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**Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP) Stream Reconfiguration  
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**Abstract**

Many applications that use SCTP want the ability to "reset" a stream. The intention of resetting a stream is to set the numbering sequence of the stream back to 'zero' with a corresponding notification to the application layer that the reset has been performed. Applications requiring this feature want it so that they can "re-use" streams for different purposes but still utilize the stream sequence number so that the application can track the message flows. Thus, without this feature, a new use of an old stream would result in message numbers greater than expected unless there is a protocol mechanism to "reset the streams back to zero". This document also includes methods for resetting the transport sequence numbers, adding additional streams and resetting all stream sequence numbers.

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## 1. Introduction

Many applications that use SCTP as defined in [\[RFC4960\]](#) want the ability to "reset" a stream. The intention of resetting a stream is to set the stream sequence numbers (SSNs) of the stream back to 'zero' with a corresponding notification to the application layer that the reset has been performed. Applications requiring this feature want to "re-use" streams for different purposes but still utilize the stream sequence number so that the application can track the message flows. Thus, without this feature, a new use of an old stream would result in message numbers greater than expected unless there is a protocol mechanism to "reset the streams back to zero". This document also includes methods for resetting the transport sequence numbers (TSNs), adding additional streams and resetting all stream sequence numbers.

The socket API for SCTP defined in [\[I-D.ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket\]](#) exposes the sequence numbers used by SCTP for user message transfer. Therefore, resetting them can be used by application writers. Please note that the corresponding sequence number for TCP is not exposed via the socket API for TCP.

## 2. 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 [\[RFC2119\]](#).

## 3. New Chunk Type

This section defines the new chunk type that will be used to re-configure streams. Table 1 illustrates the new chunk type.

+-----+-----+	
Chunk Type	Chunk Name
+-----+-----+	
0x82	Re-configuration Chunk (RE-CONFIG)
+-----+-----+	

Table 1

It should be noted that the format of the RE-CONFIG chunk requires the receiver to ignore the chunk if it is not understood and continue processing all chunks that follow. This is accomplished by the use of the upper bits of the chunk type as described in [section 3.2 of \[RFC4960\]](#).



All transported integer numbers are in "network byte order" a.k.a., Big Endian.

### 3.1. RE-CONFIG Chunk

This document adds one new chunk type to SCTP. The chunk has the following format:

```

      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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Type = 0x82 | Chunk Flags |      Chunk Length      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
\                                                    \
/              Re-configuration Parameter              /
\                                                    \
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
\                                                    \
/              Re-configuration Parameter (optional)      /
\                                                    \
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Chunk Type: 1 byte (unsigned integer)

This field holds the IANA defined chunk type for the RE-CONFIG chunk. The suggested value of this field for IANA is 0x82.

Chunk Flags: 1 byte (unsigned integer)

This field is set to 0 by the sender and ignored by the receiver.

Chunk Length: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the length of the chunk in bytes, including the Chunk Type, Chunk Flags and Chunk Length.

Re-configuration Parameter

This field holds a Re-configuration Request Parameter or a Re-configuration Response Parameter.

Note that each RE-CONFIG chunk holds at least one parameter and at most two parameters. Only the following combinations are allowed:

1. Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter.
2. Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter.
3. Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter, Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter.





4. SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter.
5. Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter.
6. Add Incoming Streams Request Parameter.
7. Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter, Add Incoming Streams Request Parameter.
8. Re-configuration Response Parameter.
9. Re-configuration Response Parameter, Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter.
10. Re-configuration Response Parameter, Re-configuration Response Parameter.

If a sender transmits an unsupported combination, the receiver SHOULD send an ERROR chunk with a Protocol Violation cause as defined in [section 3.3.10.13 of \[RFC4960\]](#)).

#### 4. New Parameter Types

This section defines the new parameter types that will be used in the RE-CONFIG chunk. Table 2 illustrates the new parameter types.

Parameter Type	Parameter Name
0x000d	Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter
0x000e	Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter
0x000f	SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter
0x0010	Re-configuration Response Parameter
0x0011	Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter
0x0012	Add Incoming Streams Request Parameter

Table 2

It should be noted that the parameter format requires the receiver to stop processing the parameter and not to process any further parameters within the chunk if the parameter type is not recognized. This is accomplished by the use of the upper bits of the parameter type as described in [section 3.2.1 of \[RFC4960\]](#).

All transported integer numbers are in "network byte order" a.k.a., Big Endian.



#### 4.1. Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter

This parameter is used by the sender to request the reset of some or all outgoing streams.

```

      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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Parameter Type = 0x000d      | Parameter Length = 16 + 2 * N |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Re-configuration Request Sequence Number      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Re-configuration Response Sequence Number      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Sender's Last Assigned TSN      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Stream Number 1 (optional) | Stream Number 2 (optional) |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
/                               .....                               /
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Stream Number N-1 (optional) | Stream Number N (optional) |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Parameter Type: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the IANA defined parameter type for the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter. The suggested value of this field for IANA is 0x000d.

Parameter Length: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the length in bytes of the parameter; the value MUST be  $16 + 2 * N$ , where N is the number of stream numbers listed.

Re-configuration Request Sequence Number: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field is used to identify the request. It is a monotonically increasing number that is initialized to the same value as the Initial TSN number. It is increased by 1 whenever sending a new Re-configuration Request parameter.

