

Network Working Group  
INTERNET-DRAFT  
Updates: [4851](#), [5281](#), [7170](#)  
Category: Standards Track  
Expires: August 16, 2023

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16 February 2023

**TLS-based EAP types and TLS 1.3**  
**draft-ietf-emu-tls-eap-types-13.txt**

Abstract

EAP-TLS ([RFC 5216](#)) has been updated for TLS 1.3 in [RFC 9190](#). Many other EAP types also depend on TLS, such as EAP-FAST ([RFC 4851](#)), EAP-TTLS ([RFC 5281](#)), TEAP ([RFC 7170](#)), and possibly many vendor specific EAP methods. This document updates those methods in order to use the new key derivation methods available in TLS 1.3. Additional changes necessitated by TLS 1.3 are also discussed.

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## **1. Introduction**

EAP-TLS has been updated for TLS 1.3 in [[RFC9190](#)]. Many other EAP types also depend on TLS, such as EAP-FAST [[RFC4851](#)], EAP-TTLS [[RFC5281](#)], TEAP [[RFC7170](#)], and possibly many vendor specific EAP methods such as PEAP [[PEAP](#)]. All of these methods use key derivation functions which are no longer applicable to TLS 1.3. As such, all of those methods are incompatible with TLS 1.3.

This document updates those methods in order to be used with TLS 1.3. These changes involve defining new key derivation functions. We also discuss implementation issues in order to highlight differences between TLS 1.3 and earlier versions of TLS.

### **1.1. Requirements Language**

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.



## **2. Using TLS-based EAP methods with TLS 1.3**

In general, all of the requirements of [\[RFC9190\]](#) apply to other EAP methods that wish to use TLS 1.3. Unless otherwise required herein, implementations of EAP methods that wish to use TLS 1.3 MUST follow the guidelines in [\[RFC9190\]](#).

There remain some differences between EAP-TLS and other TLS-based EAP methods which are addressed by this document. The main difference is that [\[RFC9190\]](#) uses the EAP-TLS Type (value 0x0D) in a number of calculations, whereas other method types will use their own Type value instead of the EAP-TLS Type value. This topic is discussed further below in [Section 2.1](#).

An additional difference is that [\[RFC9190\]](#) [Section 2.5](#) requires that once the EAP-TLS handshake has completed, the EAP server sends a protected success result indication. This indication is composed of one octet (0x00) of application data. Other TLS-based EAP methods also use this result indication, but only during resumption. When other TLS-based EAP methods use full authentication, the result indication is not needed, and is not used. This topic is explained in more detail below, in [Section 3](#) and [Section 4](#).

Finally, the document includes clarifications on how various TLS-based parameters are calculated when using TLS 1.3. These parameters are different for each EAP method, so they are discussed separately.

### **2.1. Key Derivation**

The key derivation for TLS-based EAP methods depends on the value of the EAP Type as defined by [\[IANA\]](#) in the Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) Registry. The most important definition is of the Type field, as first defined in [\[RFC3748\]](#) [Section 2](#):

Type = value of the EAP Method type

For the purposes of this specification, when we refer to logical Type, we mean that the logical Type is defined to be 1 octet for values smaller than 254 (the value for the Expanded Type), and when Expanded EAP Types are used, the logical Type is defined to be the concatenation of the fields required to define the Expanded Type, including the Type with value 0xfe, Vendor-Id (in network byte order) and Vendor-Type fields (in network byte order) defined in [\[RFC3748\]](#) [Section 5.7](#), as given below:

Type = 0xFE || Vendor-Id || Vendor-Type

This definition does not alter the meaning of Type in [\[RFC3748\]](#), or





change the structure of EAP packets. Instead, this definition allows us to simplify references to EAP Types, by using a logical "Type" instead of referring to "the Type field or the Type field with value 0xfe, plus the Vendor-ID and Vendor-Type". For example, the value of Type for PEAP is simply 0x19.

Note that unlike TLS 1.2 and earlier, the calculation of TLS-Exporter depends on the length passed to it. Implementations therefore MUST pass the correct length instead of passing a large length and truncating the output. Any output calculated using a larger length value, and which is then truncated, will be different from the output which was calculated using the correct length.

