

Softwire WG  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: April 18, 2014

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October 15, 2013

**DHCPv6 Options for configuration of Softwire Address and Port Mapped  
Clients  
draft-ietf-softwire-map-dhcp-05**

**Abstract**

This document specifies DHCPv6 options, termed Softwire46 options, for the provisioning of Softwire46 Customer Edge (CE) devices. Softwire46 is a collective term used to refer to architectures based on the notion of IPv4 Address+Port (A+P) for providing IPv4 connectivity across an IPv6 network.

**Status of This Memo**

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## [1.](#) Introduction

A number of architectural solution proposals discussed in the IETF Softwires Working Group use Address and Port (A+P) as their technology base in providing IPv4 connectivity service to end users using CE devices across a service provider's IPv6 network, while allowing for shared or dedicated IPv4 addressing of the CEs.

An example is Mapping of Address and Port (MAP) defined in [I-D.ietf-softwire-map]. The MAP solution consists of one or more MAP Border Relay (BR) routers, responsible for stateless forwarding between a MAP IPv6 domain and an IPv4 network, and one or more MAP Customer

Edge (CE) routers, responsible for forwarding between a user's private IPv4 network and the MAP IPv6 network domain. Collectively

the MAP CE and BR form a domain when configured with common service parameters. This characteristic is common to all of the Softwire46 proposals.

To function in such a domain, a CE requires to be provisioned with the appropriate A+P service parameters for that domain. This consists primarily of the IPv4 address the CE should use and the transport layer port-range(s). Furthermore the IPv6 transport mode (e.g. encapsulation or translation) needs to be specified.

This memo specifies a set of DHCPv6 [[RFC3315](#)] options to provision Softwire46 information to CE routers. Configuration of the BR is out of scope of this document.

## **2. Softwire 46 approaches discussed**

\*\*\*To be removed\*\*\*

The approach laid out in this document was taken after consideration of a couple of alternatives. The first alternative was to have everything in the single option. However, given that in practice some CPEs might not implement all of the mechanism, this means the single option would not work. The CPE would have to come up with the mechanism to signal its capabilities to DHCPv6 server. Thus, the conclusion was made that each mechanism requires its own option, containing the per-mechanism configuration. The container design was selected because the configuration elements are similar between the mechanisms and having the smaller building blocks within them should help to reuse the code, for the CPEs that implement multiple mechanisms. After the multi-container approach was taken, the choice was to keep everything in the single document or split into several documents - one per mechanism.

## **3. Conventions**

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

## **4. Softwire 46 Overview**

This document describes a set of common DHCPv6 options for MAP-E [[I-D .ietf-softwire-map](#)], MAP-T [[I-D.ietf-softwire-map-t](#)] and Lightweight 4over6 [[I-D.ietf-softwire-lw4over6](#)] mechanisms.



MAP-E, MAP-T and Lightweight 4over6 are essentially providing the same functionality: IPv4 service to a CE router over an IPv6 only access network. MAP-E and MAP-T may embed parts of the IPv4 address in IPv6 prefixes, thereby supporting many clients with a fixed set of mapping rules and mesh mode (direct CE to CE communication). MAP-E and MAP-T CEs may also be provisioned in hub and spoke mode, and in 1:1 mode (no embedded address bits). The difference between MAP-E and MAP-T is that they use different means to connect to the IPv6 domain. MAP-E uses [RFC2473](#) [[RFC2473](#)] IPv4 over IPv6 tunnelling, while MAP-T uses NAT64 [[RFC6145](#)] based translation. Lightweight 4over6 is a strict subset of MAP-E in hub and spoke mode with zero embedded address bits. Lightweight 4over6 is restricted to supporting only a full IPv4 address or shared IPv4 address, provisioning an IPv4 prefix is not supported.

