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A YANG Data Model for Syslog Configuration  
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Abstract

This document describes a data model for the configuration of syslog.

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## 1. Introduction

Operating systems, processes and applications generate messages indicating their own status or the occurrence of events. These messages are useful for managing and/or debugging the network and its services. The BSD syslog protocol is a widely adopted protocol that is used for transmission and processing of the messages.

Since each process, application and operating system was written somewhat independently, there is little uniformity to the content of syslog messages. For this reason, no assumption is made upon the formatting or contents of the messages. The protocol is simply designed to transport these event messages. No acknowledgement of the receipt is made.

Essentially, a syslog process receives messages (from the kernel, processes, applications or other syslog processes) and processes those. The processing involves logging to a local file, displaying on console, and/or relaying to syslog processes on other machines. The processing is determined by the "facility" that originated the message and the "severity" assigned to the message by the facility.

We are using definitions of syslog protocol from RFC 5424 [RFC5424] in this RFC.

### 1.1. 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].

### 1.2. Terminology

The term "originator" is defined in [RFC 5424]: an "originator"

generates syslog content to be carried in a message.

The terms "relay" and "collectors" are as defined in [RFC 5424].

## 2. Problem Statement

This document defines a YANG [RFC6020] configuration data model that may be used to configure the syslog feature running on a system. YANG models can be used with network management protocols such as NETCONF [RFC6241] to install, manipulate, and delete the configuration of network devices.

The data model makes use of the YANG "feature" construct which allows implementations to support only those syslog features that lie within their capabilities.

This module can be used to configure the syslog application conceptual layers [RFC5424] as implemented on the target system.

## 3. Design of the Syslog Model

The syslog model was designed by comparing various syslog features implemented by various vendors' in different implementations.

This draft addresses the common leafs between implementations and creates a common model, which can be augmented with proprietary features, if necessary. This model is designed to be very simple for maximum flexibility.

Optional features are used to specify functionality that is present in specific vendor configurations.

Syslog consists of originators, and collectors. The following diagram shows syslog messages flowing from an originator, to collectors where filtering can take place.

Many vendors extend the list of facilities available for logging in their implementation. An example is included in Extending Facilities (Appendix A.1).

