

I2NSF
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Interface to Network Security Functions Demo Outline Design
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Abstract

This document describes the outline design of an Interface to network Security Functions (I2NSF) demo, aim to enhance understanding of the I2NSF architecture and justify its feasibility. The I2NSF demo enables the interaction between I2NSF client, I2NSF controller and NSF/vNSF by using NETCONF protocol and YANG model. The advantage of it is to ensure that such demo outline design will be able to share and reuse consensually designed functions, thereby increasing interoperability.

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Internet-Draft

I2NSF Demo Outline Design

April 2015

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Conventions used in this document	3
2.1.	Terminology	3
3.	Design of the I2NSF Demo	4
3.1.	Overall architecture description	4
3.1.1.	I2NSF Workflow	6
3.2.	I2NSF Client	8
3.2.1.	I2NSF Service API Format	9
3.2.2.	I2NSF Client Sub-module Design	9
3.3.	I2NSF Controller	11
3.3.1.	Service-oriented I2NSF Agent	11
3.3.2.	Service2Functional Translator	12
3.3.2.1.	Data in the database	12
3.3.2.2.	Service2Functional KEY Mapping	13
3.3.2.3.	Service2Functional Value Mapping	13
3.3.3.	Functional-oriented I2NSF Client	13
3.4.	NSF/vNSF	15
3.4.1.	Functional-oriented I2NSF Agent	15
3.4.2.	Functional2Vendor Translator	16
3.4.3.	Vendor Specific Command	18
4.	Transport Protocol	18
4.1.	Protocol between Client, Controller, and NSF/vNSF	18
5.	YANG model	18
6.	Security Considerations	18
7.	IANA Considerations	18
8.	References	19

8.1. Normative References	19
8.2. Informative References	19
9. Acknowledgments	20

1. Introduction

A standard interface to express, monitor, and manage security policies for physical and virtual distributed security functions that may be running on different premises is increasingly demanded by Enterprises, residential, and mobile customers. The Interface to Network Security Functions (I2NSF) whose ultimate goal is to establish how to communicate with vNSF and how to get performance data or report out of vNSF well satisfies the demands.

Derived from [[I-D.dunbar-i2nsf-problem-statement](#)], it should have two types of I2NSF interface to consider: first, interface between I2NSF user/client and network controller (Service-oriented API), second, north-bound interface (Functional-oriented API) provided by the network security functions (NSFs) [[I-D.xia-i2nsf-capability-interface-im](#)].

This draft is focused on the outline design of an I2NSF demo including the design of I2NSF client, I2NSF controller and NSF/vNSF. NETCONF protocol and YANG model are used for the I2NSF demo realization. The demo aims to enhance understanding of the I2NSF architecture and justify its feasibility. [Section 3](#) describes outline design of I2NSF demo. [Section 4](#) describes protocol between Client, Controller, and NSF/vNSF. [Section 5](#) gives an example definition of the Service-oriented API and Functional-oriented API by YANG model.

2. 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](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

2.1. Terminology

I2NSF - Interface to Network Security Functions

NETCONF - Network Configuration Protocol

YANG - a data modeling language for the NETCONF network configuration protocol

RPC - Remote Procedure Control

SSH - Secure Shell

NSF - Network Security Function

Xie, et al.

Expires October 29 2015

[Page 3]

Internet-Draft

I2NSF Demo Outline Design

April 2015

vNSF - virtual Network Security Function

DB - Database

FW - Firewall

Shorewall - It is an open source firewall tool for Linux that builds upon the Netfilter (iptables / ipchains) system built into the Linux kernel

