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Structure of Policy Provisioning Information (SPPI)

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1. Introduction

[RFC 2748](#) [[COPS](#)] defines the COPS protocol, and [RFC 2749](#) [[COPS-RSVP](#)] describes how the COPS protocol is used to provide for the outsourcing of policy decisions for RSVP. Another usage of the COPS protocol, for the provisioning of policy, is introduced in [[COPS-PR](#)]. In this provisioning model, the policy information is viewed as a collection of Policy Rule Classes and Policy Rule Instances residing in a virtual information store, termed the Policy Information Base (PIB). Collections of related Policy Rule Classes are defined in a PIB module. PIB modules are written using an adapted subset of SNMP's Structure of Management Information (SMI) [[SMI](#), [TC](#), [CONF](#)]. It is the purpose of this document, the Structure of Policy Provisioning Information (SPPI), to define that adapted subset.

1.1. Change Log

This log to be removed as and when this draft is published as an RFC.

1.1.1. Changes made in version published on 13 July 2000

- included definition of the TEXTUAL-CONVENTION macro in the SPPI's ASN.1 module so that TC's in PIBs can use data types not present in the SMI.
- renamed the CLIENT-TYPES clause to be the SUBJECT-CATEGORIES clause in order to be more generic.
- renamed the POLICY-ACCESS clause to be the PIB-ACCESS clause for consistency. Added an extra parameter on the PIB-ACCESS clause for use as the sub-identifier for a RowStatus column when converting to a MIB.
- added new clauses: EXTENDS, PIB-INDEX, PIB-REFERENCES, PIB-TAG, and PIB-MODULES.
- renamed the MIN-ACCESS clause to be the PIB-MIN-ACCESS clause.
- created a new PIB module to contain the TC's defined in the SPPI.
- defined new TC's: Prid, PolicyTagId, PolicyTagReference.
- added Appendix with example usage of PIB-REFERENCE and PIB-TAG.
- added detail on carrying an INSTALL-ERROR in COPS-PR messages.

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2. Use of the SMI

The SPPI and PIB modules are based on SNMP's SMI and MIB modules, which use an adapted subset of the ASN.1 data definition language [[ASN1](#)]. The decision to base the definition of PIB modules on this format allows for the leveraging of the community's knowledge, experience and tools of the SMI and MIB modules.

2.1. Terminology Translation

The SMI uses the term "managed objects" to refer to object types, both tabular types with descriptors such as xxxTable and xxxEntry, as well as scalar and columnar object types. The SPPI does not use the term "object" so as to avoid confusion with COPS protocol objects. Instead, the SPPI uses the term Policy Rule Class (PRC) for the table and row definitions (the xxxTable and xxxEntry objects, respectively), and Policy Rule Instance (PRI) for an instantiation of a row definition. For a columnar object of a table definition, the SPPI uses the term "attribute" of a Policy Rule Class. (The SPPI does not support the equivalent of the SMI's scalar objects.)

2.2. Overview

SNMP's SMI is divided into five parts: module definitions, object definitions, notification definitions [[SMI](#)], textual convention definitions [[TC](#)] and conformance definitions [[CONF](#)].

- The SMI's MODULE-IDENTITY macro is used to convey the semantics of a MIB module. The SPPI uses this macro to convey the semantics of a PIB module.
- The SMI's OBJECT-TYPE macro is used to convey the syntax and semantics of managed objects. The SPPI uses this macro to convey the syntax and semantics of PRCs and their attributes.
- The SMI's notification definitions are not used (at this time) by the SPPI.
- The SMI's TEXTUAL CONVENTION macro allows new data types to be defined. The SPPI uses this macro to define new data types having particular syntax and semantics which is common to several attributes of one or more PRCs.
- The SMI's conformance definitions define several macros: the OBJECT-GROUP macro, the NOTIFICATION-GROUP macro, the MODULE-

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COMPLIANCE macro and the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro. The SPPI uses the OBJECT-GROUP and MODULE-COMPLIANCE macros to specify acceptable lower-bounds of implementation of the attributes of PRCs, and thereby indirectly, acceptable lower-bounds of implementation of the PRCs themselves. The NOTIFICATION-GROUP macro is not used (at this time) by the SPPI. Potential usage by the SPPI of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro is for further study.

3. Structure of this Specification

The SMI is specified in terms of an ASN.1 definition together with descriptive text for each element introduced in that ASN.1 definition. This document specifies the SPPI via a modified ASN.1 definition (which imports those definitions which are unchanged from the SMI), together with descriptive text for only those elements in the SPPI's ASN.1 definition which have differences from the SMI's. For elements in the ASN.1 definition which have no descriptive text in this specification, the reader is referred to the SMI's descriptive text for that element.

