

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 [RFC2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

3. Overview of Generic Address Registration Solution

By current default, the hosts with self-generated addresses do not register their addresses to any network devices. However, this may result that the network may reject the access request from these devices if the address registration is requested.

Jiang & Chen

Expires November 8, 2012

[Page 3]

Internet-Draft [draft-ietf-dhc-addr-registration-00](#)

May 2012

As showed in below Figure 1, in the generic address registration solution, proposed by this document, the network management plate firstly propagates the solicitations of registering self-generated addresses, by messages from either local router (step 1a in Figure 1) or DHCPv6 server (step 1b in Figure 1).

By received such solicitations, a host using the self-generated address SHOULD send an address registration request message to the address registration server (step 2 in Figure 1). The address registration server may be acted by a DHCPv6 server. By received the address registration request, the address registration server records the requested address in the address database, which MAY be used by other network functions, such as DNS or ACL, etc. The address registration server should also assign lifetimes for the requested address. An acknowledgement is sent back to the host with the assigned lifetimes (step 3 in Figure 1).

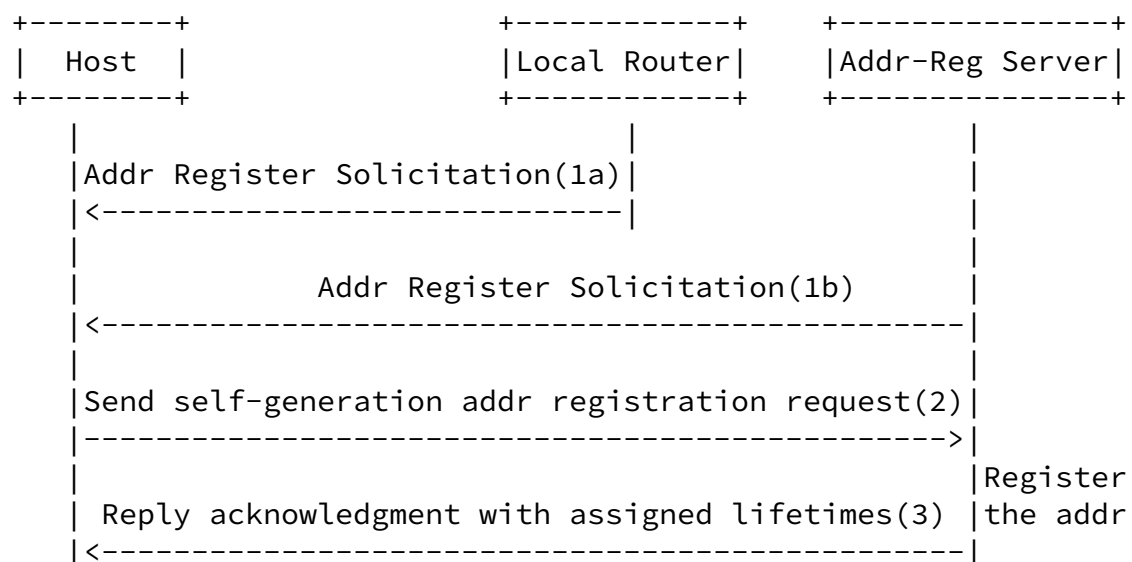


Figure 1: address registration procedure

By received the acknowledgement, the host can use the registered address. It SHOULD use the assigned preferred and valid lifetime for the corresponded address.

4. Propagating the Address Registration Solicitation

In order to indicate or force the hosts with self-generated addresses to register their addresses and the appointed address registration server, new solicitation options need to be defined.

There are more than one mechanism in which configuration parameters could be pushed to the end hosts. The address registration

Jiang & Chen

Expires November 8, 2012

[Page 4]

Internet-Draft

[draft-ietf-dhc-addr-registration-00](#)

May 2012

solicitation option can be carried in Router Advertisement (RA) message, which is broadcasted by local routers. In the DHCPv6 managed network, it can also be carried in DHCPv6 messages.

More precisely it defines one new ND option and one new DHCPv6 option that convey a Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN, as per [Section 3.1 of \[RFC1035\]](#)) of address registration(s). In order to make use of these options, this document assumes appropriate name resolution means (see [Section 6.1.1 of \[RFC1123\]](#)) are available on the host client. The use of the FQDN may benefit for load-balancing purposes.

