

MPLS
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: August 6, 2010

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February 2, 2010

Definition of ACH TLV Structure
draft-ietf-mpls-tp-ach-tlv-01

Abstract

In some application of the associated channel header (ACH), it is necessary to have the ability to include a set of TLVs to provide additional context information for the ACH payload. This document defines a number of TLV types.

The following notes (up until the start of "Requirements Language" will be deleted before Working Group Last Call

NOTE the family of Address Types is known to be incomplete. The authors request that members of the MPLS-TP community provide details of their required address formats in the form of text for the creation of an additional sections similar to [Section 3.1](#).

NOTE other TLV types will be added in further revisions of this document. The authors request that members if the MPLS-TP community requiring new TLVs to complete there MPLS-TP specifications provide details of their required TLV in the form of text for the creation of additional sections similar to [Section 2.2](#).

NOTE The intension is to keep this document as a living list of TLVs for some time. When the Working Groups consider that we have captured the majority of the TLVs we will close the document and submit for publication.

Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119](#) [1].

Status of this Memo

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1. Introduction

The MPLS generic associated channel header specification [7] (GACH) describes a TLV structure that is used to provide additional context information for the ACH payload. This document defines a number of TLVs that are required by the MPLS-TP design [8], [9]. One use of these TLVs is to identify the source and/or intended destination of the ACH payload for use in transport networks. However the use of this construct is not limited to providing addressing information nor is the applicability restricted to transport network applications.

Additionally TLVs from defined in this document may be used as sub-TLVs in the construction of compound TLV structures.

2. ACH TLV Object Definitions

This section provides the definition for a number of ACH TLV objects. In each case the length in the TLV header is the length of just the value component.

2.1. The Null TLV Object

The Null TLV provides an OPTIONAL mechanism of restoring 32bit alignment of the following element in the packet and also provides an OPTIONAL mechanism to reserve space in the packet to be used by TLV objects that will be written by LSR that perform some operation on the packet at a later time. For security reasons the value must be zero.

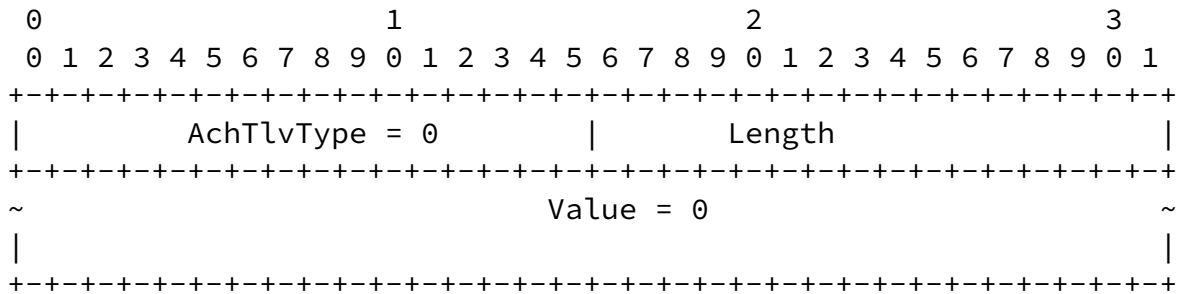


Figure 1: Null TLV Object

[2.2.](#) Source Address

This TLV specifies the source address (SA) of an ACH packet.

Where the packet is associated with a maintenance request/response operation it refers to the requester of the operation, i.e. It is the address of the Maintenance End Point that initiated the operation being either requested, or being responded to.

The address is an ACH address as described in [Section 3](#).

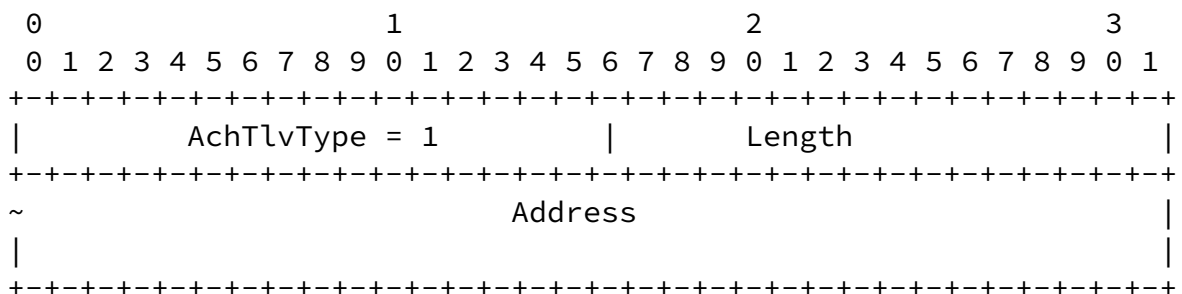


Figure 2: Source Address

2.3. Destination Address

This TLV specifies the destination address (DA) of an ACH packet.