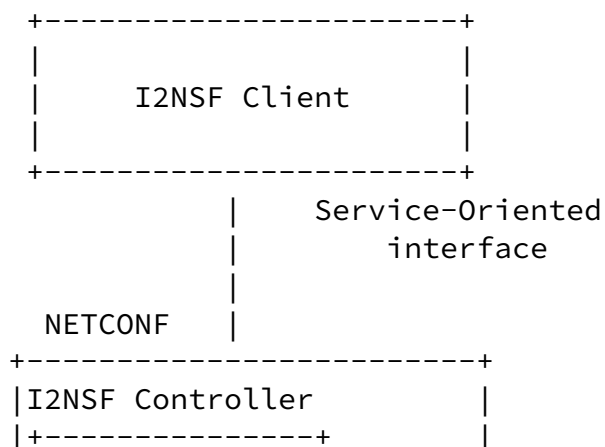
UFW - Uncomplicated Firewall

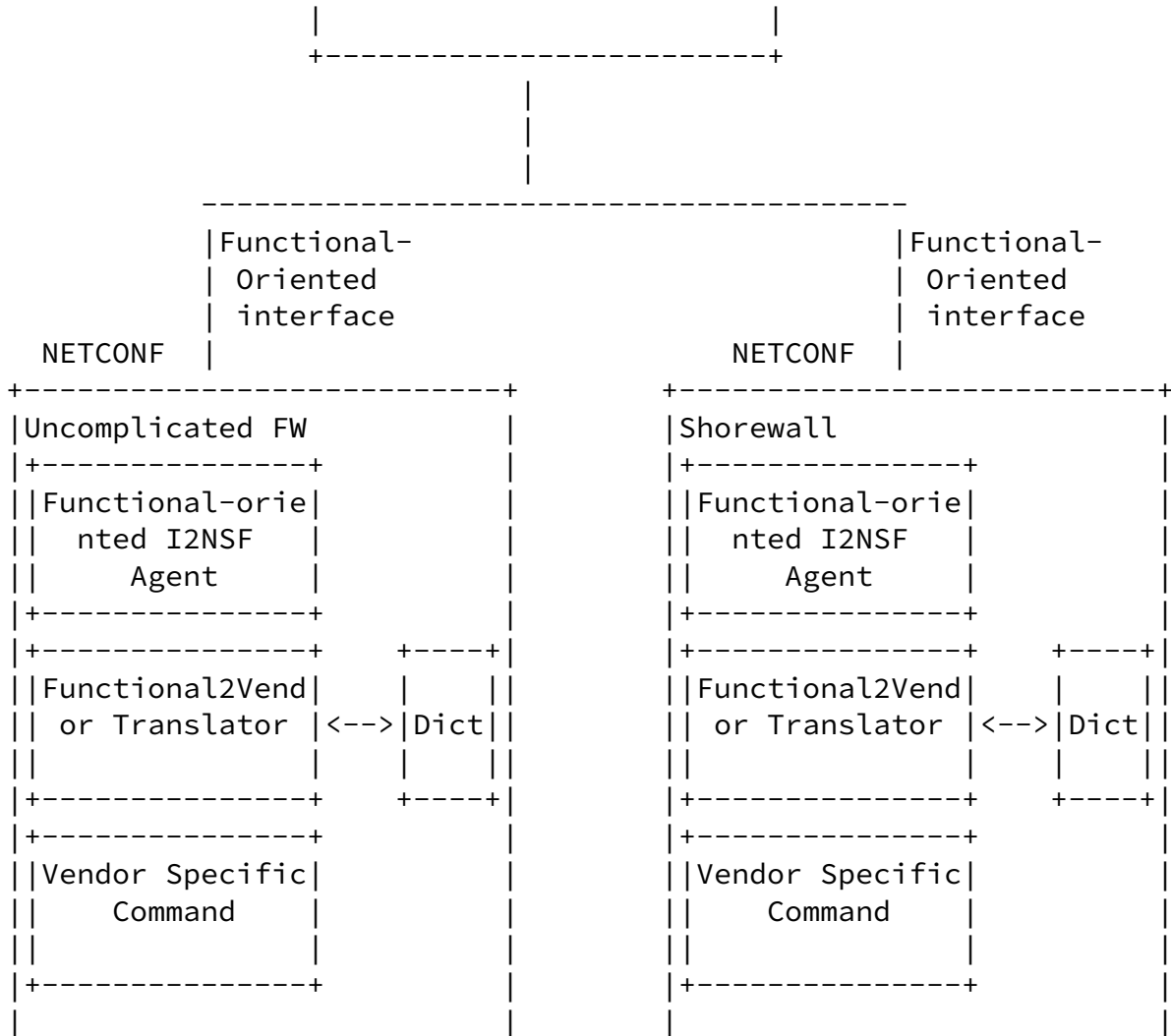
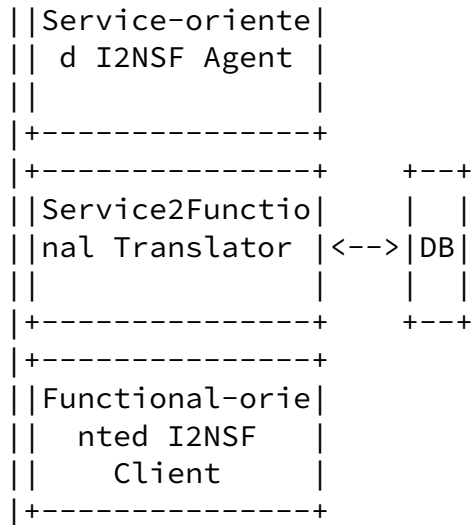
VM - Virtual Machine

