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RADIUS Extensions for Network-Assisted Multipath TCP (MPTCP)  
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Abstract

One of the promising deployment scenarios for Multipath TCP (MPTCP) is to enable a Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) that is connected to multiple networks (e.g., DSL, LTE, WLAN) to optimize the usage of its network attachments. Because of the lack of MPTCP support at the server side, some service providers consider a network-assisted model that relies upon the activation of a dedicated function called: MPTCP Concentrator.

This document specifies a new Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) attributes that carry the IP addresses that allow CPE devices to reach one or multiple MPTCP Concentrators.

Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

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## 1. Introduction

One of the promising deployment scenarios for Multipath TCP (MPTCP, [RFC6824]) is to enable a Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) that is connected to multiple networks (e.g., DSL, LTE, WLAN) to optimize the usage of such resources, see for example [RFC4908]. This deployment scenario relies on MPTCP proxies located on both the CPE and network sides (Figure 1). MPTCP Proxies deployed in the network play the role of traffic concentrator.

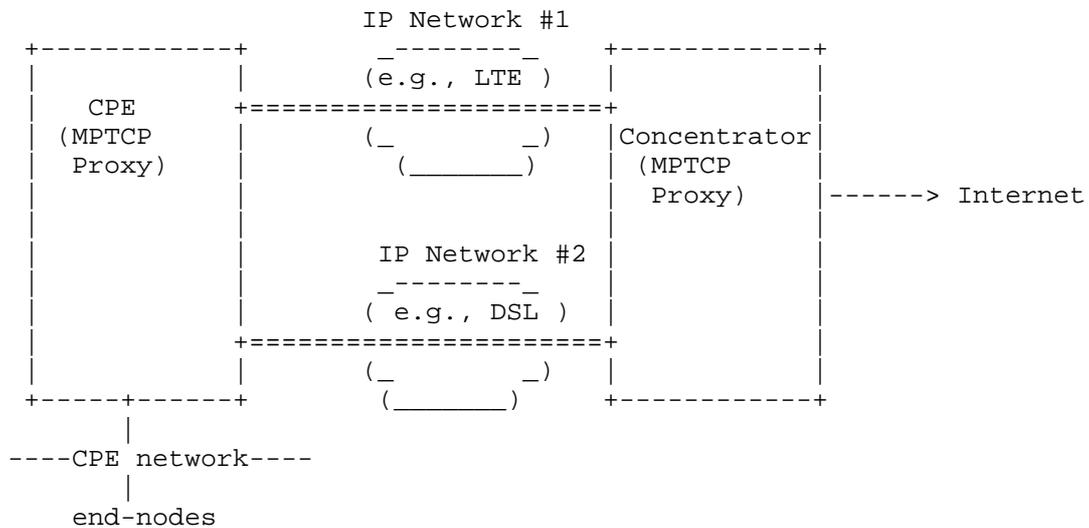


Figure 1: "Network-Assisted" MPTCP Design

Within this document, an MPTCP Concentrator (or concentrator) refers to a functional element that is responsible for aggregating the traffic originated by a group of CPEs. This element is located in the network. One or multiple concentrators can be deployed in the network to assist MPTCP-enabled CPEs to establish MPTCP connections via their available network attachments. On the uplink path, the concentrator terminates the MPTCP connections [RFC6824] received from its customer-facing interfaces and transforms these connections into legacy TCP connections [RFC0793] towards upstream servers. On the downlink path, the concentrator turns the legacy server's TCP connection into MPTCP connections towards its customer-facing interfaces.

Both implicit (where a CPE has no specific knowledge of any concentrator deployed in the network) and explicit modes are considered to steer traffic towards an MPTCP Concentrator. This document focuses on the explicit mode that consists in explicitly configuring a CPE with the reachability information of a MPTCP concentrator.

This document specifies two new Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS, [RFC2865]) attributes that carry the MPTCP Concentrator IP address list (Section 2). In order to accommodate both IPv4 and IPv6 deployment contexts, and given the constraints in Section 3.4 of [RFC6158], two attributes are specified. Note that one or multiple IPv4 and/or IPv6 addresses may be returned to a requesting CPE. A sample use case is described in Section 3.

This document assumes that the MPTCP concentrator(s) reachability information can be stored in Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) servers while the CPE configuration is usually provided by means of DHCP ([RFC2131][RFC3315]).

This specification assumes an MPTCP Concentrator is reachable through one or multiple IP addresses. As such, a list of IP addresses can be communicated via RADIUS. Also, it assumes the various network attachments provided to an MPTCP-enabled CPE are managed by the same administrative entity.

This document adheres to [I-D.ietf-radext-datatypes] for defining the new attributes.

## 2. MPTCP RADIUS Attributes

### 2.1. MPTCP-IPv4-Concentrator

#### Description

The RADIUS MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 attribute contains the IPv4 address of an MPTCP Concentrator that is assigned to a CPE.

Because multiple MPTCP Concentrator IP addresses may be provisioned to an authorised CPE (that is a CPE entitled to solicit the resources of a concentrator to establish MPTCP connections), multiple instances of the MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 attribute MAY be included; each instance of the attribute carries a distinct IP address.

Both MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 and MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 attributes MAY be present in a RADIUS message.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 Attribute MAY appear in a RADIUS Access-Accept packet. It MAY also appear in a RADIUS Access-Request packet as a hint to the RADIUS server to indicate a preference, although the server is not required to honor such a hint.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 Attribute MAY appear in a CoA-Request packet.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 Attribute MAY appear in a RADIUS Accounting-Request packet.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 Attribute MUST NOT appear in any other RADIUS packet.

## Type

TBA (see Section 6).

## Length

6

## Data Type

The attribute MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 is of type ip4addr (Section 3.3 of [I-D.ietf-radext-datatypes]).

## Value

This field includes an IPv4 address (32 bits) of the MPTCP Concentrator.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 attribute MUST NOT include multicast and host loopback addresses [RFC6890]. Anycast addresses are allowed to be included in an MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 attribute.

## 2.2. MPTCP-IPv6-Concentrator

## Description

The RADIUS MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 attribute contains the IPv6 address of an MPTCP Concentrator that is assigned to a CPE.

Because multiple MPTCP Concentrator IP addresses may be provisioned to an authorised CPE (that is a CPE entitled to solicit the resources of a concentrator to establish MPTCP connections), multiple instances of the MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 attribute MAY be included; each instance of the attribute carries a distinct IP address.

Both MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 and MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 attributes MAY be present in a RADIUS message.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 Attribute MAY appear in a RADIUS Access-Accept packet. It MAY also appear in a RADIUS Access-Request packet as a hint to the RADIUS server to indicate a preference, although the server is not required to honor such a hint.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 Attribute MAY appear in a CoA-Request packet.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 Attribute MAY appear in a RADIUS Accounting-Request packet.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 Attribute MUST NOT appear in any other RADIUS packet.

#### Type

TBA (see Section 6).

#### Length

18

#### Data Type

The attribute MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 is of type ip6addr (Section 3.9 of [I-D.ietf-radext-datatypes]).

#### Value

This field includes an IPv6 address (128 bits) of the MPTCP concentrator.

The MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 attribute MUST NOT include multicast and host loopback addresses [RFC6890]. Anycast addresses are allowed to be included in an MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 attribute.

### 3. Sample Use Case

This section does not aim to provide an exhaustive list of deployment scenarios where the use of the RADIUS MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 and MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 attributes can be helpful. Typical deployment scenarios are described, for instance, in [RFC6911].

Figure 2 shows an example where a CPE is assigned an MPTCP Concentrator. This example assumes that the Network Access Server (NAS) embeds both RADIUS client and DHCPv6 server capabilities.



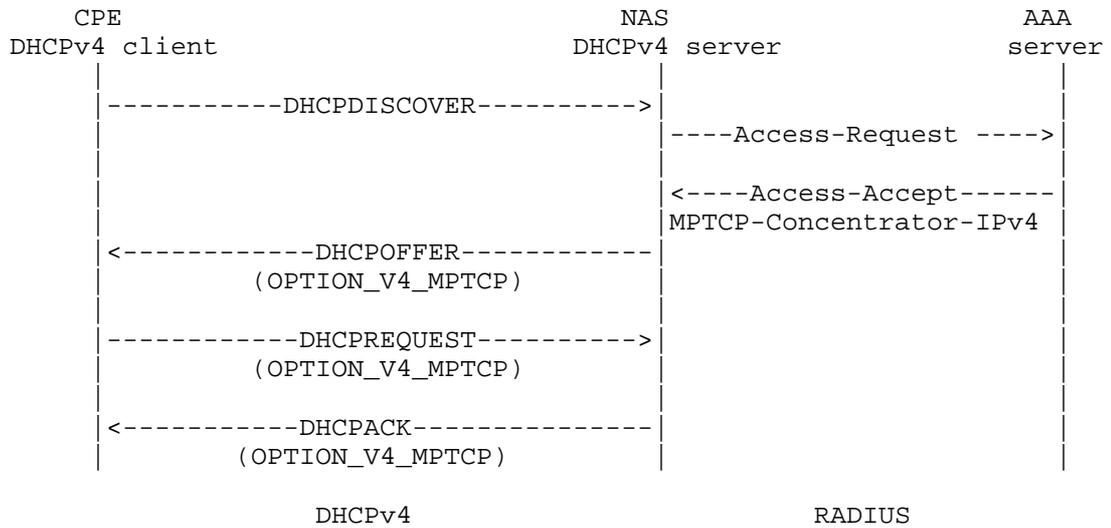


Figure 3: Sample Flow Example (2)

Some deployments may rely on the mechanisms defined in [RFC4014] or [RFC7037], which allows a NAS to pass attributes obtained from a RADIUS server to a DHCP server.

#### 4. Security Considerations

RADIUS-related security considerations are discussed in [RFC2865].

MPTCP-related security considerations are discussed in [RFC6824] and [RFC6181].

Traffic theft is a risk if an illegitimate concentrator is inserted in the path. Indeed, inserting an illegitimate concentrator in the forwarding path allows to intercept traffic and can therefore provide access to sensitive data issued by or destined to a host. To mitigate this threat, secure means to discover a concentrator should be enabled.

#### 5. Table of Attributes

The following table provides a guide as what type of RADIUS packets that may contain these attributes, and in what quantity.

Access-Request	Access-Accept	Access-Reject	Challenge	Acct. # Request	Attribute
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6

CoA-Request	CoA-ACK	CoA-NACK	#	Attribute
0+	0	0		TBA MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4
0+	0	0		TBA MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6

The following table defines the meaning of the above table entries:

- 0 This attribute MUST NOT be present in packet.
- 0+ Zero or more instances of this attribute MAY be present in packet.

## 6. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to assign two new RADIUS attribute types from the IANA registry "Radius Attribute Types" located at <http://www.iana.org/assignments/radius-types>:

MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv4 (TBA)

MPTCP-Concentrator-IPv6 (TBA)

## 7. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Alan DeKok for the comments.

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Dynamic Authorization Proxying in  
Remote Authorization Dial-In User Service Protocol (RADIUS)  
draft-ietf-radext-coa-proxy-00.txt

Abstract

RFC 5176 defines Change of Authorization (CoA) and Disconnect Message (DM) behavior for RADIUS. Section 3.1 of that document suggests that proxying these messages is possible, but gives no guidance as to how that is done. This specification corrects that omission.

Status of this Memo

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## 1. Introduction

RFC 5176 [RFC5176] defines Change of Authorization (CoA) and Disconnect Message (DM) behavior for RADIUS. Section 3.1 of that document suggests that proxying these messages is possible, but gives no guidance as to how that is done. This omission means that proxying of CoA packets is, in practice, impossible.

We correct that omission here by explaining how an existing RADIUS attribute, Operator-Name (Section 4.1 of [RFC5580]), can be used to record the visited network for a particular session. We then explain how that attribute can be used by CoA proxies to route packets "backwards" through a RADIUS proxy chain. We introduce a new attribute; Operator-NAS-Identifier, and show how this attribute can increase privacy about the internal implementation of the visited network.

