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CAPWAP Tunneling Protocol (CTP)

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Abstract

With the overwhelming choice of proprietary implementations of centralized control and management of wireless access points and access controllers there is a great demand for a standard protocol

and architecture that enables the deployment of large scale wireless networks.

This document describes the CAPWAP Tunneling Protocol, a protocol that allows for the centralized control and provisioning of a large number of wireless access points from access controllers. It is supported by an architecture where the MAC layer of the RF technology is terminated within the AP. This allows for the protocol to be extensible to multiple radio technologies. It assumes an IP connection between the access points and access controllers and has signaling primitives to enable wireless station mobility between access points. Therefore, seamless Layer 3 subnet mobility is seamlessly enabled by this protocol.

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```

1. Definitions

1.1 Conventions used in this document

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC-2119 [1]

1.2 Terminology

AP û Access Point - The network device that includes both the wireless termination point as well as the implementation of a specific radio technology management layer.

AC - Access Controller - A centralized network entity that controls, configures and manages one or more than one APs.

MU - Mobile Unit - A wireless device which is also an IP node capable of dynamic change in its association with an Access Point.

2. Introduction

The rapid pace with which wireless networks are being deployed in the home, enterprise and carrier industries has led to the proliferation of proprietary solutions which attempt to address problems associated with large scale wireless installations. The main issues plaguing 802.11 wireless networks, for example, are described in [2] and can be summarized as: the manageability of large numbers of APs (Access Points); the secure and bulk provisioning, monitoring, and control of APs; and policy control and enforcement of MU (Mobile Units) data flows and policies.

One of the key problems with deploying large scale wireless networks is that the infrastructure needs to scale to meet both geographic coverage as well as client density requirements. CAPWAP Tunneling Protocol (CTP) addresses these challenges by minimizing configuration of the wired infrastructure to accommodate the wireless network.

CTP provides both centralized configuration and operational control for wireless networks, and in doing so, provides centralized security and policy management.

This solution has been currently focused towards 802.11 networks. However, CTP is independent of the layer 2 wireless standard because it assumes that the MAC layer of the wireless technology is fully implemented in the AP. The control channel binding between the AP and AC provides for all the necessary signaling to facilitate MU connection, mobility, and even RF resource management. Thus, it is

possible to use CTP to offer IP network services to wireless users independent of the underlying wireless technology (e.g. 802.11, 802.15, or 802.16).

CTP involves one or more Access Points (APs) connected to one or more Access Controllers (ACs). The network connectivity between the APs and ACs is primarily through a Layer 3 routed network. However, switched Layer 2 or directly connected network topologies are also supported. Figure 1 shows the typical network topology of AP and AC placement in a CTP network. However, since it is assumed that the AP and AC are IP addressable direct connect or L2 connect is also supported.

```
                        +-------+-------+
                        |      AC       |
                        +-------+-------+
                                |
                        --------+------ LAN
                                |
                        +-------+-------+
                        |  <L3 Network> |
                        +-------+-------+
                                |
                        -----+--+--+--- LAN
                             |     |
                         +---+     +---+
                         |             |
                      +--+--+       +--+--+
                      | AP  |       | AP  |
                      +--+--+       +--+--+
```

Figure 1 - Topology of AP and AC placement

CTP address both local MAC and split MAC solution architectures by treating control and data traffic independently. In a local MAC solution, CTP interacts directly with the MAC management entity to monitor and control configuration and wireless connections. In a split MAC solution, CTP allows wireless management to pass between the AP and the AC.

CTP provides a flexible mechanism in the treatment of data traffic. Data traffic can be either bridged locally by the AP or tunneled to the AC. This feature maximizes the protocolÆs ability to address a wide variety of deployment requirements.Bridging the MU data traffic at the AP ensures that user data traffic does not have to traverse the slow WAN link to access local resources such as a printer. CTP

provides the means for the AC to control the AP behavior and user network access centrally.

In either the split MAC or local MAC case, user data frames can either be bridged locally or tunneled to the AC. This allows CTP to address four solutions: Local MAC with traffic tunneled to AC; split MAC with traffic tunneled to AC; Local MAC with traffic bridged locally at the AP; and split MAC with traffic bridged locally at the AP.

In this local MAC solution of CTP, the layer 2 wireless termination point and the MAC layer are fully implemented in the AP as shown in Figure 2, which enables this type of feature. The Control traffic will always travel to the AC. The user data frames can be either tunneled to the AC or bridged locally.

```
                              +--+--+             +----+------+
              Control    <===>|     |             |           |
                              | CTP |<===========>|WirelessMAC|
       Tunnel Data       <--->|     |             |           |
                              +--+--+             +----+------+
                                 ^                     ^
                                 |    +-----------+    |
                                 |    |           |    |
              Data  <------------+--->| L2 bridge |<---+
                                      |           |
                                      +-----------+
```

Figure 2 - CTP and Local MAC interaction in an AP

In this split MAC solution of CTP, the layer 2 wireless termination point and the MAC layer is divided between the AP and the AC as shown in Figure 23, which enables AP to relay MAC Management frames to the AP. The used data frames can either be bridged locally or relayed to the AC.

```
                              +--+--+             +----+------+
              Control    <===>|     |             |           |
        MAC Management   <===>| CTP |<===========>|  Wireless |
           Tunnel Data   <--->|     |             |MAC Control|
                              +--+--+             +----+------+
                                                     ^
                                      +-----------+    |
                                      |           |    |
              Data  <---------------->| L2 bridge |<---+
                                      |           |
                                      +-----------+
```

Figure 3 - CTP and Split MAC interaction in an AP

CTP provides flexibility in how user authentication and data encryption is implemented across the system. The 802.1x Authenticator function can be divided into two components: EAP-Authentication and MAC Key Management. Both components can be configured to reside either at the AC or at the AP. MAC Key Management can be done at either the AC or the AP. EAP-Authentication function and MAC Key Management function do not have to co-reside in either the AC or the AP. However, if both the EAP-Authentication and MAC Key Management is done at the AC, user data traffic must be tunneled between the AP and the AC.

2.1 Out of scope

The following areas are out of scope for this version of the protocol.

