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Usage and (D)TLS Profiles for DNS-over-(D)TLS  
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Abstract

This document discusses Usage Profiles, based on one or more authentication mechanisms, which can be used for DNS over Transport Layer Security (TLS) or Datagram TLS (DTLS). These profiles can increase the privacy of DNS transactions compared to using only clear text DNS. This document also specifies new authentication mechanisms - it describes several ways a DNS client can use an authentication domain name to authenticate a (D)TLS connection to a DNS server. Additionally, it defines (D)TLS protocol profiles for DNS clients and servers implementing DNS-over-(D)TLS. This document updates RFC 7858.

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## Table of Contents

1. Introduction . . . . .	3
2. Terminology . . . . .	5
3. Scope . . . . .	6
4. Discussion . . . . .	7
5. Usage Profiles . . . . .	7
5.1. DNS Resolution . . . . .	10
6. Authentication in DNS-over(D)TLS . . . . .	10
6.1. DNS-over-(D)TLS Startup Configuration Problems . . . . .	10
6.2. Credential Verification . . . . .	11
6.3. Summary of Authentication Mechanisms . . . . .	11
6.4. Combining Authentication Mechanisms . . . . .	14
6.5. Authentication in Opportunistic Privacy . . . . .	14
6.6. Authentication in Strict Privacy . . . . .	15
6.7. Implementation guidance . . . . .	15
7. Sources of Authentication Domain Names . . . . .	15
7.1. Full direct configuration . . . . .	15
7.2. Direct configuration of ADN only . . . . .	16
7.3. Dynamic discovery of ADN . . . . .	16
7.3.1. DHCP . . . . .	16
8. Authentication Domain Name based Credential Verification . . . . .	17
8.1. PKIX Certificate Based Authentication . . . . .	17
8.2. DANE . . . . .	17
8.2.1. Direct DNS Lookup . . . . .	18
8.2.2. TLS DNSSEC Chain extension . . . . .	18
9. (D)TLS Protocol Profile . . . . .	19
10. IANA Considerations . . . . .	20
11. Security Considerations . . . . .	20
11.1. Counter-measures to DNS Traffic Analysis . . . . .	20
12. Acknowledgments . . . . .	21
13. References . . . . .	21
13.1. Normative References . . . . .	21
13.2. Informative References . . . . .	23
Appendix A. Server capability probing and caching by DNS clients . . . . .	24
Appendix B. Changes between revisions . . . . .	24
B.1. -11 version . . . . .	25
B.2. -10 version . . . . .	25

B.3.	-09 version . . . . .	26
B.4.	-08 version . . . . .	26
B.5.	-07 version . . . . .	26
B.6.	-06 version . . . . .	26
B.7.	-05 version . . . . .	27
B.8.	-04 version . . . . .	27
B.9.	-03 version . . . . .	27
B.10.	-02 version . . . . .	27
B.11.	-01 version . . . . .	28
B.12.	draft-ietf-dprive-dtls-and-tls-profiles-00 . . . . .	28
Authors' Addresses	. . . . .	28

## 1. Introduction

DNS Privacy issues are discussed in [RFC7626]. The specific issues described there that are most relevant to this document are

- o Passive attacks which eavesdrop on clear text DNS transactions on the wire (Section 2.4) and
- o Active attacks which redirect clients to rogue servers to monitor DNS traffic (Section 2.5.3).

Mitigating against these attacks increases the privacy of DNS transactions, however many of the other issues raised in [RFC7626] still apply.

Two documents that provide ways to increase DNS privacy between DNS clients and DNS servers are:

- o Specification for DNS over Transport Layer Security (TLS) [RFC7858], referred to here as simply 'DNS-over-TLS'
- o DNS over Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS) [RFC8094], referred to here simply as 'DNS-over-DTLS'. Note that this document has the Category of Experimental.

Both documents are limited in scope to communications between stub clients and recursive resolvers and the same scope is applied to this document (see Section 2 and Section 3). The proposals here might be adapted or extended in future to be used for recursive clients and authoritative servers, but this application was out of scope for the Working Group charter at the time this document was finished.

This document specifies two Usage Profiles (Strict and Opportunistic) for DTLS [RFC6347] and TLS [RFC5246] which provide improved levels of mitigation against the attacks described above compared to using only clear text DNS.

Section 5 presents a generalized discussion of Usage Profiles by separating the Usage Profile, which is based purely on the security properties it offers the user, from the specific mechanism(s) that are used for DNS server authentication. The Profiles described are:

- o A Strict Profile that requires an encrypted connection and successful authentication of the DNS server which mitigates both passive eavesdropping and client re-direction (at the expense of providing no DNS service if this is not available).
- o An Opportunistic Profile that will attempt, but does not require, encryption and successful authentication; it therefore provides limited or no mitigation against such attacks but offers maximum chance of DNS service.