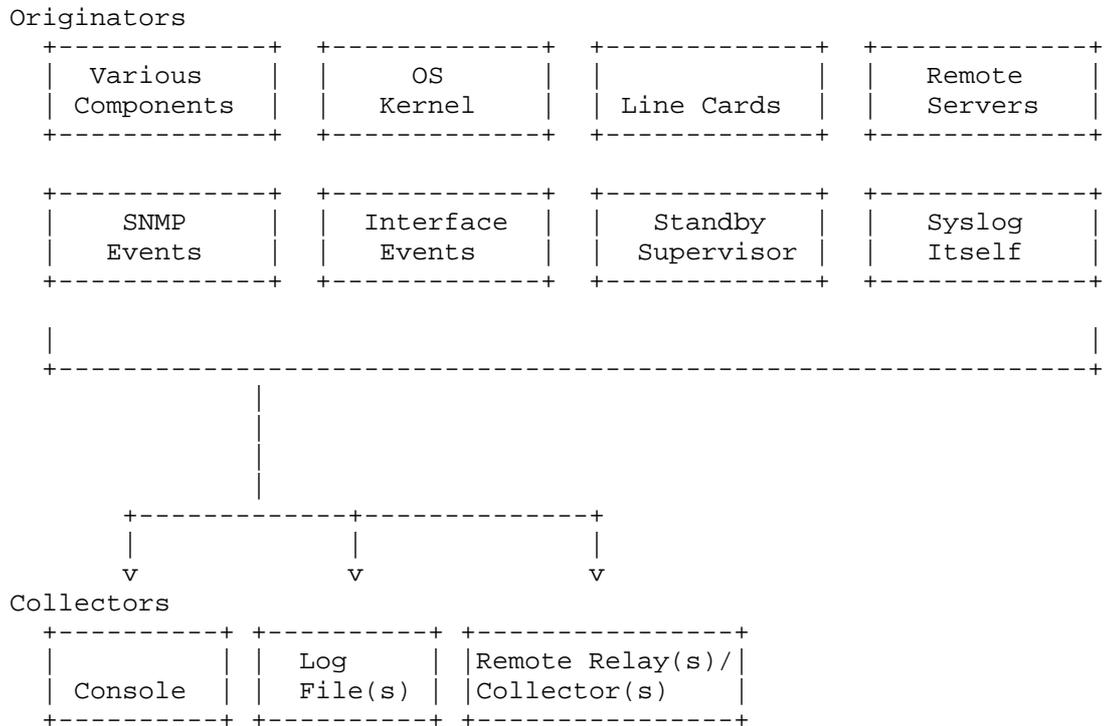


Figure 1. Syslog Processing Flow

The leaves in the syslog model "actions" container correspond to each message collector:

```

console
log file(s)
remote relay(s)/collector(s)
    
```

Within each action, a selector is used to filter syslog messages. A selector consists of a list of one or more facility-severity matches, and, if supported via the select-match feature, an optional regular expression pattern match that is performed on the SYSLOG-MSG [RFC5424] field.

A syslog message is processed if:

- There is an element of facility-list (F, S) where
  - the message facility matches F (if it is present)
  - and the message severity matches S (if it is present)
  - or the message text matches the regex pattern (if it is present)

The facility is one of a specific syslog-facility, or all facilities.

The severity is one of type `syslog-severity`, all severities, or none. None is a special case that can be used to disable a filter. When filtering severity, the default comparison is that messages of the specified severity and higher are selected to be logged. This is shown in the model as "default equals-or-higher". This behavior can be altered if the `select-adv-compare` feature is enabled to specify a compare operation and an action. Compare operations are: "equals" to select messages with this single severity, or "equals-or-higher" to select messages of the specified severity and higher. Actions are used to log the message or block the message from being logged.

### 3.1. Syslog Module

A simplified graphical representation of the data model is used in this document. The meaning of the symbols in these diagrams is defined in [RFC6087].

```

module: ietf-syslog
  +--rw syslog!
    +--rw actions
      +--rw console! {console-action}?
        +--rw selector
          +--rw facility-list* [facility severity]
            +--rw facility          union
            +--rw severity          union
            +--rw advanced-compare {select-adv-compare}?
              +--rw compare?       enumeration
              +--rw action?        enumeration
          +--rw pattern-match?     string {select-match}?
      +--rw file {file-action}?
        +--rw log-file* [name]
          +--rw name                inet:uri
          +--rw selector
            +--rw facility-list* [facility severity]
              +--rw facility          union
              +--rw severity          union
              +--rw advanced-compare {select-adv-compare}?
                +--rw compare?       enumeration
                +--rw action?        enumeration
            +--rw pattern-match?     string {select-match}?
          +--rw structured-data?    boolean {structured-data}?
          +--rw file-rotation
            +--rw number-of-files?  uint32 {file-limit-size}?
            +--rw max-file-size?    uint32 {file-limit-size}?
            +--rw rollover?         uint32 {file-limit-duration}?
            +--rw retention?        uint32 {file-limit-duration}?
        +--rw remote {remote-action}?
          +--rw destination* [name]
            +--rw name              string
            +--rw (transport)
              +--:(tcp)
                +--rw tcp
                  +--rw address?    inet:host
                  +--rw port?       inet:port-number
              +--:(udp)
                +--rw udp
                  +--rw address?    inet:host
                  +--rw port?       inet:port-number
            +--rw selector
              +--rw facility-list* [facility severity]
                +--rw facility          union
                +--rw severity          union
                +--rw advanced-compare {select-adv-compare}?
                  +--rw compare?       enumeration
                  +--rw action?        enumeration
              +--rw pattern-match?     string {select-match}?
            +--rw structured-data?    boolean {structured-data}?
            +--rw facility-override?  identityref
            +--rw source-interface?   if:interface-ref {remote-source-int
erface}?
          +--rw signing-options! {signed-messages}?

