

Host Identity Protocol
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Basic Socket Interface Extensions for Host Identity Protocol (HIP)
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Abstract

This document defines extensions to the current sockets API for the Host Identity Protocol (HIP). The extensions focus on the use of public-key based identifiers discovered via DNS resolution, but define also interfaces for manual bindings between HITs and locators. With the extensions, the application can also support more relaxed security models where the communication can be non-HIP based, according to local policies. The extensions in this document are experimental and provide basic tools for further experimentation with policies.

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Basic API Extensions for HIP

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Internet-Draft

Basic API Extensions for HIP

December 2009

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1. Introduction

This document defines the C-based sockets Application Programming Interface (API) extensions for handling Host Identity Protocol (HIP)-based identifiers explicitly in HIP-aware applications. It is up to the applications, or high-level programming languages or libraries, to manage the identifiers. The extensions in this document are mainly related to the use case in which a DNS resolution step has occurred prior to the creation of a new socket, and assumes that the system has cached or is otherwise able to resolve identifiers to locators (IP addresses). The DNS extensions for HIP are described in [\[RFC5205\]](#). The extensions also cover the case in which an application may want to explicitly provide suggested locators with the identifiers, including supporting the opportunistic case in which the system does not know the peer host identity.

The Host Identity Protocol (HIP) [\[RFC4423\]](#) proposes a new cryptographic namespace by separating the roles of end-point identifiers and locators by introducing a new namespace to the TCP/IP stack. SHIM6 [\[RFC5533\]](#) is another protocol based on an identity-locator split. The APIs specified in this document are specific to HIP, but have been designed as much as possible so as not to preclude its use with other protocols. The use of these APIs with other protocols is, nevertheless, for further study.

The APIs in this document are based on HITs that are defined as IPv6 addresses with the Overlay Routable Cryptographic Host Identifiers (ORCHID) prefix [\[RFC4843\]](#). ORCHIDs are derived from Host Identifiers using a hash and fitting the result into an IPv6 address. Such

addresses are called Host Identity Tags (HITs) and they can be distinguished from other IPv6 addresses via the ORCHID prefix. Note that ORCHIDs are presently an experimental allocation by IANA. If the ORCHID allocation were to expire and HIT generation were to use a different prefix in the future, most users of the API would not be impacted, unless they explicitly checked the ORCHID prefix on returned HITs. Users who check (for consistency) that HITs have a valid ORCHID prefix must monitor the IANA allocation for ORCHIDs and adapt their software in case the ORCHID allocation were to be removed at a future date.

Applications can observe the HIP layer and its identifiers in the networking stacks with varying degrees of visibility. [\[RFC5338\]](#) discusses the lowest levels of visibility in which applications are completely unaware of the underlying HIP layer. Such HIP-unaware applications in some circumstances use HIP-based identifiers, such as Local Scope Identifiers (LSIs) or HITs, instead of IPv4 or IPv6 addresses and cannot observe the identifier-locator bindings.

This document specifies extensions to [\[RFC3493\]](#) to define a new socket address family, AF_HIP. Similarly to other address families, AF_HIP can be used as an alias for PF_HIP. The extensions also describe a new socket address structure for sockets using HITs explicitly and describe how the socket calls in [\[RFC3493\]](#) are adapted or extended as a result.

Some applications may accept incoming communications from any identifier. Other applications may initiate outgoing communications without the knowledge of the peer identifier in Opportunistic Mode ([section 4.1.6 in \[RFC5201\]](#)) by just relying on a peer locator. This document describes how to address both situations using "wildcards" as described in [Section 4.1.1](#).

This document references one additional API document that handles multihoming and explicit-locator handling, defined in [\[I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api\]](#). Most of the extensions defined in this document can be used independently of the above document.

The identity-locator split introduced by HIP introduces some policy related challenges with datagram oriented sockets, opportunistic mode, and manual bindings between HITs and locators. The extensions

in this document are of an experimental nature and provide basic tools for experimenting with policies. Policy related issues are left for further experimentation.

