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DHCPv6 Leasequery  
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Abstract

This document specifies leasequery for the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6) which can be used as a means to obtain lease information about DHCPv6 clients from a DHCPv6 server. This document specifies the scope of data that can be retrieved as well as both DHCPv6 leasequery requestor and server behavior. This document

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extends DHCPv6.

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## 1. Introduction

The DHCPv6 [2] protocol specifies a mechanism for the assignment of both IPv6 address and configuration information to IPv6 nodes. IPv6 Prefix Options for DHCPv6 [4] specifies a mechanism for the automated delegation of IPv6 prefixes and related options. Similar to DHCPv4 [6], DHCPv6 servers maintain authoritative information related to its operations including but not limited to lease information for IPv6 addresses and delegated prefixes.

The requirement exists in various types of IPv6 deployments, particularly those of a broadband variety, to leverage DHCPv6 [2] for retrieving data related to the operation of DHCPv6 servers programmatically. In particular it is desirable to be able to extract lease information about IPv6 addresses and delegated prefixes assigned using DHCPv6 [2] [4]. Specific examples where this information has illustrated value are in broadband networks to facilitate access control by edge devices. This capability to programitcally extract lease data from the DHCPv6 server is called leasequery.

Existing specifications, such as [3] are leveraged as a basis for extending the DHCPv6 protocol to support leasequery. The motivations and justifications identified in [3] also generally apply to this specification. Furthermore, advancements in DHCPv6 [2] are expanded upon to specify additional means by which IPv6 address and delegated prefix lease data can be retrieved through DHCPv6 leasequery.

## 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 [1].

DHCPv6 terminology is defined in [2]. Terminology specific to DHCPv6

leasequery can be found below:

client(s)	The nodes that have one or more bindings with a DHCPv6 server. This does not refer to the node issuing the LEASEQUERY unless it itself has one or more bindings with a DHCPv6 server.
requestor	The node that sends LEASEQUERY messages to one or more servers to retrieve information on the bindings for a client.

### [3.](#) Protocol Overview

The focus of this document is to extend the DHCPv6 protocol to allow processes and devices that wish to access information from a DHCPv6 server to do so in a lightweight and convenient manner. It is especially appropriate for processes and devices that already interpret DHCPv6 messages.

The LEASEQUERY message is a query message only and does not affect the state of the IPv6 address or prefix, or the binding information associated with it.

One important motivating example is that the LEASEQUERY message allows access concentrators to query DHCP servers to obtain location information of broadband access network devices.

The leasequery capability described in this document parallels the DHCPv4 leasequery capability documented in [\[3\]](#). As such, it shares many of the basic motivations, design goals and constraints as the capability described in Section 4 of [\[3\]](#).

#### [3.1.](#) On-Demand Query

The on-demand leasequery capability allows requesting just the information necessary to satisfy an immediate need. If the requestor is an access concentrator, then the immediate need will typically be that it has received an IPv6 packet and it needs to refresh its information concerning the DHCPv6 client to which that an IPv6 address is currently leased. In this case, the request will be by

Address. This fits clearly into the single request/response cycle common to other DHCPv6 message exchanges.

However, this approach has limitations when used with prefix delegation [4] as no traffic may arrive because the access concentrator is unable to inject the appropriate routing information into the routing infrastructure, such as after a reboot. This approach does work if the access concentrator is configured to inject routing information for a prefix which aggregates potentially delegated prefixes. Or, if the access concentrator and requesting router use a routing protocol; as then the requesting router can trigger the access concentrator to request information from a DHCPv6 server and inject appropriate routing information into the routing infrastructure.

### [3.2.](#) Anticipatory Query

A second approach for requesting information from a DHCPv6 server would be to use a leasequery-like capability to rebuild an internal

data store containing information available from a DHCPv6 server. The rebuilding of the data store in this approach can take place as soon as possible after the need to rebuild it is discovered (such as on booting), and doesn't wait on the receipt of specific packets to trigger a piecemeal database update (as is the case for on-demand leasequery). This approach would also remove the limitation discussed above for prefix delegation.

This anticipatory query is not specified in this document and is an area of future work.

