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## Proxy Mobile IPv4 Traversal of Network Address Translation (NAT) Devices

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### Abstract

This document describes a solution to address NAT traversal problem for proxy Mobile IPv4. By only utilizing network entities, an MIP UDP Tunnel to achieve NAT Traversal is built up for an Mobile IP Client which exchanges messages and data with HA on mobile node's behalf.

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## 1. Introduction

Proxy Mobile IPv4 is a helpful solution which to provide mobility for mobile node with no MIP4 function. The main idea of proxy Mobile IP is that an access router, defined as Proxy AR in this document, initiates the MIP4 registration procedure on behalf of mobile node.

However, the procedure of NAT Traversal for Proxy Mobile IPv4 is different from that for base Mobile IPv4 in [RFC3519](#)[RFC3519]. The difference is as follows,

1) Mobile node must first make L2 authentication/authorization before MIP4 registration in Proxy MIP4. Since there is no MIP4 stack on host stack of mboile node for Proxy MIP4, the unmodified mobile node cannot make network layer authentication/authorization with HA or Proxy AR directly. So we should make L2 layer authentication when mobile node establishes L2 connection with Proxy AR. And AAA message must cross NAT to reach AAA server which is outside NAT device.

2) An UDP Tunnel is needed for DHCP transmitting before MN getting its HoA. In Proxy MIP4, to get the home address(HoA), DHCP message from MN should be tunneled to HA which acts as DHCP Relay Agent. But IP-in-IP tunnel cannot cross NAT since it lacks information for IP adress translation by NAT device. It is necessary to build up an UDP Tunnel for DHCP message exchanging before MN has HoA and MIP4 registration prcocedure starts.

One of the scenario of proxy AR behind NAT is enterprise deployment. By placing the Proxy AR behind NAT, it is not necessary to modify NAT device(a Gateway in most case) in order to provide mobility for mobile node. Besides, mobile node attaching to such proxy AR can communicate to other nodes behind NAT directly in case that proxy AR sending PROXY ARP[RFC1027].

## 2. Terminology

The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#), [[RFC2119](#)].

The following new terminology and abbreviations are introduced in this document and all other general mobility related terms as defined in Mobile IPv4 specification [[RFC3543](#)].

Mobile Node (MN)



Any IPv4 node that has the ability to physically access or roam across different networks. The Mobile Node does not necessarily have the Mobile IPv4 protocol stack.

#### Proxy Access Router (Proxy AR)

An access router with Mobile IPv4 client which performing MIP4 registration function on the mobile node's behalf.

#### UDP Tunnel

A Tunnel between two hosts. In one IP session, both hosts send and receive encapsulated data through unchanged UDP port. UDP Tunnel can be IP-in-UDP, GRE-in-UDP or Minimal encapsulation in UDP.

### 3. Overview

#### 3.1. Architecture Model

The typical model for NAT traversal in proxy Mobile IPv4 is illustrated in Figure 1, showing a proxy AR behind NAT device. Generally, the NAT device is the gateway for proxy AR. Proxy AR should make a registration on HA which is outside NAT device, on behalf of MN. MN attaches to Proxy AR through different link layer technology, such as WLAN, CDMA2000 etc,. And once MN attaches to access point or base station linked with Proxy AR, MN must make a L2 authentication/authorization with AAA server.

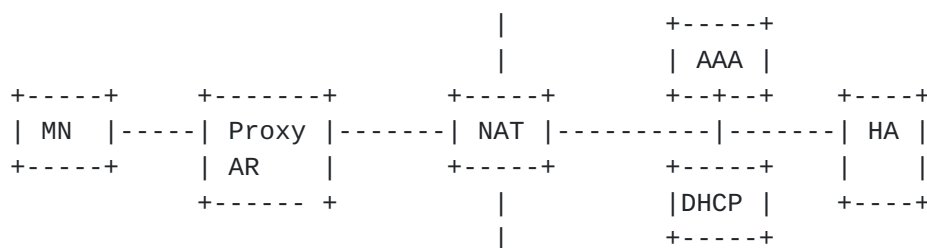


Figure 1: Typical model for NAT traversal in Proxy MIP4

When MN accesses the network via PPP [[RFC1332](#)], LCP CHAP is used to authenticate the MN. After authentication, the Proxy AR (acting as NAS here) sends proxy Registration Request message to the Home Agent which responds with the Home Address in the Registration Reply to MN.