Unless otherwise discussed below, the key derivation functions for all TLS-based EAP Types are defined in [\[RFC9190\] Section 2.3](#), and reproduced here for clarity. These definitions include ones for the Master Session Key (MSK) and the Extended Master Session Key (EMSK):

```
Key_Material = TLS-Exporter("EXPORTER_EAP_TLS_Key_Material",
                             Type, 128)
Method-Id    = TLS-Exporter("EXPORTER_EAP_TLS_Method-Id",
                             Type, 64)
Session-Id   = Type || Method-Id
MSK          = Key_Material(0, 63)
EMSK         = Key_Material(64, 127)
```

We note that these definitions re-use the EAP-TLS exporter labels, and change the derivation only by adding a dependency on the logical Type. The reason for this change is simplicity. The inclusion of the EAP type makes the derivation method-specific. There is no need to use different labels for different EAP types, as was done earlier.

These definitions apply in their entirety to EAP-TTLS [\[RFC5281\]](#) and PEAP as defined in [\[PEAP\]](#) and [\[MSPEAP\]](#). Some definitions apply to EAP-FAST and TEAP, with exceptions as noted below.

It is RECOMMENDED that vendor-defined TLS-based EAP methods use the above definitions for TLS 1.3. There is no compelling reason to use different definitions.

## [2.2.](#) TEAP

TEAP previously used a Protected Access Credential (PAC), which is functionally equivalent to session tickets provided by TLS 1.3 which contain a pre-shared key (PSK) along with other data. As such, the use of a PAC is deprecated for TEAP in TLS 1.3. PAC provisioning as defined in [\[RFC7170\] Section 3.8.1](#) is also no longer part of TEAP when TLS 1.3 is used.



[RFC7170] [Section 5.2](#) gives a definition for the Inner Method Session Key (IMSK), which depends on the TLS-PRF. When the j'th inner method generates an EMSK, we update that definition for TLS 1.3 as:

```
IMSK[j] = TLS-Exporter("TEAPbindkey@ietf.org", secret, 32)
```

The secret is the EMSK or MSK from the j'th inner method. When an inner method does not provide an EMSK or MSK, IMSK[j] is 32 octets of zero.

The other key derivations for TEAP are given here. All derivations not given here are the same as given above in the previous section. These derivations are also used for EAP-FAST, but using the EAP-FAST Type.

The derivation of the Inner Method Session Keys (IMSK), Inner Method Compound Keys (IMCK), and Compound Session Keys (CMK) is given below.

```
session_key_seed = TLS-Exporter("EXPORTER: teap session key seed",  
                                Type, 40)
```

```
S-IMCK[0] = session_key_seed
```

```
For j = 1 to n-1 do
```

```
    IMCK[j] = TLS-Exporter("EXPORTER: Inner Methods Compound Keys",  
                          S-IMCK[j-1] || IMSK[j], 60)
```

```
    S-IMCK[j] = first 40 octets of IMCK[j]
```

```
    CMK[j] = last 20 octets of IMCK[j]
```

In these definitions, || denotes concatenation.

In TLS 1.3, the derivation of IMCK[j] uses both a different label, and a different order of concatenating fields, than was used by TEAP with TLS 1.2. Similarly, the session\_key\_seed in TLS 1.3 uses the Type as the context, where in TLS 1.2 the context was a zero-length field.

The outer MSK and EMSK are then derived from the final ("n"th) inner method, as follows:

```
MSK = TLS-Exporter("EXPORTER: Session Key Generating Function",  
                  S-IMCK[n], 64)
```

```
EMSK = TLS-Exporter("EXPORTER: Extended Session Key Generating Function",  
                   S-IMCK[n], 64)
```

The TEAP Compound MAC defined in [\[RFC7170\] Section 5.3](#) remains the same, but the message authentication code (MAC) for TLS 1.3 is computed with the HMAC algorithm negotiated for HKDF in the key



schedule, as per [section 7.1 of RFC 8446](#). That is, the MAC used is the MAC derived from the TLS handshake.

$$\text{Compound-MAC} = \text{MAC}(\text{CMK}[n], \text{BUFFER})$$

Where we define CMK[n] as the CMK taken from the final ("n"th) inner method.

For TLS 1.3, the message authentication code (MAC) is computed with the HMAC algorithm negotiated for HKDF in the key schedule, as per [section 7.1 of RFC 8446](#). That is, the MAC used is the MAC derived from the TLS handshake.