To recap, the extensions in this document have three goals. The first goal is to allow HIP-aware applications to open sockets to other hosts based on the HITs alone, presuming that the underlying system can resolve the HITs to addresses used for initial contact. The second goal is that applications can explicitly initiate communications with unknown peer identifiers. The third goal is to illustrate how HIP-aware applications can use the SHIM API [[I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api](#)] to manually map locators to HITs.

This document was published as experimental because a number of its normative references had experimental status. The success of this experiment can be evaluated by a thorough implementation of the APIs defined.

2. Terminology

The terms used in this document are summarized in Table 1.

Term	Explanation
FQDN	Fully Qualified Domain Name
HIP	Host Identity Protocol
HI	Host Identity
HIT	Host Identity Tag, a 100-bit hash of a public key with a 28 bit prefix
LSI	Local Scope Identifier, a local, 32-bit descriptor for a given public key.
Locator	Routable IPv4 or IPv6 address used at the lower layers
RR	Return Routability

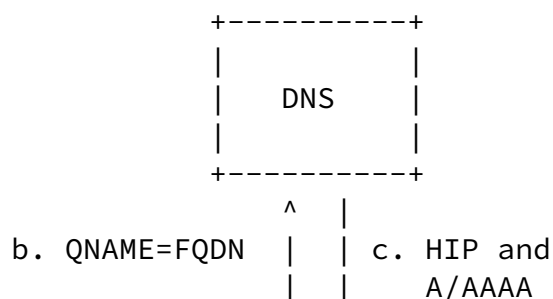
Table 1

3. Name Resolution Process

This section provides an overview of how the API can be used. First, the case in which a resolver is involved in name resolution is described, and then the case in which no resolver is involved is described.

3.1. Interaction with the Resolver

Before an application can establish network communications with the entity named by a given FQDN or relative host name, the application must translate the name into the corresponding identifier(s). DNS-based hostname-to-identifier translation is illustrated in Figure 1. The application calls the resolver in step (a) to resolve an FQDN to one or more socket addresses within the PF_HIP family. The resolver, in turn, queries the DNS in step (b) to map the FQDN to one or more HIP RRs with the HIT and HI and possibly rendezvous server of the Responder, and also (in parallel or sequentially) to resolve the FQDN into possibly one or more A and AAAA records. It should be noted that the FQDN may map to multiple host identifiers and locators, and this step may involve multiple DNS transactions, including queries for A, AAAA, HI and possibly other resource records. The DNS server responds with a list of HIP resource records in step (c). Optionally in step (d), the resolver caches the HIT-to-locator mapping with the HIP module. The resolver converts the HIP records to HITs and returns the HITs to the application contained in HIP socket address structures in step (e). Depending on the parameters for the resolver call, the resolver may return also other socket address structures to the application. Finally, the application receives the socket address structure(s) from the resolver and uses them in socket calls such as connect() in step (f).



