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**Home Networking Control Protocol**  
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Abstract

This document describes the Home Networking Control Protocol (HNCP), an extensible configuration protocol and a set of requirements for home network devices. HNCP is described as a profile of and extension to the Distributed Node Consensus Protocol (DNCP). HNCP enables discovery of network borders, automated configuration of addresses, name resolution, service discovery, and the use of any routing protocol which supports routing based on both source and destination address.

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## [1.](#) Introduction

HNCP is designed to facilitate sharing of state among home routers to fulfill the needs of the IPv6 homenet architecture [[RFC7368](#)], which assumes zero-configuration operation, multiple subnets, multiple home routers and (potentially) multiple upstream service providers providing (potentially) multiple prefixes to the home network. While [RFC7368](#) sets no requirements for IPv4 support, HNCP aims to support dual-stack mode of operation, and therefore the functionality is designed with that in mind. The state is shared as TLVs among the routers (and potentially advanced hosts) to enable:

- o Autonomic discovery of network borders ([Section 5.3](#)) based on DNCP topology.
- o Automated portioning of prefixes delegated by the service providers as well as assigned prefixes to both HNCP and non-HNCP routers ([Section 6.3](#)) using [[I-D.ietf-homenet-prefix-assignment](#)]. Prefixes assigned to HNCP routers are used to:
  - \* Provide addresses to non-HNCP aware nodes (using SLAAC and DHCP).
  - \* Provide space in which HNCP nodes assign their own addresses ([Section 6.4](#)).
- o Internal and external name resolution, as well as multi-link service discovery ([Section 8](#)).
- o Other services not defined in this document, that do need to share state among homenet nodes, and do not cause rapid and constant TLV changes (see following applicability section).



HNCP is a DNCP [[I-D.ietf-homenet-dncp](#)]-based protocol and includes a DNCP profile which defines transport and synchronization details for sharing state across nodes defined in [Section 3](#). The rest of the document defines behavior of the services noted above, how the required TLVs are encoded ([Section 10](#)), as well as additional requirements on how HNCP nodes should behave ([Section 11](#)).

### **[1.1](#). Applicability**

While HNCP does not deal with routing protocols directly (except potentially informing them about internal and external interfaces if classification specified in [Section 5.3](#) is used), in homenet environments where multiple IPv6 source-prefixes can be present, routing based on source and destination address is necessary [[RFC7368](#)]. Ideally, the routing protocol is also zero-configuration (e.g., no need to configure identifiers or metrics) although HNCP can be used also with a manually configured routing protocol.

As HNCP uses DNCP as the actual state synchronization protocol, the applicability statement of DNCP can be used here as well; HNCP should not be used for any data that changes rapidly and constantly, and locators to find such services should be published using it instead. This is why the naming and service discovery ([Section 8](#)) TLVs contain only DNS server addresses, and no actual per-name or per-service data of hosts.

HNCP TLVs specified within this document, in steady state, stay constant, with one exception: as Delegated Prefix TLVs ([Section 10.2.1](#)) do contain lifetimes, they force re-publishing of that data every time the valid or preferred lifetimes of prefixes are updated (significantly). Therefore, it is desirable for ISPs to provide large enough valid and preferred lifetimes to avoid unnecessary HNCP state churn in homes, but even given non-cooperating ISPs, the state churn is proportional only to the number of externally received delegated prefixes and not the home network size, and should therefore be relatively low.

HNCP assumes a certain level of control over host configuration servers (e.g., DHCP [[RFC2131](#)]) on links that are managed by its routers. Some HNCP functionality (such as border discovery or some aspects of naming) might be affected by existing DHCP servers not aware of the HNCP-managed network and thus might need to be reconfigured to not result in unexpected behavior.

While HNCP is designed to be used by (home) routers, it can also be used by advanced hosts that want to do, e.g., their own address assignment and routing.



HNCP is link layer agnostic; if a link supports IPv6 (link-local) multicast and unicast, HNCP will work on it. Trickle retransmissions and keep-alives will handle both packet loss and non-transitive connectivity, ensuring eventual convergence.

## **2. Terminology**

The following terms are used as they are defined in [[I-D.ietf-homenet-prefix-assignment](#)]:

- o Advertised Prefix Priority
- o Advertised Prefix
- o Assigned Prefix
- o Delegated Prefix
- o Prefix Adoption
- o Private Link
- o Published Assigned Prefix
- o Applied Assigned Prefix
- o Shared Link

The following terms are used as they are defined in [[I-D.ietf-homenet-dncp](#)]:

- o DNCP profile
- o Node identifier
- o Link
- o Interface





(HNCP) node	A device implementing this specification.
(HNCP) router	A device implementing this specification, which forwards traffic on behalf of other devices.
Border	separation point between administrative domains; in this case, between the home network and any other network, i.e., usually an ISP network.
Internal link	a link that does not cross borders.
Internal interface	an interface that is connected to an internal link.
External interface	an interface that is connected to a link which is not an internal link.
Interface category	a local configuration denoting the use of a particular interface. The interface category determines how a HNCP node should treat the particular interface. External and internal category mark the interface as out of or within the network border; there are also a number of sub-categories to internal that further affect local node behavior. See <a href="#">Section 5.1</a> for a list of interface categories and how they behave. The internal or external categories may also be auto-detected ( <a href="#">Section 5.3</a> ).
Border router	a router announcing external connectivity and forwarding traffic across the network border.
Common Link	a set of nodes on a link which share a common view of it, i.e., they see each other's traffic and the same set of hosts. Unless configured otherwise transitive connectivity is assumed.
DHCPv4	refers to Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol [ <a href="#">RFC2131</a> ] in this document.
DHCPv6	refers to Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6) [ <a href="#">RFC3315</a> ] in this document.
DHCP	refers to cases which apply to both DHCPv4 and DHCPv6 in this document.