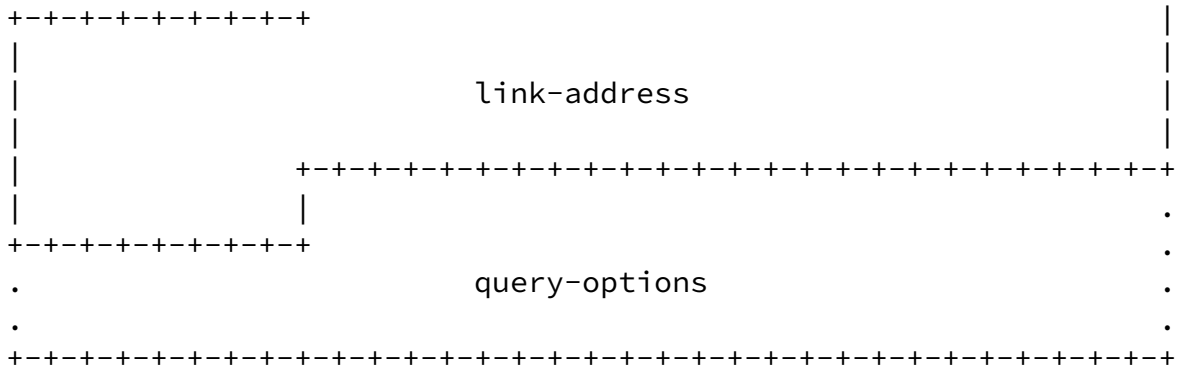
### [3.3.](#) Query Types

Leasquery provides for the following queries:

Query by IPv6 address - This query allows a requestor to request from a server the bindings for a client that either is bound to the address or has been delegated the prefix that contains the address.

Query by Client Identifier (DUID) - This query allows a requestor to request from a server the bindings for a specific client on a





option-code            OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY (TBD)

option-len            17 + length of query-options field.

link-address           A global address that will be used by the server to identify the link to which the query applies, or 0::<0 if unspecified.

query-type            the query requested (see below).

query-options         the options related to the query.

The query-type and required query-options are:

QUERY\_BY\_ADDRESS (1) - The query-options MUST contain an OPTION\_IAADDR option [2]. The link-address field, if not 0::<0, specifies an address for the link on which the client is located if the address in the OPTION\_IAADDR option is of insufficient scope. Only the information for the client that has a lease for the specified address or was delegated a prefix that contains the specified address is returned (if available).

QUERY\_BY\_CLIENTID (2) - The query-options MUST contain an OPTION\_CLIENTID option [2]. The link-address field, if not 0::<0, specifies an address for the link on which the client is located. If the link-address field is 0::<0, the server SHOULD search all of its links of the client.

The query-options MAY also include an OPTION\_ORO option [2] to

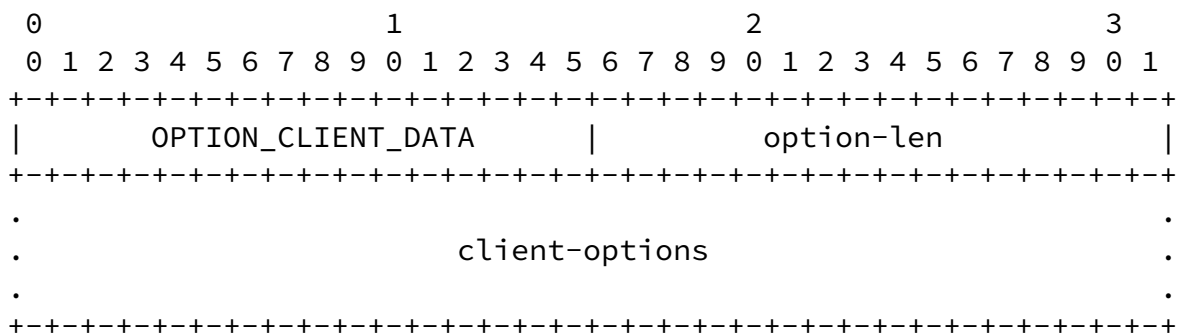
indicate the options for each client that the requestor would like the server to return. Note that this OPTION\_ORO is distinct and separate from an OPTION\_ORO that may be in the requestor's LEASEQUERY message.

If a server receives an OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY with a query-type it does not support, the server SHOULD return an UnknownQueryType status-code. If a server receives a supported query-type but the query-options is missing a required option, the server SHOULD return a MalformedQuery status-code.

