Internet Draft

Expiration: March 2001

File: draft-ietf-rap-acct-fr-pib-01.txt

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Framework of COPS-PR Policy Information Base for Accounting Usage

Last Updated March 2 2001

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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].

Abstract

Currently there are no policy classes defined for the PEP to convey provisioned policy usage feedback to the PDP. The purpose of this document is to define the accounting framework PIB that specifies the policy classes common for COPS accounting type reports. The basic operation and objects for reporting usage information are defined in [COPS]. A specific clientSI accounting type object named REPORT is defined in [COPS-PR]. This document further describes operational behavior that is implied in [COPS] and [COPS-PR.]

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1 Introduction

Policy usage reported by the PEP makes a richer set of information available to the PDP for decision-making. This report accounting information can influence future decisions made by the PDP and the resulting policy installed by the PDP at the PEP. For example, A PDP determining policy for a SIP signaled multimedia session may need to base the decision in part on usage information related to previously installed QoS policy decisions. Further, the PDP may coordinate this usage information with other external systems to determine the future policy such as the case with the PDP coordinating multimedia session QoS and clearinghouse authorizations [SIP-AAA-QOS]

The scope of this document is to describe the policy class framework for policy usage monitored and reported by the PEP and collected at the PDP. The charging and billing models as well as other accounting events detectable by the PDP are beyond the scope of this framework.

2 General Concepts

2.1 Overview

There are two aspects to defining policies for an accounting type report the selection aspect and the policy usage aspect. The usage policy and selection policy are associated with one another. The usage criteria policy class defines what metrics are monitored, recorded and reported by the PEP. The selection criteria policy class specifies the conditions for the monitoring and recording of the associated usage policy. For example, a usage policy may be defined to provide counts of packets received. The selection criteria policy may identify the filter on which to base the packet counts. A third policy may be used to associate, or link, the selection and usage policies. The linking is performed by the accounting type report linkage policy.

2.2 Normal Operation

The PDP specifies the minimum accounting interval in the Accounting Timer object that is included in the Client Accept message during connection establishment. This specifies the maximum frequency with which the PEP issues unsolicited accounting type reports. The PEP notifies the PDP of the selection criteria policy classes and usage policy classes it supports during the initial request for configuration data using the frwkPRCSupportTable entries[FR-PIB].

The PDP responds to the initial request for configuration with a DECISION that installs policies. The PDP may also specify maximum reporting intervals associated with each of the policies. The PEP

monitors and records the usage per the selection criteria defined by the PDP. Periodically the PEP reports the usage with an accounting type REPORT.

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The PDP is the collection point for the usage information monitored and reported by the PEP clients within the administrative domain. The PDP may also collect other accounting event information that is outside the scope of this document.

2.3 Failover

In the event the connection is lost between the PEP and PDP, the PEP continues to track usage information as long as it continues to operate with the installed policy. When the locally installed policy at the PEP expires, the usage policy data also expires.

Upon successful reconnection where the PEP is still caching policy, the PDP indicates to the PEP that the PEP may resume sending of the accounting type report messages. The PDP does this deterministically. It issues an unsolicited decision containing the frwkAtRptResumeIndicator set to resume reporting. The PDP is aware of the request state Handle(s) and the supported PRCs either through the state synchronization mechanism or because the PDP considers itself synchronized with the PEP upon reconnection.

2.4 Context

The monitoring and recording of usage policies is subject to context switches in a manner similar to enforcement policy. The usage policy is monitored, recorded and reported while the associated PIB instance is active. The PEP should retain existing accounting data during inactive contexts and resume it's monitoring and reporting when the PIB instance becomes active again.

2.5 Delete Request States

The PEP may send any outstanding accounting data monitored during the interval to the PDP via an unsolicited report immediately prior to issuing a Delete Request State if the time interval since the last report is not less than the interval defined by the Accounting Timer. This is also the case when the PDP initiates the Delete Request State with a decision request delete state. In this case where a PDP initiates a Decision Request State Remove, the PEP acknowledges with the Report, but the actual Delete Request State may be delayed until the next reporting interval has completed.

2.6 Periodic nature of report accounting

The PDP informs the PEP of the minimal accounting interval it supports in the Accounting Timer object during client connection establishment. The PDP may specify accounting intervals in the

specific accounting policies per the PEP's indicated capabilities. The PDP may also halt reporting for a request state by issuing an unsolicited decision with the frwkAtRptResumeIndicator set to halt reporting. Any usage information associated with that request state

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at the PEP since the last accounting interval is discarded by the PEP.