To support more than one mechanism at a time and to allow for a possibility of transition between them, the Option Request Option DHCPv6 [[RFC3315](#)] function is used. Each mechanism has a corresponding container option. A DHCPv6 client can request a particular mechanism by including the option code for a particular container option in its ORO option. The provisioning parameters for that mechanism are expressed by embedding the common format options within the respective container.

This approach implies that the all the provisioning options MUST appear only within the container options. The client MUST NOT request any of the provisioning options directly within an ORO. Likewise, the server MUST NOT send the provisioning options directly within DHCPv6 message, without encapsulating them in the corresponding container options.

The document is organized with the common sub-options described first, and then the three container options. Some of the sub-options are mandatory in some of the containers and some are optional, or not permitted at all.

## **5. Common Softwire 46 DHCPv6 Options**

The DHCPv6 protocol is used for Softwire46 CE provisioning following regular DHCPv6 notions, with the CE assuming the role of a DHCPv6 client, and the DHCPv6 server providing options following typical DHCPv6 server side policies. The format and usage of the options is defined in the following sub-sections.



Each CE needs to be provisioned with enough information to calculate its IPv4 address, IPv4 prefix or shared IPv4 address. MAP-E and MAP-T uses the `OPTION_S46_RULE`, while for Lightweight 4over6, the `OPTION_S46_IPV4ADDRESS` option is used. A CE that needs to communicate outside of the A+P domain, also needs the address or prefix of the BR. MAP-E and Lightweight 4over6 use the `OPTION_S46_BR` option to communicate the IPv6 address of the BR. MAP-T forms an IPv6 destination address by embedding an IPv4 destination address into the BR's IPv6 prefix conveyed via the `OPTION_S46_DMR` option. Optionally all mechanisms can include the `OPTION_S46_PORTPARAMS` to specify parameters and port sets for the port range algorithm.

### 5.1. S46 Rule Option

Figure 1 shows the format of the S46 Rule option used for conveying the BMR and FMR.

A server MAY send more than one S46 Rule Option in a container, if it is configured to do so. Clients MUST NOT send a S46 Rule Option.

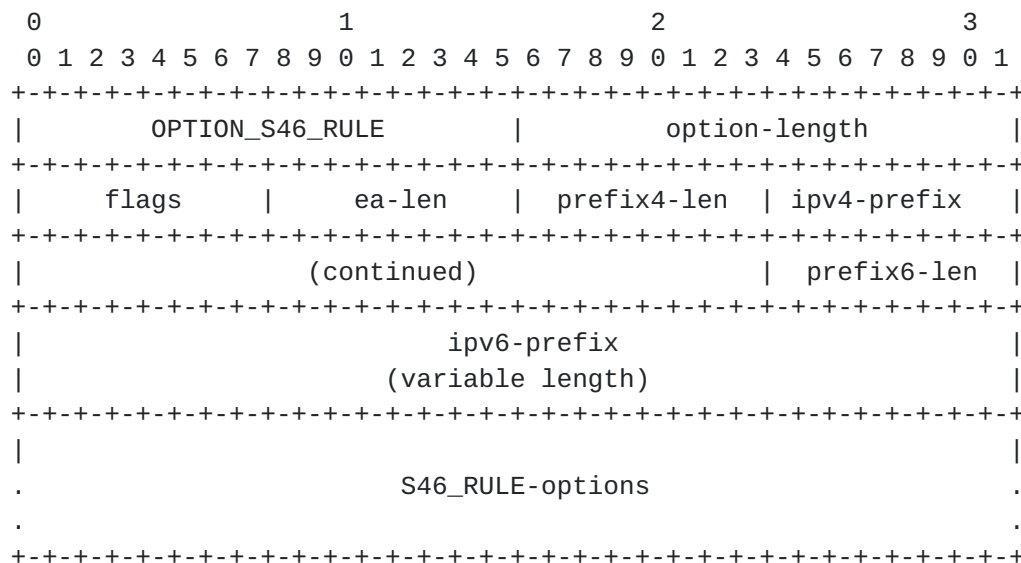


Figure 1: S46 Rule Option

- o option-code: `OPTION_S46_RULE` (TBD1)
- o option-length: length of the option, excluding option-code and option-length fields, including length of all encapsulated options, expressed in bytes.
- o flags: 8 bits long field carrying flags applicable to the rule. The meaning of specific bits is explained in Figure 2.
- o ea-len: 8 bits long field that specifies the Embedded-Address (EA) bit length. Values allowed range from 0 to 48.