4. Definitions

```
COPS-PR-SPPI DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

IMPORTS      ObjectName, SimpleSyntax, ExtUTCTime, Integer32,
             IPAddress, Unsigned32, TimeTicks
             FROM SNMPv2-SMI;

-- definitions for PIB modules

MODULE-IDENTITY MACRO ::=
BEGIN
    TYPE NOTATION ::=
        SubjectPart                                -- new
        "LAST-UPDATED" value(Update ExtUTCTime)
        "ORGANIZATION" Text
        "CONTACT-INFO" Text
        "DESCRIPTION" Text
        RevisionPart
        PibModulesPart                            -- new

    VALUE NOTATION ::=
        value(VALUE OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

    SubjectPart ::=                                -- new
        "SUBJECT-CATEGORY" "{" Categories "}"
    Categories ::=                                -- new
        CategoryIDs
        | "all"
    CategoryIDs ::=                                -- new
        CategoryID
        | CategoryIDs "," CategoryID
    CategoryID ::=                                -- new
        identifier "(" number ")"

    RevisionPart ::=
        Revisions
        | empty
    Revisions ::=
        Revision
        | Revisions Revision
    Revision ::=
        "REVISION" value(Update ExtUTCTime)
        "DESCRIPTION" Text
```

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```
PibModulesPart ::=                                -- new
    PIB-MODULES "{" PibModules "}"
PibModules ::=
    PibModule
    | PibModules "," PibModule
PibModule ::=                                     -- module name of a PIB Module
    value(OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

Text ::= value(IA5String)
END

-- syntax of attributes

-- the "base types" defined here are:
--   3 built-in ASN.1 types: INTEGER, OCTET STRING, OBJECT IDENTIFIER
--   6 application-defined types: Integer32, IPAddress, Unsigned32,
--       TimeTicks, Integer64 and Unsigned64

ObjectSyntax ::=
    CHOICE {
        simple
            SimpleSyntax,

        -- note that SEQUENCES for table and row definitions
        -- are not mentioned here...

        application-wide
            ApplicationSyntax
    }

-- application-wide types

ApplicationSyntax ::=
    CHOICE {
        ipAddress-value
            IPAddress,

        timeticks-value
            TimeTicks,

        unsigned-integer-value
            Unsigned32,

        large-integer-value                        -- new
            Integer64
```

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```
        large-unsigned-integer-value          -- new
        Unsigned64,
    }

-- indistinguishable from INTEGER, but never needs more than
-- 32-bits for a two's complement representation
Integer32 ::=
    INTEGER (-2147483648..2147483647)

Integer64 ::=
    [APPLICATION 7]
    IMPLICIT INTEGER (-9223372036854775808..9223372036854775807)

Unsigned64
    [APPLICATION 8]
    IMPLICIT INTEGER (0..18446744073709551615)

-- definition for Policy Rule Classes and their attributes
-- (differences from the SMI are noted in the ASN.1 comments)

OBJECT-TYPE MACRO ::=
BEGIN
    TYPE NOTATION ::=
        "SYNTAX" Syntax
        UnitsPart
        "PIB-ACCESS" AccessPart    -- modified
        PibReferencesPart          -- new
        PibTagPart                  -- new
        "STATUS" Status
        "DESCRIPTION" Text
        ErrorsPart                  -- new
        ReferPart
        IndexPart
        PibIndexPart                -- new
        UniquePart                  -- new
        DefValPart

    VALUE NOTATION ::=
        value(VALUE ObjectName)

    Syntax ::= -- Must be one of the following:
        -- a base type (or its refinement),
        -- a textual convention (or its refinement), or
        -- a BITS pseudo-type
```

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```

        type
        | "BITS" "{" NamedBits "}"

NamedBits ::= NamedBit
            | NamedBits "," NamedBit

NamedBit ::= identifier "(" number ")" -- number is nonnegative

UnitsPart ::=
    "UNITS" Text
    | empty

AccessPart ::= -- new
    Access
    | Access "," number -- number is positive

Access ::= -- modified
    "install"
    | "notify"
    | "install-notify"

Status ::=
    "current"
    | "deprecated"
    | "obsolete"

ErrorsPart ::= -- new
    "INSTALL-ERRORS" "{" Errors "}"
    | empty

Errors ::= -- new
    Error
    | Errors "," Error

Error ::= -- new
    identifier "(" number ")"

ReferPart ::=
    "REFERENCE" Text
    | empty

IndexPart ::=
    "INDEX"      "{" Index "}" -- modified
    | "AUGMENTS" "{" Entry "}"
    | "EXTENDS"  "{" Entry "}" -- new
    | empty

```

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```
Index ::=
    -- the correspondent OBJECT-TYPE invocation
    value(ObjectName)
Entry ::=
    -- use the INDEX value of the
    -- correspondent OBJECT-TYPE invocation
    value(ObjectName)
PibIndexPart ::=                                -- new
    "PIB-INDEX"    "{" Index "}"
    | empty
PibReferencesPart ::=
    -- for use with PolicyReferenceId TC
    "PIB-REFERENCES"  "{" Entry "}"
    | empty
PibTagPart ::=
    -- for use with "PolicyTagReference" TC
    "PIB-TAG"    "{" Attr "}"
    | empty
Attr ::=
    -- specifies an attribute
    value(ObjectName)
UniquePart ::=                                -- new
    "UNIQUENESS"    "{" UniqueTypes "}"
UniqueTypes ::=
    UniqueType
    | UniqueTypes "," UniqueType
    | empty
UniqueType ::=
    -- the correspondent OBJECT-TYPE invocation
    value(ObjectName)
DefValPart ::= "DEFVAL" "{" Defvalue "}"
    | empty
Defvalue ::= -- must be valid for the type specified in
    -- SYNTAX clause of same OBJECT-TYPE macro
    value(ObjectSyntax)
    | "{" BitsValue "}"
BitsValue ::= BitNames
    | empty
```

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```
BitNames ::= BitName
           | BitNames "," BitName

BitName ::= identifier

Text ::= value(IA5String)
END

-- definitions for compliance statements

MODULE-COMPLIANCE MACRO ::=
BEGIN
  TYPE NOTATION ::=
    "STATUS" Status
    "DESCRIPTION" Text
    ReferPart
    ModulePart

  VALUE NOTATION ::=
    value(VALUE OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

