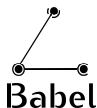


About draft-homenet-babel-profile REQ5

27 March 2017



draft-homenet-babel-profile

Technical but **consensual draft**. Two parts:

1. **mandated parameters for Babel** in Homenet
e.g. use metric 96 for a GbE link;
e.g. MUST IPv6, SHOULD IPv4.
2. **interactions between HNCP and Babel**
e.g. if you announce an ext. IPv6 prefix over HNCP
then you announce a source-specific default route
over Babel.

The requirements are (meant to be):

- **specific enough** to ensure interoperability;
- **general enough** to allow both hnetd and shncpd.

draft-homenet-babel-profile (2)

This was meant to be a technical but **consensual draft**:

- -00 was a **complete draft**, but with a few **TBD** left (published 8 July 2016, discussed in Berlin);
- -01 was meant to be **the final document** (published 2 December 2016).

Things go wrong: REQ5

REQ5: a Homenet implementation of Babel
MUST implement HMAC-based authentication [...] and MUST enable and require authentication when instructed to do so by HNCP.

Things go wrong: REQ5

REQ5: a Homenet implementation of Babel MUST implement HMAC-based authentication [...] and MUST enable and require authentication when instructed to do so by HNCP.

This has two issues:

- **not precise enough** to ensure interoperability;
- **nobody** has any plans to **implement** it.

This was raised:

- **in private with the chairs** and Markus Stenberg;
- **on the mailing list**
(detailed mail dated 4 January 2017).

REQ5 is not precise enough

In order to **implement REQ5**:

- need a consensus mechanism to **decide whether a given link uses authentication**;
- need a consensus mechanism to **agree on a shared key** for a given link.

We must:

- define a **consensus algorithm**;
- define the **packet format**;
- provide a **reference implementation**.

Nobody intends to implement REQ5

The Homenet working group has a proud tradition of **working code**.

Everything that the WG does **has been implemented**:

- at least **once** (source-specific routing);
- most often **twice** (core of HNCP, prefix assignment);
- sometimes **thrice or more** (Babel).

I do not wish to be the editor of a document that contains **a requirement that nobody has any plans to implement**.

Suggestions

How do we **get out of this impasse**? Suggestions:

1. delegate authentication to a lower layer,
remove REQ5 from draft-homenet-babel-profile.
2. find someone who volunteers to:
 - define suitable algorithms;
 - define the packet format;
 - provide a reference implementation.(I volunteer to help, but not to do the work.)
3. pick a new editor
(I expect to remain as co-author).
4. Other ideas?

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Please tell me what to do.