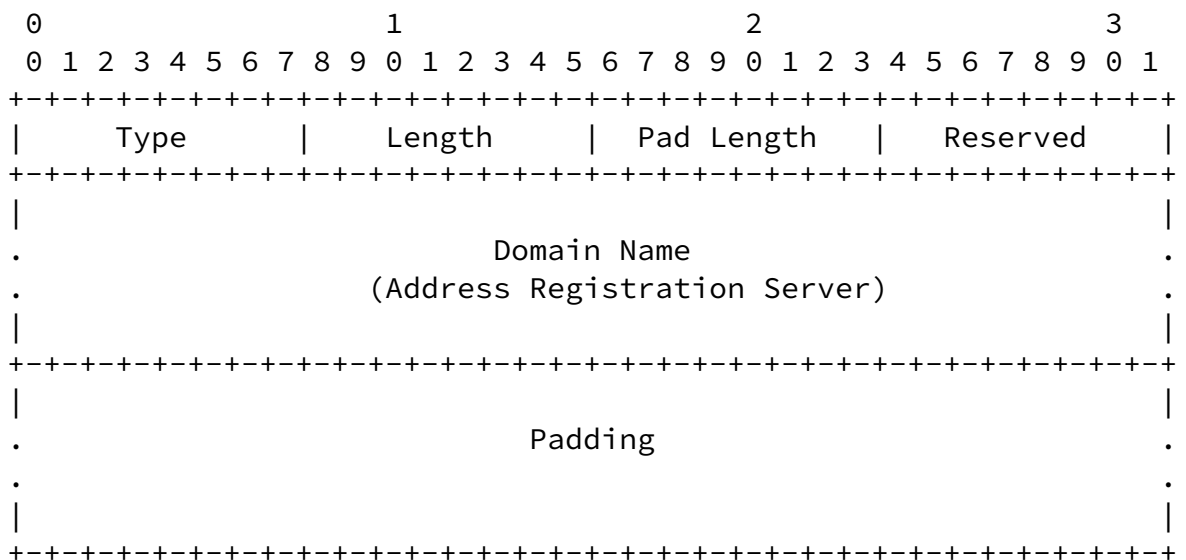
By receiving the address registration solicitation option(s), a host SHOULD register its self-generated addresses, if there are any, to the appointed registration server. The solicitation options may include the IPv6 address(es) of address registration server.

In principle, hosts must receive a prefix from either RA message [[RFC4861](#)] or DHCPv6 message [[I-D.ietf-dhc-host-gen-id](#)] so that they can generate an IPv6 address by themselves. The Address Registration Solicitation options could be propagated together with prefix assignment information.

[4.1](#). ND Address Registration Solicitation Option

The ND Address Registration Solicitation Option allows routers to propagate the solicitation for hosts to register their self-generated address. This option also carries a domain name of the appointed address registration server. This option SHOULD be propagated

together with ND Prefix Information Option, [Section 4.6.2](#), [[RFC4861](#)]. That is also applied to the case of Neighbor Discovery Proxies [[RFC4389](#)]. The format of the ND Address Registration Solicitation Option is described as follows:



Fields:

Type (TBA1)

Length The length of the option in units of 8 octets, including the Type and Length fields. The value 0 is invalid. The receiver MUST discard a message that contains this value.

Pad Length The number of padding octets beyond the end of the Domain Name field but within the length specified by the Length field.

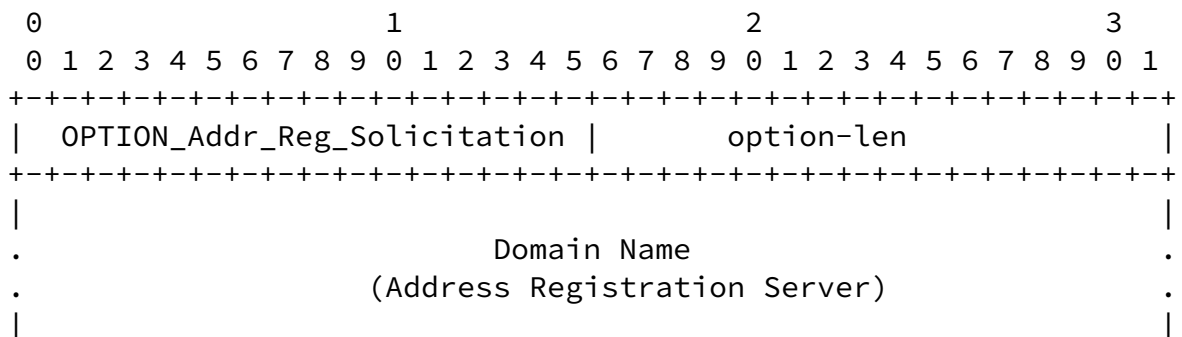
Reserved Padding bits. It is for future use also. The value MUST be initialized to zero by the sender, and MUST be ignored by the receiver.

