

Host Identity Protocol
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Host Identity Protocol Certificates
draft-ietf-hip-rfc6253-bis-09

Abstract

The Certificate (CERT) parameter is a container for digital certificates. It is used for carrying these certificates in Host Identity Protocol (HIP) control packets. This document specifies the certificate parameter and the error signaling in case of a failed verification. Additionally, this document specifies the representations of Host Identity Tags in X.509 version 3 (v3).

The concrete use cases of certificates, including how certificates are obtained, requested, and which actions are taken upon successful or failed verification, are specific to the scenario in which the certificates are used. Hence, the definition of these scenario-specific aspects is left to the documents that use the CERT parameter.

This document updates [RFC7401](#) and obsoletes [RFC6253](#).

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

Digital certificates bind pieces of information to a public key by means of a digital signature, and thus, enable the holder of a private key to generate cryptographically verifiable statements. The Host Identity Protocol (HIP) [[RFC7401](#)] defines a new cryptographic namespace based on asymmetric cryptography. The identity of each host is derived from a public key, allowing hosts to digitally sign data and issue certificates with their private key. This document specifies the CERT parameter, which is used to transmit digital certificates in HIP. It fills the placeholder specified in [Section 5.2 of \[RFC7401\]](#), and thus, updates [[RFC7401](#)].

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

2. CERT Parameter

The CERT parameter is a container for certain types of digital certificates. It does not specify any certificate semantics. However, it defines supplementary parameters that help HIP hosts to transmit semantically grouped CERT parameters in a more systematic way. The specific use of the CERT parameter for different use cases is intentionally not discussed in this document. Hence, the use of the CERT parameter will be defined in the documents that use the CERT parameter.

The CERT parameter is covered and protected, when present, by the HIP SIGNATURE field and is a non-critical parameter.

Type	768
Length	Length in octets, excluding Type, Length, and Padding
CERT group	Group ID grouping multiple related CERT parameters
CERT count	Total count of certificates that are sent, possibly in several consecutive HIP control packets.

CERT ID	The sequence number for this certificate
CERT Type	Indicates the type of the certificate
Padding	Any Padding, if necessary, to make the TLV a multiple of 8 bytes. Any added padding bytes MUST be zeroed by the sender, and their values SHOULD NOT be checked by the receiver.

The certificates MUST use the algorithms defined in [[RFC7401](#)] as the signature and hash algorithms.

The following certificate types are defined:

CERT format	Type number
Reserved	0
X.509 v3	1
Obsoleted	2
Hash and URL of X.509 v3	3
Obsoleted	4
LDAP URL of X.509 v3	5
Obsoleted	6
Distinguished Name of X.509 v3	7
Obsoleted	8

The next sections outline the use of Host Identity Tags (HITs) in X.509 v3. X.509 v3 certificates and the handling procedures are defined in [[RFC5280](#)]. The wire format for X.509 v3 is the Distinguished Encoding Rules format as defined in [[X.690](#)].

Hash and Uniform Resource Locator (URL) encoding (3) is used as defined in [Section 3.6 of \[RFC7296\]](#). Using hash and URL encodings results in smaller HIP control packets than by including the certificate(s), but requires the receiver to resolve the URL or check a local cache against the hash.

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) URL encoding (5) is used as defined in [[RFC4516](#)]. Using LDAP URL encoding results in smaller HIP control packets but requires the receiver to retrieve the certificate or check a local cache against the URL.

Distinguished Name (DN) encoding (7) is represented by the string representation of the certificate's subject DN as defined in [[RFC4514](#)]. Using the DN encoding results in smaller HIP control packets, but requires the receiver to retrieve the certificate or check a local cache against the DN.

3. X.509 v3 Certificate Object and Host Identities

If needed, HITs can represent an issuer, a subject, or both in X.509 v3. HITs are represented as IPv6 addresses as defined in [\[RFC7343\]](#). When the Host Identifier (HI) is used to sign the certificate, the respective HIT SHOULD be placed into the Issuer Alternative Name (IAN) extension using the GeneralName form `iPAddress` as defined in [\[RFC5280\]](#). When the certificate is issued for a HIP host, identified by a HIT and HI, the respective HIT SHOULD be placed into the Subject Alternative Name (SAN) extension using the GeneralName form `iPAddress`, and the full HI is presented as the subject's public key info as defined in [\[RFC5280\]](#).

The following examples illustrate how HITs are presented as issuer and subject in the X.509 v3 extension alternative names.