3. Design of the I2NSF Demo

This section describes the design of the I2NSF demo. It first provides an architectural overview of the demo. Then, specific design of Client, Controller and NSF/vNSF is presented.

[3.1. Overall architecture description](#)





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Figure 1. Overall Architecture

The I2NSF demo architecture and its basic functions are as follows:

- 1) Input configuration policy in the command line module of I2NSF Client;
- 2) I2NSF Service API parameters are composed according to YANG model;
- 3) Represent the composed I2NSF Service API parameters by XML;
- 4) Reliable and ordered data transmission supported by NETCONF protocol;
- 5) Receive data in NETCONF module of I2NSF Controller;
- 6) Transform Service API into Functional API in adapter module of I2NSF Controller;

Xie, et al.

Expires October 29 2015

[Page 5]

Internet-Draft

I2NSF Demo Outline Design

April 2015

- 7) Construct YANG model with Functional API parameters, and transmit the data by NETCONF protocol;
- 8) Receive data in NETCONF module of NSF/vNSF;
- 9) Fetch I2NSF Functional API parameter values in YANG model deposited module of NSF/vNSF;
- 10) Match API KEY with different vendor FW KEY in KEY mapping module (aka Dict) of NSF/vNSF;
- 11) IP address mapping and MAC address mapping in Value mapping module of NSF/vNSF;
- 12) Different vendor FW parameters are assembled into command line form in command assembling module of NSF/vNSF;
- 13) Send Vendor specific command in sequence in command send module of NSF/vNSF;

