

I2NSF Working Group
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Informational
Expires: 25 August 2022

J. Jeong
P. Lingga
Sungkyunkwan University
J. Park
ETRI
21 February 2022

An Extension of I2NSF Framework for Security Management Automation in
Cloud-Based Security Services
draft-jeong-i2nsf-security-management-automation-03

Abstract

This document describes an extension of the framework of Interface to Network Security Functions (I2NSF) for Security Management Automation (SMA) in cloud-based security services. The security management automation in this document deals with a security polity translation and a feedback-based security service enforcement. To support these two features in SMA, this document specifies an augmented architecture of the I2NSF framework with a new system component and a new interface.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-Drafts is at <https://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/>.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

This Internet-Draft will expire on 25 August 2022.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2022 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to [BCP 78](#) and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents (<https://trustee.ietf.org/license-info>) in effect on the date of publication of this document.

Internet-Draft I2NSF Security Management Automation February 2022

Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Revised BSD License text as described in Section 4.e of the [Trust Legal Provisions](#) and are provided without warranty as described in the Revised BSD License.

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Terminology	3
3.	I2NSF Framework for Security Management Automation	4
3.1.	Components with I2NSF Framework for Security Management Automation	4
3.2.	Interfaces with SMA-Based I2NSF Framework	5
4.	Inter-Interface Automatic Policy Mapping	6
5.	Security Audit System	9
6.	Security Considerations	10
7.	IANA Considerations	11
8.	References	11
8.1.	Normative References	11
8.2.	Informative References	12
Appendix A.	Acknowledgments	13
Appendix B.	Contributors	13
Appendix C.	Changes from draft-jeong-i2nsf-security-management-automation-02	14
	Authors' Addresses	14

[1.](#) Introduction

Interface to Network Security Functions (I2NSF) defines a framework and interfaces for interacting with Network Security Functions (NSFs) [[RFC8192](#)][RFC8329]. Note that an NSF is defined as software that provides a set of security-related services, such as (i) detecting unwanted activity, (ii) blocking or mitigating the effect of such unwanted activity in order to fulfill service requirements, and (iii) supporting communication stream integrity and confidentiality [[RFC8329](#)]. The NSF can be implemented as a Virtual Network Function (VNF) in a Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) environment [[ETSI-NFV](#)][I-D.ietf-i2nsf-applicability].

This document describes an extension of the framework of Interface to Network Security Functions (I2NSF) for Security Management Automation (SMA) in cloud-based security services. The security management

automation includes a security policy translation and a feedback-based security service enforcement. This document specifies an augmented architecture of the I2NSF framework for the SMA services with a new system component and a new interface.

For reliable management for networked security services, this document proposes a network management and verification facility using a decentralized audit system (e.g., blockchain [[Bitcoin](#)]). This audit system can facilitate the non-repudiation of configuration commands and monitoring data generated in the I2NSF framework.

Therefore, with the security service automation, this document facilitates the foundation of Intent-Based Networking (IBN) for intelligent security services [[I-D.irtf-nmrg-ibn-concepts-definitions](#)].

2. Terminology

This document uses the terminology described in [[RFC8329](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-applicability](#)]. In addition, the following terms are defined below:

- * Security Management Automation (SMA): It means that a high-level security policy from a user (or administrator) is well-enforced in a target I2NSF system. The high-level security policy can be translated into the corresponding low-level security policy by a security policy translator and dispatched to appropriate NSFs. Through the monitoring of the NSFs, the activity and performance of the NSFs is monitored and analyzed. If needed, the security rules of the low-level security policy are augmented or new security rules are generated and configured to appropriate NSFs.
- * Security Policy Translation (SPT): It means that a high-level security policy is translated to a low-level security policy that can be understood and configured by an NSF for a specific security service, such as firewall, web filter, deep packet inspection, DDoS-attack mitigation, and anti-virus.
- * Feedback-Based Security Management (FSM): It means that a security service is evolved by updating a security policy (having security rules) and adding new security rules for detected security attacks

by processing and analyzing the monitoring data of NSFs.