2.1.1 Secure discovery of AP and AC.

Rather than specify a brand new secure discovery mechanism for APs and ACs within this protocol, CTP specifies the context and security credentials that are required to register APs into ACs. All AP implementations of CTP MUST provide a method to statically configure the IP address(es) of the AC to be stored in the non-volatile RAM of the AP.

Other methods for automatic discovery that MAY be used by implementations of CTP are: SLP, DNS name resolution, and DHCP options for AC IP address(es). The mechanism by which these methods are incorporated into CTP is out of scope for this document but is a worthwhile task for the working group that takes on this work.

2.1.2 AP image management.

A conscious decision in the design of this protocol excluded the implementation of an AP image management system. However, CTP provides triggers for software upgrade, ie. a message to indicate software version and a message to command the AP to initiate software upgrade. The actual protocol and mechanism for secure software download has been deemed out of scope for the protocol and beyond what the protocol was intended for.

2.1.3 Multiple AC mobility

This version of CTP does not include the details of support for multi-AC control over APs for the purposes of multi-AC MU mobility. However, the reserved message types and the capability exchange phase may be used to facilitate the setting up of intra-AC tunnels.

3. Protocol Overview

CTP is a generic protocol that defines a mechanism for the control and provisioning of wireless APs through centralized ACs. In addition, it provides a mechanism to optionally tunnel the mobile client data between the AP and AC.

There are three types of CTP packet headers:

a) Control: these messages allow the AC to provision and control the APs and MU session state and further contain messages that consist of configuration, statistics and state management.

b) MAC Management: these messages allow the AP to relay MAC Management frames to the AC when the CTP connection is configured for split MAC operation.

c) Data: an optional aspect of the protocol that allows MU data packets tunneled between the AP and the AC.

The CTP messages between APs and ACs are delivered by a UDP transport and the UDP port number is [TBD]. The message types of this protocol are classified into three distinct categories:

- Control and Status messages
- Configuration and Statistics messages
- Data messages.

3.1 Control and Status Messages

The set of system control messages of CTP provides a mechanism for an AP to register itself with the AC and to interact with the MU session management operations of the AC. Primarily this set is utilized by the AP to request session association with the AC, configuration information, and control of AP operations.

In a local MAC configuration, CTP provides system control messages for notification of MU connection to the AC. The AC uses this message set to acknowledge AP and MU session establishment and to explicitly control both AP and MU session operational state (such as AP state changes, AP and MU session disconnection, etc.)
In a split MAC configuration, CTP provides MAC Mangement control messages for the AP and AC to exchange MAC management frames.

3.2 Configuration and Statistics messages

This logical set of messages exchanged between AP and AC is primarily intended for the provisioning of the AP via a capabilities exchange

and configuration message set. This message set also includes a means for the AP to provide periodic status notifications of current operational state, statistics information such as wireless and wired statistics, security alerts, etc.

3.3 Data Messages

The CTP-Data message is the only message in this set. Its purpose is to carry encapsulated frames associated with a registered MU. This message type utilizes the Policy field of the message header to provide user based, post authentication policy enforcement on a per packet basis. This message type applies to actual MU client data and does not include MU association, authentication and MU session management messages as those operations are explicitly represented though specific control messages.

It must be noted that the protocol allows for the data path to not have to traverse the AC. In that case, no policy can be applied on a per user basis centrally.

4. CTP Packets

It is assumed that the AP and AC source and destination information is available in the transport layer headers. As such, it is not indicated below.

4.1 CTP Header format

Figure 4 describes the CTP message header 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
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| Ver |0|0|X|P|E|     Type      |   Policy      |   Protocol    |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|       Session Id.             |           Length              |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|               |   Reserved    |               | Message Payload...
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+|
```

Figure 4 - CTP Header format

Ver Field

This field identifies the version of the protocol. It is 3 bits of data. For this specification the version field is 0.

Flags Field

This field is a bitmask of 5 bits that represents special CTP processing. Bits 3, 4, and 5 are undefined and MUST be zero (0). Bit #6 and #7 as follows:

```
     Bit P û Payload Header
         1 indicates that the CTP header is followed by a CTP payload
header (see 5.4.1)
         0 indicates that there is no CTP payload header
     Bit X û Extended Payload Header
         1 indicates that the CTP-Data header is extended with
additional wireless information [5.4.1]
     Bit E - Data path Encryption
         1 indicates that the CTP-Data message type data is encrypted
         0 indicates that the CTP-Data message is in the clear
```

Type Field

This is a 1 byte field that identifies the message type. The message types are identified in Section 4.2.

Policy Field

This is a 1 byte field that represents policy to be assigned and enforced. The definition of this policy field is dependent on the message type. For example, if the message type is CTP-Data (defined below) the Policy field corresponds to QOS policy for the MU data above and beyond the QOS TOS markings or DiffServ markings that may have been applied to the end-to-end user data. If the message type is not CTP-Data, then this field is not interpreted by either AP or AC and MUST be set to all zeros.

Protocol

Provides identification of payload protocol in support of Split-MAC operations.

```
   0 for Local-MAC.
   RADIO TYPE û Radio Protocol (see Capabilities Exchange in 5.3.1)
```

Session ID Field

This is a 2 byte field that includes a unique session identifier provisioned by the AC after successful authentication.

Length Field

This is a 2 byte field that indicates the length of payload (excludes the header length).

4.2 Messages

The following message types are defined in CTP:

Message	Type
Reserved	0-1
Reg-Req	2
Reg-Rsp	3
Auth-Req	4
Auth-Rsp	5
SW-Update-Req	6
SW-Update-Rsp	7
Config-Req	8
Config-Rsp	9
Config-Ack	10
Conf-Status-Notify	11
Set-State-Req	12
Set-State-Rsp	13
Stats-Notify	14
CTP-Data	15
Poll-Req	16
Poll-Rsp	17
Stats-Req	18
Stats-Rsp	19
Cap-Req	20
Cap-Rsp	21
Reserved	22-50
MU-Connect-Req	51
MU-Connect-Rsp	52
MU-Disconnect-Req	53
MU-Disconnect-Rsp	54
MU-Authenticate-Req	55
MU-Authenticate-Rsp	56
MU-Disconnect-Nfy	57
MAC-Management	58
Reserved	59-255

4.3 Message Payloads

Each message type defined above may or may not have a corresponding CTP message payload. The payload contents are exchanged with the AC through the exchange of relevant Type-Length-Value (TLV) elements.

Each element is encoded as follows:

```
 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              |            Length             |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|              Value...
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

Type

One of the element types as defined below

Length
Total length of the type + length + value fields

Value
Value

Several elements may be combined in sequence to provide a full payload definition.

