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W. Dec, Ed.
Cisco Systems, Inc.
B. Sarikaya
Huawei USA
G. Zorn
Network Zen
D. Miles
Google
B. Lourdelet
Juniper Networks
January 03, 2013

RADIUS attributes for IPv6 Access Networks
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Abstract

This document specifies additional IPv6 RADIUS attributes useful in residential broadband network deployments. The attributes, which are used for authorization and accounting, enable assignment of a host IPv6 address and IPv6 DNS server address via DHCPv6; assignment of an IPv6 route announced via router advertisement; assignment of a named IPv6 delegated prefix pool; and assignment of a named IPv6 pool for host DHCPv6 addressing.

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

Status of This Memo

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[1. Introduction](#)

This document specifies additional RADIUS attributes used to support configuration of DHCPv6 and/or ICMPv6 Router Advertisement (RA) parameters on a per-user basis. The attributes, which complement those defined in [\[RFC3162\]](#) and [\[RFC4818\]](#), support the following:

- o Assignment of specific IPv6 addresses to hosts via DHCPv6.
- o Assignment of an IPv6 DNS server address, via DHCPv6 or Router

Advertisement [[RFC6106](#)].

- o Configuration of more specific routes to be announced to the user via the Route Information Option defined in [\[RFC4191\] Section 2.3](#).

- o The assignment of a named delegated prefix pool for use with "IPv6 Prefix Options for DHCPv6" [[RFC3633](#)].
- o The assignment of a named stateful address pool for use with DHCPv6 stateful address assignment [[RFC3315](#)].

2. Deployment Scenarios

The extensions in this draft are intended to be applicable across a wide variety of network access scenarios where Radius is involved. One such typical network scenario is illustrated in Figure 1. It is composed of a IP Routing Residential Gateway (RG) or host, a Layer 2 Access-Node (AN) e.g. a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer - DSLAM, an IP Network Access Servers (NASes), and an Authentication Authorization & Accounting (AAA) server.

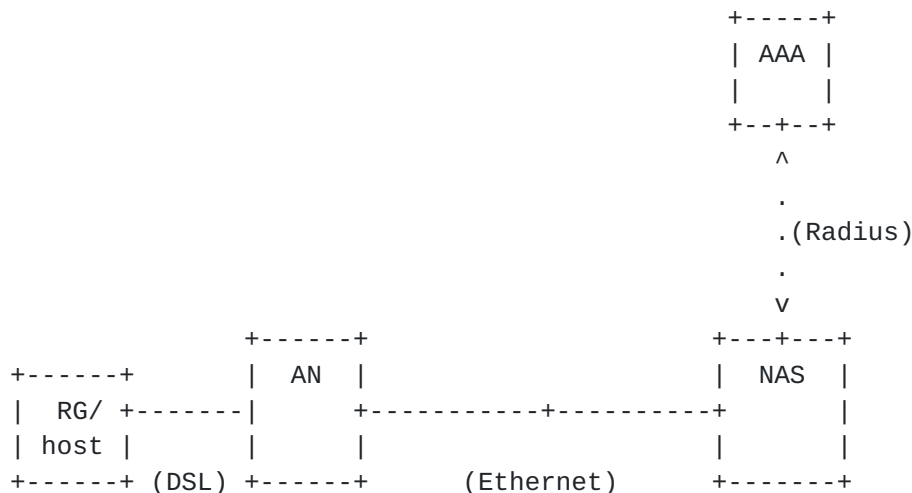


Figure 1

In the depicted scenario the NAS may utilize an IP address configuration protocol (e.g. a DHCPv6 server) to handle address assignment to RGs/hosts. The RADIUS server authenticates each RG/ host and returns to the attributes used for authorization and accounting. These attributes can include a host's IPv6 address, a DNS server address and a set of IPv6 routes to be advertised via DHCPv6 or ICMPv6. The name of a prefix pool to be used for DHCPv6 Prefix Delegation, or the name of an address pool to be used for DHCPv6 address assignment can also be attributes provided to the NAS by the RADIUS AAA server.

The following sub-sections discuss how these attributes are used in more detail.

