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A Group Keying Protocol  
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Abstract

This document specifies a general group keying protocol. It also provides use profiles for the application of this group keying protocol to multi-destination TRILL Extended RBridge Channel message security and TRILL over IP packet security.

Status of This Memo

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## 1. Introduction

This document specifies a general group keying protocol in Section 2. In addition, it provides, in Section 3, the use profile for the application of this group keying protocol to a case using DTLS (TRILL [RFC6325] [RFC7780] Extended RBridge Channel message security [RFC7178] [RFC7978]) and IPsec [TRILLoverIP}. It is anticipated that there will be other uses for this group keying protocol.

### 1.1 Terminology and Acronyms

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 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

This document uses terminology and acronyms defined in [RFC6325] and [RFC7178]. Some of these are repeated below for convenience along with additional new terms and acronyms.

AES - Advanced Encryption Standard.

Data Label - VLAN or FGL.

DTLS - Datagram Transport Level Security [RFC6347].

FGL - Fine Grained Label [RFC7172].

GKd - A distinguished station in a group that is in charge of which group keying (Section 2) is in use.

GKs - Stations in a group other than GKd (Section 2).

HKDF - Hash based Key Derivation Function [RFC5869].

IS-IS - Intermediate System to Intermediate System [RFC7176].

keying material - The set of a Key ID, a secret key, and a cypher suite.

PDU - Protocol Data Unit.

QoS - Quality of Service.

RBridge - An alternative term for a TRILL switch.

SHA - Secure Hash Algorithm [RFC6234].

TRILL - Transparent Interconnection of Lots of Links or Tunneled  
Routing in the Link Layer.

TRILL switch - A device that implements the TRILL protocol  
[RFC6325] [RFC7780], sometimes referred to as an RBridge.

## 2. Group Keying Protocol

This section defines a general Group Keying Protocol that provides shared secret group keys. Any particular use of this protocol will require profiling giving further details and specifics for that use. The protocol is not suitable for discovery messages but is intended for use between members of a group that have already established pair-wise security.

### 2.1 Assumptions

The following are assumed:

- All pairs of stations in the group can engage in pairwise communication with unicast messages and each can groupcast a message to the other group members.
- At any particular time, there is a distinguished station GKd in the group that is in charge of keying for the groupcast data messages to be sent to the group. The group wide shared secret keys established by GKd are referred to herein as "dynamic" keys.
- Pairwise keying has been negotiated between GKd and each other station GKs1, GKs2, ... GKsN in the group. These keys are referred to in this protocol as "pairwise" keys.
- One or more keys, other than the dynamic or pairwise keys, each of which is already in place at all group member stations. These are referred to as "stable" keys.

When keying material is stored by a station, it is accompanied by a "use flag" indicating whether or not that keying material is usable for groupcast transmissions.

### 2.2 Group Keying Procedure Overview

GKd sends unicast keying messages to the other stations in the group and they respond as specified below and in further detail in the particular use profiles for this Group Keying Protocol. All such keying messages MUST be encrypted and authenticated using the pairwise keys as further specified in the use profile.

Typically, GKd sends a keying message to each GKs with keying material. After successful acknowledgement of receipt from each GKs, GKd sends a keying message to each GKs instructing it to use the dynamic key GKd has set. It would be common for GKd to set a new dynamic key at each GKs while an older dynamic key is in use so that GKd can more promptly roll over to the new key when appropriate.

To avoid an indefinite build up of keying material at a GKs, keys have a lifetime specified by GKd and GKd can send a message deleting a key. (GKd can also send a message indicating that a key is no longer to be used but leaving it set.) Should the space available at a GKs for keying material be exhausted, on receipt of a Set Key keying message for a new key ID GKs discards a dynamic key it has and originates a Delete Key message to the source of that dynamic key.

### 2.3 Transmission and Receipt of Group Data Messages

If a group has only two members, then pairwise security is used between them.

When a group has more than two members and a station in the group transmits a data message to the group, if the transmitter has one or more keys set by GKd that it has been instructed to use, it uses one of those keys and its associated cypher suite to groupcast the data message. If it has no such key, then it uses serial unicast to send the data message to each other member of the group, negotiating pairwise keys with them if it does not already have such pairwise keys. Thus it is a responsibility of GKd not to authorize the use of a groupcast key until it knows that all the GKs have that key.

When a station in the group receives data that has been groupcast to the group, if the receiver has the key referenced by the data message the receiver decrypts and verifies it. If verification fails or if the receiver does not have the required key, the receiver discards the data message. Thus whether GKs has been directed to "use" a key by GKd is relevant only to transmission, not reception.

### 2.4 Changes in Group Membership or GKd

When a new station joins the group, GKd should send that station the currently in-use group key and instruct it to use that key and send it other keys known to the group members and intended for future use.

If GKd detects that one or more stations that were members of the group are no longer members of the group, it SHOULD generate and distribute a new group key to the remaining group members, instruct them to use this new key, and delete from them any old keys known to the departed group member station(s) or at least instructing them to disuse such old keys that are marked for use; however, in the case of groups with large and/or highly dynamic membership, where a station might frequently leave and then rejoin, it may, as a practical matter, be necessary to rekey less frequently.

A new group member can become GKd due to the previous GKd leaving the group or a configuration change or the like. A GKs MUST NOT use keying material set by a station that it determines is not GKd. To avoid a gap in service, a station that is not GKd MAY set keying material at other stations in the group; however, such a non-GKd station cannot set the use flag for any such keying material. It is RECOMENDED that the second highest priority station to be GKd set such keying material at all other stations in the group. Should a station run out of room for keying material, it SHOULD discard keying material set by a station with lower priority to be GKd before discarding keying material set by a higher priority station and among keys set by GKd is SHOULD discard the last recently used first.

## 2.5 Group Keying Messages

Keying messages start with a Version number. This document specifies Version zero.

Keying messages are structured as

- o a Version number,
- o a Response flag,
- o a Key ID length,
- o the Key ID of a stable key,
- o a group keying use profile identifier,
- o possible padding, and finally
- o an AES key wrapped [RFC5649] [RFC3394] vector of additional fields wrapped using the stable key identified and using AES-256, as shown in Figure 2.1 below.

Keying messages are always sent unicast and encrypted and authenticated with the appropriate pairwise key, all as further specified for the particular use profile. It will typically be possible for GKd to calculate the keying message once, including the AES wrapping under a stable key, then send that message to various GKs using the different pairwise keys for each GKs.

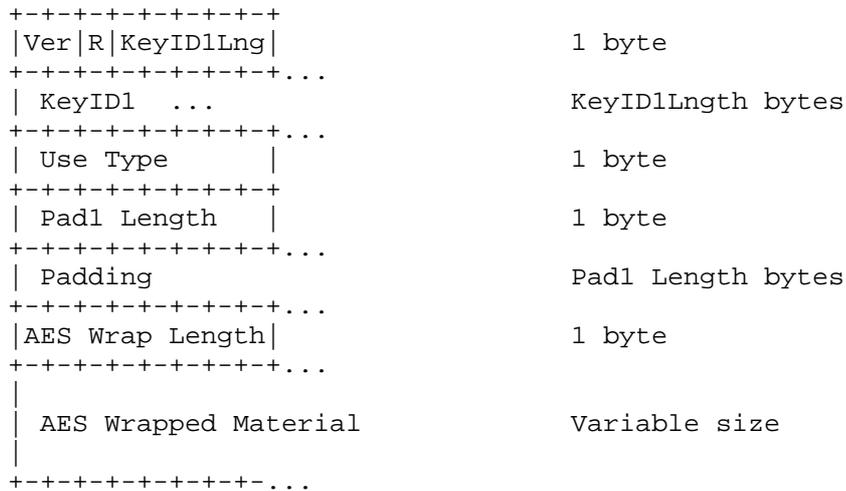


Figure 2.1. Keying Message Structure

The fields in Figure 2.1 are as follows:

Ver - Group Keying protocol version. This document specifies version zero.

R - Response flag. If set to one, indicates a response message. If set to zero, indicated a request or no-op message.

KeyID1Lngth, KeyID1 - KeyID1 identifies the stable AES-256 key wrapping key (also known as the Key Encrypting Key (KEK)) as further specified in the use profile. KeyID1Lngth is a 5-bit field that gives the length of KeyID1 in bytes as an unsigned integer.

Use Type - Specifies the particular group security use profile such as RBridge Extension (Section 3) or IP link [TRILLOverIP].

Pad1 Length, Pad1 - Padding to obscure the non-padded message size. Pad1 Length may be from 0 to 255 and gives the length of the padding as an unsigned integer. Each byte of padding MUST be equal to Pad1 Length. For example, 3 bytes of padding with length is 0x03030303.

AES Wrap Length - An unsigned byte that gives the length of the AES Wrapped Material in units of 8 bytes. The length of AES key wrapped material is, as specified in [RFC5649], always a multiple of 8 bytes (64 bits) and not less than 16 bytes. Thus an AES Wrap Length of 0 or 1 is invalid.

AES Wrapped Material - The output of the AES Key Wrapping operation on the message vector of fields using the specified stable key.

The vector of fields contained within the AES-256 key wrapping is specified for the various keying messages in subsections below. The contents of this wrapped vector are protected by the AES wrapping as well as being authenticated and super-encrypted by the pairwise keyed security used for sending the overall keying message. The stable key used for AES wrapping MUST be different from the outer message pairwise key.

Each group keying message contains, in the AES wrapped vector of fields, a message type and a message ID set by the sender of a request. These fields are returned in the corresponding response to assist in the matching of response to requests, except that there is no response to the No-Op message.

If no response is received to a request (other than a No-Op message) for an amount of time configurable in milliseconds from 1 to  $(2^{15} - 1)$ , the request is re-transmitted with the same message ID. These retries can occur up to a configurable number of times from 1 to 8. Unless otherwise provided in the particular use profile, the default response delay threshold is 200 milliseconds and the default maximum number of retries is 3.

