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A YANG Data Model for Interface Configuration
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Abstract

This document defines a YANG data model for the configuration of network interfaces. It is expected that interface type specific configuration data models augment the generic interfaces data model defined in this document.

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1. Introduction

This document defines a YANG [[RFC6020](#)] data model for the configuration of network interfaces. It is expected that interface type specific configuration data models augment the generic interfaces data model defined in this document.

Network interfaces are central to the configuration of many Internet protocols. Thus, it is important to establish a common data model for how interfaces are identified and configured.

1.1. Terminology

The keywords "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](#)].

The following terms are defined in [[RFC6241](#)] and are not redefined here:

- o client
- o server

The following terms are defined in [[RFC6020](#)] and are not redefined here:

- o augment
- o data model
- o data node

2. Objectives

This section describes some of the design objectives for the model presented in [Section 5](#).

- o It is recognized that existing implementations will have to map the interface data model defined in this memo to their proprietary native data model. The new data model should be simple to facilitate such mappings.
- o The data model should be suitable for new implementations to use as-is, without requiring a mapping to a different native model.
- o References to interfaces should be as simple as possible, preferably by using a single leafref.
- o The mapping to ifIndex [[RFC2863](#)] used by SNMP to identify interfaces must be clear.
- o The model must support interface layering, both simple layering where one interface is layered on top of exactly one other interface, and more complex scenarios where one interface is aggregated over N other interfaces, or when N interfaces are multiplexed over one other interface.
- o The data model should support the pre-provisioning of interface configuration, i.e., it should be possible to configure an interface whose physical interface hardware is not present on the device. It is recommended that devices that support dynamic

addition and removal of physical interfaces also support pre-provisioning.

[3.](#) Interfaces Data Model

The data model in the module "ietf-interfaces" has the following structure, where square brackets are used to enclose a list's keys, and "?" means that the leaf is optional:

```
+--rw interfaces
  +--rw interface [name]
    +--rw name                string
    +--rw description?       string
    +--rw type                ianaift:iana-if-type
    +--rw location?          string
    +--rw enabled?           boolean
    +--ro if-index            int32
    +--rw mtu?                uint32
    +--rw link-up-down-trap-enable? enumeration
```

This module defines one YANG feature:

snmp-if-mib: Indicates that the server implements IF-MIB [[RFC2863](#)].

[3.1.](#) The interface List

The data model for interface configuration presented in this document uses a flat list of interfaces. Each interface in the list is identified by its name. Furthermore, each interface has a mandatory "type" leaf, and a "location" leaf. The combination of "type" and "location" is unique within the interface list.

It is expected that interface type specific data models augment the interface list, and use the "type" leaf to make the augmentation conditional.

As an example of such an interface type specific augmentation, consider this YANG snippet. For a more complete example, see [Appendix A](#).

```
import interfaces {
  prefix "if";
}

augment "/if:interfaces/if:interface" {
  when "if:type = 'ethernetCsmacd'";

  container ethernet {
    leaf duplex {
      ...
    }
  }
}
```

The "location" leaf is a string. It is optional in the data model,

but if the type represents a physical interface, it is mandatory. The format of this string is device- and type-dependent. The device uses the location string to identify the physical or logical entity that the configuration applies to. For example, if a device has a single array of 8 ethernet ports, the location can be one of the strings "1" to "8". As another example, if a device has N cards of M ports, the location can be on the form "n/m", such as "1/0".

How a client can learn which types and locations are present on a certain device is outside the scope of this document.

[3.2.](#) Interface References

An interface is identified by its name, which is unique within the server. This property is captured in the "interface-ref" typedef, which other YANG modules SHOULD use when they need to reference an existing interface.

[3.3.](#) Interface Layering

There is no generic mechanism for how an interface is configured to be layered on top of some other interface. It is expected that interface type specific models define their own data nodes for interface layering, by using "interface-ref" types to reference lower layers.

Below is an example of a model with such nodes. For a more complete example, see [Appendix B](#).

```
augment "/if:interfaces/if:interface" {
  when "if:type = 'ieee8023adLag'";

  leaf-list slave-if {
    type if:interface-ref;
    must "/if:interfaces/if:interface[if:name = current()]"
      + "/if:type = 'ethernetCsmacd'" {
      description
```

```
        "The type of a slave interface must be ethernet";
    }
}
// other bonding config params, failover times etc.
}
```

If the device implements IF-MIB [[RFC2863](#)], each entry in the "interface" list is typically mapped to one ifEntry. The "if-index" leaf contains the value of the corresponding ifEntry's ifIndex.