3.1.1. I2NSF Workflow

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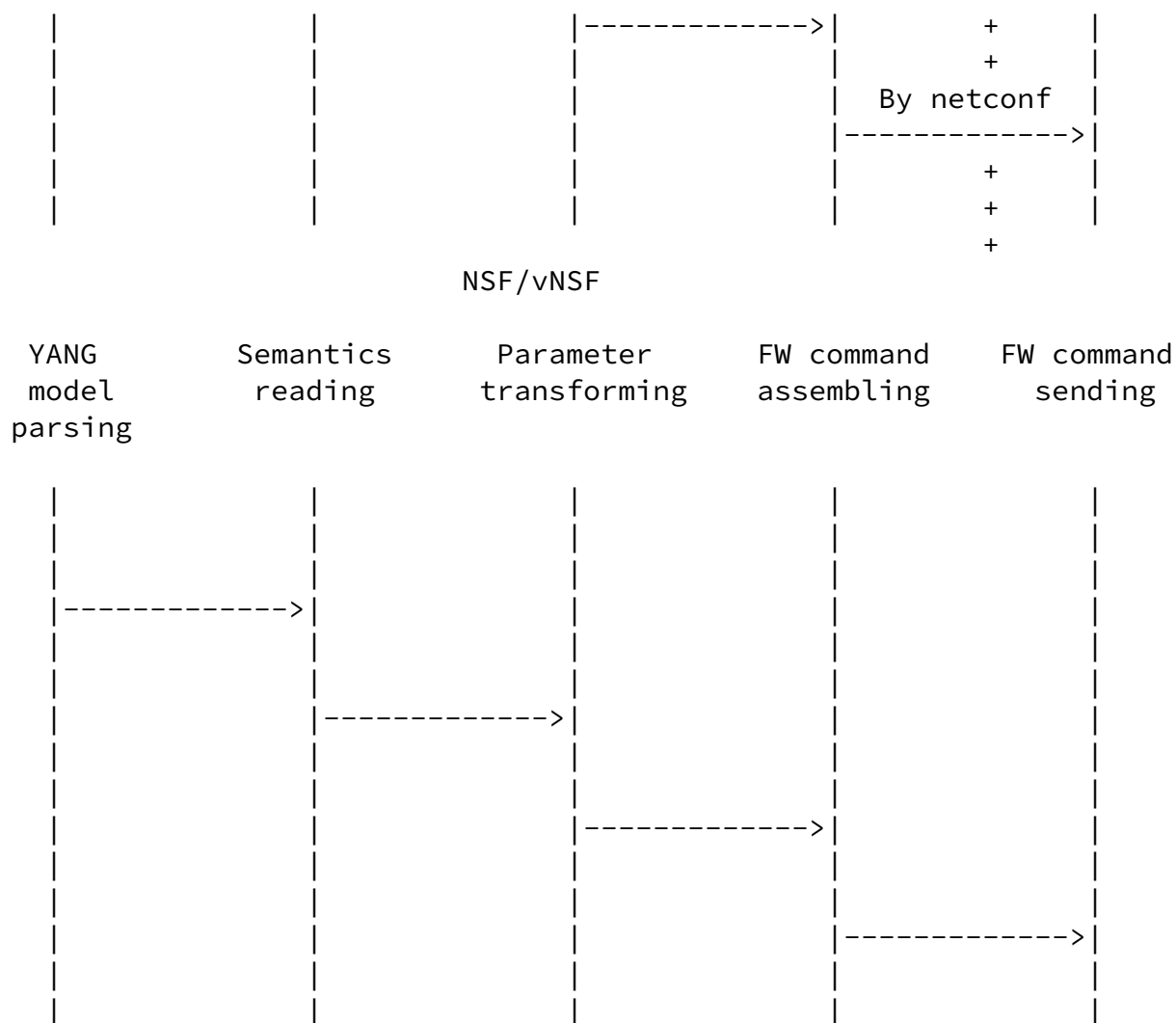
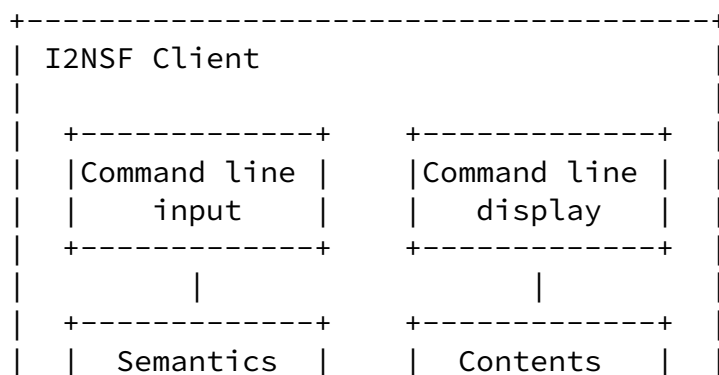