```

```
+++rw cert-initial-repeat      uint16
+-rw cert-resend-delay         uint16
+++rw cert-resend-count        uint16
+-rw sig-max-delay             uint16
+-rw sig-number-resends        uint16
+-rw sig-resend-delay          uint16
+-rw sig-resend-count          uint16
```

Figure 2. ietf-syslog Module Tree

#### 4. Syslog YANG Module

##### 4.1. The ietf-syslog Module

This module imports typedefs from [RFC6021] and [RFC7223], and it references [RFC5424], [RFC5425], [RFC5426], [RFC6587], and [RFC5848].

```
<CODE BEGINS> file "ietf-syslog.yang"
module ietf-syslog {
  namespace "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-syslog";
  prefix syslog;

  import ietf-inet-types {
    prefix inet;
  }

  import ietf-interfaces {
    prefix if;
  }

  organization "IETF NETMOD (NETCONF Data Modeling Language)
  Working Group";
  contact
    "WG Web: <http://tools.ietf.org/wg/netmod/>
    WG List: <mailto:netmod@ietf.org>

    Editor: Kiran Agrahara Sreenivasa
            <mailto:kkoushik@cisco.com>

    Editor: Clyde Wildes
            <mailto:cwildes@cisco.com>";
  description
    "This module contains a collection of YANG definitions
    for syslog configuration.

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    authors of the code. All rights reserved.

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    The key words 'MUST', 'MUST NOT', 'REQUIRED', 'SHALL', 'SHALL
    NOT', 'SHOULD', 'SHOULD NOT', 'RECOMMENDED', 'MAY', and
    'OPTIONAL' in the module text are to be interpreted as described
    in RFC 2119 (http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2119).

    This version of this YANG module is part of RFC XXXX
    (http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfcXXXX); see the RFC itself for
    full legal notices.";

  reference
    "RFC 5424: The Syslog Protocol
    RFC 5426: Transmission of Syslog Messages over UDP
    RFC 6587: Transmission of Syslog Messages over TCP
    RFC 5848: Signed Syslog Messages";
```

```
revision 2017-03-13 {
  description
    "Initial Revision";
  reference
    "RFC XXXX: Syslog YANG Model";
}

feature console-action {
  description
    "This feature indicates that the local console action is
    supported.";
}

feature file-action {
  description
    "This feature indicates that the local file action is
    supported.";
}

feature file-limit-size {
  description
    "This feature indicates that file logging resources
    are managed using size and number limits.";
}

feature file-limit-duration {
  description
    "This feature indicates that file logging resources
    are managed using time based limits.";
}

feature remote-action {
  description
    "This feature indicates that the remote server action is
    supported.";
}

feature remote-source-interface {
  description
    "This feature indicates that source-interface is supported
    supported for the remote-action.";
}

feature select-adv-compare {
  description
    "This feature represents the ability to select messages
    using the additional comparison operators when comparing
    the syslog message severity.";
}

feature select-match {
  description
    "This feature represents the ability to select messages based
    on a Posix 1003.2 regular expression pattern match.";
```

```
}

feature structured-data {
  description
    "This feature represents the ability to log messages
    in structured-data format as per RFC 5424.";
}

feature signed-messages {
  description
    "This feature represents the ability to configure signed
    syslog messages according to RFC 5848.";
}

typedef syslog-severity {
  type enumeration {
    enum "emergency" {
      value 0;
      description
        "The severity level 'Emergency' indicating that the system
        is unusable.";
    }
    enum "alert" {
      value 1;
      description
        "The severity level 'Alert' indicating that an action must be
        taken immediately.";
    }
    enum "critical" {
      value 2;
      description
        "The severity level 'Critical' indicating a critical condition.";
    }
    enum "error" {
      value 3;
      description
        "The severity level 'Error' indicating an error condition.";
    }
    enum "warning" {
      value 4;
      description
        "The severity level 'Warning' indicating a warning condition.";
    }
    enum "notice" {
      value 5;
      description
        "The severity level 'Notice' indicating a normal but significant
        condition.";
    }
    enum "info" {
      value 6;
      description
        "The severity level 'Info' indicating an informational message.";
    }
  }
}
```

```
    enum "debug" {
        value 7;
        description
            "The severity level 'Debug' indicating a debug-level message.";
    }
}
description
    "The definitions for Syslog message severity as per RFC 5424.";
}

identity syslog-facility {
    description
        "This identity is used as a base for all syslog facilities as
        per RFC 5424.";
}

identity kern {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for kernel messages (0) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity user {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for user-level messages (1) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity mail {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for the mail system (2) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity daemon {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for the system daemons (3) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity auth {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for security/authorization messages (4) as defined
        in RFC 5424.";
}

identity syslog {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for messages generated internally by syslogd