  Status ::=
    "current"
    | "deprecated"
    | "obsolete"

  ReferPart ::=
    "REFERENCE" Text
    | empty

  ModulePart ::=
    Modules

  Modules ::=
    Module
    | Modules Module

  Module ::=
    -- name of module --
    "MODULE" ModuleName
    MandatoryPart
    CompliancePart

  ModuleName ::=
    -- identifier must start with uppercase letter
    identifier ModuleIdentifier
```

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```

        -- must not be empty unless contained
        -- in MIB Module
    | empty
ModuleIdentifier ::=
    value(OBJECT IDENTIFIER)
    | empty

MandatoryPart ::=
    "MANDATORY-GROUPS" "{" Groups "}"
    | empty

Groups ::=
    Group
    | Groups "," Group

Group ::=
    value(OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

CompliancePart ::=
    Compliances
    | empty

Compliances ::=
    Compliance
    | Compliances Compliance

Compliance ::=
    ComplianceGroup
    | Object

ComplianceGroup ::=
    "GROUP" value(OBJECT IDENTIFIER)
    "DESCRIPTION" Text

Object ::=
    "OBJECT" value(ObjectName)
    InstallSyntaxPart                -- modified
    AccessPart
    "DESCRIPTION" Text

-- must be a refinement for object's SYNTAX clause
InstallSyntaxPart ::= "SYNTAX" Syntax
    | empty

Syntax ::=
    -- Must be one of the following:
    -- a base type (or its refinement),
    -- a textual convention (or its refinement), or
```

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```

        -- a BITS pseudo-type
        type
        | "BITS" "{" NamedBits "}"

NamedBits ::= NamedBit
        | NamedBits "," NamedBit

NamedBit ::= identifier "(" number ")" -- number is nonnegative

AccessPart ::=
        "PIB-MIN-ACCESS" Access          -- modified
        | empty
Access ::=                                     -- modified
        "not-accessible"
        | "install"
        | "notify"
        | "install-notify"

-- a character string as defined in [2]
Text ::= value(IA5String)
END

-- definition of textual conventions

TEXTUAL-CONVENTION MACRO ::=
BEGIN
    TYPE NOTATION ::=
        DisplayPart
        "STATUS" Status
        "DESCRIPTION" Text
        ReferPart
        "SYNTAX" Syntax

    VALUE NOTATION ::=
        value(VALUE Syntax)          -- adapted ASN.1

    DisplayPart ::=
        "DISPLAY-HINT" Text
        | empty

    Status ::=
        "current"
        | "deprecated"
        | "obsolete"
```

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```
ReferPart ::=
    "REFERENCE" Text
  | empty

-- a character string as defined in [2]
Text ::= value(IA5String)

Syntax ::= -- Must be one of the following:
    -- a base type (or its refinement), or
    -- a BITS pseudo-type
    type
  | "BITS" "{" NamedBits "}"

NamedBits ::= NamedBit
  | NamedBits "," NamedBit

NamedBit ::= identifier "(" number ")" -- number is nonnegative
```

END

END

COPS-PR-SPPI-TC PIB-DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

IMPORTS Unsigned32, Integer32 FROM SNMPv2-SMI
 MODULE-IDENTITY, TEXTUAL-CONVENTION FROM COPS-PR-SPPI;

copsPrSppiTc MODULE-IDENTITY
 SUBJECT-CATEGORIES { all }
 LAST-UPDATED "200003101800Z"
 ORGANIZATION "IETF DIFFSERV WG"
 CONTACT-INFO "
 Keith McCloghrie
 Cisco Systems, Inc.
 170 West Tasman Drive,
 San Jose, CA 95134-1706 USA
 Phone: +1 408 526 5260
 Email: kzm@cisco.com

 Ravi Sahita
 Intel
 2111 NE 25th Avenue
 Hillsboro, OR 97124 USA
 Phone: +1 503 264 8231
 Email: ravi.sahita@intel.com
 "

DESCRIPTION

 "The PIB module containing a set of Textual Conventions
 which have general applicability to many/most PIB modules."
::= { tbd }

PolicyInstanceId ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION

 STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

 "The textual convention for use by an attribute which is used
 as the instance-identifying index of a PRC, i.e., an attribute
 named in a PIB-INDEX clause (or INDEX clause, if a PIB-INDEX
 clause is absent). The value of an attribute with this
 syntax is always greater than zero.

 PRIs of the same PRC need not have contiguous values for their
 instance-identifying attribute."

SYNTAX Unsigned32 (1..4294967295)

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PolicyReferenceId ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"A textual convention for use by an attribute which is used as a pointer in order to reference an instance of a particular PRC. An attribute with this syntax must not be used in a PIB-INDEX clause (or INDEX clause, if a PIB-INDEX clause is absent), and its description must specify the particular PRC to which the referenced PRI will belong.

For an attribute of this type, the referenced PRI must exist. Furthermore, it is an error to try to delete a PRI that is referenced by another instance without first deleting/modifying the referencing instance.

The definition of an attribute with this syntax can permit the attribute to have a value of zero to indicate that it is not currently pointing to an PRI."

SYNTAX Unsigned32

Prid ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"Represents a pointer to a PRI, i.e., to an instance of a PRC. The value is the OID name of the PRC's row definition, appended with one sub-identifier containing the value of the PolicyInstanceId value for the referenced instance."

SYNTAX OBJECT IDENTIFIER

PolicyTagId ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"Represents a tag value, such that all instances of a particular PRC having the same tag value form a tag list. A tag list is identified by the tag value shared by all instances in that tag list."

