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**RADIUS Attributes for IEEE 802 Networks**  
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Abstract

[RFC 3580](#) provides guidelines for the use of the Remote Authentication Dialin User Service (RADIUS) within IEEE 802 local area networks (LANs). This document proposes additional attributes for use within IEEE 802 networks, as well as providing clarifications on the usage of the EAP-Key-Name attribute, updating [RFC 4072](#). The attributes defined in this document are usable both within RADIUS and Diameter.

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## **1. Introduction**

In situations where it is desirable to centrally manage authentication, authorization and accounting (AAA) for IEEE 802 [[IEEE-802](#)] networks, deployment of a backend authentication and accounting server is desirable. In such situations, it is expected that IEEE 802 authenticators will function as AAA clients.

"IEEE 802.1X Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) Usage Guidelines" [[RFC3580](#)] defined guidelines for the use of the Remote Authentication Dialin User Service (RADIUS) within networks utilizing IEEE 802 local area networks. This document defines additional attributes suitable for usage by IEEE 802 authenticators acting as AAA clients. The attributes defined in this document are usable both within RADIUS and Diameter.

### **1.1. Terminology**

This document uses the following terms:

**Access Point (AP)**

A Station that provides access to the distribution services via the wireless medium for associated Stations.

**Association**      The service used to establish Access Point/Station mapping and enable Station invocation of the distribution system services.

**authenticator**    An authenticator is an entity that require authentication from the supplicant. The authenticator may be connected to the supplicant at the other end of a point-to-point LAN segment or wireless link.

**authentication server**

An authentication server is an entity that provides an authentication service to an authenticator. This service verifies from the credentials provided by the supplicant, the claim of identity made by the supplicant.

**Station (STA)**    Any device that contains an IEEE 802.11 conformant medium access control (MAC) and physical layer (PHY) interface to the wireless medium (WM).

**Supplicant**      A supplicant is an entity that is being authenticated by an authenticator. The supplicant may be connected to the authenticator at one end of a point-to-point LAN segment or 802.11 wireless link.



## 1.2. Requirements Language

In this document, several words are used to signify the requirements of the specification. 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 [\[RFC2119\]](#).

## 2. RADIUS attributes

### 2.1. Allowed-Called-Station-Id

Description

The Allowed-Called-Station-Id Attribute allows the RADIUS server to specify the authenticator MAC addresses and/or networks to which the user is allowed to connect. One or more Allowed-Called-Station-Id attributes MAY be included in an Access-Accept or CoA-Request packet.