        facility (5) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}
```

```
identity lpr {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for the line printer subsystem (6) as defined in
    RFC 5424.";
}

identity news {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for the network news subsystem (7) as defined in
    RFC 5424.";
}

identity uucp {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for the UUCP subsystem (8) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity cron {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for the clock daemon (9) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity authpriv {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for privileged security/authorization messages (10)
    as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity ftp {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for the FTP daemon (11) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity ntp {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for the NTP subsystem (12) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity audit {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
    "The facility for log audit messages (13) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity console {
  base syslog-facility;
  description
```

```
    "The facility for log alert messages (14) as defined in RFC 5424.";
}

identity cron2 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for the second clock daemon (15) as defined in
        RFC 5424.";
}

identity local0 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for local use 0 messages (16) as defined in
        RFC 5424.";
}

identity local1 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for local use 1 messages (17) as defined in
        RFC 5424.";
}

identity local2 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for local use 2 messages (18) as defined in
        RFC 5424.";
}

identity local3 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for local use 3 messages (19) as defined in
        RFC 5424.";
}

identity local4 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for local use 4 messages (20) as defined in
        RFC 5424.";
}

identity local5 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
        "The facility for local use 5 messages (21) as defined in
        RFC 5424.";
}

identity local6 {
    base syslog-facility;
```

```
    description
      "The facility for local use 6 messages (22) as defined in
      RFC 5424.";
  }

  identity local7 {
    base syslog-facility;
    description
      "The facility for local use 7 messages (23) as defined in
      RFC 5424.";
  }

  grouping severity-filter {
    description
      "This grouping defines the processing used to select
      log messages by comparing syslog message severity using
      the following processing rules:
      - if 'none', do not match.
      - if 'all', match.
      - else compare message severity with the specified severity
        according to the default compare rule (all messages of the
        specified severity and greater match) or if the
        select-adv-compare feature is present, the advance-compare
        rule.";
    leaf severity {
      type union {
        type syslog-severity;
        type enumeration {
          enum none {
            value -2;
            description
              "This enum describes the case where no severities
              are selected.";
          }
          enum all {
            value -1;
            description
              "This enum describes the case where all severities
              are selected.";
          }
        }
      }
      mandatory true;
      description
        "This leaf specifies the syslog message severity.";
    }
    container advanced-compare {
      when '../severity != "all" and
        ../severity != "none"' {
        description
          "The advanced compare container is not applicable for severity
          'all' or severity 'none'";
      }
      if-feature select-adv-compare;
    }
  }
}
```

```

leaf compare {
  type enumeration {
    enum equals {
      description
        "This enum specifies that the severity comparison operation
        will be equals.";
    }
    enum equals-or-higher {
      description
        "This enum specifies that the severity comparison operation
        will be equals or higher.";
    }
  }
  default equals-or-higher;
  description
    "The compare can be used to specify the comparison operator that
    should be used to compare the syslog message severity with the
    specified severity.";
}
leaf action {
  type enumeration {
    enum log {
      description
        "This enum specifies that if the compare operation is true
        the message will be logged.";
    }
    enum block {
      description
        "This enum specifies that if the compare operation is true
        the message will not be logged.";
    }
  }
  default log;
  description
    "The action can be used to spectify if the message should be
    logged or blocked based on the outcome of the compare operation.";
}
description
  "This leaf describes additional severity compare operations that can
  be used in place of the default severity comparison. The compare leaf
  specifies the type of the compare that is done and the action leaf
  specifies the intended result. Example: compare->equals and action->
  no-match means messages that have a severity that is not equal to th
  specified severity will be logged.";
}
}
grouping selector {
  description
    "This grouping defines a syslog selector which is used to
    select log messages for the log-action (console, file,
    remote, etc.). Choose one or both of the following:
    facility [<facility> <severity>...]
    pattern-match regular-expression-match-string