SYNTAX Integer32

PolicyTagReference ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"Represents a reference to a tag list of instances of a particular PRC. The particular PRC must have an attribute with the syntax of PolicyTagId. The tag list consists of all instances which have the same value of the PolicyTagId

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attribute. Reference to the tag list is via the attribute with the syntax of PolicyTagReference containing the tag value which identifies the tag list."

SYNTAX Integer32

END

5. PIB Modules

The names of all standard PIB modules must be unique (but different versions of the same module should have the same name). Developers of enterprise PIB modules are encouraged to choose names for their modules that will have a low probability of colliding with standard or other enterprise modules.

The first line of a PIB module is:

```
PIB-MODULE-NAME    PIB-DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN
```

where PIB-MODULE-NAME is the module name.

Like the SMI, additional ASN.1 macros must not be defined in PIB modules.

5.1. Importing Definitions

Like the SMI, a PIB module which needs to reference an external definition, must use the IMPORTS statement to identify both the descriptor and the module in which the descriptor is defined, where a module is identified by its ASN.1 module name.

In particular, a PIB module may import from COPS-PR-SPPI (defined in this document), and from other PIB modules. A PIB module may also import OID assignments from MIB modules, as well as textual convention definitions providing that their underlying syntax is supported by the SPPI. However, the following must not be included in an IMPORTS statement:

- named types defined by ASN.1 itself, specifically: INTEGER, OCTET STRING, OBJECT IDENTIFIER, SEQUENCE, SEQUENCE OF type,
- the BITS construct.

For each ASN.1 macro that a PIB uses, it must import that macro's definition from the appropriate module, as follows:

- MODULE-IDENTITY, OBJECT-TYPE, TEXTUAL-CONVENTION and MODULE-COMPLIANCE from COPS-PR-SPPI
- OBJECT-IDENTITY from SNMPv2-SMI
- OBJECT-GROUP from SNMPv2-CONF

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5.2. Reserved Keywords

In addition to the reserved keywords listed in the SMI, the following must not be used as descriptors or module names:

INSTALL-ERRORS Integer64 PIB-MIN-ACCESS PIB-ACCESS
SUBJECT-CATEGORIES UNIQUENESS Unsigned64

6. Naming Hierarchy

The SPPI uses the same OBJECT IDENTIFIER naming hierarchy as the SMI. That is, OIDs are typically assigned to PIB modules from the subtree administered by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). However, like the SMI, the SPPI does not prohibit the definition of PRCs in other portions of the OID tree.

7. Mapping of the MODULE-IDENTITY macro

7.1. Mapping of the SUBJECT-CATEGORIES clause

The SUBJECT-CATEGORIES clause, which must be present, identifies a particular category of Policy data for which this PIB module defines policy information. For use with the COPS-PR protocol, the individual subject categories are mapped to COPS Client Types [[COPS-PR](#)]. The subject categories are identified either:

- via the keyword "all", indicating the PIB module defines policy information relevant for all subject categories (and thus, all COPS Client Types), or
- a list of named-number enumerations, where each number identifies a subject category, and is mapped to the Client Type which is identified by that same number in the COPS protocol. At present time, no more than one named-number enumeration should be specified.

When a PIB module applies to multiple subject categories, that PIB module exists in multiple virtual information stores, one for each Client-Type.

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7.2. Mapping of the PIB-MODULES clause

The PIB-MODULES clause, which must be present if this PIB module references any other PIB modules, identifies by module name each referenced PIB module. For example, PIB modules referenced by an IMPORTS or in a MODULE-CONFORMANCE should be identified in this clause. This information is used by the algorithmic conversion of a PIB to a MIB (see [Appendix A](#)).

8. Mapping of the OBJECT-TYPE macro

The SPPI requires that all attribute definitions be contained within a PRC, i.e., within a table definition.

8.1. Mapping of the SYNTAX clause

The SYNTAX clause, which must be present within the definition of an attribute, defines the abstract data structure of that attribute. The data structure must be one of the following: a base type, the BITS construct, or a textual convention.

The SYNTAX clause must also be present for the table and row definitions of a PRC, and in this case must be a SEQUENCE OF or SEQUENCE (see [section 8.1.7](#) below).

The base types are an extended subset of the SMI's base types:

- built-in ASN.1 types: INTEGER, OCTET STRING, OBJECT IDENTIFIER,
- application-defined types: Integer32, IPAddress, Unsigned32, TimeTicks, Integer64 and Unsigned64.

A textual convention is a newly-defined type defined as a sub-type of a base type [[TC](#)]. The value of an attribute whose syntax is defined using a textual convention is encoded "on-the-wire" according to the textual convention's underlying base type.

Note that the set of base types has been chosen so as to provide sufficient variety of on-the-wire encodings for attribute values; base types should contain a minimum of semantics. Semantics should, to the extent possible, be incorporated into a data type through the use of a textual convention. Thus, the IPAddress and TimeTicks data types should really be defined as textual conventions because they contain semantics. However, they are defined here as base types so as to avoid confusion with the SMI which defines them as base types.

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The differences from the SMI in the semantics of ObjectSyntax are now described.

[8.1.1.](#) Counter32

The Counter32 type is not supported by the SPPI.

[8.1.2.](#) Gauge32

The Gauge32 type is not supported by the SPPI.

[8.1.3.](#) Opaque

The Opaque type is not supported by the SPPI.

[8.1.4.](#) Counter64

The Counter64 type is not supported by the SPPI.