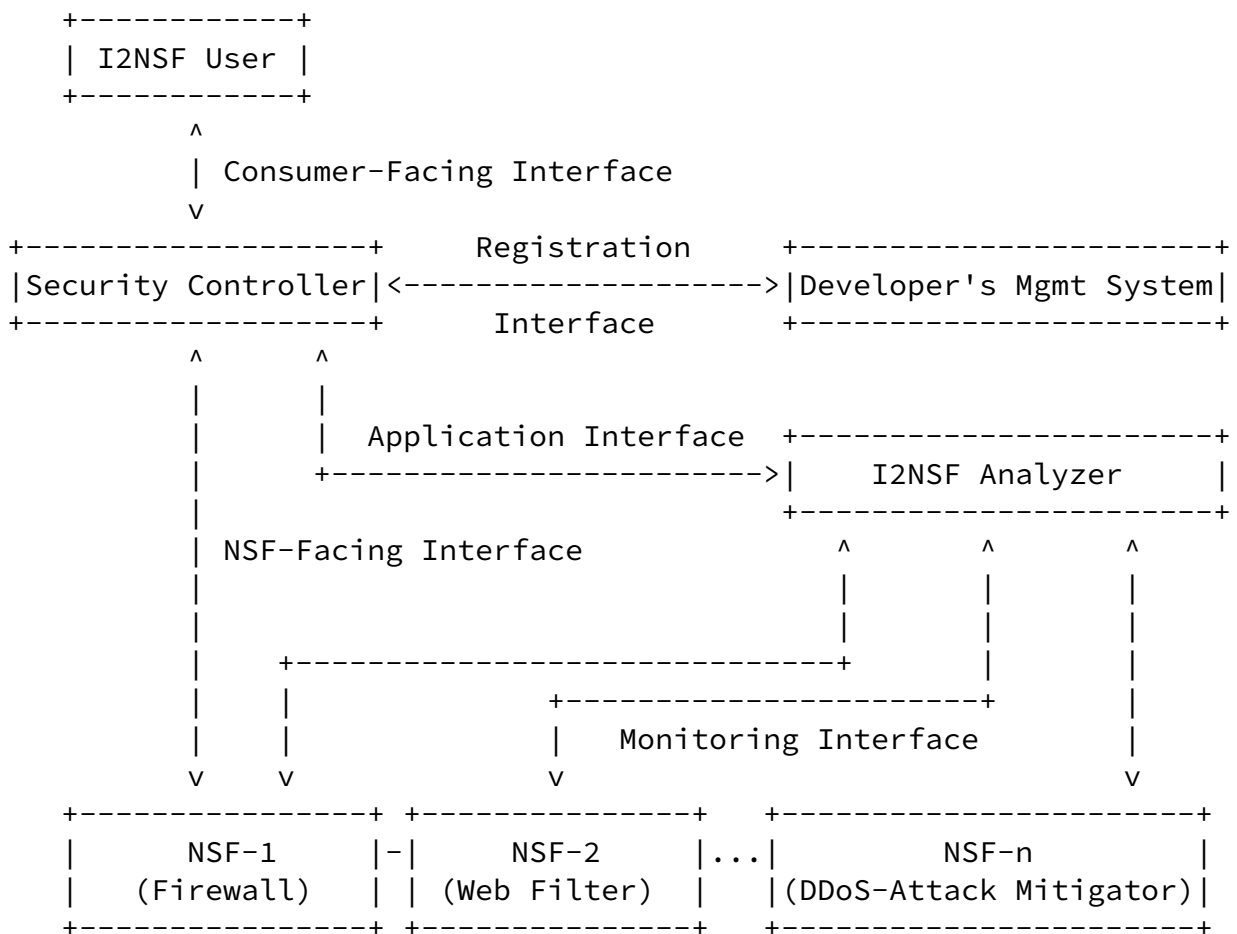


Figure 1: I2NSF Framework for Security Management Automation

3. I2NSF Framework for Security Management Automation

This section summarizes the I2NSF framework as defined in [[RFC8329](#)]. As shown in Figure 1, an I2NSF User can use security functions by delivering high-level security policies, which specify security requirements that the I2NSF user wants to enforce, to the Security Controller via the Consumer-Facing Interface (CFI) [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-consumer-facing-interface-dm](#)].

3.1. Components with I2NSF Framework for Security Management Automation

The following are the system components for the SMA-based I2NSF framework.

- * I2NSF User: An entity that delivers a high-level security policy to Security Controller.

