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SAVI Solution for DHCP
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Abstract

This document specifies the procedure for creating bindings between a DHCPv4 [[RFC2131](#)]/DHCPv6 [[RFC3315](#)] assigned source IP address and a binding anchor (refer to [SAVI-framework]) on SAVI (Source Address Validation Improvements) device. The bindings can be used to filter packets generated on the local link with forged source IP address.

Table of Contents

Copyright Notice	2
Abstract	2
1 . Introduction	3
2 . Conventions used in this document.....	4
3 . Terminology	4
4 . SAVI-DHCP Scenario	4
5 . Data Structures	5
5.1. Control Plane Data Structure: Binding State Table (BST).	5
5.2 . Data Plane Data Structure: Filtering Table (FT).....	6
6 . Binding Anchor Attributes.....	6
6.1 . No Attribute	7
6.2 . SAVI-Validation Attribute.....	7
6.3 . SAVI-DHCP-Trust Attribute.....	7
6.4 . SAVI-SAVI Attribute.....	7
6.5 . SAVI-BindRecovery Attribute.....	7
7 . Binding Set Up	8
7.1 . Rationale	8
7.2 . Binding States Description.....	8
7.3 . Events	8
7.3.1 . Timer expiration event.....	8
7.3.2 . Control message arriving events	8

7.4. Process of DHCP Packet Snooping	9
7.4.1. From NO_BIND to other states	9
7.4.1.1. Trigger Event.....	9
7.4.1.2. Following Actions.....	10
7.4.2. From INIT_BIND to other states	11
7.4.2.1. Trigger Event.....	11
7.4.2.2. Following Actions.....	12
7.4.3. From BOUND to other states	12
7.4.3.1. Trigger Event.....	12
7.4.3.2. Following Actions.....	12
7.5. State Machine of DHCP Snooping	13
8. Supplemental Binding Process.....	14
8.1. Binding Recovery Process.....	14
9. Filtering Specification.....	15
9.1. Data Packet Filtering.....	16
9.2. Control Packet Filtering.....	16
10. State Restoration	16
11. Handle Binding Anchor Off-link Event	17
12. Constants	17
13. Security Considerations.....	17
13.1. Binding Number Limitation.....	17
13.2. Risk from Link Layer Routing Dynamic	18
13.3. Duplicate Bindings of Same Address	18
14. IANA Considerations.....	18
15. References	19
15.1. Normative References.....	19
15.2. Informative References.....	19
16. Acknowledgments	20
17. Change Log	21

1. Introduction

This document describes the procedure for creating bindings between DHCP addresses and binding anchor on SAVI device (refer to [I-D.ietf-savi-framework]). Other related details about this procedure are also specified in this document. The definition and examples of binding anchor are specified in [I-D.ietf-savi-framework].

Bindings can be used to filter packets with forged IP address.

[Section 9](#) suggests usage of these bindings for common practice.

[savi-framework] may specify different usages of binding, depending on the environment and configuration.

The mechanism specified in this document is designed to provide a binding anchor granularity validation, as a supplement to [BCP38](#) [BCP38]. This mechanism is deployed on the access device (including access switch, wireless access point/controller, etc), and performs

mainly DHCP snooping to set up bindings between IP addresses assigned by DHCP and corresponding binding anchors. The binding process is inspired by the work of IP Source Guard [IP Source Guard].

This solution is designed for stateful DHCP scenario [RFC2131, RFC3315]. In stateless DHCP scenarios [RFC3736], DHCP is used to configure other parameters but rather IP address. The address of the client SHOULD be bound based on other SAVI solutions, but rather this solution.

This solution is primarily designed for a pure DHCP scenario in which only DHCP address is legitimate global address. How to use this mechanism in multiple address assignments scenario is discussed in [draft-bi-savi-mixed].

2. Conventions used in this document

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].

3. Terminology

Lease time: Lease time in IPv4 [RFC2131] and valid lifetime in IPv6 [RFC3315]

4. SAVI-DHCP Scenario

Figure 1 shows the main elements in a DHCP network. At least one DHCP server must be deployed in the network, and DHCP relay may be used to relay message between client and server. Multiple SAVI devices and non-SAVI devices can co-exist on link. A SAVI device can be attached by client, DHCP relay (even DHCP server), SAVI device and non-SAVI device.