Figure 2. I2NSF Workflow

3.2. I2NSF Client



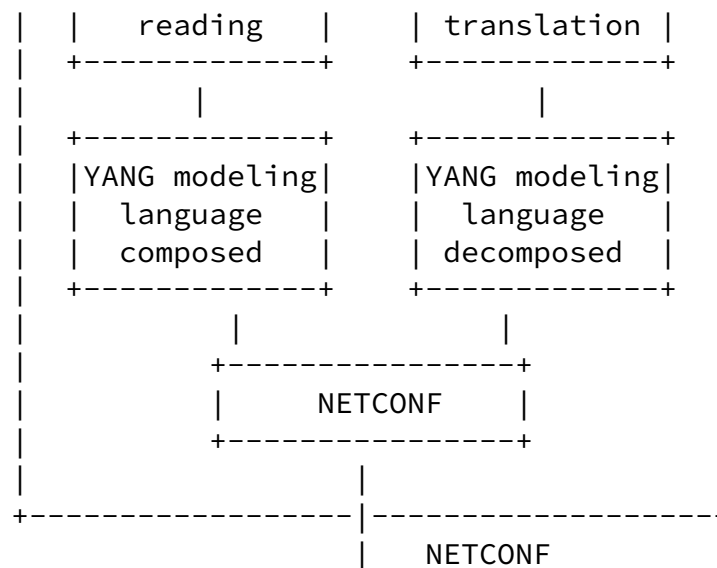


Figure 3. I2NSF Client Modules

I2NSF Client consists of seven modules:

- 1) Command line input module;
- 2) Semantics reading module;
- 3) YANG modeling language composed module;
- 4) YANG modeling language decomposed module;
- 5) Contents translation module;
- 6) Command line display module;
- 7) NETCONF module;

3.2.1. I2NSF Service API Format

A policy rule can be described as:

<tenant> <user_group> <role> <object> <action> <condition>.

<tenant> is used to uniquely identify tenant that has parameters such as tenant_name and tenant_ID. The default value is NULL

<user_group> has parameters such as Device(s), Place(s), User(s).

<role> is the role of user.

<object> are selected traffics that network behaviors enforced on.

<action> are network behaviors enforced on selected traffic.

<condition> means condition for action, with parameters such as Rate, Time, Timeout, Throughput, State.

Therein,

Example 1: John_0001 is allowed to access rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts.

<tenant> = NULL

<user_group> = John_0001

<role> = marketing

<object> = rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts

<action> = allow

<condition> = NULL

3.2.2. I2NSF Client Sub-module Design

1) Command line input module is responsible for receiving input command.

Input: John_0001 is allowed to access rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts

2) Semantics reading module is responsible for analyzing commands and fetching I2NSF Service API parameter values.

Output:

<tenant> = NULL

```
user_group.user.user_name= John_0001

role                        = marketing

object.url_group.url       = rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts

action                     = allow

condition                  = NULL
```

3) YANG modeling language composed module is responsible for encapsulating I2NSF Service API parameter types and values into YANG model.

Input:

```
<tenant>                  = NULL

user_group.user.user_name= John_0001

role                        = marketing

object.url_group.url       = rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts

action                     = allow

condition                  = NULL
```

Output:

```
<tenant></tenant>
<user_group>
<user>
  <user_name>John_0001</user_name>
</user>
</user_group>
<role>marketing</role>
<object>
<url_group>
```

```
<url>rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts <http://video-server/MrBean.ts></url>
</url_group>
```

```
</object>
<action>allow</action>
<condition></condition>
.....
```

4) YANG modeling language decomposed module is responsible for parsing YANG model and fetching I2NSF Service API parameter types and values.

5) Contents translation module is responsible for translating I2NSF Service API parameter types and values into readable contents to display.

6) Command line display module is responsible for displaying data information from I2NSF Controller.

7) NETCONF module is responsible for communicating between Client and Controller.

3.3. I2NSF Controller

I2NSF Controller consists of Service-oriented I2NSF Agent, Service2Functional Translator, Functional-oriented I2NSF Client.

3.3.1. Service-oriented I2NSF Agent

Service-oriented I2NSF Agent consists of NETCONF module, YANG model decomposed and composed modules.

NETCONF module is responsible for communicating with I2NSF Client.

YANG modeling language decomposed module parse YANG model into <key, value> pairs. It can map YANG model into Service2Functional KEY.

