Abstract

NTP Version 4 (NTPv4) has been widely used since its publication as RFC 5905 [RFC5905]. This documentation is a collection of Best Practices from across the NTP community.

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1. Introduction

NTP Version 4 (NTPv4) has been widely used since its publication as RFC 5905 [RFC5905]. This documentation is a collection of Best Practices from across the NTP community.

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].

2. Keeping NTP up to date

Many network security mechanisms rely on time as part of their operation. If attackers can spoof the time, they may be able to bypass or neutralize other security elements. For example, incorrect time can disrupt the ability to reconcile logfile entries on the affected system with events on other systems. The best way to detect and protect computers and networks against undefined behavior and security threats related to time is to keep their NTP implementations current, use an appropriate number of trustworthy time sources, and properly monitor their time infrastructure.

There are always new ideas about security on the Internet, and an application which is secure today could be insecure tomorrow once an unknown bug (or a known behavior) is exploited in the right way. Even our definition of what is secure has evolved over the years, so code which was considered secure when it was written may turn out to be insecure after some time. By keeping NTP implementations current, having "enough" trustworthy time sources, and properly monitoring their time infrastructure, network operators can make sure that their time infrastructure is operating correctly and within specification, and is not being attacked or misused.

There are multiple versions of the NTP protocol in use, and multiple implementations in use, on many different platforms. It is recommended that that NTP users select an implementation that is actively maintained. Users should keep up to date on any known attacks on their selected implementation, and deploy updates containing security fixes as soon as practical.

3.1. BCP 38

Many network attacks rely on modifying the IP source address of a packet to point to a different IP address than the computer which originated it. UDP-based protocols such as NTP are generally more susceptible to spoofing attacks than other connection-oriented protocols. NTP control messages can generate a lot of data in response to a small query, which makes it more attractive as a vector for distributed denial-of-service attacks. (NTP Control messages are discussed further in Section 4.3). Mitigating source address spoofing attacks should be a priority of anyone administering NTP.

BCP 38 [RFC2827] was approved in 2000 to address this. BCP 38 [RFC2827] calls for filtering outgoing and incoming traffic to make sure that the source and destination IP addresses are consistent with the expected flow of traffic on each network interface. It is recommended that all networks (and ISP’s of any size) implement ingress and egress filtering. More information is available at the BCP38 Info page [1].

4. NTP Configuration Best Practices

This section provides general Best Practices. Best Practices that are implementation specific are compiled in Section Appendix A.

4.1. Use enough time sources

An NTP implementation (as opposed to an SNTP implementation) takes the available sources of time and submits this timing data to sophisticated intersection, clustering, and combing algorithms to get the best estimate of the correct time. The description of these algorithms is beyond the scope of this document. Interested readers should read RFC 5905 [RFC5905] or the detailed description of NTP in MILLS 2006 [MILLS2006]

- If there is only 1 source of time, the answer is obvious. It may not be a good source of time, but it’s the only source of time that can be considered. Any issue with the time at the source will be passed on to the client.

- If there are 2 sources of time and they agree well enough, then the best "time" can be calculated easily. But if one source fails, then the solution degrades to the single-source solution outlined above. And if the two sources don’t agree, then it’s impossible to know which one is correct by simply looking at the time.
o If there are 3 sources of time, there is more data available to converge on a "best" time, and this time is more likely to be accurate. And the loss of one of the sources (by becoming unreachable or unusable) can be tolerated. But at that point, the solution degrades to the 2 source solution.

o 4 or more sources of time is better. If one of these sources develops a problem there are still at least 3 other time sources.

But even with 4 or more sources of time, systemic problems can happen. During the leap second of June of 2015, several operators implemented leap smearing while others did not, and many NTP end nodes could not determine an accurate time source because 2 of their 4 sources of time gave them consistent UTC/POSIX time, while the other 2 gave them consistent leap-smeared time. See Section 4.6.1 for more information.

Monitor your NTP instances. If your time sources do not generally agree, find out why and either correct the problems or stop using defective servers. See Section 4.4 for more information.

4.2. Use a diversity of Reference Clocks

When using servers with attached hardware reference clocks, it is recommended that several different types of reference clocks be used. Having a diversity of sources means that any one issue is less likely to cause a service interruption.

Are all clocks on a network from the same vendor? They may have the same bugs. Are they using the same base chipset, regardless of whether or not the finished products are from different vendors? Are they all running the same version of firmware? Chipset and firmware bugs can happen, but they can be more difficult to diagnose than application software bugs.

A systemic problem with time from any satellite navigation service is possible and has happened. Sunspot activity can render satellite or radio-based time source unusable. If the time on your network must be correct close to 100% of the time, then even if you are using a satellite-based system, you must plan for those rare instances when the system is unavailable (or wrong!).

4.3. Control Messages

Some implementations of NTPv4 provide the NTP Control Messages which originally have been specified in Appendix B of [RFC1305] which defined NTPv3, but never have been part of the NTPv4 specification.
The NTP Control Messages are designed to permit monitoring and optionally authenticated control of NTP and its configuration. Used properly, these facilities provide vital debugging and performance information and control. Used improperly, these facilities can be an abuse vector.

The ability to use Mode 6 beyond its basic monitoring capabilities can be limited to authenticated sessions that provide a 'controlkey'.

The NTP Control Messages responses are much larger than the corresponding queries. Thus, they can be abused in high-bandwidth DDoS attacks. To provide protection for such abuse NTP server operators should deploy ingress filtering BCP 38 [RFC2827].

4.4. Monitoring

Use your NTP implementation’s remote monitoring capabilities to quickly identify servers which are out of sync, and ensure correctness of the service. Monitor system logs for messages so problems and abuse attempts can be quickly identified.

If a system starts getting unexpected time replies from its time servers, that can be an indication that the IP address of the system is being forged in requests to its time server, and these abusers are trying to convince that time server to stop serving time to that system.

If a system is a broadcast client and its syslog shows that it is receiving "early" time messages from its server, that is an indication that somebody may be forging packets from a broadcast server.

If a server’s syslog shows messages that indicates it is receiving timestamps that are earlier than the current system time, then either the system clock is unusually fast or somebody is trying to launch a replay attack against that server.

If a system is using broadcast mode and is running ntp-4.2.8p6 or later, use the 4th field of the ntp.keys file to specify the IPs of machines that are allowed to serve time to the group.
4.5. Using Pool Servers

It only takes a small amount of bandwidth and system resources to synchronize one NTP client, but NTP servers that can service tens of thousands of clients take more resources to run. Users who want to synchronize their computers should only synchronize to servers that they have permission to use.

The NTP pool project is a group of volunteers who have donated their computing and bandwidth resources to freely distribute time from primary time sources to others on the Internet. The time is generally of good quality, but comes with no guarantee whatsoever. If you are interested in using the pool, please review their instructions at http://www.pool.ntp.org/en/use.html [2].

If you are a vendor who wishes to provide time service to your customers or clients, consider joining the pool and providing a "vendor zone" through the pool project.

If you want to synchronize many computers, consider running your own NTP servers that are synchronized by the pool, and synchronizing your clients to your in-house NTP servers. This reduces the load on the pool.

If you would like to contribute a server with a static IP address and a permanent Internet connection to the pool, please consult the instructions at http://www.pool.ntp.org/en/join.html [3].

4.6. Leap Second Handling

UTC is kept in agreement with the astronomical time UT1 [4] to within +/- 0.9 seconds by the insertion (or possibly a deletion) of a leap second. UTC is an atomic time scale whereas UT1 is based on the rotational rate of the earth. Leap seconds are not introduced at a fixed rate. They are announced by the IERS (International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service) in its Bulletin C [5] when necessary to keep UTC and UT1 aligned.

NTP time is based on the UTC timescale, and the protocol has the capability to broadcast leap second information. Some GNSS systems (like GPS) or radio transmitters (like DCF77) broadcast leap second information, so if you are synced to an ntp server that is ultimately synced to a source that provides leap second notification you will get advance notification of impending leap seconds automatically.

Since the length of the UT1 day is generally slowly increasing [6], all leap seconds that have been introduced since the practice started in 1972 have been "positive" leap seconds, where a second is added to
UTC. NTP also supports a "negative" leap second, where a second is removed from UTC, should that ever become necessary.

While earlier versions of NTP contained some ambiguity regarding when a leap second that is broadcast by a server should be applied by a client, RFC 5905 is clear that leap seconds are only applied on the last day of a month. However, because some older clients may apply it at the end of the current day, it is recommended that NTP servers wait until the last day of the month before broadcasting leap seconds. Doing this will prevent older clients from applying a leap second at the wrong time. Note well that NTPv4 allows a maximum poll interval of 17, or 131,072 seconds, which is longer than a day.