Where the packet is associated with a maintenance request/response operation it refers to the target of the operation, i.e. It is the address of the Maintenance End Point or Maintenance Intermediate Point that has been requested to execute the operation being either requested, or being responded to.

The address is an ACH address as described in [Section 3](#).

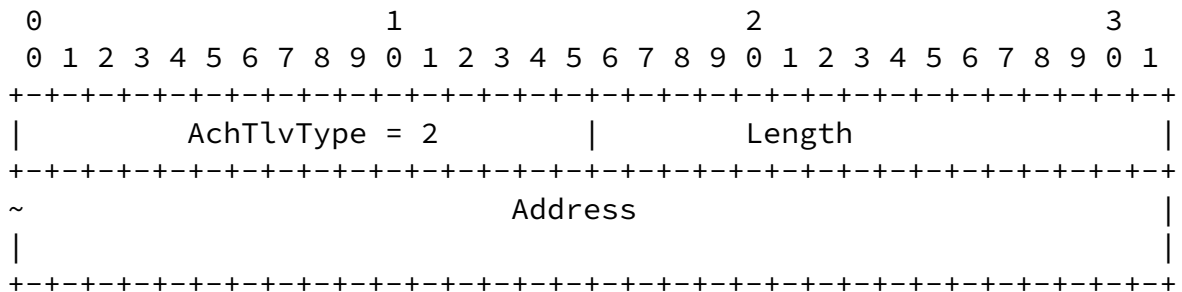


Figure 3: Destination Address

2.4. Label Switched Path Identifier (LSPI)

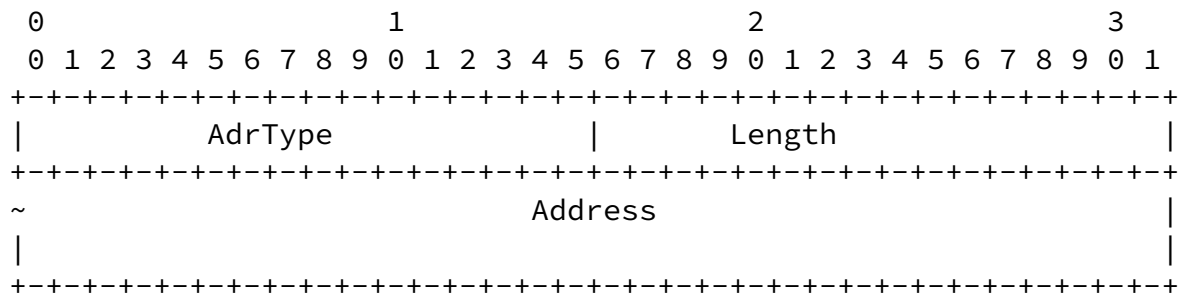
Figure 5: Pseudowire Identifier

This will draw on the contents of [2]. Further material will be added in a future version of this document.

3. ACH Addresses

This section is incomplete. Definitions of other address types will be provided in a future version of this document. The authors would like to take input from other members of the MPLS-TP design community as to the required additional addressing types and the correct way to represent them in this framework.

Addresses are expressed in the following TLV format. This representation allows ACH TLVs to be specified in a format that is independent of the address that are to be used in the TV instance. Although many address types are of fixed length, and some which are not incorporate a length indicator, this may not always be the case and hence a length field is incorporated in the address TLV.



3.1. IPv4 Address

Name	Type	Length (octets)	Description	Reference
Null	0	3	Null TLV	This Draft
SA	1	var	Source Addr	This Draft
DA	2	var	Dest Addr	This Draft
LSPI	3	var	LSP Identifier	This Draft
PWI	4	var	PW Identifier	This Draft
PID	5	2	ACH Protocol ID	This Draft

The ACH Address Type Registry should be initialized with the following entries. The allocation policy for this registry is IETF consensus.

Name	Type	Length (octets)	Description	Reference
Null	0		Reserved	
IPv4	1	4	IPv4 Address	This Draft
IPv6	2	16	IPv6 Address	This Draft

[6.](#) References

[6.1.](#) Normative References

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Expires August 6, 2010

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