2.1. IPv6 Address Assignment

DHCPv6 [[RFC3315](#)] provides a mechanism to assign one or more non-temporary IPv6 addresses to hosts. To provide a DHCPv6 server residing on a NAS with one or more IPv6 addresses to be assigned, this document specifies the Framed-IPv6-Address Attribute.

While [[RFC3162](#)] permits an IPv6 address to be specified via the combination of the Framed-Interface-Id and Framed-IPv6-Prefix attributes, this separation is more natural for use with PPP's IPv6 Control Protocol than it is for use with DHCPv6, and the use of a single IPv6 address attribute makes for easier processing of accounting records.

Since DHCPv6 can be deployed on the same network as ICMPv6 stateless (SLAAC) [[RFC4862](#)], it is possible that the NAS will require both stateful and stateless configuration information. Therefore it is possible for the Framed-IPv6-Address, Framed-IPv6-Prefix and Framed-Interface-Id attributes [[RFC3162](#)] to be included within the same packet. To avoid ambiguity, the Framed-IPv6-Address attribute is only used for authorization and accounting of DHCPv6-assigned addresses and the Framed-IPv6-Prefix and Framed-Interface-Id attributes are used for authorization and accounting of addresses assigned via SLAAC.

[2.2.](#) DNS Servers

DHCPv6 provides an option for configuring a host with the IPv6 address of a DNS server. The IPv6 address of a DNS server can also be conveyed to the host using ICMPv6 with Router Advertisements, via the [[RFC6106](#)] option. To provide the NAS with the IPv6 address of a DNS server, this document specifies the DNS-Server-IPv6-Address Attribute.

[2.3.](#) IPv6 Route Information

An IPv6 Route Information option, defined in [[RFC4191](#)] is intended to be used to inform a host connected to the NAS that a specific route is reachable via any given NAS.

This document specifies the RADIUS attribute that allows the AAA server to provision the announcement by the NAS of a specific Route Information Option to an accessing host. The NAS may advertise this route using the method defined in [[RFC4191](#)], or using other equivalent methods. Any other information, such as preference or life-time values, that is to be present in the actual announcement using a given method is assumed to be determined by the NAS using means not scoped by this document (e.g. Local configuration on the NAS).

While the Framed-IPv6-Prefix attribute defined in [[RFC3162](#)] [Section 2.3](#) causes the route to be advertised in an RA, it cannot be used to configure more specific routes. While the Framed-IPv6-Route attribute defined in [[RFC3162](#)] [Section 2.5](#) causes the route to be

configured on the NAS, and potentially announced via an IP routing protocol, depending on the value of Framed-Routing, it does not result in the route being announced in an RA.

2.4. Delegated IPv6 Prefix Pool

DHCPv6 Prefix Delegation (DHCPv6-PD) [[RFC3633](#)] involves a delegating router selecting a prefix and delegating it on a temporary basis to a requesting router. The delegating router may implement a number of strategies as to how it chooses what prefix is to be delegated to a requesting router, one of them being the use of a local named prefix pool. The Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool attribute allows the RADIUS server to convey a prefix pool name to a NAS hosting a DHCPv6-PD server and acting as a delegating router.

Since DHCPv6 Prefix Delegation can be used with SLAAC on the same network, it is possible for the Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool and Framed-IPv6-Pool attributes to be included within the same packet. To avoid ambiguity in this scenario, use of the Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool attribute should be restricted to authorization and accounting of prefix pools used in DHCPv6 Prefix Delegation and the Framed-IPv6-Pool attribute should be used for authorization and accounting of prefix pools used in SLAAC.

2.5. Stateful IPv6 address pool

DHCPv6 [[RFC3315](#)] provides a mechanism to assign one or more non-temporary IPv6 addresses to hosts. [Section 3.1](#) introduces the Framed-IPv6-Address attribute to be used for providing a DHCPv6 server residing on a NAS with one or more IPv6 addresses to be assigned to the clients. An alternative way to achieve a similar result is for the NAS to select the IPv6 address to be assigned from an address pool configured for this purpose on the NAS. This document specifies the Stateful-IPv6-Address-Pool attribute to allow the RADIUS server to convey a pool name to be used for such stateful DHCPv6 based addressing, and any subsequent accounting.