The above Usage Profiles attempt authentication of the server using at least one authentication mechanism. Section 6.4 discusses how to combine authentication mechanisms to determine the overall authentication result. Depending on that overall authentication result (and whether encryption is available) the Usage Profile will determine if the connection should proceed, fallback or fail.

One authentication mechanism is already described in [RFC7858]. That document specifies a Subject Public Key Info (SPKI) based authentication mechanism for DNS-over-TLS in the context of a specific case of a Strict Usage Profile using that single authentication mechanism. Therefore the "Out-of-band Key-pinned Privacy Profile" described in [RFC7858] would qualify as a "Strict Usage Profile" that used SPKI pinning for authentication.

This document extends the use of SPKI pinset based authentication so that it is considered a general authentication mechanism that can be used with either DNS-over-(D)TLS Usage Profile. That is, the SPKI pinset mechanism described in [RFC7858] MAY be used with DNS-over-(D)TLS.

This document also describes a number of additional authentication mechanisms all of which specify how a DNS client should authenticate a DNS server based on an 'authentication domain name'. In particular, the following is described:

- o How a DNS client can obtain the combination of an authentication domain name and IP address for a DNS server. See Section 7.
- o What are the acceptable credentials a DNS server can present to prove its identity for (D)TLS authentication based on a given authentication domain name. See Section 8.

- o How a DNS client can verify that any given credential matches the authentication domain name obtained for a DNS server. See Section 8.

In Section 9 this document defines a (D)TLS protocol profile for use with DNS. This profile defines the configuration options and protocol extensions required of both parties to optimize connection establishment and session resumption for transporting DNS, and to support all currently specified authentication mechanisms.

## 2. Terminology

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].

Several terms are used specifically in the context of this draft:

- o DNS client: a DNS stub resolver or forwarder. In the case of a forwarder, the term "DNS client" is used to discuss the side that sends queries.
- o DNS server: a DNS recursive resolver or forwarder. In the case of a forwarder, the term "DNS server" is used to discuss the side that responds to queries. For emphasis, in this document the term does not apply to authoritative servers.
- o Privacy-enabling DNS server: A DNS server that implements DNS-over-TLS [RFC7858] and may optionally implement DNS-over-DTLS [RFC8094]. The server should also offer at least one of the credentials described in Section 8 and implement the (D)TLS profile described in Section 9.
- o (D)TLS: For brevity this term is used for statements that apply to both Transport Layer Security [RFC5246] and Datagram Transport Layer Security [RFC6347]. Specific terms will be used for any statement that applies to either protocol alone.
- o DNS-over-(D)TLS: For brevity this term is used for statements that apply to both DNS-over-TLS [RFC7858] and DNS-over-DTLS [RFC8094]. Specific terms will be used for any statement that applies to either protocol alone.
- o Authentication domain name: A domain name that can be used to authenticate a privacy-enabling DNS server. Sources of authentication domain names are discussed in Section 7.

- o SPKI Pinsets: [RFC7858] describes the use of cryptographic digests to "pin" public key information in a manner similar to HTTP Public Key Pinning [RFC7469] (HPKP). An SPKI pinset is a collection of these pins that constrains a DNS server.
- o Authentication information: Information a DNS client may use as the basis of an authentication mechanism. In this context that can be either a:
  - \* a SPKI pinset or
  - \* an authentication domain name
- o Reference Identifier: a Reference Identifier as described in [RFC6125], constructed by the DNS client when performing TLS authentication of a DNS server.
- o Credential: Information available for a DNS server which proves its identity for authentication purposes. Credentials discussed here include:
  - \* PKIX certificate
  - \* DNSSEC validated chain to a TLSA recordbut may also include SPKI pinsets.

### 3. Scope

This document is limited to describing

- o Usage Profiles based on general authentication mechanisms
- o The details of domain name based authentication of DNS servers by DNS clients (as defined in the terminology section)
- o The (D)TLS profiles needed to support authentication in DNS-over-(D)TLS.

As such, the following things are out of scope:

- o Authentication of authoritative servers by recursive resolvers.
- o Authentication of DNS clients by DNS servers.
- o The details of how to perform SPKI-pinset-based authentication. This is defined in [RFC7858].

- o Any server identifier other than domain names, including IP addresses, organizational names, country of origin, etc.

#### 4. Discussion

One way to mitigate against passive attackers eavesdropping on clear text DNS transactions is to encrypt the query (and response). Such encryption typically provides integrity protection as a side-effect, which means on-path attackers cannot simply inject bogus DNS responses. To also mitigate against active attackers pretending to be the server, the client must authenticate the (D)TLS connection to the server.

