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Centralized Address Space Management(CASM) Requirements and Framework
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Abstract

The organizations use IP Address Space Management (IPAM) tools to manage their IP address space, often with proprietary database and interfaces. This document describes evolution of IPAM into a standardized interfaces for centralized management of IP addresses.

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1. Introduction

The address space management is an intergral part of any network management solution. The network architectures are rapidly changing with the migration toward private and public clouds. At the same time, application architectures are also evolving with a shift toward micro-services and multi-tiered approach.

There is a pressing need to define a new address management system which can meet these diverse set of requirements. Such a system must be built with well defined interfaces so users can easily migrate from one vendor to another without rewriting their network management systems.

This document identifies a broad set of requirements and defines a architectural framework that should become the basis to develop a new address management system. We are calling this new system as Centralized Address Space Management (CSAM) system.

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 RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

3. Terminology

CASM: Centralized Address Space Management

IPAM: IP Address Management

4. Requirements from CASM system

In order to build CASM, there is a clear need to define a broad set of requirements that must be the basis for defining the architecture framework for CASM. The requirements should be able to meet the various use-cases identified in the draft.

This sections identifies the major set of requirements for defining CASM system.

4.1. General operational requirements

Some requirements are not specific to any particular functionality of CASM but applicable to all aspects of CASM system.

Multi-tenancy: All interfaces exposed by CASM system must be multi-tenant capable. This is highly desirable for cloud based network management solutions. It may also be applicable for a service provider with different managed services use-case scenario.

Authentication and Authorization: All interfaces exposed by CASM system must support an authentication scheme. It also highly desirable to support operational restrictions on certain resources based on identity for security reasons.

Audit Logging: All CASM activities must be logged for auditing or debugging purposes. The system must provide an interface to access these records.

Error notification: All interfaces exposed by CASM system must support error handling and user-defined error notification mechanism such as alert or email. There may also be need to take corrective action for autonomous operation.

4.2. Interface modeling requirements

The interface to external user must be meta-data driven as much as possible to meet wider set of use-cases, e.g., instead of requesting an explicit IPv4 address, user should specify an address request based on its requirements.

The following requirements should be considered for pool management interface definition. The attributes should be related to the requestor which could be a physical device, virtual machine, container or other entities present in a network.

Functional attributes such as switch, router, firewall, server, end-point

Form-factoral attributes such as physical, virtual

Operational attributes such as management plane, control plane, data plane

Network segment identifier, such as VLAN, VxLAN or other user-defined value

Network segment type such as point-to-point, multi-point, loopback

Addressing scope attributes such as private, public, vpn, unicast, multicast

Extensible user-defined attributes

4.3. Functional requirements

The CASM should support following functionality for it to be adopted for wide variety of use cases.

4.3.1. Address pools

A CASM system should allow ability to manage different kind of address pools. The following pools should be considered for implementation; this is not mandatory or exhaustive by any means but given here as most commonly used in networks. The CASM system should allow user-defined pools with any address objects.

Unicast address pool:

Private IPv4 addresses

Public IPv4 addresses

IPv6 addresses

MAC Addresses

Multicast address pool:

- IPv4 address

- IPv6 address

4.3.2. Pool management

There should be a rich set of functionality as defined in this section for operation of a given pool.

Address management:

- Address allocation either as single or block

- Address reservation

- Allocation logic such as mapping schemes or algorithm per pool

General management:

- Pool initializing, resizing, threshold markings for resource monitoring

- Pool attributes such as used to automatically create DNS record

- Pool priority for searching across different pools

- Pool fragmentation rules, such as how pool can be sub-divided

- Pool lease rules for allocation requests

4.3.3. Integration with other address services

In order to build a complete address management system, it is important that CASM should be able to integrate with other address services. This will provide a complete solution to network operators without requiring any manual or proprietary workflows.

DHCP server:

- Interface to initialize address pools on DHCP server

- Notification interface whenever an address lease is modified

- Interface to access address lease records from DHCP server

- Ability to store lease records and play back to DHCP server on reboot

DNS server:

Interface to create DNS records on DNS server based on DHCP server events

NAT device:

Interface to initialize NAT pools

Interface to access NAT records from NAT device

Ability to store NAT records and play back to NAT device on reboot

5. Archiectural framework

Based on the requirements specified in this document, we propose the following high-level architecture for building CASM.

