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**SAVI for Mixed Address Assignment Methods Scenario**  
**draft-ietf-savi-mix-00**

**Abstract**

This document reviews how multiple address discovery methods can coexist in a single SAVI device and collisions are resolved when the same binding entry is discovered by two or more methods.

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## Table of Contents

<a href="#">1.</a>	<a href="#">Introduction</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">2.</a>	<a href="#">Problem Scope</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">3.</a>	<a href="#">Recommendations for preventing collisions</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">4.</a>	<a href="#">Handling binding collisions</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">4.1.</a>	<a href="#">Same Address on Different Binding Anchors</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">4.1.1.</a>	<a href="#">Basic preference</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">4.1.2.</a>	<a href="#">Overwritten preference</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">4.1.3.</a>	<a href="#">Multiple SAVI Device Scenario</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">4.2.</a>	<a href="#">Same Address on the Same Binding Anchor</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">5.</a>	<a href="#">References</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">5.1.</a>	<a href="#">Normative References</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">5.2.</a>	<a href="#">Informative References</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Appendix A.</a>	<a href="#">Contributors and Acknowledgments</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
	<a href="#">Authors' Addresses</a>	<a href="#">7</a>



## **1. Introduction**

There are currently several documents [[I-D.ietf-savi-fcfs](#)], [[I-D.ietf-savi-dhcp](#)], [[I-D.ietf-savi-send](#)] that describe the different methods by which a switch can discover and record bindings between a node's layer3 address and a binding anchor and use that binding to perform Source Address Validation.

The method used by nodes to assign the address drove the break down into these multiple documents, whether Stateless Autoconfiguration (SLAAC), Dynamic Host Control Protocol (DHCP), Secure Neighbor Discovery (SeND) or manual. Each of these documents describes separately how one particular discovery method deals with address collisions (same address, different anchor).

While multiple assignment methods can be used in the same layer2 domain, a SAVI device might have to deal with a mix of binding discovery methods. The purpose of this document is to provide recommendations to avoid collisions and to review collisions handling when two or more such methods come up with competing bindings.

## **2. Problem Scope**

There are three address assignment methods identified and reviewed in one of the SAVI document:

1. Stateless Address AutoConfiguration (SLAAC) - reviewed in [[I-D.ietf-savi-fcfs](#)]
2. Dynamic Host Control Protocol address assignment (DHCP) - reviewed in [[I-D.ietf-savi-dhcp](#)]
3. Secure Neighbor Discovery (SeND) address assignment, reviewed in [[I-D.ietf-savi-send](#)]

Each address assignment method corresponds to a binding discovery method: SAVI-FCFS, SAVI-DHCP and SAVI-SeND. In addition, there is a fourth method for installing a bindings on the switch, referred to as "manual". It is based on manual (address or prefix) binding configuration and is reviewed in [[I-D.ietf-savi-fcfs](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-savi-framework](#)]

All combinations of address assignment methods can coexist within a layer2 domain. A SAVI device will have to implement the corresponding SAVI discovery methods (referred to as a "SAVI solution") to enable Source Address Validation. If more than one SAVI solution is enabled on a SAVI device, the method is referred to as "mix address assignment method" in this document.

SAVI solutions are independent from each other, each one handling its



own entries. In the absence of reconciliation, each solution will reject packets sourced with an address it did not discover. To prevent addresses discovered by one solution to be filtered out by another, the binding table should be shared by all the solutions. However this could create some conflict when the same entry is discovered by two different methods: the purpose of this document is of two folds: provide recommendations to avoid conflicts, and resolve conflicts if and when they happen. Collisions happening within a given solution are outside the scope of this document.