This document discusses Usage Profiles, which provide differing levels of attack mitigation to DNS clients, based on the requirements for authentication and encryption, regardless of the context (for example, which network the client is connected to). A Usage Profile is a distinct concept to a usage policy or usage model, which might dictate which Profile should be used in a particular context (enterprise vs coffee shop), with a particular set of DNS Servers or with reference to other external factors. A description of the variety of usage policies is out of scope of this document, but may be the subject of future work.

The term 'privacy-enabling DNS server' is used throughout this document. This is a DNS server that:

- o MUST implement DNS-over-TLS [RFC7858].
- o MAY implement DNS-over-DTLS [RFC8094].
- o SHOULD offer at least one of the credentials described in Section 8.
- o Implements the (D)TLS profile described in Section 9.

#### 5. Usage Profiles

A DNS client has a choice of Usage Profiles available to increase the privacy of DNS transactions. This choice is briefly discussed in both [RFC7858] and [RFC8094]. These Usage Profiles are:

- o Strict profile: the DNS client requires both an encrypted and authenticated connection to a privacy-enabling DNS Server. A hard failure occurs if this is not available. This requires the client to securely obtain authentication information it can use to authenticate the server. This profile mitigates against both passive and active attacks providing the client with the best

available privacy for DNS. This Profile is discussed in detail in Section 6.6.

- o Opportunistic Privacy: the DNS client uses Opportunistic Security as described in [RFC7435]

"... the use of cleartext as the baseline communication security policy, with encryption and authentication negotiated and applied to the communication when available."

As described in [RFC7435] it might result in

- \* an encrypted and authenticated connection
- \* an encrypted connection
- \* a clear text connection

depending on the fallback logic of the client, the available authentication information and the capabilities of the DNS Server. In all these cases the DNS client is willing to continue with a connection to the DNS Server and perform resolution of queries. The use of Opportunistic Privacy is intended to support incremental deployment of increased privacy with a view to widespread adoption of the Strict profile. It should be employed when the DNS client might otherwise settle for cleartext; it provides the maximum protection available depending on the combination of factors described above. If all the configured DNS Servers are DNS Privacy servers then it provides protection against passive attacks but not active ones.

Both profiles can include an initial meta query (performed using an Opportunistic lookup) to obtain the IP address for the privacy-enabling DNS server to which the DNS client will subsequently connect. The rationale for permitting this for the Strict profile is that requiring such meta queries to also be performed using the Strict profile would introduce significant deployment obstacles. However, it should be noted that in this scenario an active attack is possible on the meta query. Such an attack could result in a Strict profile client connecting to a server it cannot authenticate and so not obtaining DNS service, or an Opportunistic Privacy client connecting to a server controlled by the attacker. DNSSEC validation can detect the attack on the meta query and results in the client not obtaining DNS service (for both Usage profiles) because it will not proceed to connect to the server in question (see Section 7.2)

To compare the two Usage profiles the table below shows a successful Strict profile along side the 3 possible outcomes of an Opportunistic



profile. In the best case scenario for the Opportunistic profile (an authenticated and encrypted connection) it is equivalent to the Strict profile. In the worst case scenario it is equivalent to clear text. Clients using the Opportunistic profile SHOULD try for the best case but MAY fallback to the intermediate case and eventually the worst case scenario in order to obtain a response. One reason to fallback without trying every available privacy-enabling DNS server is if latency is more important than attack mitigation, see Appendix A. The Opportunistic profile therefore provides varying protection depending on what kind of connection is actually used including no attack mitigation at all.

Note that there is no requirement in Opportunistic Security to notify the user what type of connection is actually used, the 'detection' described below is only possible if such connection information is available. However, if it is available and the user is informed that an unencrypted connection was used to connect to a server then the user should assume (detect) that the connection is subject to both active and passive attack since the DNS queries are sent in clear text. This might be particularly useful if a new connection to a certain server is unencrypted when all previous connections were encrypted. Similarly if the user is informed that an encrypted but unauthenticated connection was used then the user can detect that the connection may be subject to active attack. In other words for the cases where no protection is provided against an attacker (N) it is possible to detect that an attack might be happening (D). This is discussed in Section 6.5.

Usage Profile	Connection	Passive Attacker	Active Attacker
Strict	A, E	P	P
Opportunistic	A, E	P	P
Opportunistic	E	P	N, D
Opportunistic		N, D	N, D

P == Protection; N == No protection; D == Detection is possible; A == Authenticated connection; E == Encrypted connection

Table 1: Attack protection by Usage Profile and type of attacker

The Strict profile provides the best attack mitigation and therefore SHOULD always be implemented in DNS clients that implement Opportunistic Privacy.