- * Security Controller: An entity that controls and manages other system components in the I2NSF framework. It translates a high-level security policy into the corresponding low-level security policy and selects appropriate NSFs to execute the security rules of the low-level security policy.
- * Developer's Management System (DMS): An entity that provides an image of a virtualized NSF for a security service to the I2NSF framework, and registers the capability and access information of an NSF with Security Controller.
- * Network Security Function (NSF): An entity that is a Virtual Network Function (VNF) for a specific network security service such as firewall, web filter, deep packet inspection, DDoS-attack mitigation, and anti-virus.
- * I2NSF Analyzer: An entity that collects monitoring data from NSFs and analyzes such data for checking the activity and performance of the NSFs using machine learning techniques (e.g., Deep Learning [[Deep-Learning](#)]). If there is a suspicious attack activity for the target network or NSF, I2NSF Analyzer delivers a report of the augmentation or generation of security rules to Security

Controller.

For SMA-based security services with Feedback-Based Security Management (FSM), I2NSF Analyzer as a new I2NSF component is required for the legacy I2NSF framework [[RFC8329](#)] to collect monitoring data of NSFs and analyzing them. The actual implementation of monitoring data analysis is out of the scope of this document.

3.2. Interfaces with SMA-Based I2NSF Framework

The following are the interfaces for the SMA-based I2NSF framework. Note that the interfaces are modeled with YANG [[RFC6020](#)] and security policies are delivered through either RESTCONF [[RFC8040](#)] or NETCONF [[RFC6241](#)].

- * Consumer-Facing Interface: An interface between I2NSF User and Security Controller for the delivery of a high-level security policy [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-consumer-facing-interface-dm](#)].
- * NSF-Facing Interface: An interface between Security Controller and an NSF for the delivery of a low-level security policy [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-nsf-facing-interface-dm](#)].

- * Registration Interface: An interface between a DMS and Security Controller for the registration of an NSF's capability and access information with the Security Controller or the query of an NSF for a required low-level security policy [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-registration-interface-dm](#)].
- * Monitoring Interface: An interface between an NSF and I2NSF Analyzer for collecting monitoring data from an NSF to check the activity and performance of an NSF for a possible malicious traffic [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-nsf-monitoring-data-model](#)].
- * Application Interface: An interface between I2NSF Analyzer and Security Controller for the delivery of a report of the augmentation or generation of security rules to Security Controller, which lets Security Controller apply the report for

security rules to its security policy management.

For SMA-based security services with FSM, Application Interface as a new I2NSF interface is required for the legacy I2NSF framework [RFC8329] to deliver a report of the augmentation or generation of security rules to Security Controller on the basis of the analyzed monitoring data of NSFs.

4. Inter-Interface Automatic Policy Mapping

To facilitate Security Policy Translation (SPT), Security Controller needs to have a security policy translator that performs the translation of a high-level security policy into the corresponding low-level security policy. For the automatic SPT services, the I2NSF framework needs to bridge a high-level YANG data model and a low-level YANG data model in an automatic manner [I-D.ietf-i2nsf-applicability][I-D.yang-i2nsf-security-policy-translation]. Note that a high-level YANG data model is for the I2NSF Consumer-Facing Interface [I-D.ietf-i2nsf-consumer-facing-interface-dm], and a low-level YANG data model is for the I2NSF NSF-Facing Interface [I-D.ietf-i2nsf-nsf-facing-interface-dm].

Figure 2 shows automatic mapping of high-level and low-level data models. Automatic Data Model Mapper takes a high-level YANG data module for the Consumer-Facing Interface and a low-level YANG data module for the NSF-Facing Interface. It then constructs a mapping table associating the data attributes (or variables) of the high-level YANG data module with the corresponding data attributes (or variables) of the low-level YANG data module. Also, it generates a set of production rules of the grammar for the construction of an XML file of low-level security policy rules.

Figure 3 shows high-to-low security policy translation. A security policy translator is a component of Security Controller. The translator consists of three components such as Policy Data Extractor, Policy Attribute Mapper, and Policy Constructor.

