

CID and/or DTLS 1.3



Eric Rescorla
ekr@rtfm.com

General Idea

- We did CID for DTLS 1.2 and DTLS 1.3
 - Lot of demand for DTLS 1.2 CID *now*.
 - A little more time for DTLS 1.3 CID
- Some question about whether the DTLS 1.3 headers are really ideal
 - And maybe we want to harmonize with QUIC
- Can we unlock DTLS 1.2 CID while we think about DTLS 1.3 CID

Header formats

- CID draft needs to accommodate mixed CID/non-CID flows
 - Some clients may not support CID even if the server wants it
 - Proposals to have an indicator bit in the header;
 - this is not necessary, but it is convenient
- Indicator bit is straightforward in DTLS 1.2 and DTLS 1.3 long header
 - Spare bits in the CT and the length
- ... but it's not straightforward in DTLS 1.3
 - Because the header is carefully packed
 - So this is also important to resolve for DTLS 1.3

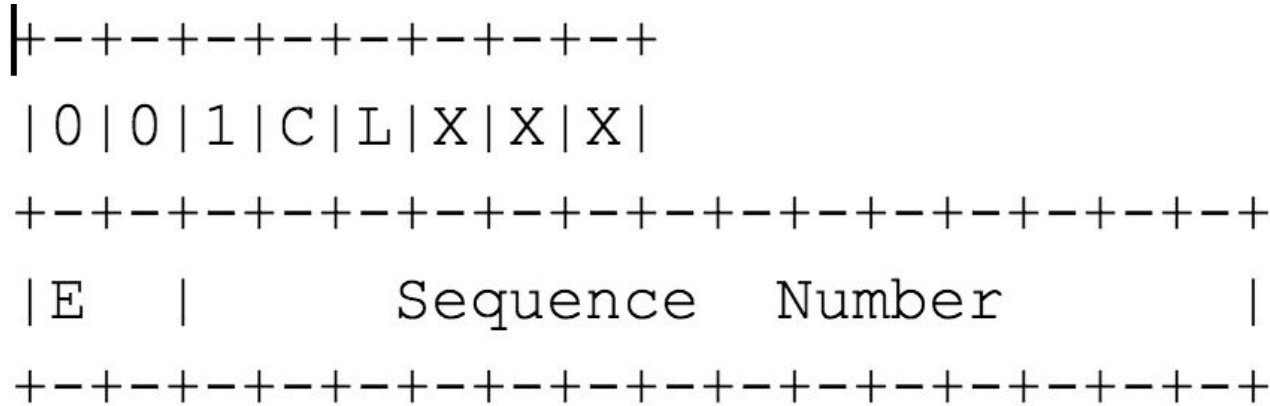
Option One: Implicit CIDs

- No explicit "CID present bit"
 - Remember: receiver controls CID
- In the TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3 headers, CID goes right before length so you need to demux CID versus length
 - Lengths $> 2^{16}$ are forbidden
 - If all CIDs have the high bit set, demux is easy
- Short header is harder (no length)
 - Fix the first n bits of CID
 - The first n bits of ciphertext are random
 - If the prefix matches, assume CID present and try to decrypt
 - Error rate 2^{-n}
 - If decryption fails, you can try without CID or just discard packet

Option 2: Explicit header

- Easy with DTLS 1.2 and DTLS 1.3 long header
 - Either CT or length available
 - Reasons to believe CT is better
- Harder with DTLS 1.3 header
 - We'd need to redesign
 - Thomas suggested expanding by one byte and use some of the bits for flags
 - DTLS 1.2 sequence number might also be too short (12 bits)

Potential Unified Header Design



- C: CID present
- L: Length present (2 bytes afterwards)
- E: Epoch (2 bits)
- Sequence number: 14 bits

Arguments for New Header

- One header format, not two
- Gives us 2 more bits for the sequence number (14 bits)
 - We could actually have 2 more if we use two of the bits in the first byte for epoch
- Plus we have some room for other flags (1-3 bits)

- We don't need to do exactly this
 - Might rip off the QUIC headers
 - The question is if we think this kind of thing makes a CID indicator bit look better

Proposed Way Forward

- Decide if we want an implicit or explicit CID
- If implicit, we're done-ish
- If explicit, can define for DTLS 1.2 right away
 - Modulo CT versus length bikeshed
- Work a bit on the best DTLS 1.3 format

Sequential Sequence Numbers

- Sequential sequence numbers leak CID linkage
 - Need to do something
- DTLS 1.2
 - Just use the skipping trick from QUIC
- DTLS 1.3
 - Probably we should just encrypt the sequence numbers
 - This may take some time to work out

CID Update

- Draft currently uses a DTLS 1.3 post-handshake message for CID update
 - No answer for TLS 1.2
- Some options for DTLS 1.2
 - Do nothing
 - Require rehandshake
 - Port the post-handshake messages into DTLS 1.2

Discuss