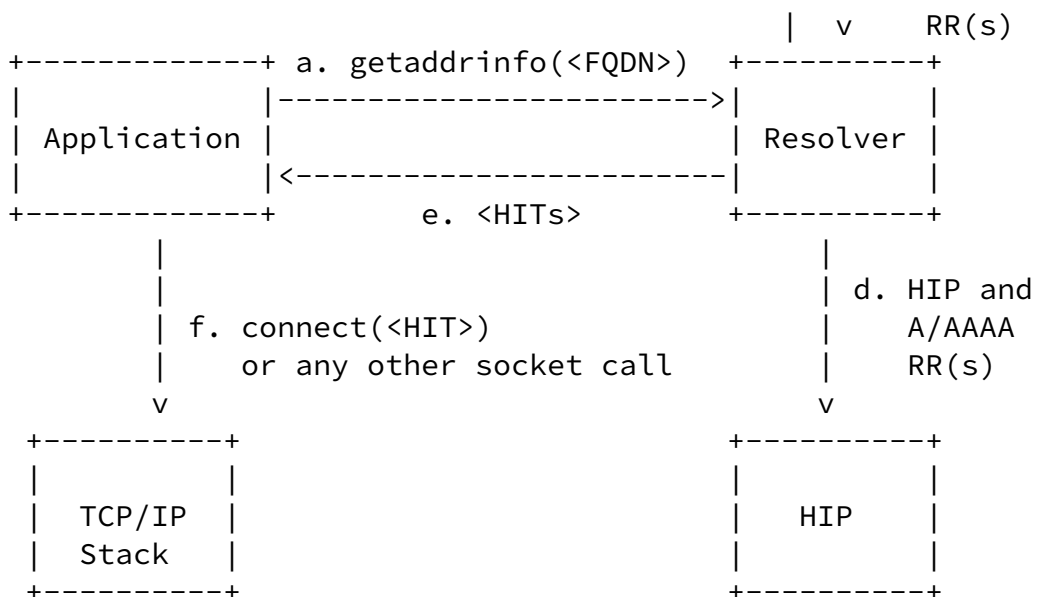


Figure 1

In practice, the resolver functionality can be implemented in different ways. For example, it may be implemented in existing resolver libraries or as a HIP-aware interposing agent.

3.2. Interaction without a Resolver

The extensions in this document focus on the use of the resolver to map host names to HITs and locators in HIP-aware applications. The resolver may implicitly associate a HIT with the corresponding locator(s) by communicating the HIT-to-IP mapping to the HIP daemon. However, it is possible that an application operates directly on a peer HIT without interacting with the resolver. In such a case, the application may resort to the system to map the peer HIT to an IP address. Alternatively, the application can explicitly map the HIT to an IP address using socket options as specified in [Section 4.6](#). Full support for all of the extensions defined in this draft requires a number of shim socket options [[I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api](#)] to be implemented by the system.

4. API Syntax and Semantics

In this section, we describe the native HIP APIs using the syntax of the C programming language. We limit the description to the interfaces and data structures that are either modified or completely new because the native HIP APIs are otherwise identical to the sockets API [[POSIX](#)].

[4.1](#). Socket Family and Address Structure Extensions

The sockets API extensions define a new protocol family, PF_HIP, and a new address family, AF_HIP. The AF_HIP and PF_HIP constants are aliases to each other. These definitions shall be defined as a result of including <sys/socket.h>.

When the socket() function is called with PF_HIP as the first argument (domain), it attempts to create a socket for HIP communication. If HIP is not supported, socket() follows its default behaviour and returns -1 and sets errno to EAFNOSUPPORT.

Figure 2 shows the recommended implementation of the socket address structure for HIP in POSIX format.

```
#include <netinet/hip.h>

typedef struct in6_addr hip_hit_t;

struct sockaddr_hip {
    uint8_t      ship_len;
    sa_family_t  ship_family;
    in_port_t    ship_port;
    uint32_t     ship_flags;
    hip_hit_t    ship_hit;
};
```

Figure 2

uint8_t ship_len: This field defines the length of the structure. Implementations that do not define this field typically embed the information in the following ship_family field.

sa_family_t ship_family: This mandatory field identifies this as a sockaddr_hip structure. It overlays the sa_family field of the sockaddr structure. Its value must be AF_HIP.

in_port_t ship_port: This mandatory field contains the transport protocol port number. It is handled in the same way as the sin_port field of the sockaddr_in structure. The port number is stored in

network byte order.

`uint32_t ship_flags`: This mandatory bit field contains auxiliary flags. This document does not define any flags. This field is included for future extensions.

`hip_hit_t ship_hit`: This mandatory field contains the end-point identifier. When the system passes a `sockaddr_hip` structure to the application, the value of this field is set to a valid HIT, IPv4, or IPv6 address, as discussed in [Section 4.5](#). When the application passes a `sockaddr_hip` structure to the system, this field must be set to a HIT or a wildcard address as discussed in [Section 4.1.1](#).

Some applications rely on system level access control, either implicit or explicit (such as the `accept_filter()` function found on BSD-based systems), but such discussion is out of scope. Other applications implement access control themselves by using the HITs. Applications operating on `sockaddr_hip` structures can use `memcmp()` or similar function to compare the `ship_hit` fields. It should be also noted that different connection attempts between the same two hosts can result in different HITs because a host is allowed to have multiple HITs.