We conclude with a discussion of the security implications of the design, and show how they are acceptable.

### 1.1. Terminology

This document frequently uses the following terms:

#### CoA

Change of Authorization, e.g. CoA-Request, or CoA-ACK, or CoA-NAK, as defined in [RFC5176]. That specification also defines Disconnect-Request, Disconnect-ACK, and Disconnect-NAK. For simplicity here, where we use "CoA", we mean a generic "CoA-Request or Disconnect-Request" packet. We use "CoA-Request" or "Disconnect-Request" to refer to the specific packet types.

#### Network Access Identifier

The Network Access Identifier (NAI) is the user identity submitted by the client during network access authentication. The purpose of the NAI is to identify the user as well as to assist in the routing of the authentication request. Please note that the NAI may not necessarily be the same as the user's email address or the user identity submitted in an application layer authentication.

#### Network Access Server

The Network Access Server (NAS) is the device that clients connect to in order to get access to the network. In PPTP terminology, this is referred to as the PPTP Access Concentrator (PAC), and in L2TP terminology, it is referred to as the L2TP Access

Concentrator (LAC). In IEEE 802.11, it is referred to as an Access Point.

#### Home Network

The network which holds the authentication credentials for a user.

#### Visited Network

A network other than the home network, where the user attempts to gain network access. The Visited Network typically has a relationship with the Home Network, and can ask the Home Network if the user is authentic (or not).

### 1.2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

## 2. Problem Statement

This section describes how RADIUS proxying works, how CoA packets work, and why CoA proxying does not work in the current system.

### 2.1. Typical RADIUS Proxying

When a RADIUS server proxies an Access-Request packet, it typically does so based on the contents of the User-Name attribute, which contains Network Access Identifier [RFC7542]. Other methods are possible, but we restrict ourselves to this usage, as it is the most common one.

The proxy server looks up the "Realm" portion of the NAI in a logical AAA routing table, as described in Section 3 of [RFC7542]. The entry in that table is the "next hop" to which the packet is sent. This "next hop" may be another proxy, or it may be the home server for that realm.

If the "next hop" is a proxy, it will perform the same Realm lookup, and then proxy the packet. Alternatively, if the "next hop" is the Home Server for that realm, it will try to authenticate the user, and respond with an Access-Accept, Access-Reject, or Access-Challenge.

The RADIUS client will match the response packet to an outstanding request. If the client is part of a proxy, it will then proxy that response packet in turn to the system which originated the Access-Request. This process occurs until the response packet arrives at the NAS.

The proxies are typically stateful with respect to ongoing request / response packets, but stateless with respect to user sessions. Once a reply has been received by the proxy, it can discard all information about the user.

The same proxy method is used for Accounting-Request packets. The combination of the two methods allows proxies to connect Visited Networks to Home Networks for all AAA purposes.

### 2.2. CoA Processing

[RFC5176] describes how CoA clients send packets to CoA servers. We note that system comprising the CoA client is typically co-located with, or the same as, the RADIUS server. Similarly, the CoA server is a system that is either co-located with, or the same as, the RADIUS client.

In the case of packets sent inside of one network, the source and

destination of CoA packets is locally determined. There is thus no need for standardization of that process, as networks are free to send CoA packets whenever they want, for whatever reason they want.

### 2.3. Failure of CoA Proxying

The situation is more complicated when multiple networks are involved. [RFC5176] suggests that CoA proxying is permitted, but makes no suggestions for how it should be done.

If proxies tracked user sessions, it might be possible for a proxy to match an incoming CoA-Request to a user session, and then to proxy that packet to the RADIUS client which originated the Access-Request for that sessions.

There are many problems with such a scenario. The CoA server may, in fact, not be co-located with the RADIUS client. The RADIUS client may be down, but there may be a different CoA server which could accept the packet. User session tracking can be expensive and complicated for a proxy, and many proxies do not record user sessions. Finally, [RFC5176] is silent on the topic of "session identification attributes", which makes it impossible for a proxy to determine if a CoA packet matches a particular user session.

The result is that CoA proxying cannot be performed when using the behavior defined in [RFC5176].

### 3. How to Perform CoA Proxying

The solution to the above problem is to use the Operator-Name attribute defined in [RFC5580], Section 4.1. We repeat portions of that definition here for clarity:

This attribute carries the operator namespace identifier and the operator name. The operator name is combined with the namespace identifier to uniquely identify the owner of an access network.

Followed by a description of the REALM namespace:

REALM ('1' (0x31)):

The REALM operator namespace can be used to indicate operator names based on any registered domain name. Such names are required to be unique, and the rights to use a given realm name are obtained coincident with acquiring the rights to use a particular Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN). ...

In short, the Operator-Name attribute contains the an ASCII "1",

followed by the Realm of the Visited Network. e.g. for the "example.com" realm, the Operator-Name attribute contains the text "lexample.com". This information is precisely what we need to perform CoA proxying.

### 3.1. Operator-Name in Access-Request and Accounting-Request packets

When a Visited Network proxies an Access-Request or Accounting-Request packet outside of its network, it SHOULD include an Operator-Name attribute in the packet, as discussed in Section 4.1 of [RFC5580]. The contents of the Operator-Name should be "1", followed by the realm name of the Visited Network. Where the Visited Network has more than one realm name, one should be chosen, and used for all packets.

Visited Networks MUST use a consistent value for Operator-Name for one user session. That is, sending "lexample.com" in an Access-Request packet, and "lexample.org" in an Accounting-Request packet for that same session is forbidden.

Proxies which record user session information SHOULD also record Operator-Name. Proxies which do not record user session information SHOULD NOT record Operator-Name.

Home Networks SHOULD record Operator-Name along with other information about user sessions. Home Networks which expect to send CoA packets to Visited Networks MUST record Operator-Name for each user session which originates from a Visited Network.

Networks which contain both the RADIUS client and RADIUS server do not need to record or track Operator-Name.

### 3.2. Operator-Name in CoA-Request and Disconnect-Request packets

When a Home Network wishes to send a CoA-Request or Disconnect-Request packet to a Visited Network, it MUST include an Operator-Name attribute in the packet. The value of the Operator-Name MUST be the value which was recorded earlier for that user session.

The Home Network MUST lookup the realm from the Operator-Name in a logical "realm routing table", as discussed in [RFC7542] Section 3. In this case, the destination of the packet is not a RADIUS server, but a CoA server.

In practice, this means that CoA proxying works exactly like "normal" RADIUS proxying, except that the proxy decision is based on the realm from the Operator-Name attribute, instead of on the realm from the User-Name attribute.

Proxies which receive the CoA packet MUST look up the realm from the Operator-Name in a logical "realm routing table", as with Home Servers, above. This process continues with any additional proxies until the packet reaches the Visited Network.

The Visited Network can then send the CoA packet to the NAS, and return any response packet back up the proxy chain to the Home Server.

Networks which contain both the CoA client and CoA server do not need to record or track Operator-Name.

### 3.3. Operator-NAS-Identifier

The process described in the previous section allows for CoA proxying, but it does not support privacy for Visited Networks. That is, all "internal" information about the Visited Network is public. This information includes NAS-Identifier, NAS-IP-Address, NAS-IPv6-Address, etc. We believe that the internals of the Visited Network should be opaque to third parties.

In addition, we will see that privacy provisions can have a positive impact on the security of the system.

The Operator-NAS-Identifier attribute contains opaque information identifying a NAS. It MAY appear in the following packets: Access-Request, Accounting-Request, CoA-Request, Disconnect-Request. Operator-NAS-Identifier MUST NOT appear in any other packet.

Operator-NAS-Identifier MAY occur in a packet if the packet also contains an Operator-Name attribute. Operator-NAS-Identifier MUST NOT appear in a packet if there is no Operator-Name in the packet. Operator-NAS-Identifier MUST NOT occur more than once in a packet.

An Operator-NAS-Identifier attribute SHOULD be added to an Access-Request or Accounting-Request packet by a Visited Network just before proxying a packet to an external RADIUS server. When the Operator-NAS-Identifier attribute is added to a packet, the following attributes MUST be deleted: NAS-IP-Address, NAS-IPv6-Address, NAS-Identifier. The proxy MUST then add a NAS-Identifier attribute, in order satisfy the requirements of Section 4.1 of [RFC2865], and of [RFC2866].

We suggest that the contents of the NAS-Identifier be the Realm name of the Visited Network. That is, for everyone outside of the Visited Network, the identity NAS is the Visited Network. For the Visited Network, the identity of the NAS is private information, which is opaque to everyone else.

Description

An opaque token describing the NAS a user has logged into.

Type

TBD. To be assigned by IANA

Length

TBD. Depends on IANA allocation.

Implementations supporting this attribute MUST be able to handle between one (1) and twenty (20) octets of data. Implementations creating an Operator-NAS-Identifier SHOULD NOT create attributes with more than twenty octets of data. A twenty octet string is more than sufficient to individually address all of the NASes on the planet.

Data Type

string. See [DATA] Section 2.6 for a definition.

Value

The contents of this attribute are an opaque token interpretable only by the Visited Network. The attribute MUST NOT contain any secret or private information.

## 4. Requirements

### 4.1. Requirements on Home Servers

A Home Server MUST NOT send CoA packets for users who are not part of its realm. The provisions of the next few sections describe how other participants in the RADIUS ecosystem can enforce this requirement.

The Operator-NAS-Identifier attribute MUST be stored by a Home Server along with any user session identification attributes. When sending a CoA packet for a user session, the Home Server MUST include any Operator-NAS-Identifier it has recorded for that session.

#### 4.2. Requirements on Proxies

Section 6.1 of [RFC5176] says:

... a proxy MAY perform a "reverse path forwarding" (RPF) check to verify that a Disconnect-Request or CoA-Request originates from an authorized Dynamic Authorization Client.

We change that requirement to a proxy MUST perform a "reverse path forwarding" (RPF) check to verify that a Disconnect-Request or CoA-Request originates from an authorized Dynamic Authorization Client. Without this change, a proxy may forward forged packets, and thus contribute to the forgery problem instead of preventing it.

Proxies which record user session information MAY verify the contents of the CoA packet against any recorded user session data. If the proxy determines that the information in the packet does not match the recorded user session, it SHOULD return a CoA-NAK or Disconnect-NAK packet, which contains an Error-Cause attribute having value 503 ("Session Context Not Found").

Section 2.3 of [RFC5176] makes the following requirement for CoA servers:

In CoA-Request and Disconnect-Request packets, all attributes MUST be treated as mandatory.

These requirements are too stringent for a CoA proxy. Instead, we say that for a CoA proxy, all attributes MUST NOT be treated as mandatory. Proxies SHOULD perform proxying based on Operator-Name, but other schemes are possible (though not discussed here). Proxies SHOULD forward all packets as-is, with minimal changes. Only the final CoA server (i.e RADIUS NAS) is definitive on which attributes are mandatory, and which are not.

Proxies MUST pass any Operator-Realm and Operator-NAS-Identifier attributes through unchanged.

In short, proxies SHOULD behave much like a CoA server, and where possible, perform many of the same validations done by a CoA server.

We recognize that because a proxy will see Access-Request and Accounting-Request packets, that it will have sufficient information to forge CoA packets. It will thus have the ability to subsequently disconnect any user who was authenticated via the proxy.

We suggest that the real-world effect of this security problem is minimal. Proxies can already return Access-Accept or Access-Reject for Access-Request packets, and can change authorization attributes contained in an Access-Accept. Allowing a proxy to change (or disconnect) a user session post-authentication is not substantially different from changing (or refusing to connect) a user session during the initial process of authentication.

There are no provisions in RADIUS for "end to end" security. That is, the Visited Network and Home Network cannot communicate privately in the presence of proxies. This limitation originates from the design of RADIUS for Access-Request and Accounting-Request packets. That limitation is then carried over to CoA-Request and Disconnect-Request packets.

We cannot therefore prevent proxies or Home Servers from forging CoA packets. We can only create scenarios where that forgery is hard to perform, and/or is likely to be detected.