Re-configuration Response Sequence Number: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

When this Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter is sent in response to an Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter this parameter is also an implicit response to the incoming request. Then this field holds the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number of the incoming request. In other cases it holds the next expected Re-configuration Request Sequence Number minus 1.



Sender's last assigned TSN: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This value holds the next TSN minus 1, in other words the last TSN that this sender assigned.

Stream Number 1..N: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This optional field, if included, is used to indicate specific streams that are to be reset. If no streams are listed, then all streams are to be reset.

This parameter can appear in a RE-CONFIG chunk. This parameter MUST NOT appear in any other chunk type.

#### **4.2. Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter**

This parameter is used by the sender to request that the peer resets some or all of its outgoing streams.

```

      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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Parameter Type = 0x000e   | Parameter Length = 8 + 2 * N |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Re-configuration Request Sequence Number   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Stream Number 1 (optional) | Stream Number 2 (optional) |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
/                               .....                               /
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Stream Number N-1 (optional) | Stream Number N (optional) |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Parameter Type: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the IANA defined parameter type for the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter. The suggested value of this field for IANA is 0x000e.

Parameter Length: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the length in bytes of the parameter; the value MUST be  $8 + 2 * N$ .

Re-configuration Request Sequence Number: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field is used to identify the request. It is a monotonically increasing number that is initialized to the same value as the Initial TSN number. It is increased by 1 whenever sending a new Re-configuration Request parameter.



Stream Number 1..N: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This optional field, if included, is used to indicate specific streams that are to be reset. If no streams are listed, then all streams are to be reset.

This parameter can appear in a RE-CONFIG chunk. This parameter MUST NOT appear in any other chunk type.

#### **4.3. SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter**

This parameter is used by the sender to request a reset of the TSN and SSN numbering of all incoming and outgoing streams.

```

      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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Parameter Type = 0x000f      |      Parameter Length = 8      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Re-configuration Request Sequence Number      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Parameter Type: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the IANA defined parameter type for the SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter. The suggested value of this field for IANA is 0x000f.

Parameter Length: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the length in bytes of the parameter; the value MUST be 8.

Re-configuration Request Sequence Number: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field is used to identify the request. It is a monotonically increasing number that is initialized to the same value as the Initial TSN number. It is increased by 1 whenever sending a new Re-configuration Request parameter.

This parameter can appear in a RE-CONFIG chunk. This parameter MUST NOT appear in any other chunk type.

#### **4.4. Re-configuration Response Parameter**

This parameter is used by the receiver of a Re-configuration Request parameter to respond to the request.





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								
+ - + -																																							

Parameter Type: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the IANA defined parameter type for Re-configuration Response Parameter. The suggested value of this field for IANA is 0x0010.

Parameter Type Length: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the length in bytes of the parameter; the value MUST be 12 if the optional fields are not present and 20 otherwise.

Re-configuration Response Sequence Number: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This value is copied from the request parameter and is used by the receiver of the Re-configuration Response Parameter to tie the response to the request.

Result: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This value describes the result of the processing of the request. It is encoded as given by the following table

Result	Description
0	Success - Nothing to do
1	Success - Performed
2	Denied
3	Error - Wrong SSN
4	Error - Request already in progress
5	Error - Bad Sequence Number
6	In progress

Table 3



Sender's next TSN: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the TSN the sender of the response will use to send the next DATA chunk. The field is only applicable in responses to SSN/TSN reset requests.

Receiver's next TSN: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the TSN the receiver of the response must use to send the next DATA chunk. The field is only applicable in responses to SSN/TSN reset requests.

Either both optional fields (Sender's next TSN and Receiver's next TSN) MUST be present or none.

This parameter can appear in a RE-CONFIG chunk. This parameter MUST NOT appear in any other chunk type.