Keying messages are sent with a priority/QoS configurable on a per device per use type basis. The default priority/QoS is specified in the use profile.

Since the minimum length of the AES Wrapped Material is 16 bytes [RFC5649], the minimum valid size of a keying message is 20 bytes, even if KeyID1 Length and Pad1 Length are zero. All multi-byte fields are in network order, that is, with the most significant byte first.

## 2.6 Set Key Message

The structure of the wrapped vector of fields for the Set Key keying message is as show in Figure 2.2. A recipient automatically determines the overall length provided for this vector of fields inside the AES wrapping as a byproduct of the process of AES unwrapping [RFC5649].

```

+-----+
| Msg Type = 1 |                               1 bytes
+-----+
| Msg ID       |                               3 bytes   |
+-----+
| Pad2 Length  |                               1 bytes
+-----+...
| Padding      |                               Pad2 Length bytes
+-----+...
| Other        |                               Variable size
+-----+
| Lifetime     |                               2 bytes
+-----+
| KeyID2 Length |                               1 byte
+-----+
| KeyID2 ...   |                               KeyID2 Length bytes
+-----+
| CypherSuiteLng|                               1 byte
+-----+
| CypherSuite ... |                               CypherSuiteLng bytes
+-----+...
| Key ...      |                               Variable size
+-----+

```

Figure 2.2. Set Key Message Inner Structure

The fields are as follows:

Msg Type = 1 for Set Key message

Msg ID - A 3 byte quantity to be included in the corresponding response message to assist in matching requests and responses. Msg ID zero has a special meaning in responses and MUST NOT be used in a Set Key message or any other group keying request message.

Pad2 Length, Pad2 - Padding to obscure the size of the unapdded AES wrapped data. Pad2 Length may be from 0 to 255 and gives the length of the padding as an unsigned integer. Each byte of padding MUST be equal to Pad1 Length. For example, 2 bytes of padding with length byte is 0x020202.

Other - Additional information if specified in the use profile. If Other information in this message is not mentioned in the use profile, there is none and this portion of the wrapped information is null. If a use profile specifies Other information it must be possible to determine its length so that following fields can be properly parsed and so that the size of the Key field can be deduced; for example, it could begin with a length byte.

Lifetime - A 2-byte unsigned integer. After that number of seconds plus one second, the key and associated information being set MUST be discarded. Unless otherwise specified for a particular use profile of this group keying protocol, the default Lifetime is 15,000 seconds or a little over four hours.

KeyID2 Length, KeyID2 - KeyID2 identifies the group key and associated information being set as further specified in the use profile. KeyID2 Length is an unsigned byte that gives the length of KeyID2 in bytes.

CypherSuiteLng, CypherSuite - CypherSuite identifies the cypher suite associated with the key being set as further specified in the use profile. CypherSuite Length is an unsigned byte that gives the length of CypherSuite in bytes.

Key - This is the actually group shared secret keying material being set. Its length is deduced from the overall length of the vector of fields (found by the AES unwrap operation) and the length of the preceding fields.

If GKs already has a dynamic key set under KeyID2, the key's value and associated cypher suite are compared with those in the Set Key messages. If they are the same, the only receiver action is to update the Lifetime information associated with KeyID2 and send a Response message. If they are different, the lifetime, cypher suite, and key (and possibly Other material) are replaced, the use flag is cleared, and a Response message sent.

## 2.7 Use, Delete, Disuse, or Deleted Key Messages

The structure of the wrapped material for the Use Key, Delete Key, and Disuse Key keying messages are the same as each other except for the message type. This structure is shown in Figure 2.3

```

+-----+
| Msg Type = t |                               1 byte
+-----+
| Msg ID       |                               3 bytes  |
+-----+
| Pad2 Length  |                               1 bytes
+-----+
| Padding      |                               Pad2 Length bytes
+-----+
| Other        |                               Variable size
+-----+
| KeyID2 Length |                             1 byte
+-----+
| KeyID2   ... |                             KeyID2 bytes
+-----+

```

Figure 2.3. Use, Delete, Disuse, or Deleted Key Message

The Msg Type field specifies the particular message as follows:

Msg Type	Message
2	Use Key
3	Delete Key
4	Disuse Key
5	Deleted Key

The remaining fields are as specified in Section 2.4. KeyID2 indicates the key to be used, deleted, for which use should cease, or which has been deleted, depending on the message type.

It is RECOMMENDED that these messages be padded so as to be the same length as a typical Set Key message.

The Delete Key is sent by a station believing itself to be GKd instructing some GKs to delete a key. When a GKs spontaneously deletes a key, it sends a Deleted Key message to the station from which it received the key. The message types for Delete Key and Deleted Key are different to minimize confusion in corner cases such as the GKd changing while messages are in flight. The Msg ID used in a Deleted Key message is created by the sending GKs from a space of Msg IDs associated with that GKs which is independent of the Msg IDs used in requests originated by GKd.

## 2.8 Response Message

The structure of the wrapped material for the Response group keying message is as show below in Figure 2.4. A response message is

indicated by the R bit in the first byte of the message outside the key wrapping.

A response MUST NOT be sent due to the receipt of a response. The R bit is outside of the key wrapping so that this rule can be enforced even in cases of difficulty in unwrapping.

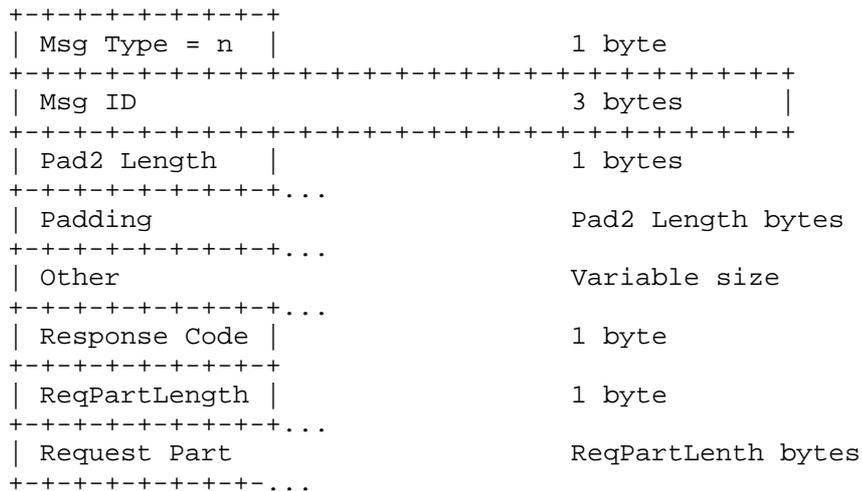


Figure 2.4. Response Message Inner Structure

Except as specified below, the fields are as specified for the Key Set message.

Msg Type, Msg ID - The content of these field is copied from the message in reply to which this Response message is sent unless there is an error that stops the replying station from determining them; in that case the special value zero is used for the Msg Type and Msg ID. Errors where the Msg Type and ID could not be determined are indicated by a Response Code with its high order bit set to one, that is, the 0b1xxxxxxx bit set.

Response Code - An unsigned byte giving the response as enumerated in Table 2.2 in Section 2.8.1. Any Response Code other than a success indicates that the receiver took no action on the request other than sending an error Response message.

ReqPartLength, Request Part: It is usually usefully to include some or all of the request message in error responses.

- If the Response Code high order two bits are zero, the request succeeded and ReqPartLength MUST be set to zero so Request Part will be null.

- If the Response Code high order two bits are zero one (0b01xxxxxx), then there was an error in the part of the request inside the AES key wrapping but the unwrap process was successful. ReqPartLength is the length of the request message material included in the Request Part field. The included request material is from the unwrapped vector of fields started with the Msg Type byte.
- If the Response Code high order bit is one (the 0b1xxxxxxx is set), then there was an error parsing the material outside the AES key wrap or an error in the AES unwrapping process. ReqPartLength is the length of the request message part included in the Request Part field. The included part of the request starts with the first byte of the message (the byte containing the version, response flag, and KeyID1 Length).

### 2.8.1 Response Codes

The high order two bits of the Response Code have meaning as shown in Table 2.1.

Top 2 Bits	Category
0b00	Success
0b01	AES wrap contents
0b10/11	Outside of AES wrap contents

Response Decimal	Response Hex	Meaning
0	0x00	Success
1	0x01	Success and the key at an existing key ID was changed
2-47	0x02-0x2F	Unassigned
48-63	0x30-0x3F	Reserved for special success codes defined in use profiles
64	0x40	Malformed inner fields (see Note 2 below)
65	0x41	Unknown or zero Msg Type in a request
66	0x42	Zero Msg ID in a request
68	0x43	Invalid length KeyID2
69	0x44	Unknown KeyID2
70	0x45	Invalid length CypherSuite
71	0x46	Unknown CypherSuite
72	0x47	Bad Key (see Note 3 below)
73-111	0x49-0x6F	Unassigned
112-127	0x70-0x7F	Reserved for error codes defined in use profiles and related to the AES wrapped

		contents
128	0x80	Malformed message (see Note 1 below)
129	0x81	Invalid length KeyID1
130	0x82	Unknown KeyID1
131	0x83	Unknown Use Type
131	0x84	AES unwrap fails test 1, see Section 3 [RFC5649]
132	0x85	AES unwrap fails test 2, see Section 3 [RFC5649]
133	0x86	AES unwrap fails test 3, see Section 3 [RFC5649]
134-175	0x86-0x7F	Unassigned
176-191	0xB0-0xBF	Reserved for error codes defined in use profiles and related to parts of message outside the AES wrap contents
192	0xC0	No keys set
193	0xC1	Referenced key unknown
194	0xC2	Referenced key known but use flag not set
195-255	0xC3-0xFF	Reserved

## Response Code Notes:

- Note 1 Message is too short or too long, AES wrapped material is too short, Padding bytes are not the required value, or similar fundamental message format problems.
- Note 2 The AES wrapped inner vector of fields is too short or too long, Padding bytes are not the required value, or similar fundamental vector of fields format problems.
- Note 3 Key is not a valid length for CypherSuite or other internal checks on key (for example, parity bits in a 64 bit DES key (not that you should be using DES)) fail.