#### 4.1.2.2. Client Data Option

The Client Data option is used to encapsulate the data for a single client on a single link in a LEASEQUERY-REPLY message.

The format of the Client Data option is shown below:



- option-code      OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA (TBD)
- option-len      length, in octets, of the encapsulated client-options field.
- client-options   the options associated with this client.

The encapsulated client-options include the OPTION\_CLIENTID, OPTION\_IAADDR, OPTION\_IAPREFIX, and OPTION\_CLT\_TIME options and other options specific to the client and requested by the requestor in the OPTION\_ORO in the OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY's query-options. The server MUST return all of the client's statefully assigned addresses and

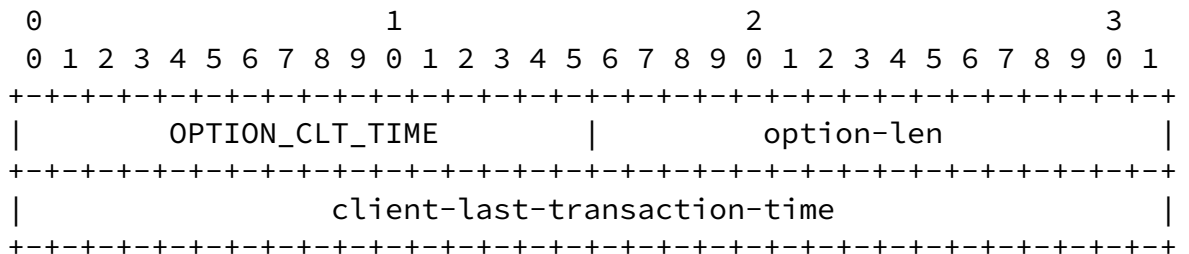
delegated prefixes, with a non-zero valid lifetime, on the link.



#### [4.1.2.3.](#) Client Last Transaction Time Option

The Client Last Transaction Time option is encapsulated in an OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA and identifies how long ago the server last communicated with the client, in seconds.

The format of the Client Last Transaction Time option is shown below:



option-code            OPTION\_CLT\_TIME (TBD)

option-len            4

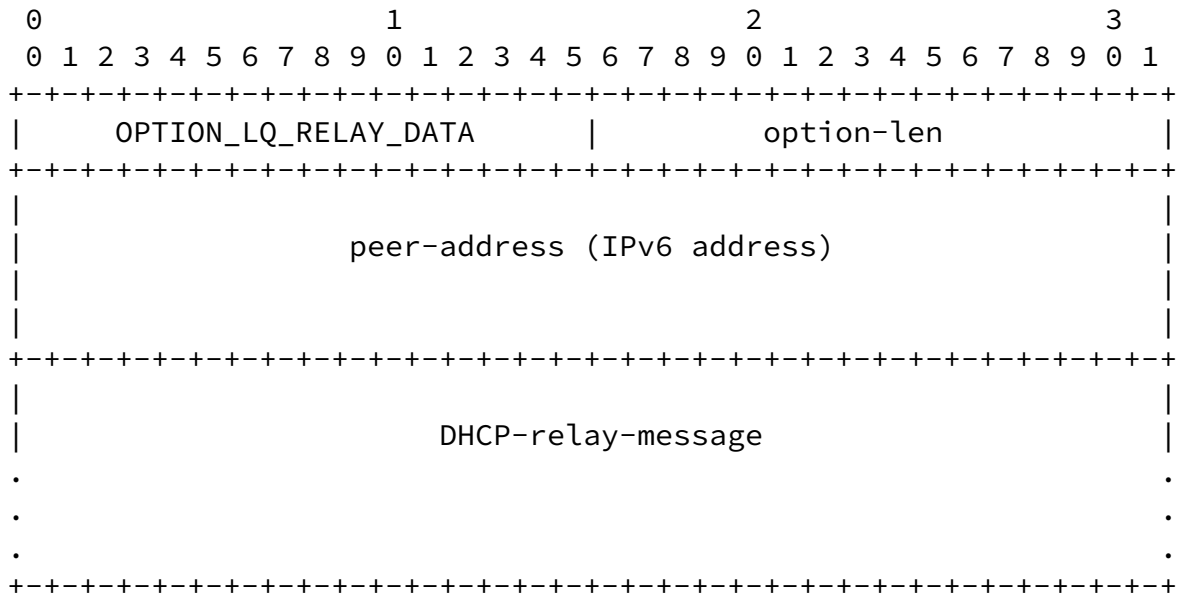
client-last-transaction-time  
                           the number of seconds since the server last  
                           communicated with the client (on that link).