Other address assignment mechanisms may be also used in such network. However, this solution is primarily designed for a pure DHCP scenario, in which only DHCP servers can assign valid global address.

Note that in IPv6 environment, DHCP procedure cannot be performed on an interface without a link-local or global address pre-assigned. Thus, to make this solution work, a SAVI solution for link-local address MUST be enabled.

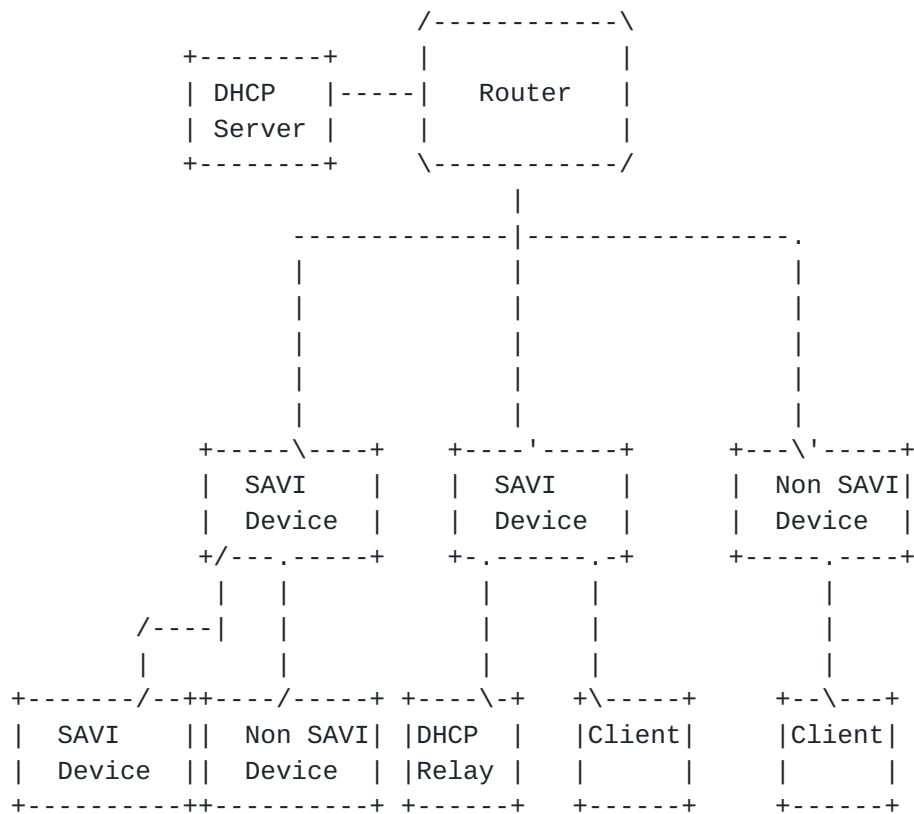


Figure 1 DHCP Scenario

5. Data Structures

This section describes the data structures used in this mechanism.

Two main data structures are used to record bindings and their states respectively. There is redundancy between the two structures, for the consideration of separation of data plane and control plane.

5.1. Control Plane Data Structure: Binding State Table (BST)

This table contains the state of binding between source address and binding anchor. Entries are keyed on the binding anchor and source IP address. Each entry has a lifetime field recording the remaining lifetime of the entry, a state field recording the state of the binding and a field recording other information. The lifetime field is used to help remove expired bindings. The state field is used to identify state. The other field is used to keep temporary information, e.g., the transaction ID (TID, Refer to [Section 2 in \[RFC2131\]](#) and [Section 4.2 in \[RFC3315\]](#)) in DHCP request. Before a binding is

finished, the lease time of the address is also kept in this field because it is improper to keep it in the lifetime field which keeps the lifetime of the binding entry but not the address.