A DNS client that implements DNS-over-(D)TLS SHOULD NOT be configured by default to use only clear text.

The choice between the two profiles depends on a number of factors including which is more important to the particular client:

- o DNS service at the cost of no attack mitigation (Opportunistic) or
- o best available attack mitigation at the potential cost of no DNS service (Strict).

Additionally the two profiles require varying levels of configuration (or a trusted relationship with a provider) and DNS server capabilities, therefore DNS clients will need to carefully select which profile to use based on their communication needs.

A DNS server that implements DNS-over-(D)TLS SHOULD provide at least one credential so that those DNS clients that wish to do so are able to use the Strict profile (see Section 2).

#### 5.1. DNS Resolution

A DNS client SHOULD select a particular Usage Profile when resolving a query. A DNS client MUST NOT fallback from Strict Privacy to Opportunistic Privacy during the resolution of a given query as this could invalidate the protection offered against attackers. It is anticipated that DNS clients will use a particular Usage Profile for all queries to all configured servers until an operational issue or policy update dictates a change in the profile used.

### 6. Authentication in DNS-over(D)TLS

This section describes authentication mechanisms and how they can be used in either Strict or Opportunistic Privacy for DNS-over-(D)TLS.

#### 6.1. DNS-over-(D)TLS Startup Configuration Problems

Many (D)TLS clients use PKIX authentication [RFC6125] based on an authentication domain name for the server they are contacting. These clients typically first look up the server's network address in the DNS before making this connection. Such a DNS client therefore has a bootstrap problem, as it will typically only know the IP address of its DNS server.

In this case, before connecting to a DNS server, a DNS client needs to learn the authentication domain name it should associate with the IP address of a DNS server for authentication purposes. Sources of authentication domain names are discussed in Section 7.

One advantage of this domain name based approach is that it encourages association of stable, human recognizable identifiers with secure DNS service providers.

## 6.2. Credential Verification

The use of SPKI pinset verification is discussed in [RFC7858].

In terms of domain name based verification, once an authentication domain name is known for a DNS server a choice of authentication mechanisms can be used for credential verification. Section 8 discusses these mechanisms in detail, namely PKIX certificate based authentication and DANE.

Note that the use of DANE adds requirements on the ability of the client to get validated DNSSEC results. This is discussed in more detail in Section 8.2.

## 6.3. Summary of Authentication Mechanisms

This section provides an overview of the various authentication mechanisms. The table below indicates how the DNS client obtains information to use for authentication for each option; either statically via direct configuration or dynamically. Of course, the Opportunistic Usage Profile does not require authentication and so a client using that profile may choose to connect to a privacy-enabling DNS server on the basis of just an IP address.

#	Static Config	Dynamically Obtained	Short name: Description
1	SPKI + IP		SPKI: SPKI pinset(s) and IP address obtained out of band [RFC7858]
2	ADN + IP		ADN: ADN and IP address obtained out of band (see Section 7.1)
3	ADN	IP	ADN only: Opportunistic lookups to a NP DNS server for A/AAAA (see Section 7.2)
4		ADN + IP	DHCP: DHCP configuration only (see Section 7.3.1)
5	[ADN + IP]	[ADN + IP] TLSA record	DANE: DNSSEC chain obtained via Opportunistic lookups to NP DNS server (see Section 8.2.1)
6	[ADN + IP]	[ADN + IP] TLSA record	TLS extension: DNSSEC chain provided by PE DNS server in TLS DNSSEC chain extension (see Section 8.2.2)

SPKI == SPKI pinset(s), IP == IP Address, ADN == Authentication Domain Name, NP == Network provided, PE == Privacy-enabling, [ ] == Data may be obtained either statically or dynamically

Table 2: Overview of Authentication Mechanisms

The following summary attempts to present some key attributes of each of the mechanisms (using the 'Short name' from Table 2), indicating attractive attributes with a '+' and undesirable attributes with a '-'.

#### 1. SPKI

+ Minimal leakage (Note that the ADN is always leaked in the Server Name Indication (SNI) field in the Client Hello in TLS when communicating with a privacy-enabling DNS server)

- Overhead of on-going key management required

#### 2. ADN

- + Minimal leakage
- + One-off direct configuration only

### 3. ADN only

- + Minimal one-off direct configuration, only a human recognizable domain name needed
- A/AAAA meta queries leaked to network provided DNS server that may be subject to active attack (attack can be mitigated by DNSSEC validation).