Note: In order to properly utilize TLVs, the length field of the CTP header must be properly calculated and includes the sum of the length fields of all TLVs in the payload.

The following provides a list of TLVs as defined in this version of the protocol:

Definition	Type	Length (bytes)	Description
STATUS	1	4	Explicit indication of the response to requests messages. Values for STATUS are the same across all messages: 0 - Undefined 1 - Success 2 û Failure
SWVersion	2	Variable	ASCII text representation of the AP software version number.
AP SERIAL_NUMBER	3	16	Unique ASCII representation of the Serial number of AP. This

			serial number of the AP must be a priori available to the AC. Method of getting this serial number to the AC is out of scope for this document.
AP REG_CHALLENGE	4	16	A 16 byte random challenge generated by the AC, to be used by AP upon registration.
AP REG_RESPONSE	5	16	A 16 byte AP calculated response to AP REG CHALLENGE
AC_IPADDR LIST	6	Variable	List of AC IP addresses with which said AP should attempt to connect
CONFIG	7	variable	Value contains a [SNMP] set of OIDs of encoded configuration elements
AC REG CHALLENGE	8	16	A 16 byte random challenge generated by the AP, to be used by AC upon registration request.
AC REG_RESPONSE	9	16	A 16 byte AC calculated response to AC REG CHALLENGE
NETWORK ID	10	4	Network ID with which a given radio in the AP is associated. This value is unique as it is calculated by the AC upon the provisioning phase of the AP and provided to it in the Config-Rsp message. In the case of 802.11 radio technology, this is the Extended Service Set (ESS) to which the AP belongs. This is a 32 bit integer representation of the ESS. For other radio technologies, this is a unique value representing the network that the radio is a member of.

AP_STATE	11	4	Value contains indication of AP state: 0=Standby 1=Active 2=Reset
SESSION_KEY	12	19	Encrypted session encryption key to secure AP to/from AC communications.
STATS	13	Variable	Value contains a [SNMP] set of OIDs of encoded statistics elements
RADIO ID	15	1	Index number of the radio as learnt during the Capabilities exchange.
REQ ID	16	1	Message identification to match request and response messages.
AUTH_PAYLOAD	17	Variable	Payload TLV to include Encapsulation of MU Authentication/Authorization Messages. Typically EAP frames.
CERTIFICATE	18	Variable	Digital certificate credentials of the AP or AC

5. Message descriptions

5.1 Message State Control

Unless otherwise stated, every message that is a "request" type includes a REQ ID payload inserted by the sender of the message. This is sent so as to aid in the match of messages that are received as "responses". After the transmission of each request, the source will wait up to 2 seconds for the reception of the response. If a response is not received, the source will retransmit the packet up to 3 times. If after 3 attempts a response is still not received the source aborts the session and resets its state machine. If the source is the AP, the AP shall resume registration operations. Correspondingly the AC will simply delete the AP session from its database and drop all packets which are from unregistered APs.

5.2 Control and Status messages

5.2.1 CTP_Reg-Req

This message is used by the AP to request registration with the AC.

This message is initiated by the AP after successful secure discovery and following the hardware and software initialization sequence of the AP. The Session ID of this message is set to 0x0000 because the AC will subsequently assign a Session ID upon successful authentication. This message requires a mandatory payload, namely "AP Serial Number".

```
HEADER
   Type = 2
   SessionID = 0x0000

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID
   AP SERIAL NUMBER
```

5.2.2 CTP Reg-Rsp

This message is sent by the AC to an AP to indicate that it has conditionally accepted the AP's registration request based on knowing who the AP is and based on the provided serial number. If the STATUS = Success, then this message will also contain an AP REG CHALLENGE payload. This is a randomly generated 16 byte challenge to the AP.

```
HEADER
   Type = 3
   SessionID = 0x0

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = from the corresponding Reg-Req message
   STATUS = Success (1) or Failure (2) based on the known AP database
in the AC
   AP REG CHALLENGE
```

5.2.3 CTP Auth-Req

This message is sent by the AP to begin the authentication phase of the connection establishment with the AC. It contains the AP serial number, an AP REG RESPONSE payload, the AP's digital certificate (which contains the AP's public key) and a 16 byte random challenge to the AC. Note that the SessionID field in the packet header is still zero.

```
HEADER
   Type = 4
   SessionID = 0x0

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID
   AP_SERIAL_NUMBER
   CERTIFICATE
   AP REG RESPONSE = Digital Signature of the concatenation of the AP
SERIAL NUMBER and the AP REG CHALLENGE (from the Reg-Rsp message)
   AC_REG_CHALLENGE = 16 byte random number challenge sent to
authenticate the AC.
```

The response is calculated by the AP and is verified by the AC. For details on the calculation of challenge and response, see Section 7

5.2.4 CTP Auth-Rsp

This message is sent by the AC to the AP as an indication of the success or failure of the authentication phase. The AP is only considered to have successfully associated with the AC if both registration and authentication phases complete successfully.

```
HEADER
   Type = 5
   SessionID = 16 byte unsigned value generated by the AC.  This is
set appropriately in this message if the authentication phase was
successful.  After this message, the AP should use this Session ID in
all subsequent messages.

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = from the corresponding Auth-Req message
   STATUS = Success (1) if the AP's digital certificate was
successfully verified and the AP REG RESPONSE was verified.
   CERTIFICATE
   AC REG RESPONSE = Digital Signature of the concatenation of the AP
SERIAL NUMBER and the AC REG CHALLENGE (from the Auth-Req message)
   SESSION KEY = An encrypted payload of the AC generated CTP session
key.  This is encrypted using the public key of the AP as received in
the AP's digital certificate from the Auth-Req message.
```

The STATUS payload indicates whether authentication and registration was processed correctly. If so, Session ID for registration is explicitly provided in the message header.

5.2.5 CTP SW-Update-Req

This message is sent by the AP to ask the AC whether it should upgrade its own software or not. It simply needs to provide its current software version to the AC.

