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DHCPv4 Options for Broadcast and Multicast Control Servers
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Abstract

This document defines new options for Broadcast and Multicast Service controller discovery in an IP network. Broadcast service is being developed for 3G wireless networks. Users of the service interact with a controller in the network to derive informations that are

required to receive broadcast service. Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol can be used to configure the controller IPv4 addresses or fully qualified domain names in the user's devices. This document defines the related options and option codes.

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1. Motivation

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol [[RFC2131](#)] can be used to configure various non-IP address type of parameters. These parameters are required for normal operation of various services that are offered over an IP network.

Broadcast and multicast service (BCMCS) is one such service that is currently being standardized in various mobile wireless standard bodies such as 3GPP, 3GPP2 and OMA. A description of the BCMCS, for example, in 3GPP2 can be found in [[BCMCS](#)].

While DHCP offers necessary mechanisms for device configuration, it lacks the information elements required to configure a mobile device to support BCMCS. This memo is an effort to define the extensions needed for DHCP to provide necessary configuration information to a mobile device in a BCMCS network.

DHCP is being used in 3GPP2, for example, to assist with the discovery of the BCMCS Controller in a mobile operators IP network. The BCMCS includes a controller component that is responsible for managing the service via interaction with the users and other network entities.

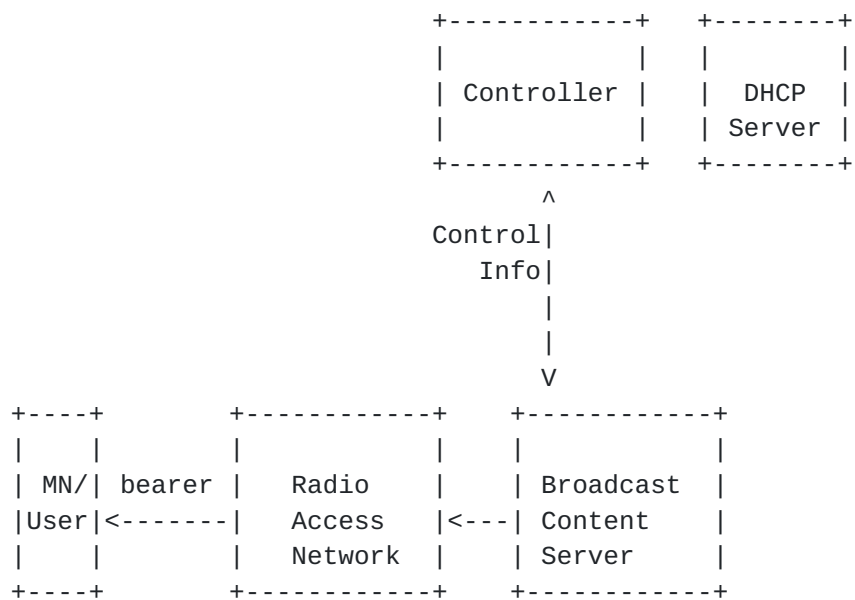
An overview of the 3GPP2 BCMCS architecture is given in the next section. It provides enough information to understand the basics of the 3GPP2 BCMCS operation. Readers are encouraged to find a more detailed description in [[BCMCS](#)].

As described in [[BCMCS](#)], the users of the service are required to know the IPv4 address of the controller entity so that they can download all the necessary information about a desired broadcast program. In a roaming environment static configuration of the controller IPv4 address becomes unrealistic. Therefore, DHCP is considered to be a method to dynamically configure the controller IPv4 address or the fully qualified domain name of the controller in the 3G wireless networks.

In order to allow the users to discover the broadcast controllers, the clients request for appropriate option codes from the DHCP servers using Parameter Request List option. The DHCP servers need to return the corresponding configuration options that carry either broadcast and multicast service controller IPv4 address or fully qualified domain name based on configuration. The motivation for this document is to define the necessary option and option code.

2. Overview of the 3GPP2 BCMCS Network

The Broadcast and Multicast Service architecture in a 3G wireless network such as 3GPP2 has the following model:



Note that this figure is shown here for broad understanding of how Broadcast and Multicast service works in a 3G mobile wireless IP network. The network elements except MN/user and the DHCP server are not relevant to the text in this document.