Anchor	Address	State	Lifetime	Other
A	IP_1	Bound	65535	
A	IP_2	Bound	10000	
B	IP_3	_Start	1	

Figure 2 Instance of BST

5.2. Data Plane Data Structure: Filtering Table (FT)

This table contains the bindings between binding anchor and address, keyed on binding anchor and address. This table doesn't contain any state of the binding. This table is only used to filter packets. An Access Control List can be regarded as a practical instance of this table.

Anchor	Address
A	IP_1
A	IP_2

Figure 3 Instance of FT

6. Binding Anchor Attributes

This section specifies the binding anchor attributes used in this mechanism.

Attribute of each binding anchor is configurable. By default, binding anchor has no attribute. A binding anchor MAY be configured to have one or more compatible attributes. However, a binding anchor MAY always have no attribute.

6.1. No Attribute

By default, a binding anchor has no attribute. Server type DHCP message from binding anchor with no attribute **MUST** be dropped. However, other packets **SHOULD NOT** be dropped.

6.2. SAVI-Validation Attribute

SAVI-Validation attribute is used on binding anchor on which the source address is to be validated. The filtering process on binding anchor with such attribute is described in [section 9](#).

6.3. SAVI-DHCP-Trust Attribute

SAVI-DHCP-Trust Attribute is used on binding anchor on the path to a trustable DHCP server/relay.

DHCP server/relay message coming from binding anchor with this attribute will be forwarded.

6.4. SAVI-SAVI Attribute

This attribute is used on binding anchor from which the data traffic is not to be checked. Binding will not be set up on binding anchor with this attribute. Except for message from DHCP server, all packets will not be let pass directly.

Through configuring this attribute on binding anchor that joins two or more SAVI devices, SAVI-Validation and SAVI-SAVI attributes implement the security perimeter concept in [savi-framework]. Since no binding entry is needed on such binding anchor, the binding entry resource requirement can be reduced greatly.

This attribute can also be set on other binding anchors if the administrator decides not to validate the traffic from the binding anchor.

This attribute is mutually exclusive with SAVI-Validation.

6.5. SAVI-BindRecovery Attribute

This attribute is used on binding anchor that requires data-triggered binding recovery described in [section 8.1](#).

This attribute is mutually exclusive with SAVI-SAVI.

7. Binding Set Up

This section specifies the procedure of setting up bindings based on DHCP message snooping. The binding procedure specified here is exclusively designed for binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute.

7.1. Rationale

The rationale of this mechanism is that if a node attached to a binding anchor is legitimate to use a DHCP address, the DHCP procedure which assigns the address to the node must have been performed on the same binding anchor. This basis stands when the link layer routing is stable. However, layer-2 mobility and unstable link layer routing may result in that data packet is received from a different binding anchor. Infrequent link layer path change can be handled (but not perfectly) by the mechanism described in [section 8](#). [Section 13.2](#) discusses the situation that link layer routing is naturally unstable. To handle this situation is above the scope of this document.

7.2. Binding States Description

This section describes the binding states of this mechanism.

NO_BIND The state before a binding has been set up.

INIT_BIND A DHCP request (or a DHCPv6 Confirm, or a DHCPv6 Solicitation with Rapid Commit option) has been received from host, and it may trigger a new binding.

BOUND The address is authorized to the client.

7.3. Events

7.3.1. Timer expiration event

EVE_ENTRY_EXPIRE: The lifetime of an entry expires

7.3.2. Control message arriving events

Only if a control message can pass the check in [section 9.2](#), the corresponding event is a valid event.

EVE_DHCP_REQUEST: A DHCP Request message is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute, and the binding entry limit

(discussed in "Security Considerations") on the binding anchor has not been reached.

EVE_DHCP_CONFIRM: A DHCPv6 Confirm message is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute, and the binding entry limit on the binding anchor has not been reached.

EVE_DHCP_OPTION_RC: A DHCPv6 Solicitation message with Rapid Commit option is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute, and the binding entry limit on the binding anchor has not been reached.

EVE_DHCP_REPLY: A DHCPv4 Acknowledgement or DHCPv6 Reply message is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-DHCP-Trust attribute, and the message should be forwarded to a binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute.

