

Home Networking
Internet-Draft
Updates: RFC7788 (if approved)
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: September 14, 2017

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March 13, 2017

Redacting .home from HNCP
draft-ietf-homenet-redact-03

Abstract

This document updates the Home Networking Control Protocol, eliminating the recommendation for a default top-level name for local name resolution.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

The Homenet working group has defined a mechanism for sharing information between homenet routers, in Home Networking Control Protocol [2]. That document recommends the use of the ".home" top-level name as a locally-resolved domain name.

RFC7788 did not follow the process defined in Special Use Domain Names [1], or specify how other software should deal with the allocated name. It is likely that, had this process been followed, it would not have been possible to gain consensus on the use of '.home' as the locally-resolved special-use top-level name for homenets, because this name is known to be informally in use by sites on the internet, and the use to which this name has been put is not well documented; it is impossible to say that there are no conflicting uses for the name, and so getting consensus to use it anyway would have been controversial, time consuming, and possibly futile.

The RFC6761 process is not well-understood within the IETF, and the authors of RFC7788 were not aware of it. Normally, authors are not expected to know all there is to know about IETF process, and IETF leadership, specifically working group chairs, area directors and directorate members are expected to engage in a review process that notices oversights of this sort.

Unfortunately, in the case of RFC7788, none of the people who should have caught the missing RFC6761 reference did catch it, and RFC 7788 was published as a consensus document that uses '.home' without ever reserving it in the RFC6761 Special-Use Domain Names registry.

2. Updates to Home Networking Control Protocol

This document updates RFC 7788: '.home' MUST NOT be used as the default name for resolution within the home network. The new default value is specified in [3]

3. Normative References

- [1] Cheshire, S. and M. Krochmal, "Special-Use Domain Names", RFC 6761, DOI 10.17487/RFC6761, February 2013, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6761>>.
- [2] Stenberg, M., Barth, S., and P. Pfister, "Home Networking Control Protocol", RFC 7788, DOI 10.17487/RFC7788, April 2016, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7788>>.
- [3] Pfister, P., "Special Use Top Level Domain '.homenet'", draft-pfister-homenet-dot-00 (work in progress), November 2016.

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