Generally the accounting policy is periodic in nature and the reporting is unsolicited. The unsolicited reports are supplied within the interval decided by the PDP. Note that periodic unsolicited reports (as dictated by timer intervals) use a deterministic amount of network resources.

There may be instances where the nature of the accounting policy for a given client type or accounting PIB module is such that it is useful for the PDP to control when it receives the feedback. The PDP may therefore have the capability to solicit the accounting report for a request state.

3 Definition of Accounting Type Report Policy

There are three basic types of policy used to define what the PEP is to monitor, record and report. These are the selection criteria policy, the usage policy and the accounting type report linkage policy.

The selection criteria policy is installed by the PDP. It defines the conditions used by the PEP to monitor and record a usage policy. Generally, the selection criterion is an existing PRC such as the frwkIPFilterTable. This PRC is useful for specifying conditions on which to base usage - i.e. count the number of packets received for this filter. The filter (source address, destination address, etc.) in this case defines the conditions. In the case of the accounting framework PIB, the frwkIPFilterTable is the only PRC used to base selection on.

The usage policy defines what attributes are monitored and recorded by the PEP. These policies have an ACCESS clause of Report.

Generally, the usage policies specify counts related to a specific action such as a packet being dropped. The accounting framework PIB defines one usage policy class, frwkAtRptFilterStats. It counts packets and bytes as well as records the timestamp when the last packet was received. Usage PRCs may be generic, collecting basic statistics, or they may be specific to a particular usage. The PDP decides which PRC(s) best suit(s) its requirements. The PEP may support only one usage PRC, in which case all statistics are gathered using instances of that PRC. Alternatively, the PEP may support multiple usage PRCs. The PDP then decides which PRC to associate with a particular selection criterion.

The accounting type report linkage permits the same selection criteria instance to be re-used for various usage policies. For

example, the same IP Filter selection criteria could be the basis of different usage policies such as packet count, drop count, and remark count. The accounting type report linkage references the selection criteria instance as well as defines the policy class of the usage PRC. As noted above, the selection criteria policy may be used for

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enforcement policies as well as usage policies. This is the case with the frwkIPFilterTable.

		1 1
Select Criteria	Linkage Instanc	e Usage Instance
	-instance ID	- instance ID
-instance ID	< -PRID of select	ion > - PRID of Linkage
-conditions	-PRC of usage	- counts
		I I

Figure 1

Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between a selection criteria, linkage and usage policies.

The PDP is not aware of the instance identifier of the usage policy when installing the selection criteria and accounting type report linkage policies. The usage policy is enabled on the PEP by the installation of an accounting type report linkage and the PEP designates the instance identifier. The usage policy class always contains an attribute of type Prid. This attribute contains the value of the accounting type report linkage PRID [COPS-PR] installed by the PDP that is associated with the usage policy. Note that the Prid type is a textual convention for an object identifier that is the PRC of the table used for the selection criteria and where the last subidentifier is an instance ID of the accounting type report linkage.

4 Summary of the Accounting Framework Policy Information Base

4.1 SPPI ACCESS clause report-only

The selection criteria and linkage policy classes follow the definitions specified by [SPPI.] This structure specifies well-defined policy classes and their instances residing in a common, virtual repository [FR-PIB.] The additional PIB-ACCESS clause attribute of "report-only" denotes the usage policy class reported by the PEP.

4.2 Textual Conventions Counts

The usage policy attributes are often defined in the terms of counts. This type is a non-negative value that is incremented. This value is to "stick" at the maximum value if the maximum value is reached before the reporting interval. It is reset to the value zero after the usage is reported to the PDP and continues the incremental operation. A textual convention defining the counts is defined in the

4.3 Accounting Type Report Group and PRCs

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It is useful to define reporting intervals and restart characteristics as well as the common usage and selection criteria polices. These policy classes are common to account type reporting for various technologies and apply to ALL SUBJECT-CATEGORIES. The policy classes belong to a new group, Accounting Type Report Group. The policy classes in the Accounting Type Report Group are:

- 1) Accounting Type Report Device Intervals Table
- 2) Accounting Type Report Linkage Table
- 3) Accounting Type Filter Statistics Usage Table

4.3.1 The Accounting Type Report Resume Table

This table contains one row. It indicates that the PDP, to which a PEP having cached usage policy has reconnected, is ready to receive the accounting type report messages from the PEP.

