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**Labeled IPsec Traffic Selector support for IKEv2**  
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Abstract

This document defines a new Traffic Selector (TS) Type for Internet Key Exchange version 2 to add support for negotiating Mandatory Access Control (MAC) security labels as a traffic selector of the Security Policy Database (SPD). Security Labels for IPsec are also known as "Labeled IPsec". The new TS type is TS\_SECLABEL, which consists of a variable length opaque field specifying the security label. This document updates the IKEv2 TS negotiation specified in [RFC 7296 Section 2.9](#).

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## [1.](#) Introduction

In computer security, Mandatory Access Control usually refers to systems in which all subjects and objects are assigned a security label. A security label is comprised of a set of security attributes. The security labels along with a system authorization policy determine access. Rules within the system authorization policy determine whether the access will be granted based on the security attributes of the subject and object.

Traditionally, security labels used by Multilevel Systems (MLS) are comprised of a sensitivity level (or classification) field and a compartment (or category) field, as defined in [[FIPS188](#)] and [[RFC5570](#)]. As MAC systems evolved, other MAC models gained in popularity. For example, SELinux, a Flux Advanced Security Kernel (FLASK) implementation, has security labels represented as colon-separated ASCII strings composed of values for identity, role, and type. The security labels are often referred to as security contexts.

Traffic Selector (TS) payloads specify the selection criteria for packets that will be forwarded over the newly set up IPsec SA as enforced by the Security Policy Database (SPD, see [[RFC4301](#)]). This



document updates the Traffic Selector negotiation specified in [Section 2.9 of \[RFC7296\]](#).

This document specifies a new Traffic Selector Type TS\_SECLABEL for IKEv2 that can be used to negotiate security labels as additional selectors for the Security Policy Database (SPD) to further restrict the type of traffic allowed to be sent and received over the IPsec SA.

### **[1.1.](#) Requirements Language**

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

### **[1.2.](#) Traffic Selector clarification**

The negotiation of Traffic Selectors is specified in [Section 2.9 of \[RFC7296\]](#) where it defines two TS Types (TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE and TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE). The Traffic Selector payload format is specified in [Section 3.13 of \[RFC7296\]](#). However, the term Traffic Selector is used to denote the traffic selector payloads and individual traffic selectors of that payload. Sometimes the exact meaning can only be learned from context or if the item is written in plural ("Traffic Selectors" or "TSs"). This section clarifies these terms as follows:

A Traffic Selector (no acronym) is one selector for traffic of a specific Traffic Selector Type (TS\_TYPE). For example a Traffic Selector of TS\_TYPE TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE for UDP traffic in the IP network 198.51.100.0/24 covering all ports, is denoted as (17, 0, 198.51.100.0-198.51.100.255)

A Traffic Selector payload (TS) is a set of one or more Traffic Selectors of the same or different TS\_TYPES, but MUST include at least one TS\_TYPE of TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE or TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE. For example, the above Traffic Selector by itself in a TS payload is denoted as TS((17, 0, 198.51.100.0-198.51.100.255))

### **[1.3.](#) Traffic Selector update**

The negotiation of Traffic Selectors is specified in [Section 2.9 of \[RFC7296\]](#) and states that the TSi/TSr payloads MUST contain at least one Traffic Selector type. This document updates the text to mean that the TSi/TSr payloads MUST contain at least one Traffic Selector of type TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE or TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE, as other Traffic



Selector types can be defined that are complimentary to these Traffic Selector Types and cannot be selected on their own without TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE or TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE. The below defined TS\_SECLABEL Traffic Selector Type is an example of this.

## 2. TS\_SECLABEL Traffic Selector Type

This document defines a new TS Type, TS\_SECLABEL that contains a single new opaque Security Label.

### 2.1. TS\_SECLABEL payload format

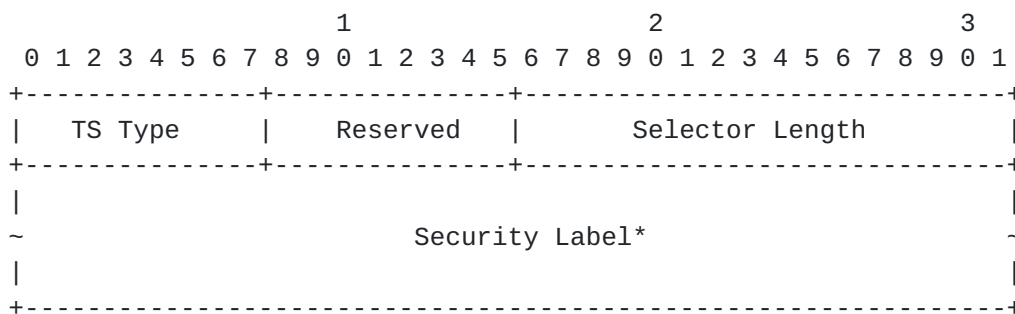


Figure 1: Labeled IPsec Traffic Selector

\*Note: All fields other than TS Type and Selector Length depend on the TS Type. The fields shown is for TS Type TS\_SECLABEL, the selector this document defines.

- o TS Type (one octet) - Set to [TBD] for TS\_SECLABEL,
- o Selector Length (2 octets, unsigned integer) - Specifies the length of this Traffic Selector substructure including the header.
- o Security Label - An opaque byte stream of at least one octet.

