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Export of Segment Routing IPv6 Information in  
IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX)  
draft-tgraf-opsawg-ipfix-srv6-srh-03

## Abstract

This document introduces new IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX) information elements to identify the SRv6 Segment Routing Header dimensions and SRv6 Control Plane Protocol that traffic is being forwarded with.

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[1.](#) Introduction

A new type of Routing Extension Header called Segment Routing Header (SRH) is defined by [\[RFC8754\]](#) which is used for applying Segment Routing (SR) on the IPv6 data plane.

Three routing protocol extensions, OSPFv3 Extensions [\[I-D.li-lsr-ospfv3-srv6-extensions\]](#), IS-IS Extensions [\[I-D.ietf-lsr-isis-srv6-extensions\]](#), BGP Prefix Segment Identifiers (Prefix-SIDs) [\[I-D.ietf-bess-srv6-services\]](#) and one Path Computation Element Communication Protocol (PCEP) Extension [\[I-D.ietf-pce-segment-routing-ipv6\]](#) have been defined to propagate Segment Identifiers (SIDs) for the IPv6 data plane.

This document defines eight new IPFIX Information Elements (IEs) and two new subregistries within the "IPFIX Information Elements" registry [\[RFC7012\]](#), respectively for the new SRH dimensions and routing protocol and PCEP extensions.

[2.](#) IPFIX Information Elements

This section defines and describes the new IPFIX IEs.

## ipv6SRHFlags

8-bit flags defined in the SRH.

## ipv6SRHTag

16-bit tag field defined in the SRH that marks a packet as part of

a class or group of packets sharing the same set of properties.

ipv6SRHSegment

128-bit IPv6 address that represents an SRv6 segment.

ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList

Ordered basicList [[RFC6313](#)] of zero or more 128-bit IPv6 addresses in the SRH that represents the SRv6 segment list. The Segment List is encoded starting from the active segment of the SR Policy.

ipv6SRHSegmentListSection

Exposes the SRH Segment List as defined in [section 2 of \[RFC8754\]](#) as series of n octets.

ipv6SRHSegmentsLeft

8-bit unsigned integer defining the number of route segments remaining to reach the end of the segment list.

ipv6SRHSection

Exposes the SRH and its TLV's as defined in [section 2 of \[RFC8754\]](#) as series of n octets.

ipv6SRHSegmentType

Name of the routing protocol or PCEP extension from where the active SRv6 segment has been learned from.

### [3.](#) Use Cases

By using ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList(TBD4), ipv6SRHSegmentsLeft (TBD6), ipv6SRHSegmentType(TBD8) and forwardingStatus(89) it is possible to identify

- \* how many packets are forwarded or dropped
- \* if dropped, for which reasons,
- \* identify the control plane protocol which defined the active segment,
- \* the SRv6 segment list and

\* how many SRv6 segments are left.

#### 4. IANA Considerations

This document requests IANA to create new IEs (see table1) and two new subregistries called "IPFIX IPv6 SRH Flags" (table 2) and "IPFIX IPv6 SRH Segment type" (table 3) under the "IPFIX Information Elements" registry [[RFC7012](#)] available at [[IANA-IPFIX](#)] and assign the following code initial points.

Element ID	Name
TBD1	ipv6SRHFlags
TBD2	ipv6SRHTag
TBD3	ipv6SRHSegment
TBD4	ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList
TBD5	ipv6SRHSegmentListSection
TBD6	ipv6SRHSegmentsLeft
TBD7	ipv6SRHSection
TBD8	ipv6SRHSegmentType

Table 1: Creates IEs in the "IPFIX Information Elements" registry

Note to the RFC-Editor:

- \* Please replace TBD1 - TBD12 with the values allocated by IANA
- \* Please replace the [RFC-to-be] with the RFC number assigned to this document

#### [4.1.](#) ipv6SRHFlags

Name: ipv6SRHFlags ElementID: TBD1 Description: This Information Element identifies the 8-bit flags defined in the SRH. Values for this Information Element are listed in the "IPFIX IPv6 SRH Flags" registry, see [[IANA-IPFIX](#)]. Initial values in the registry are defined by the table below. New assignments of values will be administered by IANA and are subject to Expert Review Abstract Data Type: unsigned8 Data Type Semantics: flags Reference: [RFC-to-be], [RFC8754](#)[[RFC8126](#)]. Experts need to check definitions of new values for completeness, accuracy, and redundancy.

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Value	Description	Reference
0-7	Unassigned	

Table 2: "IPFIX IPv6 SRH Flags" registry

#### [4.2.](#) ipv6SRHTag

Name: ipv6SRHTag ElementID: TBD2 Description: This Information Element identifies the 16-bit tag field defined in the SRH that marks a packet as part of a class or group of packets sharing the same set of properties. Abstract Data Type: unsigned16 Data Type Semantics: identifier Reference: [RFC-to-be], [RFC8754](#)

#### [4.3.](#) ipv6SRHSegment

Name: ipv6SRHSegment ElementID: TBD3 Description: This Information Element identifies the 128-bit IPv6 address that represents an SRv6 segment. Abstract Data Type: ipv6address Data Type Semantics:

default Reference: [RFC-to-be], [RFC8754](#)

#### [4.4.](#) ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList

Name: ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList ElementID: TBD4 Description: This Information Element identifies the Ordered basicList [[RFC6313](#)] of zero or more 128-bit IPv6 addresses in the SRH that represents the SRv6 segment list. The Segment List is encoded starting from the active segment of the SR Policy. Abstract Data Type: basicList Data Type Semantics: list Reference: [RFC-to-be], [RFC8754](#)

#### [4.5.](#) ipv6SRHSegmentListSection

Name: ipv6SRHSegmentListSection ElementID: TBD5 Description: Exposes the SRH Segment List as defined in [section 2](#) of Abstract Data Type: octetArray Data Type Semantics: default Reference: [RFC-to-be], [RFC8754](#)[[RFC8754](#)] as series of n octets.

