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Bernard Aboba
Skype
Jouni Malinen
Devicescape Software
Paul Congdon
Hewlett Packard Company
Joseph Salowey
Cisco Systems
Mark Jones
Azuca Systems
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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 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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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	4
1.1	Terminology	4
1.2	Requirements Language	5
2.	RADIUS attributes	5
2.1	Allowed-Called-Station-Id	5
2.2	EAP-Key-Name	7
2.3	EAP-Peer-Id	8
2.4	EAP-Server-Id	9
2.5	Mobility-Domain-Id	10
2.6	Preauth-Timeout	11
2.7	Network-Id-Name	12
2.8	Access-Info	13
2.9	WLAN-SSID	14
2.10	WLAN-HESSID	14
2.11	WLAN-Venue-Info	15
2.12	WLAN-Venue-Language	16
2.13	WLAN-Venue-Name	17
2.14	WLAN-Reason-Code	18
2.15	WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher	19
2.16	WLAN-Group-Cipher	20
2.17	WLAN-AKM-Suite	21
2.18	WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher	22
2.19	WLAN-RF-Band	23
3.	Table of attributes	24
4.	Diameter Considerations	25
5.	IANA Considerations	27
6.	Security Considerations	27
7.	References	28
7.1	Normative References	28
7.2	Informative References	29
	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	29
	AUTHORS' ADDRESSES	30

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 ":" and 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 ensure that an attacker cannot gain entry to a network they have not authenticated to, 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. Since a NAS will typically only include a EAP-Key-Name Attribute in an Access-Request in situations where the Attribute is required to provision service, if an EAP-Key-Name Attribute is included in an Access-Request but is not present in the Access-Accept, the NAS SHOULD treat the Access-Accept as

≥ 3

≥ 3

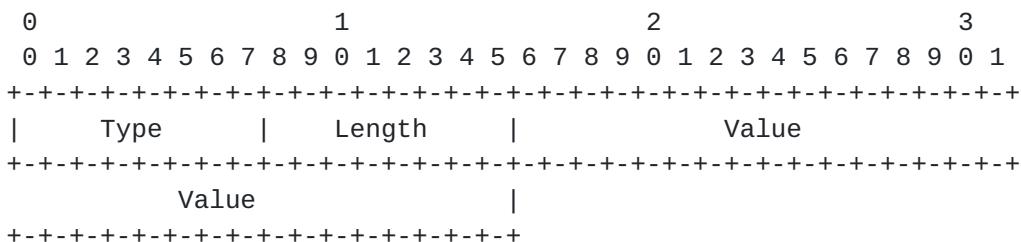
String

The String field is one or more octets, containing a EAP Server-Id exported by the EAP method. For details, see [[RFC5247](#)] [Appendix A](#). A robust implementation SHOULD support the field as undistinguished octets.

2.5. Mobility-Domain-Id

Description

A single Mobility-Domain-Id Attribute MAY be included in an Access-Request or Accounting-Request, in order to enable the NAS to provide the RADIUS server with the Mobility Domain Identifier (MDID), defined in Section 8.4.2.49 of [[IEEE-802.11](#)]. A summary of the Mobility-Domain-Id Attribute format is shown below. The fields are transmitted from left to right.



Code

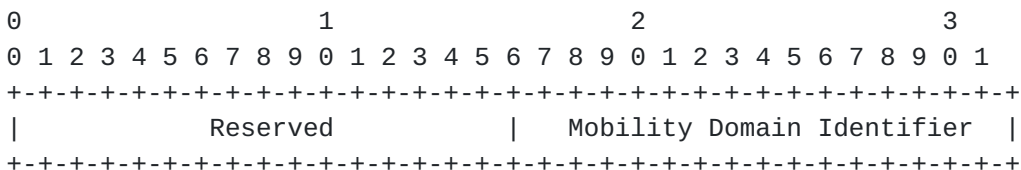
TBD4

Length

6

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 Mobility Domain Identifier (MDID) defined in Section 8.4.2.49 of [[IEEE-802.11](#)].



2.6. Preauth-Timeout

Description

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 Pairwise Master Key (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.

A single Preauth-Timeout Attribute MAY be included within an Access-Accept or CoA-Request packet. 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.

≥ 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.

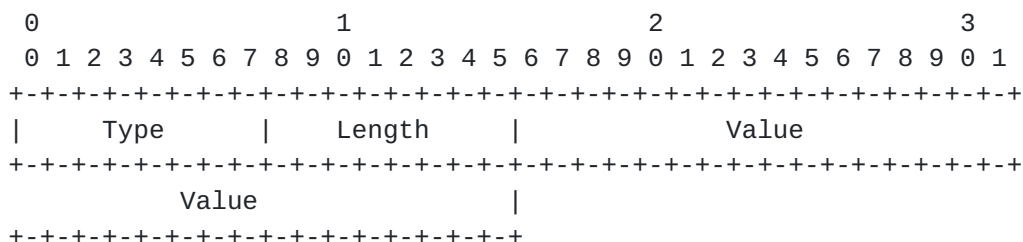
2.8. Access-Info

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.