The definition of BUFFER is unchanged from [\[RFC7170\] Section 5.3](#).

### **2.2.1. Client Certificates**

The use of client certificates is still permitted when using TEAP with TLS 1.3. However, if the client certificate is accepted, then the EAP peer MUST proceed with additional authentication of Phase 2, as per [\[RFC7170\] Section 7.6](#). If there is no Phase 2 data, then the EAP server MUST reject the session.

That is, while [\[RFC7170\] Section 7.6](#) permits "Authentication of the client via client certificate during phase 1, with no additional authentication or information exchange required.", this practice is forbidden when TEAP is used with TLS 1.3. If there is a requirement to use client certificates with no inner tunnel methods, then EAP-TLS should be used instead of TEAP.

[\[RFC7170\] Section 7.4.1](#) suggest that client certificates should be sent in Phase 2 of the TEAP exchange, "since TLS client certificates are sent in the clear". While TLS 1.3 no longer sends client certificates in the clear, TEAP implementations need to distinguish identities for both User and Machine using the Identity-Type TLV (with values 1 and 2, respectively). When a client certificate is sent outside of the TLS tunnel, it MUST include Identity-Type as an outer TLV, in order to signal the type of identity which that client certificate is for.

### **2.3. EAP-FAST**

For EAP-FAST, the session\_key\_seed is also part of the key\_block, as defined in [\[RFC4851\] Section 5.1](#).

The definition of S-IMCK[n], MSK, and EMSK are the same as given above for TEAP. We reiterate that the EAP-FAST Type must be used when deriving the session\_key\_seed, and not the TEAP Type.



Unlike [\[RFC4851\] Section 5.2](#), the definition of IMCK[j] places the reference to S-IMCK after the textual label, and the concatenates the IMSK instead of MSK.

EAP-FAST previously used a PAC, which is functionally equivalent to session tickets provided by TLS 1.3 which contain a pre-shared key (PSK) along with other data. As such, the use of a PAC is deprecated for EAP-FAST in TLS 1.3. PAC provisioning [\[RFC5422\]](#) is also no longer part of EAP-FAST when TLS 1.3 is used.

The T-PRF given in [\[RFC4851\] Section 5.5](#) is not used for TLS 1.3. Instead, it is replaced with the TLS 1.3 TLS-Exporter function.

### **[2.3.1. Client Certificates](#)**

The use of client certificates is still permitted when using EAP-FAST with TLS 1.3. However, if the client certificate is accepted, then the EAP peer MUST proceed with additional authentication of Phase 2, as per [\[RFC4851\] Section 7.4.1](#). If there is no Phase 2 data, then the EAP server MUST reject the session.

That is, while [\[RFC4851\]](#) implicitly permits the use of client certificates without proceeding to Phase 2, this practice is forbidden when EAP-FAST is used with TLS 1.3. If there is a requirement to use client certificates with no inner tunnel methods, then EAP-TLS should be used instead of EAP-FAST.

### **[2.4. EAP-TTLS](#)**

[\[RFC5281\] Section 11.1](#) defines an implicit challenge when the inner methods of CHAP [\[RFC1994\]](#), MS-CHAP [\[RFC2433\]](#), or MS-CHAPv2 [\[RFC2759\]](#) are used. The derivation for TLS 1.3 is instead given as

```
EAP-TTLS_challenge = TLS-Exporter("ttls challenge",, n)
```

There is no "context\_value" ([\[RFC8446\] Section 7.5](#)) passed to the TLS-Exporter function. The value "n" given here is the length of the data required, which [\[RFC5281\]](#) requires it to be 17 octets for CHAP ([Section 11.2.2](#)) and MS-CHAPv2 ([Section 11.2.4](#)), and to be 9 octets for MS-CHAP ([Section 11.2.3](#)).

When PAP, CHAP, or MS-CHAPv1 are used as inner authentication methods, there is no opportunity for the EAP server to send a protected success indication, as is done in [\[RFC9190\] Section 2.5](#). Instead, when TLS session tickets are disabled, the response from the EAP server MUST be either EAP-Success or EAP-Failure. These responses are unprotected, and can be forged by a skilled attacker.