4.3.2 The Accounting Type Report Linkage Table

This table links the selection criteria instance with the usage instance. It specifies the PRID of the selection criteria and the PRC of the usage instance. This table permits the reuse of a selection criteria instance for multiple usage policies.

The linkage table also permits the definition of a maximum reporting interval to use when issuing the accounting type reports for the usage instance. This interval is defined in units of the Accounting Timer Interval specified in the client accept message.

4.3.3 The Filter Usage Table

This table describes the packet counts, byte counts, last timestamp when a packet was received and the PRID of the associated Accounting Type Report Linkage instance. The count and timestamp information is monitored and recorded by the PEP and supplied to the PDP with the accounting type report message within the maximum interval specified.

5 The Accounting Framework PIB Module

ACCOUNTING-FRAMEWORK-PIB PIB-DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

IMPORTS

ExtUTCTime, Unsigned32, Unsigned64, Integer32, MODULE-IDENTITY, OBJECT-TYPE

FROM COPS-PR-SPPI TruthValue, TEXTUAL-CONVENTION FROM SNMPv2-TC PolicyInstanceId, PolicyReferenceId

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```
FROM COPS-PR-SPPI-TC;
      RoleCombination
              FROM POLICY-DEVICE-AUX-MIB;
  acctPolFrameworkPib MODULE-IDENTITY
      SUBJECT-CATEGORIES { all }
      LAST-UPDATED "200011171000Z"
      ORGANIZATION "IETF RAP WG"
      CONTACT-INFO "
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  DESCRIPTION
          "The PIB module containing the base set of policy rule
          classes that are required for support of all accounting
          and reporting policies"
         ::= { tbd }
-- The accounting type report group
frwkAtRptGroupClasses
               OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { acctPolFrameworkPib 2 }
-- Textual Conventions
Count ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION
      STATUS current
```

DESCRIPTION

"A count represents a value used by attributes that record policy usage. A count is of value zero or greater and is incremented according to defined

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```
policy usage. When the maximum value is reached, the
           value sticks. The value is reset to zero upon
           reporting the value to the PDP."
SYNTAX Unsigned64 ( 0..18446744073709551615)
-- resume reporting indicator
frwkAtRptResumeTable OBJECT-TYPE
             SEQUENCE OF FrwkAtRptResumeEntry
    SYNTAX
    PIB-ACCESS
                  install
    STATUS
                    current
    DESCRIPTION
             "This class contains a single PRI that indicates
             that the PEP is to resume the sending of
             accounting type reports."
        ::= { frwkAtRptGroupClasses 1}
frwkAtRptResumeEntry OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX FrwkAtRptResumeEntry
    STATUS current
    DESCRIPTION
               "An instance of this class can indicate when to
                resume sending accounting type reports
                by the PEP."
    PIB-INDEX { frwkAtRptResumeId}
        ::= { frwkAtRptResumeTable 1}
FrwkAtRptResumeEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
       frwkAtRptResumeId InstanceId,
       frwkAtRptResumeIndicator INTEGER
    }
frwkAtRptResumeId OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                 InstanceID
    STATUS
                 current
    DESCRIPTION
        " An arbitrary integer index that uniquely identifies an
        instance of the frwkAtRptResumeTable class."
    ::= { frwkAtRptResumeEntry 1}
frwkAtRptResumeIndicator OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX INTEGER {
                NO_REPORTS(0),
```

```
SEND_REPORTS(1)

STATUS current
DESCRIPTION

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```

"The value indicates if the PEP is to send cached usage policies via accounting type report messages. The enumeration values are:

- (0) DonËt send accounting type report messages
- (1) Resume accounting type report messages. Send cached usage policies now "