In most cases, the "name" of an "interface" entry is mapped to ifName. ifName is defined as an DisplayString [[RFC2579](#)] which uses a 7-bit ASCII character set. An implementation MAY restrict the allowed values for "name" to match the restrictions of ifName.

The IF-MIB allows two different ifEntries to have the same ifName. Devices that support this feature, and also support the configuration of these interfaces using the "interface" list, cannot have a 1-1 mapping between the "name" leaf and ifName.

The IF-MIB also defines the writable object ifPromiscuousMode. Since this object typically is not a configuration object, it is not mapped to the "ietf-interfaces" module.

The following table lists the YANG data nodes with corresponding objects in the IF-MIB.

| YANG data node | IF-MIB object |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| interface | ifEntry |
| name | ifName |
| description | ifAlias |
| type | ifType |
| enabled | ifAdminStatus |
| if-index | ifIndex |
| mtu | ifMtu |
| link-up-down-trap-enable | ifLinkUpDownTrapEnable |

Mapping of YANG data nodes to IF-MIB objects

5. Interfaces YANG Module

This YANG module imports a typedef from [\[I-D.ietf-netmod-iana-if-type\]](#).

RFC Ed.: update the date below with the date of RFC publication and remove this note.

```
<CODE BEGINS> file "ietf-interfaces@2012-07-14.yang"
```

```
module ietf-interfaces {  
  
    namespace "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-interfaces";  
    prefix if;  
  
    import iana-if-type {  
        prefix ianaift;  
    }  
  
    organization  
        "IETF NETMOD (NETCONF Data Modeling Language) Working Group";  
  
    contact  
        "WG Web: <http://tools.ietf.org/wg/netmod/>  
        WG List: <mailto:netmod@ietf.org>  
  
        WG Chair: David Kessens  
                <mailto:david.kessens@nsn.com>  
  
        WG Chair: Juergen Schoenwaelder  
                <mailto:j.schoenwaelder@jacobs-university.de>  
  
        Editor: Martin Bjorklund  
              <mailto:mbj@tail-f.com>";  
  
    description  
        "This module contains a collection of YANG definitions for  
        configuring network interfaces.
```

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```
    This version of this YANG module is part of RFC XXXX; see
    the RFC itself for full legal notices.";

// RFC Ed.: replace XXXX with actual RFC number and remove this
// note.

// RFC Ed.: update the date below with the date of RFC publication
// and remove this note.
revision 2012-07-14 {
    description
        "Initial revision.";
    reference
        "RFC XXXX: A YANG Data Model for Interface Configuration";
}

/* Typedefs */

typedef interface-ref {
    type leafref {
        path "/if:interfaces/if:interface/if:name";
    }
    description
        "This type is used by data models that need to reference
        interfaces.";
}

/* Features */

feature snmp-if-mib {
    description
        "This feature indicates that the server implements IF-MIB.";
    reference
        "RFC 2863: The Interfaces Group MIB";
}

/* Data nodes */

container interfaces {
    description
```

```
"Interface parameters.";

list interface {
  key "name";
  unique "type location";

  description
    "The list of configured interfaces on the device.";
```

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```
leaf name {
  type string;
  description
    "An arbitrary name for the interface.

    A device MAY restrict the allowed values for this leaf,
    possibly depending on the type and location.

    For example, if a device has a single array of 8 ethernet
    ports, the name might be restricted to be on the form
    'ethN', where N is an integer between '1' and '8'.

    This leaf MAY be mapped to ifName by an implementation.
    Such an implementation MAY restrict the allowed values for
    this leaf so that it matches the restrictions of ifName.
    If a NETCONF server that implements this restriction is
    sent a value that doesn't match the restriction, it MUST
    reply with an rpc-error with the error-tag
    'invalid-value.'";
  reference
    "RFC 2863: The Interfaces Group MIB - ifName";
}

leaf description {
  type string;
  description
    "A textual description of the interface.

    This leaf MAY be mapped to ifAlias by an implementation.
    Such an implementation MAY restrict the allowed values for
    this leaf so that it matches the restrictions of ifAlias.
    If a NETCONF server that implements this restriction is
```

```
    sent a value that doesn't match the restriction, it MUST
    reply with an rpc-error with the error-tag
    'invalid-value.'";
  reference
    "RFC 2863: The Interfaces Group MIB - ifAlias";
}
```

```
leaf type {
  type ianaift:iana-if-type;
  mandatory true;
  description
    "The type of the interface.
```

When an interface entry is created, a server MAY initialize the type leaf with a valid value, e.g., if it is possible to derive the type from the name of the

```
    interface.";
}
```

```
leaf location {
  type string;
  description
    "The device-specific location of the interface of a
    particular type. The format of the location string
    depends on the interface type and the device.
```

If the interface's type represents a physical interface, this leaf MUST be set.

