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**A Profile for BGPsec Router Certificates,  
Certificate Revocation Lists, and Certification Requests  
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**Abstract**

This document defines a standard profile for X.509 certificates used to enable validation of Autonomous System (AS) paths in the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP), as part of an extension to that protocol known as BGPsec. BGP is the standard for inter-domain routing in the Internet; it is the "glue" that holds the Internet together. BGPsec is being developed as one component of a solution that addresses the requirement to provide security for BGP. The goal of BGPsec is to provide full AS path validation based on the use of strong cryptographic primitives. The end-entity (EE) certificates specified by this profile are issued (to routers within an Autonomous System). Each of these certificates is issued under a Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) Certification Authority (CA) certificate. These CA certificates and EE certificates both contain the AS Identifier Delegation extension. An EE certificate of this type asserts that the router(s) holding the corresponding private key are authorized to emit secure route advertisements on behalf of the AS(es) specified in the certificate. This document also profiles the format of certification requests, and specifies Relying Party (RP) certificate path validation procedures for these EE certificates. This document extends the RPKI; therefore, this documents updates the RPKI Resource Certificates Profile ([RFC 6487](#)).

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## **1. Introduction**

This document defines a profile for X.509 end-entity (EE) certificates [[RFC5280](#)] for use in the context of certification of Autonomous System (AS) paths in the Border Gateway Protocol Security protocol (BGPsec). Such certificates are termed "BGPsec Router Certificates". The holder of the private key associated with a BGPsec Router Certificate is authorized to send secure route advertisements (BGPsec UPDATES) on behalf of the AS(es) named in the certificate. A router holding the private key is authorized to send route advertisements (to its peers) that contain one or more of the specified AS number as the last item in the AS PATH attribute. A key property provided by BGPsec is that every AS along the AS PATH can verify that the other ASes along the path have authorized the advertisement of the given route (to the next AS along the AS PATH).

This document is a profile of [[RFC6487](#)], which is a profile of [[RFC5280](#)]; thus this document updates [[RFC6487](#)]. It establishes requirements imposed on a Resource Certificate that is used as a BGPsec Router Certificate, i.e., it defines constraints for certificate fields and extensions for the certificate to be valid in this context. This document also profiles the certification requests used to acquire BGPsec Router Certificates. Finally, this document specifies the Relying Party (RP) certificate path validation procedures for these certificates.

### **1.1. Terminology**

It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the terms and concepts described in "A Profile for X.509 PKIX Resource Certificates" [[RFC6487](#)], "BGPsec Protocol Specification" [[ID.sidr-bgpsec-protocol](#)], "A Border Gateway Protocol 4 (BGP-4)" [[RFC4271](#)], "BGP Security Vulnerabilities Analysis" [[RFC4272](#)], "Considerations in Validating the Path in BGP" [[RFC5123](#)], and "Capability Advertisement with BGP-4" [[RFC5492](#)].

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)].

## **2. Describing Resources in Certificates**

Figure 1 depicts some of the entities in the RPKI and some of the products generated by RPKI entities. IANA issues a Certification Authority (CA) certificate to each Regional Internet Registry (RIR). The RIR, in turn, issues a CA certificate to an Internet Service Providers (ISP). The ISP in turn issues EE Certificates to itself to



enable verification of signatures on RPKI signed objects. The CA also generate. The CA also generates Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs).

These CA and EE certificates are referred to as "Resource Certificates", and are profiled in [RFC6487]. The [RFC6480] envisioned using Resource Certificates to enable verification of Manifests [RFC6486] and Route Origin Authorizations (ROAs) [RFC6482].

ROAs and Manifests include the Resource Certificates used to verify them.