```
::= { frwkAtRptResumeEntry 2 }
-- The Accounting Type Report Linkage Table
frwkAtRptLinkTable OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                    SEQUENCE OF FrwkAtRptLinkEntry
    PIB-ACCESS
                    notify
    STATUS
                    current
    DESCRIPTION
              "This class associates the selection criteria with the
              usage policy. It also permit the defining of the max
               interval used for reporting the usage instance."
     ::= { frwkAtRptGroupClasses 2}
frwkAtRptLinkEntry OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                    FrwkAtRptLinkEntry
    STATUS
                    current
    DESCRIPTION
              "This class associates the selection criteria with the
               usage policy. It also permit the defining of the max
               interval used for reporting the usage instance."
    PIB-INDEX {frwkAtRptLinkId}
    UNIQUENESS { frwkAtRptLinkId,
                frwkAtRptLinkSel,
                frwkAtRptLinkUsage }
     ::= {frwkAtRptLinkTable 1}
FrwkAtRptLinkEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
      frwkAtRptLinkId
                          InstanceID,
      frwkAtRptLinkSel
                              Prid,
      frwkAtRptLinkUsage
                             OBJECT IDENTIFIER,
      frwkAtRptLinkInterval Integer32
}
frwkAtRptLinkId OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                  InstanceID
    STATUS
                  current
    DESCRIPTION
```

" An arbitrary integer index that uniquely identifies an instance of the frwkAtRptLinkTable class." ::= { frwkAtRptLinkEntry 1}

frwkAtRptLinkSel OBJECT-TYPE

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```
Prid
    SYNTAX
    STATUS
                  current
    DESCRIPTION
         "The PRID of the selection criteria instance that
          defines the conditions to use by the PEP for
          monitoring the usage."
     ::= { frwkAtRptLinkEntry 2}
frwkAtRptLinkUsage OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                OBJECT IDENTIFIER
    STATUS
                 current
    DESCRIPTION
          "The PRC of the usage policy class that the PEP uses to
          monitor, record and report."
     ::= { frwkAtRptLinkEntry 3}
frwkAtRptInterval OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
             Integer32
    STATUS
             current
    DESCRIPTION
             "Maximum interval in units of the value of the
             Accounting Timer specificed by the PDP in the client
             accept message. A frwkAtRptInterval of 1 is equal to
             the value of the Accounting Timer. This value must be 1
             or greater. "
    ::= { frwkAtRptLinkEntry 4}
-- The filter statistics usage
frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageTable OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                     SEQUENCE OF FrwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry
    PIB-ACCESS
                     report-only
    STATUS
                     current
    DESCRIPTION
              "This class defines the usage attributes that the PEP
               is to monitor, record and report. It contains the
               of the PRID of the linkage instance associating
               the selection criteria instance with the usage
               instance."
     ::= { frwkAtRptGroupClasses 3}
frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry OBJECT-TYPE
```

FrwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry

SYNTAX

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"Defines the attributes the PEP is to monitor, record and report."

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```
PIB-INDEX {frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageId}
    UNIQUENESS { frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageLinkPRID }
     ::= {frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageTable 1}
FrwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
     frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageId
                                           InstanceID,
     frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageLinkPRID
                                               Prid,
     frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsagePacketCount Counts,
     frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageByteCount Counts,
     fwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageTimeStamp ExtUTCTime
}
frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageId OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                 InstanceId
    STATUS
                 current
    DESCRIPTION
               "Arbitrary integer index that uniquely identifies
                an instance of the class."
     ::= { frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry 1 }
frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageLinkPRID OBJECT-TYPE
                Prid
    SYNTAX
    STATUS
                 current
    DESCRIPTION
               "The PRID of the Linkage policy instance used to base
                this usage policy instance upon."
     ::= { frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry 2 }
frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsagePacketCount OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                Unsigned32
    STATUS
                 current
    DESCRIPTION
              "The count of packets matching the specified filter
                during the reporting interval."
     ::= {frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry 3}
frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageByteCount OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX
                 Unsigned64
    STATUS
                 current
     DESCRIPTION
                "The byte count of packets matching the
                 specified filter during the reporting interval."
     ::= { frwkAtRptFilterStatsUsageEntry 4}
```


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"The last timestamp when a packet was received."

::= { frwkAtRptFilterStatsSelectEntry 5}

END

6 Security Considerations

The accounting information is sensitive and requires that authorized messaging occur between the PEP and the PDP. This protection can be accomplished with IPSEC between the PEP and the PDP or using the security mechanisms described in the base COPS protocol.

7 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Dave Durham and Russell Fenger of Intel and John K. Gallant of WorldCom for their contribution to this document.

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