Packetization Layer Path Maximum Transmission Unit Discovery (PLPMTU) For IPsec Tunnels

draft-spiriyath-ipsecme-dynamic-ipsec-pmtu-01

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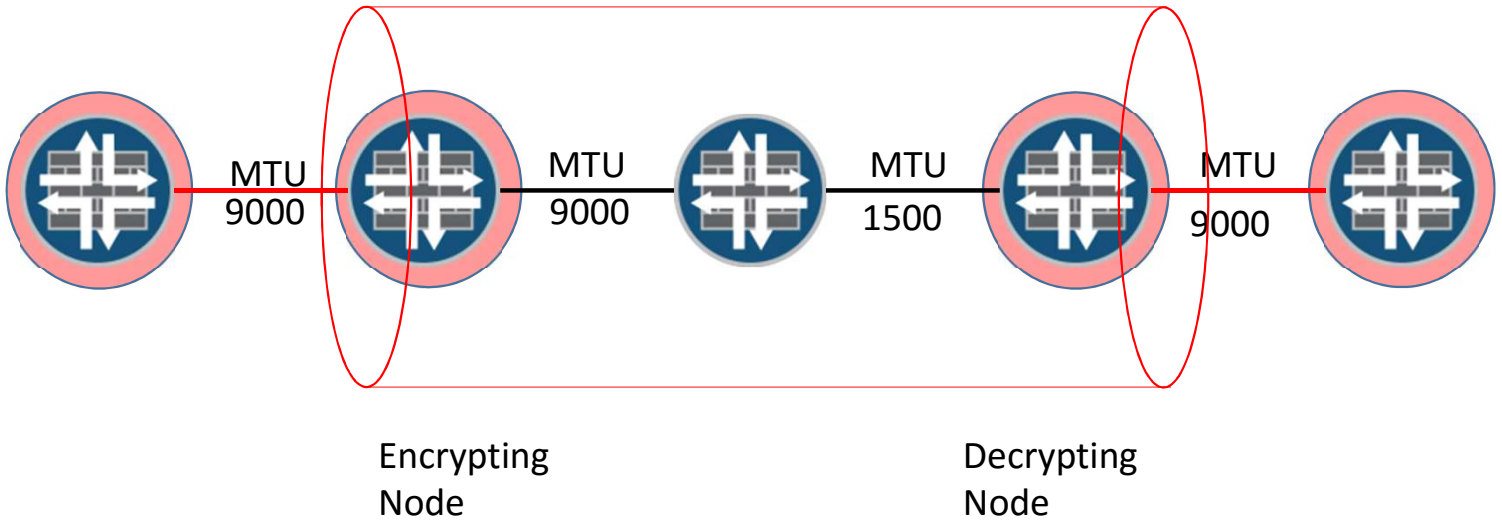
IETF 101