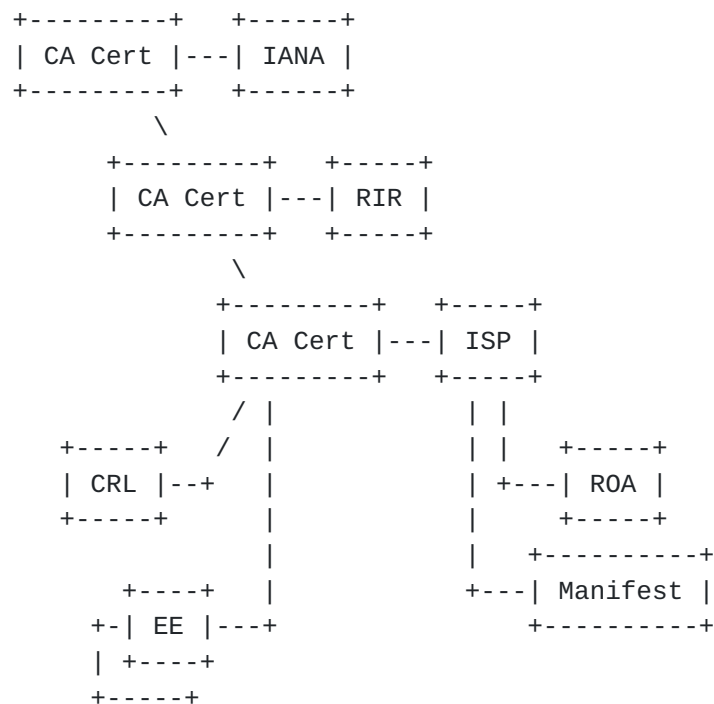


Figure 1

This document defines another type of Resource Certificate, which is referred to as a "BGPsec Router Certificate". The purpose of this certificate is explained in [Section 1](#) and falls within the scope of appropriate uses defined within [RFC6484]. The issuance of BGPsec Router Certificates has minimal impact on RPKI CAs because the RPKI CA certificate and CRL profile remain unchanged (i.e., they are as specified in [RFC6487]). Further, the algorithms used to generate RPKI CA certificates that issue the BGPsec Router Certificates and the CRLs necessary to check the validity of the BGPsec Router Certificates remain unchanged (i.e., they are as specified in [ID.sidr-rfc6485bis]). The only impact is that RPKI CAs will need to be able to process a profiled certificate request (see [Section 5](#)) signed with algorithms found in [ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs]. The use of BGPsec Router Certificates in no way affects RPKI RPs that process Manifests and ROAs because the public key found in the BGPsec Router Certificate is used only to verify the signature on the BGPsec



certificate request (only CAs process these) and the signature on a BGPsec Update Message [[ID.sidr-bgpsec-protocol](#)] (only BGPsec routers process these).

This document enumerates only the differences between this profile and the profile in [[RFC6487](#)]. Note that BGPsec Router Certificates are EE certificates and as such there is no impact on process described in [[RFC6916](#)].

### **3. Updates to [[RFC6487](#)]**

#### **[3.1](#) BGPsec Router Certificate Fields**

A BGPsec Router Certificate is a valid X.509 public key certificate, consistent with the PKIX profile [[RFC5280](#)], containing the fields listed in this section. This profile is also based on [[RFC6487](#)] and only the differences between this profile and the profile in [[RFC6487](#)] are specified below.

##### **[3.1.1.1](#). Subject**

This field identifies the router to which the certificate has been issued. Consistent with [[RFC6487](#)], only two attributes are allowed in the Subject field: common name and serial number. Moreover, the only common name encoding options that are supported are printableString and UTF8String. For BGPsec Router Certificates, it is RECOMMENDED that the common name attribute contain the literal string "ROUTER-" followed by the 32-bit AS Number [[RFC3779](#)] encoded as eight hexadecimal digits and that the serial number attribute contain the 32-bit BGP Identifier [[RFC4271](#)] (i.e., the router ID) encoded as eight hexadecimal digits. If there is more than one AS number, the choice of which to include in the common name is at the discretion of the Issuer. If the same certificate is issued to more than one router (hence the private key is shared among these routers), the choice of the router ID used in this name is at the discretion of the Issuer. Note that router IDs are not guaranteed to be unique across the Internet, and thus the Subject name in a BGPsec Router Certificate issued using this convention also is not guaranteed to be unique across different issuers. However, each certificate issued by an individual CA MUST contain a Subject name that is unique within that context.

##### **[3.1.2](#). Subject Public Key Info**

Refer to section 3.1 of [[ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs](#)].