This message MAY also be sent by the AC to the AP which is a command indication for the AP to stop operations and upgrade its software.

```
HEADER
   Type = 6
   SessionID = the assigned ID as received in the Auth-Rsp message.

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID
      SWVersion = Variable length ASCII text specifying the current
running software on the AP.
```

5.2.6 CTP SW-Update-Rsp

This message is sent by the AC to signal the AP to upgrade its software or by the AP to the AC to indicate to confirm that it has received the upgrade request. When the corresponding request is issued by the AP, the AC will check the SWVersion payload received in the Software-Upgrade-Req for the AP and send a response based on a match. The interpretation of the SWVersion payload is implementation specific. The response by the AC is either "Yes" or "No" which is interpreted through the STATUS payload. If the response by the AC indicates a failure the AP must abandon the registration stage, upgrade its software to the version indicated by the AC. The method by which the software image is exchanged is outside of the scope of this protocol.

When the corresponding request is issued by the AC, the AP will simply confirm the reception of the request and abandon itÆs connected state in order to perform the upgrade.

```
HEADER
   Type = 7
   SessionID = the assigned ID as received in the Auth-Rsp message.

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = from the corresponding SW-Update-Req message
   STATUS = [Success/Don't Upgrade (1) | Failure/Upgrade (2)]
   SWVersion [On Failure] = Variable length ASCII text specifying the
correct software version the AP should have in order to complete the
session registration with the AC.
```

5.2.7 CTP_Set-State-Req

This message is sent by the AC to modify the operational state of the AP. For example, at some point during an established connection it may be necessary to instruct an AP to go to STANDBY state or initiate a reboot/reset of its state machine. These states are usually entered upon user request

The following states are defined and apply to the AP:

ACTIVE

Indication to the AP that it should exit standby state and should resume full active network state including enabling itÆs RF interfaces. This is the default state of the AP after successful configuration phase.

STANDBY

This signifies a state where the AP, although connected to the AC, is in a state whereby no RF connection is allowed. It may be a sent to the AP upon user request.

RESET

This is used as a command to the AP to change state to initialization state. This may be sent to the AP upon user request or upon failure of any of the phases of the control channel establishment.

```
HEADER
   Type = 12
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID
   AP_STATE = [STANDBY(0) | ACTIVE(1) | RESET(2)]
```

5.2.8 CTP_Set-State-Rsp

This message is sent by the AP to indicate to the AC that it has changed its operational state as requested.

```
HEADER
   Type = 13
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQUEST ID = Same ID that was received in the Set-State-Req
message.
   STATUS = [Success (1) | Failure (2)]
   AP_STATE = [STANDBY(0) | ACTIVE(1) | RESET(2)]
```

The RESET(2) state assumes that the AP would have reset its operations after sending out this message.

5.2.9 CTP Poll-Req

This message is the keep-alive mechanism for the CTP control channel. This is sent by the AP to the AC. The default send frequency for this message is 5 seconds. If no response is received from the AC after sending this message 6 times in a row, then the AP should tear down its CTP control channel state and reattempt to connect to the AC. These values are considered to be defaults. An AP implementation MAY choose to change these values for suitability to network deployment conditions.

```
HEADER
   Type = 16
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = ID representing the Poll-Req. Incremented until a
corresponding Poll-Rsp is received.
```

5.2.10 CTP Poll-Rsp

This message is the keepalive mechanism for the CTP control channel. This is sent by the AC in response to a CTP Poll-Req message received from the AP. The AC SHOULD detect the loss of connectivity with the AP based on the receipt of a Poll-Req message.

```
HEADER
   Type = 17
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = ID corresponding to the Poll-Req received.
```

5.2.11 CTP_MU-Connect-Req

This message is sent by the AP to relay an association request received from an MU to the AC.

```
HEADER
   Type = 51
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID
   MU-MAC-Address = MAC Address corresponding to the associating MU
```

NETWORK ID = Network identification where association is taking place
RADIO ID = Radio ID where association is taking place

5.2.12 CTP_MU-Connect-Rsp

This message is sent by the AC to authorize the access point to relay an association response to the MU requesting service. If the association is successful, then the AC MAY also include optional payloads such as Policy which can be enforced at the AP.

If the association is rejected by the AC, the AP must disallow association of the MU.

```
HEADER
   Type = 52
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = from the corresponding MU-Connect-Req message
   MU-MAC-Address = MAC Address corresponding to the associating MU
   STATUS = [Success (1) | Failure internal error (2)| Failure user
            deny (3)]
```

5.2.13 CTP_MU-Disconnect-Req

This message is sent by the AC to request that a specific Mobile Unit session be removed from the AP list of currently connected devices. This operation may be the result of Mobile Unit roaming to a different AP or the result of Mobile Unit session timeout, or administrator request.

The MU-MAC-Address identifies the device in question.

```
HEADER
   Type = 53
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = ID for the request. Must increment after every
retransmission of this message.
   MU-MAC-Address = MAC Address corresponding to the MU that is to be
disconnected.
   RADIO ID = Radio ID where disconnection is required.
```

5.2.14 CTP_MU-Disconnect-Rsp

This message is sent by the AP to indicate that it has successfully processed a disconnect request by the AC. At this point the MU should no longer be associated with the AP.

```
HEADER
   Type = 54
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = Same ID that was received in the MU-Disconnect-Req
message.
   MU-MAC-ADDRESS = MAC Address corresponding to the MU that was
disconnected
   STATUS = [Success (1) | Failure (2)]
```

5.2.15 CTP_MU-Disconnect-Nfy

This message is sent by the AP to the AC to indicate that it has received an explicit disconnection message from the MU. The transmission of this message from the AP is dependent on the MAC layer of the radio technology implemented on the AP as well as the capability of the MU. For example, the radio MAC layer may or may not support an explicit "disconnect" trigger when an MU goes away. Rather, the disconnection is based on a timer. In cases where the disconnection is timer based, the AC may be the appropriate entity to handle idle timer management. However, in the case where there may be a disconnect indication, then the AP must send this message to the AC when and MU disconnects.

```
HEADER:
   Type = 57
   SessionID = AP session ID negotiated at registration

PAYLOAD
   MU-MAC-Address = MAC address of Mobile unit that was disconnected
   NETWORK ID =
   RADIO ID =
```

5.2.16 CTP MU-Authenticate-Req

This message is sent by the AP to forward an authentication request to the AC. In the case of 802.1x/EAP authentication, the payload of this packet will include information that the AC will forward to a RADIUS Server

```
HEADER
   Type = 55
   SessionID = AP session id from registration
```

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID
   AUTH_PAYLOAD = The authentication request payload between the AP and the AC carries the request of the MU for authentication. In typical cases this will be the EAP packets from an 802.1x supplicant.