For example, if a device has a single array of 8 ethernet ports, the location can be one of '1' to '8'. As another example, if a device has N cards of M ports, the location can be on the form 'n/m'.

```
When an interface entry is created, a server MAY
initialize the location leaf with a valid value, e.g., if
it is possible to derive the location from the name of
the interface.";
}
```

```
leaf enabled {
```

```

type boolean;
default "true";
description
    "The desired state of the interface.

    This leaf contains the configured, desired state of the
    interface. Systems that implement the IF-MIB use the
    value of this leaf to set IF-MIB.ifAdminStatus to 'up' or
    'down' after an ifEntry has been initialized, as described
    in RFC 2863.";
reference
    "RFC 2863: The Interfaces Group MIB - ifAdminStatus";
}

leaf if-index {
    if-feature snmp-if-mib;
    type int32 {
        range "1..2147483647";
    }
    config false;
    description
        "The ifIndex value for the ifEntry represented by this
        interface."

```

```

    Media-specific modules must specify how the type is
    mapped to entries in the ifTable.";
reference
    "RFC 2863: The Interfaces Group MIB - ifIndex";
}

leaf mtu {
    type uint32;
    description
        "The size, in octets, of the largest packet that the
        interface can send and receive. This node might not be
        valid for all interface types.

        Media-specific modules must specify any restrictions on
        the mtu for their interface type.";
}

leaf link-up-down-trap-enable {

```

```

if-feature snmp-if-mib;
type enumeration {
    enum enabled {
        value 1;
    }
    enum disabled {
        value 2;
    }
}
description
    "Indicates whether linkUp/linkDown SNMP notifications
    should be generated for this interface.

    If this node is not configured, the value 'enabled' is
    operationally used by the server for interfaces which do
    not operate on top of any other interface (as defined in
    the ifStackTable), and 'disabled' otherwise.";
reference
    "RFC 2863: The Interfaces Group MIB -
    ifLinkUpDownTrapEnable";
}
}
}
}
}

```

<CODE ENDS>

[6.](#) IANA Considerations

This document registers a URI in the IETF XML registry [[RFC3688](#)]. Following the format in [RFC 3688](#), the following registration is requested to be made.

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-interfaces

Registrant Contact: The IESG.

XML: N/A, the requested URI is an XML namespace.

This document registers a YANG module in the YANG Module Names registry [[RFC6020](#)].

name: ietf-interfaces
namespace: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-interfaces
prefix: if
reference: RFC XXXX

[7](#). Security Considerations

The YANG module defined in this memo is designed to be accessed via the NETCONF protocol [[RFC6241](#)]. The lowest NETCONF layer is the

secure transport layer and the mandatory-to-implement secure transport is SSH [[RFC6242](#)].

There are a number of data nodes defined in the YANG module which are writable/creatable/deletable (i.e., config true, which is the default). These data nodes may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. Write operations (e.g., <edit-config>) to these data nodes without proper protection can have a negative effect on network operations. These are the subtrees and data nodes and their sensitivity/vulnerability:

/interfaces/interface: This list specifies the configured interfaces on a device. Unauthorized access to this list could cause the device to ignore packets it should receive and process.

/interfaces/interface/enabled: This leaf controls if an interface is enabled or not. Unauthorized access to this leaf could cause the device to ignore packets it should receive and process.

/interfaces/interface/mtu: Setting this leaf to a very small value can be used to slow down interfaces.

[8.](#) Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Alexander Clemm, Per Hedeland, Ladislav Lhotka, and Juergen Schoenwaelder for their helpful comments.

[9.](#) References

[9.1.](#) Normative References

- [I-D.ietf-netmod-iana-if-type]
Bjorklund, M., "IANA Interface Type and Address Family YANG Modules", [draft-ietf-netmod-iana-if-type-02](#) (work in progress), April 2012.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC2863] McCloghrie, K. and F. Kastenholz, "The Interfaces Group MIB", [RFC 2863](#), June 2000.
- [RFC3688] Mealling, M., "The IETF XML Registry", [BCP 81](#), [RFC 3688](#), January 2004.
- [RFC6020] Bjorklund, M., "YANG - A Data Modeling Language for the Network Configuration Protocol (NETCONF)", [RFC 6020](#), October 2010.