Where TLS session tickets are enabled, the response from the EAP server may also continue TLS negotiation with a TLS NewSessionTicket message. Since this message is protected by TLS, it can serve as the protected success indication.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that EAP servers always send a TLS NewSessionTicket message, even if resumption is not configured. When the EAP peer attempts to use the ticket, the EAP server can instead request a full authentication. As noted earlier, implementations SHOULD NOT send TLS NewSessionTicket messages until the "inner tunnel" authentication has completed, in order to take full advantage of the message as a protected success indication.

When resumption is not used, the TLS NewSessionTicket message is not available, and some authentication methods will not have a protected success indication. While we would like to always have a protected success indication, limitations of the underlying protocols, implementations, and deployment requirements make that impossible.

EAP peers MUST continue running their EAP state machine until they receive either an EAP-Success, or an EAP-Failure. Receiving a TLS NewSessionTicket message in response to inner method PAP, CHAP, or MS-CHAP authentication is normal, and MUST NOT be treated as a failure.

#### **2.4.1. Client Certificates**

[RFC5281] [Section 7.6](#) permits "Authentication of the client via client certificate during phase 1, with no additional authentication or information exchange required.". This practice is forbidden when EAP-TTLS is used with TLS 1.3. If there is a requirement to use client certificates with no inner tunnel methods, then EAP-TLS should be used instead of EAP-TTLS.

The use of client certificates is still permitted when using EAP-TTLS with TLS 1.3. However, if the client certificate is accepted, then the EAP peer MUST proceed with additional authentication of Phase 2, as per [\[RFC5281\] Section 7.2](#) and following. If there is no Phase 2 data, then the EAP server MUST reject the session.

#### **2.5. PEAP**

When PEAP uses crypto binding, it uses a different key calculation defined in [\[PEAP-MPPE\]](#) which consumes inner EAP method keying material. The pseudo-random function (PRF+) used in [\[PEAP-MPPE\]](#) is not taken from the TLS exporter, but is instead calculated via a different method which is given in [\[PEAP-PRF\]](#). That derivation remains unchanged in this specification.



Note that the above derivation uses SHA-1, which may be formally deprecated in the near future.

However, the pseudo-random function (PRF+) calculation uses a PEAP Tunnel Key which is defined in [PEAP-PRF] as:

... the TK is the first 60 octets of the Key\_Material, as specified in [RFC5216]: TLS-PRF-128 (master secret, "client EAP encryption", client.random || server.random).

We note that the text in [PEAP-PRF] does not define Key\_Material. Instead, it defines TK as the first octets of Key\_Material, and gives a definition of Key\_Material which is appropriate for TLS versions before TLS 1.3.

For TLS 1.3, the TK should be derived from the Key\_Material defined here in [Section 2.1](#), instead of using the TLS-PRF-128 derivation given in [PEAP-PRF]. The method defined in [PEAP-TK] MUST NOT be used.

#### **[2.5.1](#). Client Certificates**

As with EAP-TTLS, [PEAP] permits the use of client certificates in addition to inner tunnel methods. The practice of using client certificates with no "inner method" is forbidden when PEAP is used with TLS 1.3. If there is a requirement to use client certificates with no inner tunnel methods, then EAP-TLS should be used instead of PEAP.

The use of client certificates is still permitted when using PEAP with TLS 1.3. However, if the client certificate is accepted, then the EAP peer MUST proceed with additional authentication of the inner tunnel. If there is no inner tunnel authentication data, then the EAP server MUST reject the session.

### **[3](#). Application Data**

Unlike previous TLS versions, TLS 1.3 can continue negotiation after the initial TLS handshake has been completed, which TLS 1.3 calls the "CONNECTED" state. Some implementations use receipt of a Finished message as an indication that TLS negotiation has completed, and that an "inner tunnel" session can now be negotiated. This assumption is not always correct with TLS 1.3.

Earlier TLS versions did not send application data along with the Finished message. It was then possible for implementations to assume that a receipt of a Finished message also meant that there was no application data available, and that another round trip was required.



This assumption is not true with TLS 1.3, and applications relying on that behavior will not operate correctly with TLS 1.3.

As a result, implementations MUST check for application data once the TLS session has been established. This check MUST be performed before proceeding with another round trip of TLS negotiation. TLS-based EAP methods such as EAP-TTLS, PEAP, and EAP-FAST each have method-specific application data which MUST be processed according to the EAP type.