This Is IPSec

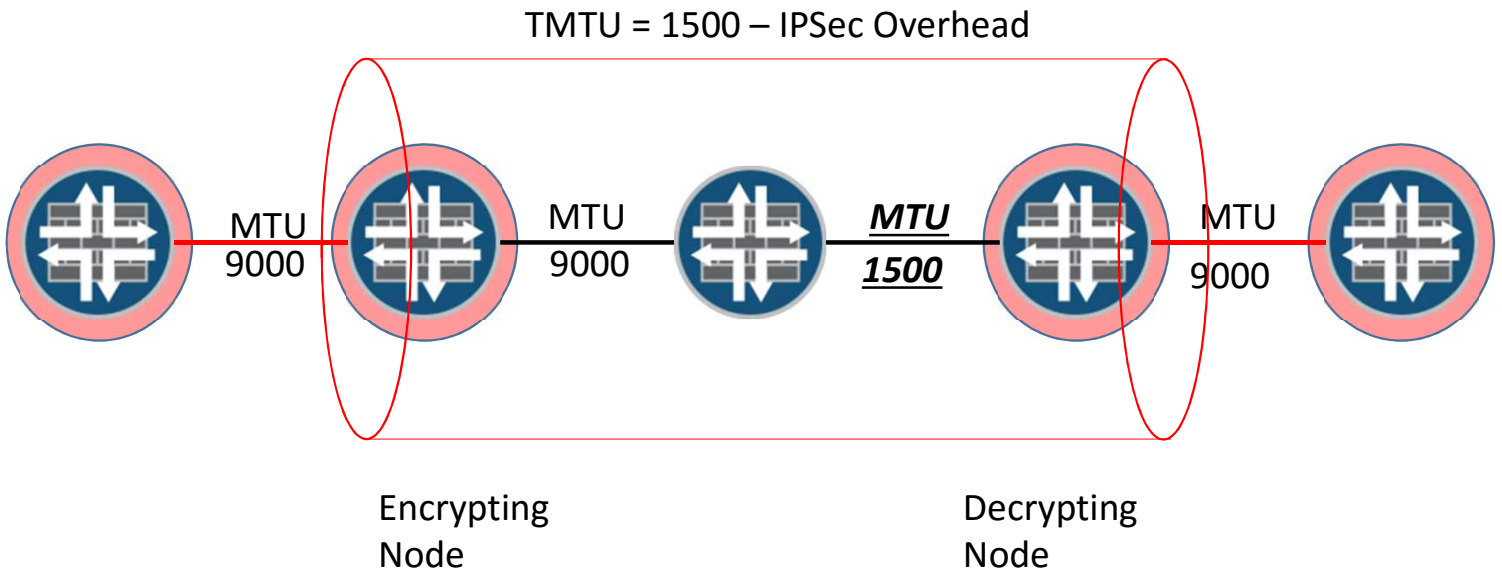
Encrypting Node

Decrypting Node

This Is IPSec Tunnel Mode



This Tunnel MTU (TMTU)



When The Encrypting Node Receives A Packet Larger than the TMTU

- Packet can be fragmented
  - That is, IPv4 and DF = 0
  - Options
    - Fragment, encapsulate and forward
    - Encapsulate, fragment and forward
- Packet cannot be fragmented
  - That is, IPv4 and DF = 1 or IPv6
  - Discard packet and send ICMP Packet Too Big to source

Encrypting Node Must Estimate TMTU

- Option1: Static, conservative estimate
  - IPv6: IPv6 minimum link MTU (1280) minus IPSec Overhead
  - IPv4: Value is debatable
- Option 2: Running, less conservative estimate
  - Option 1: Execute Path MTU (PMTUD) procedures
  - Option 2: Execute Packetization Layer Path MTU Discovery (PLMTUD) procedures
    - Described herein

PMTUD

- Initial PMTU estimate
  - Equals MTU of first link along the path to the decrypting mode
- Normal Operation
  - Send non-fragmentable packets through the tunnel
    - Originated by encrypting node
  - Some may be larger than the actual PMTU
- Refining PMTU estimate
  - When a downstream router cannot forward a packet because of its size, it discards the packet and sends an ICMP Packet Too Big (PTB) to the source
  - ICMP PTB indicates MTU of the link through which the packet could not be forwarded
- Tragic flaw
  - ICMP messages are easy to forge