Domain Name A fully qualified domain name of the appointed address registration server. The domain name is encoded as specified in [Section 8 of \[RFC3315\]](#). Any possible future updates to [Section 8](#) of the [Section 8 of \[RFC3315\]](#) also apply to this option.

Padding: A variable-length field making the option length a multiple of 8, containing as many octets as specified in the Pad Length field. Padding octets MUST be set to zero by senders and ignored by receivers.

[4.2.](#) DHCPv6 Address Registration Solicitation Option

The DHCPv6 Address Registration Solicitation Option allows DHCPv6 server to propagate the solicitation for hosts to register their self-generated address. This option also carries a domain name of the appointed address registration server. This option SHOULD be propagated together with DHCPv6 Prefix Information Option, [Section 5](#), [\[I-D.ietf-dhc-host-gen-id\]](#). The format of the DHCPv6 Address Registration Solicitation Option is described as follows:



+--+

option-code OPTION_Adr_Reg_Solicitation (TBA2).

option-len Length of this option in octets (option-code and option-len are not included).

Domain Name A fully qualified domain name of the appointed address registration server. The domain name is encoded as specified in [Section 8 of \[RFC3315\]](#). Any possible future updates to [Section 8](#) of the [Section 8 of \[RFC3315\]](#) also apply to this option.

[5.](#) DHCPv6 Address Registration Procedure

The current DHCPv6 protocol is reused as the address registration protocol while a DHCPv6 server plays as address registration server. Identity Association for Non-temporary Addresses (IA_NA) [\[RFC3315\]](#) is reused in order to fulfill the address registration interactions.

[5.1.](#) DHCPv6 Address Registration Request

The host with self-generated address(es) sends a DHCPv6 Request message to the appointed address registration server, which may be a DHCPv6 server.

The DHCPv6 Request message SHOULD contain at least one IA_NA option. The IA_NA option SHOULD contain at least one IA Address option. The

host SHOULD set the T1 and T2 fields in any IA_NA options, and the preferred-lifetime and valid-lifetime fields in the IA Address options to 0.

By received, the address registration server MUST register the requested address in its address database, which MAY be used by other network functions, such as DNS or ACL, etc. The address registration server SHOULD also assign the lifetimes for these registered addresses.

The address database contains both the self-generated addresses and the DHCPv6 assigned addresses. They MAY be marked different in the database.

[5.2.](#) DHCPv6 Address Registration Acknowledge

The address registration server sends a Reply message as the response to registration requests.

The DHCPv6 Reply message SHOULD contain at least one IA_NA option. The IA_NA option SHOULD contain at least one IA Address option. The server SHOULD set the T1 and T2 fields in any IA_NA options, and the preferred-lifetime and valid-lifetime fields in the IA Address options following the rules defined in [Section 22 in \[RFC3315\]](#).

By received the acknowledgement from the server, the host can use the registered address to access the network. It SHOULD use the values in the preferred and valid lifetime fields for the preferred and valid lifetimes of the address.

Note: the host MAY continue to use expired address, such as Locators as Upper-Layer Identifiers (ULID) in Shim6 protocol [[RFC5533](#)], etc.; but the network MAY refuse the network access from such addresses.

[6.](#) Security Considerations

An attacker may use a faked address registration request option to indicate hosts reports their address to a malicious server and collect the user information. Or, an attacker may register a faked address to spoof the networking management plate. In either cases, these attacks may be prevented by using Secure Neighbor Discovery (SEND, [[RFC3971](#)]) if RA Address Registration Request Option is used, or AUTH option [[RFC3315](#)] or Secure DHCPv6 [[I-D.ietf-dhc-secure-dhcpv6](#)] if DHCPv6 Address Registration Request Option is used.

[7.](#) IANA Considerations

This document defines a new Neighbor Discovery [[RFC4861](#)] option, which MUST be assigned Option Type values within the option numbering space for Neighbor Discovery Option Type:

The Address Registration Solicitation Option (TBA1), described in [Section 4.1](#).

This document defines one new DHCPv6 [[RFC3315](#)] option, which MUST be assigned Option Type values within the option numbering space for DHCPv6 options:

The OPTION_Addr_Reg_Solicitation (TBA2), described in [Section 4.2](#);

[8](#). Acknowledgments

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