5.2.17 CTP MU-Authenticate-Rsp

This message is sent by the AC to forward an authentication response to the AP. In the case of 802.1x/EAP authentication, the payload of this packet will include the response from the RADIUS server which will be forwarded to the AP.

HEADER
   Type = 56
   SessionID û AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   REQ ID = from the MU-Authenticate-Req message
   AUTH_PAYLOAD = The Authentication response payload between the AP and the AC carries the response from the authentication server. In typical cases this will be the EAP packets from the Authentication server.
   STATUS = [Success (1) | Failure (2)] - Note that the authenticator to authentication server interface resides in the AC so the AC does know the state of the authentication.
   Note: There may be multiple transitions of this message set.

5.2.18 CTP MAC-Management

The MAC-Management frame provides transport for protocol specific management frames in support of Split-MAC implementations

HEADER
   Type= 58
   SessionID û AP Session id from registration
   Payload type = RADIO_TYPE (Capabilities exchange [5.3.1])- Indicates radio technology employed by radio. Provides reference to associated MAC protocol type.

PAYLOAD
   The payload of the wireless MAC management frame

5.3 Configuration and Statistics messages

These messages correspond to information and command exchanges between AP and AC only after successful authentication and setup of the secure channel between AP and AC.

5.3.1   CTP Cap-Req

This message is sent by the AP to indicate to the AC the capabilities of this AP in regards to the number of radios and the types of RF technologies that it supports. The AP will encode its capabilities per each RADIO (or interface) that it supports. These are encoded in a variable length embedded attribute format called ôcapabilities control framesö. A type-length-value encoding scheme, similar to the format of payloads of regular control messages, is used to encode the capabilities attributes (ATTs) in the capability control frames.

```
 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      |             Length            |   Value...
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

The available capability attributes are defined as follows:

1) ATT-NUM-RADIOS - number of radios that the AP supports.

    Type= 1
    Length= 1 byte
    Value= 1 through 255

2) ATT-RADIO-INFO - the information for each radio that consists of the RADIO-INDEX, RADIO-TYPE, and NUM-NETWORKS. There MUST be exactly ATT-NUM-RADIOS number of unique ATT-RADIO-INFO attributes within the Cap-Req message.

    Type= 2
    Length= 3 bytes
    Value= radio information type as defined below:

```
 0                   1                   2
 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
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| RADIO-INDEX   |   PHY-TYPE  | NUM NETWORKS  |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

where

RADIO-INDEX is a unique index of the enumeration of the number of radios that the AP supports. The AC will use this value for subsequent configuration and control.

PHY-TYPE is defined as

o Reserved = 0
o 802.11a = 1
o 802.11b = 2
o 802.11g only = 3
o 802.11n = 4
o 802.15 = 5
o 802.16 = 6
o 802.20 = 7
o 802.22 = 8
o Reserved = 9 through 254
o All = 255 (this value indicates that all interfaces are configurable to any radio type)

NUM-NETWORKS is the number of logical networks that the RADIO supports.

3) ATT-MAC-INFO û This attribute consists of information pertaining to the implementation of the wireless MAC layer in the WTP. This in turn specifies to the AC the mode of MAC operation. At this time only two types of MAC implementation are supported, ie. Local MAC and Split MAC. The MAC-INFO attribute also allows the AP and AC the ability to negotiate Authentication and User Data Encryption functions.

Type= 3
Length= 2 bytes
Value= MAC layer information as defined below:

```
 0                   1                   2
 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 2
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+_
| RADIO-INDEX   |   MAC-CAP    |     AUTH-CAP   |  ENCRYPT-CAP    |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

where

RADIO-INDEX is a unique index of the enumeration of the number of radios that the AP supports

MAC-CAP is defined as MAC Capabilities:

o Local MAC = 1
o Split MAC = 2

AUTH-CAP is defined to indicate the 802.1x Authenticator capabilities:

o Full 802.1x Authenticator support = 1
o MAC Key Management support only = 2

ENCRYPT-CAP is defined to indicate the Encryption Capabilities of the radio:

o Supports user data encryption at AP   = 1
o Supports user data encryption at AC   = 2

4) ATT-NETWORK-INFO - This attribute consists of the unique information that identifies each network per RADIO-INDEX and consists of RADIO-INDEX, NETWORK-INDEX and NETWORK-ID. Each Cap-Req payload MUST contain exactly NUM-NETWORKS worth of unique ATT-NETWORK-INFO attributes.

Type= 4
Length= 8 bytes
Value= network information type as defined 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
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| RADIO-INDEX   | NETWORK-INDEX |         NETWORK ID            |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                         NETWORK ID                            |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

where

RADIO-INDEX is a unique index of the enumeration of the number of radios that the AP supports

NETWORK-INDEX is a unique index of the enumeration of the networks that each RADIO supports

NETWORD-ID is the unique identifier for the network. This 6 byte value MAY be the MAC address for the given network within the radio. In the case of 802.11 radios, this value SHOULD be the BSS ID.

5) ATT-VENDOR-ID - name of vendor or manufacturer of AP.

Type= 5
Length= 4 bytes
Value = a 32-bit value containing the IANA assigned "SMI Network Management Private Enterprise Codes" [3].

6) ATT-PRODUCT-ID - name of product.

Type= 6
Length= variable length value of string
Value= ASCII string for the name of the product, non-Null terminated.

HEADER
Type = 20
SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
REQ ID = increments with each retransmission.
The capabilities attributes encoded as TLVs and as defined above.

5.3.2 CTP Cap-Rsp

This message is sent by the AC to acknowledge the capabilities of the AP. The AC must ack or nak the capabilities for each RADIO-INFO element that it received in the Cap-Req message. This is accomplished by sending back exactly ATT-NUM-RADIOS worth of ATT-RADIO-INFO-ACK for each RADIO-INFO sub-attribute that this AC supports.

The ATT-RADIO-INFO-ACK is an attribute that contains the RADIO-INDEX and CAP-STATUS sub-attribute. For each Radio type that the AC supports, the CAP-STATUS must be set to 1. For each radio type that the AC does not support, the CAP-STATUS must be set to 0.

Type= 7
Length= 2 bytes
Value= as defined below.