[4.1.1](#). HIP Wildcard Addresses

HIP wildcard addresses are similar to IPv4 and IPv6 wildcard addresses. They can be used instead of specific HITs in the `ship_hit` field for local and remote end-points in socket API calls such as `bind()`, `connect()`, `sendto()`, `sendmsg()`.

In order to bind to all local IPv4 and IPv6 addresses and HIP HITs, the `ship_hit` field must be set to `HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY`. In order to bind to all local HITs, `ship_hit` must contain `HIP_HIT_ANY`. To only bind to all local public HITs, the `ship_hit` field must be `HIP_HIT_ANY_PUB`. The value `HIP_HIT_ANY_TMP` binds a socket to all local anonymous identifiers only as specified in [[RFC4423](#)]. The system may label anonymous identifiers as such depending on whether they have been published or not. After binding a socket via one of the `HIP_HIT_ANY_*` wildcard addresses, the application is guaranteed to receive only HIP-based data flows. With the `HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY` wildcard address, the socket accepts HIP, IPv6, and IPv4-based data flows.

When a socket is bound or connected via a `sockaddr_hip` structure, i.e. the `PF_HIP` protocol family, the system returns only addresses of the `AF_HIP` family, i.e. `sockaddr_hip` structures, for this socket.

This applies to all functions which provide addresses to the application, such as `accept()` or `recvfrom()`. If the data flow is

based on HIP, the `ship_hit` field contains the peer's HIT. For a non-HIP IPv6 data flow, the field contains the peer's IPv6 address. For a non-HIP IPv4 data flow, the field contains the peer's IPv4 address in IPv4-mapped IPv6 address format as described in [section 3.7 of \[RFC3493\]](#). [Section 4.5](#) describes how the application can verify the type of the address returned by the socket API calls.

An application uses the socket API as follows to set up a connection or to send messages in HIP Opportunistic Mode (cf. [\[RFC5201\]](#)). First, the application associates a socket with at least one IP address of the destination peer via setting the `SHIM_LOCLIST_PEER_PREF` socket option. It then uses outgoing socket functions such as `connect()`, `sendto()`, or `sendmsg()` with the `HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY` or `HIP_HIT_ANY` wildcard address in the `ship_hit` field of the `sockaddr_hip` structure. With the `HIP_HIT_ANY` address, the underlying system allows only HIP-based data flows with the corresponding socket. For incoming packets, the system discards all non-HIP-related traffic arriving at the socket. For outgoing packets, the system returns `-1` in the socket call and sets `errno` to an appropriate error type when the system failed to deliver the packet over a HIP-based data channel. The semantics of using the `HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY` are the subject of further experimentation in the context of opportunistic mode. Such use may result in a data flow either with or without HIP.

[4.2.](#) Extensions to Resolver Data Structures

The HIP APIs introduce a new address family, `AF_HIP`, that HIP-aware applications can use to control the address type returned from the `getaddrinfo()` function [\[RFC3493\]](#), [\[POSIX\]](#). The `getaddrinfo()` function uses a data structure called `addrinfo` in its "hints" and "res" argument which is described in more detail in the next section. The `addrinfo` data structure is illustrated in Figure 3.

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct addrinfo {
    int      ai_flags;          /* e.g. AI_CANONNAME */
    int      ai_family;        /* e.g. AF_HIP */
```