EVE_DHCP_REPLY_NULL: A DHCPv4 Acknowledgement or DHCPv6 Reply message is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-DHCP-Trust attribute.

EVE_DHCP_DECLINE: A DHCP Decline message is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute.

EVE_DHCP_RELEASE: A DHCP Release message is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute.

EVE_LEASEQUERY_REPLY: A successful DHCP LEASEQUERY_REPLY is received from a binding anchor with SAVI-DHCP-Trust attribute.

7.4. Process of DHCP Packet Snooping

[7.4.1.](#) From NO_BIND to other states

[7.4.1.1.](#) Trigger Event

EVE_DHCP_REQUEST, EVE_DHCP_CONFIRM, EVE_DHCP_OPTION_RC,
EVE_DHCP_REPLY_NULL.

Note that vulnerability may be caused by DHCP Reply triggered initialization. The binding of assigned address and binding anchor may be threatened if the binding mechanism between binding anchor and link layer address is not secure. If one of the following conditions is satisfied, the security can be ensured.

1. DHCP Option 82 is used to keep binding anchor in DHCP Request and Reply, or

2. Unspoofable MAC is used as binding anchor(802.11i,802.1ae/af), or
3. The mapping table from MAC to binding anchor is secure.

It is NOT RECOMMENDED to initialize a binding based on DHCP Reply, until the associated mechanism is also implemented.

7.4.1.2. Following Actions

If the triggering event is EVE_DHCP_REQUEST/EVE_DHCP_OPTION_RC:

The SAVI device MUST forward the message.

The SAVI device MUST generate an entry for the binding anchor in the Binding State Table (BST) and set the state field to INIT_BIND. The lifetime of this entry MUST set to be MAX_DHCP_RESPONSE_TIME. The TID field of the request packet MUST be recorded in the entry, except that the mapping from link layer address to binding anchor is secure as specified in [section 7.2.1.1](#).

Anchor	Address	State	Lifetime	Other
A		INIT_BIND	MAX_DHCP_RESPONSE_TIME	TID

Figure 4 Binding entry in BST on client triggered initialization

The TID is kept as a mediator of assigned address and the binding anchor of requesting node, to assure that the assigned address can be bound with binding anchor secure.

If the triggering event is EVE_DHCP_CONFIRM:

Other than forwarding the message and generating corresponding entry, the address to be confirmed MUST be recorded in the entry. Because no lease time will be contained in the REPLY from DHCP server, the SAVI device MUST send a LEASEQUERY [[RFC5007](#)] message querying by IP address to All_DHCP_Relay_Agents_and_Servers multicast address [[RFC3315](#)] or a configured server address.

Anchor	Address	State	Lifetime	Other
A	Addr	INIT_BIND	MAX_DHCP_RESPONSE_TIME	TID

Figure 5 Binding entry in BST on Confirm triggered initialization

If the triggering event is EVE_DHCP_REPLY_NULL:

The SAVI device MUST deliver the message to the destination.

The SAVI device MUST generate as many new entries in BST and FT as the number of IADDR found in the message. The binding anchor in entry is looked up based on the destination link layer address, from mapping table from link layer address to binding anchor (e.g., the MAC-Port mapping table in case that port is used as binding anchor). The states of the corresponding entries are set to be BOUND. The lifetime of the entries MUST be set to be the lease time.

The binding entry limit can be exceeded when setting up bindings for all addresses in a REPLY message. If there is enough binding entry resource, corresponding new entries MUST be generated even the binding number limit is exceeded. In case that there is not enough resource left, as many as possible entries SHOULD be set up.

Anchor	Address	State	Lifetime	Other
A	Addr1	BOUND	Lease time 1	
A	Addr2	BOUND	Lease time 2	

Binding entry in BST on Reply triggered initialization

Anchor	Address
A	Addr1
A	Addr2

Figure 6 Binding entry in FT on Reply triggered initialization

[7.4.2.](#) From INIT_BIND to other states

[7.4.2.1.](#) Trigger Event

EVE_DHCP_REPLY, EVE_ENTRY_EXPIRE, EVE_LEASEQUERY_REPLY.