Zero or one Access-Info Attribute is permitted within an Access-Accept, Access-Reject, Accounting-Request, CoA-Request or Disconnect-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. 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 Access status information defined in Table 11-9 of Section 11.12.2 of [IEEE-802.1X].

[[IEEE-802.11](#)]. Zero or one WLAN-HESSID Attribute is permitted within an Access-Request or Accounting-Request packet.

A summary of the WLAN-HESSID 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

TBD9

Length

19

String

The String field is encoded in upper-case ASCII characters with the octet values separated by dash characters, as described in [RFC 3580](#) [RFC3580]. Example: "00-10-A4-23-19-C0".

2.11. WLAN-Venue-Info

Description

The WLAN-Venue-Info attribute identifies the category of venue hosting the WLAN, as defined in Section 8.4.1.34 of [[IEEE-802.11](#)]. Zero or more WLAN-Venue-Info attributes may be included in an Access-Request or Accounting-Request.

A summary of the WLAN-Venue-Info 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   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Code


```

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

4-5

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 or Accounting-Request in the same or different languages.

A summary of the WLAN-Venue-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...
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

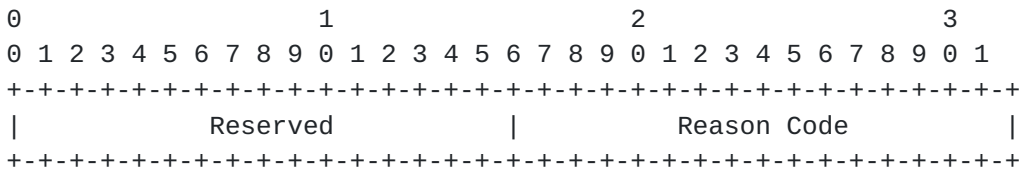
```

Code

TBD12

Length

the sender, and are ignored by the receiver; the two least significant octets contain the Reason Code values defined in Table 8-36 of Section 8.4.1.7 of [IEEE-802.11].

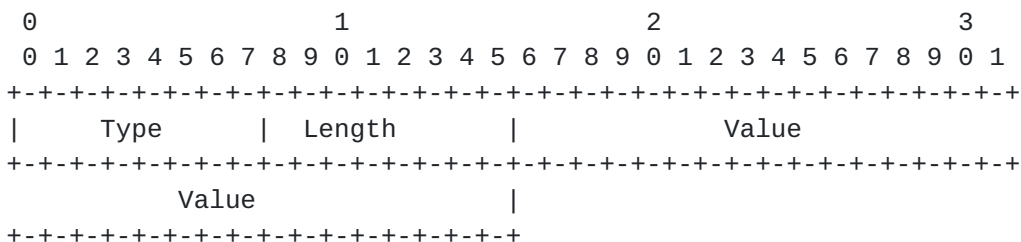


2.15. WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher

Description

The WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher Attribute contains information on the pairwise cipher suite used to establish the robust security network association (RSNA) between the AP and mobile device. A WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher Attribute MAY be included within Access-Request and Accounting-Request packets.

A summary of the WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher Attribute format is shown below. The fields are transmitted from left to right.



Code

TBD14

Length

6

Value

The Value field is four octets, containing a 32-bit unsigned integer, in Suite selector format as specified in Figure 8-187 within Section 8.4.2.27.2 of [IEEE-802.11], with values of OUI and Suite type drawn from Table 8-99.


```

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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               OUI                               | Suite Type |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

2.17. WLAN-AKM-Suite

Description

The WLAN-AKM-Suite Attribute contains information on the authentication and key management suite used to establish the robust security network association (RSNA) between the AP and mobile device. A WLAN-AKM-Suite Attribute MAY be included within Access-Request and Accounting-Request packets.

A summary of the WLAN-AKM-Suite 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 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Code

TBD16

Length

6

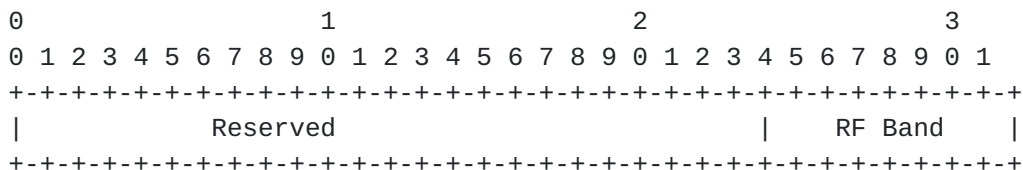
Value

The Value field is four octets, containing a 32-bit unsigned integer, in Suite selector format as specified in Figure 8-187 within Section 8.4.2.27.2 of [[IEEE-802.11](#)], with values of OUI and Suite type drawn from Table 8-101:

```

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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               OUI                               | Suite Type |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

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	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+	0	0	0	TBD11	WLAN-Venue-Language
0+	0	0	0	TBD12	WLAN-Venue-Name
0	0	0-1	0	TBD13	WLAN-Reason-Code
0-1	0	0	0	TBD14	WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher
0-1	0	0	0	TBD15	WLAN-Group-Cipher
0-1	0	0	0	TBD16	WLAN-AKM-Suite
0-1	0	0	0	TBD17	WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher
0-1	0	0	0	TBD18	WLAN-RF-Band

CoA- Req	Dis- Req	Acct- Req	#	Attribute
0+	0	0	TBD1	Allowed-Called-Station-Id
0-1	0	0	102	EAP-Key-Name
0	0	0+	TBD2	EAP-Peer-Id
0	0	0+	TBD3	EAP-Server-Id
0	0	0-1	TBD4	Mobility-Domain-Id
0-1	0	0	TBD5	Preauth-Timeout
0	0	0-1	TBD6	Network-Id-Name
0-1	0-1	0-1	TBD7	Access-Info
0	0	0-1	TBD8	WLAN-SSID
0	0	0-1	TBD9	WLAN-HESSID
0	0	0-1	TBD10	WLAN-Venue-Info
0	0	0+	TBD11	WLAN-Venue-Language
0	0	0+	TBD12	WLAN-Venue-Name
0	0-1	0-1	TBD13	WLAN-Reason-Code
0	0	0-1	TBD14	WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher
0	0	0-1	TBD15	WLAN-Group-Cipher
0	0	0-1	TBD16	WLAN-AKM-Suite
0	0	0-1	TBD17	WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher
0	0	0-1	TBD18	WLAN-RF-Band

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						
		-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+						
		SHLD MUST						
Attribute Name	Value Type	MUST	MAY	NOT	NOT	Encr		
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
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	UTF8String	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-Venue-Info	Unsigned32	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-Venue-Language	UTF8String	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-Venue-Name	UTF8String	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-Reason-Code	Unsigned32	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher	Unsigned32	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-Group-Cipher	Unsigned32	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-AKM-Suite	Unsigned32	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher	Unsigned32	M	P			V	Y	
WLAN-RF-Band	Unsigned32	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.

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
WLAN-Reason-Code	TBD13
WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher	TBD14
WLAN-Group-Cipher	TBD15
WLAN-AKM-Suite	TBD16
WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher	TBD17
WLAN-RF-Band	TBD18

Since this specification relies on values assigned by IEEE 802, no registries are established for maintenance by the IANA.

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](#)].

While it is possible for a RADIUS server to make decisions on whether to Accept or Reject an Access-Request based on the values of the WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher, WLAN-Group-Cipher, WLAN-AKM-Suite, WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher and WLAN-RF-Band Attributes the value of doing this is limited. In general, an Access-Reject should not be necessary, except where Access Points and Stations are misconfigured so as to enable connections to be made with unacceptable values. Rather than rejecting access on an ongoing basis, users would be better served by fixing the misconfiguration.

Where access does need to be rejected, the user should be provided with an indication of why the problem has occurred, or else they are likely to become frustrated. For example, if the values of the WLAN-Pairwise-Cipher, WLAN-Group-Cipher, WLAN-AKM-Suite or WLAN-Group-Mgmt-Cipher Attributes included in the Access-Request are not acceptable to the RADIUS server, then a WLAN-Reason-Code Attribute with a value of 29 (Requested service rejected because of service provider cipher suite or AKM requirement) SHOULD be returned in the Access-Reject. Similarly, if the value of the WLAN-RF-Band Attribute included in the Access-Request is not acceptable to the RADIUS server, then a WLAN-Reason-Code Attribute with a value of 11 (Disassociated because the information in the Supported Channels element is unacceptable) SHOULD be returned in the Access-Reject.

7. References

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Authors' Addresses

Bernard Aboba
Skype
EMail: bernard_aboba@hotmail.com

Jouni Malinen
EMail: j@w1.fi

Paul Congdon
Hewlett Packard Company
HP ProCurve Networking
8000 Foothills Blvd, M/S 5662
Roseville, CA 95747

Phone: +1 916 785 5753
Fax: +1 916 785 8478
EMail: paul_congdon@hp.com

Joseph Salowey
Cisco Systems
EMail: jsalowey@cisco.com

Mark Jones
Azuca Systems
EMail: mark@azu.ca