```

int      ai_socktype;      /* e.g. SOCK_STREAM */
int      ai_protocol;     /* 0 or IPPROTO_HIP */
socklen_t ai_addrlen;     /* size of *ai_addr */
struct   sockaddr *ai_addr; /* sockaddr_hip */
char     *ai_canonname;   /* canon. name of the host */
struct   addrinfo *ai_next; /* next endpoint */
int      ai_eflags;       /* RFC5014 extension */
};

```

Figure 3

An application resolving with the `ai_family` field set to `AF_UNSPEC` in the hints argument may receive any kind of socket address structures, including `sockaddr_hip`. When the application wants to receive only HITs contained in `sockaddr_hip` structures, it should set the `ai_family` field to `AF_HIP`. Otherwise, the resolver does not return any `sockaddr_hip` structures. The resolver returns `EAI_FAMILY` when `AF_HIP` is requested but not supported.

The resolver ignores the `AI_PASSIVE` flag when the application sets the family in hints to `AF_HIP`.

The system may have a HIP-aware interposing DNS agent as described in [section 3.2 in \[RFC5338\]](#). In such a case, the DNS agent may, according to local policy, return transparently LSIs or HITs in `sockaddr_in` and `sockaddr_in6` structures when available. A HIP-aware application can override this local policy in two ways. First, the application can set the family to `AF_HIP` in the hints argument of `getaddrinfo()` when it requests only `sockaddr_hip` structures. Second, the application can set `AI_NO_HIT` flag to prevent the resolver from returning HITs in any kind of data structures.

When `getaddrinfo()` returns resolved outputs in the output "res" argument, it sets the family to `AF_HIP` when the related structure is `sockaddr_hip`.

[4.2.1](#). Resolver Usage

A HIP-aware application creates the `sockaddr_hip` structures manually or obtains them from the resolver. The explicit configuration of locators is described in [\[I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api\]](#). This

document defines "automated" resolver extensions for `getaddrinfo()` resolver [RFC3493]. Other resolver calls, such as `gethostbyname()` and `getservbyname()` are not defined in this document. The `getaddrinfo` resolver interface is shown in Figure 4.

```
#include <netdb.h>

int getaddrinfo(const char *nodename,
               const char *servname,
               const struct addrinfo *hints,
               struct addrinfo **res)
void free_addrinfo(struct addrinfo *res)
```

Figure 4

As described in [RFC3493], the `getaddrinfo()` function takes the

`nodename`, `servname`, and `hints` as its input arguments. It places the result of the query into the `res` output argument. The return value is zero on success, or a non-zero error value on error. The `nodename` argument specifies the host name to be resolved; a NULL argument denotes the HITs of the local host. The `servname` parameter declares the port number to be set in the socket addresses in the `res` output argument. Both the `nodename` and `servname` cannot be NULL at the same time.

The input argument "hints" acts like a filter that defines the attributes required from the resolved endpoints. A NULL hints argument indicates that any kind of endpoints are acceptable.

The output argument "res" is dynamically allocated by the resolver. The application frees the `res` argument with the `free_addrinfo` function. The `res` argument contains a linked list of the resolved endpoints. The linked list contains only `sockaddr_hip` structures when the input argument has the family set to `AF_HIP`. When the family is zero, the list contains `sockaddr_hip` structures before `sockaddr_in` and `sockaddr_in6` structures.

The resolver can return a HIT which maps to multiple locators. The resolver may cache the locator mappings with the HIP module. The HIP module manages the multiple locators according to system policies of the host. The multihoming document

[[I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api](#)] describes how an application can override system default policies.

It should be noted that the application can configure the HIT explicitly without setting the locator or the resolver can fail to resolve any locator. In this scenario, the application relies on the system to map the HIT to an IP address. When the system fails to provide the mapping, it returns -1 in the called sockets API function to the application and sets errno to EADDRNOTAVAIL.

[4.3.](#) The Use of getsockname and getpeername Functions

The sockaddr_hip structure does not contain a HIT when the application uses the HIP_HIT_ANY_* or HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY constants. In such a case, the application can discover the local and peer HITs using the getsockname() and getpeername() functions after the socket is connected. The functions getsockname() and getpeername() always output a sockaddr_hip structure when the family of the socket is AF_HIP. The application should be prepared to handle also IPv4 and IPv6 addresses in the ship_hit field as described in [Section 4.1](#) in the context of the HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY constant.

[4.4.](#) Selection of Source HIT Type

A client-side application can choose its source HIT by e.g. querying all of the local HITs with getaddrinfo() and associating one of them with the socket using bind(). This section describes another method for a client-side application to affect the selection of the source HIT type where the application does not call bind() explicitly. Instead, the application just specifies the preferred requirements for the source HIT type.

The Socket API for Source Address Selection [[RFC5014](#)] defines socket options to allow applications to influence source address selection mechanisms. In some cases, HIP-aware applications may want to influence source HIT selection; in particular, whether an outbound connection should use a published or anonymous HIT. Similar to IPV6_ADDR_PREFERENCES defined in [[RFC5014](#)], the socket option HIT_PREFERENCES is defined for HIP-based sockets. This socket option can be used with setsockopt() and getsockopt() calls to set and get

the HIT selection preferences affecting a HIP-enabled socket. The socket option value (optval) is a 32-bit unsigned integer argument. The argument consists of a number of flags where each flag indicates an address selection preference that modifies one of the rules in the default HIT selection; these flags are shown in Table 2.

Socket Option	Purpose
HIP_PREFER_SRC_HIT_TMP	Prefer an anonymous HIT
HIP_PREFER_SRC_HIT_PUBLIC	Prefer a public HIT

Table 2

If the system is unable to assign the type of HIT that is requested, at HIT selection time, the socket call (connect(), sendto(), or sendmsg()) will fail and errno will be set to EINVAL. If the application tries to set both of the above flags for the same socket, this also results in the error EINVAL.

4.5. Verification of HIT Type

An application that uses the HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY constant may want to check whether the actual communications was based on HIP or not. Also, the application may want to verify whether a HIT belonging to the local host is public or anonymous. The application accomplishes this using a new function called sockaddr_is_srcaddr() which is illustrated in Figure 5.