### 4. DHCP

- + No static config
- Requires a non-standard or future DHCP option in order to provide the ADN
- Requires secure and trustworthy connection to DHCP server if used with a Strict Usage profile

### 5. DANE

The ADN and/or IP may be obtained statically or dynamically and the relevant attributes of that method apply

- + DANE options (e.g., matching on entire certificate)
- Requires a DNSSEC validating stub implementation (deployment of which is limited at the time of writing)
- DNSSEC chain meta queries leaked to network provided DNS server that may be subject to active attack

### 6. TLS extension

The ADN and/or IP may be obtained statically or dynamically and the relevant attributes of that method apply

- + Reduced latency compared with 'DANE'
- + No network provided DNS server required if ADN and IP statically configured
- + DANE options (e.g., matching on entire certificate)

- Requires a DNSSEC validating stub implementation

#### 6.4. Combining Authentication Mechanisms

This draft does not make explicit recommendations about how an SPKI pinset based authentication mechanism should be combined with a domain based mechanism from an operator perspective. However it can be envisaged that a DNS server operator may wish to make both an SPKI pinset and an authentication domain name available to allow clients to choose which mechanism to use. Therefore, the following is guidance on how clients ought to behave if they choose to configure both, as is possible in HPKP [RFC7469].

A DNS client that is configured with both an authentication domain name and a SPKI pinset for a DNS server SHOULD match on both a valid credential for the authentication domain name and a valid SPKI pinset (if both are available) when connecting to that DNS server. In this case the client SHOULD treat the SPKI pin as specified in Section 2.6 of [RFC7469] with regard to user defined trust anchors. The overall authentication result SHOULD only be considered successful if both authentication mechanisms are successful.

#### 6.5. Authentication in Opportunistic Privacy

An Opportunistic Security [RFC7435] profile is described in [RFC7858] which MAY be used for DNS-over-(D)TLS.

DNS clients issuing queries under an opportunistic profile and which know authentication information for a given privacy-enabling DNS server SHOULD try to authenticate the server using the mechanisms described here. This is useful for detecting (but not preventing) active attack, since the fact that authentication information is available indicates that the server in question is a privacy-enabling DNS server to which it should be possible to establish an authenticated and encrypted connection. In this case, whilst a client cannot know the reason for an authentication failure, from a security standpoint the client should consider an active attack in progress and proceed under that assumption. For example, a client that implements a nameserver selection algorithm that preferentially uses nameservers which successfully authenticated (see Section 5) might not continue to use the failing server if there were alternative servers available.

Attempting authentication is also useful for debugging or diagnostic purposes if there are means to report the result. This information can provide a basis for a DNS client to switch to (preferred) Strict Privacy where it is viable e.g, where all the configured servers support DNS-over-(D)TLS and successfully authenticate.

## 6.6. Authentication in Strict Privacy

To authenticate a privacy-enabling DNS server, a DNS client needs to know authentication information for each server it is willing to contact. This is necessary to protect against active attacks which attempt to re-direct clients to rogue DNS servers.

A DNS client requiring Strict Privacy MUST either use one of the sources listed in Section 7 to obtain an authentication domain name for the server it contacts, or use an SPKI pinset as described in [RFC7858].

A DNS client requiring Strict Privacy MUST only attempt to connect to DNS servers for which at least one piece of authentication information is known. The client MUST use the available verification mechanisms described in Section 8 to authenticate the server, and MUST abort connections to a server when no verification mechanism succeeds.

With Strict Privacy, the DNS client MUST NOT commence sending DNS queries until at least one of the privacy-enabling DNS servers becomes available.

A privacy-enabling DNS server may be temporarily unavailable when configuring a network. For example, for clients on networks that require registration through web-based login (a.k.a. "captive portals"), such registration may rely on DNS interception and spoofing. Techniques such as those used by DNSSEC-trigger [dnssec-trigger] MAY be used during network configuration, with the intent to transition to the designated privacy-enabling DNS servers after captive portal registration. If using a Strict Usage profile the system MUST alert by some means that the DNS is not private during such bootstrap.

## 6.7. Implementation guidance

Section 9 describes the (D)TLS profile for DNS-over(D)TLS. Additional considerations relating to general implementation guidelines are discussed in both Section 11 and in Appendix A.

## 7. Sources of Authentication Domain Names

### 7.1. Full direct configuration

DNS clients may be directly and securely provisioned with the authentication domain name of each privacy-enabling DNS server. For example, using a client specific configuration file or API.

In this case, direct configuration for a DNS client would consist of both an IP address and an authentication domain name for each DNS server.

#### 7.2. Direct configuration of ADN only

A DNS client may be configured directly and securely with only the authentication domain name of each of its privacy-enabling DNS servers. For example, using a client specific configuration file or API.