3. Attributes

The fields shown in the diagrams below are transmitted from left to right.

3.1. Framed-IPv6-Address

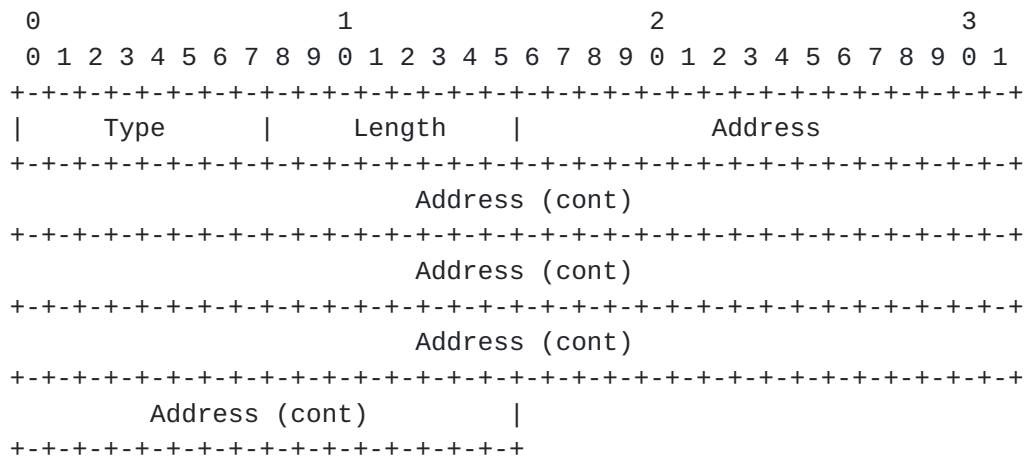
This attribute indicates an IPv6 address that is assigned to the NAS-facing interface of the RG/host. It MAY be used in Access-Accept packets, and MAY appear multiple times. It MAY be used in an Access-Request packet as a hint by the NAS to the server that it would prefer these IPv6 address(es), but the server is not required to honor the hint. Since it is assumed that the NAS will add a route

corresponding to the address, it is not necessary for the server to

also send a host Framed-IPv6-Route attribute for the same address.

This attribute can be used by a DHCPv6 process on the NAS to assign a unique IPv6 address to the RG/host.

A summary of the Framed-IPv6-Address attribute format is shown below. The format of the address is as per [[RFC3162](#)].



Type

TBA1 for Framed-IPv6-Address

Length

18

Address

The IPv6 address field contains a 128-bit IPv6 address.

3.2. DNS-Server-IPv6-Address

The DNS-Server-IPv6-Address attribute contains the IPv6 address of a DNS server. This attribute MAY be included multiple times in Access-Accept packets, when the intention is for a NAS to announce more than one DNS server addresses to a RG/host. The same order of the attributes is expected to be followed in the announcements to the client. The attribute MAY be used in an Access-Request packet as a hint by the NAS to the server regarding the DNS IPv6 address, but the Radius server is not required to honor the hint.

The content of this attribute can be inserted in a DHCPv6 option as specified in [[RFC3646](#)].

A summary of the DNS-Server-IPv6-Address attribute format is given below. The format of the address is as per [[RFC3162](#)].

Type

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TBA3 for Route-IPv6-Information

Length

Length in bytes. At least 4 and no larger than 20; typically 12 or less.

Prefix Length

8-bit unsigned integer. The number of leading bits in the prefix that are valid. The value ranges from 0 to 128. The prefix field is 0, 8 or 16 octets depending on Length.

Prefix

Variable-length field containing an IP prefix. The prefix length field contains the number of valid leading bits in the prefix. The bits in the prefix after the prefix length (if any) are reserved and MUST be initialized to zero.