7.4.2.2. Following Actions

If the trigger event is EVE_DHCP_REPLY:

The SAVI device MUST deliver the message to the destination.

If the Address field is null, the lease time in Reply message MUST be recorded in the entry with matched TID. The state of the entry is changed to be BOUND. If more than one IADDR is found in the message, if there is enough binding entry resource, corresponding new entries MUST be generated even the binding number limit is exceeded. In case that there is not enough resource left, as many as possible entries SHOULD be set up.

If the Address field is not null, the Reply is in response to a Confirm message. If the Reply message is of Status Code Success, set the Lifetime of corresponding entry to be MAX_LEASEQUERY_DELAY. The state of the entry is changed to be BOUND.

+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
Anchor	Address	State	Lifetime	Other
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
A	Addr	BOUND	Lease time	
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+

Figure 7 From INIT_BIND to BOUND

A corresponding entry MUST also be generated in FT.

If the trigger event is EVE_ENTRY_EXPIRE:

The entry MUST be deleted from BST.

If the trigger event is EVE_LEASEQUERY_REPLY:

The Lifetime field of entry with corresponding IP address MUST be set to the lease time in the LEASEQUERY_REPLY.

7.4.3. From BOUND to other states

7.4.3.1. Trigger Event

EVE_ENTRY_EXPIRE, EVE_DHCP_RELEASE, EVE_DHCP_DECLINE,
EVE_DHCP_REPLY_RENEW.

7.4.3.2. Following Actions

If the trigger event is EVE_ENTRY_EXPIRE:

Remove the corresponding entry in BST and FT.

If the trigger event is EVE_DHCP_RELEASE or EVE_DHCP_DECLINE:

Remove the corresponding entry in BST and FT. The Release or Decline message MUST be forwarded.

If the trigger event is EVE_DHCP_REPLY_RENEW:

Set the lifetime of the address to be the new lease time.

7.5. State Machine of DHCP Snooping

The main state transits are listed as follows.

State	Event	Action	Next State
NO_BIND	REQ/RC	Generate entry	INIT_BIND
NO_BIND	CFM	Generate entry and send Leasequery	INIT_BIND
*NO_BIND	RPL	Generate entry with lease	BOUND
INIT_BIND	RPL	Record lease time/set LQ_DLY	BOUND
INIT_BIND	Timeout	Remove entry	NO_BIND
BOUND	LQR	Record lease time	BOUND
BOUND	RLS/DCL	Remove entry	NO_BIND
BOUND	Timeout	Remove entry	NO_BIND
BOUND	RNW	Set new lifetime	BOUND

*: optional but NOT RECOMMENDED.

REQ: EVE_DHCP_REQUEST

CFM: EVE_DHCP_CONFIRM

RC: EVE_DHCP_OPTION_RC

RPL: EVE_DHCP_REPLY

DCL: DHCP DECLINE

RLS: DHCP RELEASE

RNW: EVE_DHCP_RPL_RENEW

LQR: EVE_LEASEQUERY_REPLY

Timeout: EVE_ENTRY_EXPIRE

LQ_DLY: MAX_LEASEQUERY_DELAY

8. Supplemental Binding Process

Supplemental binding process is designed to cover conditions that packet is sent by node without previous DHCP procedure sensed by the SAVI device. A typical situation is that the link topology change after the binding has been set up, and then the node will send packet to a different port with the bound port. Another scenario is that a node moves on the local link without re-configuration process.

Supplemental binding process is designed to avoid permanent legitimate traffic blocking. It is not supposed to set up a binding whenever a data packet with unbound source address is received. Generally, longer time and more packets are needed to trigger supplemental binding processes.

Binding Recovery Process is a conditional SHOULD. This function SHOULD be implemented if the vendor has such ability, unless the implementation is known to be directly attached to host. If the mechanism is not implemented and managed nodes are not directly attached, permanent legitimate traffic blocking can happen until the node is reconfigured.

8.1. Binding Recovery Process

If a binding anchor is set to have SAVI-BindRecovery attribute, packet without matched binding can trigger the SAVI device to check if the source address can be used by corresponding node:

1. Check if the address has a local conflict through sending 2 DAD NS/ARP on the address. If duplicate detection fails, the packet MUST be discarded. Otherwise, go to the next step.
- 2.