TLS 1.3 in [\[RFC8446\] Section 4.6.1](#) also permits NewSessionTicket messages to be sent after the server has received the client Finished message, which is a change from earlier TLS versions. This change can cause implementations to fail in a number of different ways, due to a reliance on implicit behavior seen in earlier TLS versions.

In order to correct this failure, we require that if the underlying TLS connection is still performing negotiation, then implementations MUST NOT send, or expect to receive application data in the TLS session. Implementations MUST delay processing of application data until such time as the TLS negotiation has finished. If the TLS negotiation is successful, then the application data can be examined. If the TLS negotiation is unsuccessful, then the application data is untrusted, and therefore MUST be discarded without being examined.

The default for many TLS library implementations is to send a NewSessionTicket message immediately after, or along with, the Finished message. This ticket could be used for resumption, even if the "inner tunnel" authentication has not been completed. If the ticket could be used, then it could allow a malicious EAP peer to completely bypass the "inner tunnel" authentication.

Therefore, the EAP server MUST NOT permit any session ticket to successfully resume authentication, unless the inner tunnel authentication has completed successfully. The alternative would allow an attacker to bypass authentication by obtaining a session ticket, and then immediately closing the current session, and "resuming" using the session ticket.

To protect against that attack, implementations SHOULD NOT send NewSessionTicket messages until the "inner tunnel" authentication has completed. There is no reason to send session tickets which will later be invalidated or ignored. However, we recognize that this suggestion may not always be possible to implement with some available TLS libraries. As such, EAP servers MUST take care to either invalidate or discard session tickets which are associated with sessions that terminate in EAP Failure.



The NewSessionTicket message SHOULD also be sent along with other application data, if possible. Sending that message alone prolongs the packet exchange to no benefit. In addition to prolonging the packet exchange, using a separate NewSessionTicket message can lead to non-interoperable implementations.

[RFC9190] [Section 2.5](#) requires a protected result indication which indicates that TLS negotiation has finished. Methods which use "inner tunnel" methods MUST instead begin their "inner tunnel" negotiation by sending Type-specific application data.

### **[3.1. Identities](#)**

For EAP-TLS, [RFC9190] Sections [2.1.3](#) and [2.1.7](#) recommend the use of anonymous Network Access Identifiers (NAIs) [RFC7542] in the EAP Response/Identity packet. However, as EAP-TLS does not send application data inside of the TLS tunnel, that specification does not address the subject of "inner" identities in tunneled EAP methods. This subject must, however, be addressed for the tunneled methods.

Using an anonymous NAI for the outer identity as per [\[RFC7542\] Section 2.4](#) has a few benefits. An NAI allows the EAP session to be routed in an AAA framework as described in [\[RFC7542\] Section 3](#). Using an anonymous realm also ensures that user identifiers are kept private.

As for the inner identity, we define it generically as the identification information carried inside of the TLS tunnel. For PEAP, that identity may be an EAP Response/Identity. For EAP-TTLS, it may be the User-Name attribute. Vendor-specific EAP methods which use TLS will generally also have an inner identity. This identity is carried inside of the TLS tunnel, and is therefore both routed to the correct destination by the outer identity, and kept private by the use of TLS.

In other words, we can view the outer TLS layer of tunneled EAP methods as a secure transport layer which is responsible for getting the actual (inner) authentication credentials securely from the EAP peer to the EAP server. The EAP server then uses the inner identity and inner authentication data to identify and authenticate a particular user.

As the authentication data is routed to the correct destination, there is little reason for the inner identity to also contain a realm. We therefore have a few recommendations on the inner and outer identities, along with their relationship to each other.





The outer identity SHOULD use an anonymous NAI realm, which allows for both user privacy, and for the EAP session to be routed in an AAA framework as described in [\[RFC7542\] Section 3](#). Where NAI realms are not used, packets will not be routable outside of the local organization.

The inner identity MUST NOT use an anonymous NAI realm. If anonymous network access is desired, EAP peers MUST use EAP-TLS without peer authentication, as per [\[RFC9190\] section 2.1.5](#). EAP servers MUST cause authentication to fail if an EAP peer uses an anonymous "inner" identity for any TLS-based EAP method.