## 2.8 No-Op Message

The No-Op message is a dummy message intended for use in disguising metadata deducible from keying message transmissions. It requires no response although a recipient can always decided to send a No-Op message to a station from which it has received such a message. The vector of fields inside the AES key wrap is as follows:

```

+-----+
| Msg Type = 6 |           1 byte
+-----+
| Pad2 Length  |           1 bytes
+-----+...
| Padding      |           Pad2 Length bytes
+-----+...

```

Figure 2.5. No-Op Message Inner Structure

The Msg Type is set to 6 to indicate a No-Op message.

Pad2 Length and Padding are as specified in Section 2.6. It is RECOMMENDED that Pad2 Length in a No-Op message be such as to make its length the same as the length of a typical Set Key message.

## 2.9 General Security Considerations

This section gives some general security considerations of this group keying protocol as distinguished from security considerations of a particular use profile.

The method by which the stations in the group discover each other is specified in the group keying use profile. GKd controls group access and generally learns whatever it needs to know about GKs during the pairwise authentication and pairwise keying process.

The group keying provided by this protocol is shared secret keying. This means that data messages can only be authenticated as coming from some group member but not as coming from a specific group member. If this level of authentication is insufficient, GKd can simply not set keys or not set them as usable. This will force all stations in the group that are configured to use security for multi-destination transmissions to the group to serial unicast data to the other group members using pairwise keying.

The content value of padding fields in the Group Keying protocol is fixed so that it cannot be used as a covert channel. The length of padding could still be so used.

### 3. DTLS: Extended RBridge Channel Group Keyed Security

This section specifies a profile of the group keying protocol defined in Section 2. This profile provides shared secret keying to secure multi-destination Extended RBridge Channel messages [RFC7978]. The keys put in place by the group keying protocol are available for use as DTLS pre-shared keys with the DTLS and Composite Security of multi-destination Extended RBridge Channel messages as specified in Section 3.2.

For this group keying use profile, a group is identified by TRILL Data Label (VLAN or FGL [RFC7172]) and consists of the data reachable [RFC7780] RBridges with interest in that Data Label. GKd is the RBridge in the group that, of those group members supporting the Group Keying Protocol, is the highest priority to be a TRILL distribution tree root. If not all members of the group support the Group Keying Protocol, then there are two cases for multi-destination Channel Tunnel RBridge Channel messages:

- (1) If the sender and at least two other group members support the Group Keying Protocol, it SHOULD, for efficiency, send a secured multi-destination RBridge Channel message to cover the group and serially unicast to the group members not supporting the Group Keying Protocol.
- (2) In other cases the sender serially transmits the data to the group members using pairwise security.

#### 3.1 Transmission of Group Keying Messages

Keying messages themselves are sent as unicast Extended RBridge Channel messages carrying a Group Keying protocol (see Section 5.2) RBridge Channel message. They MUST use DTLS Pairwise or Composite (STypes 2 or 3) security.

The Group Keying profile for this Group Keying Use Type is as follows:

Priority of Group Keying messages for this SHOULD be 6 unless the network manager chooses to use a lower priority after determining that such lower priority group keying messages will yield acceptable performance. Priority 7 SHOULD NOT be used as it may cause interference with the establishment and maintenance of adjacency.

Use Type = 1

KeyID1 Length = 2, KeyID1 is an [RFC5310] key ID.

CypherSuiteLng = 2, CypherSuite is the cypher suite used in

groupcast extended RBridge Channel data messages for the corresponding KeyID2. This a DTLS [RFC6347] cypher suite.

KeyID2 Length = 1, KeyID2 is the index under which a group key is set. Group keys are, in effect, indexed by this KeyID2 and the nickname of the GKd as used in the Ingress Nickname field of the TRILL Header of Group Keying messages.

### 3.2 Transmission of Protected Multi-destination Data

Protected Extended RBridge Channel [RFC7978] messages are multicast (M bit set to one in the TRILL Header) and set the SType field to a new value for "Group Secured" (See Section 5.3). The data is formatted as one byte of Key ID followed by data formatted as TLS 1.2 [RFC5246] application\_data using the cyphersuite and keying material stored under the Key ID.

#### 4. TRILL Over IP Group Keyed Security

This section specifies a profile of the group keying protocol defined in Section 2. This profile provides shared secret keying to secure TRILL over IP messages [TRILLoverIP]. The keys put in place by the group keying protocol are available for use as IPSEC keys.

For this group keying use profile, a group is identified by an IP multicast address and consists of the adjacent [RFC7177] RBridges reachable with that multicast address. GKd is the RBridge in the group that, of those group members supporting the Group Keying Protocol, has the highest priority to be a TRILL distribution tree root. If not all members of the group support the Group Keying Protocol, then there are two cases for multi-destination TRILL over IP messages:

- (1) If the sender and at least two other group members support the Group Keying Protocol, it SHOULD, for efficiency, send a secured IPSEC message to cover the group and serially unicast to the group members not supporting the Group Keying Protocol.
- (2) In other cases the sender serially transmits the data to the group members using pairwise security.

##### 4.1 Transmission of Group Keying Messages

tbd

Use Type = 2

tbd

##### 4.2 Transmission of Protected Multi-destination Data

tbd

## 5. IANA Considerations

This section gives IANA Considerations.

## 5.1 Group Keying Protocol

IANA is requested to perform the following actions:

1. Establish a protocol parameters web page for "Group Keying Protocol Parameters" with the initial registries on that page as specified below in this section.
2. Establish a "Message Type" registry on the Group Keying Protocol Parameters page as follows:

Registration Procedure: IETF Review

Reference: [this document]

Type	Description	Reference
-----	-----	-----
0	Reserved	[This document]
1	Set Key	[This document]
2	Use Key	[This document]
3	Delete Key	[This document]
4	Disuse Key	[This document]
5	Deleted Key	[This document]
6	No-Op	[This document]
7-250	Unassigned	
251-254	Reserved for Private Use	[This document]
255	Reserved	[This document]

3. Establish a "Group Keying Use Profile" registry on the Group Keying Protocol Parameters page as follows:

Registration Procedure: IETF Review

Reference: [This document]

Profile	Description	Reference
-----	-----	-----
0	Reserved	[This document]
1	Extended RBridge Channel	[This document]
2	TRILL over IP	[This document]
3-250	Unassigned	
251-254	Reserved for Private Use	[This document]
255	Reserved	[This document]

4. Establish a "Response Code" registry on the Group Keying Protocol Parameters page as show below taking entries from the Response Code table in Section 2.8.1 above. In the table of values, the Reference column should be "[This document]" except where the Meaning is "Unassigned" or "Reserved".

Registration Procedure: IETF Review

Reference: [This document]

Note: The top two bits of the Response Code indicate a category as specified in Section 2.8.1 of [this document].

Response Decimal	Response Hex	Meaning	Reference
0	0x00	Success	[this document]
...	...	...	
255	0xFF	Reserved	

## 5.2 Group Keying RBridge Channel Protocol Numbers

IANA is requested to assign TBD1 as the TRILL RBridge Channel protocol number, from the range assigned by Standards Action, for use when the "Group Keying" protocol is transmitted over Extended RBridge Channel messages.

The added RBridge Channel protocols registry entry on the TRILL Parameters web page is as follows:

Protocol	Description	Reference
TBD1	Group Keying	Section 2 of [this document]

## 5.3 Group Secured Extended RBridge Channel SType

IANA is requested to assign TBD2 as the Group Secured SType in the "Extended RBridge Channel Security Types Subregistry" on the TRILL Parameters web page as follows:

SType	Description	Reference
TBD2	Group Secured	Section 3.2 of [this document]

## 6. Security Considerations

TBD

See [RFC7978] for Extended RBridge Channel security.

See [RFC7457] in connection with TLS and DTLS security.

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TBD

The document was prepared in raw nroff. All macros used were defined within the source file.

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Simple Group Keying Protocol (SGKP)  
<draft-ietf-trill-group-keying-04.txt>

## Abstract

This document specifies a simple general group keying protocol that provides for the distribution of shared secret keys to group members and the management of such keys. It assumes that secure pairwise keys can be created between any two group members.

## Status of This Memo

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## 1. Introduction

This document specifies a simple general group keying protocol that provides for the distribution of shared secret keys to group members and the management of such keys. It assumes that secure pairwise keys can be created between any two group members.

A companion document specifies two profiles for the use of this group keying protocol in a case using DTLS and a case using IPsec payload formats. It is anticipated that there will be other uses for this group keying protocol.

### 1.1 Terminology and Acronyms

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 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

This document uses the following terminology and acronyms:

AES - Advanced Encryption Standard.

DTLS - Datagram Transport Level Security [RFC6347].

GKd - A distinguished station in a group that is in charge of which group keying (Section 2) is in use.

GKs - Stations in a group other than GKd (Section 2).

IS-IS - Intermediate System to Intermediate System [RFC7176].

keying material - The set of a Key ID, a secret key, and a cypher suite.

QoS - Quality of Service.

RBridge - An alternative term for a TRILL switch.

TRILL - Transparent Interconnection of Lots of Links or Tunneler Routing in the Link Layer.

TRILL switch - A device that implements the TRILL protocol [RFC6325] [RFC7780], sometimes referred to as an RBridge.

## 2. Simple Group Keying Protocol

This section gives an overview of the assumptions and capabilities of the Simple Group Keying Protocol (SGKP) that provides shared secret group keys. Further details of the messages used for this protocol are give in Section 3.

Any particular use of this protocol will require profiling giving further details and specifics for that use. For example, the envelope used for addressing and transmitting the messages of this protocol must be specified for any particular use. This protocol is not suitable for discovery messages but is intended for use between members of a group that have already established or can establish pair-wise security.