A DNS client might learn of a default recursive DNS resolver from an untrusted source (such as DHCP's DNS server option [RFC3646]). It can then use Opportunistic DNS connections to an untrusted recursive DNS resolver to establish the IP address of the intended privacy-enabling DNS resolver by doing a lookup of A/AAAA records. Such records SHOULD be DNSSEC validated when using a Strict Usage profile and MUST be validated when using Opportunistic Privacy. Private DNS resolution can now be done by the DNS client against the pre-configured privacy-enabling DNS resolver, using the IP address gathered from the untrusted DNS resolver.

A DNS client so configured that successfully connects to a privacy-enabling DNS server MAY choose to locally cache the server host IP addresses in order to not have to repeat the opportunistic lookup.

#### 7.3. Dynamic discovery of ADN

This section discusses the general case of a DNS client discovering both the authentication domain name and IP address dynamically. This is not possible at the time of writing by any standard means. However since, for example, a future DHCP extension could (in principle) provide this mechanism the required security properties of such mechanisms are outlined here.

When using a Strict profile the dynamic discovery technique used as a source of authentication domain names MUST be considered secure and trustworthy. This requirement does not apply when using an Opportunistic profile given the security expectation of that profile.

##### 7.3.1. DHCP

In the typical case today, a DHCP server [RFC2131] [RFC3315] provides a list of IP addresses for DNS resolvers (see Section 3.8 of [RFC2132]), but does not provide an authentication domain name for the DNS resolver, thus preventing the use of most of the authentication methods described here (all those that are based on a mechanism with ADN in Table 2).



This document does not specify or request any DHCP extension to provide authentication domain names. However, if one is developed in future work the issues outlined in Section 8 of [RFC7227] should be taken into account as should the Security Considerations in Section 23 of [RFC3315]).

This document does not attempt to describe secured and trusted relationships to DHCP servers, which is a purely DHCP issue (still open, at the time of writing.) Whilst some implementation work is in progress to secure IPv6 connections for DHCP, IPv4 connections have received little to no implementation attention in this area.

## 8. Authentication Domain Name based Credential Verification

### 8.1. PKIX Certificate Based Authentication

When a DNS client configured with an authentication domain name connects to its configured DNS server over (D)TLS, the server may present it with a PKIX certificate. In order to ensure proper authentication, DNS clients MUST verify the entire certification path per [RFC5280]. The DNS client additionally uses [RFC6125] validation techniques to compare the domain name to the certificate provided.

A DNS client constructs one Reference Identifier for the server based on the authentication domain name: A DNS-ID which is simply the authentication domain name itself.

If the Reference Identifier is found in the PKIX certificate's subjectAltName extension as described in section 6 of [RFC6125], the DNS client should accept the certificate for the server.

A compliant DNS client MUST only inspect the certificate's subjectAltName extension for the Reference Identifier. In particular, it MUST NOT inspect the Subject field itself.

### 8.2. DANE

DANE [RFC6698] provides mechanisms to anchor certificate and raw public key trust with DNSSEC. However this requires the DNS client to have an authentication domain name for the DNS Privacy Server which must be obtained via a trusted source.

This section assumes a solid understanding of both DANE [RFC6698] and DANE Operations [RFC7671]. A few pertinent issues covered in these documents are outlined here as useful pointers, but familiarity with both these documents in their entirety is expected.

It is noted that [RFC6698] says

"Clients that validate the DNSSEC signatures themselves MUST use standard DNSSEC validation procedures. Clients that rely on another entity to perform the DNSSEC signature validation MUST use a secure mechanism between themselves and the validator."

It is noted that [RFC7671] covers the following topics:

- o Section 4.1: Opportunistic Security and PKIX Usages and Section 14: Security Considerations, which both discuss the use of Trust Anchor and End Entity based schemes (PKIX-TA(0) and PKIX-EE(1) respectively) for Opportunistic Security.
- o Section 5: Certificate-Usage-Specific DANE Updates and Guidelines. Specifically Section 5.1 which outlines the combination of Certificate Usage DANE-EE(3) and Selector Usage SPKI(1) with Raw Public Keys [RFC7250]. Section 5.1 also discusses the security implications of this mode, for example, it discusses key lifetimes and specifies that validity period enforcement is based solely on the TLSA RRset properties for this case.
- o Section 13: Operational Considerations, which discusses TLSA TTLS and signature validity periods.

The specific DANE record for a DNS Privacy Server would take the form:

\_853.\_tcp.[authentication-domain-name] for TLS

\_853.\_udp.[authentication-domain-name] for DTLS

#### 8.2.1. Direct DNS Lookup

The DNS client MAY choose to perform the DNS lookups to retrieve the required DANE records itself. The DNS queries for such DANE records MAY use Opportunistic encryption or be in the clear to avoid trust recursion. The records MUST be validated using DNSSEC as described above in [RFC6698].