### **3.1.3. BGPsec Router Certificate Version 3 Extension Fields**

#### **3.1.3.1. Basic Constraints**

BGPsec speakers are EEs; therefore, the Basic Constraints extension must not be present, as per [[RFC6487](#)].

#### **3.1.3.2. Extended Key Usage**

BGPsec Router Certificates MUST include the Extended Key Usage (EKU) extension. As specified in [[RFC6487](#)] this extension MUST be marked as non-critical. This document defines one EKU for BGPsec Router Certificates:

```
id-kp OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::=
  { iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
    security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) kp(3) }
```

```
id-kp-bgpsec-router OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { id-kp 30 }
```

A BGPsec router MUST require the extended key usage extension to be present in a BGPsec Router Certificate it receives. If multiple KeyPurposeId values are included, the BGPsec routers need not recognize all of them, as long as the required KeyPurposeId value is present. BGPsec routers MUST reject certificates that do not contain the BGPsec Router EKU even if they include the anyExtendedKeyUsage OID defined in [[RFC5280](#)].

#### **3.1.3.3. Subject Information Access**

This extension is not used in BGPsec Router Certificates. It MUST be omitted.

#### **3.1.3.4. IP Resources**

This extension is not used in BGPsec Router Certificates. It MUST be omitted.

#### **3.1.3.5. AS Resources**

Each BGPsec Router Certificate MUST include the AS Resource Identifier Delegation extension, as specified in [section 4.8.11 of \[\[RFC6487\]\(#\)\]](#). The AS Resource Identifier Delegation extension MUST include one or more AS numbers, and the "inherit" element MUST NOT be specified.

### **3.2. BGPsec Router Certificate Request Profile**



Refer to [section 6 of \[RFC6487\]](#). The only differences between this profile and the profile in [\[RFC6487\]](#) are:

- o The Basic Constraints extension:

If included, the CA MUST NOT honor the cA boolean if set to TRUE.

- o The Extended Key Usage extension:

If included, id-kp-bgpsec-router MUST be present (see [Section 3.1](#)). If included, the CA MUST honor the request for id-kp-bgpsec-router.

- o The Subject Information Access extension:

If included, the CA MUST NOT honor the request to include the extension.

- o The SubjectPublicKeyInfo and PublicKey fields are specified in [\[ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs\]](#).

- o The request is signed with the algorithms specified in [\[ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs\]](#).

### **[3.3.](#) BGPsec Router Certificate Validation**

The validation procedure used for BGPsec Router Certificates is identical to the validation procedure described in [Section 7 of \[RFC6487\]](#) (and any RFC that updates this procedure), but using the constraints applied come from this specification. For example, in step 3: "the certificate contains all the field that must be present" - refers to the fields that are required by this specification.

The differences are as follows:

- o BGPsec Router Certificates MUST include the BGPsec Router EKU defined in [Section 3.1.3.2](#).
- o BGPsec Router Certificates MUST NOT include the SIA extension.
- o BGPsec Router Certificates MUST NOT include the IP Resource extension.
- o BGPsec Router Certificates MUST include the AS Resource Identifier Delegation extension.
- o BGPsec Router Certificate MUST include the "Subject Public Key Info" described in [\[ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs\]](#) as it updates [\[ID.sidr-](#)



rfc6485bis].

NOTE: The cryptographic algorithms used by BGPsec routers are found in [ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs]. Currently, the algorithms specified in [ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs] and [ID.sidr-rfc6485bis] are different. BGPsec RPs will need to support algorithms that are used to validate BGPsec signatures as well as the algorithms that are needed to validate signatures on BGPsec certificates, RPKI CA certificates, and RPKI CRLs.

#### **3.4. Router Certificates and Signing Functions in the RPKI**

As described in [Section 1](#), the primary function of BGPsec route certificates in the RPKI is for use in the context of certification of Autonomous System (AS) paths in the Border Gateway Protocol Security protocol (BGPsec).

The private key associated with a router EE certificate may be used multiple times in generating signatures in multiple instances of the BGPsec\_Path Attribute Signature Segments [ID.sidr-bgpsec-protocol]. I.e., the BGPsec router certificate is used to validate multiple signatures.

BGPsec router certificates are stored in the issuing CA's repository, where a repository following [RFC6481](#) MUST use a .cer filename extension for the certificate file.