- o prefix4-len: 8 bits long field expressing the prefix length of the IPv4 prefix specified in the rule-ipv4-prefix field. Valid values 0 to 32.
- o ipv4-prefix: a fixed length 32 bit field that specifies the IPv4 prefix for the S46 rule. Zero-padded.

- o prefix6-len: 8 bits long field expressing the prefix length of the IPv6 prefix specified in the rule-ipv6-prefix field.
- o ipv6-prefix: a variable length field that specifies the IPv6 domain prefix for the S46 rule. The field is padded with follow up zero bits up to the nearest octet boundary when prefix6-len is not divisible by 8.
- o S46\_RULE-options: a variable field that may contain zero or more options that specify additional parameters for this S46 rule, e.g. a Port Parameter Option.

The Format of the S46 Rule Flags field is:

```

      0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
    +---+---+---+---+
    |Reserved      |F|
    +---+---+---+---+

```

Figure 2: S46 Rule Flags

- o Reserved: 7-bits reserved for future use as flags.
- o F-Flag: 1 bit field that specifies whether the rule is to be used for forwarding (FMR). If set, this rule is used as a FMR, if not set this rule is only a BMR. Note: BMR rules can be also FMR rules by setting the F flag. BMR rules are determined by a match of the Rule-IPv6-prefix against the CPE's prefix(es).

It is expected that in a typical mesh deployment scenarios, there will be a single BMR, which could also be designated as an FMR using the F-Flag.