## **[2.1.](#) 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](#)].



### 3. DNCP Profile

The DNCP profile of HNCP is defined as follows:

- o HNCP uses UDP datagrams on port HNCP-UDP-PORT as a transport over link-local scoped IPv6, using unicast and multicast (All-Homenet-Nodes is the HNCP group address). Received datagrams where either or both of the IPv6 source or destination address is not link-local scoped MUST be ignored. Replies to multicast and unicast messages MUST be sent to the IPv6 source address and port of the original message. Each node MUST be able to receive (and potentially reassemble) UDP datagrams with a payload of at least 4000 bytes.
- o HNCP operates on multicast-capable interfaces only. HNCP nodes MUST assign a locally unique non-zero 32-bit endpoint identifier to each interface for which HNCP is enabled. The value zero is not used in DNCP TLVs, but it has a special meaning in HNCP TLVs (see [Section 10.3](#) and [Section 6.4](#)). Implementations MAY use a value equivalent to the IPv6 link-local scope identifier for the given interface.
- o HNCP uses opaque 32-bit node identifiers (DNCP\_NODE\_IDENTIFIER\_LENGTH = 32). A node implementing HNCP SHOULD use a random node identifier. If there is a node identifier collision (as specified in the Node State TLV handling of Section 4.4 of [\[I-D.ietf-homenet-dncp\]](#)), the node MUST immediately generate and use a new random node identifier which is not used by any other node at the time, based on the current DNCP network state.
- o HNCP nodes MUST use the leading 64 bits of MD5 [\[RFC1321\]](#) as DNCP non-cryptographic hash function H(x).
- o HNCP nodes MUST use DNCP's per-endpoint keep-alive extension on all endpoints. The following parameters are suggested:
  - \* Default keep-alive interval (DNCP\_KEEPALIVE\_INTERVAL): 20 seconds.
  - \* Multiplier (DNCP\_KEEPALIVE\_MULTIPLIER): 2.1 on virtually lossless links works fine as it allows for one lost keep-alive. If used on a lossy link, considerably higher multiplier, such as 15, should be used instead. In that case, an implementation might prefer shorter keep-alive intervals on that link as well to ensure that DNCP\_KEEPALIVE\_INTERVAL \* DNCP\_KEEPALIVE\_MULTIPLIER timeout after which (entirely) lost nodes time out is low enough.



- o HNCP nodes use the following Trickle parameters for the per-interface Trickle instances:
  - \* k SHOULD be 1, as the timer reset when data is updated and further retransmissions should handle packet loss. Even on a non-transitive lossy link, the eventual per-endpoint keep-alives should ensure status synchronization occurs.
  - \* Imin SHOULD be 200 milliseconds but MUST NOT be lower. Note: Earliest transmissions may occur at  $Imin / 2$ .
  - \* Imax SHOULD be 7 doublings of Imin (i.e., 25.6 seconds) but MUST NOT be lower.
- o HNCP unicast traffic SHOULD be secured using DTLS [[RFC6347](#)] as described in DNCP if exchanged over unsecured links. UDP on port HNCP-DTLS-PORT is used for this purpose. A node implementing HNCP security MUST support the DNCP Pre-Shared Key method, SHOULD support the DNCP Certificate Based Trust Consensus and MAY support the PKI-based trust method.
- o HNCP nodes MUST ignore all Node State TLVs received via multicast on a link which has DNCP security enabled in order to prevent spoofing of node state changes.

#### **4. HNCP Versioning and Router Capabilities**

Multiple versions of HNCP based on compatible DNCP profiles may be present in the same network when transitioning between HNCP versions and for troubleshooting purposes it might be beneficial to identify the HNCP agent version running. Therefore each node MUST include an HNCP-Version TLV ([Section 10.1](#)) in its Node Data and MUST ignore (except for DNCP synchronization purposes) any TLVs with a type greater than 32 published by nodes not also publishing an HNCP-Version TLV or publishing such a TLV with a different Version.

HNCP routers may also have different capabilities regarding interactions with hosts, e.g., for configuration or service discovery. These are indicated by M, P, H and L values. The combined "capability value" is a metric indicated by interpreting the bits as an integer, i.e.,  $(M \ll 12 \mid P \ll 8 \mid H \ll 4 \mid L)$ . These values are used to elect certain servers on a Common Link, as described in [Section 7](#). Nodes that are not routers MUST announce the value 0 for all capabilities and therefore do not take part in these elections.



## 5. Interface Classification

### 5.1. Interface Categories

HNCP specifies the following categories interfaces can be configured to be in:

Internal category: This declares an interfaces to be internal, i.e., within the borders of the HNCP network. HNCP traffic **MUST** be sent and received. Routers **MUST** forward traffic with appropriate source addresses between their internal interfaces and allow internal traffic to reach external networks. All nodes **MUST** implement this category and nodes not implementing any other category implicitly use it as a fixed default.

External category: This declares an interface to be external, i.e., not within the borders of the HNCP network. HNCP traffic **MUST** neither be sent nor received. HNCP routers **SHOULD** announce acquired configuration information for use in the network as described in [Section 6.2](#), if the interface appears to be connected to an external network. HNCP routers **MUST** implement this category.

Leaf category: This declares an interface used by client devices only. Such an interface uses the Internal category with the exception that HNCP traffic **MUST NOT** be sent on the interface, and all such traffic received on the interface **MUST** be ignored. This category **SHOULD** be supported by HNCP routers.

Guest category: This declares an interface used by untrusted client devices only. In addition to the restrictions of the Leaf category, HNCP routers **MUST** filter traffic from and to the interface such that connected devices are unable to reach other devices inside the HNCP network or query services advertised by them unless explicitly allowed. This category **SHOULD** be supported by HNCP routers.

Ad-hoc category: This configures an interface to use the Internal category but no assumption is made about the the link's transitivity. All other interface categories assume transitive connectivity. This affects the Common Link ([Section 6.1](#)) definition. Support for this category is **OPTIONAL**.

Hybrid category: This declares an interface to use the Internal category while still trying to acquire (external) configuration information on it, e.g., by running DHCP clients. This is useful, e.g., if the link is shared with a non-HNCP router under control and still within the borders of the same network. Detection of





this category automatically in addition to manual configuration is out of scope of this document. Support for this category is OPTIONAL.

### **5.2. DHCP Aided Auto-Detection**

Auto-detection of interface categories is possible based on interaction with DHCPv4 [[RFC2131](#)] and DHCPv6-PD [[RFC3633](#)] servers on connected links. HNCP defines special DHCP behavior to differentiate its internal servers from external ones in order to achieve this. Therefore all internal devices (including HNCP nodes) running DHCP servers on links where auto-detection is used by any HNCP node MUST use the following mechanism based on The User Class Option for DHCPv4 [[RFC3004](#)] and its DHCPv6 counterpart [[RFC3315](#)]:

- o The device MUST ignore or reject DHCP-Requests containing a DHCP User-Class consisting of the ASCII-String "HOMENET".

Not following this rule (e.g., running unmodified DHCP servers) might lead to false positives when auto-detection is used, i.e., HNCP nodes assume an interface to not be internal, even though it was intended to be.

### **5.3. Algorithm for Border Discovery**

This section defines the interface classification algorithm. It is suitable for both IPv4 and IPv6 (single or dual-stack) and detects the category of an interface either automatically or based on a fixed configuration. By determining the category for all interfaces, the network borders are implicitly defined, i.e., all interfaces not belonging to the External category are considered to be within the borders of the network, all others are not.