#### 8.2.2. TLS DNSSEC Chain extension

The DNS client MAY offer the TLS extension described in [I-D.ietf-tls-dnssec-chain-extension]. If the DNS server supports this extension, it can provide the full chain to the client in the handshake.

If the DNS client offers the TLS DNSSEC Chain extension, it MUST be capable of validating the full DNSSEC authentication chain down to the leaf. If the supplied DNSSEC chain does not validate, the client

MUST ignore the DNSSEC chain and validate only via other supplied credentials.

## 9. (D)TLS Protocol Profile

This section defines the (D)TLS protocol profile of DNS-over-(D)TLS.

Clients and servers MUST adhere to the (D)TLS implementation recommendations and security considerations of [RFC7525] except with respect to (D)TLS version.

Since encryption of DNS using (D)TLS is a green-field deployment DNS clients and servers MUST implement only (D)TLS 1.2 or later. For example, implementing TLS 1.3 [I-D.ietf-tls-tls13] is also an option.

Implementations MUST NOT offer or provide TLS compression, since compression can leak significant amounts of information, especially to a network observer capable of forcing the user to do an arbitrary DNS lookup in the style of the CRIME attacks [CRIME].

Implementations compliant with this profile MUST implement all of the following items:

- o TLS session resumption without server-side state [RFC5077] which eliminates the need for the server to retain cryptographic state for longer than necessary (This statement updates [RFC7858]).
- o Raw public keys [RFC7250] which reduce the size of the ServerHello, and can be used by servers that cannot obtain certificates (e.g., DNS servers on private networks). A client MUST only indicate support for raw public keys if it has an SPKI pinset pre-configured (for interoperability reasons).

Implementations compliant with this profile SHOULD implement all of the following items:

- o TLS False Start [RFC7918] which reduces round-trips by allowing the TLS second flight of messages (ChangeCipherSpec) to also contain the (encrypted) DNS query.
- o Cached Information Extension [RFC7924] which avoids transmitting the server's certificate and certificate chain if the client has cached that information from a previous TLS handshake.

Guidance specific to TLS is provided in [RFC7858] and that specific to DTLS it is provided in [RFC8094].

## 10. IANA Considerations

This memo includes no request to IANA.

## 11. Security Considerations

Security considerations discussed in [RFC7525], [RFC8094] and [RFC7858] apply to this document.

DNS Clients SHOULD implement support for the mechanisms described in Section 8.2 and offering a configuration option which limits authentication to using only those mechanisms (i.e., with no fallback to pure PKIX based authentication) such that authenticating solely via the PKIX infrastructure can be avoided.

### 11.1. Counter-measures to DNS Traffic Analysis

This section makes suggestions for measures that can reduce the ability of attackers to infer information pertaining to encrypted client queries by other means (e.g., via an analysis of encrypted traffic size, or via monitoring of resolver to authoritative traffic).

DNS-over-(D)TLS clients and servers SHOULD implement the following relevant DNS extensions

- o EDNS(0) padding [RFC7830], which allows encrypted queries and responses to hide their size making analysis of encrypted traffic harder.

Guidance on padding policies for EDNS(0) is provided in [I-D.ietf-dprive-padding-policy]

DNS-over-(D)TLS clients SHOULD implement the following relevant DNS extensions

- o Privacy Election using Client Subnet in DNS Queries [RFC7871]. If a DNS client does not include an EDNS0 Client Subnet Option with a SOURCE PREFIX-LENGTH set to 0 in a query, the DNS server may potentially leak client address information to the upstream authoritative DNS servers. A DNS client ought to be able to inform the DNS Resolver that it does not want any address information leaked, and the DNS Resolver should honor that request.

## 12. Acknowledgments

Thanks to the authors of both [RFC8094] and [RFC7858] for laying the ground work that this draft builds on and for reviewing the contents. The authors would also like to thank John Dickinson, Shumon Huque, Melinda Shore, Gowri Visweswaran, Ray Bellis, Stephane Bortzmeyer, Jinmei Tatuya, Paul Hoffman, Christian Huitema and John Levine for review and discussion of the ideas presented here.

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#### Appendix A. Server capability probing and caching by DNS clients

This section presents a non-normative discussion of how DNS clients might probe for and cache capabilities of privacy-enabling DNS servers.

Deployment of both DNS-over-TLS and DNS-over-DTLS will be gradual. Not all servers will support one or both of these protocols and the well-known port might be blocked by some middleboxes. Clients will be expected to keep track of servers that support DNS-over-TLS and/or DNS-over-DTLS, and those that have been previously authenticated.