```
 0                   1
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| RADIO-INDEX   |   CAP-STATUS  |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

HEADER
Type = 21
SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
REQ ID = ID corresponding to the Cap-Req message.
The AC capabilities attribute response encoded as TLVs and as defined above.

5.3.3 CTP Config-Req

This message is sent by the AP to request configuration from its master AC. This message must be sent only after a receipt of a successful Auth-Rsp message from the AC and the verification of the ACÆs AC REG RESPONSE payload.

HEADER
Type = 8
SessionID û the assigned ID as received in the Auth-Rsp message.

PAYLOAD
REQ ID
No specific information is required on this message.

5.3.4 CTP Config-Rsp

This message is sent by the AC as a response to a Config-Req message to provide the configuration parameters for the registered AP.

HEADER
Type = 9
SessionID = AP session id from registration
Sequence Number = Sequence number of current packet.

PAYLOAD
REQ ID = from Config-Req message
STATUS = [Success (1) | Failure (2)]
CONFIG = The type of the configuration payload is defined in Section 5.3.10.

5.3.5 CTP Config-Ack

This message is sent by the AP to indicate proper reception of an AP_Config-Rsp message. This message is particularly important in processing multi-sequenced packets, in particular configuration updates that require more than one payload for full receipt of configuration information.

HEADER
Type = 10
SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   None

5.3.6 CTP_Config-Status-Notify

This message is used by the AP to indicate to the AC that it has successfully completed it's configuration as per parameters indicated by the AP.

HEADER
   Type = 11
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   STATUS

5.3.7 CTP_Stats-Notify

This message is sent by the AP to provide periodic operational statistics to the AC. This message is also used following a correct configuration establishment to indicate to the AC that the AP is functionally ready to enter ACTIVE state.

HEADER
   Type = 14
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   STATS - The type of the statistics payload is defined in Section 5.3.10.

5.3.8 CTP Stats-Req

This message is sent by the AC to request statistics information upon request. It is intended to be used as an interface by an administrator or management application to query the AP for instantaneous statistics information.

HEADER
   Type = 18
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   STATS = The type of the statistics payload is defined in Section 5.3.10

5.3.9 CTP Stats-Rsp

This message is sent by the AP to provide operational statistics to the AC as per the Stats-Req message. It is similar in format to the Stats-Notify message.

```
HEADER
   Type = 19
   SessionID = AP session id from registration

PAYLOAD
   STATS = The type of the statistics payload is defined in Section
5.3.10
```

5.3.10 Configuration and Statistics

Two data representations were considered for the CTP configuration and statistics payload. The first data representation considered was a TLV representation where all the variables for the statistics and configuration would be defined as groups of TLVs. Given the nature of CTP as a radio agnostic protocol and the complexity of the statistics and configuration of the 802.11 protocols with multiple networks per radio a TLV representation might be cumbersome and not extensible.

Most of todayÆs network devices in both the enterprise and the carrier space employ the Simple Network Management Protocol. Thus, it is natural to assume that most, if not all, APs will contain an embedded SNMP agent able to decode SMI representations. Using SMI representations for configuration and statistics variables can speed up deployment of CTP without incurring additional cost for the APs. Our recommendation is to reuse the 802.11 MIBs where applicable for the CTP configuration and statistics message payload. MIB extensions should be defined where the corresponding IEEE MIBs are not sufficient. Upon reception of the message the CTP daemon should forward the configuration and statistics message payload to the SNMP daemon for further decoding and processing of the SMI O.I.D.s.

5.4 CTP_Data Messages

The CTP data messages use the same CTP header as the control and other messages. If the Type field is 15 (CTP-Data), then the Policy field of the header is used by the AC to tag the data for special handling. The interpretation of the Policy field is left up to the implementation. An example of its use is as follows:

Data packet coming into the AC from the wired network is a voice packet as indicated by the TOS or DSCP markings in the IP header. This TOS/DSCP byte will be copied to the outer transport header for proper priority handling within the network between the AP and the AC. However, for appropriate classification at the AP, the AC sets the Policy field to a value that allows the AP to prioritize this

packet over other data packets that may have a lower priority. Similarly in the reverse direction, the MU may have set the appropriate fields in the original IP header, but the AP can interpret those bits and map them to the Policy field in the CTP-Data header for special dispensation at the AC.

5.4.1 CTP_Data

This message is used for transport of MU data frames. The contents of the message body are not interpreted by the AP layer other than sending it to the MAC layer of the AP.

```
HEADER
   Type = 15
   SessionID = AP session id from registration
   Policy = as set by the implementation
   Payload type = RADIO_TYPE (Caps Exchange)
                  0 û Local MAC uses an 802.3 frame format
                  Radio-Type û MAC data frame format (e.g. 802.11)
```

Flags: X (Optional) û Indicates presence of extended payload header for 802.11 data frames. The extended payload indicates RF characteristics of the data frame.

```
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
+ RSSI          |   RATE        |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

RSSI û Provides Signal Strength indicator payload.
RATE û The data rate as expressed as an integer in 500 kb/s increments.

PAYLOAD

802.3 frame in the case of local MAC. Wireless protocol dependent in the case of split MAC.

6. State Machines

This state machine in Figure 5 indicates the logical state transitions of the CTP session establishment.