#### 4.3. Requirements on Visited Networks

A Visited Network which receives a proxied CoA packet MUST perform all of the checks discussed above for proxies. This requirement is because we assume that the Visited Network has a proxy in between the NAS and any external (i.e. third-party) proxy. Situations where a NAS sends packets directly to a third-party RADIUS server are outside of the scope of this specification.

Due to the requirements of Section 2.3 of [RFC5176], a Visited Network MUST remove Operator-Name and Operator-NAS-Identifier from any CoA-Request or Disconnect-Request packet prior to proxying that packet to a CoA server.

That is, all attributes added to outbound packets by the Visited Network MUST be removed from inbound packets before sending those packets to the NAS.

We note that the above requirement applies not only to Operator-Name and Operator-NAS-Identifier, but also to any future attributes which are added by the Visited Network.

When a Visited Network may create an Operator-Name via many methods. The value SHOULD be cryptographically strong. It SHOULD be verifiable by the Visited Network, without tracking every single user session.

## 5. Functionality

This section describes how the two attributes work together to permit CoA proxying.

### 5.1. User Login

In this scenario, we follow a roaming user attempting authentication in a visited network. The login attempt is done via a visited NAS. That NAS will send an Access-Request packet to the visited RADIUS server. The visited RADIUS server will see that the user is roaming, and proxy the authentication request to an upstream server. That server may be the home server for the user, or it may be another proxy.

The visited RADIUS server should add an Operator-Name attribute, with value "1" followed by it's own realm name. e.g. "lexample.com". Where the visited network has multiple realms, it MUST choose a realm name which permits packets to be routed back to itself. The visited RADIUS server MAY also add an Operator-NAS-Identifier as discussed below.

The upstream proxy or proxies will then forward the packet to the home server. Intermediate proxies MUST NOT modify the contents of, or delete the Operator-Name or Operator-NAS-Identifier attributes.

The Home Server SHOULD record both Operator-Name and Operator-NAS-Identifier along with other information about the users session.

### 5.2. CoA Proxing

When the Home Server decides to disconnect a user, it looks up the Operator-Name and Operator-NAS-Identifier, along with other user session identifiers as described in [RFC5176]. It then looks up the Operator-Name in the logical AAA routing table to find the CoA server for that realm (which may be a proxy). The CoA-Request is then sent to that server.

The CoA server receives the request, and if it is a proxy, performs a similar lookup as done by the Home Server. The packet is then proxied repeatedly until it reaches the Visited Network.

If the proxy cannot find a destination for the request, or if no Operator-Name attribute exists in the request, the proxy returns a CoA-NAK with Error-Cause 502 (Request Not Routable).

The Visited Network receives the CoA-Request packet, and uses the Operator-NAS-Identifier attribute to determine which local CoA server

(i.e. NAS) the packet should be sent to.

If no CoA server can be found, the Visited Network return a CoA-NAK with Error-Cause 403 (NAS Identification Mismatch).

Any response from the CoA server (NAS) is returned to the Home Network.

## 6. Security Considerations

This specification incorporates by reference the [RFC6929] Section 11. In short, RADIUS has known issues which are discussed there.

This specification adds one new attribute, and defines new behavior for RADIUS proxying. As this behavior mirrors existing RADIUS proxying, we do not believe that it introduces any new security issues.

Operator-NAS-Identifier should remain secure. We don't say how.

## 7. IANA Considerations

IANA is instructed to allocated one new RADIUS attribute, as per Section 3.1, above.

## 8. References

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Acknowledgments

Stuff

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RADIUS Extensions for IP Port Configuration and Reporting  
draft-ietf-radext-ip-port-radius-ext-08

Abstract

This document defines three new RADIUS attributes. For devices that implementing IP port ranges, these attributes are used to communicate with a RADIUS server in order to configure and report TCP/UDP ports and ICMP identifiers, as well as mapping behavior for specific hosts. This mechanism can be used in various deployment scenarios such as Carrier-Grade NAT, IPv4/IPv6 translators, Provider WLAN Gateway, etc.

Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

Status of This Memo

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## 1. Introduction

In a broadband network, customer information is usually stored on a RADIUS server [RFC2865]. At the time when a user initiates an IP connection request, if this request is authorized, the RADIUS server will populate the user's configuration information to the Network Access Server (NAS), which is often referred to as a Broadband Network Gateway (BNG) in broadband access networks. The Carrier-Grade NAT (CGN) function may also be implemented on the BNG. Within this document, the CGN may perform NAT44 [RFC3022], NAT64 [RFC6146], or Dual-Stack Lite AFTR [RFC6333] function. In such case, the CGN TCP/UDP port (or ICMP identifier) mapping(s) behavior(s) can be part of the configuration information sent from the RADIUS server to the NAS/BNG. The NAS/BNG may also report to the RADIUS Server the port/identifier mapping behavior applied by the CGN to a user session to the RADIUS server, as part of the accounting information sent from the NAS/BNG to a RADIUS server.

When IP packets traverse the CGN, it performs TCP/UDP source port mapping or ICMP identifier mapping as required. A TCP/UDP source port or ICMP identifier, along with source IP address, destination IP address, destination port and protocol identifier if applicable, uniquely identify a session. Since the number space of TCP/UDP ports and ICMP identifiers in CGN's external realm is shared among multiple users assigned with the same IPv4 address, the total number of a user's simultaneous IP sessions is likely to be subject to port quota (see Section 5 of [RFC6269]).

The attributes defined in this document may also be used to report the assigned port range in some deployments such as Provider WLAN [I-D.gundavelli-v6ops-community-wifi-svcs]. For example, a visiting host can be managed by a CPE (Customer Premises Equipment) which will need to report the assigned port range to the service platform. This is required for identification purposes (see TR-146 [TR-146] for more details).

This document proposes three new attributes as RADIUS protocol's extensions, and they are used for separate purposes as follows:

1. IP-Port-Limit-Info: This attribute may be carried in RADIUS Access-Accept, Access-Request, Accounting-Request or CoA-Request

packet. The purpose of this attribute is to limit the total number of TCP/UDP ports and/or ICMP identifiers allocated to a user, associated with one or more IPv4 addresses.

2. IP-Port-Range: This attribute may be carried in RADIUS Accounting-Request packet. The purpose of this attribute is to report by an address sharing device (e.g., a CGN) to the RADIUS server the range of TCP/UDP ports and/or ICMP identifiers that have been allocated or deallocated associated with a given IPv4 address for a user.
3. IP-Port-Forwarding-Map: This attribute may be carried in RADIUS Access-Accept, Access-Request, Accounting-Request or CoA-Request packet. The purpose of this attribute is to specify how an IPv4 address and a TCP/UDP port (or an ICMP identifier) is mapped to another IPv4 address and a TCP/UDP port (or an ICMP identifier).

IPFIX Information Elements [RFC7012] can be used for IP flow identification and representation over RADIUS. This document provides a mapping between RADIUS TLV and IPFIX Information Element Identifiers. As a consequence, new IPFIX Information Elements are defined by this document (see Section 3).

## 2. Terminology

This document makes use of the following terms:

- o IP Port: refers to the port numbers of IP transport protocols, including TCP port, UDP port and ICMP identifier.
- o IP Port Type: refers to one of the following: (1) TCP/UDP port and ICMP identifier, (2) TCP port and UDP port, (3) TCP port, (4) UDP port, or (5) ICMP identifier.
- o IP Port Limit: denotes the maximum number of IP ports for a specific IP port type, that a device supporting port ranges can use when performing port number mapping for a specific user. Note, this limit is usually associated with one or more IPv4 addresses.
- o IP Port Range: specifies a set of contiguous IP ports, indicated by the lowest numerical number and the highest numerical number, inclusively.
- o Internal IP Address: refers to the IP address that is used as a source IP address in an outbound IP packet sent towards a device supporting port ranges in the internal realm.

- o External IP Address: refers to the IP address that is used as a source IP address in an outbound IP packet after traversing a device supporting port ranges in the external realm.
- o Internal Port: is a UDP or TCP port, or an ICMP identifier, which is allocated by a host or application behind a device supporting port ranges for an outbound IP packet in the internal realm.
- o External Port: is a UDP or TCP port, or an ICMP identifier, which is allocated by a device supporting port ranges upon receiving an outbound IP packet in the internal realm, and is used to replace the internal port that is allocated by a user or application.
- o External realm: refers to the networking segment where external IP addresses are used in respective of the device supporting port ranges.
- o Internal realm: refers to the networking segment that is behind a device supporting port ranges and where internal IP addresses are used.
- o Mapping: associates with a device supporting port ranges for a relationship between an internal IP address, internal port and the protocol, and an external IP address, external port, and the protocol.
- o Port-based device: a device that is capable of providing IP address and IP port mapping services and in particular, with the granularity of one or more subsets within the 16-bit IP port number range. A typical example of this device is a CGN, CPE, Provider WLAN Gateway, etc.

Note that the definitions of "internal IP address", "internal port", "internal realm", "external IP address", "external port", "external realm", and "mapping" are the same as defined in Port Control Protocol (PCP) [RFC6887], and the Common Requirements for Carrier-Grade NATs (CGNs) [RFC6888].

### 3. Extensions of RADIUS Attributes and TLVs

These three new attributes are defined in the following sub-sections:

1. IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute
2. IP-Port-Range Attribute
3. IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute

All these attributes are allocated from the RADIUS "Extended Type" code space per [RFC6929].

These attributes and their embedded TLVs (refer to Section 3.2) are defined with globally unique names and follow the guideline in Section 2.7.1 of [RFC6929].

In all the figures describing the RADIUS attributes and TLV formats in the following sub-sections, the fields are transmitted from left to right.

### 3.1. Extended Attributes for IP Ports

#### 3.1.1. IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute

This attribute is of type "TLV" as defined in the RADIUS Protocol Extensions [RFC6929]. It contains the following sub-attributes:

- o an IP-Port-Type TLV (see Section 3.2.1),
- o an IP-Port-Limit TLV (see Section 3.2.2),
- o an optional IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV (see Section 3.2.3).

It specifies the maximum number of IP ports as indicated in IP-Port-Limit TLV, of a specific port type as indicated in IP-Port-Type TLV, and associated with a given IPv4 address as indicated in IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV for an end user.

Note that when IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV is not included as part of the IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute, the port limit applies to all the IPv4 addresses managed by the port device, e.g., a CGN or NAT64 device.

The IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute MAY appear in an Access-Accept packet. It MAY also appear in an Access-Request packet as a preferred maximum number of IP ports indicated by the device supporting port ranges co-located with the NAS, e.g., a CGN or NAT64. However, the RADIUS server is not required to honor such a preference.

The IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute MAY appear in a CoA-Request packet.

The IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute MAY appear in an Accounting-Request packet.

The IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute MUST NOT appear in any other RADIUS packet.

The format of the IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute is shown in Figure 1.

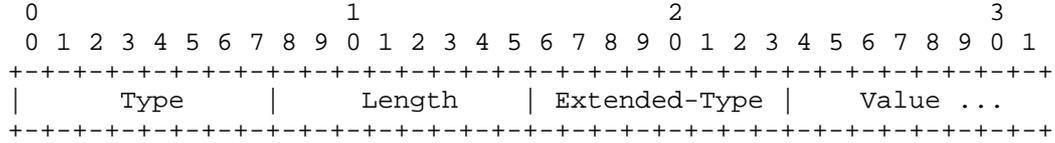


Figure 1

Type

241 (To be confirmed by IANA).

Length

This field indicates the total length in bytes of all fields of this attribute, including the Type, Length, Extended-Type, and the entire length of the embedded TLVs.

Extended-Type

TBD1.

Value

This field contains a set of TLVs as follows:

IP-Port-Type TLV

This TLV contains a value that indicates the IP port type. Refer to Section 3.2.1.

IP-Port-Limit TLV

This TLV contains the maximum number of IP ports of a specific IP port type and associated with a given IPv4 address for an end user. This TLV must be included in the IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.2.

IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV

This TLV contains the IPv4 address that is associated with the IP port limit contained in the IP-Port-Limit TLV. This TLV is optionally included as part of the IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.3.

IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute is associated with the following identifier: 241.Extended-Type(TBD1).

### 3.1.2. IP-Port-Range Attribute

This attribute is of type "TLV" as defined in the RADIUS Protocol Extensions [RFC6929]. It contains the following sub-attributes:

- o an IP-Port-Type TLV (see Section 3.2.1),
- o an IP-Port-Range-Start TLV (see Section 3.2.9),
- o an IP-Port-Range-End TLV (see Section 3.2.10),
- o an IP-Port-Alloc TLV (see Section 3.2.8),
- o an optional IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV (see Section 3.2.3),
- o an optional IP-Port-Local-Id TLV (see Section 3.2.11).

This attribute contains a range of contiguous IP ports of a specific port type and associated with an IPv4 address that are either allocated or deallocated by a device for a given user, and the information is intended to be sent to RADIUS server.

This attribute can be used to convey a single IP port number; in such case IP-Port-Range-Start and IP-Port-Range-End conveys the same value.

Within an IP-Port-Range Attribute, the IP-Port-Alloc TLV is always included. For port allocation, both IP-Port-Range-Start TLV and IP-Port-Range-End TLV must be included; for port deallocation, the inclusion of these two TLVs is optional and if not included, it implies that all ports that are previously allocated are now deallocated. Both IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV and IP-Port-Local-Id TLV are optional and if included, they are used by a port device (e.g., a CGN device) to identify the end user.

The IP-Port-Range Attribute MAY appear in an Accounting-Request packet.

The IP-Port-Range Attribute MUST NOT appear in any other RADIUS packet.

The format of the IP-Port-Range Attribute is shown in Figure 2.

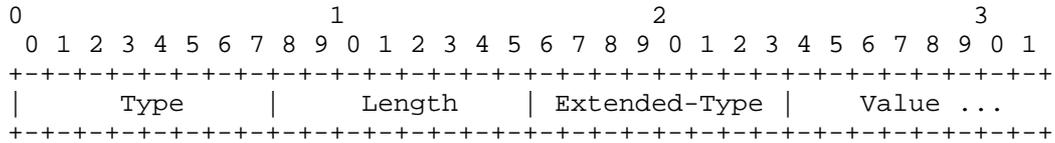


Figure 2

Type

241 (To be confirmed by IANA).

Length

This field indicates the total length in bytes of all fields of this attribute, including the Type, Length, Extended-Type, and the entire length of the embedded TLVs.

Extended-Type

TBD2.

Value

This field contains a set of TLVs as follows:

IP-Port-Type TLV

This TLV contains a value that indicates the IP port type. Refer to Section 3.2.1.

IP-Port-Alloc TLV

This TLV contains a flag to indicate that the range of the specified IP ports for either allocation or deallocation. This TLV must be included as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.8.

IP-Port-Range-Start TLV

This TLV contains the smallest port number of a range of contiguous IP ports. To report the port allocation, this TLV must be included together with IP-Port-Range-End TLV as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.9.

IP-Port-Range-End TLV

This TLV contains the largest port number of a range of contiguous IP ports. To report the port allocation, this TLV must be included together with IP-Port-Range-Start TLV as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.10.

#### IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV

This TLV contains the IPv4 address that is associated with the IP port range, as collectively indicated in the IP-Port-Range-Start TLV and the IP-Port-Range-End TLV. This TLV is optionally included as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.3.

#### IP-Port-Local-Id TLV

This TLV contains a local session identifier at the customer premise, such as MAC address, interface ID, VLAN ID, PPP sessions ID, VRF ID, IPv6 address/prefix, etc. This TLV is optionally included as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.11.

The IP-Port-Range attribute is associated with the following identifier: 241.Extended-Type(TBD2).

### 3.1.3. IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute

This attribute is of type "TLV" as defined in the RADIUS Protocol Extensions [RFC6929]. It contains the following sub-attributes:

- o an IP-Port-Type TLV (see Section 3.2.1),
- o an IP-Port-Int-Port TLV (see Section 3.2.6),
- o an IP-Port-Ext-Port TLV (see Section 3.2.7),
- o either an IP-Port-Int-IPv4-Addr TLV (see Section 3.2.4) or an IP-Port-Local-Id TLV (see Section 3.2.11),
- o either an IP-Port-Int-IPv6-Addr TLV (see Section 3.2.5) or an IP-Port-Local-Id TLV (see Section 3.2.11),
- o an IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV (see Section 3.2.3).

The attribute contains a 2-byte IP internal port number that is associated with an internal IPv4 or IPv6 address, or a locally significant identifier at the customer site, and a 2-byte IP external port number that is associated with an external IPv4 address. The

internal IPv4 or IPv6 address, or the local identifier must be included; the external IPv4 address may also be included.

The IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute MAY appear in an Access-Accept packet. It MAY also appear in an Access-Request packet to indicate a preferred port mapping by the device co-located with NAS. However the server is not required to honor such a preference.

The IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute MAY appear in a CoA-Request packet.

The IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute MAY also appear in an Accounting-Request packet.

The IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute MUST NOT appear in any other RADIUS packet.

The format of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute is shown in Figure 3.

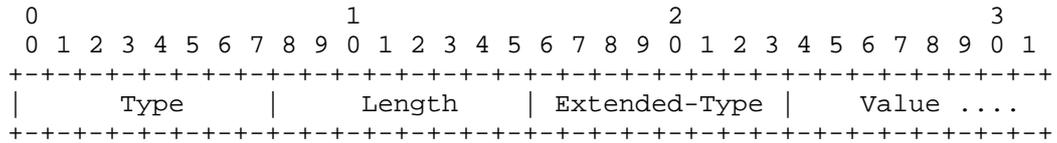


Figure 3

Type

241 (To be confirmed by IANA).

Length

This field indicates the total length in bytes of all fields of this attribute, including the Type, Length, Extended-Type, and the entire length of the embedded TLVs.

Extended-Type

TBD3.

Value

This field contains a set of TLVs as follows:

IP-Port-Type TLV

This TLV contains a value that indicates the IP port type. Refer to Section 3.2.1.

#### IP-Port-Int-Port TLV

This TLV contains an internal IP port number associated with an internal IPv4 or IPv6 address. This TLV must be included together with IP-Port-Ext-Port TLV as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.6.

#### IP-Port-Ext-Port TLV

This TLV contains an external IP port number associated with an external IPv4 address. This TLV must be included together with IP-Port-Int-Port TLV as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.7.

#### IP-Port-Int-IPv4-Addr TLV

This TLV contains an IPv4 address that is associated with the internal IP port number contained in the IP-Port-Int-Port TLV. For IPv4 network, either this TLV or IP-Port-Local-Id TLV must be included as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.4.

#### IP-Port-Int-IPv6-Addr TLV

This TLV contains an IPv4 address that is associated with the internal IP port number contained in the IP-Port-Int-Port TLV. For IPv6 network, either this TLV or IP-Port-Local-Id TLV must be included as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.5.

#### IP-Port-Local-Id TLV

This TLV contains a local session identifier at the customer premise, such as MAC address, interface ID, VLAN ID, PPP sessions ID, VRF ID, IPv6 address/prefix, etc. Either this TLV or IP-Port-Int-IP-Addr TLV must be included as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.11.

#### IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV

This TLV contains an IPv4 address that is associated with the external IP port number contained in the IP-Port-Ext-Port TLV. This TLV may be included as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute. Refer to Section 3.2.3.

The IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute is associated with the following identifier: 241.Extended-Type(TBD3).

3.2. RADIUS TLVs for IP Ports

The TLVs that are included in the three attributes (see Section 3.1) are defined in the following sub-sections. These TLVs use the format defined in [RFC6929].

3.2.1. IP-Port-Type TLV

The format of IP-Port-Type TLV is shown in Figure 4. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element "transportType" (TBAX1), and its "Value" field contains the values defined for the IPFIX Information Element "transportType", which indicates the type of IP transport as follows:

- 1:  
Refer to TCP port, UDP port, and ICMP identifier as a whole.
- 2:  
Refer to TCP port and UDP port as a whole.
- 3:  
Refer to TCP port only.
- 4:  
Refer to UDP port only.
- 5:  
Refer to ICMP identifier only.

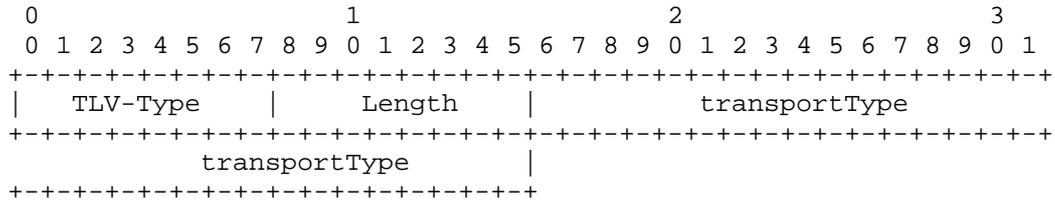


Figure 4

TLV-Type

1. This MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier TBax1.

Length

6.

transportType

Integer. This field contains the data (unsigned8) of transportType (TBax1) defined in IPFIX, right justified, and the unused bits in this field MUST be set to zero.

IP-Port-Type TLV is included in the following Attributes:

- o IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute, identified as 241.TBD1.1 (see Section 3.1.1).
- o IP-Port-Range Attribute, identified as 241.TBD2.1 (see Section 3.1.2).
- o IP-Port-Forwarding-Mapping Attribute, identified as 241.TBD3.1 (see Section 3.1.3).

3.2.2. IP-Port-Limit TLV

The format of IP-Port-Limit TLV is shown in Figure 5. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element natTransportLimit (TBax2), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element natTransportLimit, which indicates the maximum number of ports for a given IPv4 address assigned to a user for a specified IP-Port-Type.

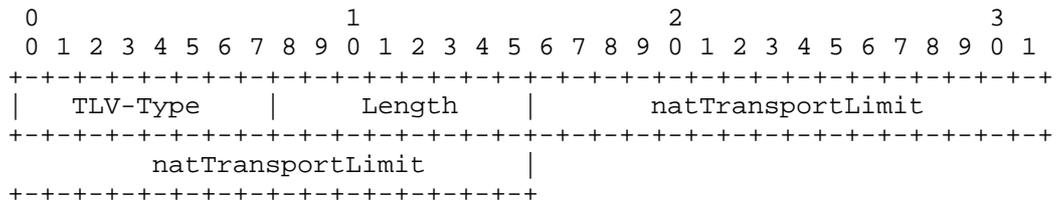


Figure 5

TLV-Type

2. It MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier TBax2.

Length

6.

natTransportLimit

Integer. This field contains the data (unsigned16) of natTransportLimit (TBax2) defined in IPFIX, right justified, and the unused bits in this field MUST be set to zero.

IP-Port-Limit TLV is included as part of the IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute (refer to Section 3.1.1), identified as 241.TBD1.2.

3.2.3. IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV

The format of IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV is shown in Figure 6. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element postNATSourceIPv4Address(225), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element postNATSourceIPv4Address, which is the IPv4 source address after NAT operation (refer to [IPFIX]).

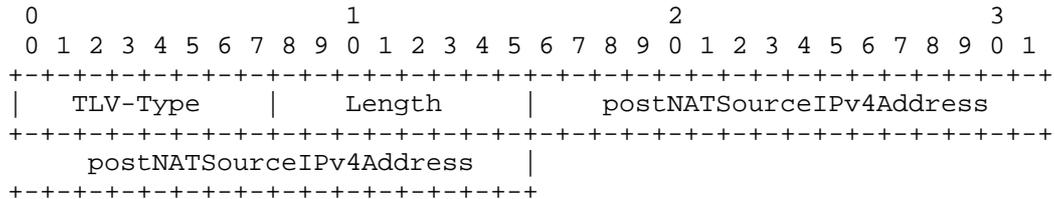


Figure 6

TLV-Type

3. This MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier 225.

Length

6

postNATSourceIPv4Address

Integer. This field contains the data (ipv4Address) of postNATSourceIPv4Address (225) defined in IPFIX.

IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr TLV MAY be included in the following Attributes:

- o IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute, identified as 241.TBD1.3 (see Section 3.1.1).
- o IP-Port-Range Attribute, identified as 241.TBD2.3 (see Section 3.1.2).
- o IP-Port-Forwarding-Mapping Attribute, identified as 241.TBD3.3 (see Section 3.1.3).

3.2.4. IP-Port-Int-IPv4-Addr TLV

The format of IP-Port-Int-IPv4 TLV is shown in Figure 7. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element sourceIPv4Address (8), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element sourceIPv4Address, which is the IPv4 source address before NAT operation (refer to [IPFIX]).

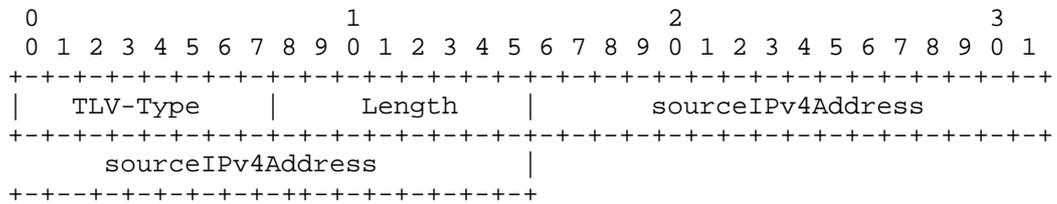


Figure 7

TLV-Type

4. It MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier 8.

Length

6.

sourceIPv4Address

Integer. This field contains the data (ipv4Address) of sourceIPv4Address (8) defined in IPFIX.

IP-Port-Int-IPv4-Addr TLV MAY be included as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute (refer to Section 3.1.3), identified as 241.TBD3.4.



transport number associated with an internal IPv4 or IPv6 address (refer to [IPFIX]).

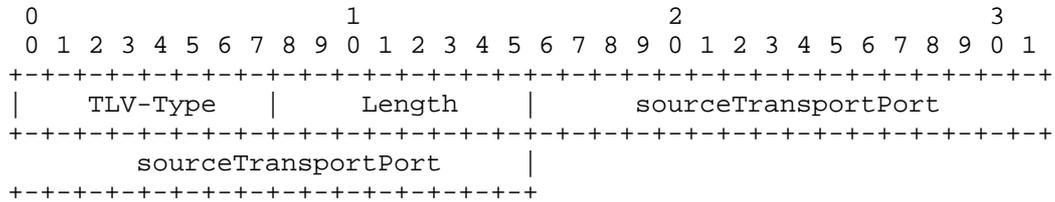


Figure 9

TLV-Type

6. It MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier 7.

Length

4.

sourceTransportPort

Integer. This field contains the data (unsigned16) of sourceTrasnportPort (7) defined in IPFIX, right justified, and unused bits MUST be set to zero.

IP-Port-Int-Port TLV is included as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute (refer to Section 3.1.3), identified as 241.TBD3.6.

3.2.7. IP-Port-Ext-Port TLV

The format of IP-Port-Ext-Port TLV is shown in Figure 10. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element postNAPTSrcTransportPort (227), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element postNAPTSrcTransportPort, which is the transport number associated with an external IPv4 address(refer to [IPFIX]).

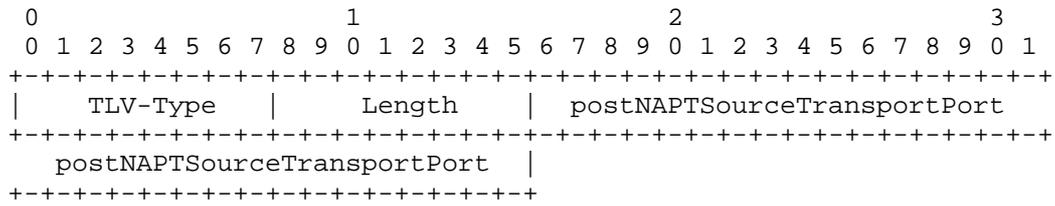


Figure 10

TLV-Type

7. It MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier 227 .

Length

6.

postNAPTSourceTransportPort

Integer. This field contains the data (unsigned16) of postNAPTSourceTrasnportPort (227) defined in IPFIX, right justified, and unused bits must be set to zero.

IP-Port-Ext-Port TLV is included as part of the IP-Port-Forwarding-Map Attribute (refer to Section 3.1.3), identified as 241.TBD3.7.

3.2.8. IP-Port-Alloc TLV

The format of IP-Port-Alloc TLV is shown in Figure 11. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element natEvent (230), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element "natEvent", which is a flag to indicate an action of NAT operation (refer to [IPFIX]).

When the value of natEvent is "1" (Create event), it means to allocate a range of transport ports; when the value is "2", it means to deallocate a range of transports ports. For the purpose of this TLV, no other value is used.

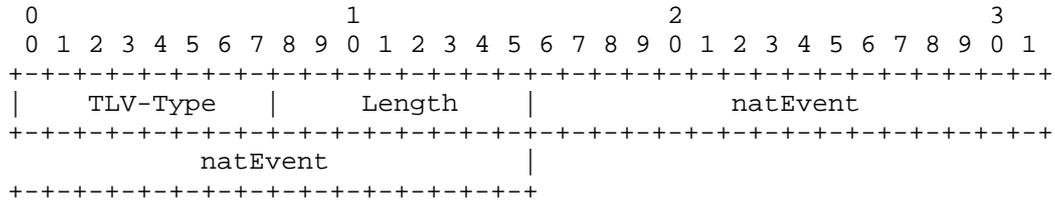


Figure 11

TLV-Type

8. It MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier 230 .

Length

3.

natEvent

Integer. This field contains the data (unsigned8) of natEvent (230) defined in IPFIX, right justified, and unused bits must be set to zero. It indicates the allocation or deallocation of a range of IP ports as follows:

1:

Allocation

2:

Deallocation

Reserved:

0.

IP-Port-Alloc TLV is included as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute (refer to Section 3.1.2), identified as 241.TBD2.8.

3.2.9. IP-Port-Range-Start TLV

The format of IP-Port-Range-Start TLV is shown in Figure 12. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element portRangeStart (361), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element portRangeStart, which is the

smallest port number of a range of contiguous transport ports (refer to [IPFIX]).

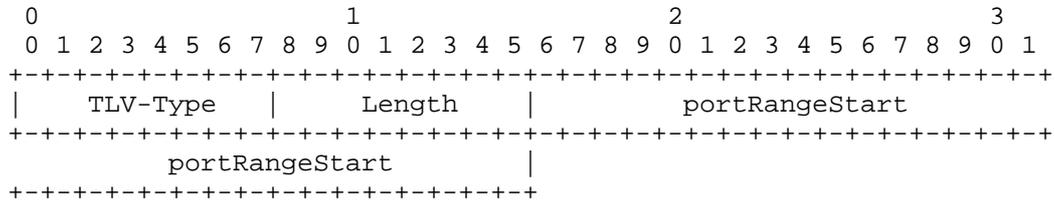


Figure 12

TLV-Type

9. It MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier 361.

Length

4.

portRangeStart

Integer. This field contains the data (unsigned16) of (361) defined in IPFIX, right justified, and unused bits must be set to zero.

IP-Port-Range-Start TLV is included as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute (refer to Section 3.1.2), identified as 241.TBD2.9.

3.2.10. IP-Port-Range-End TLV

The format of IP-Port-Range-End TLV is shown in Figure 13. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to IPFIX Information Element portRangeEnd (362), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element portRangeEnd, which is the largest port number of a range of contiguous transport ports (refer to [IPFIX]).

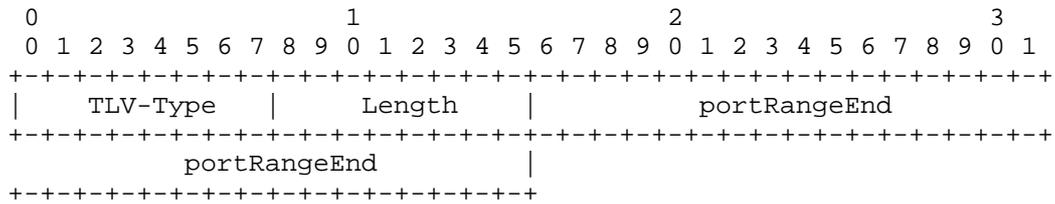


Figure 13

TLV-Type

10. It MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier 362.

Length

4. The Length field for IP-Port-Range-End TLV.

portRangeEnd

Integer. This field contains the data (unsigned16) of (362) defined in IPFIX, right justified, and unused bits must be set to zero.

IP-Port-Range-End TLV is included as part of the IP-Port-Range Attribute (refer to Section 3.1.2), identified as 241.TBD2.10.

3.2.11. IP-Port-Local-Id TLV

The format of IP-Port-Local-Id TLV is shown in Figure 14. Its "Type" field contains a value that uniquely refers to the IPFIX Information Element localID (TBAX3), and its "Value" field contains IPFIX Information Element localID, which is a local significant identifier as explained below.

In some CGN deployment scenarios such as DS-Extra-Lite [RFC6619] and Lightweight 4over6 [RFC7596], parameters at a customer premise such as MAC address, interface ID, VLAN ID, PPP session ID, IPv6 prefix, VRF ID, etc., may also be required to pass to the RADIUS server as part of the accounting record.

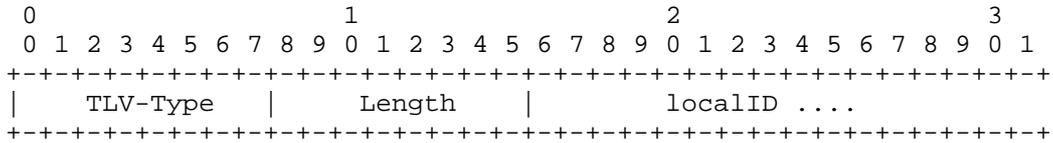


Figure 14

TLV-Type

11. This MUST uniquely refer to the IPFIX Information Element identifier TBAX3.

Length

Variable number of bytes.

localID

string. This field contains the data (string) of (TBAX3) defined in IPFIX. This is a local session identifier at the customer premise, such as MAC address, interface ID, VLAN ID, PPP sessions ID, VRF ID, IPv6 address/prefix, etc.

IP-Port-Local-Id TLV MAY be included in the following Attributes:

- o IP-Port-Range Attribute, identified as 241.TBD2.11 (see Section 3.1.2).
- o IP-Port-Forwarding-Mapping Attribute, identified as 241.TBD3.11 (see Section 3.1.3).

4. Applications, Use Cases and Examples

This section describes some applications and use cases to illustrate the use of the attributes proposed in this document.

4.1. Managing CGN Port Behavior using RADIUS

In a broadband network, customer information is usually stored on a RADIUS server, and the BNG acts as a NAS. The communication between the NAS and the RADIUS server is triggered by a user when it signs in to the Internet service, where either PPP or DHCP/DHCPv6 is used. When a user signs in, the NAS sends a RADIUS Access-Request message to the RADIUS server. The RADIUS server validates the request, and if the validation succeeds, it in turn sends back a RADIUS Access-Accept message. The Access-Accept message carries configuration

information specific to that user, back to the NAS, where some of the information would pass on to the requesting user via PPP or DHCP/DHCPv6.

A CGN function in a broadband network would most likely co-located on a BNG. In that case, parameters for CGN port/identifier mapping behavior for users can be configured on the RADIUS server. When a user signs in to the Internet service, the associated parameters can be conveyed to the NAS, and proper configuration is accomplished on the CGN device for that user.

Also, CGN operation status such as CGN port/identifier allocation and deallocation for a specific user on the BNG can also be transmitted back to the RADIUS server for accounting purpose using the RADIUS protocol.

