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DHCPv6 Relay Agent Subscriber-ID Option
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Abstract

This memo defines a new Relay Agent Subscriber-ID option for the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6). The option allows a DHCPv6 relay agent to associate a stable "Subscriber-ID" with DHCPv6 client messages in a way that is independent of the client and of the underlying physical network infrastructure.

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[1.](#) Introduction

DHCPv6 [\[1\]](#) provides IP addresses and configuration information for IPv6 clients. It includes a relay agent capability, in which processes within the network infrastructure receive multicast messages from clients and relay them to DHCPv6 servers. In some network environments, it will be useful for the relay agent to add information to the DHCPv6 message before relaying it.

The information that relay agents supply can also be used in the server's decision making about the addresses, delegated prefixes [\[3\]](#), and configuration parameters that the client is to receive.

In many service provider environments, it is believed to be desirable to associate some provider-specific information with clients' DHCPv6 messages that is independent of the physical network configuration and which the relay agent has learned through some means which is outside the scope of this memo.

[2.](#) Requirements 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 [\[2\]](#).

[3.](#) The Relay Agent Subscriber-ID Option

In complex service provider environments, there is a need to connect a customer's DHCPv6 configuration with the customer's administrative information. The Relay Agent Subscriber-ID option carries a value that can be independent of the physical network configuration through which the subscriber is connected. This value complements, and might well be used in addition to, the network-based information. The "subscriber-id" assigned by the provider is intended to be stable as customers connect through different paths, and as network changes

occur.

The subscriber-id information allows the service provider to assign/activate subscriber-specific actions, e.g. assignment of specific IP addresses, prefixes, DNS configuration, trigger accounting, etc. This option is de-coupled from the access network's physical structure, so subscriber moves from one access-point to another, for example, would not require reconfiguration at the service provider's DHCPv6 servers.

The subscriber-id is an NVT ASCII [4] string. The semantic contents of the subscriber-id field are of course provider-specific. This specification does not establish any semantic requirements on the

data in the string.

The format of the DHCPv6 Relay Agent Subscriber-ID option is shown below:

[illegible]

option-code	OPTION_SUBSCRIBER_ID (TBD)
option-len	length, in octets, of the subscriber-id field. The minimum length is 1 octet.
subscriber-id	A NVT ASCII string. It MUST NOT be null terminated.

4. DHCPv6 Relay Agent Behavior

DHCPv6 relay agents MAY be configured to include a Subscriber-ID option in relayed (RELAY-FORW) DHCPv6 messages. The subscriber-id

strings themselves are assigned and configured through mechanisms that are outside the scope of this memo.

[5.](#) DHCPv6 Server Behavior

This option provides additional information to the DHCPv6 server. The DHCPv6 server, if it is configured to support this option, MAY use this information in addition to other relay agent option data, other options included in the DHCPv6 client messages, and physical network topology information in order to assign IP addresses, delegate prefixes, and/or other configuration parameters to the client. There is no special additional processing for this option.

There is no requirement that a server return this option and its data in a RELAY-REPLY message.

[6.](#) Security Considerations

See [\[1\]](#) [section 21.1](#), on securing DHCPv6 messages sent between servers and relay agents, and [section 23](#), on general DHCPv6 security

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considerations.

[7.](#) IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to assign a DHCPv6 option code for the Relay Agent Subscriber-ID Option.

[8.](#) Acknowledgements

Thanks to Richard Johnson, Theyn Palaniappan, and Mark Stapp as this document is essentially an edited verison of their memo [\[5\]](#).

[9.](#) References

[9.1](#) Normative References

- [1] Droms, R., Bound, J., Volz, B., Lemon, T., Perkins, C. and M. Carney, "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for IPv6 (DHCPv6)", [RFC 3315](#), July 2003.
- [2] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement

Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.

[9.2](#) Informative References

- [3] Troan, O. and R. Droms, "IPv6 Prefix Options for Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) version 6", [RFC 3633](#), December 2003.
- [4] Postel, J. and J. Reynolds, "Telnet Protocol Specification", STD 8, [RFC 854](#), May 1983.
- [5] Johnson, R., Palaniappan, T. and M. Stapp, "Subscriber-ID Suboption for the DHCP Relay Agent Option ([draft-ietf-dhc-subscriber-id-*.txt](#))", September 2004.

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