Implementations SHOULD NOT use inner identities which contain an NAI realm. Many organizations typically use only one realm for all user accounts.

However, there are situations where it is useful for an inner identity to contain a realm. For example, an organization may have multiple independent sub-organizations, each with a different and unique realm. These realms may be independent of one another, or the realms may be a subdomain (or subdomains) of the public outer realm.

In that case, an organization can configure one public "routing" realm, and multiple separate "inner" realms. This separation of realms also allows an organization to split users into logical groups by realm, where the "user" portion of the NAI may otherwise conflict. For example, "user@example.com" and "user@example.org" are different NAIs which can both be used as inner identities.

Using only one public realm both keeps internal information private, and also simplifies realm management for external entities by minimizing the number of realms which have to be tracked by them.

In most situations, routing identifiers should be associated with the authentication data that they are routing. For example, if a user has an inner identity of "user@example.com", then it generally makes little sense to have an outer identity of "@example.org". The authentication request would then be routed to the "example.org" domain, which may have no idea what to do with the credentials for "user@example.com". At best, the authentication request would be discarded. At worst, the "example.org" domain could harvest user credentials for later use in attacks on "example.com".

Where an EAP server receives an inner identity for a realm which it is not authoritative, it MUST reject the authentication. There is no reason for one organization to authentication users from a different (and independent) organization.



In addition, associating inner/outer identities from different organizations in the same EAP authentication session means that otherwise unrelated realms are tied together, which can make networks more fragile.

For example, an organization which uses a "hosted" AAA provider may choose to use the realm of the AAA provider as the outer identity for user authentication. The inner identity can then be fully-qualified: user name plus realm of the organization. This practice may result in successful authentications, but it has practical difficulties.

For example, an organization may host their own AAA servers, but use a "cloud" identity provider to hold user accounts. In that situation, the organizations could see try to use their own realm as the outer (routing) identity, then use an identity from the "cloud" provider as the inner identity.

This practice is NOT RECOMMENDED. User accounts for an organization should be qualified as belonging to that organization, and not to an unrelated third party. There is no reason to tie the configuration of user systems to public realm routing, that configuration more properly belongs in the network.

Both of these practices mean that changing "cloud" providers is difficult. When such a change happens, each individual EAP peer must be updated with a different outer identity which points to the new "cloud" provider. This process can be expensive, and some EAP peers may not be online when this changeover happens. The result could be devices or users who are unable to obtain network access, even if all relevant network systems are online and functional.

Further, standards such as [[RFC7585](#)] allow for dynamic discovery of home servers for authentication. That specification has been widely deployed, and means that there is minimal cost to routing authentication to a particular domain. The authentication can also be routed to a particular identity provider, and changed at will, with no loss of functionality. That specification is also scalable, in that it does not require changes to many systems when a domain updates its configuration. Instead, only one thing has to change: the configuration of that domain. Everything else is discovered dynamically.

That is, changing the configuration for one domain is significantly simpler and more scalable than changing the configuration for potentially millions of end-user devices.

We recognize that there may be existing use-cases where the inner and outer identities use different realms. As such, we cannot forbid



that practice. We hope that the discussion above shows not only why such practices are problematic, but also that it shows how alternative methods are more flexible, more scalable, and are easier to manage.

#### **4. Resumption**

[RFC9190] [Section 2.1.3](#) defines the process for resumption. This process is the same for all TLS-based EAP types. The only practical difference is that the value of the Type field is different. The requirements on identities, etc. remain unchanged from that document.

Note that if resumption is performed, then the EAP server MUST send the protected success result indication (one octet of 0x00) inside the TLS tunnel as per [\[RFC9190\]](#). The EAP peer MUST in turn check for the existence the protected success result indication (one octet of 0x00), and cause authentication to fail if that octet is not received. If either peer or server instead initiates an inner tunnel method, then that method MUST be followed, and inner authentication MUST NOT be skipped.

All TLS-based EAP methods support resumption, as it is a property of the underlying TLS protocol. All EAP servers and peers MUST support resumption for all TLS-based EAP methods. We note that EAP servers and peers can still choose to not resume any particular session. For example, EAP servers may forbid resumption for administrative, or other policy reasons.