RADIUS protocol has already been widely deployed in broadband networks to manage BNG, thus the functionality described in this specification introduces little overhead to the existing network operation.

In the following sub-sections, we describe how to manage CGN behavior using RADIUS protocol, with required RADIUS extensions proposed in Section 3.

#### 4.1.1.1. Configure IP Port Limit for a User

In the face of IPv4 address shortage, there are currently proposals to multiplex multiple users' connections over a smaller number of shared IPv4 addresses, such as Carrier Grade NAT [RFC6888], Dual-Stack Lite [RFC6333], NAT64 [RFC6146], etc. As a result, a single IPv4 public address may be shared by hundreds or even thousands of users. As indicated in [RFC6269], it is therefore necessary to impose limits on the total number of ports available to an individual user to ensure that the shared resource, i.e., the IPv4 address, remains available in some capacity to all the users using it. The support of IP port limit is also documented in [RFC6888] as a requirement for CGN.

The IP port limit imposed to a specific user may be on the total number of TCP and UDP ports plus the number of ICMP identifiers, or with other granularities as defined in Section 3.1.1.

The per-user based IP port limit is configured on a RADIUS server, along with other user information such as credentials. The value of this IP port limit is based on service agreement and its specification is out of the scope of this document.

When a user signs in to the Internet service successfully, the IP port limit for the subscriber is passed by the RADIUS server to the BNG, acting as a NAS and co-located with the CGN, using a new RADIUS attribute called IP-Port-Limit-Info (defined in Section 3.1.1), along with other configuration parameters. While some parameters are passed to the user, the IP port limit is recorded on the CGN device for imposing the usage of TCP/UDP ports and ICMP identifiers for that user.

Figure 15 illustrates how RADIUS protocol is used to configure the maximum number of TCP/UDP ports for a given user on a NAT44 device.

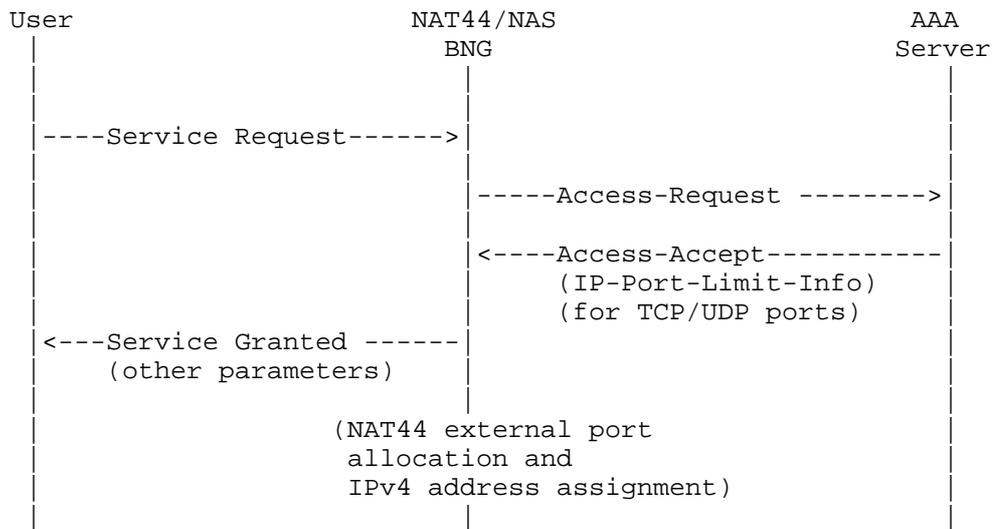


Figure 15: RADIUS Message Flow for Configuring NAT44 Port Limit

The IP port limit created on a CGN device for a specific user using RADIUS extension may be changed using RADIUS CoA message [RFC5176] that carries the same RADIUS attribute. The CoA message may be sent from the RADIUS server directly to the NAS, which once accepts and sends back a RADIUS CoA ACK message, the new IP port limit replaces the previous one.

Figure 16 illustrates how RADIUS protocol is used to increase the TCP/UDP port limit from 1024 to 2048 on a NAT44 device for a specific user.

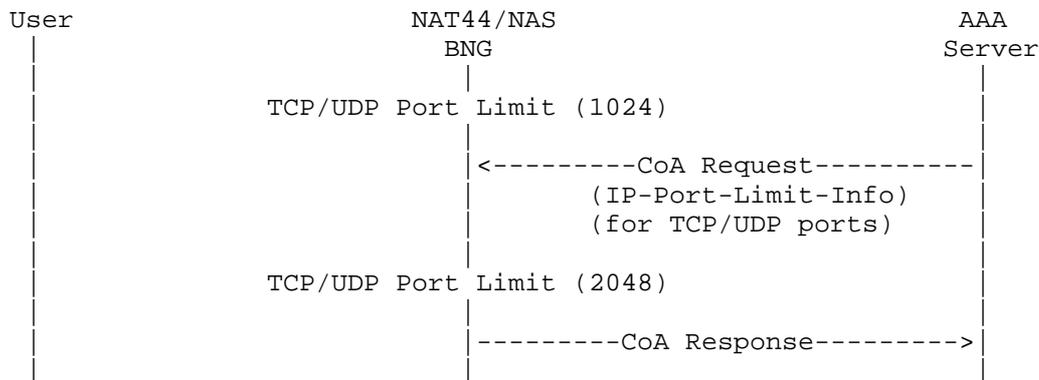


Figure 16: RADIUS Message Flow for changing a user's NAT44 port limit

#### 4.1.2. Report IP Port Allocation/Deallocation

Upon obtaining the IP port limit for a user, the CGN device needs to allocate a TCP/UDP port or an ICMP identifiers for the user when receiving a new IP flow sent from that user.

As one practice, a CGN may allocate a bulk of TCP/UDP ports or ICMP identifiers once at a time for a specific user, instead of one port/identifier at a time, and within each port bulk, the ports/identifiers may be randomly distributed or in consecutive fashion. When a CGN device allocates bulk of TCP/UDP ports and ICMP identifiers, the information can be easily conveyed to the RADIUS server by a new RADIUS attribute called the IP-Port-Range (defined in Section 3.1.2). The CGN device may allocate one or more TCP/UDP port ranges or ICMP identifier ranges, or generally called IP port ranges, where each range contains a set of numbers representing TCP/UDP ports or ICMP identifiers, and the total number of ports/identifiers must be less or equal to the associated IP port limit imposed for that user. A CGN device may choose to allocate a small port range, and allocate more at a later time as needed; such practice is good because its randomization in nature.

At the same time, the CGN device also needs to decide the shared IPv4 address for that user. The shared IPv4 address and the pre-allocated IP port range are both passed to the RADIUS server.

When a user initiates an IP flow, the CGN device randomly selects a TCP/UDP port or ICMP identifier from the associated and pre-allocated IP port range for that user to replace the original source TCP/UDP port or ICMP identifier, along with the replacement of the source IP address by the shared IPv4 address.

A CGN device may decide to "free" a previously assigned set of TCP/UDP ports or ICMP identifiers that have been allocated for a specific user but not currently in use, and with that, the CGN device must send the information of the deallocated IP port range along with the shared IPv4 address to the RADIUS server.

Figure 17 illustrates how RADIUS protocol is used to report a set of ports allocated and deallocated, respectively, by a NAT44 device for a specific user to the RADIUS server.

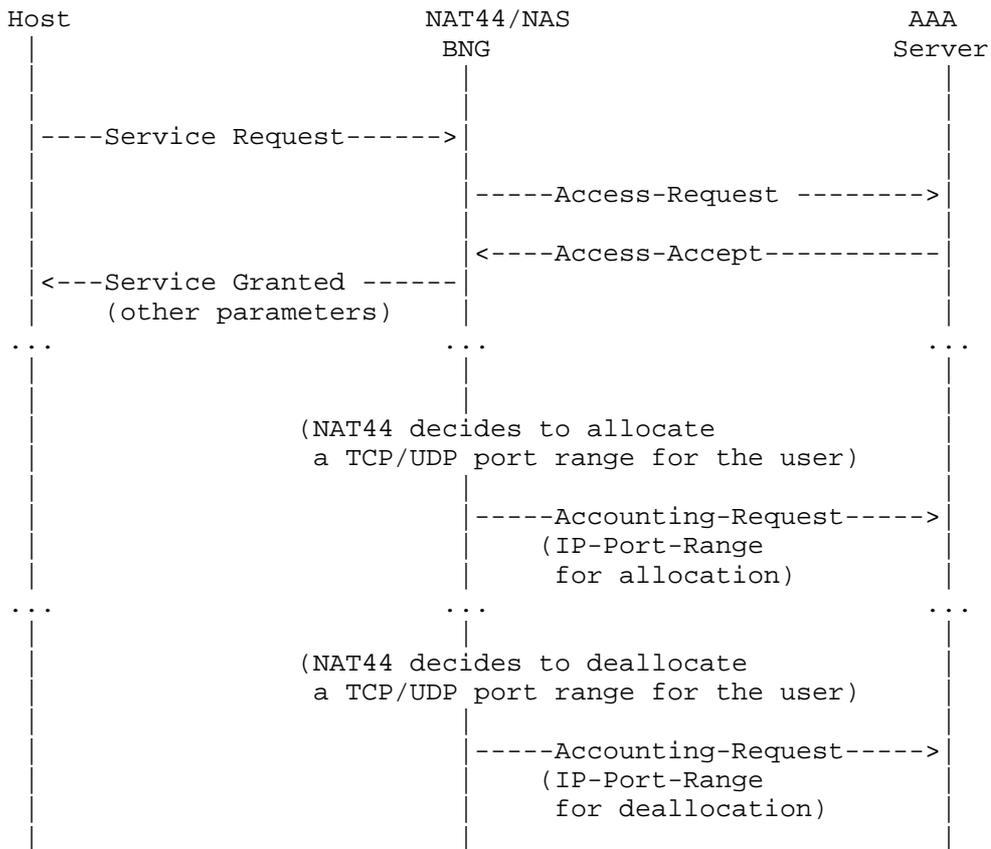


Figure 17: RADIUS Message Flow for reporting NAT44 allocation/ deallocation of a port set

#### 4.1.3. Configure Forwarding Port Mapping

In most scenarios, the port mapping on a NAT device is dynamically created when the IP packets of an IP connection initiated by a user arrives. For some applications, the port mapping needs to be pre-

defined allowing IP packets of applications from outside a CGN device to pass through and "port forwarded" to the correct user located behind the CGN device.

Port Control Protocol [RFC6887], provides a mechanism to create a mapping from an external IP address and port to an internal IP address and port on a CGN device just to achieve the "port forwarding" purpose. PCP is a server-client protocol capable of creating or deleting a mapping along with a rich set of features on a CGN device in dynamic fashion. In some deployment, all users need is a few, typically just one pre-configured port mapping for applications such as web cam at home, and the lifetime of such a port mapping remains valid throughout the duration of the customer's Internet service connection time. In such an environment, it is possible to statically configure a port mapping on the RADIUS server for a user and let the RADIUS protocol to propagate the information to the associated CGN device.

Figure 18 illustrates how RADIUS protocol is used to configure a forwarding port mapping on a NAT44 device by using RADIUS protocol.