High-level YANG Data Module	Low-level YANG Data Model
V	V

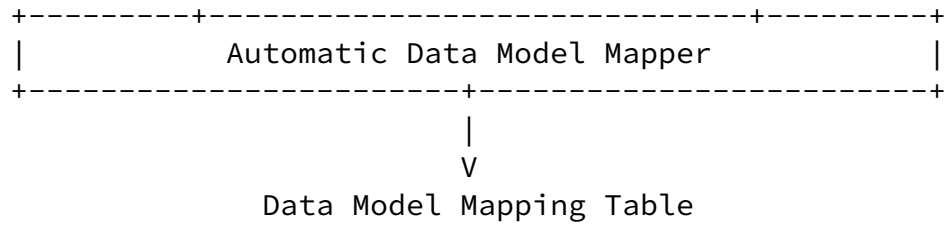


Figure 2: Automatic Mapping of High-level and Low-level Data Models

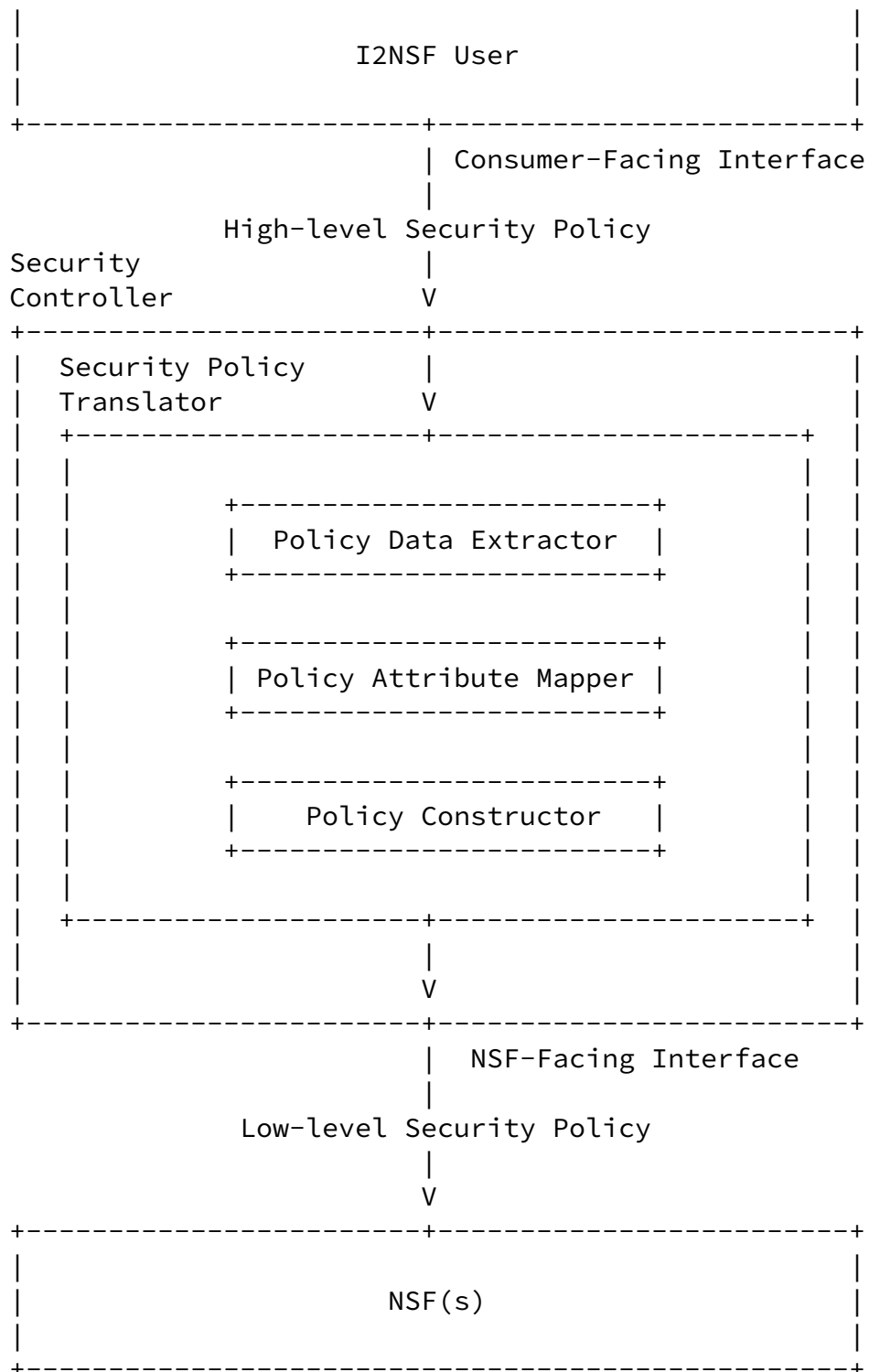


Figure 3: High-to-Low Security Policy Translation

Policy Data Extractor extracts attributes related to a security policy from a high-level security policy XML file that is delivered from an I2NSF User to a Security Controller [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-consumer-facing-interface-dm](#)].