### 2.1 Assumptions

The following are assumed:

- All pairs of stations in the group can engage in pairwise communication with unicast messages and each can groupcast a message to the other group members.
- At any particular time, there is a distinguished station GKd in the group that is in charge of keying for the groupcast data messages to be sent to the group. The group wide shared secret keys established by GKd are referred to herein as "dynamic" keys.
- Pairwise keying has been negotiated between GKd and each other station GKs1, GKs2, ... GKsN in the group. These keys are referred to in this protocol as "pairwise" keys.
- There are one or more keys, other than the dynamic or pairwise keys, which are already in place at all group member stations and may be present at other stations. These are referred to as "stable" keys.

When keying material is stored by a station, it is accompanied by a "use flag" indicating whether or not that keying material is usable for groupcast transmissions.

### 2.2 Group Keying Procedure Overview

GKd sends unicast keying messages to the other stations in the group and they respond as specified below and in further detail in the particular use profiles of SGKP. All such keying messages MUST be encrypted and authenticated using the pairwise keys as further specified in the use profile.

Typically, GKd sends a keying message to each GKs with keying material. After successful acknowledgement of receipt from each GKs, GKd sends a keying message to each GKs instructing it to use the dynamic key GKd has set. It would be common for GKd to set a new dynamic key at each GKs while an older dynamic key is in use so that GKd can more promptly roll over to the new dynamic key when appropriate.

To avoid an indefinite build up of keying material at a GKs, keys have a lifetime specified by GKd and GKd can send a message deleting a key. (GKd can also send a message indicating that a key is no longer to be used but leaving it set.) Should the space available at a GKs for keying material be exhausted, on receipt of a Set Key keying message from GKd for a new key ID, GKs discards a dynamic key it has and originates a Delete Key message to the source of that dynamic key.

### 2.3 Transmission and Receipt of Group Data Messages

If a group has only one member, transmission of data between group members is a moot question and any messages that would be so transmitted if the group had more members are discarded.

If a group has only two members, then pairwise security is used between them.

When a group has more than two members and a station in the group transmits a data message to the group, if the transmitter has one or more keys set by GKd that it has been instructed to use, it uses one of those keys and its associated cypher suite to groupcast the data message. If it has no such key, then it uses serial unicast to send the data message to each other member of the group, negotiating pairwise keys with them if it does not already have such pairwise keys. Thus it is a responsibility of GKd not to authorize the use of a groupcast key until it knows that all the GKs have that key.

When a station in the group receives data that has been groupcast to the group, if the receiver has the key referenced by the data message the receiver decrypts and verifies it. If verification fails or if the receiver does not have the required key, the receiver discards the data message. Thus whether GKs has been directed to "use" a key by GKd is relevant only to transmission, not reception.

#### 2.4 Changes in Group Membership or GKd

When a new station joins the group, GKd SHOULD send that station the currently in-use group key and instruct it to use that key and MAY send it other keys known to the group members and intended for future use.

If GKd detects that one or more stations that were members of the group are no longer members of the group, it SHOULD generate and distribute a new group key to the remaining group members, instruct them to use this new key, and delete from them any old keys known to the departed group member station(s) or at least instructing them to dis-use such old keys that are marked for use; however, in the case of groups with large and/or highly dynamic membership, where a station might frequently leave and then rejoin, it may, as a practical matter, be necessary to rekey less frequently.

A new group member can become GKd due to the previous GKd leaving the group or a configuration change or the like. A GKs MUST NOT use keying material for transmission that was set by a station that it determines is not GKd. To avoid a gap in service, a station that is not GKd MAY set keying material at other stations in the group; however, such a non-GKd station cannot set the use flag for any such keying material. It is RECOMENDED that the second highest priority station to be GKd set such keying material at all other stations in the group. Should a station run out of room for keying material, it SHOULD discard keying material set by a station with lower priority to be GKd before discarding keying material set by a higher priority station and among keys set by GKd is SHOULD discard the lest recently used first.

### 3. Group Keying Messages

Keying messages start with a Version number. This document specifies Version zero.

Keying messages are structured, as shown in Figure 3.1 below, as

- o a Version number,
- o a Response flag,
- o a Key ID length,
- o the Key ID of a stable key,
- o a group keying use profile identifier,
- o possible padding,
- o a key wrap algorithm specifier, and finally
- o a key wrapped vector of additional fields wrapped using a key derived from the stable key identified.

Keying messages are always sent unicast and encrypted and authenticated with the appropriate pairwise key, all as further specified for the particular use profile. It will typically be possible for GKd to calculate the keying message once, including the wrapping under a key derived from the stable key, then send that message to various GKs using the different pairwise keys for each GKs.

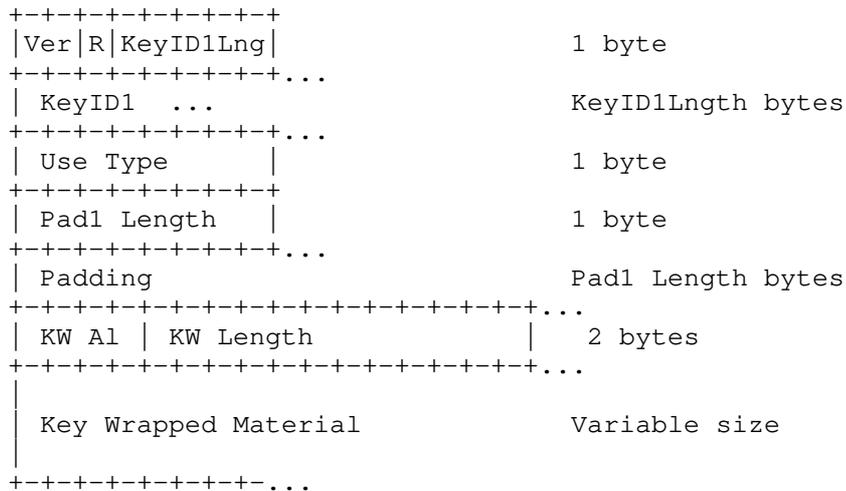


Figure 3.1. Keying Message Structure

The fields in Figure 3.1 are as follows:

Ver - Group Keying protocol version. This document specifies version zero.

R - Response flag. If set to one, indicates a response message.

If set to zero, indicated a request or no-op message.

KeyID1Length, KeyID1 - KeyID1 identifies the stable key wrapping key (also known as the Key Encrypting Key (KEK)) as further specified in the use profile. KeyID1Length is a 5-bit field that gives the length of KeyID1 in bytes minus 1 as an unsigned integer.

Use Type - Specifies the particular group security use profile such as one of the two profiles in [SGKPuses]. See Section 5, Item 3.

Pad1 Length, Pad1 - Padding to obscure the non-padded message size. Pad1 Length may be from 0 to 255 and gives the length of the padding as an unsigned integer. Each byte of padding MUST be equal to Pad1 Length. For example, 3 bytes of padding with length is 0x03030303.

KW Algorithm - An unsigned integer 4-bit field specifying the Key Wrap Algorithm. See Section 5, Item 4.

KW Length - An unsigned integer 14-bit field that gives the length of the Key Wrapped Material in octets.

Key Wrapped Material - The output of the designated Key Wrapping Algorithm on the message vector of fields using the designated stable key.

The vector of fields contained within the key wrapping is specified for the various keying messages in subsections below. The contents of this wrapped vector are protected by the key wrapping as well as being authenticated and super-encrypted by the pairwise keyed security used for sending the overall keying message. The probability that the stable key used for key wrapping is the same as the outer message pairwise key MUST be insignificant (less than  $1$  in  $2^{64}$ ).

Each group keying message contains, in the key wrapped vector of fields, a message type and a message ID set by the sender of a request. These fields are returned in the corresponding response to assist in the matching of response to requests, except that there is no response required to the No-Op message.

If no response is received to a request (other than a No-Op request) for an amount of time configurable in milliseconds from 1 to  $(2^{15} - 1)$ , the request is re-transmitted with the same message ID. These retries can occur up to a configurable number of times from 1 to 8. Unless otherwise provided in the particular use profile, the default response delay threshold is 200 milliseconds and the default maximum number of retries is 3.

Keying messages are sent with a priority/QoS configurable on a per device per use type basis. The default priority/QoS is specified in the use profile.

Since the minimum length of the Key Wrapped Material is 16 bytes, the minimum valid length of a keying message before pairwise security is 21 bytes, even if KeyID1 Length and Pad1 Length are zero. All multi-byte fields are in network order, that is, with the most significant byte first. The maximum valid length before pairwise security is 4 (fixed bytes) + 32 (max KeyID1) + 255 (max padding) + 264 (max KW material) = 555 bytes.

### 3.1 Set Key Message

The structure of the wrapped vector of fields for the Set Key keying message is as show in Figure 3.2. A recipient automatically determines the overall length provided for this vector of fields inside the key wrapping as a byproduct of the process of key unwrapping.