3.4. Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool

This attribute contains the name of an assigned pool that SHOULD be used to select an IPv6 delegated prefix for the user on the NAS. If a NAS does not support prefix pools, the NAS MUST ignore this attribute. It MAY be used in an Access-Request packet as a hint by the NAS to the server regarding the pool, but the server is not required to honor the hint.

A summary of the Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool attribute format is shown below.

```

      0               1               2
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+
|      Type      |      Length      |      String...
+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+

```

Type

TBA4 for Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool

Length

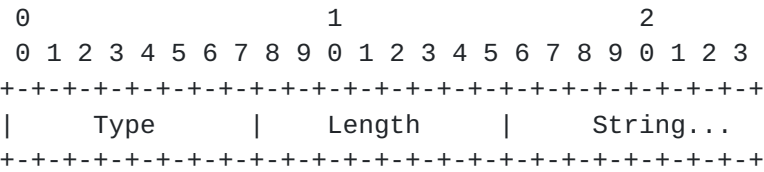
Length in bytes. At least 3.

String

The string field contains the name of an assigned IPv6 prefix pool configured on the NAS. The field is not NULL (hexadecimal 00) terminated.

3.5. Stateful-IPv6-Address-Pool

This attribute contains the name of an assigned pool that SHOULD be used to select an IPv6 address for the user on the NAS. If a NAS does not support address pools, the NAS MUST ignore this attribute. A summary of the Stateful-IPv6-Address-Pool attribute format is shown below. It MAY be used in an Access-Request packet as a hint by the NAS to the server regarding the pool, but the server is not required to honor the hint.



Type

TBA5 for Stateful-IPv6-Address-Pool

Length

Length in bytes. At least 3.

String

The string field contains the name of an assigned IPv6 stateful address pool configured on the NAS. The field is not NULL (hexadecimal 00) terminated.

3.6. Table of attributes

The following table provides a guide to which attributes may be found in which kinds of packets, and in what quantity. The optional inclusion of the options in Access Request messages is intended to allow for a network access server (NAS) to provide the RADIUS server with a hint of the attributes in advance of user authentication, which may be useful in cases where a user re-connects or has a static address. The server is under no obligation to honor such hints.

Request Accept Reject Challenge Accounting #				Attribute	
				Request	
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA1 Framed-IPv6-Address
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA2 DNS-Server-IPv6-Address
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA3 Route-IPv6-Information
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA4 Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA5 Stateful-IPv6-Address-Pool

4. Diameter Considerations

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Given that the attributes defined in this document are allocated from the standard RADIUS type space (see [Section 6](#)), no special handling is required by Diameter entities.

5. Security Considerations

This document specifies additional IPv6 RADIUS attributes useful in residential broadband network deployments. In such networks, the RADIUS protocol may run either over IPv4 or over IPv6 and known security vulnerabilities of the RADIUS protocol apply to the attributes defined in this document. Since IPsec is natively defined for IPv6, it is expected that running RADIUS implementations supporting IPv6 may want to run over IPsec. Where RADIUS is run over IPsec and where certificates are used for authentication, it may be desirable to avoid management of RADIUS shared secrets, so as to leverage the improved scalability of public key infrastructure.

6. IANA Considerations

This document requires the assignment of five new RADIUS attribute types in the "Radius Types" registry (currently located at <http://www.iana.org/assignments/radius-types> for the following attributes:

- o Framed-IPv6-Address
- o DNS-Server-IPv6-Address
- o Route-IPv6-Information
- o Delegated-IPv6-Prefix-Pool
- o Stateful-IPv6-Address-Pool

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Authors' Addresses

Wojciech Dec (editor)
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Haarlerbergweg 13-19
Amsterdam , NOORD-HOLLAND 1101 CH
Netherlands

Email: wdec@cisco.com

Behcet Sarikaya
Huawei USA
1700 Alma Dr. Suite 500
Plano, TX
US

Phone: +1 972-509-5599
Email: sarikaya@ieee.org

Glen Zorn
Network Zen
1310 East Thomas Street

Seattle, WA
US

Email: gwz@net-zen.net

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David Miles
Google

Email: david.miles@google.com

Benoit Lourdelet
Juniper Networks
France

Email: blourdel@juniper.net