Policy Attribute Mapper maps the attributes and their values of a high-level security policy to the corresponding attributes and their values of a low-level security policy. Note that the values of a high-level security policy may involve a human language and must be converted to an appropriate value for a low-level security policy (e.g., employees -> 192.0.1.0/24).

Policy Constructor constructs a low-level security policy XML file that is delivered from the Security Controller to an appropriate NSF [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-nsf-facing-interface-dm](#)].

5. Security Audit System

The I2NSF framework is weak to both an inside attack and a supply chain attack since it trusts in NSFs provided by Developer's Management System (DMS) and assumes that NSFs work for their security services appropriately. [[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-applicability](#)].

To detect the malicious activity of either an insider attacker with its DMS or a supply chain attacker with its compromised DMS, a security audit system is required for the I2NSF framework. For this audit service in the I2NSF framework, a decentralized security audit system (e.g., blockchain [[Bitcoin](#)]) is required. This audit system can facilitate the non-repudiation of configuration commands and monitoring data generated in the I2NSF framework.

A security audit system has four main objectives such as follows:

- * To check the existence of a security policy, a management system and its procedures;
- * To identify and understand the existing vulnerabilities and risks of a supply chain attacker;
- * To review existing security controls on operational, administrative and managerial issues;
- * To provide recommendations and corrective actions for further improvement.