[8.1.5.](#) Integer64

The Integer64 type represents integer-valued information between -2^{63} and $2^{63}-1$ inclusive (-9223372036854775808 to 9223372036854775807 decimal). While Integer64 may be sub-typed to be more constrained, if the constraint results in all possible values being contained in the range (-2147483648..2147483647), then the Integer32 type must be used instead of Integer64.

[8.1.6.](#) Unsigned64

The Integer64 type represents integer-valued information between -2^{63} and $2^{63}-1$ inclusive (0 to 18446744073709551615 decimal). While Unsigned64 may be sub-typed to be more constrained, if the constraint results in all possible values being contained in the range (0..4294967295), then the Unsigned32 type must be used instead of Unsigned64.

[8.1.7.](#) Policy Rule Classes

The policy operations (on PIBs) supported by the SPPI apply exclusively to PRCs. Each PRC is modelled as a tabular structure, i.e., a table. Each instance of a particular PRC has the same set of attributes. The set of attributes which belong to every instance of a particular PRC is modelled as a row in the table. This model is formalized by using the OBJECT-TYPE macro to define both:

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- the PRC as a whole, called the table definition, and
- the characteristics of every instance of a particular PRC, called the row definition.

In the table definition, the SYNTAX clause has the form:

SEQUENCE OF <EntryType>

where <EntryType> refers to the SEQUENCE type of its attribute definitions. In the row definition, the SYNTAX clause has the form:

<EntryType>

where <EntryType> is a SEQUENCE type defined as follows:

<EntryType> ::= SEQUENCE { <type1>, ... , <typeN> }

where there is one <type> for each attribute, and each <type> is of the form:

<descriptor> <syntax>

where <descriptor> is the descriptor naming an attribute, and <syntax> has the value of that attribute's SYNTAX clause, except that both subtyping information and the named values for enumerated integers or the named bits for the BITS construct, are omitted from <syntax>.

8.2. Mapping of the MAX-ACCESS clause

The MAX-ACCESS clause is not supported by the SPPI.

8.3. Mapping of the PIB-ACCESS clause

The PIB-ACCESS clause must be present for a PRC's table definition, and must not be present for any other OBJECT-TYPE definition. The PIB-ACCESS clause defines what kind of access is appropriate for the PRC. The PIB-ACCESS clause also optionally provides a number which is used in the algorithmic conversion of a PIB to a MIB (see [Appendix A](#)).

- the value "install" is used to indicate a PRC which a PDP can install in the PEP as policy information.
- the value "notify" is used to indicate a PRC for which the PEP must notify the PDP of all its instances and attribute values of that

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PRC.

- the value "install-notify" is used to indicate the uncommon type of PRC which has both characteristics: "install" and "notify".

8.4. Mapping of the INSTALL-ERRORS clause

The INSTALL-ERRORS clause, which may optionally be present for a PRC's table definition, and must be absent otherwise, lists one or more potential reasons for rejecting an install or a removal of an instance of the PRC. Each reason consists of a named-number enumeration, where the number represents a PRC-specific error-code to be used in a COPS protocol message, as the Sub-Error Code, with the Error-Code set to `priSpecificError` (see [[COPS-PR](#)]). The semantics of each named-number enumeration should be described in the PRC's DESCRIPTION clause.

The numbers listed in an INSTALL-ERRORS must be greater than zero and less than 65536. If this clause is not present, an install/remove can still fail, but no PRC-specific error is available to be reported.

8.5. Mapping of the INDEX clause

The INDEX clause, which must be present for a row definition (unless an AUGMENTS or an EXTENDS clause is present instead), and must be absent otherwise, defines identification information for instances of the PRC (unless a PIB-INDEX clause is also present, see below).

If a PIB-INDEX clause is absent for the same row definition, then a PRC's INDEX clause includes exactly one descriptor. This descriptor specifies an attribute (typically, but not necessarily of the same PRC) which is used to identify an instance of that PRC. The syntax of this attribute is required to be `PolicyInstanceId` (a textual convention with an underlying syntax of `Unsigned32`), and it has no semantics other than its use in identifying the PRC instance. The OBJECT IDENTIFIER which identifies an instance of a PRC is formed by appending one sub-identifier to the OID which identifies that PRC's row definition. The value of the additional sub-identifier is that instance's value of the attribute specified in the INDEX clause.

If a PIB-INDEX clause is present for the same row definition, then the INDEX clause can contain any number of attributes, and is used only by the algorithmic conversion of a PIB to a MIB (see [Appendix A](#)).

Note that SPPI does not permit use of the IMPLIED keyword.

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8.6. Mapping of the PIB-INDEX clause

The PIB-INDEX clause, which is optionally present if an INDEX clause is present, and must be absent otherwise, defines identification information for instances of the PRC.

If present, a PRC's PIB-INDEX clause includes exactly one descriptor. This descriptor specifies an attribute (typically, but not necessarily of the same PRC) which is used to identify an instance of that PRC. The syntax of this attribute is required to be PolicyInstanceId (a textual convention with an underlying syntax of Unsigned32), and it has no semantics other than its use in identifying the PRC instance.

The OBJECT IDENTIFIER which identifies an instance of a PRC is formed by appending one sub-identifier to the OID which identifies that PRC's row definition. The value of the additional sub-identifier is that instance's value of the attribute specified in the PIB-INDEX clause.

8.7. Mapping of the AUGMENTS clause

The AUGMENTS clause, which must not be present except in row definitions, is an alternative to the INDEX clause and the EXTENDS clause. Every row definition has exactly one of: an INDEX clause, an AUGMENTS clause, or an EXTENDS clause.