The IETF maintains a leap second list [7] for NTP users who are not receiving leap second information through an automatic source.

Files are also available from other sources:

NIST: ftp://time.nist.gov/pub/leap-seconds.list


IERS (announces leap seconds): https://hpiers.obspm.fr/iers/bul/bulc/ntp/leap-seconds.list

See Appendix A.1.4 for instructions on applying the leap second file to the reference implementation.

4.6.1. Leap Smearing

Some NTP installations may instead make use of a technique called "Leap Smearing". With this method, instead of introducing an extra second (or eliminating a second), NTP time will be slewed in small increments over a comparably large window of time (called the smear interval) around the leap second event. The smear interval should be large enough to make the rate that the time is slewed small, so that clients will follow the smeared time without objecting. Periods ranging from 2 to 24 hours have been used successfully. During the adjustment window, all the NTP clients' times may be offset from UTC by as much as a full second, depending on the implementation. But at least all clients will generally agree on what time they think it is!

NOTE WELL that using a leap-smear can cause your reported time to be "legally indefensible" and/or be a breach of compliance regulations.

The purpose of Leap Smearing is to enable systems that don’t deal with the leap second event properly to function consistently, at the
expense of fidelity to UTC during the smear window. During a standard leap second event, that minute will have 61 (or possibly 59) seconds in it, and some applications (and even some OS's) are known to have problems with that.

Clients that are connected to leap smearing servers MUST NOT apply the "standard" NTP leap second handling. So if they are using ntpd, these clients must never have a leap second file loaded, and the smearing servers must never advertise to clients that a leap second is pending.

Leap Smearing MUST NOT be used for public-facing NTP servers, as they will disagree with non-smearing servers (as well as UTC) during the leap smear interval. However, be aware that some public-facing servers may be configured this way anyway in spite of this guidance.

System Administrators are advised to be aware of impending leap seconds and how the servers (inside and outside their organization) they are using deal with them. Individual clients must never be configured to use a mixture of smeared and non-smeared servers. If a client uses smeared servers, the servers it uses must all have the same leap smear configuration.

5. NTP Security Mechanisms

In the standard configuration NTP packets are exchanged unprotected between client and server. An adversary that is able to become a Man-In-The-Middle is therefore able to drop, replay or modify the content of the NTP packet, which leads to degradation of the time synchronization or the transmission of false time information. A profound threat analysis for time synchronization protocols are given in RFC 7384 [RFC7384]. NTP provides two internal security mechanisms to protect authenticity and integrity of the NTP packets. Both measures protect the NTP packet by means of a Message Authentication Code (MAC). Neither of them encrypts the NTP’s payload, because this payload information is not considered to be confidential.

5.1. Pre-Shared Key Approach

This approach applies a symmetric key for the calculation of the MAC, which protects authenticity and integrity of the exchanged packets for an association. NTP does not provide a mechanism for the exchange of the keys between the associated nodes. Therefore, for each association, keys have to be exchanged securely by external means. It is recommended that each association be protected by its own unique key. NTP does not provide a mechanism to automatically refresh the applied keys. It is therefore recommended that the participants periodically agree on a fresh key. The calculation of
the MAC may always be based on an MD5 hash, and an AES-128-CMAC hash is expected to soon be allowed as well. If the NTP daemon is built against an OpenSSL library, NTP can also base the calculation of the MAC upon any other digest algorithm supported by each side’s OpenSSL library.

To use this approach the communication partners have to exchange the key, which consists of a keyid with a value between 1 and 65534, inclusive, and a label which indicates the chosen digest algorithm. Each communication partner adds this information to its own key file. Some implementations store the key in clear text. Therefore it should only be readable by the NTP process. Different keys are added line by line to the key file.

An NTP client establishes a protected association by appending the key to the server statement in its configuration file. Note that the NTP process has to trust the applied key.

5.2. Autokey

Autokey was designed in 2003 to provide a means for clients to authenticate servers. However, security researchers have identified vulnerabilities in the Autokey protocol, which make the protocol "useless". [8]

Autokey SHOULD NOT BE USED.

5.3. Network Time Security

Work is in progress on an enhanced replacement for Autokey, which is called Network Time Security (NTS) [NTSFORNTP]. As of July 2018, this effort was at draft #12, and in the ’Working Group Last Call’ process. Readers are encouraged to adopt its mechanisms.

6. NTP Security Best Practices

This section lists some general NTP security practices, but these concepts may (or may not) have been mitigated in particular versions of particular implementations. Contact the maintainers of your implementation for more information.

6.1. Minimizing Information Leakage

The base NTP packet leaks important information (including reference ID and reference time) that may be used in attacks [NDSS16], [CVE-2015-8138], [CVE-2016-1548]. A remote attacker can learn this information by sending mode 3 queries to a target system and
inspecting the fields in the mode 4 response packet. NTP control queries also leak important information (including reference ID, expected origin timestamp, etc.) that may be used in attacks [CVE-2015-8139]. A remote attacker can learn this information by sending control queries to a target system and inspecting the response.

As such, access control should be used to limit the exposure of this information to inappropriate third parties.

Hosts should only respond to NTP control queries from authorized parties. One way to do this is to only allow control queries from authenticated sources via authorized IP addresses.

A host that is not supposed to act as an NTP server that provides timing information to other hosts may additionally log and drop incoming mode 3 timing queries from unexpected sources. Note well that the easiest way to monitor ntpd’s status is to send it a mode 3 query. A much better approach might be to filter mode 3 queries at the edge, or make sure mode 3 queries are allowed only from trusted systems or networks.

A "leaf-node host" is a host that is using NTP solely for the purpose of adjusting its own system time. Such a host is not expected to provide time to other hosts, and relies exclusively on NTP's basic mode to take time from a set of servers. (That is, the host sends mode 3 queries to its servers and receives mode 4 responses from these servers containing timing information.) To minimize information leakage, leaf-node hosts should drop all incoming NTP packets except mode 4 response packets that come from known sources. Note well that proper monitoring of an ntpd instance includes checking the time of that ntpd instance.

6.2. Avoiding Daemon Restart Attacks

RFC 5905 [RFC5905] says NTP clients should not accept time shifts greater than the panic threshold. Specifically, RFC 5905 says "PANIC means the offset is greater than the panic threshold PANICT (1000 s) and SHOULD cause the program to exit with a diagnostic message to the system log."

However, this behavior can be exploited by attackers [NDSS16], when the following two conditions hold:

1. The operating system automatically restarts the NTP daemon when it quits. (Modern *NIX operating systems are replacing traditional init systems with process supervisors, such as systemd, which can be configured to automatically restart any

daemons that quit. This behavior is the default in CoreOS and Arch Linux. It is likely to become the default behavior in other systems as they migrate legacy init scripts to process supervisors such as systemd.)

2. If, against long-standing recommendation, ntpd is always started with the -g option, it will ignore the panic threshold when it is restarted. The -g option SHOULD only be provided in cold-start situations.

In such cases, if the attacker can send the target an offset that exceeds the panic threshold, the client will quit. Then, when the client restarts, it ignores the panic threshold and accepts the attacker’s large offset.

Hosts running with the above two conditions should be aware that the panic threshold does not protect them from attacks. The recommended and natural solution is not to run hosts with these conditions. Specifically, only ignore the panic threshold in cold-start situations if sufficient oversight and checking is in place to make sure that this is appropriate.

As an alternative, the following steps could be taken to mitigate the risk of attack.

- Monitor NTP system log to detect when the NTP daemon has quit due to a panic event, as this could be a sign of an attack.
- Request manual intervention when a timestep larger than the panic threshold is detected.
- Prevent the NTP daemon from taking time steps that set the clock to a time earlier than the compile date of the NTP daemon.
- Add "minsane" and "minclock" parameters to the ntp.conf file so ntpd waits until "enough" trusted sources of time agree on the correct time.

6.3. Detection of Attacks Through Monitoring

Users should monitor their NTP instances to detect attacks. Many known attacks on NTP have particular signatures. Common attack signatures include:

1. "Bogus packets" - A packet whose origin timestamp does not match the value that expected by the client.

3. A packet with an invalid cryptographic MAC [CCR16].

The observation of many such packets could indicate that the client is under attack.

Also, Kiss-o’-Death (KoD) packets can be used in denial of service attacks. Thus, the observation of even just one KoD packet with a high poll value could be sign that the client is under attack. See Section 6.4 for more information.