The following algorithm MUST be implemented by any node implementing HNCP. However, if the node does not implement auto-detection, only the first step is required. The algorithm works as follows, with evaluation stopping at first match:

1. If a fixed category is configured for an interface, it is used.
2. If a delegated prefix could be acquired by running a DHCPv6 client, it is considered external. The DHCPv6 client MUST have included a DHCPv6 User-Class consisting of the ASCII-String "HOMENET" in all of its requests.
3. If an IPv4 address could be acquired by running a DHCPv4 client on the interface, it is considered external. The DHCPv4 client



MUST have included a DHCP User-Class consisting of the ASCII-String "HOMENET" in all of its requests.

4. The interface is considered internal.

Note that as other HNCP nodes will ignore the client due to the user class option, any server that replies is clearly external (or a malicious internal node).

An HNCP router SHOULD allow setting the fixed category for each interface which may be connected to either an internal or external device (e.g., an Ethernet port that can be connected to a modem, another HNCP router or a client).

An HNCP router using auto-detection on an interface MUST run the appropriately configured DHCP clients as long as the interface without a fixed category is active (including states where auto-detection considers it to be internal) and rerun the algorithm above to react to conditions resulting in a different interface category. The router SHOULD wait for a reasonable time period (5 seconds as a default), during which the DHCP clients can acquire a lease, before treating a newly activated or previously external interface as internal.

## **6. Autonomous Address Configuration**

This section specifies how HNCP nodes configure host and node addresses. At first border routers share information obtained from service providers or local configuration by publishing one or more External Connection TLVs ([Section 10.2](#)). These contain other TLVs such as Delegated Prefix TLVs ([Section 10.2.1](#)) which are then used for prefix assignment. Finally, HNCP nodes obtain addresses either statelessly or using a specific stateful mechanism ([Section 6.4](#)). Hosts and non-HNCP routers are configured using SLAAC, DHCP or DHCPv6-PD.

### **[6.1.](#) Common Link**

HNCP uses the concept of Common Link both in autonomic address configuration and naming and service discovery ([Section 8](#)). A Common Link refers to the set of interfaces of nodes that see each other's traffic and presumably also the traffic of all hosts that may use the nodes to, e.g., forward traffic. Common Links are used, e.g., to determine where prefixes should be assigned or which peers participate in the election of a DHCP server. The Common Link is computed separately for each local internal interface, and it always contains the local interface. Additionally, if the local interface is not set to ad-hoc category (see [Section 5.1](#)), it also contains the



set of interfaces that are bidirectionally reachable from the given local interface, that is, every remote interface of a remote node meeting all of the following requirements:

- o The local node publishes a Peer TLV with:
  - \* Peer Node Identifier = remote node's node identifier
  - \* Peer Endpoint Identifier = remote interface's endpoint identifier
  - \* Endpoint Identifier = local interface's endpoint identifier
- o The remote node publishes a Peer TLV with:
  - \* Peer Node Identifier = local node's node identifier
  - \* Peer Endpoint Identifier = local interface's endpoint identifier
  - \* Endpoint Identifier = remote interface's endpoint identifier

A node MUST be able to detect whether two of its local internal interfaces are connected, e.g., by detecting an identical remote interface being part of the Common Links of both local interfaces.

## **6.2. External Connections**

Each HNCP router MAY obtain external connection information such as address prefixes, DNS server addresses and DNS search paths from one or more sources, e.g., DHCPv6-PD [[RFC3633](#)], NETCONF [[RFC6241](#)] or static configuration. Each individual external connection to be shared in the network is represented by one External Connection TLV ([Section 10.2](#)).

Announcements of individual external connections may consist of the following components:

**Delegated Prefixes:** address space available for assignment to internal links announced using Delegated Prefix TLVs ([Section 10.2.1](#)). Some address spaces might have special properties which are necessary to understand in order to handle them (e.g., information similar to [[RFC6603](#)]). This information is encoded using DHCPv6 Data TLVs ([Section 10.2.2](#)) inside the respective Delegated Prefix TLVs.

**Auxiliary Information:** information about services such as DNS or time synchronization regularly used by hosts in addition to



addressing and routing information. This information is encoded using DHCPv6 Data TLVs ([Section 10.2.2](#)) and DHCPv4 Data TLVs ([Section 10.2.3](#)).

Whenever information about reserved parts (e.g., as specified in [[RFC6603](#)]) is received for a delegated prefix, the reserved parts MUST be advertised using Assigned Prefix TLVs ([Section 10.3](#)) with the highest priority (i.e., 15), as if they were assigned to a Private Link.

Some connections or delegated prefixes may have a special meaning and are not regularly used for internal or internet connectivity, instead they may provide access to special services like VPNs, sensor networks, VoIP, IPTV, etc. Care must be taken that these prefixes are properly integrated and dealt with in the network, in order to avoid breaking connectivity for devices who are not aware of their special characteristics or to only selectively allow certain devices to use them. Such prefixes are distinguished using Prefix Policy TLVs ([Section 10.2.1.1](#)). Their contents MAY be partly opaque to HNCP nodes, and their identification and usage depends on local policy. However the following general rules MUST be adhered to:

Special rules apply when making address assignments for prefixes with Prefix Policy TLVs with type 131, as described in [Section 6.3.2](#)

In presence of any type 1 to 128 Prefix Policy TLV the prefix is specialized to reach destinations denoted by any such Prefix Policy TLV, i.e., in absence of a type 0 Prefix Policy TLV it is not usable for general internet connectivity. An HNCP router MAY enforce this restriction with appropriate packet filter rules.

### **[6.3. Prefix Assignment](#)**

HNCP uses the Prefix Assignment Algorithm [[I-D.ietf-homenet-prefix-assignment](#)] in order to assign prefixes to HNCP internal links and uses some of the terminology ([Section 2](#)) defined there. HNCP furthermore defines the Assigned Prefix TLV ([Section 10.3](#)) which MUST be used to announce Published Assigned Prefixes.

#### **[6.3.1. Prefix Assignment Algorithm Parameters](#)**

All HNCP nodes running the prefix assignment algorithm use the following values for its parameters:

Node IDs: HNCP node identifiers are used. The comparison operation is defined as bit-wise comparison.





**Set of Delegated Prefixes:** The set of prefixes encoded in Delegated Prefix TLVs which are not strictly included in prefixes encoded in other Delegated Prefix TLVs. Note that Delegated Prefix TLVs included in ignored External Connection TLVs are not considered. It is dynamically updated as Delegated Prefix TLVs are added or removed.

**Set of Shared Links:** The set of Common Links associated with interfaces with internal, leaf, guest or ad-hoc category. It is dynamically updated as interfaces are added, removed, or switch from one category to another. When multiple interfaces are detected as belonging to the same Common Link, prefix assignment is disabled on all of these interfaces except one.

**Set of Private Links:** This document defines Private Links representing DHCPv6-PD clients or as a mean to advertise prefixes included in the DHCPv6 Exclude Prefix option. Other implementation-specific Private Links may be defined whenever a prefix needs to be assigned for a purpose that does not require a consensus with other HNCP nodes.