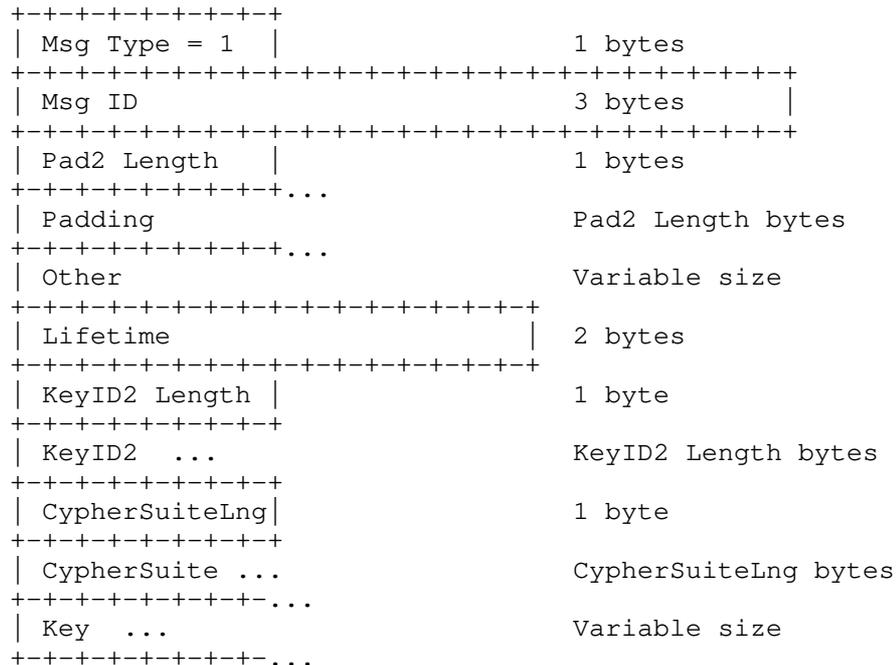


Figure 3.2. Set Key Message Inner Structure

The fields are as follows:

Msg Type = 1 for Set Key message

Msg ID - A 3 byte quantity to be included in the corresponding response message to assist in matching requests and responses. Msg ID zero has a special meaning in responses and MUST NOT be used in a Set Key message or any other group keying request message.

Pad2 Length, Pad2 - Padding to obscure the size of the unpadded AES wrapped data. Pad2 Length may be from 0 to 255 and gives the length of the padding as an unsigned integer. Each byte of padding MUST be equal to Pad1 Length. For example, 2 bytes of padding with length byte is 0x020202.

Other - Additional information if specified in the use profile. If Other information in this message is not mentioned in the use profile, there is none and this portion of the wrapped information is null. If a use profile specifies Other information it must be possible to determine its length so that following fields can be properly parsed and so that the size of the Key field can be deduced; for example, Other could begin with a length byte.

Lifetime - A 2-byte unsigned integer. After that number of seconds plus one second, the key and associated information being set MUST be discarded. Unless otherwise specified for a particular use profile of this group keying protocol, the default Lifetime is 15,000 seconds or a little over four hours.

KeyID2 Length, KeyID2 - KeyID2 identifies the group key and associated information being set as further specified in the use profile. KeyID2 Length is an unsigned byte that gives the length of KeyID2 in bytes.

CypherSuiteLng, CypherSuite - CypherSuite identifies the cypher suite associated with the key being set as further specified in the use profile. CypherSuite Length is an unsigned byte the gives the length of CypherSuite in bytes.

Key - This is the actually group shared secret keying material being set. Its length is deduced from the overall length of the vector of fields (found by the key unwrap operation) and the length of the preceding fields.

Keying material and associated cypher suite are indexed under the Key ID and the identity of the station that sent the information. This identity is normally the address of that station as specified in the

use profile.

If GKs already has a dynamic key set under KeyID2, the key's value and associated cypher suite are compared with those in the Set Key messages. If they are the same, the only receiver action is to update the Lifetime information associated with KeyID2 and send a Response message. If they are different, the lifetime, cypher suite, and key (and possibly Other material) are replaced, the use flag is cleared, and a Response message sent.

### 3.2 Use, Delete, Disuse, or Deleted Key Messages

The structure of the wrapped material for the Use Key, Delete Key, Disuse Key, and Deleted Key keying messages are the same as each other except for the message type and are shown in Figure 3.3

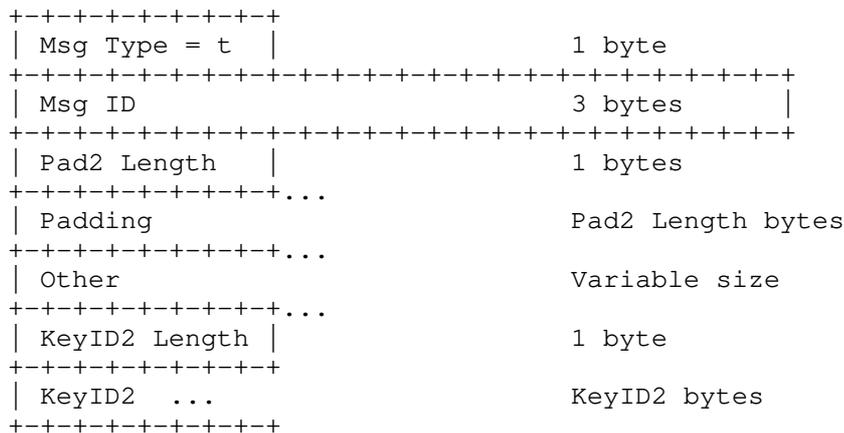


Figure 3.3. Use, Delete, Disuse, or Deleted Key Message

The Msg Type field specifies the particular message as follows:

Msg Type	Message
2	Use Key
3	Delete Key
4	Disuse Key
5	Deleted Key

The remaining fields are as specified in Section 3.1. KeyID2 indicates the key to be used, deleted, for which use should cease, or which has been deleted, depending on the message type.

It is RECOMMENDED that these messages be padded so as to be the same

length as a typical Set Key message.

The Delete Key is sent by a station believing itself to be GKd instructing some GKs to delete a key. When a GKs spontaneously deletes a key, it sends a Deleted Key message to the station from which it received the key. The message types for Delete Key and Deleted Key are different to minimize confusion in corner cases such as the GKd changing while messages are in flight. The Msg ID used in a Deleted Key message is created by the sending GKs from a space of Msg IDs associated with that GKs, which space is independent of the Msg IDs used in requests originated by GKd.

### 3.3 Response Message

The structure of the wrapped material for the Response group keying message is as show below in Figure 3.4. A response message is indicated by the R bit in the first byte of the message outside the key wrapping.

A response MUST NOT be sent due to the receipt of a response. The R bit is outside of the key wrapping so that this rule can be enforced even in cases of difficulty in unwrapping.

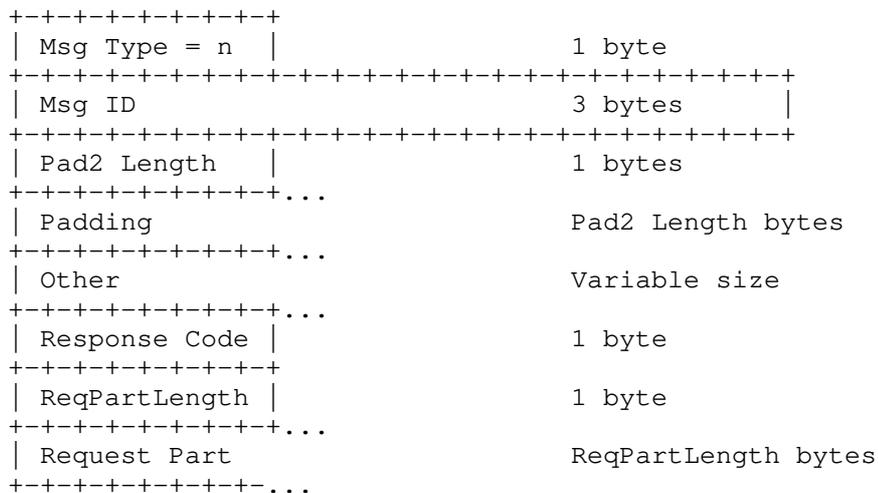


Figure 3.4. Response Message Inner Structure

Except as specified below, the fields are as specified for the Key Set message in Section 3.1.

Msg Type, Msg ID - The content of these field is copied from the message in reply to which this Response message is sent

unless there is an error that stops the replying station from determining them; in that case the special value zero is used for the Msg Type and Msg ID. Errors where the Msg Type and ID could not be determined are indicated by a Response Code with its high order bit set to one, that is, the 0b1xxxxxxx bit set.

Response Code - An unsigned byte giving the response as enumerated in in Section 3.3.1. Any Response Code other than a success indicates that the receiver took no action on the request other than sending an error Response message.

ReqPartLength, Request Part: It is usually usefully to include some or all of the request message in error responses.

- If the Response Code high order two bits are zero, the request succeeded and ReqPartLength MUST be set to zero so Request Part will be null.
- If the Response Code high order two bits are zero one (0b01xxxxxx), then there was an error in the part of the request inside the key wrapping but the unwrap process was successful. ReqPartLength is the length of the request message material included in the Request Part field. The included request material is from the unwrapped vector of fields started with the Msg Type byte.
- If the Response Code high order bit is one (the 0b1xxxxxxx is set), then there was an error parsing the material outside the AES key wrap or an error in the AES unwrapping process. ReqPartLength is the length of the request message part included in the Request Part field. The included part of the request starts with the first byte of the message (the byte containing the version, response flag, and KeyID1 Length). The key wrapped material in the response message will still be wrapped.

### 3.3.1 Response Codes

The high order two bits of the Response Code have meaning as shown in Table 3.1.

Top 2 Bits	Category
0b00	Success
0b01	AES wrap contents
0b10/11	Outside of AES wrap contents

Figure 3.1 Categories of Response Codes

Response Decimal	Response Hex	Meaning
0	0x00	Success
1	0x01	Success and the key at an existing key ID was changed
2-47	0x02-0x2F	Unassigned
48-63	0x30-0x3F	Reserved for special success codes defined in use profiles
64	0x40	Malformed inner fields (see Note 2 below)
65	0x41	Unknown or zero Msg Type in a request
66	0x42	Zero Msg ID in a request
68	0x43	Invalid length KeyID2
69	0x44	Unknown KeyID2
70	0x45	Invalid length CypherSuite
71	0x46	Unknown CyperSuite
72	0x47	Bad Key (see Note 3 below)
73-111	0x49-0x6F	Unassigned
112-127	0x70-0x7F	Reserved for error codes defined in use profiles and related to the key wrapped contents
128	0x80	Malformed message (see Note 1 below)
129	0x81	Invalid length KeyID1
130	0x82	Unknown KeyID1
131	0x83	Unknown Use Type
131	0x84	Key unwrap fails test for constant (e.g., AES test 1, see Section 3 [RFC5649]).
132	0x85	Key unwrap fails message length versus wrapped size test (e.g., AES test 2, see Section 3 [RFC5649]).
133	0x86	Key unwrap fails test for value of padding (e.g., AES test3, see Section 3 [RFC5649]).
134-175	0x86-0x7F	Unassigned
176-191	0xB0-0xBF	Reserved for error codes defined in use profiles and related to parts of message outside the key wrap contents
192	0xC0	No keys set
193	0xC1	Referenced key unknown
194	0xC2	Referenced key known but use flag not set
195-255	0xC3-0xFF	Reserved

## Response Code Notes:

Note 1 Message is too short or too long, AES wrapped material is too short, Padding bytes are not the required value, or similar fundamental message format problems.