The user interacts with the Controller to request for broadcast/multicast program information from the network (e.g., scheduled time, multicast IP address, port numbers). The User may also be authenticated by the Controller while downloading the relevant program security related information (such as encryption key). These interactions happen via HTTP and XML. There may be more than one controller in the network. The user should discover the appropriate controller to request the relevant program information. For details of Broadcast and Multicast Service operation in 3GPP2, see [[BCMCS](#)]

3. Terminology

The keywords "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](#).

4. Broadcast Service Controller Options

This section defines the configuration option for the controller of Broadcast Service. The Configuration Option contains the IPv4 address or the fully qualified domain names of the broadcast service controller.

4.1 Broadcast Service Controller Domain Name list

If the 'enc' byte has a value of 0, the encoding byte is followed by a sequence of labels, encoded according to [Section 3.1 of RFC 1035 \[RFC1035\]](#).

The option MAY contain multiple domain names, but these domain names SHOULD be used to construct SRV lookups as specified in [\[BCMCS\]](#), rather than querying for different A records. The client MUST try the records in the order listed, applying the mechanism described in [\[BCMCS\]](#) for each entry. The client only resolves the subsequent domain names if attempts to contact the first one failed or yielded no common transport protocols between the client and the controller or denote a domain administratively prohibited by client's policy.

Use of multiple domain names is not meant to replace the SRV records, but rather to allow a single DHCP server to indicate the broadcast controllers in the access provider's network.

Clients MUST support compression according to the encoding in [Section 4.1.4](#) of "Domain Names - Implementation And Specification [\[RFC1035\]](#)".

Since the domain names are supposed to be different domains, compression will likely have little effect, however. If the length of the domain list exceeds the maximum permissible within a single option (254 octets), then the domain list MUST be represented in the DHCP message as specified in [\[RFC3396\]](#).

The DHCP option for this encoding has the following format:

Code	Len	enc	FQDN(s) of Broadcast Controller				
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
TBD	n	0	s1	s2	s3	s4	s5 ...
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+

An example case when two controller domain names e.g. bcmc1.carrier1.com, bcmc2.carrier1.com are returned will be:


```

+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|TBD|38 | 5 |'b'|'c'|'m'|'c'|'1'| 8 |'c'|'a'|'r'|'r'|'i'|'e'|'r'|
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|'1'| 3 |'c'|'o'|'m'| 5 |'b'|'c'|'m'|'c'|'2'| 8 |'c'|'a'|'r'|'r'|
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|i'|'e'|'r'|'1'| 3 |'c'|'o'|'m'|
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

[4.2](#) Broadcast Service Controller IPv4 address option

If the 'enc' byte has a value of 1, the encoding byte is followed by a list of IPv4 addresses indicating broadcast controller IPv4 addresses. The controllers **MUST** be listed in order of preference. Its minimum length is 5, and the length **MUST** be a multiple of 4 plus one. The DHCP option for this encoding has the following format:

Code	Len	enc	Address 1	Address 2
TBD	n	1	a1 a2 a3 a4 a1 ...	

5. Security Considerations

The security considerations in the base DHCP spec [[RFC2131](#)] applies. An attacker may change information of the Broadcast Service Controller in packets that are in-transit from DHCP server to the MN, if integrity protection is not in place. In that event, the user of the Broadcast service may be diverted to a rogue broadcast service controller. In the absence of a mutual authentication procedure between MN and the Broadcast controller, the MN may receive wrong or fraudulent information about Broadcast Service.

6. IANA Considerations

The option code for Broadcast Service Controller option must be assigned by IANA.

7. Acknowledgements

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8 Normative References

- [BCMCS] 3GPP2, www.3gpp2.org, "X.S0022, Broadcast and Multicast Service in cdma2000 Wireless IP Network.", February 2005.
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- [RFC3396] Lemon, T. and S. Cheshire, "Encoding Long Options in the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCPv4)", [RFC 3396](#), November 2002.

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