

Reporting Equivalent IPFIX Information Elements

draft-aitken-ipfix-equivalent-ies-00

Paul Aitken

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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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