A row definition which has an INDEX clause is called a base row definition. A row definition which has an AUGMENTS clause is called a row augmentation, where the AUGMENTS clause names the base row definition which is augmented by this row augmentation. (Thus, a row augmentation cannot itself be augmented.)

A PRC whose row definition is a row augmentation is called an augmenting PRC. Instances of an augmenting PRC are identified according to the PIB-INDEX clause (or INDEX clause, if PIB-INDEX is absent) of the base row definition named in the AUGMENTS clause. Further, instances of an augmenting PRC exist according to the same semantics as instances of the PRC which it augments. As such, when an instance of a PRC is installed or removed, an instance of every PRC which augments it is also installed or removed (for more details, see [[COPS-PR](#)]).

8.8. Mapping of the EXTENDS clause

The EXTENDS clause, which must not be present except in row definitions, is an alternative to the INDEX clause and the AUGMENTS clause. Every row definition has exactly one of: an INDEX clause, an AUGMENTS clause,

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or an EXTENDS clause.

A row definition which has an EXTENDS clause is called a sparse row augmentation, where the EXTENDS clause names the row definition which is sparsely-augmented by this sparse row augmentation. The sparsely-augmented row can be a base row definition, or another sparse row augmentation.

A PRC whose row definition is a sparse row augmentation is called a sparsely augmenting PRC. Instances of a sparsely augmenting PRC are identified according to the EXTENDS clause or the PIB-INDEX clause (or INDEX clause, if PIB-INDEX is absent) of the row definition named in the sparsely augmenting PRC's EXTENDS clause.

An instance of a sparsely augmenting PRC can not exist unless a corresponding instance of the PRC which it sparsely augments exists. As such, when an instance of a PRC is removed, an instance of any PRC which sparsely augments it is also removed.

8.8.1. Relation between INDEX, AUGMENTS and EXTENDS clauses

When defining instance identification information for a PRC:

- If there is a one-to-one correspondence between instances of this PRC and instances of an existing PRC, then the AUGMENTS clause should be used.
- Otherwise, if there is a sparse relationship between instances of this PRC and instances of an existing PRC, then an EXTENDS clause should be used.
- Otherwise, an INDEX or PIB-INDEX clause should be used which names its own PolicyInstanceId attribute.

8.9. Mapping of the UNIQUENESS clause

The UNIQUENESS clause, which must be present for any row definition which has an INDEX clause, and must be absent otherwise, lists a set of zero or more of the PRC's attributes, for which no two instances of the PRC can have the same set of values. The specified set of attributes provide a necessary and sufficient set of values by which to identify an instance of this PRC. The attribute contained in the PIB-INDEX clause (or INDEX clause, if a PIB-INDEX clause is absent) may not be present in

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the UNIQUENESS clause. By definition, an attribute may not appear more than once in a UNIQUENESS clause. A UNIQUENESS clause containing zero attributes indicates that it's possible for two instances of the PRC to have identical values for all attributes except, of course, for the one named in the PIB-INDEX clause (or INDEX clause, if a PIB-INDEX clause is absent).

8.10. Mapping of the PIB-REFERENCES clause

The PIB-REFERENCES clause, which must be present for any attribute which has the SYNTAX of PolicyReferenceId, and must be absent otherwise, names the PRC, an instance of which is referenced by the PolicyReferenceId attribute. For example usages of the PIB-REFERENCE clause, see [Appendix B](#).

8.11. Mapping of the PIB-TAG clause

The PIB-TAG clause, which must be present for an attribute which has the SYNTAX PolicyTagReference, and must be absent otherwise, is used indicate that this attribute references a "tag list" of instances of another PRC. Such a tag list (similar in concept to the usage of the same term in [\[APPL\]](#)) is formed by all instances of the other PRC which have the same (tag) value of a particular attribute of that other PRC. The particular attribute of the other PRC, which must have the SYNTAX PolicyTagId, is named in the PIB-TAG clause. For an example usage of the PIB-TAG clause, see [Appendix B](#).

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9. Mapping of the OBJECT-IDENTITY macro

The SMI's ASN.1 macro, OBJECT-IDENTITY [[SMI](#)], is used in PIB modules to define information about an OBJECT IDENTIFIER assignment.

10. Textual Conventions

When designing a PIB module, it is often useful to define new data types similar to those defined in the SPPI. In comparison to a type defined in the SPPI, each of these new types has a different name, a similar syntax, and specific semantics. These newly defined types are termed textual conventions, and are used for the convenience of humans reading the PIB module.

Attributes defined using a textual convention are always encoded by means of the rules that define their underlying type. The TEXTUAL-CONVENTION (see below) is used in PIB modules to define the syntax and semantics of a textual convention.

11. Mapping of the OBJECT-GROUP macro

For conformance purposes, it is useful to define a conformance group as a collection of related PRCs and their attributes. The SPPI uses the SMI's OBJECT-GROUP macro as the means to directly define the collection of attributes which belong to a conformance group. Since each attribute included in the collection belongs to a PRC, the collection of related PRCs which belong to a conformance group is also specified (indirectly) as the set of PRCs to which the included attributes belong.

11.1. Mapping of the OBJECTS clause

The OBJECTS clause, which must be present, is used to specify each attribute contained in the conformance group. Each of the specified attributes must be defined in the same PIB module as the OBJECT-GROUP macro appears.

It is required that every attribute defined in a PIB module be contained in at least one conformance group. This avoids the common error of adding a new attribute to a module and forgetting to add the new attribute to a group.