**Set of Advertised Prefixes:** The set of prefixes included in Assigned Prefix TLVs advertised by other HNCP nodes (Prefixes advertised by the local node are not in this set). The associated Advertised Prefix Priority is the priority specified in the TLV. The associated Shared Link is determined as follows:

- \* If the Link Identifier is zero, the Advertised Prefix is not assigned on a Shared Link.
- \* If the other node's interface identified by the Link Identifier is included in one of the Common Links used for prefix assignment, it is considered as assigned on the given Common Link.
- \* Otherwise, the Advertised Prefix is not assigned on a Shared Link.

Advertised Prefixes as well as their associated priorities and associated Shared Links MUST be updated as Assigned Prefix TLVs are added, updated or removed, and as Common Links are modified.

**ADOPT\_MAX\_DELAY:** The default value is 0 seconds (i.e., prefix adoption MAY be done instantly).

**BACKOFF\_MAX\_DELAY:** The default value is 4 seconds.

**RANDOM\_SET\_SIZE:** The default value is 64.



Flooding Delay: The default value is 5 seconds.

Default Advertised Prefix Priority: When a new assignment is created or an assignment is adopted - as specified in the prefix assignment algorithm routine - the default Advertised Prefix Priority to be used is 2.

### **6.3.2. Making New Assignments**

Whenever the prefix assignment algorithm subroutine (Section 4.1 of [[I-D.ietf-homenet-prefix-assignment](#)]) is run on a Common Link and whenever a new prefix may be assigned (case 1 of the subroutine: no Best Assignment and no Current Assignment), the decision of whether the assignment of a new prefix is desired MUST follow these rules in order:

If the Delegated Prefix TLV contains a DHCPv6 Data TLV, and the meaning of one of the DHCP options is not understood by the HNCP node, the creation of a new prefix is not desired. This rule applies to TLVs inside Delegated Prefix TLVs but not to those inside External Connection TLVs.

If the remaining preferred lifetime of the prefix is 0 and there is another delegated prefix of the same IP version used for prefix assignment with a non-zero preferred lifetime, the creation of a new prefix is not desired.

If the Delegated Prefix does not include a Prefix Policy TLV indicating restrictive assignment (type 131) or if local policy exists to identify it based on, e.g., other Prefix Policy TLV values and allows assignment, the creation of a new prefix is desired.

Otherwise, the creation of a new prefix is not desired.

If the considered delegated prefix is an IPv6 prefix, and whenever there is at least one available prefix of length 64, a prefix of length 64 MUST be selected unless configured otherwise. In case no prefix of length 64 would be available, a longer prefix MAY be selected even without configuration.

If the considered delegated prefix is an IPv4 prefix ([Section 6.5](#) details how IPv4 delegated prefixes are generated), a prefix of length 24 SHOULD be preferred.

In any case, an HNCP router making an assignment MUST support a mechanism suitable to distribute addresses from the considered prefix if the link is intended to be used by clients. In this case a router



assigning an IPv4 prefix MUST announce the L-capability and a router assigning an IPv6 prefix with a length greater than 64 MUST announce the H-capability as defined in [Section 4](#).

#### **6.3.3. Applying Assignments**

The prefix assignment algorithm indicates when a prefix is applied to the respective Common Link. When that happens each router connected to said link:

MUST forward traffic destined to said prefix to the respective link.

MUST participate in the client configuration election as described in [Section 7](#), if the link is intended to be used by clients.

MAY add an address from said prefix to the respective network interface as described in [Section 6.4](#), e.g., if it is to be used as source for locally originating traffic.

#### **6.3.4. DHCPv6 Prefix Delegation**

When an HNCP router announcing the P-Capability ([Section 4](#)) receives a DHCPv6-PD request from a client, it SHOULD assign one prefix per delegated prefix in the network. This set of assigned prefixes is then delegated to the client, after it has been applied as described in the prefix assignment algorithm. Each DHCPv6-PD client MUST be considered as an independent Private Link and delegation MUST be based on the same set of Delegated Prefixes as the one used for Common Link prefix assignments, however the prefix length to be delegated MAY be smaller than 64.

The assigned prefixes MUST NOT be given to DHCPv6-PD clients before they are applied, and MUST be withdrawn whenever they are destroyed. As an exception to this rule, in order to shorten delays of processed requests, a router MAY prematurely give out a prefix which is advertised but not yet applied if it does so with a valid lifetime of not more than 30 seconds and ensures removal or correction of lifetimes as soon as possible.

#### **6.4. Node Address Assignment**

This section specifies how HNCP nodes reserve addresses for their own use. Nodes MAY, at any time, try to reserve a new address from any Applied Assigned Prefix. Each HNCP node SHOULD announce an IPv6 address and - if it supports IPv4 - MUST announce an IPv4 address, whenever matching prefixes are assigned to at least one of its Common Links. These addresses are published using Node Address TLVs and



used to locally reach HNCP nodes for other services. Nodes SHOULD NOT create and announce more than one assignment per IP version to avoid cluttering the node data with redundant information unless a special use case requires it.

Stateless assignment based on Semantically Opaque Interface Identifiers [[RFC7217](#)] SHOULD be used for address assignment whenever possible (e.g., the prefix length is 64), otherwise (e.g., for IPv4 if supported) the following method MUST be used instead: For any assigned prefix for which stateless assignment is not used, the first quarter of the addresses are reserved for HNCP based address assignments, whereas the last three quarters are left to the DHCP elected router ([Section 4](#) specifies the DHCP server election process). For example, if the prefix 192.0.2.0/24 is assigned and applied to a Common Link, addresses included in 192.0.2.0/26 are reserved for HNCP nodes and the remaining addresses are reserved for the elected DHCPv4 server.

HNCP nodes assign themselves addresses, and then (to ensure eventual lack of conflicting assignments) publish the assignments using the Node Address TLV ([Section 10.4](#)).

The process of obtaining addresses is specified as follows:

- o A node MUST NOT start advertising an address if it is already advertised by another node.
- o An assigned address MUST be part of an assigned prefix currently applied on a Common Link which includes the interface specified by the endpoint identifier.
- o An address MUST NOT be used unless it has been advertised for at least ADDRESS\_APPLY\_DELAY consecutive seconds, and is still currently being advertised. The default value for ADDRESS\_APPLY\_DELAY is 3 seconds.
- o Whenever the same address is advertised by more than one node, all but the one advertised by the node with the highest node identifier MUST be removed.