#### **4.5. Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter**

This parameter is used by the sender to request that an additional number of outgoing streams (i.e. the receiver's incoming streams) be added to the association.

```

      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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Parameter Type = 0x0011      |      Parameter Length = 12      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Re-configuration Request Sequence Number      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Number of new streams      |      Reserved      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Parameter Type: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the IANA defined parameter type for the the Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter. The suggested value of this field for IANA is 0x0011.

Parameter Length: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field holds the length in bytes of the parameter; the value MUST be 12.

Re-configuration Request Sequence Number: 4 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field is used to identify the request. It is a monotonically increasing number that is initialized to the same value as the Initial TSN number. It is increased by 1 whenever sending a new Re-configuration Request parameter.



This field is used to identify the request. It is a monotonically increasing number that is initialized to the same value as the Initial TSN number. It is increased by 1 whenever sending a new Re-configuration Request parameter.



Number of new streams: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This value holds the number of additional incoming streams the sender requests to be added to the association. Streams are added in order and are consecutive, e.g. if an association has four outgoing streams (0-3) and a requested is made to add 3 streams then the new streams will be 4, 5 and 6.

Reserved: 2 bytes (unsigned integer)

This field is reserved. It SHOULD be set to 0 by the sender and ignored by the receiver.

This parameter MAY appear in a RE-CONFIG chunk. This parameter MUST NOT appear in any other chunk type.

## **5. Procedures**

This section defines the procedures used by both the sender and receiver of a RE-CONFIG chunk. Various examples of re-configuration scenarios are given in [Appendix A](#).

One important thing to remember about SCTP streams is that they are uni-directional. The endpoint for which a stream is an outgoing stream is called the outgoing side, the endpoint for which the stream is an incoming stream is called the incoming side. The procedures outlined in this section are designed so that the incoming side will always reset their stream sequence number first before the outgoing side which means the re-configuration request must always originate from the outgoing side. These two issues have important ramifications upon how an SCTP endpoint might request that its incoming streams be reset. In effect it must ask the peer to start an outgoing reset procedure and once that request is acknowledged let the peer actually control the reset operation.

### **5.1. Sender Side Procedures**

This section describes the procedures related to the sending of RE-CONFIG chunks. A RE-CONFIG chunk is composed of one or two Type Length Value (TLV) parameters.

#### **5.1.1. Sender Side Procedures for the RE-CONFIG Chunk**

This SCTP extension uses the Supported Extensions Parameter defined in [\[RFC5061\]](#) for negotiating the support for it.

An SCTP endpoint supporting this extension MUST include the chunk type of the RE-CONFIG chunk in the Supported Extensions Parameter in either the INIT or INIT-ACK. Before sending a RE-CONFIG chunk the





sender MUST ensure that the peer advertised support for the re-configuration extension. If the chunk type of the RE-CONFIG chunk does not appear in the supported extensions list of chunks, then the sender MUST NOT send any re-configuration request to the peer, and any request by the application for such service SHOULD be responded to with an appropriate error indicating the peer SCTP stack does not support the re-configuration extension.

At any given time there MUST NOT be more than one request be in flight. So if the Re-configuration Timer is running and the the RE-CONFIG chunk contains at least one request parameter the chunk MUST be buffered.

After packaging the RE-CONFIG chunk and sending it to the peer the sender MUST start the Re-configuration Timer if the RE-CONFIG chunk contains at least one request parameter. If it contains no request parameters, the Re-configuration Timer MUST NOT be started. This timer MUST use the same value as SCTP's Data transmission timer (i.e. the RTO timer) and MUST use exponential backoff doubling the value at every expiration. If the timer expires, besides doubling the value, the sender MUST retransmit the RE-CONFIG chunk, increment the appropriate error counts (both for the association and the destination), and perform threshold management possibly destroying the association if SCTP retransmission thresholds are exceeded.

#### **5.1.2. Sender Side Procedures for the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter**

When an SCTP sender wants to reset the SSNs of some or all outgoing streams it can send an Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter provided that the Re-configuration Timer is not running. The following steps must be followed:

- A1: The sender MUST stop assigning new SSNs to new user data provided by the upper layer for the affected streams and queue it. This is because it is not known whether the receiver of the request will accept or deny it and moreover, a lost request might cause an out-of-sequence error in a stream that the receiver is not yet prepared to handle.
- A2: The sender MUST assign the next re-configuration request sequence number and MUST put it into the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number field of the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter. The next re-configuration request sequence number MUST then be incremented by 1.



- A3: The Sender's Last Assigned TSN MUST be set to the next TSN the sender assigns minus 1.
- A4: If this Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter is sent in response to an Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter the Stream Numbers MUST be copied from the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter to the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter. The Re-configuration Response Sequence Number of the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter MUST be the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number of the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter. If this Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter is sent at the request of the upper layer and the sender requests all outgoing streams to be reset Stream Numbers SHOULD NOT be put into the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter. If the sender requests only some outgoing streams to be reset these Stream Numbers MUST be placed in the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter. Re-configuration Response Sequence Number is the next expected Re-configuration Request Sequence Number of the peer minus 1.
- A5: The Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter MUST be put into a RE-CONFIG Chunk. The Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter MAY be put together with either an Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter or an Re-configuration Response Parameter but not both. It MUST NOT be put together with any other parameter as described in [Section 3.1](#).
- A6: The RE-CONFIG chunk MUST be sent following the rules given in [Section 5.1.1](#).