## 5.2. S46 BR Option

S46 BR Option is used to convey the IPv6 address of the Border Relay. Figure Figure 4 shows the format of the BR option.

```

      0                               1                               2                               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
  +---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
  |          OPTION_S46_BR          |          option-length          |
  +---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
  |                                br-ipv6-address                       |
  |                                                                    |
  |                                                                    |
  |                                                                    |
  +---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Figure 3: S46 DMR Option

- o option-code: OPTION\_S46\_BR (TBD2)

- o option-length: 16
- o br-ipv6-address: a fixed length field of 16 octets that specifies the IPv6 address for the S46 BR.

BR redundancy can be implemented by using an anycast address for the BR IPv6 address. Multiple BR options MAY be included in the container; this document does not further explore the use of multiple BR IPv6 addresses.

### 5.3. S46 DMR Option

S46 DMR Option is used to convey values for Default Mapping Rule. Figure 4 shows the format of the MAP Rule option used for conveying a DMR.

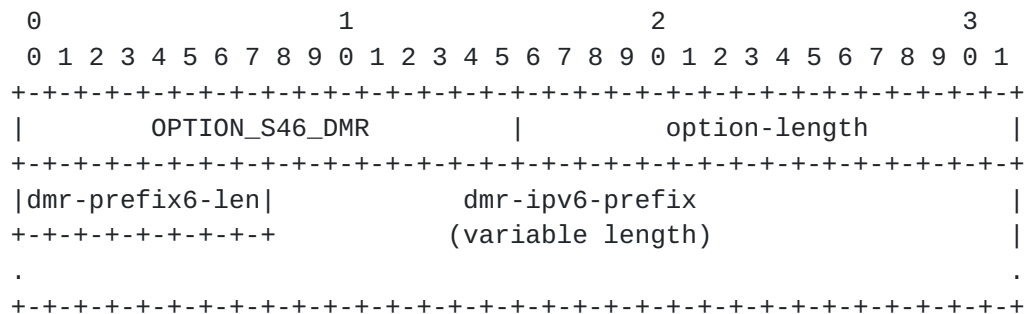
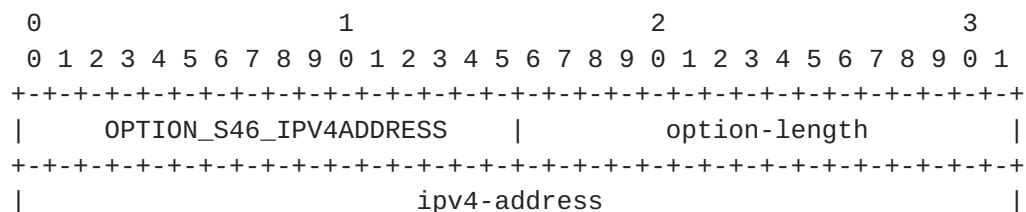


Figure 4: S46 DMR Option

- o option-code: OPTION\_S46\_DMR (TBD3)
- o option-length: 1 + length of dmr-ipv6-prefix specified in bytes.
- o dmr-prefix6-len: 8 bits long field expressing the bit mask length of the IPv6 prefix specified in the dmr-ipv6-prefix field.
- o dmr-ipv6-prefix: a variable length field that specifies the IPv6 prefix or address for the S46 BR. This field is padded with follow up zeros to the nearest octet boundary when dmr-prefix6-len is not divisible by 8.

### 5.4. S46 IPv4 Address Option

The IPv4 address Option MAY be used to specify the full or shared IPv4 address of the CE.





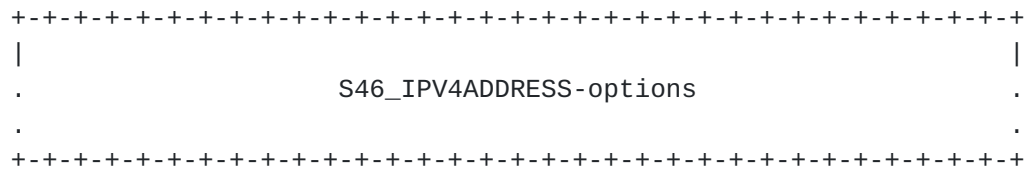


Figure 5: S46 IPv4 address Option

- o option-code: OPTION\_S46\_IPV4ADDRESS (TBD4)
- o option-length: 4
- o ipv4-address: A fixed field of 4 octets specifying an IPv4 address.
- o S46\_IPV4ADDRESS-options: a variable field that may contain zero or more options that specify additional parameters e.g. a Port Parameter Option.

### 5.5. S46 Port Parameters Option

The Port Parameters Option specifies optional Rule Port Parameters that MAY be provided as part of the Mapping Rule for CEs using the MAP algorithm.

See [[I-D.ietf-softwire-map](#)], Section 5.1 for detailed description of MAP algorithm that explains meaning of all parameters.

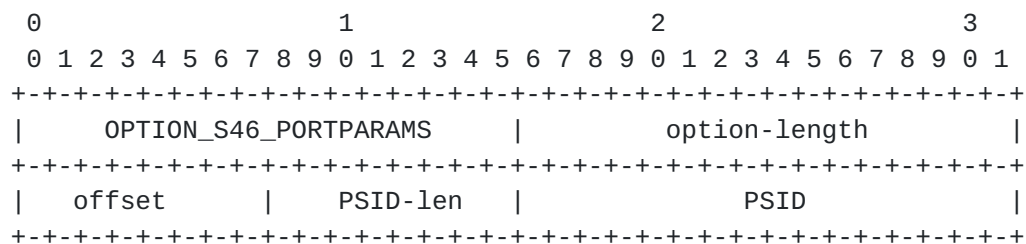


Figure 6: S46 Port Parameters Option

- o option-code: OPTION\_S46\_PORTPARAMS (TBD5)
- o option-length: 4