If MN get its HoA through DHCP [[RFC2131](#)] procedure, Proxy AR can tunnel all DHCP message to HA in Figure 1. In this case, HA has the



role of DHCP Relay Agent. However, DHCP message in IP-in-IP Tunnel cannot cross NAT directly. Our solution want to address the problem by utilizing a UDP Tunnel [[RFC3519](#)] between Proxy AR and HA. Proxy AR can send the DHCP message from MN to HA through the UDP Tunnel. Then HA relays the DHCP message to corresponding DHCP server.

Proxy AR need to send an MIP4 RRQ message with MIP4 UDP Request Extension to HA indicating that it want to build a UDP Tunnel for NAT traversal. And HA should send a Registration Reply message with MIP UDP Reply Extension to indicate whether the request is accepted or denied.

### **3.2. UDP Tunnel Setup**

One major difference between base MIP4 and Proxy MIP4 is that there is no MIP4 stack on host stack of MN for Proxy MIP4. So unmodified MN cannot make network layer authentication/authorization with HA or FA/Proxy directly. In Proxy MIP4, it's necessary to make L2 authentication after MN establishing L2 connection with the network. In authentication process, AAA server may download some information about the MN, including user's profile, home agent address, NAI MN-HA SA etc,.

MN can connect to the mobile wireless network via any link technology e.g. CDMA, GPRS, WLAN etc. After MN's L2 connection establishment and authentication, Proxy AR would send Proxy MIP4 RRQ message with UDP Tunnel Request to HA. And HA responds back with Proxy MIP4 RRQ message with UDP Tunnel Reply. After the registration successful, there is an UDP Tunnel build up between Proxy AR and HA. for data sending from MN through the UDP Tunnel, the source port may vary between new registrations, but remains the same for all tunneled data and re-registrations, and the destination port is always 434 . UDP tunneled packets sent by the home agent uses the same ports, but in reverse turn.