IPv4 address:

Send a DHCPLEASEQUERY [[RFC4388](#)] message querying by IP address to all DHCPv4 servers for IPv4 address or a configured server address. The server addresses may be discovered through DHCPv4 Discovery. If no DHCPLEASEACTIVE message is received, discard the packet; otherwise generate a new binding entry for the address.

IPv6 address:

Send a LEASEQUERY [[RFC5007](#)] message querying by IP address to All_DHCP_Relay_Agents_and_Servers multicast address or a configured server address. If no successful LEASEQUERY-REPLY is received, discard the packet; otherwise generate a new binding entry for the address. The SAVI device may repeat this process if a LEASEQUERY-REPLY with OPTION_CLIENT_LINK is received, in order to set up binding entries for all the address of the client.

This process MUST be rate limited to avoid Denial of Services attack against the SAVI device itself. A constant BIND_RECOVERY_INTERVAL is used to control the frequency. Two data-triggered recovery processes on one binding anchor MUST have a minimum interval time BIND_RECOVERY_INTERVAL. This constant SHOULD be configured prudently to avoid Denial of Service attacks.

This process is not strict secure. The node with SAVI-BindRecovery binding anchor has the ability to use the address of an inactive node, which doesn't reply to the detection probes.

In case that SAVI device is pure layer-2 device without IP address, it is impossible to perform DHCP LEASEQUERY. It is SUGGESTED NOT to perform this data-triggered process. If binding recovery is still required, DHCP Confirm SHOULD be sent instead of DHCP LEASEQUERY. The security degree will degrade for the address may not be assigned by DHCP server. A default lifetime DEFAULT_LEASE SHOULD be set with the entry.

This process may fail if any DHCP server doesn't support DHCP LEASEQUERY.

[9. Filtering Specification](#)

This section specifies how to use bindings to filter packets.

Filtering policies are different for data packet and control packet. DHCP and ND messages that may cause state transit are classified into control packet. Neighbor Advertisement and ARP Response are also included in control packet, because the Target Address of NA and ARP

Response should be checked to prevent spoofing. All other packets are considered to be data packets.

9.1. Data Packet Filtering

Data packets with a binding anchor which has attribute SAVI-Validation MUST be checked.

If the source of a packet associated with its binding anchor is in the FT, this packet SHOULD be forwarded; or else the packet SHOULD be discarded, or alternatively the SAVI SHOULD record this violation.

9.2. Control Packet Filtering

For binding anchors with SAVI-Validation attribute:

Discard/record DHCPv4 Discovery with non-all-zeros source IP address. Discard/record DHCPv4 Request whose source IP address is neither all zeros nor a bound address in FT.

Discard/record DHCPv6 Request whose source is not bound with the corresponding binding anchor in FT. Discard/record DHCPv6 Confirm/Solicit whose source is not a link local address bound with the corresponding binding anchor in FT. The link layer address may be bound based on SAVI-SLAAC solution or other solutions.

Discard/record other types of DHCP messages whose source is not an address bound with the corresponding binding anchor.

Discard/record IPv6 NS and IPv4 gratuitous ARP whose source is not an address bound with the corresponding binding anchor.

Discard/record NA and ARP Replies messages whose target address and source address are not bound with the corresponding binding anchor.

For other binding anchors:

Discard DHCP Reply/Ack messages not from binding anchor with the SAVI-DHCP-Trust attribute or SAVI-SAVI attribute.

10. State Restoration

If a SAVI device reboots accidentally or designedly, the states kept in volatile memory will get lost. This may cause hosts indirectly attached to the SAVI device to be broken away from the network, because they can't recover bindings on the SAVI device of themselves. Purely using the Binding Recovery Process is of great cost and delay

to recover a large number of bindings. Thus, recovery from non-volatile storage is designed.