- o offset: (PSID offset) 8 bits long field that specifies the numeric value for the S46 algorithm's excluded port range/offset bits (A-bits), as per section 5.1.1 in [[I-D.ietf-softwire-map](#)]. Allowed values are between 0 and 16, with the default value being 6.
- o PSID-len: Bit length value of the number of significant bits in the PSID field. (also known as 'k'). When set to 0, the PSID field is to be ignored. After the first 'a' bits, there are k bits in the port number representing valid of PSID. Subsequently, the address sharing ratio would be  $2^k$ .
- o PSID: Explicit 16-bit (unsigned word) PSID value. The PSID value algorithmically identifies a set of ports assigned to a CE. The

first k-bits on the left of this 2-octets field is the PSID value.  
The remaining (16-k) bits on the right are padding zeros.

When receiving the Port Parameters option with an explicit PSID, the client MUST use this explicit PSID in configuring its MAP interface. If the conveyed IPv4 address is not 32 bit-long. The formula for this check is "prefix4-len + ea-len = 32" and serves to ensure that the explicit PSID is only applied to configurations with a completely formed IPv4 address.

The OPTION\_S46\_PORTPARAMS option MUST be encapsulated in a OPTION\_S46\_RULE option or an OPTION\_S46\_IPV4ADDRESS option. It MUST NOT appear directly within a container option.

## 6. Softwire 46 Container DHCPv6 Options

Option	MAP-E	MAP-T	Lightweight 4over6
OPTION_S46_RULE	M	M	-
OPTION_S46_BR	M	-	M
OPTION_S46_PORTPARAMS	O	O	O
OPTION_S46_DMR	-	M	-
OPTION_S46_IPV4ADDRESS	-	-	M

M - Mandatory, O - Optional, - - Not Applicable

Table 1: Option to Container Mappings

### 6.1. Softwire46 MAP-E Container Option

This MAP-E Container Option specifies the container used to group all rules and optional port parameters for a specified domain.

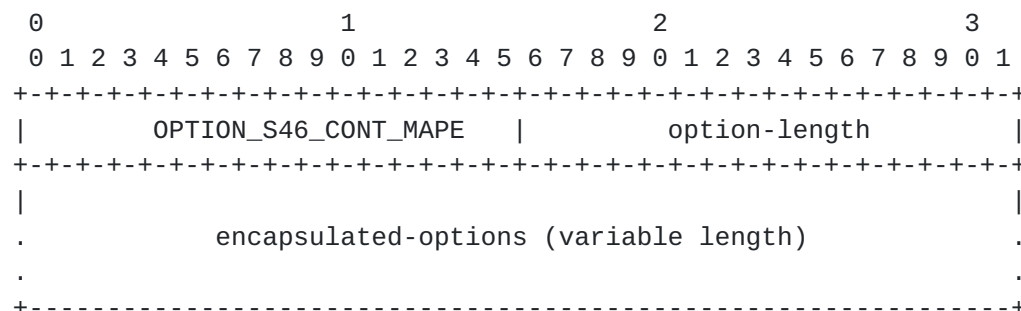


Figure 7: MAP-E Container Option

- o option-code: OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_MAPE (TBD6)
- o option-length: Length of encapsulated options
- o encapsulated-options: options associated with this Softwire46 MAP-E domain.



The encapsulated options field encapsulates those options that are specific to this MAP Option. Currently there are two options specified for the `OPTION_S46_CONT_MAPE` option, `OPTION_S46_RULE` and `OPTION_S46_BR`. There MUST be at least one `OPTION_S46_RULE` option and at least one `OPTION_S46_BR`.

Other options suitable for a domain may be defined in the future. A DHCP message MAY include multiple S46 MAPE Container Options (representing multiple domains).

## 6.2. Softwire46 MAP-T Container Option

This MAP-T Container Option specifies the container used to group all rules and optional port parameters for a specified domain.

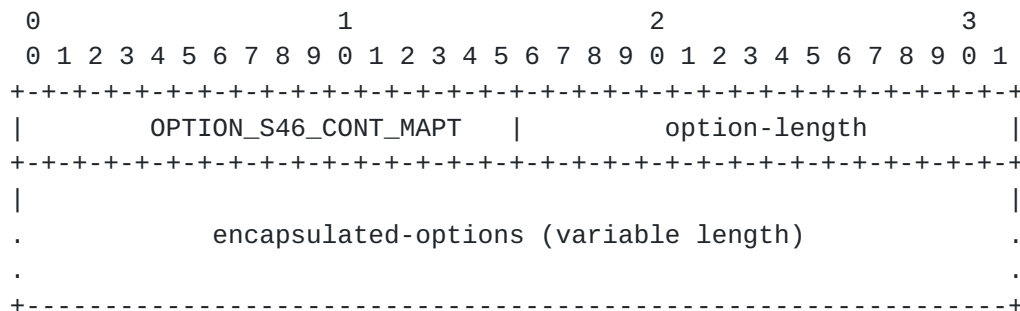


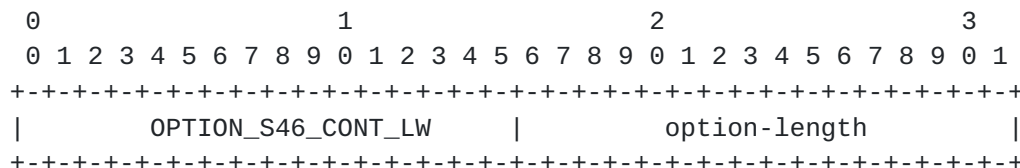
Figure 8: MAP-E Container Option

- o option-code: `OPTION_S46_CONT_MAPT` (TBD7)
- o option-length: Length of encapsulated options
- o encapsulated-options: options associated with this Softwire46 MAP-T domain.