A summary of the Allowed-Called-Station-Id Attribute format is shown below. The fields are transmitted from left to right.

```

      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   | Length |                               String...
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Code

TBD1

Length

>=3

String

The String field is one or more octets, containing the layer 2 endpoint that the user's call is allowed to be terminated on, as specified in the definition of Called-Station-Id in [\[RFC2865\] Section 5.30](#) and [\[RFC3580\] Section 3.20](#). In the case of IEEE 802, the Allowed-Called-Station-Id Attribute is used to store the Medium Access Control (MAC) address in ASCII format (upper case only), with octet values separated by a "-". Example: "00-10-A4-23-19-C0". Where restrictions on both the network and authenticator MAC address usage are intended, the network name





MUST be appended to the authenticator MAC address, separated from the MAC address with a ":". Example: "00-10-A4-23-19-C0:AP1". Where no MAC address restriction is intended, the MAC address field MUST be omitted, but the network name field MUST be included. Example: "AP1". Within IEEE 802.11 [[IEEE-802.11](#)], the SSID constitutes the network name; within IEEE 802.1X [[IEEE-802.1X](#)], the Network-Id Name (NID-Name) constitutes the network name. Since a NID-Name can be up to 253 octets in length, when used with [[IEEE-802.1X](#)], there may not be sufficient room within the Allowed-Called-Station-Id Attribute to include a MAC address.

If the user attempts to connect to the NAS from a Called-Station-Id that does not match one of the Allowed-Called-Station-Id attributes, then the user MUST NOT be permitted to access the network.

The Allowed-Called-Station-Id Attribute can be useful in the following situations:

- [1] Where users can connect to a NAS without an Access-Request being sent by the NAS to the RADIUS server (e.g. where key caching is supported within IEEE 802.11 or IEEE 802.1X [[IEEE-802.1X](#)]). To avoid elevation of privilege attacks, key cache entries are typically only usable within the network to which the user originally authenticated (e.g. the originally selected network name is implicitly attached to the key cache entry). Also, if it is desired that access to a network name not be available from a particular authenticator MAC address, then the authenticator can be set up not to advertise that particular network name.
- [2] Where pre-authentication may be supported (e.g. IEEE 802.1X pre-authentication). In this situation, the network name typically will not be included in a Called-Station-Id Attribute within the Access-Request, so that the RADIUS server will not know the network that the user is attempting to access. As a result, the RADIUS server may desire to restrict the networks to which the user can subsequently connect.
- [3] Where the network portion of the Called-Station-Id is present within an Access-Request, the RADIUS server can desire to authorize access to a network different from the one that the user selected.



The String field is one or more octets, containing the EAP Session-Id, as defined in "Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) Key Management Framework" [[RFC5247](#)]. Since the NAS operates as a pass-through in EAP, it cannot know the EAP Session-Id before receiving it from the RADIUS server. As a result, an EAP-Key-Name Attribute sent in an Access-Request MUST only contain a single NUL character. A RADIUS server receiving an Access-Request with an EAP-Key-Name Attribute containing anything other than a single NUL character MUST silently discard the Attribute. In addition, the RADIUS server SHOULD include this Attribute in an Access-Accept or CoA-Request only if an EAP-Key-Name Attribute was present in the Access-Request.













This Attribute sets the maximum number of seconds which pre-authentication state is required to be kept by the NAS, without being utilized within a user session. For example, when [\[IEEE-802.11\]](#) pre-authentication is used, if a user has not attempted to utilize the PMK derived as a result of pre-authentication within the time specified by the Preauth-Timeout Attribute, the PMK MAY be discarded by the Access Point. However, once the session is underway, the Preauth-Timeout Attribute has no



bearing on the maximum session time for the user, or the maximum time during which key state may be kept prior to re-authentication. This is determined by the Session-Timeout Attribute, if present.

This Attribute MAY be sent by the server to the NAS in an Access-Accept. A summary of the Preauth-Timeout Attribute format is shown below. The fields are transmitted from left to right.

```

      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   |   Length   |           Value           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
                        Value (cont)   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Code

TBD5

Length

6

Value

The field is 4 octets, containing a 32-bit unsigned integer encoding the maximum time in seconds that pre-authentication state should be retained by the NAS.

## 2.7. Network-Id-Name

Description

The Network-Id-Name Attribute is utilized by implementations of IEEE-802.1X [[IEEE-802.1X](#)] to specify the name of a Network-Id (NID-Name).

Unlike the IEEE 802.11 SSID (which is a maximum of 32 octets in length), the NID-Name may be up to 253 octets in length. Consequently, if the MAC address is included within the Called-Station-Id Attribute, it is possible that there will not be enough remaining space to encode the NID-Name as well. Therefore when used with IEEE 802.1X [[IEEE-802.1X](#)], the Called-Station-Id Attribute SHOULD contain only the MAC address, with the Network-Id-Name Attribute used to transmit the NID-Name. The Network-Id-Name Attribute SHOULD NOT be used to encode the IEEE 802.11 SSID;



as noted in [[RFC3580](#)], the Called-Station-Id Attribute is used for this purpose.

Zero or one Network-Id-Name Attribute is permitted within a RADIUS Access-Request or Accounting-Request packet. When included within an Access-Request packet, the Network-Id-Name Attribute represents a hint of the NID-Name to which the Supplicant should be granted access. In order to indicate which network names the Supplicant is permitted to access, the Allowed-Called-Station-Id Attribute is provided within an Access-Accept. When included within an Accounting-Request packet, the Network-Id-Name Attribute represents the NID-Name to which the Supplicant has been granted access.