Binding entries MUST be saved into non-volatile storage whenever a new binding entry changes to BOUND state or a binding with state BOUND is removed in condition that this function is supported by hardware. Immediately after reboot, the SAVI device MUST restore binding states from the non-volatile storage. The lifetime and the system time of save process MUST be stored. Then the device MUST check whether the saved entries are obsolete when rebooting.

11. Handle Binding Anchor Off-link Event

Port DOWN event MUST be handled if switch port is used as binding anchor. In more general case, if a binding anchor turns off-link, this event MUST be handled.

Whenever a binding anchor with attribute SAVI-Validation turns down, set a timer with OFFLINK_DELAY. Until the timer becomes zero, the bindings with the binding anchor SHOULD be kept. As an exception, to handle movement, if receiving DAD Neighbor Solicitation/Gratuitous ARP request targeting at the address during OFFLINK_DELAY, the entry MAY be removed.

If the binding anchor turns on-link during OFFLINK_DELAY, turn off the timer and keep corresponding bindings.

12. Constants

MAX_DHCP_RESPONSE_TIME	120s
BIND_RECOVERY_INTERVAL	60s and configurable
MAX_LEASEQUERY_DELAY	10s
DEFAULT_LEASE	2h
OFFLINK_DELAY	2s

13. Security Considerations

13.1. Binding Number Limitation

It is suggested to configure some mechanism in order to prevent a single node from exhausting the binding table entries on the SAVI device. Either of the following mechanism is sufficient to prevent such attack.

1. Set the upper bound of binding number for each binding anchor with SAVI-Validation.
2. Reserve a number of binding entries for each binding anchor with SAVI-Validation attribute and all binding anchors share a pool of the other binding entries.
3. Limit DHCP Request rate per binding anchor.

13.2. Risk from Link Layer Routing Dynamic

An implicit assumption of this solution is that data packet must arrive at the same binding anchor with the binding anchor that the control packets have arrived at. If this assumption is not valid, this control packet based solution will fail or at least discard legitimate packet. Unfortunately, the link layer routing between host and SAVI device can be inconsistent from time to time. Time consistency of link layer routing is not assured by link layer routing protocol. For example, TRILL, a recent link layer routing protocol, is flexible and multiple link layer paths are allowed.

To make the basic assumption stand, the best way is enforcing that there should be only one topology path from downstream host to the SAVI device. For example, SAVI device is directly attached by hosts.

If the assumption doesn't stand, a better solution is requiring inter-operation between SAVI protocol and the link layer routing protocol to make SAVI protocol sensitive to the link layer routing change. This solution is above the scope of this document.

13.3. Duplicate Bindings of Same Address

The same address may be bound with multiple binding anchors, only if the binding processes are finished on each binding anchor successfully respectively. This mechanism is designed in consideration that a node may move on the local link, and a node may have multiple binding anchors. However, the traceability of address is reduced.

Note that the local link movement scenario is not handled perfectly. The former binding may not be removed, unless the node is directly attached to the SAVI device. The nodes sharing the same former binding anchor of the moving node have the ability to use its address.

14. IANA Considerations

There is no IANA consideration currently.

15. References

15.1. Normative References

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16. Acknowledgments

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[17. Change Log](#)

From 02 to 03:

- [Section 12](#), data trigger and counter trigger are combined to binding recovery process. The expression "one of MUST" is changed to "conditional MUST. Conditions related with the implementation are specified. Related constants are changed in [section 26](#)."

Main changes from 03 to 04:

- Section "Prefix configuration" is removed.

- Section "Supplemental binding process" is modified in requirement level.
- Sub-[section 9.1](#) "Rationale" is added.
- Section "Filtering during Detection" is removed.
- Section "Handling layer 2 path change" is changed to "Consideration on Link layer routing complexity"
- Section "Background and related protocols" is removed.

Main changes from 04 to 05:

- Trigger events are listed explicitly in [section 8](#).
- Detection and Live states are deleted, together with corresponding sections.

Main change from 05 to 06:

- [Section 8.1](#): reference to [section 20](#) is changed to [section 15](#).

Main changes from 06 to 07:

- So many changes in this modification. We suggest to track <http://www.ietf.org/mailarchive/web/savi/current/msg01543.html>. Changes are made according to the comments.