The encapsulated options field encapsulates those options that are specific to this MAP Option. Currently there are two options specified for the `OPTION_S46_CONT_MAPT` option, `OPTION_S46_RULE` and `OPTION_S46_DMR` options. There MUST be at least one `OPTION_S46_RULE` option and exactly one `OPTION_S46_DMR`.

## 6.3. Softwire46 LightWeight 46 Container Option

This LW46 Container Option specifies the container used to group all rules and optional port parameters for a specified domain.





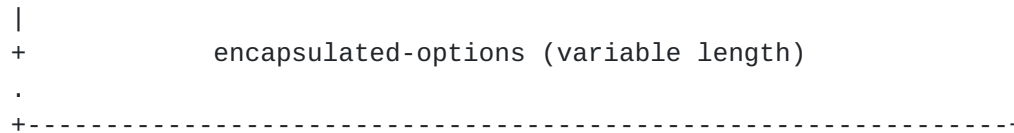


Figure 9: LW46 Container Option

- o option-code: OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_LW (TBD8)
- o option-length: Length of encapsulated options
- o encapsulated-options: options associated with this Softwire46 domain.

The encapsulated options field encapsulates those options that are specific to this Lightweight 4over6 Option. Currently there are two options specified for the OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_LW option, OPTION\_S46\_IPV4ADDRESS and OPTION\_S46\_BR. There MUST be exactly one OPTION\_S46\_IPV4ADDRESS option and at least one OPTION\_S46\_BR.

## 7. DHCPv6 Server Behavior

[RFC 3315 Section 17.2.2](#) [[RFC3315](#)] describes how a DHCPv6 client and server negotiate configuration values using the ORO. As a convenience to the reader, we mention here that a server will by default not reply with a Softwire 46 Container Option if the client has not explicitly enumerated it in its Option Request Option.

A CE router may support several or all of the mechanisms mentioned here. In the case where a client requests multiple mechanisms in its ORO option, the server SHOULD reply with all the corresponding Softwire 46 Container options, enumerated in the Option Request Option, it is configured for.

## 8. DHCPv6 Client Behavior

A S46 CE acting as DHCPv6 client will request S46 configuration to be assigned by the DHCPv6 server located in the IPv6 network. Such a client SHOULD include the S46 Container option(s) that it is interested in, in its ORO in SOLICIT, REQUEST, RENEW, REBIND and INFORMATION-REQUEST messages.

When processing received S46 container options the following behaviour is expected:

- o A client MUST support processing multiple received OPTION\_S46\_RULE options in a container OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_MAPE or OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_MAPT option
- o A client receiving an unsupported S46 option, or an invalid parameter value SHOULD discard that S46 Container option and log the event.

The behavior of a client supporting multiple Softwire 46 mechanisms, is out of scope of this document. See: [I-D.ietf-softwire-unified-cpe] for how to prioritise and handle multiple simulatanous mechanisms in use.

DISCUSS: There are many ways of delivering IPv4 to a CE router. Native IPv4 with global addressing, native IPv4 with private addressing, DS-lite, 464XLAT, 4rd, MAP-E, MAP-T, Lightweight 4over6. Should a CPE prefer a single option (per interface), should it configure multiple, and handle a smooth transition between them? [\[I-D.townsley-troan-ipv6-ce-transitioning\]](#) proposes one of the approaches to handle this scenario by having an implicit order. Other approaches are possible and should be discussed, however, this is out of scope for this particular document.