The client-last-transaction-time is a positive value and reflects the number of seconds since the server last communicated with the client (on that link).

#### [4.1.2.4.](#) Relay Data

The Relay Data option is used only in a LEASEQUERY-REPLY message and provides the relay agent information used when the client last communicated with the server.

The format of the Client Links option is shown below:



option-code        OPTION\_LQ\_RELAY\_DATA (TBD)

option-len        16 + length of DHCP-relay-message.

peer-address      The address of the relay agent from which the relayed message was received by the server.

DHCP-relay-message  
                   The last complete relayed message excluding the client's message OPTION\_RELAY\_MSG received by the server.

This option is used by the server to return full relay agent information for a client. It MUST NOT be returned if the server does not have such information, either because the client last communicated directly (without relay agent) with the server or if the server does not retained such information.

If returned, the DHCP-relay-message MUST contain a valid (perhaps multi-hop) RELAY-FORW message as most recently received by the server for the client. However, the (inner most) OPTION\_RELAY\_MSG option containing the client's message MUST have been removed.

This option SHOULD only be returned if requested by the OPTION\_ORO of the OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY.



each link-address returned in the list, specifying the returned link-address. If the client is on a single link, the server SHOULD return the client's data in an OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA option.

### [4.1.3.](#) Status Codes

The following new status codes are defined:

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UnknownQueryType (TBD) - The query-type is unknown to or not supported by the server.

MalformedQuery (TBD) - The query is not valid, for example a required query-option is missing from the OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY.

NotConfigured (TBD) - The server does not have the target address or link in its configuration.

NotAllowed (TBD) - The server does not allow the requestor to issue this LEASEQUERY.

### [4.1.4.](#) Transmission and Retransmission Parameters

This section presents a table of values used to describe the message transmission behavior for leasequery.

Parameter	Default	Description
LQ_TIMEOUT	1 sec	Initial LEASEQUERY timeout
LQ_MAX_RT	10 secs	Max LEASEQUERY timeout value
LQ_MAX_RC	5	Max LEASEQUERY retry attempts

## [4.2.](#) Message Validation

### [4.2.1.](#) LEASEQUERY

Requestors and clients MUST discard any received LEASEQUERY messages.

Servers MUST discard any received LEASEQUERY messages that meet any of the following conditions:

- o the message does not include an OPTION\_CLIENTID option.
- o the message includes an OPTION\_SERVERID option but the contents of the OPTION\_SERVERID option does not match the server's identifier.
- o the message does not include an OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY option.

#### [4.2.2.](#) LEASEQUERY-REPLY

Requestors MUST discard any received LEASEQUERY-REPLY messages that meet any of the following conditions:

- o the message does not include an OPTION\_SERVERID option.
- o the message does not include an OPTION\_CLIENTID option or the contents of the OPTION\_CLIENTID option do not match the DUID of the requestor.
- o the "transaction-id" field in the message does not match the value used in the original message.

Servers and Relay Agents (on the server port, 547 [2]) MUST discard any received LEASEQUERY-REPLY messages.

#### [4.3.](#) DHCPv6 Leasequery Requestor Behavior

This section describes how a requestor initiates lease data retrieval from DHCPv6 servers.

##### [4.3.1.](#) Creation of LEASEQUERY

The requestor sets the "msg-type" field to LEASEQUERY. The requestor generates a transaction ID and inserts this value in the "transaction-id" field.

The requestor MUST include an OPTION\_CLIENTID option to identify itself to the server.

The requestor MUST include an OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY option and set the query-type, link-address, and query-options as appropriate to the query-type ([Section 4.1.2.1](#)).

The requestor SHOULD include an OPTION\_SERVERID if it is not unicasting the LEASEQUERY yet only wants a response from a specific server.

### 4.3.2. Transmission of LEASEQUERY

The requestor MAY be configured to use a list of destination addresses, which MAY include unicast addresses, the All\_DHCP\_Servers multicast address, or other addresses selected by the network administrator. If the requestor has not been explicitly configured, it MAY use the All\_DHCP\_Servers multicast address as the default.