Format of X509v3 extensions:

X509v3 Issuer Alternative Name:

IP Address:hit-of-issuer

X509v3 Subject Alternative Name:

IP Address:hit-of-subject

Example X509v3 extensions:

X509v3 Issuer Alternative Name:

IP Address:2001:24:6cf:fae7:bb79:bf78:7d64:c056

X509v3 Subject Alternative Name:

IP Address:2001:2c:5a14:26de:a07c:385b:de35:60e3

[Appendix A](#) shows a full example X.509 v3 certificate with HIP content.

As another example, consider a managed Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) environment in which the peers have certificates that are anchored in (potentially different) managed trust chains. In this scenario, the certificates issued to HIP hosts are signed by intermediate Certification Authorities (CAs) up to a root CA. In this example, the managed PKI environment is neither HIP aware, nor can it be configured to compute HITs and include them in the certificates.

When HIP communications are established, the HIP hosts not only need to send their identity certificates (or pointers to their certificates), but also the chain of intermediate CAs (or pointers to the CAs) up to the root CA, or to a CA that is trusted by the remote peer. This chain of certificates SHOULD be sent in a CERT group as specified in [Section 2](#). The HIP peers validate each other's certificates and compute peer HITs based on the certificate public keys.

4. Revocation of Certificates

Revocation of X.509 v3 certificates is handled as defined in [Section 5 of \[RFC5280\]](#) with two exceptions. First, any HIP certificate serial number that appears on the CRL is treated as invalid regardless of the reason code. Second, the certificateHold is not supported.

5. Error Signaling

If the Initiator does not send all the certificates that the Responder requires, the Responder may take actions (e.g. reject the connection). The Responder MAY signal this to the Initiator by sending a HIP NOTIFY message with NOTIFICATION parameter error type CREDENTIALS_REQUIRED.

If the verification of a certificate fails, a verifier MAY signal this to the provider of the certificate by sending a HIP NOTIFY message with NOTIFICATION parameter error type INVALID_CERTIFICATE.

NOTIFICATION PARAMETER - ERROR TYPES	Value
-----	-----
CREDENTIALS_REQUIRED	48

The Responder is unwilling to set up an association, as the Initiator did not send the needed credentials.

INVALID_CERTIFICATE	50
---------------------	----

Sent in response to a failed verification of a certificate. Notification Data MAY contain CERT group and CERT ID octet (in this order) of the CERT parameter that caused the failure.

6. IANA Considerations

This document defines the CERT parameter for the Host Identity Protocol [\[RFC7401\]](#). The CERT parameter type number (768) is defined in [\[RFC7401\]](#).

The CERT parameter has an 8-bit unsigned integer field for different certificate types, for which IANA has created and maintains a sub-registry entitled "HIP certificate types" under the "Host Identity Protocol (HIP) Parameters". Values for the Certificate type registry are given in [Section 2](#). New values for the Certificate types from the unassigned space are assigned through IETF Review.

In [Section 5](#), this document defines two types for the "NOTIFY message types" sub-registry under "Host Identity Protocol (HIP) Parameters".

As this document obsoletes [\[RFC6253\]](#), references to [\[RFC6253\]](#) in IANA registries must be replaced by references to this document. This document changes Certificate type registry in [Section 2](#).

The following updates to the "HIP Certificate Types" registry must be made.

The references must be updated from [\[RFC6253\]](#) to this document.

This document obsoleted the type numbers "2", "4", "6", "8" for the SPKI certificates.

7. Security Considerations

Certificate grouping allows the certificates to be sent in multiple consecutive packets. This might allow similar attacks, as IP-layer fragmentation allows, for example, the sending of fragments in the wrong order and skipping some fragments to delay or stall packet processing by the victim in order to use resources (e.g., CPU or memory). Hence, hosts SHOULD implement mechanisms to discard certificate groups with outstanding certificates if state space is scarce.

Although, CERT parameter is allowed in the first Initiator (I1) packet it is NOT RECOMMENDED because it can increase the processing times of I1s, which can be problematic when processing storms of I1s. Furthermore, Initiator has to take into consideration that the Responder can drop the CERT parameter in I1 without processing the parameter.

Checking of the URL and LDAP entries might allow denial-of-service (DoS) attacks, where the target host may be subjected to bogus work.

Security considerations for X.509 v3 are discussed in [\[RFC5280\]](#).