6.4. KISS Packets

The "Kiss-o’-Death" (KoD) packet is a rate limiting mechanism where a server can tell a misbehaving client to "back off" its query rate. It is important for all NTP devices to respect these packets and back off when asked to do so by a server. It is even more important for an embedded device, which may not have exposed a control interface for NTP.

That said, a client must only accept a KoD packet if it has a valid origin timestamp. Once a RATE packet is accepted, the client should increase its poll interval value (thus decreasing its polling rate) up to a reasonable maximum. This maximum can vary by implementation but should not exceed a poll interval value of 13 (2 hours). The mechanism to determine how much to increase the poll interval value is undefined in RFC 5905 [RFC5905]. If the client uses the poll interval value sent by the server in the KoD packet, it must not simply accept any value. Using large interval values may open a vector for a denial-of-service attack that causes the client to stop querying its server [NDSS16].

The KoD mechanism relies on clients behaving properly in order to be effective. Some clients ignore the KoD packet entirely, and other poorly-implemented clients might unintentionally increase their poll rate and simulate a denial of service attack. Server administrators should be prepared for this and take measures outside of the NTP protocol to drop packets from misbehaving clients.

6.5. Broadcast Mode Should Only Be Used On Trusted Networks

Per RFC 5905 [RFC5905], NTP’s broadcast mode is authenticated using symmetric key cryptography. The broadcast server and all of its broadcast clients share a symmetric cryptographic key, and the broadcast server uses this key to append a message authentication code (MAC) to the broadcast packets it sends.
Importantly, all broadcast clients that listen to this server must know the cryptographic key. This means that any client can use this key to send valid broadcast messages that look like they come from the broadcast server. Thus, a rogue broadcast client can use its knowledge of this key to attack the other broadcast clients.

For this reason, an NTP broadcast server and all its clients must trust each other. Broadcast mode should only be run from within a trusted network.

Starting with ntp-4.2.8p7 the ntp.keys file accepts an optional 4th column, a comma-separated list of IPs that are allowed to serve time. Use this feature. Note, however, that an adversarial client that knows the symmetric broadcast key could still easily spoof its source IP to an IP that is allowed to serve time. (This is easy to do because the origin timestamp on broadcast mode packets is not validated by the client. By contrast, client/server and symmetric modes do require origin timestamp validation, making it more difficult to spoof packets [CCR16].)

6.6. Symmetric Mode Should Only Be Used With Trusted Peers

In symmetric mode, two peers Alice and Bob can both push and pull synchronization to and from each other using either ephemeral symmetric passive (mode 2) or persistent symmetric active (NTP mode 1) packets. The persistent association is preconfigured and initiated at the active peer but not preconfigured at the passive peer (Bob). Upon receipt of a mode 1 NTP packet from Alice, Bob mobilizes a new ephemeral association if he does not have one already. This is a security risk for Bob because an arbitrary attacker can attempt to change Bob’s time by asking Bob to become its symmetric passive peer.

For this reason, a host (Bob) should only allow symmetric passive associations to be established with trusted peers. Specifically, Bob should require each of its symmetric passive association to be cryptographically authenticated. Each symmetric passive association should be authenticated under a different cryptographic key.

The use of a different cryptographic key per peer prevents a Sybil attack, where a single malicious peer uses the same cryptographic key to set up multiple symmetric associations a target, and thus bias the results of the target’s Byzantine fault tolerant peer selection algorithms.

Starting with ntp-4.2.8p7 the ntp.keys file accepts an optional 4th column, a comma-separated list of IPs that are allowed to serve time. Use this feature.
7. NTP in Embedded Devices

Readers of this BCP already understand how important accurate time is for network computing. And as computing becomes more ubiquitous, there will be many small "Internet of Things" devices that require accurate time. These embedded devices may not have a traditional user interface, but if they connect to the Internet they will be subject to the same security threats as traditional deployments.

7.1. Updating Embedded Devices

Vendors of embedded devices have a special responsibility to pay attention to the current state of NTP bugs and security issues, because their customers don’t have the ability to update their NTP implementation on their own. Those devices may have a single firmware upgrade, provided by the manufacturer, that updates all capabilities at once. This means that the vendor assumes the responsibility of making sure their devices have the latest NTP updates applied.

This should also include the ability to update any NTP server addresses on these devices.

There is a catalog of NTP server abuse incidents, some of which involve embedded devices, on the Wikipedia page for NTP Server Misuse and Abuse [9].

7.2. Server configuration

Vendors of embedded devices that need time synchronization should also carefully consider where they get their time from. There are several public-facing NTP servers available, but they may not be prepared to service requests from thousands of new devices on the Internet.

Vendors are encouraged to invest resources into providing their own time servers for their devices to connect to.

7.2.1. Get a vendor subdomain for pool.ntp.org

The NTP Pool Project offers a program where vendors can obtain their own subdomain that is part of the NTP Pool. This offers vendors the ability to safely make use of the time distributed by the Pool for their devices. Vendors are encouraged to support the pool if they participate. For more information, visit http://www.pool.ntp.org/en/vendors.html [10].
8. NTP over Anycast

Anycast is described in BCP 126 [RFC4786]. (Also see RFC 7094 [RFC7094]). With anycast, a single IP address is assigned to multiple interfaces, and routers direct packets to the closest active interface.

Anycast is often used for Internet services at known IP addresses, such as DNS. Anycast can also be used in large organizations to simplify configuration of a large number of NTP clients. Each client can be configured with the same NTP server IP address, and a pool of anycast servers can be deployed to service those requests. New servers can be added to or taken from the pool, and other than a temporary loss of service while a server is taken down, these additions can be transparent to the clients.

NOTE WELL: Using a single anycast address for NTP should be done with care. It means each client will likely use a single time server source. A key element of a robust NTP deployment is each client using multiple sources of time. With multiple time sources, a client will analyze the various time sources, selecting good ones, and disregarding poor ones. If a single Anycast address is used, this analysis will not happen.

If clients are connected to an NTP server via anycast, the client does not know which particular server they are connected to. As anycast servers may arbitrarily enter and leave the network, the server a particular client is connected to may change. This may cause a small shift in time from the perspective of the client when the server it is connected to changes. It is recommended that anycast only be deployed in environments where these small shifts can be tolerated.

Configuration of an anycast interface is independent of NTP. Clients will always connect to the closest server, even if that server is having NTP issues. It is recommended that anycast NTP implementations have an independent method of monitoring the performance of NTP on a server. If the server is not performing to specification, it should remove itself from the Anycast network. It is also recommended that each Anycast NTP server have at least one Unicast interface, so its performance can be checked independently of the anycast routing scheme.

One useful application in large networks is to use a hybrid unicast/anycast approach. Stratum 1 NTP servers can be deployed with unicast interfaces at several sites. Each site may have several Stratum 2 servers with two ethernet interfaces. One interface has a unique unicast IP address. The second has an anycast IP interface (with a
shared IP address per location). The unicast interfaces can be used to obtain time from the Stratum 1 servers globally (and perhaps peer with the other Stratum 2 servers at their site). Clients at each site can be configured to use the shared anycast address for their site, simplifying their configuration. Keeping the anycast routing restricted on a per-site basis will minimize the disruption at the client if its closest anycast server changes. Each Stratum 2 server can be uniquely identified on their unicast interface, to make monitoring easier.

9. Acknowledgements

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10. IANA Considerations

This memo includes no request to IANA.

11. Security Considerations

Time is a fundamental component of security on the internet. Credentials and certificates can expire. Logins and other forms of access can be revoked after a period of time, or at a scheduled time. And some applications may assume that system time cannot be changed and is always monotonic, and vulnerabilities may be exposed if a time in the past is forced into a system. Therefore, any system administrator concerned with security should be concerned with how the current time gets into their system.

[NTSFORNT] is an Internet-Draft that specifies the Network Time Security (NTS) mechanism and applies it specifically to NTP. Readers are encouraged to check the status of the draft, and make use of the methods it describes.

12. References

12.1. Normative References

12.2. Informative References


12.3. URIs

[13] https://support.ntp.org/bin/view/Support/ConfiguringNTP
Appendix A. Implementation Specific Information

This appendix provides information that is specific to various implementation of RFC 5905.

A.1. NTP Implementation by the Network Time Foundation

The Network Time Foundation (NTF) provides the reference implementation of NTP, well-known under the name "ntpd". It is actively maintained and developed by NTF’s NTP Project, with help from volunteers and NTF’s supporters. This NTP software can be downloaded from ntp.org [11].