#### **4. Design Notes**

The BGPsec Router Certificate profile is based on the Resource Certificate profile as specified in [ID.sidr-rfc6485bis]. As a result, many of the design choices herein are a reflection of the design choices that were taken in that prior work. The reader is referred to [RFC6484] for a fuller discussion of those choices.

CAs are required by the Certificate Policy (CP) [RFC6484] to issue properly formed BGPsec Router Certificates regardless of what is present in the certification request so there is some flexibility permitted in the certificate requests:

- o BGPsec Router Certificates are always EE certificates; therefore, requests to issue a CA certificate result in EE certificates;
- o BGPsec Router Certificates are always EE certificates; therefore, requests for Key Usage extension values keyCertSign and cRLSign result in certificates with neither of these values;
- o BGPsec Router Certificates always include the BGPsec Router EKU



value; therefore, request without the value result in certificates with the value; and,

- o BGPsec Router Certificates never include the Subject Information Access extension; therefore, request with this extension result in certificates without the extension.

Note that this behavior is similar to the CA including the AS Resource Identifier Delegation extension in issued BGPsec Router Certificates despite the fact it is not present in the request.

## **5. Implementation Considerations**

This document permits the operator to include a list of ASNs in a BGPsec Router Certificate. In that case, the router certificate would become invalid if any one of the ASNs is removed from any superior CA certificate along the path to a trust anchor. Operators could choose to avoid this possibility by issuing a separate BGPsec Router Certificate for each distinct ASN, so that the router certificates for ASNs that are retained in the superior CA certificate would remain valid.

## **6. Security Considerations**

The Security Considerations of [\[RFC6487\]](#) apply.

A BGPsec Router Certificate will fail RPKI validation, as defined in [\[RFC6487\]](#), because the algorithm suite is different. Consequently, a RP needs to identify the EKU to determine the appropriate Validation constraint.

A BGPsec Router Certificate is an extension of the RPKI [\[RFC6480\]](#) to encompass routers. It is a building block BGPsec and is used to validate signatures on BGPsec Signature-Segment origination of Signed-Path segments [\[ID.sidr-bgpsec-protocol\]](#). Thus its essential security function is the secure binding of one or more AS numbers to a public key, consistent with the RPKI allocation/assignment hierarchy.

Hash functions [\[ID.sidr-bgpsec-algs\]](#) are used when generating the two key identifiers extension included in BGPsec certificates. However as noted in [\[RFC6818\]](#), collision resistance is not a required property of one-way hash functions when used to generate key identifiers. Regardless, hash collisions are possible and if detected an operator should be alerted.

## **7. IANA Considerations**





This document makes use of two object identifiers in the SMI Registry for PKIX. One is for the ASN.1 module in [Appendix A](#) and it comes from the SMI Security for PKIX Module Identifier IANA registry (id-mod-bgpsec-eku). The other is for the BGPsec router EKU defined in [Section 3.1.3.2](#) and [Appendix A](#) and it comes from the SMI Security for PKIX Extended Key Purpose IANA registry. These OIDs were assigned before management of the PKIX Arc was handed to IANA. No IANA allocations are request of IANA, but please update the references in those registries when this document is published by the RFC editor.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank Geoff Huston, George Michaelson, and Robert Loomans for their work on [[RFC6487](#)], which this work is based on. In addition, the efforts of Steve Kent and Matt Lepinski were instrumental in preparing this work. Additionally, we'd like to thank Rob Austein, Roque Gagliano, Richard Hansen, Geoff Huston, David Mandelberg, Sandra Murphy, and Sam Weiller for their reviews and comments.

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## [Appendix A](#). ASN.1 Module

```
BGPSECEKU { iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
  security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0) id-mod-bgpsec-eku(84) }
```

```
DEFINITIONS EXPLICIT TAGS ::=
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
-- EXPORTS ALL --
```

```
-- IMPORTS NOTHING --
```

```
-- OID Arc --
```

```
id-kp OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {
  iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
  security(5) mechanisms(5) kp(3) }
```

```
-- BGPsec Router Extended Key Usage --
```

```
id-kp-bgpsec-router OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { id-kp 30 }
```

```
END
```

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