Reporting Equivalent IPFIX Information Elements

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Problem to be solved

- An Exporting Process is changed to export IANA-standard Information Elements rather than Enterprise-Specific or NFv9 fields.

- The Collector needs to know that the new fields are equivalent to the old ones.

- How can that be done?
Potential solutions

- Equivalence is built in to the Collector
  - ✗ A Collector update is required.

- Equivalence table is loaded into the Collector out-of-band
  - ✗ Requires manual intervention.

- Collector automatically obtains update from manufacturer
  - ✗ Location must be fixed for ever.

- Collector automatically obtains update from IANA
  - ✗ Requires Enterprise-Specific information in IANA!
Solution

- Equivalence table is sent to the Collector by Exporters
  - Equivalence is immediately available
  - No software update required
  - No location or availability issues
  - Can be tested in lab / isolated networks

- This document proposes a method for IPFIX Exporting Processes to inform Collecting Processes of equivalent Information Elements, so that the Collecting Process can understand the equivalence and be enabled to process data across a change of Information Elements.
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