```
#include <netinet/hip.h>

short sockaddr_is_srcaddr(struct sockaddr *srcaddr,
                          uint64_t flags);
```

Figure 5

The sockaddr_is_srcaddr() function operates in the same way as the inet6_is_srcaddr() function [[RFC5014](#)] which can be used to verify the type of an address belonging to the local host. The difference is that the sockaddr_is_srcaddr() function handles sockaddr_hip

structures in addition to `sockaddr_in6`, and possibly other socket structures in further extensions. Also, the length of the flags argument is 64-bits instead of 32 bits because the new function handles the same flags as defined in [RFC5014] in addition to two HIP-specific flags, `HIP_PREFER_SRC_HIT_TMP` and `HIP_PREFER_SRC_HIT_PUBLIC`. With these two flags, the application can distinguish anonymous HITs from public HITs.

When given an `AF_INET6` socket, `sockaddr_is_srcaddr()` behaves as `inet6_is_srcaddr()` function as described in [RFC5014]. With an `AF_HIP` socket, the function returns 1 when the HIT contained in the socket address structure corresponds to a valid HIT of the local host and the HIT satisfies the given flags. The function returns -1 when the HIT does not belong to the local host or the flags are not valid. The function returns 0 when the preference flags are valid but the HIT does not match the given flags. The function also returns 0 on a `sockaddr_hip` structure containing a `HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY` or `HIP_HIT_ANY_*` wildcard.

The `sockaddr_is_srcaddr()` interface applies only to local HITs. Applications can call the function `hip_is_hit()` to verify that the given `hit_hit_t` pointer has the HIT prefix. The function is illustrated in Figure 6.