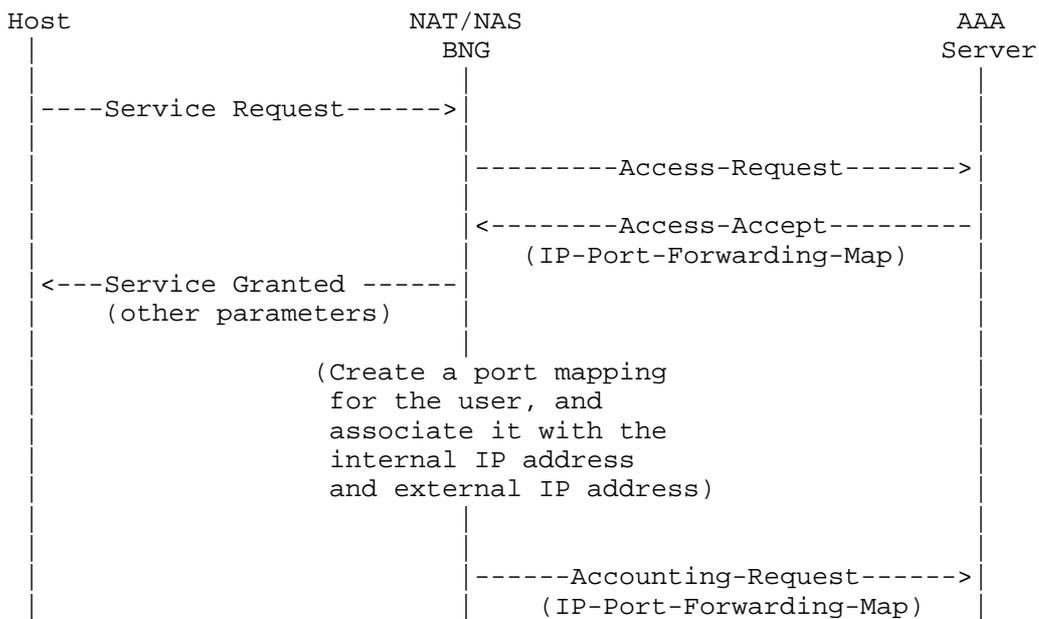


Figure 18: RADIUS Message Flow for configuring a forwarding port mapping

A port forwarding mapping that is created on a CGN device using RADIUS extension as described above may also be changed using RADIUS

CoA message [RFC5176] that carries the same RADIUS associate. The CoA message may be sent from the RADIUS server directly to the NAS, which once accepts and sends back a RADIUS CoA ACK message, the new port forwarding mapping then replaces the previous one.

Figure 19 illustrates how RADIUS protocol is used to change an existing port mapping from (a:X) to (a:Y), where "a" is an internal port, and "X" and "Y" are external ports, respectively, for a specific user with a specific IP address

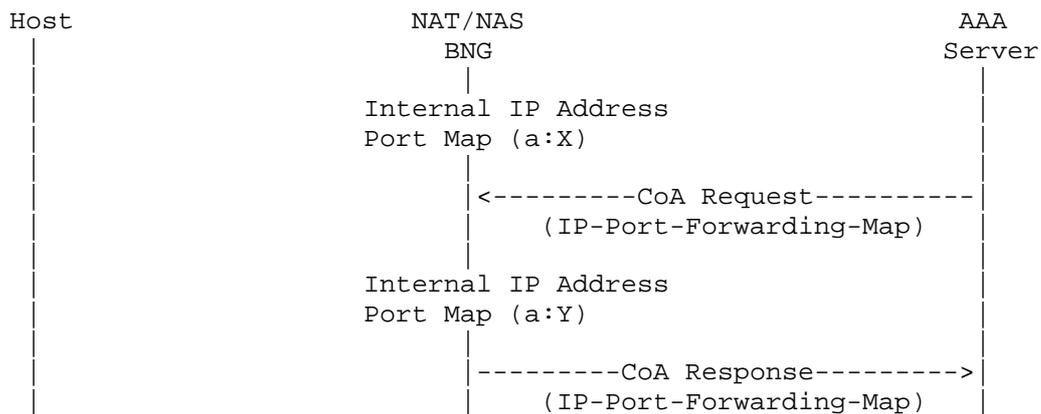


Figure 19: RADIUS Message Flow for changing a user’s forwarding port mapping

4.1.4. An Example

An Internet Service Provider (ISP) assigns TCP/UDP 500 ports for the user Joe. This number is the limit that can be used for TCP/UDP ports on a NAT44 device for Joe, and is configured on a RADIUS server. Also, Joe asks for a pre-defined port forwarding mapping on the NAT44 device for his web cam applications (external port 5000 maps to internal port 80).

When Joe successfully connects to the Internet service, the RADIUS server conveys the TCP/UDP port limit (1000) and the forwarding port mapping (external port 5000 to internal port 80) to the NAT44 device, using IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute and IP-Port-Forwarding-Map attribute, respectively, carried by an Access-Accept message to the BNG where NAS and CGN co-located.

Upon receiving the first outbound IP packet sent from Joe’s laptop, the NAT44 device decides to allocate a small port pool that contains 40 consecutive ports, from 3500 to 3540, inclusively, and also assign a shared IPv4 address 192.0.2.15, for Joe. The NAT44 device also

randomly selects one port from the allocated range (say 3519) and use that port to replace the original source port in outbound IP packets.

For accounting purpose, the NAT44 device passes this port range (3500-3540) and the shared IPv4 address 192.0.2.15 together to the RADIUS server using IP-Port-Range attribute carried by an Accounting-Request message.

When Joe works on more applications with more outbound IP sessions and the port pool (3500-3540) is close to exhaust, the NAT44 device allocates a second port pool (8500-8800) in a similar fashion, and also passes the new port range (8500-8800) and IPv4 address 192.0.2.15 together to the RADIUS server using IP-Port-Range attribute carried by an Accounting-Request message. Note when the CGN allocates more ports, it needs to assure that the total number of ports allocated for Joe is within the limit.

Joe decides to upgrade his service agreement with more TCP/UDP ports allowed (up to 1000 ports). The ISP updates the information in Joe's profile on the RADIUS server, which then sends a CoA-Request message that carries the IP-Port-Limit-Info Attribute with 1000 ports to the NAT44 device; the NAT44 device in turn sends back a CoA-ACK message. With that, Joe enjoys more available TCP/UDP ports for his applications.

When Joe travels, most of the IP sessions are closed with their associated TCP/UDP ports released on the NAT44 device, which then sends the relevant information back to the RADIUS server using IP-Port-Range attribute carried by Accounting-Request message.

Throughout Joe's connection with his ISP Internet service, applications can communicate with his web cam at home from external realm directly traversing the pre-configured mapping on the CGN device.

When Joe disconnects from his Internet service, the CGN device will deallocate all TCP/UDP ports as well as the port-forwarding mapping, and send the relevant information to the RADIUS server.

#### 4.2. Report Assigned Port Set for a Visiting UE

Figure 20 illustrates an example of the flow exchange which occurs when a visiting UE connects to a CPE offering WLAN service.

For identification purposes (see [RFC6967]), once the CPE assigns a port set, it issues a RADIUS message to report the assigned port set.

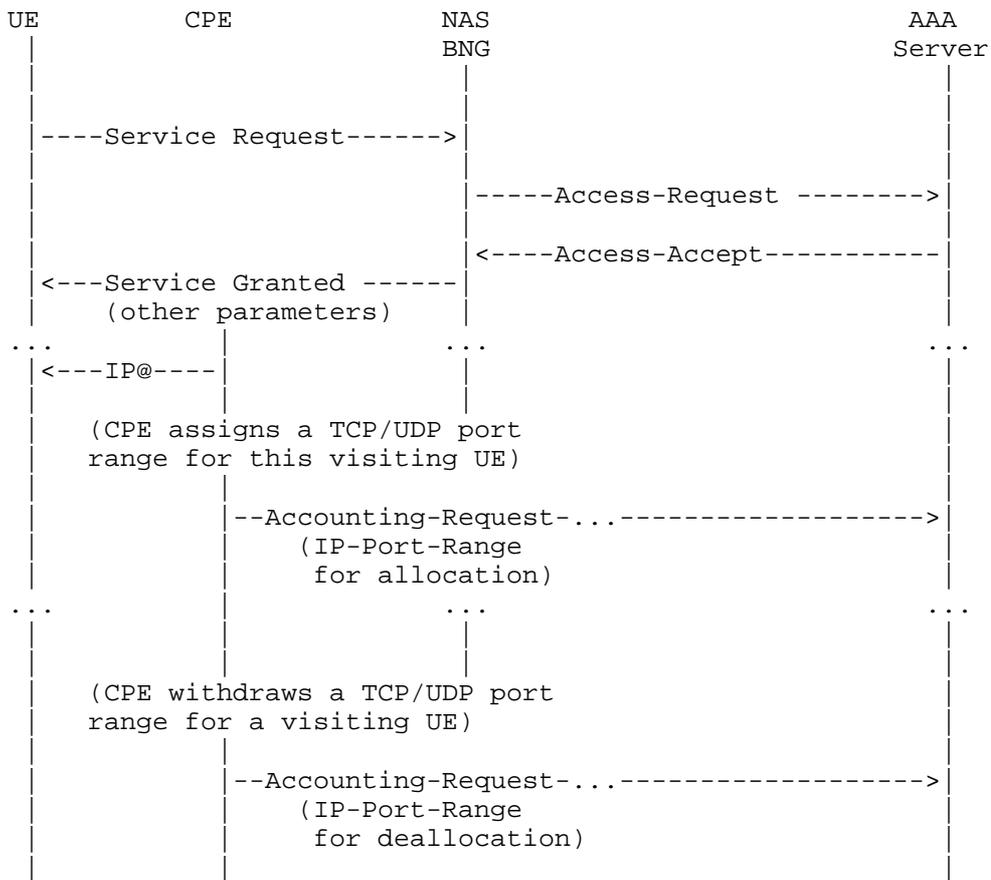


Figure 20: RADIUS Message Flow for reporting CPE allocation/ deallocation of a port set to a visiting UE

5. Table of Attributes

This document proposes three new RADIUS attributes and their formats are as follows:

- o IP-Port-Limit-Info: 241.TBD1.
- o IP-Port-Range: 241.TBD2.
- o IP-Port-Forwarding-Map: 241.TBD3.

Note to IANA: it is assumed that Extended-Type-1 "241" will be used for these attributes.

The following table provides a guide as what type of RADIUS packets that may contain these attributes, and in what quantity.

Request	Accept	Reject	Challenge	Acct. Request	#	Attribute
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA	IP-Port-Limit-Info
0	0	0	0	0+	TBA	IP-Port-Range
0+	0+	0	0	0+	TBA	IP-Port-Forwarding-Map

The following table defines the meaning of the above table entries.

0 This attribute MUST NOT be present in packet.

0+ Zero or more instances of this attribute MAY be present in packet.

## 6. Security Considerations

This document does not introduce any security issue other than the ones already identified in RADIUS [RFC2865].

## 7. IANA Considerations

This document requires new code point assignments for both IPFIX Information Elements and RADIUS attributes as explained in the following sub-sections.

It is assumed that Extended-Type-1 "241" will be used for RADIUS attributes in Section 7.2.

### 7.1. IANA Considerations on New IPFIX Information Elements

The following are code point assignments for new IPFIX Information Elements as requested by this document:

- o transportType (refer to Section 3.2.1): The identifier of this IPFIX Information Element is TBAX1. The data type of this IPFIX Information Element is unsigned8, and the Element's value indicates TCP/UDP ports and ICMP Identifiers (1), TCP/UDP ports (2), TCP ports (3), UDP ports (4) or ICMP identifiers (5).
- o natTransportLimit (refer to Section 3.2.2): The identifier of this IPFIX Information Element is TBAX2. The data type of this IPFIX Information Element is unsigned16, and the Element's value is the max number of IP transport ports to be assigned to an end user associated with one or more IPv4 addresses.
- o localID (refer to Section 3.2.11): The identifier of this IPFIX Information Element is TBAX3. The data type of this IPFIX

Information Element is string, and the Element's value is an IPv4 or IPv6 address, a MAC address, a VLAN ID, etc.

## 7.2. IANA Considerations on New RADIUS Attributes

The authors request that Attribute Types and Attribute Values defined in this document be registered by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) from the RADIUS namespaces as described in the "IANA Considerations" section of [RFC3575], in accordance with BCP 26 [RFC5226]. For RADIUS packets, attributes and registries created by this document IANA is requested to place them at <http://www.iana.org/assignments/radius-types>.