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12. Mapping of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro

The MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro is used to convey a minimum set of requirements with respect to implementation of one or more PIB modules.

A requirement on all "standard" PIB modules is that a corresponding MODULE-COMPLIANCE specification is also defined, either in the same module or in a companion module.

12.1. Mapping of the MODULE clause

The MODULE clause, which must be present, is repeatedly used to name each PIB module for which compliance requirements are being specified. Each PIB module is named by its module name, and optionally, by its associated OBJECT IDENTIFIER as well. The module name can be omitted when the MODULE-COMPLIANCE invocation occurs inside a PIB module, to refer to the encompassing PIB module.

12.1.1. Mapping of the MANDATORY-GROUPS clause

The MANDATORY-GROUPS clause, which need not be present, names the one or more conformance groups within the correspondent PIB module which are unconditionally mandatory for implementation. If an agent claims compliance to the PIB module, then it must implement each and every attribute (and therefore the PRCs to which they belong) within each conformance group listed.

12.1.2. Mapping of the GROUP clause

The GROUP clause, which need not be present, is repeatedly used to name each conformance group which is conditionally mandatory for compliance to the PIB module. The GROUP clause can also be used to name unconditionally optional groups. A group named in a GROUP clause must be absent from the correspondent MANDATORY-GROUPS clause.

Conditionally mandatory groups include those which are mandatory only if a particular protocol is implemented, or only if another group is implemented. A GROUP clause's DESCRIPTION specifies the conditions under which the group is conditionally mandatory.

A group which is named in neither a MANDATORY-GROUPS clause nor a GROUP clause, is unconditionally optional for compliance to the PIB module.

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12.1.3. Mapping of the OBJECT clause

The OBJECT clause, which need not be present, is repeatedly used to specify each attribute for which compliance has a refined requirement with respect to the PIB module definition. The attribute must be present in one of the conformance groups named in the correspondent MANDATORY-GROUPS clause or GROUP clauses.

By definition, each attribute specified in an OBJECT clause follows a MODULE clause which names the PIB module in which that attribute is defined. Therefore, the use of an IMPORTS statement, to specify from where such attributes are imported, is redundant and is not required in a PIB module.

12.1.3.1. Mapping of the SYNTAX clause

The SYNTAX clause, which need not be present, is used to provide a refined SYNTAX for the attribute named in the correspondent OBJECT clause. The refined syntax is the minimum level of support needed for this attribute in order to be compliant.

12.1.3.2. Mapping of the WRITE-SYNTAX clause

The WRITE-SYNTAX clause is not supported by the SPPI.

12.1.3.3. Mapping of the PIB-MIN-ACCESS clause

The PIB-MIN-ACCESS clause, which need not be present, is used to define the minimal level of access for the attribute named in the correspondent OBJECT clause. If this clause is absent, the minimal level of access is the same as the maximal level specified in the PIB-ACCESS clause of the correspondent invocation of the OBJECT-TYPE macro. If present, this clause must specify a subset of the access specified in the correspondent PIB-ACCESS clause, where: "install" is a subset of "install-notify", "notify" is a subset of "install-notify", and "not-accessible" is a subset of all other values.

An implementation is compliant if the level of access it provides is the same or a superset of the minimal level in the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro and the same or a subset of the maximal level in the PIB-ACCESS clause.

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13. Mapping of the TEXTUAL-CONVENTION macro

The TEXTUAL-CONVENTION macro is used to convey the syntax and semantics associated with a textual convention. It should be noted that the expansion of the TEXTUAL-CONVENTION macro is something which conceptually happens during implementation and not during run-time.

The name of a textual convention must consist of one or more letters or digits, with the initial character being an upper case letter. The name must not conflict with any of the reserved words listed in [section 3.7](#) of [2], should not consist of all upper case letters, and shall not exceed 64 characters in length. (However, names longer than 32 characters are not recommended.) The hyphen is not allowed in the name of a textual convention (except for use in information modules converted from SMIV1 which allowed hyphens in ASN.1 type assignments). Further, all names used for the textual conventions defined in all "standard" PIB modules shall be unique.

13.1. Mapping of the SYNTAX clause

The SYNTAX clause, which must be present, defines abstract data structure corresponding to the textual convention. The data structure must be one of the following: a base type (see the SYNTAX clause of an OBJECT-TYPE macro), or the BITS construct. Note that this means that the SYNTAX clause of a Textual Convention can not refer to a previously defined Textual Convention.

13.1.1. Sub-typing of Textual Conventions

The SYNTAX clause of a TEXTUAL CONVENTION macro may be sub-typed in the same way as the SYNTAX clause of an OBJECT-TYPE macro.

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14. Extending a PIB Module

The SMI's rules for extending an information module are augmented with the following rules:

14.1. OBJECT-TYPE Definitions

An invocation of the OBJECT-TYPE macro may also be revised in any of the following ways:

- An INSTALL-ERRORS clause may be added or an existing INSTALL-ERRORS clause have additional errors defined.
- Additional named-number enumerations may be added to a SUBJECT-CATEGORIES clause.