### 2.2. TS\_SECLABEL properties

The TS\_SECLABEL Traffic Selector Type does not support narrowing or wildcards. It MUST be used as an exact match value.

If the TS\_SECLABEL is present in a TSi/TSr, at least one Traffic Selector of type TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE or TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE MUST also be present in that TSi/TSr.

The Security Label contents are opaque to the IKE implementation. That is, the IKE implementation might not have any knowledge of the



meaning of this selector, other than as a type and opaque value to pass to the SPD.

A zero length Security Label MUST NOT be used. If a received TS payload contains a TS\_TYPE of TS\_SECLABEL with a zero length Security Label, that specific Traffic Selector MUST be ignored. If no other Traffic Selector of TS\_TYPE TS\_SECLABEL can be selected, a TS\_UNACCEPTABLE Error Notify message MUST be returned. A zero length Security Label MUST NOT be interpreted as a wildcard security label.

If multiple Security Labels are allowed for a given IP protocol, start and end address/port match, multiple TS\_SECLABEL can be included in a TS payload.

If the Security Label traffic selector is optional from a configuration point of view, the initiator will have to choose which TS payload to attempt first. If it includes the Security Label and receives a TS\_UNAVAILABLE, it can attempt a new Child SA negotiation without that Security Label.

A responder that selected a TS with TS\_SECLABEL MUST use the Security Label for all selector operations on the resulting IPsec SA. It MUST NOT select a TS\_set with a TS\_SECLABEL without using the specified Security Label, even if it deems the Security Label optional, as the initiator TS\_set with TS\_SECLABEL means the initiator mandates using that Security Label.

### **3. Traffic Selector negotiation**

This document updates the [[RFC7296](#)] specification as follows:

Each TS payload (TSi and TSr) MUST contain at least one TS\_TYPE of TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE or TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE.

Each TS payload (TSi or TSr) MAY contain one or more other TS\_TYPES, such as TS\_SECLABEL.

A responder MUST create its TS response by selecting one of each TS\_TYPE present in the offered TS by the initiator. If it cannot select one of each TS\_TYPE, it MUST return a TS\_UNAVAILABLE Error Notify payload.

If a specific TS\_TYPE (other than TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE or TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE which are mandatory) is deemed optional, the initiator SHOULD first try to negotiate the Child SA with the TS payload including the optional TS\_TYPE. Upon receiving TS\_UNAVAILABLE, it SHOULD attempt a new Child SA negotiation using the same TS but without the optional TS\_TYPE.





Some TS\_TYPE's support narrowing, where the responder is allowed to select a subset of the original TS. Narrowing MUST NOT result in an empty selector for that TS\_TYPE.

### **3.1. Example TS negotiation**

An initiator could send:

```
TSi = ((17,0,192.0.2.0-192.0.2.255),  
      (0,0,198.51.0-198.51.255),  
      TS_SECLABEL1, TS_SECLABEL2)  
  
TSr = ((17,0,203.0.113.0-203.0.113.255),  
      (0,0,203.0.113.0-203.0.113.255),  
      TS_SECLABEL1, TS_SECLABEL2)
```

Figure 2: initiator TS payloads example

The responder could answer with the following example:

```
TSi = ((0,0,198.51.0-198.51.255),  
      TS_SECLABEL1)  
  
TSr = (((0,0,203.0.113.0-203.0.113.255),  
      TS_SECLABEL1)
```

Figure 3: responder TS payloads example

### **3.2. Considerations for using multiple TS\_TYPES in a TS**

It would be unlikely that the traffic for TSi and TSr would have a different Security Label, but this specification does allow this to be specified. If the initiator does not support this, and wants to prevent the responder from picking different labels for the TSi / TSr payloads, it should attempt a Child SA negotiation with only the first Security Label first, and upon failure retry a new Child SA negotiation with only the second Security Label.

If different IP ranges can only use different specific Security Labels, than these should be negotiated in two different Child SA negotiations. If in the example above, the initiator only allows 192.0.2.0/24 with TS\_SECLABEL1, and 198.51.0/24 with TS\_SECLABEL2, than it MUST NOT combine these two ranges and security labels into one Child SA negotiation.



Narrowing of Traffic Selectors currently only applies only to TS\_IPV4\_ADDR\_RANGE and TS\_IPV6\_ADDR\_RANGE and not to TS\_SECLABEL as the Security Label itself is not interpreted and cannot itself be narrowed. It MUST be matched exactly. Rekey of an IPsec SA MUST only use identical Traffic Selectors, which means the same TS Type and selectors MUST be used. This guarantees that a Security Label once negotiated, remains part of the IPsec SA after a rekey.

#### 4. Security Considerations

It is assumed that the Security Label can be matched by the IKE implementation to its own configured value, even if the IKE implementation itself cannot interpret the Security Label value.

#### 5. IANA Considerations

This document defines two new entries in the IKEv2 Traffic Selector Types registry:

Value	TS Type	Reference
-----	-----	-----
TBD	TS_SECLABEL	[this document]

Figure 4

#### 6. Acknowledgements

A large part of the introduction text was taken verbatim from [draft-jml-ipsec-ikev2-security-label] whose authors are J Latten, D. Quigley and J. Lu.

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##### 7.1. Normative References

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