It is RECOMMENDED that EAP servers and peers enable resumption, and use it where possible. The use of resumption decreases the number of round trips used for authentication. This decrease leads to lower latency for authentications, and less load on the EAP server. Resumption can also lower load on external systems, such as databases which contain user credentials.

As the packet flows for resumption are essentially identical across all TLS-based EAP types, it is technically possible to authenticate using EAP-TLS (Type 13), and then perform resumption using another EAP type, such as with EAP-TTLS (Type 21). However, there is no practical benefit to doing so. It is also not clear what this behavior would mean, or what (if any) security issues there may be with it. As a result, this behavior is forbidden.

EAP servers therefore MUST NOT resume sessions across different EAP Types, and EAP servers MUST reject resumptions in which the EAP Type value is different from the original authentication.



## 5. Implementation Status

RFC Editor: Please remove this section before publication.

EAP-TTLS and PEAP are implemented and tested to be interoperable with wpa\_supplicant 2.10 and Windows 11 as EAP peers, and FreeRADIUS 3.0.26 and Radiator as RADIUS / EAP servers.

The wpa\_supplicant implementation requires that a configuration flag be set "tls\_disable\_tlsv1\_3=0", and describes the flag as "enable TLSv1.3 (experimental - disabled by default)". However, interoperability testing shows that PEAP and EAP-TTLS both work with Radiator and FreeRADIUS.

Implementors have demonstrated significant interest in getting PEAP and EAP-TTLS working for TLS 1.3, but less interest in EAP-FAST and TEAP. As such, there is no implementation experience with EAP-FAST or TEAP. However, we believe that the definitions described above are correct, and are workable.

## 6. Security Considerations

[RFC9190] [Section 5](#) is included here by reference.

Updating the above EAP methods to use TLS 1.3 is of high importance for the Internet Community. Using the most recent security protocols can significantly improve security and privacy of a network.

For PEAP, some derivations use HMAC-SHA1 [[PEAP-MPPE](#)]. In the interests of interoperability and minimal changes, we do not change that derivation, as there are no known security issues with HMAC-SHA1. Further, the data derived from the HMAC-SHA1 calculations is exchanged inside of the TLS tunnel, and is visible only to users who have already successfully authenticated. As such, the security risks are minimal.

### 6.1. Handling of TLS NewSessionTicket Messages

In some cases, client certificates are not used for TLS-based EAP methods. In those cases, the user is authenticated only after successful completion of the inner tunnel authentication. However, [[RFC84346](#)] [Section 4.6.1](#) allows that "At any time after the server has received the client Finished message, it MAY send a NewSessionTicket message." This message is sent by the server before the inner authentication method has been run, and therefore before the user has been authenticated.

This separation of data allows for a "time of use, time of check"





security issue. Malicious clients can begin a session and receive a NewSessionTicket message. The malicious client can then abort the authentication session, and use the obtained NewSessionTicket to "resume" the previous session. If the server allows the session to resume without verifying that the user had first been authenticated, the malicious client can then obtain network access without ever being authenticated network access without ever being authenticated.

As a result, EAP servers MUST NOT assume that a user has been authenticated simply because a TLS session is being resumed. Even if a session is being resumed, an EAP server MAY have policies which still force the inner authentication methods to be run. For example, the users password may have expired in the time interval between first authentication, and session resumption.

The guidelines given here therefore describe situations where an EAP server is permitted to allow session resumption, not where it is required to allow session resumption. An EAP server could simply refuse to issue session tickets, or could run the full inner authentication even if a session was resumed.

Where session tickets are used, the EAP server SHOULD track the successful completion of an inner authentication, and associate that status with any session tickets issued for that session. This requirement can be met in a number of different ways.

One way is for the EAP server to simply not send any TLS NewSessionTicket messages until the inner authentication has completed successfully. The EAP server then knows that the existence of a session ticket is proof that a user was authenticated, and the session can be resumed.

Another way is for the EAP server to simple discard or invalidate any session tickets until after the inner authentication has completed successfully. When the user is authenticated, a new TLS NewSessionTicket message can be sent to the client, and the new ticket cached and/or validated.