The requestor SHOULD send LEASEQUERY to one or more DHCPv6 servers which are known to possess authoritative information concerning the query target.

In the absence of information concerning which DHCPv6 servers might possess authoritative information on the query target, the requestor SHOULD send LEASEQUERY to all DHCPv6 servers that the requestor knows about or is configured with. For example, the requestor MAY send LEASEQUERY to the All\_DHCP\_Servers multicast address.

The requestor transmits LEASEQUERY messages according to section 14 of [2], using the following parameters:

IRT	LQ_TIMEOUT
MRT	LQ_MAX_RT
MRC	LQ_MAX_RC
MRD	0

If the message exchange fails, the requestor takes an action based on the requestor's local policy. Examples of actions the requestor might take include:

- o Select another server from a list of servers known to the requestor.
- o Send to multiple servers by multicasting to the All\_DHCP\_Servers address.
- o Terminate the leasequery.

### 4.3.3. Receipt of LEASEQUERY-REPLY

A successful LEASEQUERY-REPLY is one without an OPTION\_STATUS\_CODE

option (or an OPTION\_STATUS\_CODE option with a success code). There are three variants:

1. If the server has bindings for the requested client, the message includes an OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA option and the requestor extracts the client data for the LEASEQUERY-REPLY and updates its binding information database. If the OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA contains no OPTION\_CLT\_TIME, the requestor SHOULD silently discard the OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA option. The LEASEQUERY-REPLY SHOULD contain an OPTION\_SERVER\_RSN option [5] and the requestor SHOULD only update its binding information database as described in [5].
2. If the server found bindings for the client on multiple links, the message includes an OPTION\_CLIENT\_LINK option. The requestor will need to reissue LEASEQUERY messages using each of the returned link-addresses to obtain the client's bindings.
3. If the server has no bindings for the client, neither the OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA nor OPTION\_CLIENT\_LINK option will be present.

An unsuccessful LEASEQUERY-REPLY is one that has an OPTION\_STATUS\_CODE with an error code. Depending on the status code, the requestor may try a different server (such as for NotAllowed, NotConfigured, and UnknownQueryType), try a different or corrected query (such as for UnknownQueryType and MalformedQuery), or terminate the query.

#### 4.3.4. Handling DHCPv6 Client Data from Multiple Sources

A requestor may receive lease data on the same client from the same DHCPv6 server in response to different types of LEASEQUERY. If a LEASEQUERY is sent to multiple servers, the requestor may receive from several servers lease data on the same DHCPv6 client.

Additionally, if a requestor is an access concentrator, it may receive lease data from other than leasequery exchanges, e.g., [7]. This section describes how the requestor handles multiple lease data sources on the same DHCPv6 client from the same server or different servers.

The client data from the different sources may be disjoint or overlapping. The disjoint and overlapping relationship can happen between data from the same server or different servers.

If client data from two sources on the same client are of different

types or values, then the data are disjoint. An example of data of different types is when a requestor receives an IPv6 address lease from one server and a prefix lease from another server, both assigned to the same client. An example of different values (but the same type) is when a requestor receives two IPv6 address leases from two different servers, both assigned to the same client, but the leases are on two different IPv6 addresses. If the requestor receives disjoint client data from different sources, it SHOULD merge them.

If client data from two sources on the same client are of the same type and value, then the data are overlapping. An example of overlapping data is when a requestor receives a lease on the same IPv6 address from two different servers. Overlapping client data are also called conflicting data.

The requestor SHOULD use the OPTION\_SERVER\_RSN [5] to resolve data conflicts originated from the same server, and SHOULD accept data with the higher server-sequence-number. The requestor SHOULD use the OPTION\_CLT\_TIME to resolve data conflicts originated from different servers, and SHOULD accept data with most recent OPTION\_CLT\_TIME.

#### [4.4.](#) DHCPv6 Leasequery Server Behavior

A DHCPv6 server sends LEASEQUERY-REPLY messages in response to valid LEASEQUERY messages it receives to return the statefully assigned addresses, delegated prefixes, and other information about that match the query.

##### [4.4.1.](#) Receipt of LEASEQUERY Messages

Upon receipt of a valid LEASEQUERY message, the DHCPv6 server locates the requested client, collects data on the client, and constructs and returns a LEASEQUERY-REPLY. A LEASEQUERY message can not be used to assign, release, or otherwise modify bindings or other configuration information.