8. Differences from [RFC 6253](#)

This section summarizes the technical changes made from [\[RFC6253\]](#). This section is informational, intended to help implementors of the previous protocol version. If any text in this section contradicts text in other portions of this specification, the text found outside of this section should be considered normative.

The following changes have been made.

- o Support for Simple Public Key Infrastructure (SPKI) certificates has been removed.

9. Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank A. Keranen, D. Mattes, M. Komu and T. Henderson for the fruitful conversations on the subject. D. Mattes most notably contributed the non-HIP aware use case in [Section 3](#).

10. References

10.1. Normative References

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- [RFC4514] Zeilenga, K., "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): String Representation of Distinguished Names", [RFC 4514](#), June 2006.
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10.2. Informative References

[RFC6253] Heer, T. and S. Varjonen, "Host Identity Protocol Certificates", [RFC 6253](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/6253), DOI 10.17487/RFC6253, May 2011, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6253>>.

Appendix A. X.509 v3 certificate example

This section shows a X.509 v3 certificate with encoded HITs.

Certificate:

Data:

Version: 3 (0x2)

Serial Number: 12705268244493839545 (0xb0522e27291b2cb9)

Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption

Issuer: DC=Example, DC=com, CN=Example issuing host

Validity

Not Before: Feb 25 11:28:29 2016 GMT

Not After : Feb 24 11:28:29 2017 GMT

Subject: DC=Example, DC=com, CN=Example issuing host

Subject Public Key Info:

Public Key Algorithm: rsaEncryption

Public-Key: (2048 bit)

Modulus:

00:c9:b0:85:94:af:1f:3a:77:39:c9:d5:81:a5:ee:
d2:b5:6b:72:91:5d:22:2c:1e:59:e5:06:29:bd:a2:
19:f6:ac:ca:eb:f7:88:d8:54:55:41:01:58:d8:87:
64:d8:c8:cf:6e:c2:38:81:22:1a:ae:e9:a6:80:22:
03:ee:f3:1b:7e:68:11:e3:f4:7b:98:33:28:bf:40:
ec:4f:19:e8:10:8a:8b:07:60:f7:9f:e4:82:f8:a7:
58:04:3d:42:07:c8:34:ca:99:6d:11:eb:73:c1:d9:
96:93:55:e5:c7:ed:80:4f:8a:f2:1a:6f:83:c8:15:
a4:8f:b8:6a:fe:f3:4f:49:1a:5c:1f:89:bb:30:e6:
98:bc:ce:a3:a2:37:85:b1:79:1c:26:e6:44:0c:b9:
3e:d8:37:81:46:f4:02:25:46:a2:ea:da:25:5c:46:
a2:a3:c5:58:80:53:1f:c5:e5:11:a0:da:d8:f2:ad:
d6:98:d4:ce:55:35:cc:0b:d3:5b:09:48:ef:57:65:
80:cb:65:79:fd:cb:4d:5b:b3:8d:1a:ff:2a:58:3e:
96:65:10:3e:04:81:78:2b:d5:ca:89:78:ea:28:5c:
bc:02:4a:54:cd:aa:a9:99:8d:d6:39:e9:5e:a9:73:
1a:5d:93:55:39:9b:72:1a:c2:a0:1f:e3:4c:b0:41:
98:97

Exponent: 65537 (0x10001)

X509v3 extensions:

X509v3 Subject Alternative Name:

IP Address:2001:27:DCFC:CB8:F885:D53F:4E63:48B7

X509v3 Issuer Alternative Name:

IP Address:2001:2D:F878:64C1:67E3:9716:88BD:68E4

Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption

6d:e6:a9:a6:30:c4:ab:3e:86:39:1e:de:76:4d:4e:a4:2d:63:
4d:bb:41:bf:d3:0c:66:13:8b:4d:b2:50:59:36:fc:ae:42:9e:
c8:a0:41:1a:1c:94:56:05:28:82:34:4e:63:75:87:31:25:67:
36:a6:1a:0f:b8:f7:db:03:e7:dd:a6:9a:26:c4:68:e2:cf:59:
54:e6:ee:cc:a7:ce:fb:56:bf:31:60:f4:cb:e7:f0:0e:50:f8:
b7:c5:3c:1a:de:74:d0:aa:83:e5:15:25:b1:bf:be:a4:7f:af:
0a:de:08:09:0e:13:1d:2a:3b:1a:99:d9:af:10:fc:08:92:5f:
d8:d0:10:d6:b9:0c:86:da:85:3b:44:b5:97:90:10:02:4f:5a:
1f:ae:07:30:6b:f5:e6:12:93:72:e2:10:c9:8e:2c:00:8b:d6:
f0:05:c3:ff:91:24:69:6d:5b:5a:0c:40:28:01:f2:5b:45:b8:
9b:ae:9e:73:e9:dd:83:e0:85:d7:ad:6c:b1:81:ac:a0:30:37:
9d:60:bd:92:3b:d2:a1:21:87:8b:c4:d9:5a:5c:21:56:3e:02:
7e:f3:6f:a5:de:40:75:80:f5:41:68:5c:b2:61:fb:1d:9a:a5:
97:a8:d4:a9:82:45:86:79:3c:63:76:3d:fd:86:a0:f8:14:84:
55:c1:8c:fa

