Reporting Equivalent IPFIX Information Elements

draft-aitken-ipfix-equivalent-ies-00

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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-equivalent fields.

- The Collector needs to know that the new fields are equivalent to the old ones, so it can process the old and new fields together.

- How can that be done?
Potential solutions

- Equivalence is built in to the Collector
  ❌ A Collector update is required for each field change.

- 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 must have external network access.

- Collector automatically obtains update from IANA
  ❌ Requires Enterprise-Specific information in IANA!
  ❌ Collector must have external network access.
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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