```
                              user-request/reset
            +----------------------------------------------+
            |                                              |
            |                                              |
            |                                              |
            |                                              |
            |                                              |
            V                  +-----------+               |
         +------+   Success    | Control   | Success  +----------+
         | Init |------------->| Session   |--------->|  Active  |
         +------+              | Establish |          +----------+
            ^                  +-----------+             ^   |
            |                          |                 |   |
            |                          |                 |   |
            |                          |        user-req |   |user-req
            |                          |                 |   |
            |                          |                 |   |
            |        Failure           |                 |   V
            +--------------------------+              +----------+
                                                      | Standby  |
                                                      +----------+
```

Figure 5 - Simple CTP state machine

6.1 Init

This state represents the boot state, and initialization of the hardware. Entry into this state is either Failure of the Control Session Establishment or user-request or reset signal from the Active state

6.2 Control Channel Establishment

Once Initialization completes the AP initiates the control channel establishment phase of the connection. Any phase within this state that fails because of a STATUS=FAILURE or no response from either device will result in a failure of the whole phase and go back to initialization. A successful completion of the control session establishment process will include

Registration
Authentication

Software Upgrade Notification
Capability negotiation
Configuration Request
Configuration Response
Configuration Ack.

Upon receipt of a successful Config-Ack from the AP, the AP and AC session for the AP are put into ACTIVE state.

6.3 Active State

Once confirmation of successful registration is received the device now has a properly established communications/tunneling session with the AC. The Authentication response MUST have indicated a valid CTP session ID by which this tunnel is registered on the AC. So in this state, the SessionId MUST be non-zero.

This state persists until device terminates or communications with the AC are interrupted. To assist in the detection of connection termination, the device MUST implement the CTP Poll-Req and Poll-Rsp messages as described previously. Another method of exiting this state is with an explicit Set-State message that may only be initiated by the AC to the AP.

6.4 Standby State

At some time during the operation, it may be necessary to instruct an AP to halt its current operation, ie. to switch off the RF interface(s) on the AP . This is done by the Set-State message. The device will remain in this state, until explicitly told by the AC to resume operation also using the Set-State message.

7. Authentication, Encryption and Session Key generation

Since the AP and AC can be separated over any arbitrary L3 cloud, first and foremost there is a need for a secure binding between the AC and AP. A control channel security association is required between the AC and AP.

7.1 Authentication

The AC and AP must go through a mutual authentication phase during a registration and authentication process and form a security association. A couple of assumptions are made to ensure this security association is created. First, there must be a secure mechanism to get the digital certificates onto the APs and ACs and that process must be run either at the factory or prior to device deployment. Secondly, the placement of the AP ID (in most cases the AP serial number) in a data store on the AC assumes a secure

insertion mechanism. This may be a manual process or other secure ID provisioning methods may be employed. Mutual authentication of AP and AC is done by means of digital certificates as is described below.

```
   +-----+                                                    +-----+
   | AP |                                                     | AC |
   +-----+                                                    +-----+
                      Reg-Req(AP-ID)
          ----------------------------------------------->

                Reg-Rsp(Status,AP-challenge)
          <-----------------------------------------------

            Auth-Req(AP-ID,AP-cert,AP-resp,AC-challenge)
          ------------------------------------------------>

            Auth-Rsp(Status,AC-cert,AC-rsp,Session-Key)
          <------------------------------------------------
```

AP-ID - AP SERIAL NUMBER attribute. This attribute is assumed to be available in a data store in the AC as well as being factory burnt-in in the AP device. The AC will respond with a STATUS=Success in the Reg-Rsp message if there is a match in its data store for the given AP-ID

AP-challenge - is a 16 byte random number generated using [4] as guidelines for the randomness of the challenge.

AP-cert - Is a digital certificate assumed to be available on the AP prior to its Registration request. The mechanism to get the certificate onto the AP is out of scope for this document.

AP-resp - Is a digital signature over the SHA-1 hash of the AP-challenge concatenated with the AP-ID.

            S-ap(H-sha1(AP-challenge|AP-ID))

AP-challenge - is a 16 byte random number generated for subsequent authentication of the AC.

AC-cert - Is a digital certificate or chain of certificates of the AC that is assumed to be available on the AC prior to sending the Reg-Rsp message. The mechanism to get the certificate or chain of certificates onto the AC is out of scope for this document.

AC-resp - is a digital signature over the SHA-1 hash of the AC-challenge concatenated with the encrypted session key.

            S-ac(H-sha1(AC-challenge|Enc-ac-p(SessionKey)))

Session Key - is actually the encrypted randomly generated session encryption keying material. The AC uses the public key of the AP to encrypt the session encryption key. The size of the Session Key is 19 bytes. The first 16 bytes are used as AES-CCM encryption and the remaining 3 bytes are used as a salt for a nonce which is required by the AES-CCM algorithm. See section 7.2 for encryption details. The Session key is a random number generated using [4]. At the time of writing this document there are no known weak keys for AES.

The following steps describe in detail the registration and authentication process:

1. The AP sends a Reg-Req message with its AP SERIAL NUMBER. If it does not receive a Reg-Req within 3 seconds, it must resend the Reg-Req message.
2. Upon receipt of the Reg-Req message, the AC checks its data store for the AP SERIAL NUMBER. If it exists then the AC sends back a Reg-Rsp message with STATUS payload with Success (1) attribute and an AP CHALLENGE payload. If the AP SERIAL NUMBER does not exist, then a Reg-Rsp message with a STATUS payload of Failure (2) is sent back.
3. The AP will take the AP CHALLENGE payload, concatenate it with the AP SERIAL NUMBER and calculate an AP RESPONSE as shown above and send it back to the AC along with an AC CHALLENGE payload and its own digital CERTIFICATE payload in an Auth-Req message.
4. Upon receipt of the Auth-Req message the AC will
   a. Verify the AP's digital certificate
   b. Verify the AP RESPONSE, which was the digital signature of the AP over the hash of the AP CHALLENGE and the AP SERIAL NUMBER. This is done with the public key of the AP.
   c. If both a) and b) are verified correctly, then the STATUS payload will contain Success (1). Otherwise it will contain Failure (2).
   d. If Success, then the AC will add its own CERTIFICATE to the Auth-Rsp message
   e. Encrypt the session encryption keys with the public key of the AP.
   f. Generate a unique SessionID to be used in subsequent CTP messages.
   g. Send back an Auth-Rsp message with STATUS, CERTIFICATE, AC RESPONSE and SESSION KEY payloads with the SessionID in the CTP header.
5. Upon receipt of the Auth-Rsp message, the AP will
   a. Verify the AC's digital certificate
   b. Verify the AC RESPONSE which was the digital signature of the AC over the hash of the AC CHALLENGE and the encrypted session encryption key.
   c. Decrypt the encrypted session encryption key with its own