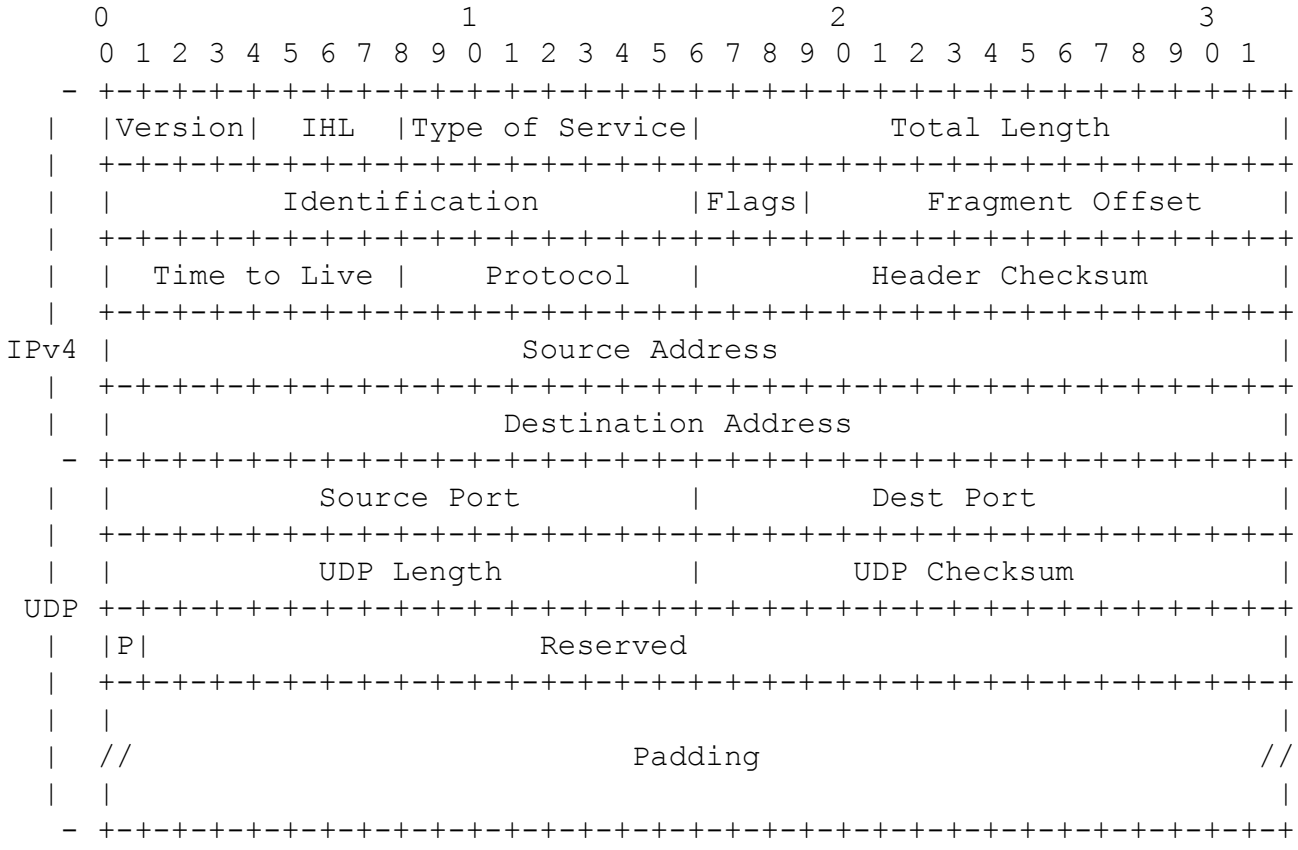
PLPMTUD: Yesterday

- RFC 4821 defines PLPMTUD procedures for TCP
  - But not any other protocols
- Packetizing node (i.e., TCP endpoint)
  - Produces initial TMTU estimate
    - Equal to MTU of first hop along the path to the other endpoint
  - Refines TMTU estimate
    - Sends probe packets of varying sizes to TCP peer
    - Responds to in-band acknowledgments
    - Responds to ICMP Packet Too Big messages
      - If they can be authenticated