Input:

```
<tenant></tenant>
<user_group>
<user>
  <user_name>John_0001</user_name>
</user>
```

```
</user_group>
```

```

<role>marketing</role>
<object>
  <url_group>
    <url>rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts <http://video-server/MrBean.ts></url>
  </url_group>
</object>
<action>allow</action>
<condition></condition>
.....

```

Output:

```

      <tenant>                                = NULL

      user_group.user.user_name= John_0001

      role                                    = marketing

      object.url_group.url      = rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts

      action                      = allow

      condition                  = NULL

```

YANG modeling language composed module encapsulate <key, value> pairs into YANG model. It maps Service2Functional KEY into YANG model.

3.3.2. Service2Functional Translator

Service2Functional Translator does the mapping between YANG model and Functional API according to the database, which means the mapping between Client command and Functional API. It consists of Service2Functional KEY mapping and Service2Functional Value mapping.

3.3.2.1. Data in the database

SRC_DB: "John_0001"---"192.168.1.100"

ACT_DB: "allow"---"permit", "deny"---"deny"

PROTO_DB: "rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts"---"tcp", "rtsp://video-server/france24.ts"---"tcp", "rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts,rtsp://video-server/france24.ts"---"tcp"

PORT_DB: "rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts"---"554", "rtsp://video-server/france24.ts"---"8554", "rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts,rtsp://video-server/france24.ts"---"554","8554"

DEST_DB: "rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts"---"100.1.1.100", "rtsp://video-server/france24.ts"---"100.1.1.100", "rtsp://video-server/mrbean.ts,rtsp://video-server/france24.ts"---"100.1.1.100"

3.3.2.2. Service2Functional KEY Mapping

KEY lexicon deposits the correspondence between Service API and Functional API.

Example 1:

<Key in Service API>	<Key in Functional API>
user_group.user.user_name	objects.address_group.address.src.src_ip_addr
object.url_group.url	objects.address_group.address.dst.dst_ip_addr
	objects.service.protocol
	objects.service.port
action	actions

3.3.2.3. Service2Functional Value Mapping

ValueDB deposit actual value in the network corresponding to value in Service API, such as IP/MAC/URL address, protocol+ port number and so on.

For example:

objects.address_group.address.src.src_ip_addr =192.168.1.1

3.3.3. Functional-oriented I2NSF Client

Functional-oriented I2NSF Client consists of YANG modeling language composed module, NETCONF module, and YANG modeling language decomposed module.

YANG modeling language composed module encapsulates actual value in the network into YANG model, and then transports it to NSF/vNSF by NETCONF.

Input

```
objects.address_group.address.src.src_ip_addr=192.168.1.1
objects.address_group.address.dst.dst_ip_addr=100.1.1.100
objects.service.protocol=tcp
objects.service.port=554
actions=permit
```

Output

```
<objects>
<address_group>
<address>
<src>
  <src_ip_addr>192.168.1.1</src_ip_addr>
</src>
<dst>
  <dst_ip_addr>100.1.1.100</dst_ip_addr>
</dst>
</address>
</address_group>
<service>
  <protocol>tcp</protocol>
  <port>554</port>
</service>
</objects>
<actions>permit</actions>
.....
```

NETCONF module is responsible for communicating with NSF/vNSF.

3.4. NSF/vNSF

NSF/vNSF consists of Functional-oriented I2NSF Agent, Functional2Vendor Translator and Vendor Specific Command.

3.4.1. Functional-oriented I2NSF Agent

Functional-oriented I2NSF Agent is responsible for communicating with I2NSF Controller and the protocol used is NETCONF. It consists of NETCONF module, YANG modeling language decomposed and composed modules.

YANG modeling language decomposed module parses YANG model into <key, value> pairs.

Input:

```
<objects>
<address_group>
<address>
<src>
  <src_ip_addr>192.168.1.1</src_ip_addr>
</src>
<dst>
  <dst_ip_addr>100.1.1.100</dst_ip_addr>
</dst>
</address>
</address_group>
<service>
  <protocol>tcp</protocol>
  <port>554</port>
</service>
</objects>
<actions>permit</actions>
.....
```

Output:

```
<key= objects.address_group.address.src.src_ip_addr ,
value=192.168.1.100>
```


.....