### **6.5. Local IPv4 and ULA Prefixes**

HNCP routers can create a ULA or private IPv4 prefix to enable connectivity between local devices. These prefixes are inserted in HNCP as if they were delegated prefixes of a (virtual) external connection ([Section 6.2](#)). The following rules apply:





An HNCP router SHOULD create a ULA prefix if there is no other IPv6 prefix with a preferred time greater than 0 in the network. It MAY also do so, if there are other delegated IPv6 prefixes, but none of which is locally generated (i.e., without any Prefix Policy TLV) and has a preferred time greater than 0. However, it MUST NOT do so otherwise. In case multiple locally generated ULA prefixes are present, only the one published by the node with the highest node identifier is kept among those with a preferred time greater than 0 - if there is any.

An HNCP router MUST create a private IPv4 prefix [[RFC1918](#)] whenever it wishes to provide IPv4 internet connectivity to the network and no other private IPv4 prefix with internet connectivity currently exists. It MAY also enable local IPv4 connectivity by creating a private IPv4 prefix if no IPv4 prefix exists but MUST NOT do so otherwise. In case multiple IPv4 prefixes are announced, only the one published by the node with the highest node identifier is kept among those with a Prefix Policy of type 0 - if there is any. The router publishing a prefix with internet connectivity MUST forward IPv4 traffic to the internet and perform NAT on behalf of the network as long as it publishes the prefix, other routers in the network MAY choose not to.

Creation of such ULA and IPv4 prefixes MUST be delayed by a random timespan between 0 and 10 seconds in which the router MUST scan for others trying to do the same.

When a new ULA prefix is created, the prefix is selected based on the configuration, using the last non-deprecated ULA prefix, or generated based on [[RFC4193](#)].

## **7. Configuration of Hosts and non-HNCP Routers**

HNCP routers need to ensure that hosts and non-HNCP downstream routers on internal links are configured with addresses and routes. Since DHCP clients can usually only bind to one server at a time, a per-link and per-service election takes place.

HNCP routers may have different capabilities for configuring downstream devices and providing naming services. Each router MUST therefore indicate its capabilities as specified in [Section 4](#) in order to participate as a candidate in the election.



### **7.1. DHCPv6 for Addressing or Configuration**

In general Stateless Address Autoconfiguration is used for client configuration for its low overhead and fast renumbering capabilities, however stateful DHCPv6 can be used in addition by administrative choice, to, e.g., collect hostnames and use them to provide naming services or whenever stateless configuration is not applicable.

The designated stateful DHCPv6 server for a Common Link ([Section 6.1](#)) is elected based on the capabilities described in [Section 4](#). The winner is the router (connected to the Common Link) advertising the greatest H-capability. In case of a tie, Capability Values are compared, and router with the greatest value is elected. In case of another tie, the router with the highest node identifier is elected among the routers with tied Capability Values.

The elected router MUST serve stateful DHCPv6 and SHOULD provide naming services for acquired hostnames as outlined in [Section 8](#). Stateful addresses SHOULD be assigned in a way not hindering fast renumbering even if the DHCPv6 server or client do not support the DHCPv6 reconfigure mechanism. In case no router was elected, stateful DHCPv6 is not provided.

### **7.2. DHCPv6 for Prefix Delegation**

The designated DHCPv6 server for prefix-delegation on a Common Link is elected based on the capabilities described in [Section 4](#). The winner is the router (connected to the Common Link) advertising the greatest P-capability. In case of a tie, Capability Values are compared, and router with the greatest value is elected. In case of another tie, the router with the highest node identifier is elected among the routers with tied Capability Values.

The elected router MUST provide prefix-delegation services [[RFC3633](#)] on the given link and follow the rules in [Section 6.3.4](#).

### **7.3. DHCPv4 for Addressing and Configuration**

The designated DHCPv4 server on a Common Link ([Section 6.1](#)) is elected based on the capabilities described in [Section 4](#). The winner is the router (connected to the Common Link) advertising the greatest L-capability. In case of a tie, Capability Values are compared, and router with the greatest value is elected. In case of another tie, the router with the highest node identifier is elected among the routers with tied Capability Values.

The elected router MUST provide DHCPv4 services on the given link. It MUST announce itself as router [[RFC2132](#)] to clients if and only if



there is an IPv4 default route known in the network. If there is no default route, the elected router MUST announce a Classless Static Route Option [[RFC3442](#)] for the IPv4 prefix announced in the Delegated Prefix TLV and MAY announce such an option for known reachable IPv4 destinations not within any local delegated prefix.

DHCPv4 lease times SHOULD be short (i.e., not longer than 5 minutes) in order to provide reasonable response times to changes.

#### **7.4. Multicast DNS Proxy**

The designated MDNS [[RFC6762](#)] proxy on a Common Link is elected based on the capabilities described in [Section 4](#). The winner is the router (connected to the Common Link) advertising the greatest M-capability. In case of a tie, Capability Values are compared, and router with the greatest value is elected. In case of another tie, the router with the highest node identifier is elected among the routers with tied Capability Values.

The elected router MUST provide an MDNS-proxy on the given link and announce it as described in [Section 8](#).

### **8. Naming and Service Discovery**

Network-wide naming and service discovery can greatly improve the user-friendliness of a network. The following mechanism provides means to setup and delegate naming and service discovery across multiple HNCP routers.

Each HNCP router SHOULD provide a recursive name resolution server which honors the announcements made in Delegated Zone TLVs ([Section 10.5](#)), Domain Name TLVs ([Section 10.6](#)) and Node Name TLVs ([Section 10.7](#)), i.e., delegate queries to the designated name servers and hand out appropriate A, AAAA and PTR records according to the mentioned TLVs.

Each HNCP router SHOULD provide and announce an auto-generated or user-configured name for each internal Common Link ([Section 6.1](#)) for which it is the designated DHCPv4, stateful DHCPv6 server, MDNS proxy, or for which it provides forward or reverse DNS services on behalf of connected devices. This announcement is done using Delegated Zone TLVs ([Section 10.5](#)) and MUST be unique in the whole network. In case of a conflict the announcement of the node with the highest node identifier takes precedence and all other nodes MUST cease to announce the conflicting TLV. HNCP routers providing name resolving services MUST use the included DNS server address within the TLV to resolve names belonging to the zone as if there was an NS record.



Each HNCP node SHOULD announce a node name for itself to be easily reachable and MAY do so on behalf of other devices. Announcements are made using Node Name TLVs ([Section 10.7](#)) and MUST be unique in the whole network. In case of a conflict the announcement of the node with the highest node identifier takes precedence and all other nodes MUST cease to announce the conflicting TLV. HNCP routers providing name resolving services MUST resolve these names to their respective IP addresses as if there were corresponding A/AAAA records.

Names and unqualified zones are used in an HNCP network to provide naming and service discovery with local significance. A network-wide zone is appended to all single labels or unqualified zones in order to qualify them. ".home" is the default, however an administrator MAY configure announcing of a Domain Name TLV ([Section 10.6](#)) for the network to use a different one. In case multiple are announced, the domain of the node with the greatest node identifier takes precedence.

## **9. Securing Third-Party Protocols**

Pre-shared keys (PSKs) are often required to secure (for example) IGPs and other protocols which lack support for asymmetric security. The following mechanism manages PSKs using HNCP to enable bootstrapping of such third-party protocols. The scheme SHOULD be used only in conjunction with secured HNCP unicast transport (=DTLS), as transferring the PSK in plain-text anywhere in the network is a potential risk, especially as the originator may not know about security (and use of DNCP security) on all links. The following rules define how such a PSK is managed and used:

- o If no Managed PSK TLV ([Section 10.8](#)) is currently being announced, an HNCP node using this mechanism MUST create one after a random delay of 0 to 10 seconds with a 32 bytes long random key and add it to its node data.
- o In case multiple nodes announce such a TLV at the same time, all but the one with the greatest node identifier stop advertising it and adopt the remaining one.
- o The node currently advertising the Managed PSK TLV must generate and advertise a new random one whenever an unreachable node is removed from the DNCP topology as described in the Section 4.6 of [\[I-D.ietf-homenet-dncp\]](#).

PSKs for individual protocols SHOULD be derived from the random PSK using a suitable one-way hashing algorithm (e.g., by using HMAC-SHA256 [[RFC6234](#)] with a per-protocol HMAC-key) so that disclosure of





any derived key does not impact other users of the managed PSK. Furthermore derived PSKs MUST be updated whenever the managed PSK changes.

## 10. Type-Length-Value Objects

HNCP defines the following TLVs in addition to those defined by DNCP. The same general rules and defaults for encoding as noted in Section 7 of [[I-D.ietf-homenet-dncp](#)] apply.

TLVs defined here are only valid when appearing in their designated context, i.e., only directly within container TLVs mentioned in their definition, or - absent any mentions - only as top-level TLVs within the node data set. TLVs appearing outside their designated context MUST be ignored.

Unless specified otherwise, TLVs encoding IP addresses or prefixes allow encoding both IPv6 and IPv4 addresses and prefixes. IPv6 information is encoded as is, whereas for IPv4 IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses format [[RFC4291](#)] is used and prefix lengths are encoded as original IPv4 prefix length increased by 96.

### 10.1. HNCP Version TLV

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Type: HNCP-VERSION (32)   |   Length: >= 5   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Version   |   Reserved   |   M   |   P   |   H   |   L   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                     User-agent                                     |

```

This TLV is used to indicate the supported version and router capabilities of an HNCP node as described in [Section 4](#).

Version: Indicates which version of HNCP is currently in use by this particular node. It MUST be set to 1. Nodes with different versions are considered incompatible.

Reserved: Bits are reserved for future use. They MUST be set to zero when creating this TLV, and their value MUST be ignored when processing the TLV.

M-capability: Priority value used for electing the on-link MDNS [[RFC6762](#)] proxy. It MUST be set to some value between 1 and 7 included (4 is the default) if the router is capable of proxying



MDNS and 0 otherwise. The values 8-15 are reserved for future use.

**P-capability:** Priority value used for electing the on-link DHCPv6-PD server. It MUST be set to some value between 1 and 7 included (4 is the default) if the router is capable of providing prefixes through DHCPv6-PD ([Section 6.3.4](#)) and 0 otherwise. The values 8-15 are reserved for future use.

**H-capability:** Priority value used for electing the on-link DHCPv6 server offering non-temporary addresses. It MUST be set to some value between 1 and 7 included (4 is the default) if the router is capable of providing such addresses and 0 otherwise. The values 8-15 are reserved for future use.

**L-capability:** Priority value used for electing the on-link DHCPv4 server. It MUST be set to some value between 1 and 7 included (4 is the default) if the router is capable of running a legacy DHCPv4 server offering IPv4 addresses to clients and 0 otherwise. The values 8-15 are reserved for future use.

**User-Agent:** The user-agent is a human-readable UTF-8 string that describes the name and version of the current HNCP implementation.

## 10.2. External Connection TLV

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Type: EXTERNAL-CONNECTION (33)|                               Length                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Nested TLVs                               |

```

An External Connection TLV is a container TLV used to gather network configuration information associated with a single external connection ([Section 6.2](#)) to be shared across the HNCP network. A node MAY publish an arbitrary number of instances of this TLV to share the desired number of external connections.

### 10.2.1. Delegated Prefix TLV



```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|  Type: DELEGATED-PREFIX (34)  |          Length: >= 9          |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|          Valid Lifetime Since Origination          |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|          Preferred Lifetime Since Origination          |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
| Prefix Length |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+          Prefix [+ nested TLVs]          +
|

```

The Delegated Prefix TLV is used by HNCP routers to advertise prefixes which are allocated to the whole network and can be used for prefix assignment. Delegated Prefix TLVs are only valid inside External Connection TLVs and their prefixes MUST NOT overlap with those of other such TLVs in the same container.

**Valid Lifetime Since Origination:** The time in seconds the delegated prefix was valid for at the origination time of the node data containing this TLV. The value MUST be updated whenever the node republishes its Node State TLV.

**Preferred Lifetime Since Origination:** The time in seconds the delegated prefix was preferred for at the origination time of the node data containing this TLV. The value MUST be updated whenever the node republishes its Node State TLV.

**Prefix Length:** The number of significant bits in the Prefix.

**Prefix:** Significant bits of the prefix padded with zeroes up to the next byte boundary.

**Nested TLVs:** Other TLVs included in the Delegated Prefix TLV starting at the next 32-bit boundary following the end of the encoded prefix.

#### [10.2.1.1](#). Prefix Policy TLV

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|  Type: PREFIX-POLICY (43)  |          Length: >= 1          |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|  Policy Type  |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+          Value          +
|

```



The Prefix Policy TLV contains information about the policy or applicability of a delegated prefix. This information can be used to determine whether prefixes for a certain usecase (e.g., local reachability, internet connectivity) do exist or should be acquired and to make decisions about assigning prefixes to certain links or to fine-tune border firewalls. See [Section 6.2](#) for a more in-depth discussion. This TLV is only valid inside a Delegated Prefix TLV.

Policy Type: The type of the policy identifier.

- 0 : Internet connectivity (no Value).
- 1-128 : Explicit destination prefix with the Policy Type being the actual length of the prefix (Value contains significant bits of the destination prefix padded with zeroes up to the next byte boundary).
- 129 : DNS Zone (Value contains an [RFC 1035](#) [[RFC1035](#)] encoded DNS label sequence).
- 130 : Opaque UTF-8 string (e.g., for administrative purposes).
- 131 : Restrictive Assignment (no Value).
- 132-255: Reserved for future additions.

Value: A variable length identifier of the given type.

### [10.2.2](#). DHCPv6 Data TLV

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Type: DHCPV6-DATA (37)   |           Length: > 0           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               DHCPv6 option stream                               |

```

This TLV is used to encode auxiliary IPv6 configuration information (e.g., recursive DNS servers) encoded as a stream of DHCPv6 options. It is only valid in an External Connection TLV or a Delegated Prefix TLV encoding an IPv6 prefix and MUST NOT occur more than once in any single container. When included in an External Connection TLV, it contains DHCPv6 options relevant to the External Connection as a whole. When included in a Delegated Prefix, it contains options mandatory to handle said prefix.