Note 2 The key wrapped inner vector of fields is too short or too long, Padding bytes are not the required value, or similar

fundamental vector of fields format problems.

Note 3 Key is not a valid length for CypherSuite or other internal checks on key (for example, parity bits in a 64 bit DES key (not that you should be using DES)) fail when they should be correct.

Figure 3.2 Response Codes

### 3.4 No-Op Message

The No-Op message is a dummy message intended for use in disguising metadata deducible from keying message transmissions. It requires no response although a recipient can always decided to send a No-Op message to a station from which it has received such a message. The vector of fields inside the AES key wrap is as follows:

```

+-----+
| Msg Type = 6 |           1 byte
+-----+
| Pad2 Length  |           1 bytes
+-----+...
| Padding      |           Pad2 Length bytes
+-----+...

```

Figure 3.5. No-Op Message Inner Structure

The Msg Type is set to 6 to indicate a No-Op message.

Pad2 Length and Padding are as specified in Section 3.1. It is RECOMMENDED that Pad2 Length in a No-Op message be such as to make its length the same as the length of a typical Set Key message.

#### 4. Security Considerations

This section gives some general security considerations of this group keying protocol as distinguished from security considerations of a particular use profile.

The method by which the stations in the group discover each other is specified in the group keying use profile. GKd controls group access and generally learns whatever it needs to know about GKs during the pairwise authentication and pairwise keying process.

The group keying provided by this protocol is shared secret keying. This means that data messages can only be authenticated as coming from some group member but not as coming from a specific group member. If this level of authentication is insufficient, GKd can simply not set keys or not set them as usable. This will force all stations in the group that are configured to use security for multi-destination transmissions to the group to serially unicast data to the other group members using pairwise keying.

The content value of padding fields in the Group Keying protocol is fixed so that it cannot be used as a covert channel. It might still be possible to use the length of padding as a covert channel.

## 5. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to perform the following actions:

1. Establish a protocol parameters web page for "Group Keying Protocol Parameters" with the initial registries on that page as specified below in this section.
2. Establish a "Message Type" registry on the Group Keying Protocol Parameters page as follows:

Name: Message Types Registration Procedure: IETF Review  
Reference: [this document]

Type	Description	Reference
0	Reserved	[This document]
1	Set Key	[This document]
2	Use Key	[This document]
3	Delete Key	[This document]
4	Disuse Key	[This document]
5	Deleted Key	[This document]
6	No-Op	[This document]
7-250	Unassigned	
251-254	Reserved for Private Use	[This document]
255	Reserved	[This document]

3. Establish a "Group Keying Use Profile" registry on the Group Keying Protocol Parameters page as follows:

Name: Group Keying Use Profiles Registration Procedure: IETF Review  
Reference: [This document]

Profile	Description	Reference (s)
0	Reserved	[This document]
1	Extended RBridge Channel	[SGKPuses]
2	TRILL over IP	[SGKPuses]
3-250	Unassigned	
251-254	Reserved for Private Use	[This document]
255	Reserved	[This document]

4. Establish a "Key Wrap Algorithm" registry on the Group Keying Protocol Parameters page as follows:

Name: Key Wrap Algorithms Registration Procedure: IETF Review  
 Reference: [This document]

Code	Algorithm	Reference
-----	-----	-----
0	Reserved	[This document]
1	AES	[RFC5649]
2	ChaCha	[ChaChaKW]
3-16	-	Unassigned
17	Reserved	[This document]

5. Establish a "Response Code" registry on the Group Keying Protocol Parameters page as show below taking entries from the Response Code table in Section 3.3.1 above. In the table of values, the Reference column should be "[This document]" except where the Meaning is "Unassigned" or "Reserved".

Name: Response Codes Registration Procedure: IETF Review  
 Reference: [This document]

Note: The top two bits of the Response Code indicate a category as specified in Section 3.3.1 of [this document].

Response Decimal	Response Hex	Meaning	Reference
-----	-----	-----	-----
0	0x00	Success	[this document]
...	...	...	
255	0xFF	Reserved	

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## Informative References

None.

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TRILL Smart Endnodes  
draft-ietf-trill-smart-endnodes-11.txt

Abstract

This draft addresses the problem of the size and freshness of the endnode learning table in edge RBridges, by allowing endnodes to volunteer for endnode learning and encapsulation/decapsulation. Such an endnode is known as a "Smart Endnode". Only the attached edge RBridge can distinguish a "Smart Endnode" from a "normal endnode". The Smart Endnode uses the nickname of the attached edge RBridge, so this solution does not consume extra nicknames. The solution also enables Fine Grained Label aware endnodes.

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## 1. Introduction

The IETF TRILL (Transparent Interconnection of Lots of Links) protocol [RFC6325] [RFC7780] provides optimal pair-wise data frame forwarding without configuration, safe forwarding even during periods of temporary loops, and support for multipathing of both unicast and multicast traffic. TRILL accomplishes this by using IS-IS [IS-IS] [RFC7176] link state routing and encapsulating traffic using a header that includes a hop count. Devices that implement TRILL are called "RBridges" (Routing Bridges) or "TRILL Switches".

An RBridge that attaches to endnodes is called an "edge RBridge" or "edge TRILL Switch", whereas one that exclusively forwards encapsulated frames is known as a "transit RBridge" or "transit TRILL Switch". An edge RBridge traditionally is the one that encapsulates a native Ethernet frame with a TRILL header, or that receives a TRILL-encapsulated packet and decapsulates the TRILL header. To

encapsulate efficiently, the edge RBridge must keep an "endnode table" consisting of (MAC, Data Label, TRILL egress switch nickname) sets, for those remote MAC addresses in Data Labels currently communicating with endnodes to which the edge RBridge is attached.

These table entries might be configured, received from ESADI [RFC7357], looked up in a directory [RFC7067], or learned from decapsulating received traffic. If the edge RBridge has attached endnodes communicating with many remote endnodes, this table could become very large. Also, if one of the MAC addresses and Data Labels in the table has moved to a different remote TRILL switch, it might be difficult for the edge RBridge to notice this quickly, and because the edge RBridge is encapsulating to the incorrect egress RBridge, the traffic will get lost.

## 2. Conventions used in this document

### 2.1. Terminology

**Edge RBridge:** An RBridge providing endnode service on at least one of its ports. It is also called an edge TRILL Switch.

**Data Label:** VLAN or FGL.

**DRB:** Designated RBridge [RFC6325].

**ESADI:** End Station Address Distribution Information [RFC7357].

**FGL:** Fine Grained Label [RFC7172].

**IS-IS:** Intermediate System to Intermediate System [IS-IS].

**PDU:** Protocol Data Unit.

**RBridge:** Routing Bridge, an alternative name for a TRILL switch.

**Smart Endnode:** An endnode that has the capability specified in this document including learning and maintaining (MAC, Data Label, Nickname) entries and encapsulating/decapsulating TRILL frame.

**Transit RBridge:** An RBridge exclusively forwards encapsulated frames. It is also called a transit TRILL Switch.

**TRILL:** Transparent Interconnection of Lots of Links [RFC6325][RFC7780].

TRILL ES-IS: TRILL End System to Intermediate System, is a variation of TRILL IS-IS designed to operate on a TRILL link among and between one or more TRILL switches and end stations on that link[RFC8171].

TRILL Switch: a device that implements the TRILL protocol; an alternative term for an RBridge.

## 2.2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

## 3. Solution Overview

The Smart Endnode solution defined in this document addresses the problem of the size and freshness of the endnode learning table in edge RBridges. An endnode E, attached to an edge RBridge R, tells R that E would like to be a "Smart Endnode", which means that E will encapsulate and decapsulate the TRILL frame, using R's nickname. Because E uses R's nickname, this solution does not consume extra nicknames.

Take Figure 1 as the example Smart Endnode scenario: RB1, RB2 and RB3 are the RBridges in the TRILL domain, and SE1 and SE2 are the Smart Endnodes which can encapsulate and decapsulate the TRILL packets. RB1 is the edge RB that SE1 and SE2 have attached to. RB1 assigns one of its nicknames to be used by SE1 and SE2.

Each Smart Endnode, SE1 and SE2, uses RB1's nickname when encapsulating, and maintains an endnode table of (MAC, label, TRILL egress switch nickname) for remote endnodes that it (SE1 or SE2) is corresponding with. RB1 does not decapsulate packets destined for SE1 or SE2, and does not learn (MAC, label, TRILL egress switch nickname) for endnodes corresponding with SE1 or SE2, but RB1 does decapsulate, and does learn (MAC, label, TRILL egress switch nickname) for any endnodes attached to RB1 that have not declared themselves to be Smart Endnodes.

Just as an RBridge learns and times out (MAC, label, TRILL egress switch nickname), Smart Endnodes SE1 and SE2 also learn and time out endnode entries. However, SE1 and SE2 might also determine, through ICMP messages or other techniques that an endnode entry is not successfully reaching the destination endnode, and can be deleted, even if the entry has not timed out.

If SE1 wishes to correspond with destination MAC D, and no endnode entry exists, SE1 will encapsulate the packet as an unknown destination, or consulting a directory [RFC7067] (just as an RBridge would do if there was no endnode entry).