The server constructs a LEASEQUERY-REPLY message by setting the "msg-

type" field to LEASEQUERY-REPLY, and copying the transaction ID from the LEASEQUERY message into the transaction-id field.

If the query-type in the OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY option is not a known or



supported value, the server adds an `OPTION_STATUS_CODE` option with the `UnknownQueryType` status code and sends the `LEASEQUERY-REPLY` to the requestor. If the query-options do not contain the required options for the query-type, the server adds an `OPTION_STATUS_CODE` option with the `MalformedQuery` status code and sends the `LEASEQUERY-REPLY` to the client.

A server may also restrict `LEASEQUERY` messages, or query-types, to certain requestors. In this case, the server `MAY` discard the `LEASEQUERY` message or `MAY` add an `OPTION_STATUS_CODE` option with the `NotAllowed` status code and send the `LEASEQUERY-REPLY` to the requestor.

If the `OPTION_LQ_QUERY` specified a non-zero link-address, the server `MUST` use the link-address to find the appropriate link for the client. For a `QUERY_BY_ADDRESS`, if the `0::0` link-address was specified, the server uses the address from the `OPTION_IAADDR` option to find the appropriate link for the client. In either of these cases, if the server is unable to find the link, it `SHOULD` return an `OPTION_STATUS_CODE` option with the `NotConfigured` status and send the `LEASEQUERY-REPLY` to the requestor.

For a `QUERY_BY_CLIENTID`, if a `0::0` link-address was specified, the server `MUST` search all of its links for the client. If the client is only found on a single link, the server `SHOULD` return that client's data in an `OPTION_CLIENT_DATA` option. If the client is found on more than a single link, the server `MUST` return the list of links in the `OPTION_CLIENT_LINK` option; the server `MUST NOT` return any client data.

Otherwise, the server uses the data in the `OPTION_LQ_QUERY` to initiate the query. The result of the query will be zero or one client. This will result in zero or one `OPTION_CLIENT_DATA` option being added to the `LEASEQUERY-REPLY`.

#### [4.4.2.](#) Constructing the Client's `OPTION_CLIENT_DATA`

An `OPTION_CLIENT_DATA` option in a `LEASEQUERY-REPLY` message `MUST` minimally contain the following data.

1. `OPTION_CLIENTID`
2. `OPTION_IAADDR`
3. `OPTION_IAPREFIX`

#### 4. OPTION\_CLT\_TIME

Depending on the bindings the client has on a link, either OPTION\_IAADDR options, OPTION\_IAPREFIX options, or both may be present.

The OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA SHOULD include options requested in the OPTION\_ORO of the OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY option in the LEASEQUERY message and that are acceptable to return based on the list of "sensitive options", discussed below.

DHCPv6 servers SHOULD be configurable with a list of "sensitive options" that must not be returned to the requestor when specified in the OPTION\_ORO of the OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY option in the LEASEQUERY message. Any option on this list MUST NOT be returned to a requestor, even if requested by that requestor.

#### [4.4.3](#). Transmission of LEASEQUERY-REPLY Messages

The server sends the LEASEQUERY-REPLY message as described in the "Transmission of Reply Messages" section of [\[2\]](#).

### [5](#). Security Considerations

The senders of LEASEQUERY messages are expected to be within the same security domain as the DHCPv6 server. As such, the security threat to DHCPv6 leasequery is inherently an insider threat. However, this document doesn't prohibit entities in external security domains from sending LEASEQUERY messages to DHCPv6 servers. Regardless of the network configuration, however, the potential attacks by insiders and outsiders are the same.

If the requestor is an access concentrator, DHCPv6 leasequery security SHOULD follow security between the relay agent and the DHCPv6 server as described in [\[2\]](#) Sections [21.1](#) and [22.11](#). Requestors are essentially a DHCPv6 client for the purposes of the LEASEQUERY message. Thus, DHCPv6 authentication [\[2\]](#) is also an appropriate mechanism for securing LEASEQUERY and LEASEQUERY-REPLY messages.