YANG modeling language composed module encapsulates the <key value> pairs into YANG model.

3.4.2. Functional2Vendor Translator

As the core part of the NSF/vNSF, Functional2Vendor Translator comprises a) lexicon module, b) key mapping module, c) value mapping module, d) command assembling module and e) message parsing module.

Lexicon module deposits the correspondence between the keys of YANG model and the keys ruled by the specific FW syntax.

Example 1: Shorewall lexicon

<Key in Functional API>	<Key in the FW>
-------------------------	-----------------

objects.address_group.address.src.src_ip_addr	SOURCE
---	--------

objects.address_group.address.dst.dst_ip_addr	DEST
---	------

Example 2: UFW lexicon

<Key in Functional API>	<Key in the FW>
-------------------------	-----------------

objects.address_group.address.src.src_ip_addr	from
---	------

objects.address_group.address.dst.dst_ip_addr	to
---	----

Key mapping module is responsible for the translation between the keys of YANG model and the keys ruled by the FW according to the lexicon module.

Input:

<key= objects.address_group.address.src.src_ip_addr,
value=192.168.1.100>

.....

Output:

Internet-Draft

I2NSF Demo Outline Design

April 2015

```
<key= SOURCE, value=192.168.1.100>
```

```
.....
```

Value mapping module is responsible for the translation between the values of YANG model and the values ruled by the FW.

For example: (Shorewall)

Input:

```
<key= SOURCE, value=192.168.1.100>
```

```
.....
```

Output

```
<key= SOURCE, value=cli:192.168.1.100>
```

```
.....
```

Command assembling module assembles different vendors FW values into command line form.

Shorewall command assembling format:

```
#ACTION    SOURCE    DEST    PROTO    DEST PORT(S)
```

Input

```
<key= SOURCE, value=cli:192.168.1.100>
```

```
.....
```

Output (Shorewall)

```
ACCEPT    cli:192.168.1.100    ser:100.1.1.100    tcp    554
```

UFW command assembling format:

```
ufw allow|deny|reject|logging|show [proto protocol] [from ADDRESS
```

[port PORT]] [to ADDRESS [port PORT]]

Output (UFW):

Xie, et al.

Expires October 29 2015

[Page 17]

Internet-Draft

I2NSF Demo Outline Design

April 2015

```
ufw route allow in on eth1 out on eth2 from 192.168.1.100 to
100.1.1.100 port 554 proto tcp
```

Message parsing module parses the upward report commands of different vendors FW into <key, value> pairs.

3.4.3. Vendor Specific Command

Vendor Specific Command is responsible for communicating with FW configuration policy executive layer, including the sending down commands and upward report commands.

4. Transport Protocol

4.1. Protocol between Client, Controller, and NSF/vNSF

As shown in Figure 1, Service-oriented API connects I2NSF Client with I2NSF Controller Functional-oriented API connects I2NSF Controller with NSF/vNSF.

The protocol used in Service-oriented API and Functional-oriented API is NETCONF whose protocol stack has four layers: Content, Operations, RPC, and Transport [[RFC4741](#)]. The set of operations includes <get>, <get-config>, <edit-config>, etc. The configuration data and state data are separated and both of them are expressed by XML. NETCONF protocol is connection-oriented and the connection should provide reliable, ordered transmission. NETCONF provides the fundamental programming features for comfortable and robust automation of network services.

5. YANG model

YANG is a full, formal contract language with rich syntax and semantics to build applications on. YANG is a NETCONF data modeling language which is able to model configuration data, state data, operations, and notifications. YANG definitions can directly map to XML content.

6. Security Considerations

TBD

7. IANA Considerations

TBD

Xie, et al.

Expires October 29 2015

[Page 18]

Internet-Draft

I2NSF Demo Outline Design

April 2015

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Xie, et al. Expires October 29 2015 [Page 19]

Internet-Draft I2NSF Demo Outline Design April 2015

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