```

```

    If both facility and pattern-match are specified, both must
    match in order for a log message to be selected.";
  container selector {
    description
      "This container describes the log selector parameters
      for syslog.";
    list facility-list {
      key "facility severity";
      ordered-by user;
      description
        "This list describes a collection of syslog
        facilities and severities.";
      leaf facility {
        type union {
          type identityref {
            base syslog-facility;
          }
          type enumeration {
            enum all {
              description
                "This enum describes the case where all
                facilities are requested.";
            }
          }
        }
        description
          "The leaf uniquely identifies a syslog facility.";
      }
      uses severity-filter;
    }
    leaf pattern-match {
      if-feature select-match;
      type string;
      description
        "This leaf describes a Posix 1003.2 regular expression
        string that can be used to select a syslog message for
        logging. The match is performed on the RFC 5424
        SYSLOG-MSG field.";
    }
  }
}

grouping structured-data {
  description
    "This grouping defines the syslog structured data option
    which is used to select the format used to write log
    messages.";
  leaf structured-data {
    if-feature structured-data;
    type boolean;
    default false;
    description
      "This leaf describes how log messages are written.
      If true, messages will be written with one or more

```

```
        STRUCTURED-DATA elements as per RFC5424; if false,
        messages will be written with STRUCTURED-DATA =
        NILVALUE.";
    }
}

container syslog {
    presence "Enables logging.";
    description
        "This container describes the configuration parameters for
        syslog.";
    container actions {
        description
            "This container describes the log-action parameters
            for syslog.";
        container console {
            if-feature console-action;
            presence "Enables logging to the console";
            description
                "This container describes the configuration parameters for
                console logging.";
            uses selector;
        }
        container file {
            if-feature file-action;
            description
                "This container describes the configuration parameters for
                file logging. If file-archive limits are not supplied, it
                is assumed that the local implementation defined limits will
                be used.";
            list log-file {
                key "name";
                description
                    "This list describes a collection of local logging
                    files.";
                leaf name {
                    type inet:uri {
                        pattern 'file:.*';
                    }
                    description
                        "This leaf specifies the name of the log file which
                        MUST use the uri scheme file:.";
                }
            }
            uses selector;
            uses structured-data;
            container file-rotation {
                description
                    "This container describes the configuration
                    parameters for log file rotation.";
                leaf number-of-files {
                    if-feature file-limit-size;
                    type uint32;
                    default 1;
                    description

```



```
container tcp {
  description
    "This container describes the TCP transport
    options.";
  reference
    "RFC 6587: Transmission of Syslog Messages over TCP";
  leaf address {
    type inet:host;
    description
      "The leaf uniquely specifies the address of
      the remote host. One of the following must
      be specified: an ipv4 address, an ipv6
      address, or a host name.";
  }
  leaf port {
    type inet:port-number;
    default 514;
    description
      "This leaf specifies the port number used to
      deliver messages to the remote server.";
  }
}
}
case udp {
  container udp {
    description
      "This container describes the UDP transport
      options.";
    reference
      "RFC 5426: Transmission of Syslog Messages over UDP";
    leaf address {
      type inet:host;
      description
        "The leaf uniquely specifies the address of
        the remote host. One of the following must be
        specified: an ipv4 address, an ipv6 address,
        or a host name.";
    }
    leaf port {
      type inet:port-number;
      default 514;
      description
        "This leaf specifies the port number used to
        deliver messages to the remote server.";
    }
  }
}
}
uses selector;
uses structured-data;
leaf facility-override {
  type identityref {
    base syslog-facility;
  }
}
```

```
description
  "If specified, this leaf specifies the facility used
  to override the facility in messages delivered to the
  remote server.";
}
leaf source-interface {
  if-feature remote-source-interface;
  type if:interface-ref;
  description
    "This leaf sets the source interface to be used to send
    message to the remote syslog server. If not set,
    messages sent to a remote syslog server will
    contain the IP address of the interface the syslog
    message uses to exit the network element";
}
container signing-options {
  if-feature signed-messages;
  presence
    "If present, syslog-signing options is activated.";
  description
    "This container describes the configuration
    parameters for signed syslog messages as described
    by RFC 5848.";
  reference
    "RFC 5848: Signed Syslog Messages";
  leaf cert-initial-repeat {
    type uint16;
    mandatory true;
    description
      "This leaf specifies the number of times each
      Certificate Block should be sent before the first
      message is sent.";
  }
  leaf cert-resend-delay {
    type uint16;
    units "seconds";
    mandatory true;
    description
      "This leaf specifies the maximum time delay in
      seconds until resending the Certificate Block.";
  }
  leaf cert-resend-count {
    type uint16;
    mandatory true;
    description
      "This leaf specifies the maximum number of other
      syslog messages to send until resending the
      Certificate Block.";
  }
  leaf sig-max-delay {
    type uint16;
    units "seconds";
    mandatory true;
    description
```