A summary of the Network-Id-Name Attribute format is shown below. The fields are transmitted from left to right.

```

      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      | Length      |      String...      |
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Code

TBD6

Length

>=3

String

The String field is one or more octets, containing a NID-Name. For details, see [[IEEE-802.1X](#)]. A robust implementation SHOULD support the field as undistinguished octets.

## 2.8. Access-Info

Description

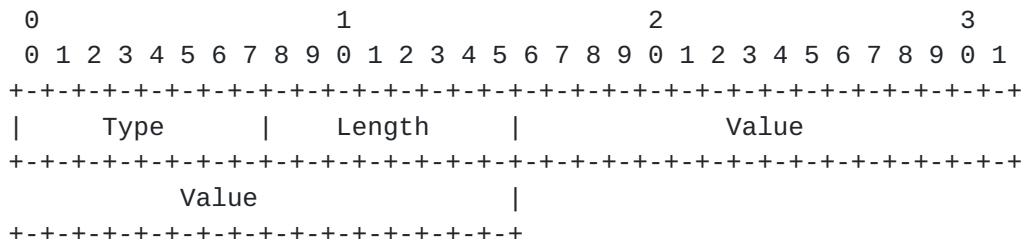
The Access-Info Attribute is utilized by implementations of IEEE-802.1X [[IEEE-802.1X](#)] to specify the Access status information field within an Access Information Type Length Value Tuple (TLV) to be sent to the user within MACsec Key Agreement (MKA) or EAPoL-Announcement frames.

A single Access-Info Attribute is permitted within a RADIUS



Access-Accept, Access-Challenge, Access-Reject or Accounting-Request packet.

A summary of the Access-Info Attribute format is shown below. The fields are transmitted from left to right.



Code

TBD7

Length

6

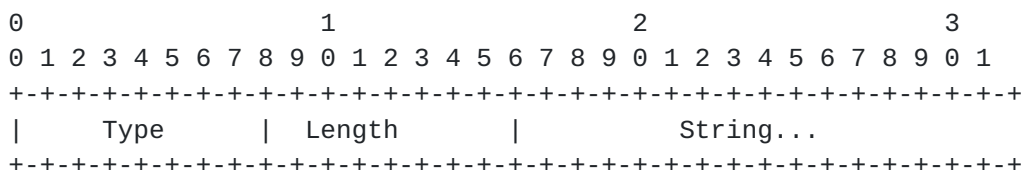
Value

The Value field is four octets containing a 32-bit unsigned integer. Since the Access status information field of the Access Information TLV defined in [[IEEE-802.1X](#)] [Section 11.12.2](#) is only two octets in length, the two most significant octets of the Value field MUST be set to zero by the sender and are ignored by the receiver.

## 2.9. WLAN-SSID

Description

The WLAN-SSID attribute contains the Service Set Identifier (SSID) which identifies a specific 802.11 extended service set (ESS).



Code

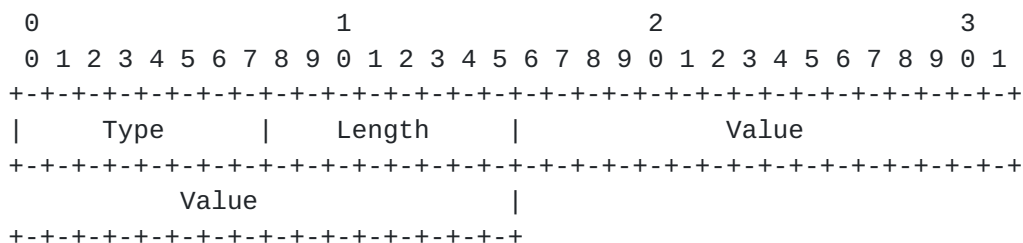
TBD8











Code

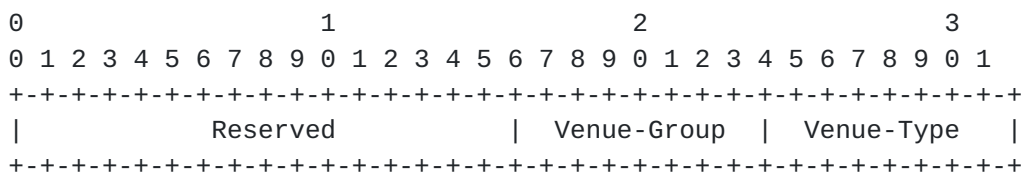
TBD10

Length

4

Value

The Value field is four octets, containing a 32-bit unsigned integer. The two most significant octets MUST be set to zero by the sender, and are ignored by the receiver; the two least significant octets contain the Venue-Group and Venue-Type fields.



Venue-Group

The Venue-Group field is a single octet and describes the broad category of the venue, e.g. "Assembly". See IEEE 802.11 [IEEE-802.11] for Venue-Group codes and descriptions.

Venue-Type

The Venue-Type field is a single octet and describes the venue in a finer granularity within the Venue-Group, e.g. "Library". See IEEE 802.11 [IEEE-802.11] for Venue-Type codes and descriptions.

## 2.12. WLAN-Venue-Language

Description

The WLAN-Venue-Language attribute is an ISO-14962-1997 [ISO-14962-1997] encoded string that defines the language used in the WLAN-Venue-Name attribute. Zero or more WLAN-Venue-Language



attributes may be included in an Access-Request and each one indicates the language of the WLAN-Venue-Name attribute that follows it.