15. Appendix A: Mapping a PIB to a MIB

Since the SPPI is modelled on the SMI, a PIB can be easily and algorithmically mapped into a MIB. This mapping is achieved by means of the following rules:

- Modify the module's module name by appending "-MIB" to the name.
- Replace the keyword PIB-DEFINITIONS with the keyword DEFINITIONS.
- Modify the module names of all external references to PIB modules (as identified in the PIB-MODULES clause) by appending "-MIB" to each such module name.
- Delete all of the following clauses: PIB-MODULES, PIB-ACCESS, PIB-INDEX, PIB-REFERENCES, PIB-TAG, UNIQUENESS, INSTALL-ERRORS, and SUBJECT-CATEGORIES.
- Change all PIB-MIN-ACCESS clauses to MIN-ACCESS clauses, modifying "install" and "install-notify" to "read-create", and "notify" to "read-only".
- Add a MAX-ACCESS clause for each OBJECT-TYPE. For each table definition and row definition, the MAX-ACCESS is "not-accessible". For each attribute that is in the INDEX clause, the MAX-ACCESS is "not-accessible". For the remaining attributes, the MAX-ACCESS is "read-create".
- Add a columnar attribute of type RowStatus with name status. The optional number provided by the PIB-ACCESS clause is used as the OID for this columnar attribute. If no number is provided by the PIB-ACCESS clause, then the default number 1 is used.
- Modify any SYNTAX clause which has a base data type which is not allowed in the SMI to be an OCTET STRING of the relevant size. Specifically, both Integer64 and Unsigned64 are mapped to OCTET STRING (SIZE(8)).

(Note that the mapping of Integer64 and Unsigned64 to OCTET STRINGs is a compromise, which is considered superior to both

- omitting them from the conversion, and
- mapping them to Counter64, which not only has problems representing negative numbers, but also has unwanted counter semantics.)

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16. [Appendix B](#): Example usage of PIB-REFERENCE and PIB-TAG clauses

The following example demonstrates the use of the PIB-REFERENCE and PIB-TAG clauses.

In this example, the PIB-REFERENCE clause is used by the qosIfDscpMapQueue attribute to indicate the PRC of which it references an instance, and similarly, by the qosIfDscpMapThresh attribute.

The qosIfDscpMapTable PRC has an instance for each DSCP of a particular "map", but there is no PRC defined for a map itself; rather, a map consists of all instances of qosIfDscpMapTable which have the same value of qosIfDscpMapMapId. That is, a tag list is formed by all instances of qosIfDscpMapTable which have the same value of qosIfDscpMapMapId. This tag list is referenced by the attribute qosIfDscpAssignDscpMap, and its use of the PIB-TAG clause indicates this.

qosIfDscpAssignTable OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX          SEQUENCE OF QosIfDscpAssignEntry
PIB-ACCESS       install
STATUS          current
DESCRIPTION     " "
::= { qosIfParameters 9 }
```

qosIfDscpAssignEntry OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX          QosIfDscpAssignEntry
STATUS          current
DESCRIPTION     "An instance of the qosIfDscpAssign class."
INDEX           { qosIfDscpAssignPrid }
UNIQUENESS      { qosIfDscpAssignName, qosIfDscpAssignRoles }
::= { qosIfDscpAssignTable 1 }
```

QosIfDscpAssignEntry ::= SEQUENCE {

```
    qosIfDscpAssignPrid      PolicyInstanceId,
    qosIfDscpAssignName      SnmpAdminString,
    qosIfDscpAssignRoles     RoleCombination,
    qosIfDscpAssignDscpMap   PolicyTagReference
```

}

qosIfDscpAssignDscpMap OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX          PolicyTagReference
PIB-TAG         qosIfDscpMapMapId -- attribute defined below
STATUS          current
DESCRIPTION
```

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"The DSCP map which is applied to interfaces of type qosIfDscpAssignName which have a role combination of qosIfDscpAssignRoles."

::= { qosIfDscpAssignEntry 3 }

--

-- DSCP to Queue and Threshold Mapping Table

--

qosIfDscpMapTable OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF QosIfDscpMapEntry

PIB-ACCESS install

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"Assigns DSCP values to queues and thresholds for an arbitrary DSCP map. This map can then be assigned to various interface and role combination pairs."

::= { qosIfParameters 10 }

qosIfDscpMapEntry OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX QosIfDscpMapEntry

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"An instance of the qosIfDscpMap class."

INDEX { qosIfDscpMapPrid }

UNIQUENESS { qosIfDscpMapMapId, qosIfDscpMapDscp }

::= { qosIfDscpMapTable 1 }

QosIfDscpMapEntry ::= SEQUENCE {

qosIfDscpMapPrid PolicyInstanceId,

qosIfDscpMapMapId INTEGER,

qosIfDscpMapDscp Dscp,

qosIfDscpMapQueue PolicyReferenceId,

qosIfDscpMapThresh PolicyReferenceId

}

qosIfDscpMapMapId OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX PolicyTagId

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"An integer that identifies the DSCP map to which this PRI belongs."

::= { qosIfDscpMapEntry 2 }

qosIfDscpMapQueue OBJECT-TYPE

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SYNTAX PolicyReferenceId

PIB-REFERENCE qosIfQueueTable

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"This attribute maps the DSCP specified by qosIfDscpMapDscp to the queue identified by qosIfQueuePrid in qosIfQueueTable.

For a given DSCP map, all the queues must belong to a single queue set."

::= { qosIfDscpMapEntry 4 }

qosIfDscpMapThresh OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX PolicyReferenceId

PIB-REFERENCE qosIfThresholdTable

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"This attribute maps the DSCP specified by qosIfDscpMapDscp to the threshold identified by qosIfThresholdId in qosIfThresholdTable. The threshold set to which this threshold belongs must be assigned to the queue specified by qosIfDscpMapQueue."

::= { qosIfDscpMapEntry 5 }

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17. Security Considerations

This document defines a language with which to define policy information. The language itself has no security impact on the Internet.

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