Requirement:

Enable console logging of syslogs of severity critical

Here is the example syslog configuration xml:

```
<config xmlns:xc="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <syslog xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-syslog"
    xmlns:syslog="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-syslog">
    <actions>
      <console>
        <selector>
          <facility-list>
            <facility>all</facility>
            <severity>critical</severity>
          </facility-list>
        </selector>
      </console>
    </actions>
  </syslog>
</config>
```

Enable remote logging of syslogs to udp destination 2001:db8:a0b:12f0::1 for facility auth, severity error

```
<config xmlns:xc="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <syslog xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-syslog"
    xmlns:syslog="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-syslog">
    <actions>
      <remote>
        <destination>
          <name>remotel</name>
          <udp>
            <address>2001:db8:a0b:12f0::1</address>
          </udp>
          <selector>
            <facility-list>
              <facility>auth</facility>
              <severity>error</severity>
            </facility-list>
          </selector>
        </destination>
      </remote>
    </actions>
  </syslog>
</config>
```

Figure 4. ietf-syslog Examples

## 6. Acknowledgements

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## 7. IANA Considerations

This document registers one URI in the IETF XML registry [RFC3688].

Following the format in RFC 3688, the following registration is requested to be made:

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-syslog

Registrant Contact: The IESG.

XML: N/A, the requested URI is an XML namespace.

This document registers a YANG module in the YANG Module Names registry [RFC6020].

name: ietf-syslog namespace: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-syslog

prefix: ietf-syslog

reference: RFC XXXX

## 8. Security Considerations

The YANG module defined in this memo is designed to be accessed via the NETCONF protocol [RFC6241]. The lowest NETCONF layer is the secure transport layer and the mandatory-to-implement secure transport is SSH [RFC6242]. The NETCONF access control model [RFC6536] provides the means to restrict access for particular NETCONF users to a pre-configured subset of all available NETCONF protocol operations and content.

There are a number of data nodes defined in the YANG module which are writable/creatable/deletable (i.e., config true, which is the default). These data nodes may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. Write operations (e.g., <edit-config>) to these data nodes without proper protection can have a negative effect on network operations.

### 8.1. Resource Constraints

Network administrators must take the time to estimate the appropriate memory limits caused by the configuration of actions/buffer using buffer-limit-bytes and/or buffer-limit-messages where necessary to limit the amount of memory used.

Network administrators must take the time to estimate the appropriate storage capacity caused by the configuration of actions/file using file-archive attributes to limit storage used.

It is the responsibility of the network administrator to ensure that the configured message flow does not overwhelm system resources.

### 8.2. Inappropriate Configuration

It is the responsibility of the network administrator to ensure that the messages are actually going to the intended recipients.

## 9. References

### 9.1. Normative References

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## 9.2. Informative References

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- [RFC6242] Wasserman, M., "Using the NETCONF Protocol over Secure Shell (SSH)", RFC 6242, DOI 10.17487/RFC6242, June 2011, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6242>>.

## Appendix A. Implementor Guidelines

### Appendix A.1. Extending Facilities

Many vendors extend the list of facilities available for logging in their implementation. Additional facilities may not work with the syslog protocol as defined in [RFC5424] and hence such facilities apply for local syslog-like logging functionality.

The following is an example that shows how additional facilities could be added to the list of available facilities (in this example two facilities are added):

```
module vendor-syslog-types-example {
  namespace "urn:vendor:params:xml:ns:yang:vendor-syslog-types";
  prefix vendor-syslogtypes;

  import ietf-syslog {
    prefix syslogtypes;
  }

  organization "Example, Inc.";
  contact
    "Example, Inc.
     Customer Service

     E-mail: syslog-yang@example.com";

  description
    "This module contains a collection of vendor-specific YANG type
     definitions for SYSLOG.";

  revision 2017-03-13 {
    description
      "Version 1.0";
    reference
      "Vendor SYSLOG Types: SYSLOG YANG Model";
  }

  identity vendor_specific_type_1 {
    base syslogtypes:syslog-facility;
  }

  identity vendor_specific_type_2 {
    base syslogtypes:syslog-facility;
  }
}
```

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