#### [4.6.](#) ipv6SRHSegmentsLeft

Name: ipv6SRHSegmentsLeft ElementID: TBD6 Description: This Information Element identifies the 8-bit unsigned integer defining the number of route segments remaining to reach the end of the segment list. Abstract Data Type: unsigned8 Data Type Semantics: quantity Reference: [RFC-to-be], [RFC8754](#)

#### [4.7.](#) ipv6SRHSection

Name: ipv6SRHSection ElementID: TBD7 Description: This Information Element exposes the SRH and its TLV's as defined in [section 2](#) of Abstract Data Type: octetArray Data Type Semantics: default Reference: [RFC-to-be], [RFC8754](#)[[RFC8754](#)] as series of n octets.

#### [4.8.](#) ipv6SRHSegmentType

Name: ipv6SRHSegmentType ElementID: TBD8 Description: This Information Element identifies the name of the routing protocol or PCEP extension from where the active SRv6 segment has been learned from. Values for this Information Element are listed in the "IPFIX IPv6 SRH Segment type" registry, see [[IANA-IPFIX](#)]. Initial values in the registry are defined by the table below. New assignments of

values will be administered by IANA and are subject to Expert Review  
 Abstract Data Type: unsigned8 Data Type Semantics: identifier  
 Reference: [RFC-to-be][RFC8126]. Experts need to check definitions  
 of new values for completeness, accuracy, and redundancy.

Value	Description	Reference
TBD9	Unknown	[RFC-to-be]
TBD10	Path Computation Element	[RFC-to-be], <a href="#">draft-ietf-pce-segment-routing-ipv6</a>
TB11	OSPFv3 Segment Routing	[RFC-to-be], <a href="#">draft-li-ospf-ospfv3-srv6-extensions</a>
TBD12	IS-IS Segment Routing	[RFC-to-be] <a href="#">draft-ietf-lsr-isis-srv6-extensions</a>
TBD13	BGP Segment Routing Prefix-SID	[RFC-to-be], <a href="#">draft-ietf-bess-srv6-services</a>

Table 3: "IPFIX IPv6 SRH Segment type" subregistry

## 5. Operational Considerations

The zero or more 128-bit IPv6 addresses in the SRH [RFC8754] can be exported in two different ways, with two different IPFIX IEs:

- \* ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList

- \* ipv6SRHSegmentListSection

The ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList encodes the SID list of IPv6 addresses with a basicList, specified in the IPFIX Structured Data [RFC6313]. This encoding offers the advantage to the data collection that the different IPv6 addresses are already structured as a list, without the need of post processing. However, this method requires some extra processing on the exporter, to realize the BasicList data

mapping.

The `ipv6SRHSegmentListSection`, on the other hand, encodes the list of IPv6 addresses as an `octetArray`. This doesn't impose any data flow manipulation on the exporter, facilitating the immediate export. However, the data collection must be able to decode the IPv6 addresses according the SR specifications.

It is not expected that an exporter would support both `ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList` and `ipv6SRHSegmentListSection` at the same time.

## 6. Security Considerations

There exists no significant extra security considerations regarding the allocation of these new IPFIX IEs compared to [[RFC7012](#)].

## 7. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Pierre Francois, Yao Liu and Paolo Lucente for their review and valuable comments.

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## [Appendix A](#). IPFIX Encoding Example

In this section an example is provided to show the encoding format for the newly introduced IEs.

SRH Nr	SRH Flags	SRH Tag	Segment Type	Segment List
1	0	123	IS-IS	2001:db8::1, 2001:db8::2, 2001:db8::3
2	0	456	IS-IS	2001:db8::4, 2001:db8::5
3	0	789	IS-IS	2001:db8::6

Table 4: 3 observed SRH headers and their routing protocol

A.1. Template Record

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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9										
SET ID = 2										Length = 41																																							
Template ID = 256										Field Count = 4																																							
0	ipv6SRHFlags = TBD1									Field Length = 1																																							
0	ipv6SRHTag = TBD2									Field Length = 2																																							
0	ipv6SRHSegmentType = TBD8									Field Length = 1																																							
0	ipv6SRHSegment = TBD3									Field Length = 16																																							
0	ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList= TBD4																			Field Length = 0xFFFF																													

Table 4: Template Record Encoding Format

In this example, the Template ID is 256, which will be used in the Data Record. The field length for ipv6SRHSegmentBasicList is 0xFFFF, which means the length of this IE is variable, and the actual length of this IE is indicated by the List Length field in the basicList format as per [RFC6313].

A.2. Data Set

The data set is represented as follows:





