

Internet Engineering Task Force
Internet Draft
Expiration Date: May 2004

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November 2003

Lifetime Option for DHCPv6

[draft-venaas-dhc-lifetime-01.txt](#)

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Abstract

This document describes an option for specifying a lifetime for other DHCPv6 configuration options. It's mainly intended for the stateless DHCPv6, but also useful when there are no addresses or other entities with lifetimes that can tell the client when to contact the DHCP server to update its configuration.

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[1.](#) Introduction

DHCPv6 [[RFC 3315](#)] has been defined for IPv6 hosts wishing to use stateful autoconfiguration. However, many hosts will use stateless autoconfiguration as specified in [[RFC 2462](#)] for address assignment, and use DHCPv6 only for other configuration data. This other configuration data will typically have no associated lifetime, hence there may be no information telling a host when to update its DHCP configuration data.

This option may be useful in unstable environments where unexpected changes are likely to occur, or for planned changes, including renumbering where an administrator can gradually decrease the value as the event nears.

It may also be useful to allow the client to detect within an appropriate time when a specific service change has been made, e.g. the addition of a new NTP server, or a change of address of a DNS server within the local network. See [[RENUMREQS](#)] for further details.

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[2. Terminology](#)

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 [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#) [RFC 2119].

[3. Lifetime option definition](#)

The lifetime option specifies a lifetime for all configuration data contained in other options in an advertise or reply message that have no associated lifetime. This means that it does not effect e.g. the IA Address option which contains a lifetime.

[3.1. Client behaviour](#)

A client supporting this option MAY include it in the Option Request Option (ORO) when sending messages to the DHCP server that allows ORO to be included.

If client has received a lifetime with this option, and contacts server to receive new or update any existing data prior to its expiration, it SHOULD also update data covered by this option. If no new lifetime is received, it MUST behave as if no value was ever provided.

When the client detects that the lifetime has expired, it must do as follows.

First it MUST ignore or remove the existing lifetime value. If it does not receive a new value in a later request, it MUST behave as if no value was ever provided.

Next it MUST wait for a random amount of time between 0 and

[4.](#) IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to assign an option code to the lifetime option from the DHCP option-code space defined in section "IANA Considerations" of [RFC 3315](#).

[5.](#) Acknowledgments

The authors thank Mat Ford, A.K. Vijayabhaskar and Bernie Volz for valuable discussions and comments.

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[6.](#) Security Considerations

An attacker could send a fake DHCP reply with a very low lifetime value. This could make a client request new data almost immediately. The value is however not kept when the next request is made.

[7.](#) References

[7.1.](#) Normative References

- [RFC 2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC 2462] S. Thomson, T. Narten, "IPv6 Stateless Address Autoconfiguration", [RFC 2462](#), December 1998.
- [RFC 3315] R. Droms, Ed., J. Bound, B. Volz, T. Lemon, C. Perkins, M. Carney, "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6)", [RFC 3315](#), July 2003.

[7.2.](#) Informative References

[RENUMREQS] T. Chown, S. Venaas, A.K. Vijayabhaskar, "Renumbering Requirements for Stateless DHCPv6", work-in-progress, [draft-chown-dhc-stateless-dhcpv6-renumbering-00](#), November 2003.

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