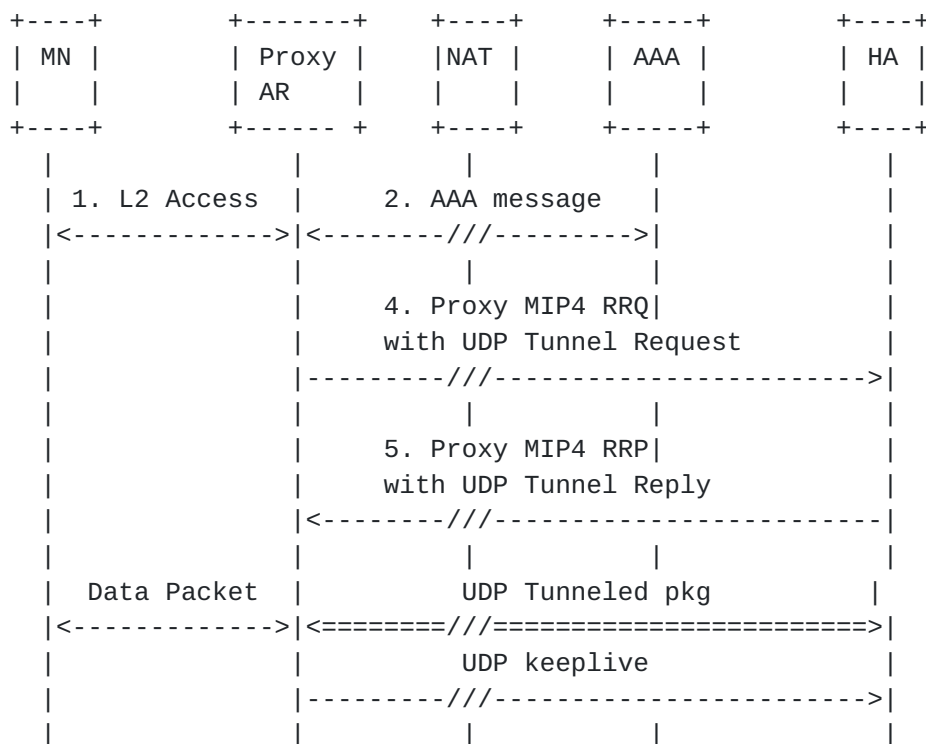


Figure 2: Signal Flow for UDP Tunnel Building up

The Proxy MIP4 RRQ is an base Mobile IPv4 Registration Request message [RFC3344]. The HoA field is the IP address of MN(ALL-ZERO-ONES-ADDRESS in case of MN with no IP address), and CoA field is the private IP address of Proxy AR. As to Authentication Extension, Proxy AR should have MN-HA security association information which is gotten in the L2 authentication procedure.

The Proxy MIP4 RRP is an base Mobile IPv4 Registration Reply message [RFC3344]. The HoA field is the IP address of MN.

UDP Tunnel Request and UDP Tunnel Reply is compliant with the extensions in [RFC3519]. These extensions is to solicit HA to send MIP UDP packets to Proxy AR.

### 3.3. HoA Assignment

#### 3.3.1. DHCP Consideration

If MN get its HoA by DHCP procedure, there is one problem as mention in [section 1](#). MN CANNOT exchange its DHCP message with HA when there is no UDP Tunnel before MIP4 registration. It is necessary to build such an UDP Tunnel to transmit DHCP message before MIP4 Registration.