#### **5.1.3. Sender Side Procedures for the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter**

When an SCTP sender wants to reset the SSNs of some or all incoming streams it can send an Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter provided that the Re-configuration Timer is not running. The following steps must be followed:

- B1: The sender MUST assign the next re-configuration request sequence number and MUST put it into the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number field of the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter. After assigning it the next re-configuration request sequence number MUST be incremented by 1.
- B2: If the sender wants all incoming streams to be reset Stream Numbers SHOULD NOT be put into the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter. If the sender wants only some incoming streams to be reset these Stream Numbers MUST be filled in the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter.



B3: The Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter MUST be put into a RE-CONFIG Chunk. It MAY be put together with an Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter but MUST NOT be put together with any other parameter.

B4: The RE-CONFIG chunk MUST be sent following the rules given in [Section 5.1.1](#).

When sending an Incoming SSN Reset Request there is a potential that the peer has just reset or is in the process of resetting the same streams via an Outgoing SSN Reset Request. This collision scenario is discussed in [Section 5.2.3](#).

#### **[5.1.4](#). Sender Side Procedures for the SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter**

When an SCTP sender wants to reset the SSNs and TSNs it can send an SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter provided that the Re-configuration Timer is not running. The following steps must be followed:

- C1: The sender MUST assign the next re-configuration request sequence number and put it into the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number field of the SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter. After assigning it the next re-configuration request sequence number MUST be incremented by 1.
- C2: The sender has either no outstanding TSNs or considers all outstanding TSNs abandoned. The sender MUST queue any user data suspending any new transmissions and TSN assignment until the reset procedure is finished by the peer either acknowledging or denying the request.
- C3: The SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter MUST be put into a RE-CONFIG chunk. There MUST NOT be any other parameter in this chunk.
- C4: The RE-CONFIG chunk MUST be sent following the rules given in [Section 5.1.1](#).

Only one SSN/TSN Reset Request SHOULD be sent within 30 seconds, which is considered a maximum segment lifetime, the IP MSL.

#### **[5.1.5](#). Sender Side Procedures for the Re-configuration Response Parameter**

When an implementation receives a reset request parameter it must respond with a Re-configuration Response Parameter in the following manner:



- D1: The Re-configuration Request Sequence number of the incoming request MUST be copied to the Re-configuration Response Sequence Number field of the Re-configuration Response Parameter.
- D2: The result of the processing of the incoming request according to Table 3 MUST be placed in the Result field of the Re-configuration Response Parameter.
- D3: If the incoming request is an SSN/TSN reset request, the Sender's next TSN field MUST be filled with the next TSN the sender of this Re-configuration Response Parameter will assign. For other requests the Sender's next TSN field, which is optional, MUST NOT be used.
- D4: If the incoming request is an SSN/TSN reset request, the Receiver's next TSN field MUST be filled with a TSN such that the sender of the Re-configuration Response Parameter can be sure it can discard received DATA chunks with smaller TSNs. The value SHOULD be the smallest TSN not acknowledged by the receiver of the request plus  $2^{31}$ . For other requests the Receiver's next TSN field, which is optional, MUST NOT be used.

#### **5.1.6. Sender Side Procedures for the Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter**

When an SCTP sender wants to increase the number of outbound streams to which it is able to send, it may add an Add Outgoing Streams Request parameter to the RE-CONFIG chunk. Upon sending the request the sender MUST await a positive acknowledgment (Success) before using any additional stream added by this request. Note that new streams are added adjacent to the previous streams with no gaps. This means that if a request is made to add 2 streams to an association that has already 5 (0-4) then the new streams, upon successful completion, are streams 5 and 6. A new stream MUST use the stream sequence number 0 for its first ordered message.

#### **5.1.7. Sender Side Procedures for the Add Incoming Streams Request Parameter**

When an SCTP sender wants to increase the number of inbound streams to which the peer is able to send, it may add an Add Incoming Streams Request parameter to the RE-CONFIG chunk. Note that new streams are added adjacent to the previous streams with no gaps. This means that if a request is made to add 2 streams to an association that has already 5 (0-4) then the new streams, upon successful completion, are streams 5 and 6. A new stream MUST use the stream sequence number 0 for its first ordered message.





## **5.2. Receiver Side Procedures**

### **5.2.1. Receiver Side Procedures for the RE-CONFIG Chunk**

Upon reception of a RE-CONFIG chunk each parameter within it SHOULD be processed. If multiple parameters have to be returned, they MUST be put into one RE\_CONFIG chunk. If the received RE-CONFIG chunk contains at least one request parameter, a SACK chunk SHOULD be sent back and MAY be bundled with the RE-CONFIG chunk. If the received RE-CONFIG chunk contains at least one request and based on the analysis of the Re-configuration Request Sequence Numbers this is the last received RE-CONFIG chunk (i.e. a retransmission), the same RE-CONFIG chunk MUST to be sent back in response as was earlier.

The decision to deny a re-configuration request is an administrative decision and may be user configurable even after the association has formed. If for whatever reason the endpoint does not wish to process a received request parameter it MUST send a corresponding response parameter as described in [Section 5.1.5](#) with an appropriate Result field.

Implementation Note: A SACK is recommended to be bundled with any re-configuration response so that any retransmission processing that needs to occur can be expedited. A SACK chunk is not required for this feature to work, but it will in effect help minimize the delay in completing a re-configuration operation in the face of any data loss.

### **5.2.2. Receiver Side Procedures for the Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter**

In the case that the endpoint is willing to perform a stream reset the following steps must be followed:

- E1: If the Re-configuration Timer is running for the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number indicated in the Re-configuration Response Sequence Number field, the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number MUST be marked as acknowledged. If all Re-configuration Request Sequence Numbers the Re-configuration Timer is running for are acknowledged, the Re-configuration Timer MUST be stopped.
- E2: If the Sender's Last Assigned TSN number is greater than the cumulative acknowledgment point, then the endpoint MUST enter "deferred reset processing". In this mode, any data arriving with a TSN number larger than the 'senders last assigned TSN' for the affected stream(s) MUST be queued locally and held until the Cumulative Acknowledgment point reaches the 'senders last