A.1.1. Use enough time sources

In addition to the recommendation given in Section 4.1. the ntpd implementation provides the ‘pool’ directive. Starting with ntp-4.2.6, this directive will spin up "enough" associations to provide robust time service, and will disconnect poor servers and add in new servers as-needed. If you have good reason, you may use the ‘minclock’ and ‘maxclock’ options of the ‘tos’ command to override the default values of how many servers are discovered through the ‘pool’ directive.

A.1.2. NTP Control and Facility Messages

In addition to NTP Control Messages the ntpd implementation also offers the mode 7 commands for monitoring and configuration.

If Mode 7 has been explicitly enabled to be used for more than basic monitoring it should be limited to authenticated sessions that provide a ‘requestkey’.

As mentioned above, there are two general ways to use Mode 6 and Mode 7 requests. One way is to query ntpd for information, and this mode can be disabled with:

restrict ... noquery

The second way to use Mode 6 and Mode 7 requests is to modify ntpd’s behavior. Modification of ntpd’s configuration requires an authenticated session BY default. If no authentication keys have been specified no modifications can be made. For additional protection, the ability to perform these modifications can be controlled with:

restrict ... nomodify
Users can prevent their NTP servers from considering query/configuration traffic by default by adding the following to their ntp.conf file:

```
restrict default -4 nomodify notrap nopeer noquery
restrict default -6 nomodify notrap nopeer noquery
restrict source nomodify notrap noquery
```

# nopeer is OK if you don’t use the ‘pool’ directive

A.1.3. Monitoring

The reference implementation of NTP allows remote monitoring. Access to this service is generally controlled by the “noquery” directive in NTP’s configuration file (ntp.conf) via a “restrict” statement. The syntax reads:

```
restrict address mask address_mask noquery
```

If a system is using broadcast mode and is running ntp-4.2.8p6 or later, use the 4th field of the ntp.keys file to specify the IPs of machines that are allowed to serve time to the group.

A.1.4. Leap Second File

The use of leap second files requires ntpd 4.2.6 or later. After fetching the leap seconds file onto the server, add this line to ntpd.conf to apply and use the file:

```
leapfile "/path/to your/leap-file"
```

You may need to restart ntpd to apply this change.

ntp servers with a manually configured leap second file will ignore leap second information broadcast from upstream NTP servers until the leap second file expires. If no valid leap second file is available then a leap second notification from an attached reference clock is always accepted by ntpd.

If no valid leap second file is available, a leap second notification may be accepted from upstream NTP servers. As of ntp-4.2.6, a majority of servers must provide the notification before it is accepted. Before 4.2.6, a leap second notification would be accepted if a single upstream server of a group of configured servers provided a leap second notification. This would lead to misbehavior if single NTP servers sent an invalid leap second warning, e.g. due to a faulty GPS receiver in one server, but this behavior was once chosen because
in the "early days" there was a greater chance that leap second information would be available from a very limited number of sources.

A.1.5. Leap Smearing

Leap Smearing was introduced in ntpd versions 4.2.8.p3 and 4.3.47, in response to CLIENT requests. Support for leap smearing is not configured by default and must be added at compile time. In addition, no leap smearing will occur unless a leap smear interval is specified in ntpd.conf. For more information, refer to http://bk.ntp.org/ntp-stable/README.leapsmear?PAGE=anno [12].

A.1.6. Configuring ntpd


A.1.7. Pre-Shared Keys

Each communication partner must add the keyid information to their key file in the form:

keyid label key

An ntpd client establishes a protected association by appending the option "key keyid" to the server statement in ntp.conf:

server address key keyid

A key is deemed trusted when its keyid is added to the list of trusted keys by the "trustedkey" statement in ntp.conf.

trustedkey keyid_1 keyid_2 ... keyid_n

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Abstract

This memo proposes backward-compatible updates to the Network Time Protocol to strip unnecessary identifying information from client requests and to improve resilience against blind spoofing of unauthenticated server responses.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

Network Time Protocol (NTP) packets, as specified by RFC 5905 [RFC5905], carry a great deal of information about the state of the NTP daemon which transmitted them. In the case of mode 4 packets (responses sent from server to client), as well as in broadcast (mode 5) and symmetric peering modes (mode 1/2), most of this information is essential for accurate and reliable time synchronization. However, in mode 3 packets (requests sent from client to server), most of these fields serve no purpose. Server implementations never need to inspect them, and they can achieve nothing by doing so. Populating these fields with accurate information is harmful to privacy of clients because it allows a passive observer to fingerprint clients and track them as they move across networks.

This memo updates RFC 5905 to redact unnecessary data from mode 3 packets. This is a fully backwards-compatible proposal. It calls for no changes on the server side, and clients which implement these updates will remain fully interoperable with existing servers.

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. Client Packet Format

In every client-mode packet sent by a Network Time Protocol [RFC5905] implementation:
The first octet, which contains the leap indicator, version number, and mode fields, SHOULD be set to 0x23 (LI = 0, VN = 4, Mode = 3).

The Transmit Timestamp field SHOULD be set uniformly at random, generated by a mechanism suitable for cryptographic purposes. [RFC4086] provides guidance on the generation of random values.

The Poll field SHOULD be set to either the actual polling interval as specified by RFC 5905 or zero.

The Precision field SHOULD be set to 0x20.

All other header fields, specifically the Stratum, Root Delay, Root Dispersion, Reference ID, Reference Timestamp, Origin Timestamp, and Receive Timestamp, SHOULD be set to zero.

Servers MUST allow client packets to conform to the above recommendations. This requirement shall not be construed so as to prohibit servers from rejecting conforming packets for unrelated reasons, such as access control or rate limiting.

4. Security and Privacy Considerations

4.1. Data Minimization

Zeroing out unused fields in client requests prevents disclosure of information that can be used for fingerprinting [RFC6973].

While populating any of these fields with authentic data reveals at least some identifying information about the client, the Origin Timestamp and Receive Timestamp fields constitute a particularly severe information leak. RFC 5905 calls for clients to copy the transmit timestamp and destination timestamp of the server’s most recent response into the origin timestamp and receive timestamp (respectively) of their next request to that server. Therefore, when a client moves between networks, a passive observer of both network paths can determine with high confidence that the old and new IP addresses belong to the same system by noticing that the transmit timestamp of a response sent to the old IP matches the origin timestamp of a request sent from the new one.

Zeroing the poll field is made optional (MAY rather than SHOULD) so as not to preclude future development of schemes wherein the server uses information about the client’s current poll interval in order to recommend adjustments back to the client. Putting accurate information into this field has no significant impact on privacy.
since an observer can already obtain this information simply by observing the actual interval between requests.

4.2. Transmit Timestamp Randomization

While this memo calls for most fields in client packets to be set to zero, the transmit timestamp SHOULD be randomized. This decision is motivated by security as well as privacy.

NTP servers copy the transmit timestamp from the client’s request into the origin timestamp of the response; this memo calls for no change in this behavior. Clients discard any response whose origin timestamp does not match the transmit timestamp of any request currently in flight.

In the absence of cryptographic authentication, verification of origin timestamps is clients’ primary defense against blind spoofing of NTP responses. It is therefore important that clients’ transmit timestamps be unpredictable. Their role in this regard is closely analagous to that of TCP Initial Sequence Numbers [RFC6528].

The traditional behavior of the NTP reference implementation is to randomize only a few (typically 10-15 depending on the precision of the system clock) low-order bits of transmit timestamp, with all higher bits representing the system time, as measured just before the packet was sent. This is suboptimal, because with so few random bits, an adversary sending spoofed packets at high volume will have a good chance of correctly guessing a valid origin timestamp.

5. IANA Considerations

[RFCE EDITOR: DELETE PRIOR TO PUBLICATION]

This memo introduces no new IANA considerations.

6. Implementation status - RFC EDITOR: REMOVE BEFORE PUBLICATION

This section records the status of known implementations of the protocol defined by this specification at the time of posting of this Internet-Draft, and is based on a proposal described in RFC7942. The description of implementations in this section is intended to assist the IETF in its decision processes in progressing drafts to RFCs. Please note that the listing of any individual implementation here does not imply endorsement by the IETF. Furthermore, no effort has been spent to verify the information presented here that was supplied by IETF contributors. This is not intended as, and must not be construed to be, a catalog of available implementations or their
features. Readers are advised to note that other implementations may exist.

As of today the following vendors have produced an implementation of the NTP Client Data Minimization recommendations described in this document.

OpenNTPD

7. References

7.1. Normative References


7.2. Informative References


7.3. URIs

[1] https://github.com/openbsd/src/commit/1346900e6d0ac3aeb0e3f9eb60b94c66586978c6

Appendix A. Acknowledgements

The possibility of minimizing data in client packets was described in RFC 2030 [RFC2030]. The authors would like to acknowledge Alexander Guy for pioneering the idea of randomization of all bits of the transmit timestamp in the rdate program of the OpenBSD project as early as May 2004 [1].

The authors would also like to thank Prof. Sharon Goldberg and Miroslav Lichvar for encouraging standardisation of the approach described in this document.

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RFC 5905 [RFC5905] states that Network Time Protocol (NTP) packets should be authenticated by appending a 128-bit key to the NTP data, and hashing the result with MD5 to obtain a 128-bit tag. This document deprecates MD5-based authentication, which is considered to be too weak, and recommends the use of AES-CMAC [RFC4493] as a replacement.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

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1. Introduction

RFC 5905 [RFC5905] states that Network Time Protocol (NTP) packets should be authenticated by appending a 128-bit key to the NTP data, and hashing the result with MD5 to obtain a 128-bit tag. This document deprecates MD5-based authentication, which is considered to be too weak, and recommends the use of AES-CMAC [RFC4493] as a replacement.

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].

2. Deprecating the use of MD5

RFC 5905 [RFC5905] defines how the MD5 digest algorithm in RFC 1321 [RFC1321] can be used as a message authentication code (MAC) for authenticating NTP packets. However, as discussed in [BCK] and RFC 6151 [RFC6151], this is not a secure MAC and therefore MUST be deprecated.

3. Replacement Recommendation

If authentication is implemented, then AES-CMAC as specified in RFC 4493 [RFC4493] SHOULD be computed over all fields in the NTP header, and any extension fields that are present in the NTP packet as described in RFC 5905 [RFC5905]. The MAC key for NTP MUST be at
least 128 bits long AES-128 key and the resulting MAC tag MUST be at least 128 bits long as stated in section 2.4 of RFC 4493 [RFC4493]. NTP makes this transition possible as it supports algorithm agility as described in Section 2.1 of RFC 7696 [RFC7696].

The hosts who wish to use NTP authentication share a symmetric key out-of-band. So they MUST implement AES-CMAC and share the corresponding symmetric key. A symmetric key is a triplet of ID, type (e.g. MD5, AES-CMAC) and the key itself. All three have to match in order to successfully authenticate packets between two hosts. Old implementations that don’t support AES-CMAC will not accept and will not send packets authenticated with such a key.

4. Motivation

AES-CMAC is recommended for the following reasons:

1. It is an IETF standard that is available in many open source implementations.
2. It is immune to nonce-reuse vulnerabilities (e.g. [Joux]) because it does not use a nonce.
3. It has fine performance in terms of latency and throughput.
4. It benefits from native hardware support, for instance, Intel’s New Instruction set.

5. Test Vectors

For test vectors and their outputs refer to Section 4 of RFC 4493 [RFC4493]

6. Security Considerations

Refer to the Appendices A, B and C of NIST document [NIST] and Security Considerations Section of RFC 4493 [RFC4493] for discussion on security guarantees of AES-CMAC.

7. Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge useful discussions with Leen Alshenibr, Daniel Franke, Ethan Heilman, Kenny Paterson, Leonid Reyzin, Harlan Stenn, and Mayank Varia.
8. IANA Considerations

This memo includes no request to IANA.

9. References

9.1. Normative References


9.2. Informative References


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Abstract

This document describes the structure of the control messages that were historically used with the Network Time Protocol before the advent of more modern control and management approaches. These control messages have been used to monitor and control the Network Time Protocol application running on any IP network attached computer. The information in this document was originally described in Appendix B of RFC 1305. The goal of this document is to provide a current, but historic, description of the control messages as described in RFC 1305 and any additional commands implemented in NTP.

The publication of this document is not meant to encourage the development and deployment of these control messages. This document is only providing a current reference for these control messages given the current status of RFC 1305.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

RFC 1305 [RFC1305] described a set of control messages for use within the Network Time Protocol (NTP) when a comprehensive network management solution was not available. The definitions of these control messages were not promulgated to RFC 5905 [RFC5905] when NTP version 4 was documented. These messages were intended for use only in systems where no other management facilities were available or appropriate, such as in dedicated-function bus peripherals. Support for these messages is not required in order to conform to RFC 5905 [RFC5905]. The control messages are described here as a historical record given their use within NTPv4.

The publication of this document is not meant to encourage the development and deployment of these control messages. This document is only providing a current reference for these control messages given the current status of RFC 1305.

1.1. Control Message Overview

The NTP Control Message has the value 6 specified in the mode field of the first octet of the NTP header and is formatted as shown in Figure 1. The format of the data field is specific to each command or response; however, in most cases the format is designed to be constructed and viewed by humans and so is coded in free-form ASCII. This facilitates the specification and implementation of simple management tools in the absence of fully evolved network-management facilities. As in ordinary NTP messages, the authenticator field follows the data field. If the authenticator is used the data field is zero-padded to a 32-bit boundary, but the padding bits are not considered part of the data field and are not included in the field count.

IP hosts are not required to reassemble datagrams larger than 576 octets [RFC0791]; however, some commands or responses may involve more data than will fit into a single datagram. Accordingly, a simple reassembly feature is included in which each octet of the message data is numbered starting with zero. As each fragment is transmitted the number of its first octet is inserted in the offset field and the number of octets is inserted in the count field. The more-data (M) bit is set in all fragments except the last.

Most control functions involve sending a command and receiving a response, perhaps involving several fragments. The sender chooses a distinct, nonzero sequence number and sets the status field and "R" and "E" bits to zero. The responder interprets the opcode and additional information in the data field, updates the status field, sets the "R" bit to one and returns the three 32-bit words of the...
header along with additional information in the data field. In case of invalid message format or contents the responder inserts a code in the status field, sets the "R" and "E" bits to one and, optionally, inserts a diagnostic message in the data field.

Some commands read or write system variables (e.g., s.offset) and peer variables (e.g., p.stratum) for an association identified in the command. Others read or write variables associated with a radio clock or other device directly connected to a source of primary synchronization information. To identify which type of variable and association the Association ID is used. System variables are indicated by the identifier zero. As each association is mobilized a unique, nonzero identifier is created for it. These identifiers are used in a cyclic fashion, so that the chance of using an old identifier which matches a newly created association is remote. A management entity can request a list of current identifiers and subsequently use them to read and write variables for each association. An attempt to use an expired identifier results in an exception response, following which the list can be requested again.

Some exception events, such as when a peer becomes reachable or unreachable, occur spontaneously and are not necessarily associated with a command. An implementation may elect to save the event information for later retrieval or to send an asynchronous response (called a trap) or both. In case of a trap the IP address and port number is determined by a previous command and the sequence field is set as described below. Current status and summary information for the latest exception event is returned in all normal responses. Bits in the status field indicate whether an exception has occurred since the last response and whether more than one exception has occurred.

Commands need not necessarily be sent by an NTP peer, so ordinary access-control procedures may not apply; however, the optional mask/match mechanism suggested elsewhere in this document provides the capability to control access by mode number, so this could be used to limit access for control messages (mode 6) to selected address ranges.

1.2. Remote Facility Message Overview

The original development of the NTP daemon included a remote facility (ntpdc) for monitoring and configuration. This facility used mode 7 commands to communicate with the NTP daemon. This document illustrates the mode 7 packet format only. The commands embedded in the mode 7 messages are implementation specific and not standardized in any way. The mode 7 message format is described in Appendix A.
2. NTP Control Message Format

The format of the NTP Control Message header, which immediately follows the UDP header, is shown in Figure 1. Following is a description of its fields. Bit positions marked as zero are reserved and should always be transmitted as zero.

```
+-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+
|  LI   |  VN   | Mode | R |E | M | OpCode |       Sequence Number         |
|-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|-------------------------------+-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|                       +-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|                         |  Status           | Association ID    |
|                         +-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|                         | Offset            | Count             |
|                         +-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|                           |                    |                   |      |                   |                                  |
|                           | /                   |                   |      |                   |                                  |
|                           | Data (up to 468 bytes) |                   |      |                   |                                  |
|                           +-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|                           | Padding (optional) |                   |      |                   |                                  |
|                           +-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|                           | Authenticator (optional, 96 bits) |       |      |                   |                                  |
|                           +-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
|                           +-------------------+-------------------+-------+-------------------+---------------------------------|
| Figure 1: NTP Control Message Header |
```

Leap Indicator (LI): This is a two-bit integer that is set to b00 for control message requests and responses. The Leap Indicator value used at this position in most NTP modes is in the System Status Word provided in some control message responses.