Another way is for the EAP server to associate the inner authentication status with each session ticket. When a session ticket is used, the authentication status is checked. When a session ticket shows that the inner authentication did not succeed, the EAP server MUST run the inner authentication method(s) in the resumed tunnel, and grant only access based on the success or failure of those inner methods/

However, the interaction between EAP implementations and any underlying TLS library may be complex, and the EAP server may not be



able to make the above guarantees. Where the EAP server is unable to determine the users authentication status from the session ticket, it MUST assume that inner authentication has not completed, and it MUST run the inner authentication method(s) successfully in the resumed tunnel before granting access.

This issue is not relevant for EAP-TLS, which only uses client certificates for authentication in the TLS handshake. It is only relevant for TLS-based EAP methods which do not use the TLS layer to authenticate

## **6.2. Protected Success and Failure indications**

[RFC9190] provides for protected success and failure indications as discussed in [Section 4.1.1 of \[RFC4137\]](#). These result indications are provided for both full authentication, and for resumption.

Other TLS-based EAP methods provide these result indications only for resumption.

For full authentication, the other TLS-based EAP methods do not provide for protected success and failure indications as part of the outer TLS exchange. That is, the protected result indication is not used, and there is no TLS-layer alert sent when the inner authentication fails. Instead, there is simply either an EAP-Success or EAP-Failure sent. This behavior is the same as for previous TLS versions, and therefore introduces no new security issues.

We note that most TLS-based EAP methods provide for success and failure indications as part of the authentication exchange performed inside of the TLS tunnel. These result indications are therefore protected, as they cannot be modified or forged.

However, some inner methods do not provide for success or failure indications. For example, the use of EAP-TTLS with inner PAP, CHAP, or MS-CHAP. Those methods send authentication credentials to the EAP server via the inner tunnel, with no method to signal success or failure inside of the tunnel.

There are functionally equivalent authentication methods which can be used to provide protected result indications. PAP can often be replaced with EAP-GTC, CHAP with EAP-MD5, and MS-CHAPv1 with MS-CHAPv2 or EAP-MSCHAPv2. All of the replacement methods provide for similar functionality, and have protected success and failure indication. The main cost to this change is additional round trips.

It is RECOMMENDED that implementations deprecate inner tunnel methods which do not provide protected success and failure indications when



TLS session tickets cannot be used. Implementations SHOULD use EAP-GTC instead of PAP, and EAP-MD5 instead of CHAP. Implementations SHOULD use MS-CHAPv2 or EAP-MSCHAPv2 instead of MS-CHAPv1. New TLS-based EAP methods MUST provide protected success and failure indications inside of the TLS tunnel.

When the inner authentication protocol indicates that authentication has failed, then implementations MUST fail authentication for the entire session. There may be additional protocol exchanges in order to exchange more detailed failure indications, but the final result MUST be a failed authentication. As noted earlier, any session tickets for this failed authentication MUST be either invalidated or discarded.

Similarly, when the inner authentication protocol indicates that authentication has succeeded, then implementations SHOULD cause authentication to succeed for the entire session. There MAY be additional protocol exchanges which could still cause failure, so we cannot mandate sending success on successful authentication.

In both of these cases, the EAP server MUST send an EAP-Failure or EAP-Success message, as indicated by [Section 2](#), item 4 of [\[RFC3748\]](#). Even though both parties have already determined the final authentication status, the full EAP state machine must still be followed.

## **7. IANA Considerations**

This section provides guidance to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) regarding registration of values related to the TLS-based EAP methods for TLS 1.3 protocol in accordance with [\[RFC8126\]](#).

This memo requires IANA to add the following labels to the TLS Exporter Label Registry defined by [\[RFC5705\]](#). These labels are used in the derivation of Key\_Material and Method-Id as defined above in [Section 2](#).

The labels below need to be added to the "TLS Exporter Labels" registry as "Value", with this specification as "Reference". For all of these labels the "DTLS-OK" field should be "N", and the "Recommended" field should be "Y".

These labels are used only for TEAP.

- \* EXPORTER: teap session key seed
- \* EXPORTER: Inner Methods Compound Keys
- \* EXPORTER: Session Key Generating Function
- \* EXPORTER: Extended Session Key Generating Function



\* TEAPbindkey@ietf.org

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## Acknowledgments

Thanks to Jorge Vergara for a detailed review of the requirements for various EAP types.

Thanks to Jorge Vergara, Bruno Periera Vidal, Alexander Clouter, Karri Huhtanen, and Heikki Vatiainen for reviews of this document, and for assistance with interoperability testing.

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