There are three broad categories for CASM interface defintion:

Pool management interface: Interface to external user or applications such as SDN controller to manage addresses

Log interface: Interface to access log and records such as DHCP, DNS, NAT

Integration interface: Interface to address services such as DHCP, DNS, NAT

The propped CASM framework is shown in Figure 1.

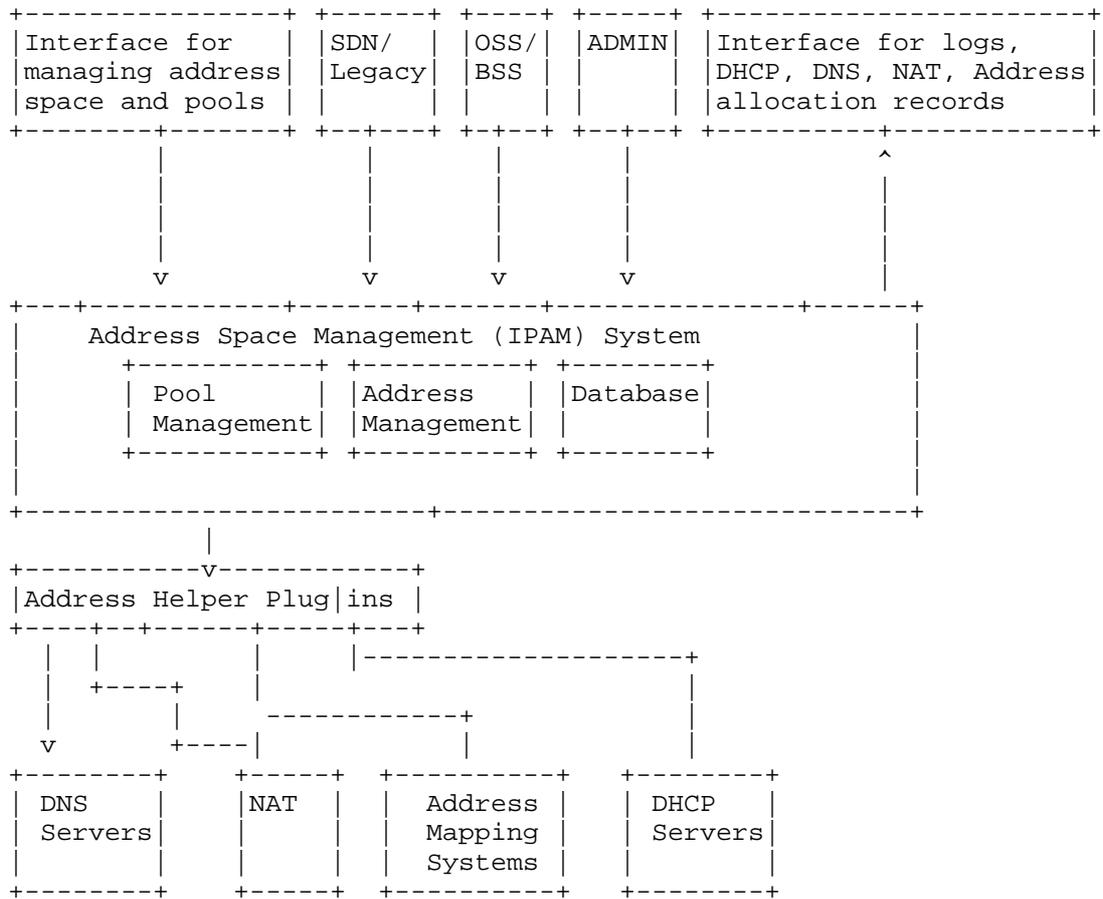


Figure 1: CASM Architecture

6. Acknowledgements

7. IANA Considerations

This memo includes no request to IANA.

8. Security Considerations

TBD

9. Informative References

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>>.

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