```

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   |   Length   |   String...
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
String (cont) |
+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Code

TBD11

Length

5

String

The String field is a two or three character language code selected from ISO-639 [[ISO-639](#)]. A two character language code has a zero ("null" in ISO-14962-1997) appended to make it 3 octets in length.

### **2.13. WLAN-Venue-Name**

Description

The WLAN-Venue-Name attribute provides additional metadata on the BSS. For example, this information may be used to assist a user in selecting the appropriate BSS with which to associate. Zero or more WLAN-Venue-Name attributes may be included in an Access-Request in the same or different languages.

```

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   |   Length   |   String...
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Code

TBD12

Length



>=3

String

The String field is a UTF-8 formatted field containing the venue's name. The maximum length of this field is 252 octets.

### 3. Table of attributes

The following table provides a guide to which attributes may be found in which kinds of packets, and in what quantity.

Access-Request	Access-Accept	Access-Reject	Access-Challenge	#	Attribute
0	0+	0	0	TBD1	Allowed-Called-Station-Id
0-1	0-1	0	0	102	EAP-Key-Name
0-1	0+	0	0	TBD2	EAP-Peer-Id
0-1	0+	0	0	TBD3	EAP-Server-Id
0-1	0	0	0	TBD4	Mobility-Domain-Id
0-1	0-1	0	0	TBD5	Preauth-Timeout
0-1	0	0	0	TBD6	Network-Id-Name
0	0-1	0-1	0-1	TBD7	Access-Info
0-1	0	0	0	TBD8	WLAN-SSID
0-1	0	0	0	TBD9	WLAN-HESSID
0-1	0	0	0	TBD10	WLAN-Venue-Info
0-1	0	0	0	TBD11	WLAN-Venue-Language
0-1	0	0	0	TBD12	WLAN-Venue-Name

CoA-Req	Acct-Req	#	Attribute
0+	0	TBD1	Allowed-Called-Station-Id
0-1	0	102	EAP-Key-Name
0	0+	TBD2	EAP-Peer-Id
0	0+	TBD3	EAP-Server-Id
0	0-1	TBD4	Mobility-Domain-Id
0	0	TBD5	Preauth-Timeout
0	0-1	TBD6	Network-Id-Name
0-1	0-1	TBD7	Access-Info
0	0-1	TBD8	WLAN-SSID
0	0-1	TBD9	WLAN-HESSID
0	0-1	TBD10	WLAN-Venue-Info
0	0-1	TBD11	WLAN-Venue-Language
0	0-1	TBD12	WLAN-Venue-Name

The following table defines the meaning of the above table entries.

- 0 This Attribute MUST NOT be present in packet.
- 0+ Zero or more instances of this Attribute MAY be





present in the packet.

- 0-1 Zero or one instance of this Attribute MAY be present in the packet.

#### 4. Diameter Considerations

The EAP-Key-Name Attribute is already defined as a RADIUS Attribute within Diameter EAP [[RFC4072](#)]. When used in Diameter, the other attributes defined in this specification can be used as Diameter AVPs from the Code space 1-255 (RADIUS Attribute compatibility space). No additional Diameter Code values are therefore allocated. The data types and flag rules for the attributes are as follows:

		+-----+   AVP Flag rules   +-----+					
		+-----+   MUST   MAY   SHLD   MUST   +-----+					
Attribute Name	Value Type	MUST	MAY	SHLD	MUST	Enchr	
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Allowed-Called-Station-Id	UTF8String	M	P		V	Y	
EAP-Peer-Id	UTF8String	M	P		V	Y	
EAP-Server-Id	UTF8String	M	P		V	Y	
Mobility-Domain-Id	Unsigned32	M	P		V	Y	
Preauth-Timeout	Unsigned32	M	P		V	Y	
Network-Id-Name	UTF8String	M	P		V	Y	
Access-Info	Unsigned32	M	P		V	Y	
WLAN-SSID	UTF8String	M	P		V	Y	
WLAN-HESSID	UTF8Strin	M	P		V	Y	
WLAN-Venue-Info	Unsigned32	M	P		V	Y	
WLAN-Venue-Language	UTF8Strin	M	P		V	Y	
WLAN-Venue-Name	UTF8String	M	P		V	Y	
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

The attributes in this specification have no special translation requirements for Diameter to RADIUS or RADIUS to Diameter gateways; they are copied as is, except for changes relating to headers, alignment, and padding. See also [[RFC3588](#)] [Section 4.1](#) and [[RFC4005](#)] [Section 9](#).

What this specification says about the applicability of the attributes for RADIUS Access-Request packets applies in Diameter to AA-Request [[RFC4005](#)] or Diameter-EAP-Request [[RFC4072](#)]. What is said about Access-Challenge applies in Diameter to AA-Answer [[RFC4005](#)] or Diameter-EAP-Answer [[RFC4072](#)] with Result-Code AVP set to DIAMETER\_MULTI\_ROUND\_AUTH.

What is said about Access-Accept applies in Diameter to AA-Answer or



Diameter-EAP-Answer messages that indicate success. Similarly, what is said about RADIUS Access-Reject packets applies in Diameter to AA-Answer or Diameter-EAP-Answer messages that indicate failure.

What is said about COA-Request applies in Diameter to Re-Auth-Request [RFC4005]. What is said about Accounting-Request applies to Diameter Accounting- Request [RFC4005] as well.

## 5. IANA Considerations

This document uses the RADIUS [RFC2865] namespace, see <http://www.iana.org/assignments/radius-types>. This specification requires assignment of a RADIUS attribute types for the following attributes:

Attribute	Type
=====	=====
Allowed-Called-Station-Id	TBD1
EAP-Peer-Id	TBD2
EAP-Server-Id	TBD3
Mobility-Domain-Id	TBD4
Preauth-Timeout	TBD5
Network-Id-Name	TBD6
Access-Info	TBD7
WLAN-SSID	TBD8
WLAN-HESSID	TBD9
WLAN-Venue-Info	TBD10
WLAN-Venue-Language	TBD11
WLAN-Venue-Name	TBD12

## 6. Security Considerations

Since this document describes the use of RADIUS for purposes of authentication, authorization, and accounting in IEEE 802 networks, it is vulnerable to all of the threats that are present in other RADIUS applications. For a discussion of these threats, see [RFC2607], [RFC2865], [RFC3162], [RFC3579], [RFC3580] and [RFC5176].



## [7.](#) References

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