Note that system implementing CE functionality may have multiple network interfaces, and these interfaces may be configured differently; some may be connected to networks that call for MAP, and some may be connected to networks that are using normal dual stack or other means. The CE system should approach this specification on an interface-by-interface basis. For example, if the CE system is MAP capable and is attached to multiple networks that provide the MAP Mapping Rule Option, then the CE system MUST configure a MAP service (i.e. a translation or encapsulation) for each interface separately as each MAP provides IPv4 connectivity for each distinct interface. Means to bind a MAP configuration to a given interface in a multiple interfaces device are out of scope of this document.

## **9. Security Considerations**

Implementation of this document does not present any new security issues, but as with all DHCPv6-derived configuration state, it is completely possible that the configuration is being delivered by a third party (Man In The Middle). As such, there is no basis to trust that the access over the MAP can be trusted, and it should not therefore bypass any security mechanisms such as IP firewalls.

Readers concerned with security of MAP provisioning over DHCPv6 are encouraged to read [\[I-D.ietf-dhc-secure-dhcpv6\]](#).

Section XX of [\[I-D.ietf-software-map\]](#) discusses security issues of the MAP mechanism.

[Section 23 of \[RFC3315\]](#) discusses DHCPv6-related security issues.

## **10. IANA Considerations**

IANA is kindly requested to allocate the following DHCPv6 option codes: TBD1 for OPTION\_S46\_RULE, TBD2 for OPTION\_S4\_BR, TBD3 for OPTION\_S46\_DMR, TBD4 for OPTION\_S46\_IPV4ADDRESS, TBD5 for OPTION\_S46\_PORTPARAMS, and TBD6 for OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_MAPE, TBD7 for OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_MAPT and TBD8 for OPTION\_S46\_CONT\_LW All values should be added to the DHCPv6 option code space defined in [Section 24.3 of \[RFC3315\]](#).

## **11. Acknowledgements**

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This document was created as a product of a MAP design team. Following people were members of that team: Congxiao Bao, Mohamed Boucadair, Gang Chen, Maoke Chen, Wojciech Dec, Xiaohong Deng, Jouni Korhonen, Xing Li, Satoru Matsushima, Tomasz Mrugalski, Tetsuya Murakami, Jacni Qin, Necj Scoberne, Qiong Sun, Tina Tsou, Dan Wing, Leaf Yeh and Jan Zorz.

Former MAP design team members are: Remi Despres.

Authors would like to thank Bernie Volz for his insightful comments and suggestions.

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Expires April 18, 2014

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