

MAC address randomization

draft-ietf-mac-address-randomization-04

IETF 115 – MADINAS WG

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Introduction and goals (reminder)

- Privacy, an increasing concern
 - Layer-2 globally unique identifiers (MAC addresses) have been assigned to devices and are transmitted in the clear in, for instance, beacons, probe requests, or after association
 - MAC addresses can easily be intercepted and used to track location or behavior
- Several projects in IETF, IEEE 802 and among mobile OS vendors to deal with plain-text, unique, permanent MAC addresses
 - Assigning a random MAC address to a device per connection, per SSID, after some time period
 - Area of extensive research (see reference Martin et al (2017) in draft for more comprehensive list of research in this area, or IEEE 802.11 RCM TIG final report in 11-19/1442r9, also in draft)
- Goal of this draft: document Current State of Affairs regarding MAC address randomization

Table of contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Introduction | 2 |
| 2. Terminology | 3 |
| 3. Background | 3 |
| 3.1. MAC address usage | 3 |
| 3.2. MAC address randomization | 4 |
| 3.3. Privacy Workshop, Tutorial and Experiments at IETF and IEEE 802 meetings | 5 |
| 4. Recent RCM activities at the IEEE 802 | 6 |
| 5. Recent MAC randomization-related activities at the WBA | 7 |
| 6. MAC randomization-related activities at the IETF | 8 |
| 7. OS current practices | 9 |
| 8. A taxonomy of MAC address selection policies | 9 |
| 8.1. Per-Vendor OUI MAC address (PVOM) | 10 |
| 8.2. Per-Device Generated MAC address (PDGM) | 10 |
| 8.3. Per-Boot Generated MAC address (PBGGM) | 10 |
| 8.4. Per-Network Generated MAC address (PNGM) | 10 |
| 8.5. Per-Period Generated MAC address (PPGM) | 11 |
| 8. IANA Considerations | 11 |
| 9. Security Considerations | 11 |
| 10. Acknowledgments | 11 |
| 11. References | 11 |
| 11.1. Normative References | 11 |
| 11.2. Informative References | 12 |
| Authors' Addresses | 15 |

A taxonomy of MAC address selection policies

- Per-Vendor OUI MAC address (PVOM)
 - This form of MAC address selection is the historical default
- Per-Device Generated MAC address (PDGM)
 - This form of MAC address is randomly generated by the device, usually upon first boot. The resulting MAC address is stored in non-volatile storage and is used for the rest of the device lifetime
- Per-Boot Generated MAC address (PBGM)
 - This form of MAC address is randomly generated by the device, each time the device is booted
 - *Not* stored in non-volatile storage, does not persist across power cycles
- Per-Network Generated MAC address (PNGM)
 - This form of MAC address is generated each time a new network connection is created, stored and indexed per SSID
- Per-Period Generated MAC address (PPGM)
 - This form of MAC address is generated periodically

Changelog

- -ietf-*-00:
 - Adopted version
- -ietf-*-01:
 - Addressed comments from Hai Shalom
- -ietf-*-02:
 - Move section 7 (OS current practices) to GitHub
- -ietf-*-03, -04:
 - Added section on taxonomy, removed BCP 14 terminology, other GitHub pull requests accepted