Version Number (VN): This is a three-bit integer indicating a minimum NTP version number. NTP servers do not respond to control messages with an unrecognized version number. Requests may intentionally use a lower version number to enable interoperability with earlier versions of NTP. Responses carry the same version as the corresponding request.

Mode: This is a three-bit integer indicating the mode. The value 6 indicates an NTP control message.

Response Bit (R): Set to zero for commands, one for responses.

Error Bit (E): Set to zero for normal response, one for error response.
More Bit (M): Set to zero for last fragment, one for all others.

Operation Code (OpCode): This is a five-bit integer specifying the command function. Values currently defined include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>reserved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>read status command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>read variables command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>write variables command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>read clock variables command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>write clock variables command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>set trap address/port command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>trap response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>runtime configuration command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>export configuration to file command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>retrieve remote address stats command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>retrieve ordered list command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>request client-specific nonce command/response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-30</td>
<td>reserved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>unset trap address/port command/response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sequence Number: This is a 16-bit integer indicating the sequence number of the command or response. Each request uses a different sequence number. Each response carries the same sequence number as its corresponding request. For asynchronous trap responses, the responder increments the sequence number by one for each response, allowing trap receivers to detect missing trap responses. The sequence number of each fragment of a multiple-datagram response carries the same sequence number, copied from the request.

Status: This is a 16-bit code indicating the current status of the system, peer or clock, with values coded as described in following sections.

Association ID: This is a 16-bit unsigned integer identifying a valid association, or zero for the system clock.

Offset: This is a 16-bit unsigned integer indicating the offset, in octets, of the first octet in the data area. The offset is set to zero in requests. Responses spanning multiple datagrams use a positive offset in all but the first datagram.

Count: This is a 16-bit unsigned integer indicating the length of the data field, in octets.
Data: This contains the message data for the command or response. The maximum number of data octets is 468.

Padding (optional): Contains zero to three octets with value zero, as needed to ensure the overall control message size is a multiple of 4 octets.

Authenticator (optional): When the NTP authentication mechanism is implemented, this contains the authenticator information defined in Appendix C of RFC 1305.

3. Status Words

Status words indicate the present status of the system, associations and clock. They are designed to be interpreted by network-monitoring programs and are in one of four 16-bit formats shown in Figure 2 and described in this section. System and peer status words are associated with responses for all commands except the read clock variables, write clock variables and set trap address/port commands. The association identifier zero specifies the system status word, while a nonzero identifier specifies a particular peer association. The status word returned in response to read clock variables and write clock variables commands indicates the state of the clock hardware and decoding software. A special error status word is used to report malformed command fields or invalid values.
3.1. System Status Word

The system status word appears in the status field of the response to a read status or read variables command with a zero association identifier. The format of the system status word is as follows:

Leap Indicator (LI): This is a two-bit code warning of an impending leap second to be inserted/deleted in the last minute of the current day, with bit 0 and bit 1, respectively, coded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LI</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>no warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>insert second after 23:59:59 of the current day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>delete second 23:59:59 of the current day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>unsynchronized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clock Source (Clock Src): This is a six-bit integer indicating the current synchronization source, with values coded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>unspecified or unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Calibrated atomic clock (e.g., PPS, HP 5061)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>VLF (band 4) or LF (band 5) radio (e.g., OMEGA, WWVB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HF (band 7) radio (e.g., CHU, MSF, WWV/H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>UHF (band 9) satellite (e.g., GOES, GPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>local net (e.g., DCN, TSP, DTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UDP/NTP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>UDP/TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>eyeball-and-wristwatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>telephone modem (e.g., NIST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-63</td>
<td>reserved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

System Event Counter (Count): This is a four-bit integer indicating the number of system events occurring since the last time the System Event Code changed. Upon reaching 15, subsequent events with the same code are not counted.

System Event Code (Code): This is a four-bit integer identifying the latest system exception event, with new values overwriting previous values, and coded as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>frequency correction (drift) file not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>frequency correction started (frequency stepped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>spike detected and ignored, starting stepout timer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>frequency training started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>clock synchronized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>system restart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>panic stop (required step greater than panic threshold)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>no system peer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>leap second insertion/deletion armed for the of the current month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>leap second disarmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>leap second inserted or deleted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>clock stepped (stepout timer expired)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>kernel loop discipline status changed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>leapseconds table loaded from file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>leapseconds table outdated, updated file needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2. Peer Status Word

A peer status word is returned in the status field of a response to a read status, read variables or write variables command and appears also in the list of association identifiers and status words returned by a read status command with a zero association identifier. The format of a peer status word is as follows:

**Peer Status (Status):** This is a five-bit code indicating the status of the peer determined by the packet procedure, with bits assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peer Status</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>configured (peer.config)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>authentication enabled (peer.authenable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>authentication okay (peer.authentic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>reachability okay (peer.reach != 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>broadcast association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Peer Selection (SEL):** This is a three-bit integer indicating the status of the peer determined by the clock-selection procedure, with values coded as follows:
### Peer Event Counter (Count)
This is a four-bit integer indicating the number of peer exception events that occurred since the last time the peer event code changed. Upon reaching 15, subsequent events with the same code are not counted.

### Peer Event Code (Code)
This is a four-bit integer identifying the latest peer exception event, with new values overwriting previous values, and coded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peer Event Code</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>association mobilized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>association demobilized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>peer unreachable (peer.reach was nonzero now zero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>peer reachable (peer.reach was zero now nonzero)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>association restarted or timed out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>no reply (only used with one-shot ntpd -q)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>peer rate limit exceeded (kiss code RATE received)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>access denied (kiss code DENY received)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>leap second insertion/deletion at month’s end armed by peer vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>became system peer (sys.peer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>reference clock event (see clock status word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>authentication failed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>popcorn spike suppressed by peer clock filter register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>entering interleaved mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>recovered from interleave error</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3. Clock Status Word

There are two ways a reference clock can be attached to a NTP service host, as an dedicated device managed by the operating system and as a synthetic peer managed by NTP. As in the read status command, the association identifier is used to identify which one, zero for the system clock and nonzero for a peer clock. Only one system clock is supported by the protocol, although many peer clocks can be supported. A system or peer clock status word appears in the status field of the response to a read clock variables or write clock variables command. This word can be considered an extension of the system status word or the peer status word as appropriate. The format of the clock status word is as follows:

| Reserved: An eight-bit integer that is ignored by requesters and zeroed by responders. |
| Count: This is a four-bit integer indicating the number of clock events that occurred since the last time the clock event code changed. Upon reaching 15, subsequent events with the same code are not counted. |
| Clock Code (Code): This is a four-bit integer indicating the current clock status, with values coded as follows: |

```
+--------------+--------------------------------------------------+
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clock Status</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>clock operating within nominals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>reply timeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>bad reply format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>hardware or software fault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>propagation failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>bad date format or value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>bad time format or value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-15</td>
<td>reserved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

3.4. Error Status Word

An error status word is returned in the status field of an error response as the result of invalid message format or contents. Its presence is indicated when the E (error) bit is set along with the response (R) bit in the response. It consists of an eight-bit integer coded as follows:
## 4. Commands

Commands consist of the header and optional data field shown in Figure 2. When present, the data field contains a list of identifiers or assignments in the form `<<identifier>>[=<value>>],<<identifier>>[=<value>>],...` where `<<identifier>>` is the ASCII name of a system or peer variable specified in RFC 5905 and `<<value>>` is expressed as a decimal, hexadecimal or string constant in the syntax of the C programming language. Where no ambiguity exists, the `<sys>` or `<peer>` prefixes can be suppressed. Whitespace (ASCII nonprinting format effectors) can be added to improve readability for simple monitoring programs that do not reformat the data field. Internet addresses are represented as follows: IPv4 addresses are written in the form `[n.n.n.n]`, where `n` is in decimal notation and the brackets are optional; IPv6 addresses are formulated based on the guidelines defined in [RFC5952]. Timestamps, including reference, originate, receive and transmit values, as well as the logical clock, are represented in units of seconds and fractions, preferably in hexadecimal notation. Delay, offset, dispersion and distance values are represented in units of milliseconds and fractions, preferably in decimal notation. All other values are represented as-is, preferably in decimal notation.

Implementations may define variables other than those described in RFC 5905. Called extramural variables, these are distinguished by the inclusion of some character type other than alphanumeric or `<sys>` in the name. For those commands that return a list of assignments in the response data field, if the command data field is empty, it is expected that all available variables defined in RFC 5905 will be included in the response. For the read commands, if the command data field is nonempty, an implementation may choose to process this field to individually select which variables are to be returned.
Commands are interpreted as follows:

Read Status (1): The command data field is empty or contains a list of identifiers separated by commas. The command operates in two ways depending on the value of the association identifier. If this identifier is nonzero, the response includes the peer identifier and status word. Optionally, the response data field may contain other information, such as described in the Read Variables command. If the association identifier is zero, the response includes the system identifier (0) and status word, while the data field contains a list of binary-coded pairs <<association identifier>> <<status word>>, one for each currently defined association.

Read Variables (2): The command data field is empty or contains a list of identifiers separated by commas. If the association identifier is nonzero, the response includes the requested peer identifier and status word, while the data field contains a list of peer variables and values as described above. If the association identifier is zero, the data field contains a list of system variables and values. If a peer has been selected as the synchronization source, the response includes the peer identifier and status word; otherwise, the response includes the system identifier (0) and status word.

Write Variables (3): The command data field contains a list of assignments as described above. The variables are updated as indicated. The response is as described for the Read Variables command.

Read Clock Variables (4): The command data field is empty or contains a list of identifiers separated by commas. The association identifier selects the system clock variables or peer clock variables in the same way as in the Read Variables command. The response includes the requested clock identifier and status word and the data field contains a list of clock variables and values, including the last timecode message received from the clock.

Write Clock Variables (5): The command data field contains a list of assignments as described above. The clock variables are updated as indicated. The response is as described for the Read Clock Variables command.

Set Trap Address/Port (6): The command association identifier, status and data fields are ignored. The address and port number for subsequent trap messages are taken from the source address and port of the control message itself. The initial trap counter for trap response messages is taken from the sequence field of the command. The response association identifier, status and data fields are not
significant. Implementations should include sanity timeouts which prevent trap transmissions if the monitoring program does not renew this information after a lengthy interval.

Trap Response (7): This message is sent when a system, peer or clock exception event occurs. The opcode field is 7 and the R bit is set. The trap counter is incremented by one for each trap sent and the sequence field set to that value. The trap message is sent using the IP address and port fields established by the set trap address/port command. If a system trap the association identifier field is set to zero and the status field contains the system status word. If a peer trap the association identifier field is set to that peer and the status field contains the peer status word. Optional ASCII-coded information can be included in the data field.

Configure (8): The command data is parsed and applied as if supplied in the daemon configuration file. The reference implementation daemon requires authentication for this command.

Save Configuration (9): Write a snapshot of the current configuration to the file name supplied as the command data. The reference implementation daemon requires authentication for this command. Further, the command is refused unless a directory in which to store the resulting files has been explicitly configured by the operator.

Read MRU (10): Retrieves records of recently seen remote addresses and associated statistics. Command data consists of name=value pairs controlling the selection of records, as well as a requestor-specific nonce previously retrieved using this command or opcode 12, Request Nonce. The response consists of name=value pairs where some names can appear multiple times using a dot followed by a zero-based index to distinguish them, and to associate elements of the same record with the same index. A new nonce is provided with each successful response.

Read ordered list (11): Retrieves an ordered list. If the command data is empty or the seven characters "ifstats" the associated statistics, status and counters for each local address are returned. If the command data is the characters "addr_restrictions" then the set of IPv4 remote address restrictions followed by the set of IPv6 remote address restrictions (access control lists) are returned. Other command data returns error code 5 (unknown variable name). Similar to Read MRU, response information uses zero-based indexes as part of the variable name preceding the equals sign and value, where each index relates information for a single address or network. This opcode requires authentication.
Request Nonce (12): Retrieves a 96-bit nonce specific to the requesting remote address, which is valid for a limited period. Command data is not used in the request. The nonce consists of a 64-bit NTP timestamp and 32 bits of hash derived from that timestamp, the remote address, and salt known only to the server which varies between daemon runs. The reference implementation honors nonces which were issued less than 16 seconds prior. Inclusion of the nonce by a management agent demonstrates to the server that the agent can receive datagrams sent to the source address of the request, making source address "spoofing" more difficult in a similar way as TCP’s three-way handshake.

Unset Trap (31): Removes the requesting remote address and port from the list of trap receivers. Command data is not used in the request. If the address and port are not in the list of trap receivers, the error code is 4, bad association.

5. IANA Considerations

This document makes no request of IANA.

Note to RFC Editor: this section may be removed on publication as an RFC.

6. Security Considerations

A number of security vulnerabilities have been identified with these control messages.

NTP’s control query interface allows reading and writing of system, peer, and clock variables remotely from arbitrary IP addresses using commands mentioned in Section 4. Traditionally, overwriting these variables, but not reading them, requires authentication by default. However, this document argues that an NTP host must authenticate all control queries and not just ones that overwrite these variables. Alternatively, the host can use a whitelist to explicitly list IP addresses that are allowed to control query the clients. These access controls are required for the following reasons:

- NTP as a Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) vector. NTP timing query and response packets (modes 1-2, 3-4, 5) are usually short in size. However, some NTP control queries generate a very long packet in response to a short query. As such, there is a history of use of NTP’s control queries, which exhibit such behavior, to perform DDoS attacks. These off-path attacks exploit the large size of NTP control queries to cause UDP-based amplification attacks (e.g., mode 7 monlist command generates a very long packet in response to a small query [CVE-DOS]). These attacks only use...
NTP as a vector for DoS attacks on other protocols, but do not affect the time service on the NTP host itself. To limit the sources of these malicious commands, NTP server operators are recommended to deploy ingress filtering [RFC2827].

- Time-shifting attacks through information leakage/overwriting. NTP hosts save important system and peer state variables. An off-path attacker who can read these variables remotely can leverage the information leaked by these control queries to perform time-shifting and DoS attacks on NTP clients. These attacks do affect time synchronization on the NTP hosts. For instance,

  * In the client/server mode, the client stores its local time when it sends the query to the server in its xmt peer variable. This variable is used to perform TEST2 to non-cryptographically authenticate the server, i.e., if the origin timestamp field in the corresponding server response packet matches the xmt peer variable, then the client accepts the packet. An off-path attacker, with the ability to read this variable can easily spoof server response packets for the client, which will pass TEST2, and can deny service or shift time on the NTP client. The specific attack is described in [CVE-SPOOF].

  * The client also stores its local time when the server response is received in its rec peer variable. This variable is used for authentication in interleaved-pivot mode. An off-path attacker with the ability to read this state variable can easily shift time on the client by passing this test. This attack is described in [CVE-SHIFT].

- Fast-Scanning. NTP mode 6 control messages are usually small UDP packets. Fast-scanning tools like ZMap can be used to spray the entire (potentially reachable) Internet with these messages within hours to identify vulnerable hosts. To make things worse, these attacks can be extremely low-rate, only requiring a control query for reconnaissance and a spoofed response to shift time on vulnerable clients.