### **3. Recommendations for preventing collisions**

If each solution has a dedicated address space, collisions won't happen. Thus, in order to avoid overlap in the address space across SAVI solutions enabled on any particular SAVI device, it is recommended to

1. DHCP/SLAAC: separate the prefix scope of DHCP and SLAAC. Set the A bit in Prefix information option of Router Advertisement for SLAAC prefix. And set the M bit in Router Advertisement for DHCP prefix. [[RFC4861](#)] [[RFC4862](#)].
2. SeND/non-SeND: avoid mixed environment (where SeND and non-SeND nodes are deployed) or separate the prefixes announced to SeND and non-SeND nodes. One way to separate the prefixes is to have the router(s) announcing different (non-overlapping) prefixes to SeND and to non-SeND nodes, using unicast Router Advertisements, in response to SeND/non-SeND Router Solicit.

### **4. Handling binding collisions**

In situations where collisions could not be avoided, two cases should be considered:

1. The same address is bound on two different binding anchors by different SAVI solutions.
2. The same address is bound on the same binding anchor by different SAVI solutions.

#### **4.1. Same Address on Different Binding Anchors**

This is the very case of collision that could not be prevented by separating the assignment address spaces. For instance, an address is assigned by SLAAC on node X, installed in the binding table using SAVI-FCFS, anchored to "anchor-X". Later, the same address is assigned by DHCP to node Y, as a potential candidate in the same binding table, anchored to "anchor-Y".



#### **4.1.1. Basic preference**

Within the SAVI perimeter, one address bound to a binding anchor by one SAVI solution could also be bound by another SAVI solution to a different binding anchor. If the DAD procedure is not performed, the same address will also be bound to the new binding anchor. Both bindings are legitimate within the corresponding solution.

Though it is possible that the hosts and network can still work in such scenario, the uniqueness of address is not insured. The SAVI device must decide whom the address should be bound with. Current standard documents of address assignment methods have implied the prioritization relationship (first-come). In the absence of any configuration or protocol hint (see [Section 4.1.2](#)) the SAVI device should choose the first-come entry, whether it was learnt from SLACC, SeND or DHCP.

#### **4.1.2. Overwritten preference**

There are two identified exceptions to the general prioritization model, one of them being CGA addresses, another one controlled by the configuration of the switch:

1. When CGA addresses are used, and a collision is detected, preference should be given to the anchor that carries the CGA credentials once they are verified, in particular the CGA parameters and the RSA options.
2. The SAVI device should allow the configuration of a prefix or a single address, together with a given anchor or constrained to be discovered by a particular SAVI solution (see also "Prefix Configuration" section in [[I-D.ietf-savi-framework](#)]). If a DAD message for a target within a configured prefix (or equal to a configured single address) is received on the SAVI device from an anchor, or via a discovery method different from the one configured, the switch should defend the address by responding to the DAD message. It should not at this point install an entry into the binding table. This is especially useful to protect well known bindings such as a static address of a server over anybody, even when the server is down. It is also a way to give priority to a binding learnt from SAVI-DHCP over a binding for the same address, learnt from SAVI-FCFS.

#### **4.1.3. Multiple SAVI Device Scenario**

A single SAVI device doesn't have the information of all bound addresses on the perimeter. Therefore it is not enough to lookup local bindings to identify a collision. However, assuming DAD is performed throughout the security perimeter for all addresses





regardless of the assignment method, then DAD response will inform all SAVI devices about any collision. In that case, FCFS will apply the same way as in a single switch scenario. If the admin configured on one the switches a prefix (or a single static binding) to defend, the DAD response generated by this switch will also prevent the binding to be installed on other switches of the perimeter.

#### **4.2. Same Address on the Same Binding Anchor**

A binding may be set up on the same binding anchor by multiple solutions. Generally, the binding lifetimes of different solutions are different. Potentially, if one solution requires to remove the binding, the node using the address may be taken the use right.

For example, a node performs DAD procedure after being assigned an address from DHCP, then the address will also be bound by SAVI-FCFS. If the SAVI-FCFS lifetime is shorter than DHCP lifetime, when the SAVI-FCFS lifetime expires, it will request to remove the binding. If the binding is removed, the node will not be able to use the address even the DHCP lease time doesn't expire.

The solution proposed is to keep a binding as long as possible. A binding is kept until it has been required to be removed by all the solutions that ever set up it.

### **5. References**

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