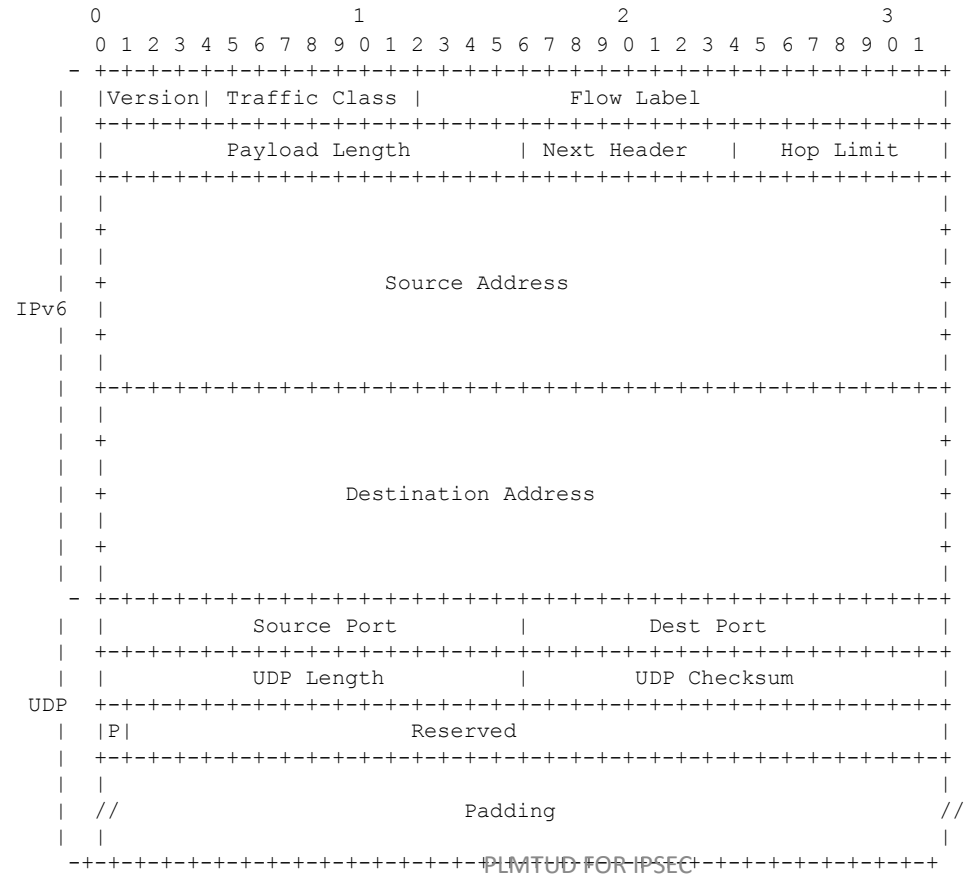
PLPMTUD: Today

- Draft-fairhurst-tsvwg-datagram-plpmtud defines
  - PLPMTUD procedures for other transport layer protocols
    - But not IPSec
  - A generic state machine so that PLPMTUD procedures can be applied to other technologies
  - Degrees of freedom granted to other technologies wanting to implement PLPMTUD
- Degrees of Freedom
  - Probe format
  - Acknowledgment format
  - ICMP authentication requirements