If no server capability information is available then (unless otherwise specified by the configuration of the DNS client) DNS clients that implement both TLS and DTLS should try to authenticate using both protocols before failing or falling back to a unauthenticated or clear text connections. DNS clients using an Opportunistic Usage profile should try all available servers (possibly in parallel) in order to obtain an authenticated and encrypted connection before falling back. (RATIONALE: This approach can increase latency while discovering server capabilities but maximizes the chance of sending the query over an authenticated and encrypted connection.)

#### Appendix B. Changes between revisions

[Note to RFC Editor: please remove this section prior to publication.]



## B.1. -11 version

Section 5: Re-ordered and re-worded the text in section on Opportunistic profile to make the protection offered by Opportunistic clearer.

Section 5: Provide a more detailed analysis of attacks on the meta queries

Section 7.2: Re-introduce a requirement to DNSSEC validate the meta-queries making it as SHOULD for Strict and a MUST for Opportunistic.

## B.2. -10 version

Clarified the specific attacks the Usage profiles mitigate against.

Revised wording in the draft relating 'security/privacy guarantees' and generally improved consistency of wording throughout the document.

Corrected and added a number of references:

- o RFC7924 is now Normative
- o RFC7918 and RFC8094 are now Normative (and therefore Downrefs)
- o draft-ietf-tls-tls13, draft-ietf-dprive-padding-policy, RFC3315 and RFC7227 added

Terminology: Update definition of Privacy-enabling DNS server and moved normative definition to section 4.

Section 5 and 6.3: Included discussion of the additional attacks possible when using meta-queries to bootstrap the DNS service

Section 5: Added sentence on why Opportunistic Profile may fallback for latency reasons.

Section 5.1: Added discussion of when clients might change Usage Profiles.

Section 6.4: Added caveat on use of combined authentication re RFC7469.

Section 6.5: Added more detail on how authentication results might be used in Opportunistic. Opportunistic clients now SHOULD try for the best case.

Section 7.3: Re-worked this section and the discussion of DHCP.

Section 9: Removed unnecessary text, added condition on use of RFC7250 (Raw public keys).

Section 11.: More detail on padding policies.

Numerous editorial corrections.

#### B.3. -09 version

Remove the SRV record to simplify the draft.

Add suggestion that clients offer option to avoid using only PKIX authentication.

Clarify that the MUST on implementing TLS session resumption updates RFC7858.

Update page header to be '(D)TLS Authentication for TLS'.

#### B.4. -08 version

Removed hard failure as an option for Opportunistic Usage profile.

Added a new section comparing the Authentication Mechanisms

#### B.5. -07 version

Re-work of the Abstract and Introduction to better describe the contents in this version.

Terminology: New definition of 'authentication information'.

Scope: Changes to the Scope section.

Moved discussion of combining authentication mechanism earlier.

Changes to the section headings and groupings to make the presentation more logical.

#### B.6. -06 version

Introduction: Re-word discussion of Working group charter.

Introduction: Re-word first and third bullet point about 'obtaining' a domain name and IP address.

Introduction: Update reference to DNS-over-TLS draft.

Terminology: Change forwarder/proxy to just forwarder

Terminology: Add definition of 'Authentication domain name' and use this throughout

Section 4.2: Remove parenthesis in the table.

Section 4.2: Change the text after the table as agreed with Paul Hoffman.

Section 4.3.1: Change title and remove brackets around last statement.

Section 11: Split second paragraph.

#### B.7. -05 version

Add more details on detecting passive attacks to section 4.2

Changed X.509 to PKIX throughout

Change comment about future I-D on usage policies.

#### B.8. -04 version

Introduction: Add comment that DNS-over-DTLS draft is Experiments

Update 2 I-D references to RFCs.

#### B.9. -03 version

Section 9: Update DANE section with better references to RFC7671 and RFC7250

#### B.10. -02 version

Introduction: Added paragraph on the background and scope of the document.

Introduction and Discussion: Added more information on what a Usage profiles is (and is not) the the two presented here.

Introduction: Added paragraph to make a comparison with the Strict profile in RFC7858 clearer.

Section 4.2: Re-worked the description of Opportunistic and the table.

Section 8.3: Clarified statement about use of DHCP in Opportunistic profile

Title abbreviated.

#### B.11. -01 version

Section 4.2: Make clear that the Strict Privacy Profile can include meta queries performed using Opportunistic Privacy.

Section 4.2, Table 1: Update to clarify that Opportunistic Privacy does not guarantee protection against passive attack.

Section 4.2: Add sentence discussing client/provider trusted relationships.

Section 5: Add more discussion of detection of active attacks when using Opportunistic Privacy.

Section 8.2: Clarify description and example.

#### B.12. draft-ietf-dprive-dtls-and-tls-profiles-00

Re-submission of draft-dgr-dprive-dtls-and-tls-profiles with name change to draft-ietf-dprive-dtls-and-tls-profiles. Also minor nits fixed.

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