Access concentrators are expected to be common leasequery requestors. Access concentrators that use DHCPv6 gleaning (i.e., [\[7\]](#)), refreshed with LEASEQUERY messages, will maintain accurate client/binding information. This ensures that the access concentrator can forward data traffic to the intended destination in the broadband access network, can perform IPv6 source address verification of datagrams

from the access network, and can encrypt traffic that can only be

decrypted by the intended access modem (e.g., [BPI] and [BPI+]). Thus, the LEASEQUERY message allows an access concentrator to provide considerably enhanced security. DHCPv6 servers SHOULD prevent exposure of their information (particularly the mapping of hardware address to IPv6 address, which can be an invasion of broadband subscriber privacy) by employing the techniques detailed in [2], Section 21, "Authentication of DHCP Messages".

DHCPv6 servers SHOULD also provide for the ability to restrict the information that they make via leasequery, as described in [Section 4.4.2](#).

DHCPv6 servers supporting LEASEQUERY SHOULD ensure that they cannot be successfully attacked by being flooded with large quantities of LEASEQUERY messages in a short time. In some environments, it may be appropriate to configure a DHCPv6 server with the IPv6 source addresses of the relay agents for which it may respond to LEASEQUERY messages, thereby allowing it to respond only to requests from only a handful of relay agents. This does not provide any true security, but may be useful to thwart unsophisticated attacks of various sorts.

Replayed messages can represent a DOS attack through exhaustion of processing resources, bogus leasequery requestors can send a lot of LEASEQUERY messages to overwhelm a DHCPv6 server, thus preventing the server from serving legitimate and regular DHCPv6 clients as well as legitimate DHCPv6 leasequery requestors, denying configurations to legitimate DHCPv6 clients as well lease information to legitimate DHCPv6 leasequery requestors.

One attack specific to an access concentrator as a requestor is the establishment of a malicious server with the intent of providing incorrect lease or route information to the access concentrator, thwarting source IPv6 address verification and preventing correct routing.

The use of the OPTION\_SERVER\_RSN option [5] does provide an attacker that also knows the server's DUID the ability to effectively lock out future updates from the real server by supply a large sequence number.

## 6. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to assign the following new DHCPv6 Message types in the registry maintained in

<http://www.iana.org/assignments/dhcpv6-parameters>:

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LEASEQUERY  
LEASEQUERY-REPLY

IANA is requested to assign the following new DHCPv6 Option Codes in the registry maintained in

<http://www.iana.org/assignments/dhcpv6-parameters>:

OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY  
OPTION\_CLIENT\_DATA  
OPTION\_CLT\_TIME  
OPTION\_LQ\_RELAY\_DATA  
OPTION\_LQ\_CLIENT\_LINK

IANA is requested to assign the following new DHCPv6 Status Codes in the registry maintained in

<http://www.iana.org/assignments/dhcpv6-parameters>:

UnknownQueryType  
MalformedQuery  
NotConfigured  
NotAllowed

IANA is requested to create a new registry for the OPTION\_LQ\_QUERY option query-type codes in the registry maintained in

<http://www.iana.org/assignments/dhcpv6-parameters> with the following initial assignments:

QUERY_BY_ADDRESS	1
QUERY_BY_CLIENTID	2

## 7. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Ralph Droms, Richard Johnson, Josh Littlefield, Hemant Singh, Pak Siripunkaw, Markus Stenberg, and Ole Troan for their input, ideas, and review during the production of this document.

## 8. Modification History

If this section is present in the document when it is submitted for publication, the RFC Editor is requested to remove it.

Changes in rev -01:

- o Added the ability to query by client identifier (DUID), QUERY\_BY\_CLIENTID. To avoid potentially large messages for clients that are multihomed or mobile, a new option,

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OPTION\_LQ\_CLIENT\_LINK, to return the list of the links the client is on was added. The requestor then needs to re-query for each link, specifying the link-address in the query to get the client's data.

- o Added the ability to return full relay agent details via the OPTION\_LQ\_RELAY\_DATA option.
- o And, other minor changes to accommodate the above.

## 9. References

### 9.1. Normative References

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- [4] Troan, O. and R. Droms, "IPv6 Prefix Options for Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) version 6", [RFC 3633](#), December 2003.

- [5] Volz, B. and R. Droms, "DHCPv6 Server Reply Sequence Number Option ([draft-volz-dhc-dhcpv6-srsn-option](#)-\*)", August 2006.

## 9.2. Informative References

- [6] Droms, R., "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol", [RFC 2131](#), March 1997.
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