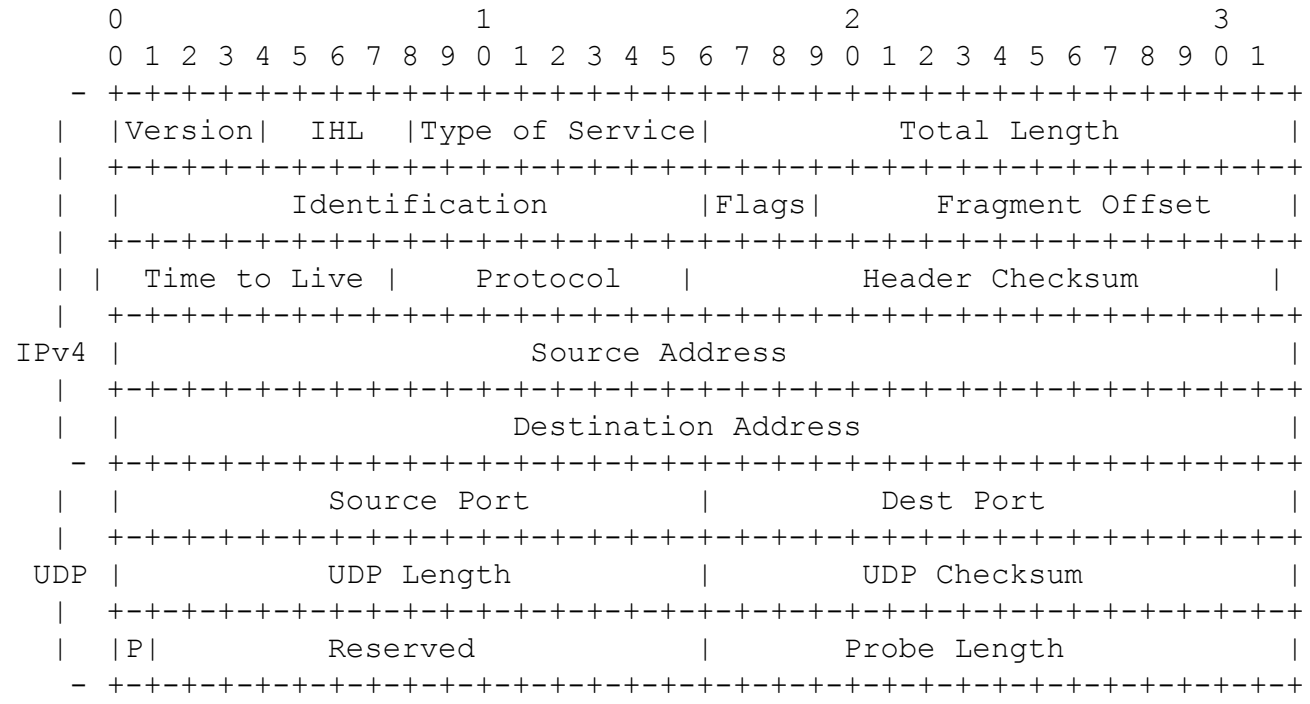
PLPMTUD for IPSec: IPv4 Probe Format



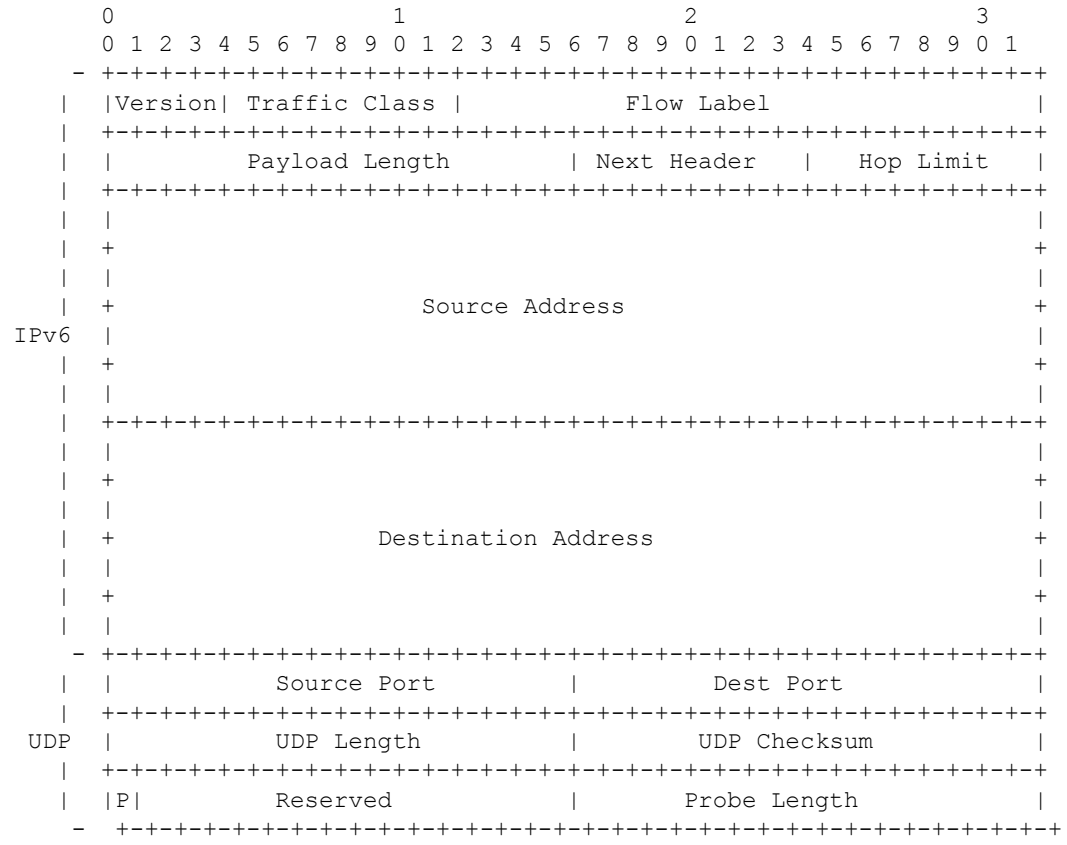
PLPMTUD for IPSec: IPv6 Probe Format



PLPMTUD for IPSec: IPv4 Ack Format



PLPMTUD for IPSec: IPv6 Ack Format



ICMP Authentication Requirements

- Ignore all ICMP PTB messages
- They can’t be authenticated to a sufficient degree

Next Steps

- Adopt as WG item