assigned TSN number'. When the Cumulative Acknowledgment point reaches the last assigned TSN number then proceed to the next step. If the endpoint enters "deferred reset processing", it MUST put a Re-configuration Response Parameter into a RE-CONFIG chunk indicating 'In progress' and MUST send the RE-CONFIG chunk.

- E3: If no Stream Numbers are listed in the parameter, then all incoming streams MUST be reset to 0 as the next expected stream sequence number. If specific Stream Numbers are listed, then only these specific streams MUST be reset to 0 and all other non-listed stream sequence numbers remain unchanged.
- E4: Any queued TSN's (queued at step E2) MUST now be released and processed normally.
- E5: A Re-configuration Response Parameter MUST be put into a RE-CONFIG chunk indicating successful processing.
- E6: The RE-CONFIG chunk MUST be sent after the incoming RE-CONFIG chunk is processed completely.

### **5.2.3. Receiver Side Procedures for the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter**

In the case that the endpoint is willing to perform a stream reset the following steps must be followed:

- F1: An Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter MUST be put into an RE-CONFIG chunk according to [Section 5.1.2](#).
- F2: The RE-CONFIG chunk MUST be sent after the incoming RE-CONFIG chunk is processed completely.

When a peer endpoint requests an Incoming SSN Reset Request it is possible that the local endpoint has just sent an Outgoing SSN Reset Request on the same association and has not yet received a response. In such a case the local endpoint MUST do the following:

- o If the just sent Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter completely overlaps the received Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter respond to the peer with an acknowledgment indicating that there was 'Nothing to do'.
- o Otherwise process the Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter normally responding to the peer with an acknowledgment. Note that this case includes the situation where some of the streams requested overlap with the just sent Outgoing SSN Reset Request.



Even in such a situation the Incoming SSN Reset MUST be processed normally even though this means that (if the endpoint elects to do the stream reset) streams that are already at SSN 0, will be reset a subsequent time.

It is also possible that the Incoming request will arrive after the Outgoing SSN Reset Request just completed. In such a case all of the streams being requested will be already set to 0. If so, the local endpoint SHOULD send back a Re-configuration Response with the success code "Nothing to do".

Note that in either race condition the local endpoint could optionally also perform the reset. This would result in streams that are already at sequence 0 being reset again to 0 which would cause no harm to the application but will add an extra message to the network.

#### **5.2.4. Receiver Side Procedures for the SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter**

In the case that the endpoint is willing to perform an SSN/TSN reset the following steps must be followed:

- G1: Compute an appropriate value for the Receiver's next TSN, the TSN the peer should use to send the next DATA chunk. The value SHOULD be the smallest TSN not acknowledged by the receiver of the request plus  $2^{31}$ .
- G2: Compute an appropriate value for the local endpoint's next TSN, i.e. the receiver of the SSN/TSN reset chunk next TSN to be assigned. The value SHOULD be the highest TSN sent by the receiver of the request plus 1.
- G3: The same processing as if a SACK chunk with no gap report and a cumulative TSN ACK of Sender's next TSN minus 1 was received MUST be performed.
- G4: The same processing as if a FWD-TSN chunk as defined in [\[RFC3758\]](#) with all streams affected and a new cumulative TSN ACK of Receiver's next TSN minus 1 was received MUST be performed.
- G5: The next expected and outgoing stream sequence numbers MUST be reset to 0 for all incoming and outgoing streams.
- G6: A Re-configuration Response Parameter MUST be put into a RE-CONFIG chunk indicating successful processing.



- G7: The RE-CONFIG chunk MUST be sent after the incoming RE-CONFIG chunk is processed completely.

#### **5.2.5. Receiver Side Procedures for the Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter**

When an SCTP endpoint receives a re-configuration request adding additional streams, it MUST send a response parameter either acknowledging or denying the request. If the response is successful the receiver MUST add the requested number of inbound streams to the association, initializing the next expected stream sequence number to be 0. The SCTP endpoint SHOULD deny the request if the number of streams exceeds a limit which should be configurable by the application.

#### **5.2.6. Receiver Side Procedures for the Add Incoming Streams Request Parameter**

When an SCTP endpoint receives a re-configuration request adding additional incoming streams, it MUST either send a response parameter denying the request or sending a corresponding Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter following the rules given in [Section 5.1.6](#). The SCTP endpoint SHOULD deny the request if the number of streams exceeds a limit which should be configurable by the application.

#### **5.2.7. Receiver Side Procedures for the Re-configuration Response Parameter**

On receipt of a Re-configuration Response Parameter the following must be performed:

- H1: If the Re-configuration Timer is running for the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number indicated in the Re-configuration Response Sequence Number field, the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number MUST be marked as acknowledged. If all Re-configuration Request Sequence Numbers the Re-configuration Timer is running for are acknowledged, the Re-configuration Timer MUST be stopped. If the timer was not running for the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number, the processing of the Re-configuration Response Parameter is complete.
- H2: If the Result field indicates 'In progress', the timer for the Re-configuration Request Sequence Number is started again. If the timer runs off, the RE-CONFIG chunk MUST be retransmitted but the corresponding error counters MUST NOT be incremented.





- H3: If the Result field does not indicate successful processing the processing of this response is complete.
- H4: If the request was an Outgoing SSN Reset Request the affected streams MUST now be reset and all queued data should be processed now and assigning of stream sequence numbers is allowed again.
- H5: If the request was an SSN/TSN Reset Request new data MUST be sent from Receiver's next TSN and beginning with stream sequence number 0 for all outgoing streams. All incoming streams MUST be reset to 0 as the next expected stream sequence number. The peer will send DATA chunks starting with Sender's next TSN.
- H6: If the request was to add outgoing streams, the endpoint MUST add the additional streams to the association. Note that an implementation may allocate the memory at the time of the request, but it MUST NOT use the streams until the peer has responded with a positive acknowledgment.

## **6. Socket API Considerations**

This section describes how the socket API defined in [\[I-D.ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket\]](#) needs to be extended to make the features of SCTP re-configuration available to the application.

Please note that this section is informational only.

### **6.1. Events**

When the SCTP\_ASSOC\_CHANGE notification is delivered and both peers support the extension described in this document, SCTP\_ASSOC\_SUPPORTS\_RE\_CONFIG should be listed in the sac\_info field.

The union sctp\_notification {} is extended to contain three new fields: sn\_strreset\_event, sn\_assocreset\_event, and sn\_strchange\_event:



```

union sctp_notification {
    struct {
        uint16_t sn_type;
        uint16_t sn_flags;
        uint32_t sn_length;
    } sn_header;
    ...
    struct sctp_stream_reset_event sn_strreset_event;
    struct sctp_assoc_reset_event sn_assocreset_event;
    struct sctp_stream_change_event sn_strchange_event;
    ...
}

```

The corresponding sn\_type values are given in Table 4.

sn_type	valid field in union sctp_notification
SCTP_STREAM_RESET_EVENT	sn_strreset_event
SCTP_ASSOC_RESET_EVENT	sn_assocreset_event
SCTP_STREAM_CHANGE_EVENT	sn_strchange_event

Table 4

These events are delivered when an incoming request was processed successfully or the processing of an outgoing request has been finished.

#### **6.1.1. Stream Reset Event**

The event delivered has the following structure:

```

struct sctp_stream_reset_event {
    uint16_t strreset_type;
    uint16_t strreset_flags;
    uint32_t strreset_length;
    sctp_assoc_t strreset_assoc_id;
    uint16_t strreset_stream_list[];
};

```

strreset\_type: It should be SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_EVENT.

strreset\_flags: This field is formed from the bitwise OR of one or more of the following currently defined flags:



SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_INCOMING\_SSN: The stream identifiers given in `strreset_stream_list[]` refer to incoming streams of the endpoint.

SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_OUTGOING\_SSN: The stream identifiers given in `strreset_stream_list[]` refer to outgoing streams of the endpoint.

SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_DENIED: The corresponding request was denied by the peer.

SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_FAILED: The corresponding request failed.

At least one of SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_INCOMING\_SSN and SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_OUTGOING\_SSN is set. SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_DENIED and SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_FAILED are mutually exclusive. If the request was successful, none of these are set.

`strreset_length`: This field is the total length in bytes of the delivered event, including the header.

`strreset_assoc_id`: The association id field, holds the identifier for the association. All notifications for a given association have the same association identifier. For one-to-one style sockets, this field is ignored.

`strreset_stream_list`: The list of stream identifiers this event refers to. An empty list identifies all streams as being reset. Depending on `strreset_flags` the identifiers refer to incoming or outgoing streams or both.

#### **6.1.2. Association Reset Event**

The event delivered has the following structure:

```
struct sctp_assoc_reset_event {
    uint16_t assocreset_type;
    uint16_t assocreset_flags;
    uint32_t assocreset_length;
    sctp_assoc_t assocreset_assoc_id;
    uint32_t assocreset_local_tsn;
    uint32_t assocreset_remote_tsn;
};
```



assocreset\_type: It should be SCTP\_ASSOC\_RESET\_EVENT.

assocreset\_flags: This field is formed from the bitwise OR of one or more of the following currently defined flags:

SCTP\_ASSOC\_RESET\_DENIED: The corresponding outgoing request was denied by the peer.

SCTP\_ASSOC\_RESET\_FAILED: The corresponding outgoing request failed.

SCTP\_ASSOC\_RESET\_DENIED and SCTP\_ASSOC\_RESET\_FAILED are mutual exclusive. If the request was successful, none of these are set.

assocreset\_length: This field is the total length in bytes of the delivered event, including the header.

assocreset\_assoc\_id: The association id field, holds the identifier for the association. All notifications for a given association have the same association identifier. For one-to-one style sockets, this field is ignored.

assocreset\_local\_tsn: The next TSN used by the endpoint.

assocreset\_remote\_tsn: The next TSN used by the peer.

### **6.1.3. Stream Change Event**

The event delivered has the following structure:

```
struct sctp_stream_change_event {
    uint16_t strchange_type;
    uint16_t strchange_flags;
    uint32_t strchange_length;
    sctp_assoc_t strchange_assoc_id;
    uint16_t strchange_instrms;
    uint16_t strchange_outstrms;
};
```

strchange\_type: It should be SCTP\_STREAM\_CHANGE\_EVENT.

strchange\_flags: This field is formed from the bitwise OR of one or more of the following currently defined flags:

SCTP\_STREAM\_CHANGE\_DENIED: The corresponding request was denied by the peer.





SCTP\_STREAM\_CHANGE\_FAILED: The corresponding request failed.

SCTP\_STREAM\_CHANGE\_DENIED and SCTP\_STREAM\_CHANGE\_FAILED are mutual exclusive. If the request was successful, none of these are set.

strchange\_length: This field is the total length in bytes of the delivered event, including the header.

strchange\_assoc\_id: The association id field, holds the identifier for the association. All notifications for a given association have the same association identifier. For one-to-one style sockets, this field is ignored.

strchange\_instrms: The number of streams that the peer is allowed to use outbound.

strchange\_outstrms: The number of streams that the endpoint is allowed to use outbound.

## **6.2. Event Subscription**

Subscribing to events as described in [[I-D.ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket](#)] uses a setsockopt() call with the SCTP\_EVENT socket option. This option takes the following structure that specifies the association, the event type (using the same value found in the event type field) and an on/off boolean.