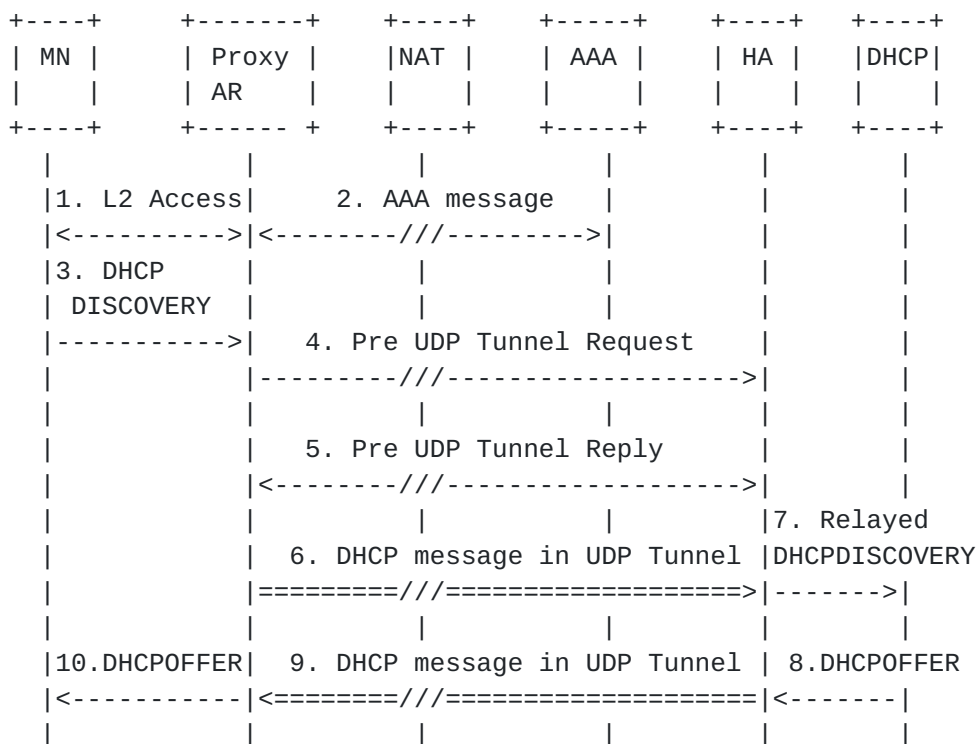


Figure 3: HoA assignment through DHCP

The procedure of HoA assignment before MIP4 Registration is illustrated in Figure 3. Triggered by DHCPDISCOVERY message, Proxy AR send a Pre UDP Tunnel Request to HA to solicit building an UDP Tunnel for DHCP message exchanging. HA responds Pre UDP Tunnel Reply to Proxy AR indicating whether the UDP Tunnel is built up or failed.

If the UDP Tunnel is built up, Proxy AR can send all DHCP messages from MN to HA through the UDP Tunnel. Then HA, which acts as DHCP Relay Agent, send relayed DHCPDISCOVERY to corresponding DHCP server in the domain of HA.

Then one of DHCP server assigns an IP address as the HoA for MN, and sends DHCP OFFER containing the address to HA. HA send back the DHCP OFFER message to Proxy AR through previous built up UDP Tunnel. And Proxy AR forward the DHCP OFFER message to MN. MN thus gets its HoA.

After MN getting its HoA address, Proxy AR makes registration with HA on MN's behalf. The procedure is same as the registration procedure in [RFC3344](#)[RFC3344].

The Pre UDP Tunnel Request is an base MIP4 RRQ with UDP Tunnel Request extension. In the part of MIP4 RRQ, the field of CoA is set



to the private address of Proxy AR . The source port for Pre UDP Tunnel Request is variable and destination port is 434.

The Pre UDP Tunnel Reply is an base MIP4 RRP with UDP Tunnel Reply extension. In the part of MIP4 RRP, the field of CoA is set to the public address of Proxy AR after NAT traversal. The source port for Pre UDP Tunnel Reply is 434 and destination port is the port number of Pre UDP Tunnel Request after NAT Traversal.

The detailed formats for Pre UDP Tunnel Request and Pre UDP Tunnel Reply are described in [section 3.4](#).