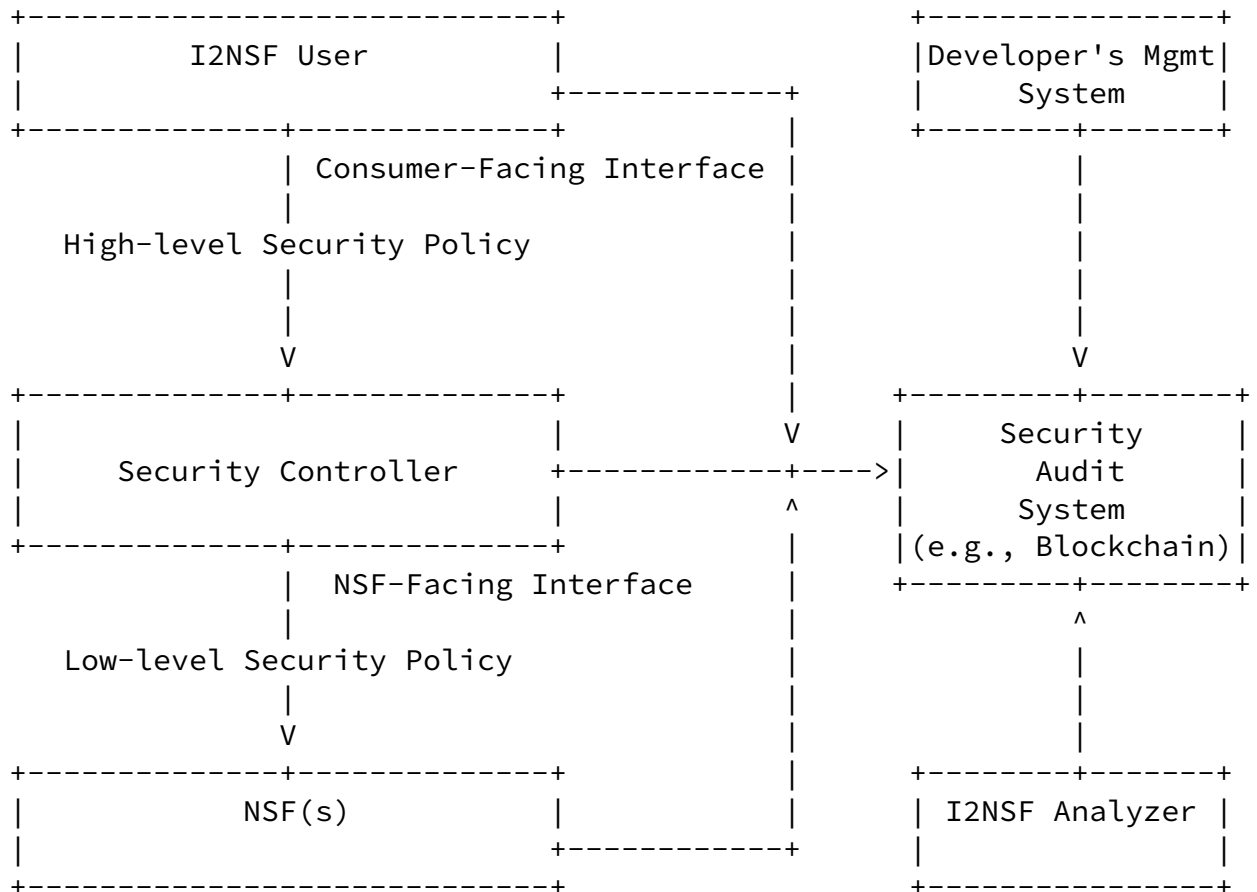


Figure 4: Activity Auditing with Security Audit System

Figure 4 shows activity auditing with a security audit system in the I2NSF framework. All the components in the I2NSF framework report its activities (such as configuration commands and monitoring data) to Security Audit System (e.g., Blockchain) as transactions. The security audit system can analyze the reported activities from the I2NSF components to detect malicious activities such as supply chain attack.

In order to determine a minimum set of controls required to reduce the risks from a supply chain attacker, the security audit system should analyze the activities of all the components in the I2NSF framework periodically, evaluate possible risks, and take an action

to such risks since vulnerabilities and threats may change in different environments over time.

6. Security Considerations

The same security considerations for the I2NSF framework [[RFC8329](#)] are applicable to this document.

The development and introduction of I2NSF Analyzer in the I2NSF Framework will create new security concerns that have to be anticipated at the design and specification time. The usage of machine learning to analyze the data add a risk of its model to be attacked (e.g., adversarial attack) and can result in a bad security policy being deployed.

7. IANA Considerations

This document does not require any IANA actions.

8. References

8.1. Normative References

- [RFC8192] Hares, S., Lopez, D., Zarny, M., Jacquenet, C., Kumar, R., and J. Jeong, "Interface to Network Security Functions (I2NSF): Problem Statement and Use Cases", [RFC 8192](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC8192, July 2017, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8192>>.
- [RFC8329] Lopez, D., Lopez, E., Dunbar, L., Strassner, J., and R. Kumar, "Framework for Interface to Network Security Functions", [RFC 8329](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC8329, February 2018, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8329>>.
- [RFC6020] Bjorklund, M., Ed., "YANG - A Data Modeling Language for the Network Configuration Protocol (NETCONF)", [RFC 6020](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC6020, October 2010, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6020>>.
- [RFC8040] Bierman, A., Bjorklund, M., and K. Watsen, "RESTCONF

Protocol", [RFC 8040](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC8040, January 2017, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8040>>.

[RFC6241] Enns, R., Ed., Bjorklund, M., Ed., Schoenwaelder, J., Ed., and A. Bierman, Ed., "Network Configuration Protocol (NETCONF)", [RFC 6241](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC6241, June 2011, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6241>>.

[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-consumer-facing-interface-dm]
Jeong, J. (., Chung, C., Ahn, T., Kumar, R., and S. Hares, "I2NSF Consumer-Facing Interface YANG Data Model", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, [draft-ietf-i2nsf-consumer-facing-interface-dm-16](#), 28 January 2022, <<https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-ietf-i2nsf-consumer-facing-interface-dm-16.txt>>.

Jeong, et al.

Expires 25 August 2022

[Page 11]

Internet-Draft I2NSF Security Management Automation February 2022

[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-nsf-facing-interface-dm]
Kim, J. (., Jeong, J. (., Park, J., Hares, S., and Q. Lin, "I2NSF Network Security Function-Facing Interface YANG Data Model", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, [draft-ietf-i2nsf-nsf-facing-interface-dm-20](#), 31 January 2022, <<https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-ietf-i2nsf-nsf-facing-interface-dm-20.txt>>.

[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-registration-interface-dm]
Hyun, S., Jeong, J. (., Roh, T., Wi, S., and J. Park, "I2NSF Registration Interface YANG Data Model", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, [draft-ietf-i2nsf-registration-interface-dm-14](#), 28 January 2022, <<https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-ietf-i2nsf-registration-interface-dm-14.txt>>.

[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-nsf-monitoring-data-model]
Jeong, J. (., Lingga, P., Hares, S., Xia, L. (., and H. Birkholz, "I2NSF NSF Monitoring Interface YANG Data Model", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, [draft-ietf-i2nsf-nsf-monitoring-data-model-14](#), 28 January 2022, <<https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-ietf-i2nsf-nsf-monitoring-data-model-14.txt>>.