```
          private key
```

   d. Store the SessionID which will be used in each subsequent CTP message.

6. All CTP control messages after the Auth-Rsp will be sent encrypted with AES-CCM as described in section 7.2.

7.2 Encryption

Once the registration and authentication process has successfully completed then the control traffic is encrypted. The traffic is confined to control, configuration and management traffic between the AC and AP.

It is believed that for security sensitive applications and deployments there will always be an end to end encrypted tunnel for MU data traffic. Therefore, a data path encryption mechanism is not provided by CTP.

For Local-MAC mode all control messages which are used to establish a trust relationship between the AP and AC, must be encrypted. If a non-encrypted CTP control packet with type other than CTP_Reg-Req, CTP_Reg-Rsp, CTP_Auth-Req and CTP_Auth-Rsp is received, it MUST be dropped by a receiver and no notification is sent to the sender.

For Split-MAC mode encryption of Control Packets depends on location of PMK key. If PMK is centrally stored in AC, WTP forwards MAC_MGMT_FRAMEs without CTP encryption, because encapsulated 802.11 management frames are already encrypted. If PMK key is distributed to WTP, 802.11 encryption terminates at WTP and CTP tunnel MUST encrypt MAC_MGMT_FRAMEs. Location of PMK keys is negotiated in [5.3.1]

Encrypted packets MUST be sent in 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
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| Ver |0|0|0|P|E|     Type      |   Policy      |   Reserved    |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|       Session Id.             |          Length               |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                                IV (8 bytes)                   |
|                                                               |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                         Sequence Number                       |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                         Encrypted data                        |
|                          (var length)                         |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                    Authentication Data (variable)             |
   +-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

The first 8 bytes is general CTP header described in section 4.1. E bit MUST be equal to 1.

The additional fields have the following meaning:

IV û Initialization Vector used by AES-CCM as described in section 7.2.

Sequence Number û 32 bits value used for anti-replay protection.

Encrypted Data û data of variable length encrypted with AES-CCM. Typically the encrypted data corresponds to the specified message payloads.

Authentication Data û MAC of CTP header, IV, Sequence Number and encrypted data.

CTP uses AES-CCM encryption as defined in [5] with value L = 4 and value M = 8. The Nonce length is 11 bytes. The Nonce is formed by concatenation of 3 bytes of the salt send by AC to the AP during Session Key exchange and 8 bytes of Initialization Vector. The sender of a packets MUST NOT send two packets with the same IV, as it immediately leads to plain-text revealing.

The Sequence Number field MUST start from zero for the first encrypted packet and is incremented each time a packet is encrypted. The receiver MUST use the sequence number field to protect against replay-attack and MAY use it to accept reordered or late packets. The sender MUST negotiate a new session key before reaching maximum value for the Sequence Number.

The sender of an encrypted packet MUST perform the following steps during the packet encryption:

- IV and the Sequence Number are inserted into the packet after CTP header.
- E bit in CTP header is set to 1.
- The first 20 bytes including CTP header, IV and the Sequence Number are passed to AES-CCM for authentication only.
- The CTP payload is encrypted with AES-CCM.
- After encryption, a MAC value received from AES-CCM is copied to the output packet after encrypted data.
- The Sequence Number MUST be incremented
- IV value must be changed to another value which has not been used so far with the current encryption key.

The receiver of the encrypted packet MUST perform the following steps during the packet decryption:

- E bit in CTP header is checked. If it is not 1, the packet is silently dropped.
- Type of the packet is checked. All control packets except CTP_Reg-Req, CTP_Reg-Rsp, CTP_Auth-Req and CTP_Auth-Rsp must be encrypted.
- The Sequence Number is compared to the sequence number of the last received packet, which MUST be stored by the receiver. If the Sequence Number is larger that the one stored by the receiver the packet MUST be accepted for further processing. If the sequence number is equal to the one stored by the receiver the packet MUST be silently dropped. If the sequence number is lower that stored by the receiver, packet MAY be accepted it the receiver implements sliding window algorithm.
- Payload of the packet is passed for decryption to AES-CCM algorithm.
- The first 20 bytes of the packet starting with CTP header are passed to AES-CCM for authentication.
- Data payload is passed to AES-CCM for decryption
- After decryption, MAC value received from AES-CCM decryption process is compared to the MAC value received in the packet. If locally calculated MAC does not match the MAC value from the received packet, the packet MUST be silently dropped. If MAC values are equal, the packet is passed for further processing.
- IV, the Sequence Number and MAC values are stripped from the packet.
- If the Sequence Number from the received packet is larger than stored by the receiver, the receiver must update the stored sequence number with the received one.

7.3 Session Key refresh and generation

One session key is used to encrypt control packets exchanged in both directions between the AP and the AC. The Session Key is always generated by the AC and is sent to AP during the CTP registration and authentication phase as described in section 7.1.
The Session Key must be refreshed before either one of the following happens:
- key lifetime expires
- sequence numbers are exhausted

The Session KeyÆs lifetime is not negotiated in-band and is set to 24 hours.

If the Session KeyÆs lifetime has expired or the sequence numbers has been exhausted and the new Session Key has not been negotiated, the receiver MUST silently drop any received packet and the sender MUST NOT encrypt CTP packet.

The Key refresh is always initiated by the AP. The packet exchange between the AP and the AC for new key is TBD.

The AC MAY request the AP to start the key refresh process by sending TBD packet.

After the Session Key refresh, the AC must use the old key until it receives a packet encrypted with the new Session Key, what is an indication that the AP received and accepted the new Session Key.

8. Security considerations

CTP provides mutual authentication of the AP and the AC. The trust is achieved by digital certificates. The trust hierarchy leading to successful certificate or certificates chain validation is out of scope of this document.

Certificates issued for the AP and the AC are bound to the serial number of the AP and the AC respectively.

During the authentication exchange, the receiver cannot verify that the sender of the certificate really has the serial number presented in the certificate. An attacker may steal the legitimate credentials and send a valid certificate from a device with different serial number.

During the authentication phase the receiver MAY verify whether the presented certificate has not been revoked. The mechanism of accessing CRL is not defined by CTP.

CTP encryption and authentication is sufficient for control packets only. It MUST NOT be used for data encryption, because the exchange between the AP and the AC does not use ephemeral keys. Compromise of APÆs private key enables an attacker to decrypt all session keys used in the past between the AP and AC and decrypt all data packets exchanged between AP and AC.

Control packets exchanged between the AP and the AC are encrypted and authenticated. Both, confidentiality and authentication is provided by AES-CCM as described in [5].

9. References

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