DHCPv6 option stream: DHCPv6 options encoded as specified in [\[RFC3315\]](#).





**10.2.3. DHCPv4 Data TLV**

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Type: DHCPV4-DATA (38)      |      Length: > 0      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                DHCPv4 option stream        |

```

This TLV is used to encode auxiliary IPv4 configuration information (e.g., recursive DNS servers) encoded as a stream of DHCPv4 options. It is only valid in an External Connection TLV and MUST NOT occur more than once in any single container. It contains DHCPv4 options relevant to the External Connection as a whole.

DHCPv4 option stream: DHCPv4 options encoded as specified in [\[RFC2131\]](#).

**10.3. Assigned Prefix TLV**

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Type: ASSIGNED-PREFIX (35) |      Length: >= 6      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                Endpoint Identifier        |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Rsv. | Prty. | Prefix Length |                          |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                Prefix                      |

```

This TLV is used to announce Published Assigned Prefixes for the purposes of prefix assignment ([Section 6.3](#)).

Endpoint Identifier: The endpoint identifier of the local interface the prefix is assigned to, or 0 if it is assigned to a Private Link (e.g., when the prefix is assigned for downstream prefix delegation).

Rsv.: Bits are reserved for future use. They MUST be set to zero when creating this TLV, and their value MUST be ignored when processing the TLV.

Prty: The Advertised Prefix Priority from 0 to 15.

0-1 : Low priorities.

2 : Default priority.



### 10.5. DNS Delegated Zone TLV



```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Type: DNS-DELEGATED-ZONE (39) |           Length: >= 17           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               |                                     |
|                               | IP Address                         |
|                               |                                     |
|                               |                                     |
|                               |                                     |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|Reserved |L|B|S|              |                                     |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               | Zone (DNS label sequence - variable length) |
|                               |                                     |

```

This TLV is used to announce a forward or reverse DNS zone delegation in the HNCP network. Its meaning is roughly equivalent to specifying an NS and A/AAAA record for said zone. Details are specified in [Section 8](#).

**IP Address :** The IPv6 address of the authoritative DNS server for the zone; IPv4 addresses are represented as IPv4-mapped addresses [[RFC4291](#)]. The special value of :: (all-zero) means the delegation is available in the global DNS-hierarchy.

**Reserved :** Those bits MUST be set to zero when creating the TLV and ignored when parsing it unless defined in a later specification.

**L-bit :** DNS-SD [[RFC6763](#)] Legacy-Browse, indicates that this delegated zone should be included in the network's DNS-SD legacy browse list of domains at lb.\_dns-sd.\_udp.(DOMAIN-NAME). Local forward zones SHOULD have this bit set, reverse zones SHOULD NOT.

**B-bit :** (DNS-SD [[RFC6763](#)] Browse) indicates that this delegated zone should be included in the network's DNS-SD browse list of domains at b.\_dns-sd.\_udp. (DOMAIN-NAME). Local forward zones SHOULD have this bit set, reverse zones SHOULD NOT.

**S-bit :** (fully-qualified DNS-SD [[RFC6763](#)] domain) indicates that this delegated zone consists of a fully-qualified DNS-SD domain, which should be used as base for DNS-SD domain enumeration, i.e., \_dns-sd.\_udp.(Zone) exists. Forward zones MAY have this bit set, reverse zones MUST NOT. This can be used to provision DNS search path to hosts for non-local services (such as those provided by an ISP, or other manually configured service providers). Zones with this flag SHOULD be added to the search domains advertised to clients.



Zone : The label sequence of the zone, encoded as the domain names are encoded DNS messages as specified in [\[RFC1035\]](#). The last label in the zone MUST be empty.

#### [10.6.](#) Domain Name TLV

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Type: DOMAIN-NAME (40)   |           Length: > 0           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|           Domain (DNS label sequence - variable length)       |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

This TLV is used to indicate the base domain name for the network as specified in [Section 8](#). This TLV MUST NOT be announced unless the domain name was explicitly configured by an administrator.

Domain: The label sequence encoded according to [\[RFC1035\]](#). Compression MUST NOT be used. The zone MUST end with an empty label.

#### [10.7.](#) Node Name TLV

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Type: NODE-NAME (41)   |           Length: > 16           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               IP Address                       |
|                               |                               |
|                               |                               |
|                               |                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|           Name (not null-terminated - variable length)       |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

This TLV is used to assign the name of a node in the network to a certain IP address as specified in [Section 8](#).

IP Address: The IP address associated with the name. IPv4 addresses are encoded using IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses.

Name: The name of the node as a single DNS label (up to 63 characters, no leading length byte).









- o In addition, normative language of Basic Requirements for IPv6 Customer Edge Routers [[RFC7084](#)] applies with the following adjustments:
  - \* The generic requirements G-4 and G-5 are relaxed such that any known default router on any interface is sufficient for a router to announce itself as default router, similarly only the loss of all such default routers results in self-invalidation.
  - \* The section "WAN-Side Configuration" applies to interfaces classified as external.
  - \* If the CE sends a size-hint as indicated in WPD-2, the hint MUST NOT be determined by the number of LAN-interfaces of the CE, but SHOULD instead be large enough to at least accommodate prefix assignments announced for existing delegated or ULA-prefixes, if such prefixes exist and unless explicitly configured otherwise.
  - \* The dropping of packets with a destination address belonging to a delegated prefix mandated in WPD-5 MUST NOT be applied to destinations that are part of any prefix announced using an Assigned Prefix TLV by any HNCP router in the network.
  - \* The section "LAN-Side Configuration" applies to interfaces not classified as external.
  - \* The requirement L-2 to assign a separate /64 to each LAN interface is replaced by the participation in the prefix assignment mechanism ([Section 6.3](#)) for each such interface.
  - \* The requirement L-9 is modified, in that the M flag MUST be set if and only if a router connected to the respective Common Link is advertising a non-zero H-capability.
  - \* The requirement L-12 to make DHCPv6 options available is adapted, in that a CER SHOULD publish the subset of options using the DHCPv6 Data TLV in an External Connection TLV. Similarly it SHOULD do the same for DHCPv4 options in a DHCPv4 Data TLV. DHCPv6 options received inside an OPTION\_IAPREFIX [[RFC3633](#)] MUST be published using a DHCPv6 Data TLV inside the respective Delegated Prefix TLV. HNCP routers SHOULD make relevant DHCPv6 and DHCPv4 options available to clients, i.e., options contained in External Connection TLVs that also include delegated prefixes from which a subset is assigned to the respective link.