[8.2.](#) Informative References

[I-D.ietf-i2nsf-applicability]

Jeong, J. P., Hyun, S., Ahn, T., Hares, S., and D. R. Lopez, "Applicability of Interfaces to Network Security Functions to Network-Based Security Services", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, [draft-ietf-i2nsf-applicability-18](https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-ietf-i2nsf-applicability-18), 16 September 2019, <<https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-ietf-i2nsf-applicability-18.txt>>.

[I-D.irtf-nmrg-ibn-concepts-definitions]

Clemm, A., Ciavaglia, L., Granville, L. Z., and J. Tantsura, "Intent-Based Networking - Concepts and Definitions", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, [draft-irtf-nmrg-ibn-concepts-definitions-06](https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-irtf-nmrg-ibn-concepts-definitions-06), 15 December 2021, <<https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-irtf-nmrg-ibn-concepts-definitions-06.txt>>.

Jeong, et al.

Expires 25 August 2022

[Page 12]

Internet-Draft

I2NSF Security Management Automation

February 2022

[I-D.yang-i2nsf-security-policy-translation]

Jeong, J. (., Lingga, P., Yang, J., and C. Chung, "Security Policy Translation in Interface to Network Security Functions", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, [draft-yang-i2nsf-security-policy-translation-10](https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-yang-i2nsf-security-policy-translation-10), 21 February 2022, <<https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-yang-i2nsf-security-policy-translation-10.txt>>.

[ETSI-NFV] "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Architectural Framework", Available:

https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/nfv/001_099/002/01.01.01_60/gs_nfv002v010101p.pdf, October 2013.

[Bitcoin] Nakamoto, S., "Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System", URL: <https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf>, May 2009.

[Deep-Learning]

Goodfellow, I., Bengio, Y., and A. Courville, "Deep Learning", Publisher: The MIT Press,
URL: <https://www.deeplearningbook.org/>, November 2016.

[Appendix A.](#) Acknowledgments

This work was supported in part by Institute of Information & Communications Technology Planning & Evaluation (IITP) grant funded by the Korea Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) (2020-0-00395, Standard Development of Blockchain based Network Management Automation Technology). This work was supported by the IITP grant funded by the Korea MSIT (R-20160222-002755, Cloud based Security Intelligence Technology Development for the Customized Security Service Provisioning).

[Appendix B.](#) Contributors

This document is made by the group effort of I2NSF working group. Many people actively contributed to this document, such as Linda Dunbar, Yoav Nir, and Qin Wu. The authors sincerely appreciate their contributions.

The following are co-authors of this document:

Yunchul Choi Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute
218 Gajeong-Ro, Yuseong-Gu Daejeon, 34129 Republic of Korea EMail:
cyc79@etri.re.kr

Jeong, et al.

Expires 25 August 2022

[Page 13]

Internet-Draft

I2NSF Security Management Automation

February 2022

Younghan Kim School of Electronic Engineering Soongsil University
369, Sangdo-ro, Dongjak-gu Seoul 06978 Republic of Korea EMail:
younghak@ssu.ac.kr

[Appendix C.](#) Changes from [draft-jeong-i2nsf-security-management-automation-02](#)

The following changes are made from [draft-jeong-i2nsf-security-management-automation-02](#):

* This version is updated to fix the typos and clarify the text

explaining Policy Attribute Mapper.

- * Add a new Security Consideration for machine learning usage to produce a security policy.

Authors' Addresses

Jaehoon (Paul) Jeong
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Sungkyunkwan University
2066 Seobu-Ro, Jangan-Gu
Suwon
Gyeonggi-Do
16419
Republic of Korea
Phone: +82 31 299 4957
Email: pauljeong@skku.edu
URI: <http://iotlab.skku.edu/people-jaehoon-jeong.php>

Patrick Lingga
Department of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Sungkyunkwan University
2066 Seobu-Ro, Jangan-Gu
Suwon
Gyeonggi-Do
16419
Republic of Korea
Phone: +82 31 299 4957
Email: patricklink@skku.edu

Jung-Soo Park
Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute
218 Gajeong-Ro, Yuseong-Gu
Daejeon

305-700
Republic of Korea
Phone: +82 42 860 6514
Email: pjs@etri.re.kr