### 3.3.2. IPCP Consideration

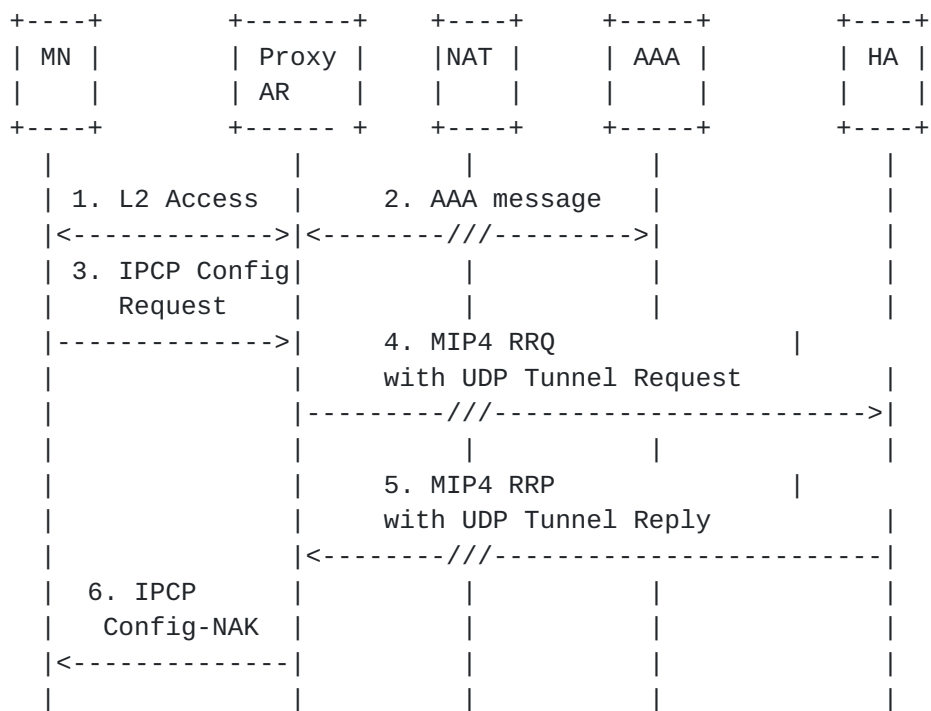


Figure 4: Network connection setup using IPCP

When MN attaches to Proxy AR by PPP, its HoA is assigned by IPCP procedure. The HoA assignment procedure using IPCP when Proxy AR being behind NAT is depicted in figure 4.

In authentication process(step1 and step2),AAA server may download some information about the MN, including user's profile, home agent address, NAI. After the link layer association process is finished, MN sends IPCP config request for HoA assignment(step3). And then Proxy AR make registration on HA on behalf of MN.









D

D (UDP Tunnel for DHCP message) flag. This flag is used to indicate that Proxy AR wants to build an MIP UDP Tunnel for DHCP message, other than for common data traffic.

#### Encapsulation

Indicates the type of tunnelled data, using the same numbering as the IP Header Protocol Field.

### [3.4.2.](#) Pre UDP Tunnel Request

The Pre UDP Tunnel Request is used to solicit an UDP Tunnel built up before MIP4 Registration. The message is defined as follows:

#### IP Fields:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Source Address      | Proxy AR's address. |
| Destination Address | HA's address.       |

#### UDP Fields:

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Source Port      | variable. |
| Destination Port | 434       |

The UDP header is followed by the Mobile IP fields shown below:

| 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               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Reserved |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Home Agent Address |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Care-of Address    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Identification     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Extensions...      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Type (TBD)

#### Reserved

Reserved for future use. MUST be set to 0 on sending, MUST be ignored on reception.

Home Agent Address



IP address of Home Agent.

## Care-of Address

The private IP address of Proxy AR behind NAT.

## Identification

A 64-bit number, constructed by the Mobile Node, used for matching Pre UDP Tunnel Reply, and for protecting against replay attacks of the messages. See Sections 5.4 and 5.7 of [RFC3344].

## Extensions

The fixed portion of the Pre UDP Tunnel Request Message is followed by one or more extensions which may be used with this message, and by one or more authentication extensions (as defined in [Section 3.5 of \[RFC3344\]](#)). See Sections [3.6.1.3](#) and [3.7.2.2](#) of [\[RFC3344\]](#) for information on the relative order in which different extensions, when present, must be placed in a Pre UDP Tunnel Request Message.

### 3.4.3. Pre UDP Tunnel Reply

The Pre UDP Tunnel Reply is used by Home Agent to respond an Pre UDP Tunnel Request message. The Pre UDP Tunnel Reply message is defined as follows:

IP Fields:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Source Address      | HA's address.       |
| Destination Address | Proxy AR's address. |

UDP Fields:

```
Source Port      variable.
Destination Port 434
```

The UDP header is followed by the Mobile IP fields shown below:

[illegible]



Type (TBD)

Reserved

Reserved for future use. MUST be set to 0 on sending, MUST be ignored on reception.

Status

If the Pre UDP Tunnel Request Message was received without error, this field is set to zero. However, if there is an error in reception, the field is nonzero with the following allowable codes defined in [section 3.4](#) of [RFC3344].

Home Agent Address

IP address of Home Agent.

Identification

A 64-bit number, constructed by the Mobile Node, used for matching Pre UDP Tunnel Request, and for protecting against replay attacks of the messages. See Sections [5.4](#) and [5.7](#) of [RFC3344].