- \* The requirement L-13 to deprecate prefixes is applied to all delegated prefixes in the network from which assignments have been made on the respective interface. Furthermore the Prefix Information Options indicating deprecation MUST be included in Router Advertisements for the remainder of the prefixes' respective valid lifetime, but MAY be omitted after at least 2 hours have passed.

## **12. Security Considerations**

HNCP enables self-configuring networks, requiring as little user intervention as possible. However this zero-configuration goal usually conflicts with security goals and introduces a number of threats.

General security issues for existing home networks are discussed in [[RFC7368](#)]. The protocols used to set up addresses and routes in such networks to this day rarely have security enabled within the configuration protocol itself. However these issues are out of scope for the security of HNCP itself.

HNCP is a DNCP-based state synchronization mechanism carrying information with varying threat potential. For this consideration the payloads defined in DNCP and this document are reviewed:

- o Network topology information such as HNCP nodes and their common links.
- o Address assignment information such as delegated and assigned prefixes for individual links.
- o Naming and service discovery information such as auto-generated or customized names for individual links and nodes.

### **12.1. Interface Classification**

As described in [Section 5.3](#), an HNCP node determines the internal or external state on a per-interface basis. A firewall perimeter is set up for the external interfaces, and for internal interfaces, HNCP traffic is allowed, with the exception of leaf and guest sub-categories.

Threats concerning automatic interface classification cannot be mitigated by encrypting or authenticating HNCP traffic itself since external routers do not participate in the protocol and often cannot be authenticated by other means. These threats include propagation of forged uplinks in the homenet in order to, e.g., redirect traffic



destined to external locations and forged internal status by external routers to, e.g., circumvent the perimeter firewall.

It is therefore imperative to either secure individual links on the physical or link-layer or preconfigure the adjacent interfaces of HNCP routers to an appropriate fixed category in order to secure the homenet border. Depending on the security of the external link eavesdropping, man-in-the-middle and similar attacks on external traffic can still happen between a homenet border router and the ISP, however these cannot be mitigated from inside the homenet. For example, DHCPv4 has defined [[RFC3118](#)] to authenticate DHCPv4 messages, but this is very rarely implemented in large or small networks. Further, while PPP can provide secure authentication of both sides of a point to point link, it is most often deployed with one-way authentication of the subscriber to the ISP, not the ISP to the subscriber.

### **12.2. Security of Unicast Traffic**

Once the homenet border has been established there are several ways to secure HNCP against internal threats like manipulation or eavesdropping by compromised devices on a link which is enabled for HNCP traffic. If left unsecured, attackers may perform arbitrary eavesdropping, spoofing or denial of service attacks on HNCP services such as address assignment or service discovery.

Detailed interface categories like "leaf" or "guest" can be used to integrate not fully trusted devices to various degrees into the homenet by not exposing them to HNCP traffic or by using firewall rules to prevent them from reaching homenet-internal resources.

On links where this is not practical and lower layers do not provide adequate protection from attackers, DNCP secure mode MUST be used to secure traffic.

### **12.3. Other Protocols in the Home**

IGPs and other protocols are usually run alongside HNCP therefore the individual security aspects of the respective protocols must be considered. It can however be summarized that many protocols to be run in the home (like IGPs) provide - to a certain extent - similar security mechanisms. Most of these protocols do not support encryption and only support authentication based on pre-shared keys natively. This influences the effectiveness of any encryption-based security mechanism deployed by HNCP as homenet routing information is thus usually not encrypted.





### **13. IANA Considerations**

IANA should set up a registry for the (decimal values within range 0-1023) "HNCP DNCP-profile TLV Types" under "Distributed Node Consensus Protocol (DNCP)", with the following initial contents: [TO BE REMOVED BY RFC-EDITOR: Ideally as <http://www.iana.org/assignments/hncp-registry>]

0-31: Reserved - specified in the DNCP registry

32: HNCP-Version

33: External-Connection

34: Delegated-Prefix

35: Assigned-Prefix

36: Node-Address

37: DHCPv4-Data

38: DHCPv6-Data

39: DNS-Delegated-Zone

40: Domain-Name

41: Node-Name

42: Managed-PSK

43: Prefix-Policy

44-512: Free - policy of 'standards action' should be used.

512-767: Reserved - specified in the DNCP registry

768-1023: Reserved - to be used for per-implementation experimentation. How collision is avoided is out of scope of this document.

HNCP requires allocation of UDP port numbers HNCP-UDP-PORT and HNCP-DTLS-PORT, as well as an IPv6 link-local multicast address All-Homenet-Nodes.



## **14. References**

### **14.1. Normative references**

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### **14.2. Informative references**

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### **14.3. URIs**

[3] <http://www.openwrt.org>

[4] <http://www.homewrt.org/doku.php?id=run-conf>

### **Appendix A. Changelog [RFC Editor: please remove]**

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-08](#): Editorial reorganization.

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-07](#): Using version 1 instead of version 0, as existing implementations already use it.

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-06](#): Various edits based on feedback, hopefully without functional delta.

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-05](#): Renamed "Adjacent Link" to "Common Link". Changed single IPv4 uplink election from MUST to MAY. Added explicit indication to distinguish (IPv4)-PDs for local connectivity and ones with uplink connectivity allowing, e.g., better local-only IPv4-connectivity.

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-04](#): Change the responsibility for sending RAs to the router assigning the prefix.

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-03](#): Split to DNCP (generic protocol) and HNCP (homenet profile).

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-02](#): Removed any built-in security. Relying on IPsec. Reorganized interface categories, added requirements languages, made manual border configuration a MUST-support. Redesigned routing protocol election to consider non-router devices.

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-01](#): Added (MAY) guest, ad-hoc, hybrid categories for interfaces. Removed old hnetv2 reference, and now pointing just to OpenWrt + github. Fixed synchronization algorithm to spread also same update number, but different data hash case. Made purge step require bidirectional connectivity between nodes when traversing the graph. Edited few other things to be hopefully slightly clearer without changing their meaning.

[draft-ietf-homenet-hncp-00](#): Added version TLV to allow for TLV content changes pre-RFC without changing IDs. Added link id to assigned address TLV.





**Appendix B. Draft source [RFC Editor: please remove]**

This draft is available at <https://github.com/fingon/ietf-drafts/> in source format. Issues and pull requests are welcome.

**Appendix C. Implementation [RFC Editor: please remove]**

A GPLv2-licensed implementation of HNCP is currently under development at <https://github.com/sbyx/hnetd/> and binaries are available in the OpenWrt [3] package repositories. See [4] for more information. Feedback and contributions are welcome.

**Appendix D. Acknowledgements**

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