[9.2.](#) Informative References

- [RFC2579] McCloghrie, K., Ed., Perkins, D., Ed., and J. Schoenwaelder, Ed., "Textual Conventions for SMIV2", STD 58, [RFC 2579](#), April 1999.
- [RFC6241] Enns, R., Bjorklund, M., Schoenwaelder, J., and A. Bierman, "Network Configuration Protocol (NETCONF)", [RFC 6241](#), June 2011.
- [RFC6242] Wasserman, M., "Using the NETCONF Protocol over Secure Shell (SSH)", [RFC 6242](#), June 2011.

[Appendix A](#). Example: Ethernet Interface Module

This section gives a simple example of how an Ethernet interface module could be defined. It demonstrates how media-specific configuration parameters can be conditionally augmented to the generic interface list. It is not intended as a complete module for ethernet configuration.

```
module ex-ethernet {
  namespace "http://example.com/ethernet";
  prefix "eth";

  import ietf-interfaces {
    prefix if;
  }

  augment "/if:interfaces/if:interface" {
    when "if:type = 'ethernetCsmacd'";

    container ethernet {
      must "../if:location" {
        description
          "An ethernet interface must specify the physical location
          of the ethernet hardware.";
      }
      choice transmission-params {
        case auto {
          leaf auto-negotiate {
            type empty;
          }
        }
        case manual {
          leaf duplex {
            type enumeration {
```



```

    must "/if:interfaces/if:interface[if:name = current()]"
      + "/if:type = 'ethernetCsmacd'" {
      description
        "The type of a slave interface must be ethernet.";
    }
  }
leaf bonding-mode {
  type enumeration {
    enum round-robin;
    enum active-backup;
    enum broadcast;
  }
}
// other bonding config params, failover times etc.
}
}

```

[Appendix C](#). Example: VLAN Interface Module

This section gives an example of how a vlan interface module can be defined.

```

module ex-vlan {
  namespace "http://example.com/vlan";
  prefix "vlan";

  import ietf-interfaces {
    prefix if;
  }
}

```

```

augment "/if:interfaces/if:interface" {
  when "if:type = 'ethernetCsmacd' or
        if:type = 'ieee8023adLag'";
  leaf vlan-tagging {
    type boolean;
    default false;
  }
}

augment "/if:interfaces/if:interface" {
  when "if:type = 'l2vlan'";

  leaf base-interface {
    type if:interface-ref;
    must "/if:interfaces/if:interface[if:name = current()]"
      + "/vlan:vlan-tagging = true" {
      description
        "The base interface must have vlan tagging enabled.";
    }
  }
  leaf vlan-id {
    type uint16 {
      range "1..4094";
    }
    must "../base-interface";
  }
}
}

```

[Appendix D](#). Example: NETCONF <get> reply

This section gives an example of a reply to the NETCONF <get> request for a device that implements the example data models above.

```
<rpc-reply
  xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0"
  message-id="101">
  <data>
    <interfaces
      xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-interfaces">
      <interface>
        <name>eth0</name>
        <type>ethernetCsmacd</type>
        <location>0</location>
        <enabled>true</enabled>
        <if-index>2</if-index>
      </interface>
      <interface>
        <name>eth1</name>
        <type>ethernetCsmacd</type>
        <location>1</location>
        <enabled>true</enabled>
        <if-index>7</if-index>
        <vlan-tagging
          xmlns="http://example.com/vlan">true</vlan-tagging>
        </interface>
      </interfaces>
    </data>
  </rpc-reply>
```

[Appendix E](#). ChangeLog

RFC Editor: remove this section upon publication as an RFC.

[E.1](#). Version -05

- o Added an Informative References section.
- o Updated the Security Considerations section.
- o Clarified the behavior of an NETCONF server when invalid values are received.

[E.2](#). Version -04

- o Clarified why ifPromiscuousMode is not part of this data model.
- o Added a table that shows the mapping between this YANG data model and IF-MIB.

[E.3](#). Version -03

- o Added the section Relationship to the IF-MIB.
- o Changed if-index to be a leaf instead of leaf-list.
- o Explained the notation used in the data model tree picture.

[E.4](#). Version -02

- o Editorial fixes

[E.5](#). Version -01

- o Changed leaf "if-admin-status" to leaf "enabled".
- o Added Security Considerations

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