```
#include <netinet/hip.h>

short hip_is_hit(hip_hit_t *hit);
```

Figure 6

The `hip_is_hit()` function returns 1 when the given argument contains the HIT prefix. The function returns -1 on error and sets `errno` appropriately. The function returns 0 when the argument does not have the HIT prefix. The function also returns 0 when the argument is a `HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY` or `HIP_HIT_ANY_*` wildcard.

[4.6.](#) Explicit Handling of Locators

The system resolver, or the HIP module, maps HITs to locators implicitly. However, some applications may want to specify initial

locator mappings explicitly. In such a case, the application first creates a socket with AF_HIP as the domain argument. Second, the application may get or set locator information with one of the following shim socket options as defined in the multihoming extensions in [I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api]. The related socket options are summarized briefly in Table 3.

optname	description
SHIM_LOC_LOCAL_PREF	Get or set the preferred locator on the local side for the context associated with the socket.
SHIM_LOC_PEER_PREF	Get or set the preferred locator on the remote side for the context associated with the socket.
SHIM_LOCLIST_LOCAL	Get or set a list of locators associated with the local EID.
SHIM_LOCLIST_PEER	Get or set a list of locators associated with the peer's EID.
SHIM_LOC_LOCAL_SEND	Set or get the default source locator of outgoing IP packets.
SHIM_LOC_PEER_SEND	Set or get the default destination locator of outgoing IP packets.

Table 3

As an example of locator mappings, a connection-oriented application creates a HIP-based socket and sets the SHIM_LOCLIST_PEER socket option on the socket. The HIP module uses the first address contained in the option if multiple are provided. If the application provides one or more addresses in the SHIM_LOCLIST_PEER setsockopt call, the system should not connect to the host via another destination address, in case the application intends to restrict the range of addresses permissible as a policy choice. The application can override the default peer locator by setting the SHIM_LOC_PEER_PREF socket option if necessary. Finally, the application provides a specific HIT in the ship_hit field of the sockaddr_hip in the connect() system call. If the system cannot reach the HIT at one of the addresses provided, the outbound socket API functions (connect, sendmsg, etc.) return -1 and set errno to EINVALLOCATOR.

Applications may also choose to associate local addresses with sockets. The procedures specified in [\[I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api\]](#) are followed in this case.

Another use case is to use the opportunistic mode when the destination HIT is specified as a wildcard. The application sets one or more destination addresses using the SHIM_LOCLIST_PEER socket option as described earlier in this section and then calls connect() with the wildcard HIT. The connect() call returns -1 and sets errno to EADDRNOTAVAIL when the application connects to a wildcard without specifying any destination address.

Applications using datagram-oriented sockets can use ancillary data to control the locators, as described in detail in [\[I-D.ietf-shim6-multihome-shim-api\]](#).

5. Summary of New Definitions

Table 4 summarizes the new constants and structures defined in this document.

Header	Definition
<sys/socket.h>	AF_HIP
<sys/socket.h>	PF_HIP
<netinet/in.h>	IPPROTO_HIP
<netinet/hip.h>	HIP_HIT_ANY
<netinet/hip.h>	HIP_HIT_ANY_PUB
<netinet/hip.h>	HIP_HIT_ANY_TMP
<netinet/hip.h>	HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY
<netinet/hip.h>	HIP_HIT_PREFERENCES
<netinet/hip.h>	hip_hit_t
<netdb.h>	AI_NO_HIT
<netinet/hip.h>	sockaddr_hip
<netinet/hip.h>	sockaddr_is_srcaddr()
<netinet/hip.h>	hip_is_hit()

Table 4

6. IANA Considerations

No IANA considerations.

7. Security Considerations

This document describes an API for HIP and therefore depends on the mechanisms defined in the HIP protocol suite. Security concerns associated with HIP itself are specified in [\[RFC4423\]](#), [\[RFC4843\]](#), [\[RFC5201\]](#), [\[RFC5205\]](#), and [\[RFC5338\]](#).

The `HIP_ENDPOINT_ANY` constant can be used to accept incoming or create outgoing data flows without HIP. The application should use the `sockaddr_is_srcaddr()` function to validate the type of the connection in order to e.g. inform the user of the lack of HIP-based security. The use of the `HIP_HIT_ANY_*` constants is recommended in security-critical applications and systems.

It should be noted that the wildcards described in this document are not suitable for identifying end-hosts. Instead, applications should use `getsockname()` and `getpeername()` as described in [Section 4.3](#) to identify an end-host.

Future proofing of HITs was discussed during the design of this API. If HITs longer than 128-bits are required at the application layer, this will require explicit support from the applications because they can store or cache HITs with their explicit sizes. To support longer HITs, further extensions of this API may define an additional flag for `getaddrinfo()` to generate different kind of socket address structures for HIP.

8. Contributors

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