RADIUS proxy failure and ongoing EAP conversations
Problem Statement

- EAP state machine starts between authenticator and supplicant (EAP-Req/Identity + EAP-Resp/Identity)
- Supplicant waits for AAA server's response
- Authenticator gets no reply: either AAA server or intermediate proxy don't react
- At some point, authenticator gives up and sends EAP-Failure
- Supplicant displays funny error messages to user, like: “Most likely, your password is wrong”
User notification?

- Need to consider: disclosing AAA server state information can be considered security risk
- If not: how to convey information to user?
- Possibility 1
  - Proxy to send Access-Reject with EAP-Failure and Reply-Message == “AAA Server down, come back later”)
  - problematic as stated in EAP over RADIUS RFC
- Possibility 2
  - last working proxy “hijacks” EAP conversation, first sends EAP-Req/EAP-Notification, gets EAP-Resp/Notification then sends EAP-Failure
Thank you!

Questions?