Extensions

The fixed portion of the Pre UDP Tunnel Reply Message is followed by one or more extensions which may be used with this message, and by one or more authentication extensions (as defined in [Section 3.5 of \[RFC3344\]](#)). See Sections [3.6.1.3](#) and [3.7.2.2](#) of [RFC3344] for information on the relative order in which different extensions, when present, must be placed in a Pre UDP Tunnel Reply Message.

## **4. Benefits**

The benefits for Proxy MIPv4 NAT traversal is as follows,

- 1). MN-Proxy AR interface is safer and is subjected to less threats.

The interface between MN and Proxy AR faces a number of threats, such malicious node acting as a proxy AR, or acting as mobile node. But if Proxy AR is behind NAT, the interface is less likely to be attacked by such threats.

- 2). Support mobility for MN in case of NAT Traversal

Even though Proxy AR is located behind NAT, a mobile node with HoA can communicate with a correspond node outside NAT. At the same time, MN can communicate directly with fix-node in NAT and share resource in the NAT, e.g. file sharing, printer sharing. Through PROXY-ARP sending by proxy AR, MN can find other fix-node/mobile



node behind the NAT and know their MAC address and IP address.

3). Less amount of signals.

For MIP4 NAT traversal, a mobile node needs to send keepalives [[RFC3519](#)] at short intervals to properly maintain the NAT states. This can be performed by the Proxy AR in the network which doesn't consume any air-link bandwidth. And Proxy AR can aggregate multiple MNs on the same tunnel. Thus the amount of keepalives needed to maintain the NAT states can be reduced largely.

## **5. Mobile Node Operations & Consideration**

A mobile node can be a normal IPv4 host without Mobile IPv4 Client function. The required behavior of the node will be consistent with the base IPv4 specification, such as IPv4 address maintenance, DHCP protocol, PPP stack, ARP function. MN also need to have a MN-HA mobility Security Association, NAI, home agent address for authentication and HoA assignment.

## **6. Proxy AR Operations & Consideration**

Proxy AR is the assess point to network for MN. It should have the functions as follows,

1) Acting as a NAS for authentication. When MN performs L2 establishment Proxy AR, it will make access authentication/ authorization with the NAS in Proxy AR. The NAS in Proxy AR also exchanges AAA messages with the AAA server to perform authentication and authorization of the MN.

2) Proxy Registration. Proxy AR should have function of Mobile IPv4 Client in order to send registration to HA on MN's behalf.

3) Supporting UDP Tunnel.

When sending MIP4 RRQ to the HA, Proxy AR will set the care-of address for MN as its own IP address which is private IP address. Then HA will have a local binding for MN using the public address of Proxy AR after MIP4 RRQ crossing NAT.

The proxy AR also needs to know such information as, MN's NAI, MN-HA Security Association, Home Agent IP Address, for sending a registration. Such information can be downloaded from AAA server after the authentication process.





## **7. HA Operations & Consideration**

The Home Agent has the functionalities described in [RFC 3344](#)[\[RFC3344\]](#) and [RFC 3519](#) [\[RFC3519\]](#).

## **8. Security Considerations**

The functionality in this document is protected by the Authentication Extensions described in [RFC 3344](#)[\[RFC3344\]](#). Access Authentication and Authorization MUST be performed prior to Proxy Mobile IP registration. The Identity (NAI) that is used during the Access Authentication and Authorization is used to as the NAI in MIP4 Registration Request. In order to protect the Registration message, each proxy AR needs to have the MN-HA SA.

## **9. IANA Considerations**

The following values must be assigned by IANA:

UDP Tunnel Request Extension:

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| Type | TBD-1. |
|------|--------|

Pre UDP Tunnel Request:

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| Type | TBD-2. |
|------|--------|

Pre UDP Tunnel Reply:

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| Type | TBD-3. |
|------|--------|

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