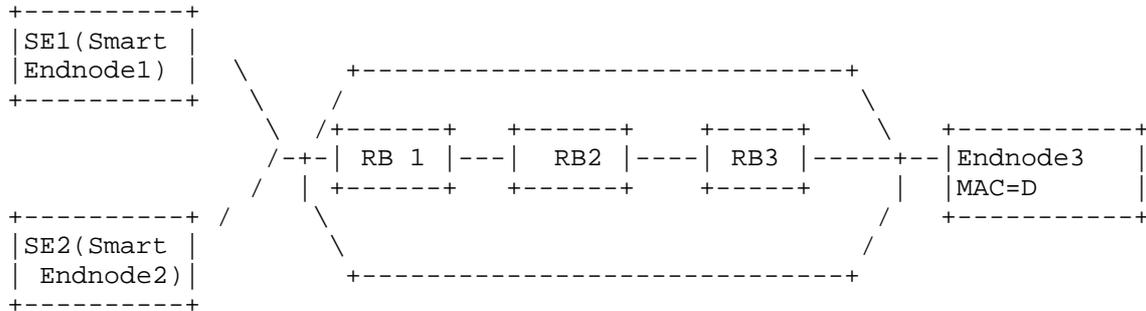


Figure 1 Smart Endnode Scenario

The mechanism in this draft is that the Smart Endnode SE1 issues a Smart-Hello, indicating SE1's desire to act as a Smart Endnode, together with the set of MAC addresses and Data Labels that SE1 owns. The Smart-Hello is used to announce the Smart Endnode capability and parameters (such as MAC address, Data Label etc.). The Smart-Hello is a type of TRILL ES-IS PDU, which is specified in section 5 of [RFC8171]. The detailed content for a Smart Endnode's Smart-Hello is defined in section 4.

If RB1 supports having a Smart Endnode neighbor it also sends Smart-Hellos. The Smart Endnode learns from RB1's Smart-Hellos what RB1's nickname is and which trees RB1 can use when RB1 ingresses multi-destination frames. Although Smart Endnode SE1 transmits Smart-Hellos, it does not transmit or receive LSPs or E-L1FS FS-LSPs [RFC7780].

Since a Smart Endnode can encapsulate TRILL Data packets, it can cause the Inner.Lable to be a Fine Grained Label [RFC7172], thus this method supports FGL aware endnodes. When and how a Smart Endnode decides to use the FGL instead of VLANs to encapsulate the TRILL Data packet is out of scope in this document.

#### 4. Smart-Hello Mechanism between Smart Endnode and RBridge

The subsections below describe Smart-Hello messages.

4.1. Smart-Hello Encapsulation

Although a Smart Endnode is not an RBridge, does not send LSPs or maintain a copy of the link state database, and does not perform routing calculations, it is required to have a "Hello" mechanism (1) to announce to edge RBridges that it is a Smart Endnode and (2) to tell them what MAC addresses it is handling in what Data Labels. Similarly, an edge RBridge that supports Smart Endnodes needs a message (1) to announce that support, (2) to inform Smart Endnodes what nickname to use for ingress and what nickname(s) can be used as egress nickname in a multi-destination TRILL Data packet, and (3) the list of Smart Endnodes it knows about on that link.

The messages sent by Smart Endnodes and by edge RBridges that support Smart Endnodes are called "Smart-Hellos". The Smart-Hello is a type of TRILL ES-IS PDU, which is specified in [RFC8171].

The Smart-Hello Payload, both for Smart-Hellos sent by Smart Endnodes and for Smart-Hellos sent by Edge RBridges, consists of TRILL IS-IS TLVs as described in the following two sub-sections. The non-extended format is used so TLVs, sub-TLVs, and APPsub-TLVs have an 8-bit size and type field. Both types of Smart-Hellos MUST include a Smart-Parameters APPsub-TLV as follows inside a TRILL GENINFO TLV:

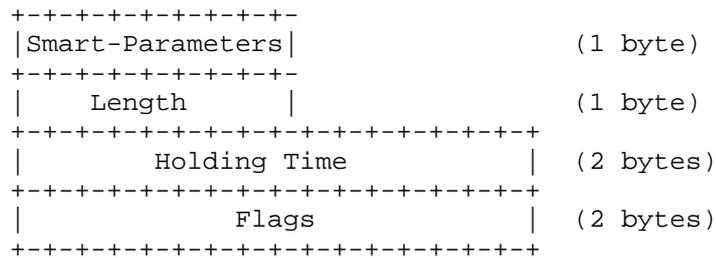


Figure 2 Smart Parameters APPsub-TLV

- o Type: APPsub-TLV type Smart-Parameters, value is TBD1.
- o Length: 4.
- o Holding Time: A time in seconds as an unsigned integer. It has the same meaning as the Holding Time field in IS-IS Hellos [IS-IS]. A Smart Endnode and an Edge RBridge supporting Smart Endnodes MUST send a Smart-Hello at least three times during their Holding Time. If no Smart-Hellos is received from a Smart Endnode or Edge RBridge within the most recent Holding Time it sent, it is assumed that it is no longer available.

- o Flags: At this time all of the Flags are reserved and MUST be send as zero and ignored on receipt.

If more than one Smart Parameters APPsub-TLV appears in a Smart-Hello, the first one is used and any following ones are ignored. If no Smart Parameters APPsub-TLV appears in a Smart-Hello, that Smart-Hello is ignored.

#### 4.2. Edge RBridge's Smart-Hello

The edge RBridge's Smart-Hello contains the following information in addition to the Smart-Parameters APPsub-TLV:

- o RBridge's nickname. The nickname sub-TLV, specified in section 2.3.2 in [RFC7176], is reused here carried inside a TLV 242 (IS-IS router capability) in a Smart-Hello frame. If more than one nickname appears in the Smart-Hello, the first one is used and the following ones are ignored.

- o Trees that RB1 can use when ingressing multi-destination frames. The Tree Identifiers Sub-TLV, specified in section 2.3.4 in [RFC7176], is reused here.

- o Smart Endnode neighbor list. The TRILL Neighbor TLV, specified in section 2.5 in [RFC7176], is reused for this purpose.

An Authentication TLV MAY also be included.

#### 4.3. Smart Endnode's Smart-Hello

A new APPsub-TLV (Smart-MAC TLV) is defined for use by Smart Endnodes as defined below. In addition, there will be a Smart-Parameters APPsub-TLV and there MAY be an Authentication TLV in a Smart Endnode Smart-Hello.

If there are several VLANs/FGL Data Labels for that Smart Endnode, the Smart-MAC APPsub-TLV is included several times in Smart Endnode's Smart-Hello. This APPsub-TLV appears inside a TRILL GENINFO TLV.

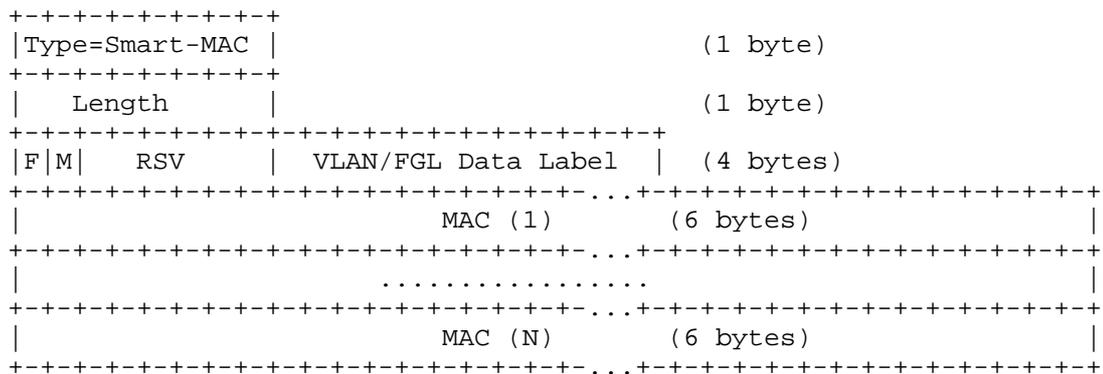


Figure 3 Smart-MAC APPsub-TLV

- o Type: TRILL APPsub-TLV Type Smart-MAC, value is TBD2.
- o Length: Total number of bytes contained in the value field of the TLV, that is, the sum of the length of the F/M/RSV/FGL Data Label fields and 6 times the number of MAC addresses present. So, if there are n MAC addresses, this is 4+6\*n.
- o F: 1 bit. If it is set to 1, it indicates that the endnode supports FGL data labels [RFC7172], and that this Smart-MAC APPsub-TLV has an FGL in the following VLAN/FGL field. Otherwise, the VLAN/FGL Data Label field is a VLAN ID.(See below for the format of the VLAN/FGL Data Label field).
- o M: 1 bit. If it is set to 1, it indicates multi-homing(See Section 6). If it is set to 0, it indicates that the Smart Endnodes are not using multi-homing.
- o RSV: 6 bits, is reserved for the future use.
- o VLAN/FGL Data Label: 24bits. If F is 1, this field is a 24-bit FGL Data Label for all subsequent MAC addresses in this APPsub-TLV. Otherwise, if F is 0, the lower 12 bits is the VLAN of all subsequent MAC addresses in this APPsub-TLV, and the upper 12 bits is not used(sent as zero and ignored on receipt). If there is no VLAN/FGL data label specified, the VLAN/FGL Data Label is zero.
- o MAC(i): This is a 48-bit MAC address reachable in the Data Label sent by the Smart Endnode that is announcing this APPsub-TLV.

## 5. Data Packet Processing

The subsections below specify Smart Endnode data packet processing. All TRILL Data packets sent to or from Smart Endnodes are sent in the Designated VLAN [RFC6325] of the local link but do not necessarily have to be VLAN tagged.