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

MIIDWTCCAKGgAwIBAgIJALBSLicpGyy5MA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBCwUAME0xFzAVBgoJ
kiaJk/IsZAEZFgdFeGFtcGxIMRMwEQYKCZImiZPyLGBGRYDY29tMR0wGwYDVQQD
ExRFeGFtcGxIGlzc3VpbmcgaG9zdDAeFw0xNjAyMjUxMTI4MjlaFw0xNzAyMjQx
MTI4MjlaME0xFzAVBgoJkiaJk/IsZAEZFgdFeGFtcGxIMRMwEQYKCZImiZPyLGB
GRYDY29tMR0wGwYDVQQDEExRFeGFtcGxIGlzc3VpbmcgaG9zdDCCASIwDQYJKoZI
hvcNAQEBBQADggEPADCCAQoCggEBAMmwhZSvHzp30cnVgaXu0rVrcpFdIiweWeUG
Kb2iGfasyuv3iNhUVUEBWNiHZNjIz27C0IEiGq7ppoAiA+7zG35oEeP0e5gzKL9A
7E8Z6BCKiwdg95/kgvinWAQ9QgfINMqZbRHrc8HZlpNV5cftgE+K8hpvg8gVpI+4
av7zT0kaXB+JuzDmmLz0o6I3hbF5HCbmRAY5Ptg3gUb0AiVGouraJVxGoqPFWIBT
H8XlEaDa2PKt1pjUz1U1zAvTwwlI71dlgMtlef3LTVuzjRr/Klg+lmUQPgSBeCvV
yol46ihcvAJKVM2qqZmN1jnpXqlzG12TVTmbchrCoB/jTLBBmJcCAwEAAAM8MDow
GwYDVR0RBbBQwEocQIAEAJ9z8DLj4hdU/TmNItzAbBgNVHRIEFDASHxAgAQAt+Hhk
wwfj1xaIvWjkMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBCwUAA4IBAQBt5qmmMMSrPoY5Ht52TU6kLWNN
u0G/0wxmE4tNs1BZNvYuQp7IoEEaHJRWBsiCNE5jdYcxJWc2phoPuPfba+fdppom
xGjiz1lU5u7Mp877Vr8xYPTL5/A0UPi3xTwa3nTQqoPLFSWxv76kf68K3ggJDhMd
KjsamdmvEPwIk1/Y0BDWuQyG2oU7RLWXkBACT1ofrgcwa/XmEpNy4hDJjiwAi9bw
BcP/kSRpbVtaDEAoAfJbRbibrp5z6d2D4IXXrWyxgaygMDedYL2S09KhIYeLxNla
XCFWPgJ+82+13kB1gPVBaFyyYfsdmqWXqNSpgkWGtXjdj39hqD4FIRVwYz6

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

[Appendix B](#). Change log

Contents of [draft-ietf-hip-rfc6253-bis-00](#):

- o [RFC6253](#) was submitted as [draft-RFC](#).

Changes from version 01 to 02:

- o Updated the references.

Changes from version 02 to 03:

- o Fixed the nits raised by the working group.

Changes from version 03 to 04:

- o Added "obsoletes [RFC 6253](#)".

Changes from version 04 to 05:

- o Updates to contact details.
- o Correct updates and obsoletes headers.
- o Removed the pre5378 disclaimer.
- o Updated references.
- o Removed the SPKI references from the document.

Changes from version 05 to 06:

- o Addressed the Int-Dir review comments from Korhonen.

Changes from version 06 to 07:

- o Addressed the GenArt, OPSdir, SecDir, and IANA comments.

Changes from version 07 to 08:

- o Addresses one editorial nit for CERT group numbers.

Changes from version 08 to 09:

- o Rewrote the IANA section.

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