```
struct sctp_event {
    sctp_assoc_t se_assoc_id;
    uint16_t     se_type;
    uint8_t      se_on;
};
```

The user fills in the se\_type with the same value found in the strreset\_type field i.e. SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_EVENT. The user will also fill in the se\_assoc\_id field with either the association to set this event on (this field is ignored for one-to-one style sockets) or one of the reserved constant values defined in [[I-D.ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket](#)]. Finally the se\_on field is set with a 1 to enable the event or a 0 to disable the event.

## **6.3. Socket Options**

The following table describes the new socket options which make the re-configuration features accessible to the user. They all use IPPROTO\_SCTP as their level.

If a call to setsockopt() is used to issue a Re-configuration request



while the Re-configuration timer is running, `setsockopt()` will return -1 and error is set to `EALREADY`.

option name	data type	get	set
<code>SCTP_ENABLE_STREAM_RESET</code>	struct <code>sctp_assoc_value</code>	X	X
<code>SCTP_RESET_STREAMS</code>	struct <code>sctp_reset_streams</code>		X
<code>SCTP_RESET_ASSOC</code>	<code>sctp_assoc_t</code>		X
<code>SCTP_ADD_STREAMS</code>	struct <code>sctp_add_streams</code>		X

Table 5

#### **6.3.1. Enable/Disable Stream Reset (`SCTP_ENABLE_STREAM_RESET`)**

This option allows a user to control whether the SCTP implementation processes or denies incoming requests in `STREAM_RESET` chunks.

The default is to deny all incoming requests.

To set or get this option the user fills in the following structure:

```
struct sctp_assoc_value {
    sctp_assoc_t assoc_id;
    uint32_t assoc_value;
};
```

`assoc_id`: This parameter is ignored for one-to-one style sockets. For one-to-many style sockets this parameter indicates which association the user is performing an action upon.

`assoc_value`: It is formed from the bitwise OR of one or more of the following currently defined flags:

`SCTP_ENABLE_RESET_STREAM_REQ`: Process received Incoming/Outgoing SSN Reset Requests if this flag is set, deny them if not.

`SCTP_ENABLE_RESET_ASSOC_REQ`: Process received SSN/TSN Reset Requests if this flag is set, deny them if not.

`SCTP_ENABLE_CHANGE_ASSOC_REQ`: Process received Add Outgoing Streams Requests if this flag is set, deny them if not.

The default value is `!(SCTP_ENABLE_RESET_STREAM_REQ|SCTP_ENABLE_RESET_ASSOC_REQ|SCTP_ENABLE_CHANGE_ASSOC_REQ)`.

Please note that using the option does not have any impact on



subscribing to any related events.

### **6.3.2. Reset Incoming and/or Outgoing Streams (SCTP\_RESET\_STREAMS)**

This option allows the user to request the reset of incoming and/or outgoing streams.

To set or get this option the user fills in the following structure:

```
struct sctp_reset_streams {
    sctp_assoc_t srs_assoc_id;
    uint16_t srs_flags;
    uint16_t srs_number_streams;
    uint16_t srs_stream_list[];
};
```

**srs\_assoc\_id:** This parameter is ignored for one-to-one style sockets. For one-to-many style sockets this parameter indicates which association the user is performing an action upon.

**srs\_flags:** This parameter describes which class of streams is reset. It is formed from the bitwise OR of one or more of the following currently defined flags:

- \* SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_INCOMING
- \* SCTP\_STREAM\_RESET\_OUTGOING

**srs\_number\_streams:** This parameter is the number of elements in the `srs_stream_list`. If it is zero, the operation is performed on all streams.

**srs\_stream\_list:** This parameter contains a list of stream identifiers the operation is performed upon. It contains `srs_number_streams` elements. If it is empty, the operation is performed on all streams. Depending on `srs_flags` the identifiers refer to incoming or outgoing streams or both.

### **6.3.3. Reset SSN/TSN (SCTP\_RESET\_ASSOC)**

This option allows a user to request the reset of the SSN/TSN.

To set this option the user provides an `option_value` of type `sctp_assoc_t`.

On one-to-one style sockets the `option_value` is ignored. For one-to-many style sockets the `option_value` is the association identifier of the association the action is to be performed upon.



#### **6.3.4. Add Incoming and/or Outgoing Streams (SCTP\_ADD\_STREAMS)**

This option allows a user to request the addition of a number of incoming and/or outgoing streams.

To set this option the user fills in the following structure:

```
struct sctp_add_streams {  
    sctp_assoc_t sas_assoc_id;  
    uint16_t sas_instrms;  
    uint16_t sas_outstrms;  
};
```

`sas_assoc_id`: This parameter is ignored for one-to-one style sockets. For one-to-many style sockets this parameter indicates which association the user is performing an action upon.

`sas_instrms`: This parameter is the number of incoming streams to add.

`sas_outstrms`: This parameter is the number of outgoing streams to add.

An endpoint can limit the number of incoming and outgoing streams by using the `sinit_max_instreams` field in the struct `sctp_initmsg{}` when issuing an `SCTP_INIT` socket option, as defined in [\[I-D.ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket\]](#). An incoming request asking for more streams than allowed will be denied.

## **7. Security Considerations**

The SCTP socket API as described in [\[I-D.ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket\]](#) exposes the sequence numbers of received DATA chunks to the application. An application might expect them to be monotonically increasing. When using the re-configuration extension this might no longer be true. Therefore the applications must enable this extension explicitly before it is used. In addition, applications must subscribe explicitly to notifications related to the re-configuration extension before receiving them.

SCTP associations are protected against blind attackers by using the verification tags. This is still valid when using the re-configuration extension. Therefore this extension does not add any additional security risk to SCTP in relation to blind attackers.

When the both sequence numbers are reset, the maximum segment lifetime is used to avoid the wrap-around for the TSN.





## **8. IANA Considerations**

[NOTE to RFC-Editor:

"RFCXXXX" is to be replaced by the RFC number you assign this document.

]

[NOTE to RFC-Editor:

The suggested values for the chunk type and the chunk parameter types are tentative and to be confirmed by IANA.

]

This document (RFCXXXX) is the reference for all registrations described in this section. The suggested changes are described below.

### **8.1. A New Chunk Type**

A chunk type has to be assigned by IANA. It is suggested to use the values given in Table 1. IANA should assign this value from the pool of chunks with the upper two bits set to '10'.

This requires an additional line in the "Chunk Types" registry for SCTP:

Chunk Types

ID Value	Chunk Type	Reference
-----	-----	-----
130	Re-configuration Chunk (RE-CONFIG)	[RFCXXXX]

The registration table as defined in [RFC6096] for the chunk flags of this chunk type is empty.

### **8.2. Six New Chunk Parameter Types**

Six chunk parameter types have to be assigned by IANA. It is suggested to use the values given in Table 2. IANA should assign these values from the pool of parameters with the upper two bits set to '00'.

This requires six additional lines in the "Chunk Parameter Types" registry for SCTP:



## Chunk Parameter Types

ID Value	Chunk Parameter Type	Reference
-----	-----	-----
13	Outgoing SSN Reset Request Parameter	[RFCXXXX]
14	Incoming SSN Reset Request Parameter	[RFCXXXX]
15	SSN/TSN Reset Request Parameter	[RFCXXXX]
16	Re-configuration Response Parameter	[RFCXXXX]
17	Add Outgoing Streams Request Parameter	[RFCXXXX]
18	Add Incoming Streams Request Parameter	[RFCXXXX]

## 9. Acknowledgments

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## 10. References

### 10.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC3758] Stewart, R., Ramalho, M., Xie, Q., Tuexen, M., and P. Conrad, "Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP) Partial Reliability Extension", [RFC 3758](#), May 2004.
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- [RFC5061] Stewart, R., Xie, Q., Tuexen, M., Maruyama, S., and M. Kozuka, "Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP) Dynamic Address Reconfiguration", [RFC 5061](#), September 2007.
- [RFC6096] Tuexen, M. and R. Stewart, "Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP) Chunk Flags Registration", [RFC 6096](#), January 2011.

### 10.2. Informative References

- [I-D.ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket] Stewart, R., Tuexen, M., Poon, K., Lei, P., and V. Yasevich, "Sockets API Extensions for Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP)",



[draft-ietf-tsvwg-sctpsocket-32](#) (work in progress),  
October 2011.

## **Appendix A. Examples of the Re-configuration procedures**

Please note that this appendix is informational only.

The following message flows between an Endpoint A and an Endpoint Z illustrate the described procedures. The time progresses in downward direction.

The following example illustrates an Endpoint A resetting stream 1 and 2 for just its outgoing streams.

```

E-A                                     E-Z
-----[RE-CONFIG(OUT-REQ:X/1,2)]----->
<-----[RE-CONFIG(RES:X)]-----

```

The following example illustrates an Endpoint A resetting stream 1 and 2 for just its incoming streams.

```

E-A                                     E-Z
-----[RE-CONFIG(IN-REQ:X/1,2)]----->
<-----[RE-CONFIG(OUT-REQ:Y,X/1,2)]-----
-----[RE-CONFIG(RES:Y)]----->

```

The following example illustrates an Endpoint A resetting all streams in both directions.

```

E-A                                     E-Z
-----[RE-CONFIG(OUT-REQ:X,Y-1|IN-REQ:X+1)]----->
<-----[RE-CONFIG(RES:X|OUT-REQ:Y,X+1)]-----
-----[RE-CONFIG(RES:Y)]----->

```

The following example illustrates an Endpoint A requesting the streams and TSNs be reset. At the completion E-A has the new sending TSN (selected by the peer) of B and E-Z has the new sending TSN of A (also selected by the peer).

```

E-A                                     E-Z
-----[RE-CONFIG(TSN-REQ:X)]----->
<-----[RE-CONFIG(RES:X/S-TSN=A, R-TSN=B)]-----

```

The following example illustrates an Endpoint A requesting to add 3 additional outgoing streams.



E-A E-Z  
-----[RE-CONFIG(ADD\_OUT\_STRMS:X/3)]----->  
<-----[RE-CONFIG(RES:X)]-----

The following example illustrates an Endpoint A requesting to add 3 additional incoming streams.

E-A E-Z  
-----[RE-CONFIG(ADD\_IN\_STRMS:X/3)]----->  
<----[RE-CONFIG(ADD\_OUT\_STRMS-REQ:Y,X/3)]-----  
-----[RE-CONFIG(RES:Y)]----->

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