### 5.1. Data Packet Processing for Smart Endnode

A Smart Endnode does not issue or receive LSPs or E-L1FS FS-LSPs or calculate topology. It does the following:

- o A Smart Endnode maintains an endnode table of (the MAC address of remote endnode, Data Label, the nickname of the edge RBridge's attached) entries of end nodes with which the Smart Endnode is communicating. Entries in this table are populated the same way that an edge RBridge populates the entries in its table:
  - \* learning from (source MAC address ingress nickname) on packets it decapsulates.
  - \* by querying a directory [RFC7067].
  - \* by having some entries configured.
- o When Smart Endnode SE1 wishes to send unicast frame to remote node D, if (MAC address of remote endnode D, Data Label, nickname) entry is in SE1's endnode table, SE1 encapsulates the ingress nickname as the nickname of the RBridge(RB1), egress nickname as indicated in D's table entry. If D is unknown, SE1 either queries a directory or encapsulates the packet as a multi-destination frame, using one of the trees that RB1 has specified in RB1's Smart-Hello. The mechanism for querying a directory is given in [RFC8171].
- o When SE1 wishes to send a BUM packet to the TRILL campus, SE1 encapsulates the packet using one of the trees that RB1 has specified.

If the Smart Endnode SE1 sends a multi-destination TRILL Data packet, the destination MAC of the outer Ethernet is the All-RBridges multicast address.

The Smart Endnode SE1 need not send Smart-Hellos as frequently as normal RBridges. These Smart-Hellos could be periodically unicast to the Appointed Forwarder RB1. In case RB1 crashes and restarts, or the DRB changes and SE1 receives the Smart-Hello without mentioning SE1, SE1 SHOULD send a Smart-Hello immediately. If RB1 is Appointed

Forwarder for any of the VLANs that SE1 claims, RB1 MUST list SE1 in its Smart-Hellos as a Smart Endnode neighbor.

## 5.2. Data Packet Processing for Edge RBridge

The attached edge RBridge processes and forwards TRILL Data packets based on the endnode property rather than for encapsulation and forwarding the native frames the same way as the traditional RBridges. There are several situations for the edge RBridges as follows:

- o If receiving an encapsulated unicast TRILL Data packet from a port with a Smart Endnode, with RB1's nickname as ingress, the edge RBridge RB1 forwards the frame to the specified egress nickname, as with any encapsulated frame. However, RB1 SHOULD filter the encapsulation frame based on the inner source MAC and Data Label as specified for the Smart Endnode. If the MAC (or Data Label) are not among the expected entries of the Smart Endnode, the frame would be dropped by the edge RBridge. If the edge RBridge does not perform this check, it makes it easier for a rogue end station to inject bogus TRILL Data packets into the TRILL campus.

- o If receiving a unicast TRILL Data packet with RB1's nickname as egress from the TRILL campus, and the destination MAC address in the enclosed packet is a MAC address that has been listed by a "Smart Endnode", RB1 leaves the packet encapsulated to that Smart Endnode. The outer Ethernet destination MAC is the destination Smart Endnode's MAC address, the inner destination MAC address is either the Smart Endnode's MAC address or some other MAC address that the Smart Endnode advertised in its Smart Hello, and the outer Ethernet source MAC address is the RB1's port MAC address. The edge RBridge still decreases the Hop count value by 1, for there is one hop between the RB1 and Smart Endnode.

- o If receiving a multi-destination TRILL Data packet from a port with a Smart Endnode, RBridge RB1 forwards the TRILL encapsulation to the TRILL campus based on the distribution tree indicated by the egress nickname. If the egress nickname does not correspond to a distribution tree, the packet is discarded. If there are any normal endnodes (i.e, non-Smart Endnodes) attached to the edge RBridge RB1, RB1 decapsulates the frame and sends the native frame to these ports possibly pruned based on multicast listeners, in addition to forwarding the multi-destination TRILL frame to the rest of the campus.

- o If RB1 receives a native multi-destination data frame, which is sent by a non-Smart Endnode, from a port, including hybrid endnodes (Smart Endnodes and non-Smart Endnodes), RB1 will encapsulate it as

multi-destination TRILL Data packet , and send the encapsulated multi-destination TRILL Data Packet out that same port to the Smart Endnodes attached to the port, and also send the encapsulated multi-destination TRILL Data Packet to the TRILL campus through other ports.

o If RB1 receives a multi-destination TRILL Data packet from a remote RBridge, and the exit port includes hybrid endnodes(Smart Endnodes and non-Smart Endnodes), it sends two copies of multicast frames out the port, one as native and the other as TRILL encapsulated frame. When Smart Endnode receives multi-destination TRILL Data packet, it learns the remote (MAC address, Data Label, Nickname) entry. A Smart Endnodes ignores native data frames. A normal (non-Smart) Endnode receives the native frame and learns the remote MAC address and ignores the TRILL data packet. This transit solution may bring some complexity for the edge RBridge and waste network bandwidth resource, so avoiding the hybrid endnodes scenario by attaching the Smart Endnodes and non-Smart Endnodes to different ports is RECOMMENDED.

6. Multi-homing Scenario

Multi-homing is a common scenario for the Smart Endnode. The Smart Endnode is on a link attached to the TRILL domain in two places: to edge RBridge RB1 and RB2. Take the figure below as example. The Smart Endnode SE1 is attached to the TRILL domain by RB1 and RB2 separately. Both RB1 and RB2 could announce their nicknames to SE1.

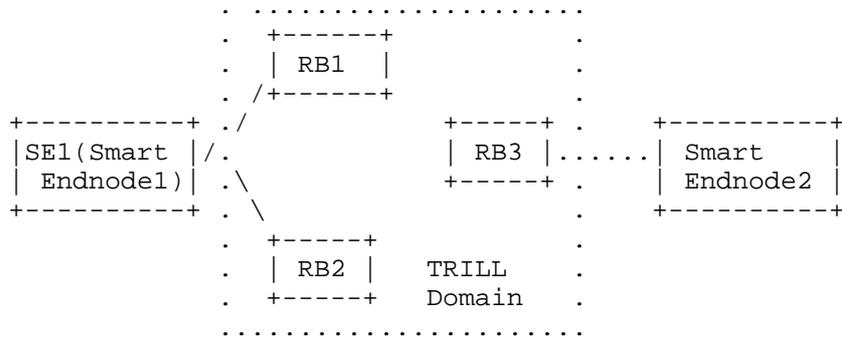


Figure 4 Multi-homing Scenario

Smart Endnode SE1 can choose either RB1 or RB2's nickname, when encapsulating and forwarding a TRILL data packet. If the active-active load balance is considered for the multi-homing scenario, the Smart Endnode SE1 could use both RB1 and RB2's nickname to encapsulate and forward TRILL Data packet. SE1 uses RB1's nickname

when forwarding through RB1, and RB2's nickname when forwarding through RB2. This will cause MAC flip-flopping(see [RFC7379]) of the endnode table entry in the remote RBridges (or Smart Endnodes). The solution for the MAC flip-flopping issue is to set a multi-homing bit in the RSV field of the TRILL data packet. When remote RBridge RB3 or Smart Endnodes receives a data packet with the multi-homed bit set, the endnode entries (SE1's MAC address, label, RB1's nickname) and (SE1's MAC address, label, RB2's nickname) will coexist as endnode entries in the remote RBridge. (An alternative solution would be to use the ESADI protocol to distribute multiple attachments of a MAC address of a multi-homing group, The ESADI is deployed among the edge RBridges (See section 5.3 of [RFC7357])).

## 7. Security Considerations

Smart-Hellos can be secured by using Authentication TLVs based on [RFC5310]. If they are not secured, then it is easier for a rogue end station that does not possess the required keying material to be falsely recognized as a valid Smart Endnode.

For general TRILL Security Considerations, see [RFC6325]. As stated there, since end stations are connected to edge RBridge ports by Ethernet, those ports MAY require end stations to authenticate themselves using [IEEE802.1X] and authenticate and encrypt traffic to/from the RBridge port with [IEEE802.1AE].

If they misbehave, Smart Endnodes can forge arbitrary ingress and egress nicknames in the TRILL Headers of the TRILL Data packets they construct. Decapsulating at egress RBridges or remote Smart Endnodes that believe such a forged ingress nickname would send future traffic destined for the inner source MAC address of the TRILL Data frame to the wrong edge RBridge if data plane learning is in use. Because of this, an RBridge port should not be configured to support Smart Endnodes unless the end stations on that link are trusted or can be adequately authenticated.

As with any end station, Smart Endnodes can forge the outer MAC addresses of packets they send (See Section 6 of [RFC6325].) Because they encapsulate TRILL Data packets, they can also forge inner MAC addresses. The encapsulation performed by Smart Endnodes also means they can send data in any Data Label which means they must be trusted in order to enforce a security policy based on Data Labels.

The TRILL-Hello is a type of TRILL ES-IS, and is defined in [RFC8171]. Receiving and processing TRILL-Hello for RBridges and Smart Endnodes would not bring more security and vulnerability issues than the TRILL ES-IS security defined in [RFC8171].

For added security against the compromise of data due to its mis-delivery for any reason, including the above, end-to-end encryption and authentication should be considered; that is, encryption and authentication from source end station to destination end station.

The mechanism described in this document requires Smart Endnodes to be aware of the MAC address(es) of the TRILL edge RBridge(s) to which they are attached and the egress RBridge nickname from which the destination of the packets is reachable. With that information, Smart Endnodes can learn a substantial amount about the topology of the TRILL domain. Therefore, there could be a potential security risk when the Smart Endnodes are not trusted or are compromised.

## 8. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to allocate APPsub-TLV type numbers for the Smart-MAC and Smart-Parameters APPsub-TLVs from the range below 256 and update the "TRILL APPsub-TLV Types under IS-IS TLV 251 Application Identifier 1" registry as follows.

Protocol	Description	Reference
TBD1	Smart-Parameters	[this document]
TBD2	Smart-MAC	[this document]

Table 1

## 9. Acknowledgements

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