In particular, this document defines three new RADIUS attributes, entitled "IP-Port-Limit-Info" (see Section 3.1.1), "IP-Port-Range" (see Section 3.1.2) and "IP-Port-Forwarding-Map" (see Section 3.1.3), with assigned values of 241.TBD1, 241.TBD2 and 241.TBD3 from the Short Extended Space of [RFC6929]:

Type	Name	Meaning
----	----	-----
241.TBD1	IP-Port-Limit-Info	see Section 3.1.1
241.TBD2	IP-Port-Range	see Section 3.1.2
241.TBD3	IP-Port-Forwarding-Map	see Section 3.1.3

## 7.3. IANA Considerations on New RADIUS TLVs

This specification requests allocation of the following TLVs:

Name	Value	Meaning
----	-----	-----
IP-Port-Type	1	see Section 3.2.1
IP-Port-Limit	2	see Section 3.2.2
IP-Port-Ext-IPv4-Addr	3	see Section 3.2.3
IP-Port-Int-IPv4-Addr	4	see Section 3.2.4
IP-Port-Int-IPv6-Addr	5	see Section 3.2.5
IP-Port-Int-Port	6	see Section 3.2.6
IP-Port-Ext-Port	7	see Section 3.2.7
IP-Port-Alloc	8	see Section 3.2.8
IP-Port-Range-Start	9	see Section 3.2.9
IP-Port-Range-End	10	see Section 3.2.10
IP-Port-Local-Id	11	see Section 3.2.11

## 8. Acknowledgements

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Considerations regarding the correct use of EAP-Response/Identity  
draft-ietf-radext-populating-eapidentity-00

#### Abstract

There are some subtle considerations for an EAP peer regarding the content of the EAP-Response/Identity packet when authenticating with EAP to an EAP server. This document describes two such considerations and suggests workarounds to the associated problems.

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## 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Problem Statement

An Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP, [RFC3748]) conversation between an EAP peer and an EAP server starts with an (optional) request for identity information by the EAP server (EAP-Request/Identity) followed by the peer's response with identity information (EAP-Response/Identity). Only after this identity exchange are EAP types negotiated.

EAP-Response/Identity is sent before EAP type negotiation takes place, but it is not independent of the later-negotiated EAP type. Two entanglements between EAP-Response/Identity and EAP methods' notions of a user identifier are described in this document.

1. The choice of identity to send in EAP-Response/Identity may have detrimental effects on the subsequent EAP type negotiation.
2. Using identity information from the preferred EAP type without thoughtful conversion of character encoding may have detrimental effects on the outcome of the authentication.

The following two chapters describe each of these issues in detail. The last chapter contains recommendations for implementers of EAP peers to avoid these issues.

## 1.2. Taxonomy of identities in EAP

The notion of identity occurs numerous times in the EAP protocol stack (EAP-Response/Identity, Outer identity, method-specific

identity, tunneled identity). This document uses the following terminology when discussing EAP identities.

- o Method-specific Identity: Each EAP method has a means to identify the user or machine that tries to authenticate. There are no restrictions on the format or encoding of this method-specific identity. If an EAP method distinguishes between this actual identity and a outer identity (see next bullet), then the Method-specific Identity is also often called the Inner Identity.
- o Method-specific Outer Identity: Some EAP methods allow privacy-preserving enhancements where a string is sent as "identity" which is actually not necessarily related to the user or machine that tries to authenticate. There is often a relationship between the Method-specific Outer Identity and the Inner Identity (e.g. they often share the same NAI realm suffix); but this is not a requirement. There are no restrictions on the format or encoding of this method-specific identity. Method-specific outer identities are either
  - \* explicitly configured (e.g. string input UI: "Outer Identity")
  - \* implicitly configured by copying the actual Method-specific (Inner) Identity
  - \* implicitly configured by copying the NAI realm of the Method-specific (Inner) Identity and prefixing it non-configurably with a fixed privacy-preserving local username part like "anonymous" or the empty string (see [RFC7542])
  - \* configured in a mixed way, e.g. using a explicit string input UI for the local part of the outer identity and combining it implicitly with a copy of the NAI realm part of the Method-specific (Inner) Identity
- o EAP-Response/Identity: a string representing the user or machine that tries to authenticate, used outside the EAP method-specific context for the entire EAP session. There can be only one EAP-Response/Identity per EAP session, even if that session is configured with more than one EAP method to authenticate with. As per [RFC3748] there is no encoding requirement on EAP-Response/Identity. In AAA protocol routing contexts, the content of EAP-Response/Identity is often used for request routing purposes. EAP-Response/Identity is chosen from the set:
  - \* all method-specific outer identities from all configured EAP types supporting the notion of an outer identity union

- \* all method-specific identities from all configured EAP types without the notion of an outer identity

One of the two problems addressed in this document stems from this fact: the set of identities may contain more than one element. The resulting EAP-Response/Identity always routes all configured EAP types to only one destination, even if different EAP types would need routing to different destinations.

- o User-Name: when using EAP in AAA protocol contexts (e.g. RADIUS [RFC2865], Diameter [RFC6733]), this additional identity is created outside the EAP peer (typically in a pass-through authenticator) by copying EAP-Response/Identity content to the AAA protocol's User-Name attribute. There is no format requirement on User-Name, but there is an encoding requirement: the string MUST be UTF-8 encoded. One of the two problems addressed in this document stems from this fact: EAP-Response/Identity does not have an encoding requirement, nor does it carry meta-information about the encoding used - and yet, it needs to be coerced into a UTF-8 encoding.
- o Further identities: Some EAP methods establish an EAP session inside EAP (e.g. PEAP first establishes a TLS tunnel using a method-specific outer identity, and then starts an EAP exchange inside the tunnel). This being a new, independent EAP session, it contains its own EAP-Response/Identity, can invoke EAP method negotiation with different (inner) EAP types (this happens e.g. with EAP-FAST and its configurable choice of EAP-GTC or EAP-MSCHAPv2 inside the inner EAP session), and those inner EAP methods then have their own (inner) method-specific identities. Where the inner EAP method itself supports the notion of method-specific outer identities, another identity could be configured. For the purposes of this document, none of those details are considered and the process by which the (outer) EAP method selects its method-specific identity is left entirely to that EAP type. This document does not consider the (inner) EAP-Response/Identity in scope; the recommendations in this document to not apply to such (inner) occurrences of EAP-Response/Identity.

### 1.3. Requirements Language

In this document, several words are used to signify the requirements of the specification. The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119. [RFC2119]

## 2. EAP-Response/Identity: Effects on EAP type negotiation

Assuming the EAP peer's EAP type selection is not the trivial case (i.e. it has more than one configured EAP type for a given network or application, and needs to make a decision which one to use), an issue arises when the configured EAP types are not all configured with the same method-specific outer identity (or method-specific identity for EAP types not supporting the notion of an outer identity).

Issue: if the identities in the set of configured EAP types differ (e.g. have a different [RFC7542] "realm" portion), and the authenticator does not send identity selection hints as per [RFC7542], then EAP type negotiation may be limited to those EAP types which are terminated in the same EAP server. The reason for that is because the information in the EAP-Response/Identity is used for request routing decisions and thus determines the EAP server - a given user identifier may be routed to a server which exclusively serves the matching EAP type. Negotiating another EAP type from the set of configured EAP types during the running EAP conversation is then not possible.

Example:

Assume an EAP peer is configured to support two EAP types:

- o EAP-AKA' [RFC5448] with user identifier imsi@mnc123.mcc123.3gpp-network.org
- o EAP-TTLS [RFC5281] with user identifier john@realm.example

The user connects to hotspot of a roaming consortium which could authenticate him with EAP-TTLS and his john@realm.example identity. The hotspot operator has no business relationship at all with the 3GPP consortium; incoming authentication requests for realms ending in 3gppnetwork.org will be immediately rejected. Identity selection hints are not sent.

Consequence: If the EAP peer consistently chooses the imsi@mnc123.mcc123.3gpp-network.org user identifier as choice for its initial EAP-Response/Identity, the user will be consistently and perpetually rejected, even though in possession of a valid credential for the hotspot.

An EAP peer should always try all options to authenticate. As the example above shows, it may not be sufficient to rely on EAP method negotiation alone to iterate through all configured EAP types and come to a conclusive outcome of the authentication attempt. Multiple new EAP authentications, each using an EAP-Response/Identity from a

different element of the set of method-specific outer identities, may be required to fully iterate through the list of usable identities.

### 3. Character (re-)encoding may be required

The method-specific identities as configured in the EAP method configuration are not always suited as identities to choose as EAP-Response/Identity: EAP methods define the encoding of their method-specific outer identities at their leisure; in particular, the chosen encoding may or may not be UTF-8.

It is not the intention of EAP, as a mere method-agnostic container which simply carries EAP types, to restrict an EAP method's choice of encoding of method-specific identities. However, there are restrictions in what should be contained in the EAP-Response/Identity: EAP is very often carried over a AAA protocol (e.g over RADIUS as per [RFC3579]). The typical use for the contents of EAP-Response/Identity inside AAA protocols like RADIUS [RFC2865] and Diameter [RFC6733] is to copy the content of EAP-Response/Identity into a "User-Name" attribute; the encoding of the User-Name attribute is required to be UTF-8. EAP-Response/Identity does not carry encoding information itself, so a conversion between a non-UTF-8 encoding and UTF-8 is not possible for the AAA entity doing the EAP-Response/Identity to User-Name copying.

Consequence: If an EAP method's method-specific identity is not encoded in UTF-8, and the EAP peer verbatimly uses that method-specific identity for its EAP-Response/Identity field, then the AAA entity is forced to violate its own specification because it has to, but can not use UTF-8 for its own User-Name attribute. If the EAP method supports a method-specific outer identity in a non UTF-8 character set, and the EAP peer verbatimly uses that outer identity for its EAP-Response/Identity field, then the same violation occurs.

This jeopardizes the subsequent EAP authentication as a whole; request routing may fail, lead to a wrong destination or introduce routing loops due to differing interpretations of the User-Name in EAP pass-through authenticators and AAA proxies.

### 4. Recommendations for EAP peer implementations

Where method-specific identities or method-specific outer identities in configured EAP types in an EAP peer differ, the EAP peer can not rely on the EAP type negotiation mechanism alone to provide useful results. If an EAP authentication gets rejected, the EAP peer SHOULD re-try the authentication using a different EAP-Response/Identity than before. The EAP peer SHOULD try all possible EAP-Response/

Identity contents from the entire set of configured EAP types before declaring final authentication failure.

EAP peers need to maintain state on the encoding of the method-specific identities and outer identities which are used in their locally configured EAP types. When constructing an EAP-Response/Identity from the set of identities, they MUST (re-)encode the corresponding identity as UTF-8 and use the resulting value for the EAP-Response/Identity.

## 5. Privacy Considerations

Because the EAP-Response/Identity content is not encrypted, the backtracking to a new EAP-Response/Identity will systematically reveal all configured identities to intermediate passive listeners on the path between the EAP peer and the EAP server (until one authentication round succeeds).

This additional leakage of identity information is not very significant though because where privacy is considered important, the additional option for identity privacy which is present in most modern EAP methods can be used.

If the EAP peer implementation is certain that all EAP types will be terminated at the same EAP server (e.g. with a corresponding configuration option) then the iteration over all identities can be avoided, because the EAP type negotiation is then sufficient.

If a choice of which identity information to disclose needs to be made by the EAP peer, when iterating through the list of identities the EAP peer SHOULD

- in first priority honour a manually configured order of preference of EAP types, if any

- in second priority try EAP types in order of less leakage first; that is, EAP types with a method-specific outer identity that differs from the method-specific identity should be tried before other EAP types which would reveal actual user identities.

## 6. Security Considerations

The security of an EAP conversation is determined by the EAP method which is used to authenticate. This document does not change the actual authentication with an EAP method, and all the security properties of the chosen EAP method remain. The format requirements (character encoding) and operational considerations (re-try EAP with

a different EAP-Response/Identity) do not lead to new or different security properties.

## 7. IANA Considerations

There are no IANA actions in this document.

## 8. References

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