- The mode 6 and 7 messages are vulnerable to replay attacks [CVE-Replay]. If an attacker observes mode 6/7 packets that modify the configuration of the server in any way, the attacker can apply the same change at any time later simply by sending the packets to the server again.

NTP best practices recommend configuring ntpd with the no-query parameter. The no-query parameter blocks access to all remote control queries. However, sometimes the hosts do not want to block all queries and want to give access for certain control queries.
remotely. This could be for the purpose of remote management and configuration of the hosts in certain scenarios. Such hosts tend to use firewalls or other middleboxes to blacklist certain queries within the network.

Significantly fewer hosts respond to mode 7 monlist queries as compared to other control queries because it is a well-known and exploited control query. These queries are likely blocked using blacklists on firewalls and middleboxes rather than the no-query option on NTP hosts. The remaining control queries that can be exploited likely remain out of the blacklist because they are undocumented in the current NTP specification [RFC5905].

This document describes all of the mode 6 control queries allowed by NTP and can help administrators make informed decisions on security measures to protect NTP devices from harmful queries and likely make those systems less vulnerable. Regardless of which mode 6 commands an administrator elect to allow, remote access to this facility needs to be protected from unauthorized access (e.g., strict ACLs).

7. Contributors

Dr. David Mills specified the vast majority of the mode 6 commands during the development of RFC 1305 [RFC1305] and deserves the credit for their existence and use.

8. Acknowledgements

Tim Plunkett created the original version of this document. Aanchal Malhotra provided the initial version of the Security Considerations section.

Karen O’Donoghue, David Hart, Harlan Stenn, and Philip Chimento deserve credit for portions of this document due to their earlier efforts to document these commands.

Miroshav Lichvar, Ulrich Windl, Dieter Sibold, J Ignacio Alvarez-Hamelin, and Alex Campbell provided valuable comments on various versions of this document.

9. References

9.1. Normative References

9.2. Informative References


Appendix A. NTP Remote Facility Message Format

The format of the NTP Remote Facility Message header, which immediately follows the UDP header, is shown in Figure 3. Following is a description of its fields. Bit positions marked as zero are reserved and should always be transmitted as zero.
Response Bit (R) : Set to 0 if the packet is a request. Set to 1 if the packet is a response.

More Bit (M) : Set to 0 if this is the last packet in a response, otherwise set to 1 in responses requiring more then one packet.

Version Number (VN) : Set to the version number of the NTP daemon.

Mode : Set to 7 for Remote Facility messages.

Authenticated Bit (A) : If set to 1, this packet contains authentication information.

Sequence : For a multi-packet response, this field contains the sequence number of this packet. Packets in a multi-packet response are numbered starting with 0. The More Bit is set to 1 for all packets but the last.

Implementation : The version number of the implementation that defined the request code used in this message. An implementation number of 0 is used for a Request Code supported by all versions of the NTP daemon. The value 255 is reserved for future extensions.

Request Code (Req Code) : An implementation-specific code which specifies the operation being requested. A Request Code definition includes the format and semantics of the data included in the packet.
Error (Err) : Set to 0 for a request. For a response, this field contains an error code relating to the request. If the Error is non-zero, the operation requested wasn’t performed.

0 - no error
1 - incompatible implementation number
2 - unimplemented request code
3 - format error
4 - no data available
7 - authentication failure

Count : The number of data items in the packet. Range is 0 to 500.

Must Be Zero (MBZ) : A reserved field set to 0 in requests and responses.

Size : The size of each data item in the packet. Range is 0 to 500.

Data : A variable-sized field containing request/response data. For requests and responses, the size in octets must be greater than or equal to the product of the number of data items (Count) and the size of a data item (Size). For requests, the data area is exactly 40 octets in length. For responses, the data area will range from 0 to 500 octets, inclusive.

Encryption KeyID : A 32-bit unsigned integer used to designate the key used for the Message Authentication Code. This field is included only when the A bit is set to 1.

Message Authentication Code : An optional Message Authentication Code defined by the version of the NTP daemon indicated in the Implementation field. This field is included only when the A bit is set to 1.

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Abstract

RFC 5905 [RFC5905], section 7.3, "Packet Header Variables", defines the value of the REFID, the system peer for the responding host. In the past, for IPv4 associations the IPv4 address is used, and for IPv6 associations the first four octets of the MD5 hash of the IPv6 are used. There are two recognized shortcomings to this approach, and this proposal addresses them. One is that knowledge of the system peer is "abusable" information and should not be generally available. The second is that the four octet hash of the IPv6 address looks very much like an IPv4 address, and this is confusing.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

1.1. The REFID

The interpretation of a REFID is based on the stratum, as documented in RFC 5905 [RFC5905], section 7.3, "Packet Header Variables". The core reason for the REFID in the NTP Protocol is to prevent a degree-one timing loop, where server B decides to follow A as its time source, and A then decides to follow B as its time source.

At Stratum 2+, which will be the case if two servers A and B are exchanging timing information, then if server B follows A as its time source, A’s address will be B’s REFID. When A uses IPv4, the default REFID is A’s IPv4 address. When A uses IPv6, the default REFID is a four-octet digest of A’s IPv6 address. Now, if A queries B for its time, then A will learn that B is using A as its time source by observing A’s address in the REFID field of the response packet sent by B. Thus, A will not select B as a potential time source, as this would cause a timing loop.
1.2. NOT-YOU REFID

The traditional REFID mechanism, however, also allows a third-party C to learn that A is the time source that is being used by B. When A is using IPv4, C can learn this by querying B for its time, and observing that the REFID in B’s response is the IPv4 address of A. Meanwhile, when A is using IPv6, then C can again query B for its time, and then can use an offline dictionary attack to attempt to determine the IPv6 address that corresponds to the digest value in the response sent by B. C could construct the necessary dictionary by compiling a list of publicly accessible IPv6 servers. Remote attackers can use this technique to attempt to identify the time sources used by a target, and then send spoofed packets to the target or its time source in an attempt to disrupt time service, as was done e.g., in [NDSS16] or [CVE-2015-8138].

The REFID thus unnecessarily leaks information about a target’s time server to remote attackers. The best way to mitigate this vulnerability is to decouple the IP address of the time source from the REFID. To do this, a system can use an otherwise-impossible value for its REFID, called the "not-you" value, when it believes that a querying system is not its time source.

The NOT-YOU REFID proposal is backwards-compatible. It can be implemented by one peer in an NTP association without any changes to the other peer.

The NOT-YOU REFID proposal does have a small risk, in that a system that might return NOT-YOU does not have perfect information and it is possible that the remote system peer is contacting "us" via a different network interface. In this case, the remote system might choose us as their system peer, and a degree-one timing loop will occur. In this case, however, the two systems will spiral into worsening stratum positions with increasing root distances, and eventually the loop will break. If any other systems are available as time servers, one of them may become the new system peer. However, unless or until this happens the two spiraling systems will have degraded time quality.

1.3. IPv6 REFID

In an environment where all time queries made to a server can be trusted, an operator might well choose to expose the real REFID. RFC 5905 [RFC5905], section 7.3, "Packet Header Variables", explains how a remote system peer is converted to a REFID. It says:
If using the IPv4 address family, the identifier is the four-octet IPv4 address. If using the IPv6 family, it is the first four octets of the MD5 hash of the IPv6 address. ... However, the MD5 hash of an IPv6 address often looks like a valid IPv4 address. When this happens, an operator cannot tell if the REFID refers to an IPv6 address or and IPv4. Specifically, the NTP Project has received a report where the generated IPv6 hash decoded to the IPv4 address of a different machine on the system peer’s network.

This proposal offers a way for a system to generate a REFID for a IPv6 system peer that does not conflict with an IPv4-based REFID.

This proposal is not fully backwards-compatible. It SHOULD be implemented by both peers in an NTP association. In the scenario where A and B are peering using IPv6, where A is the system peer and does not understand IPv6 REFID, and B is subordinate and is using IPv6 REFID, A will not be able to determine that B is using A as its system peer and a degree-one timing loop can form.

If both peers implement the IPv6 REFID this situation cannot happen.

[If at least one of the peers implements the proposed I-DO protocol this situation cannot happen.]

1.4. 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].

2. The NOT-YOU REFID

2.1. Proposal

When enabled, this proposal allows the one-degree loop detection to work and useful diagnostic information to be provided to trusted partners while keeping potentially abusable information from being disclosed to ostensibly uninterested parties. It does this by returning the normal REFID to queries that come from trusted addresses or from an address that the current system believes is its time source (aka its "system peer"), and otherwise returning one of two special IP addresses that is interpreted to mean "not you". The "not you" IP addresses are 127.127.127.127 and 127.127.127.128. If an IPv6 query is received from an address whose four-octet hash equals one of these two addresses and we believe the querying host is
not our system peer, the other NOT-YOU address is returned as the REFID.

This mechanism is correct and transparent when the system responding with a NOT-YOU can accurately detect when it’s getting a timing query from its system peer. A querying system that uses IPv4 continues to check that its IPv4 address does not appear in the REFID before deciding whether to take time from the current system. A querying system that uses IPv6 continues to check that the four-octet hash of its IPv6 address does not appear in the REFID before deciding whether to take time from the current system. However...

Use of the NOT-YOU REFID proposal will hide the current system’s system peer from querying systems that the current system believes are not the current system’s system peer. Should the current system return the "not you" REFID to a query from its system peer, for example in the case where the system peer sends its query from an unexpected IP address, a one-degree timing loop can occur. Put another way, the responding system has imperfect knowledge about whether or not the sender is its system peer and there are cases where it will offer a NOT-YOU response to its system peer, which can then produce a degree-one timing loop.

Note that this mechanism fully supports degree-one loop detection in the case where the responding NOT-YOU system can accurately detect when it’s getting a request from its system peer, and otherwise provides the most basic diagnostic information to third parties.

3.  Augmenting the IPv6 REFID Hash

3.1.  Background

In a trusted network, the S2+ REFID is generated based on the network system peer. RFC 5905 [RFC5905] says:

   If using the IPv4 address family, the identifier is the four-octet IPv4 address. If using the IPv6 family, it is the first four octets of the MD5 hash of the IPv6 address. ...

This means that the IPv4 representation of the IPv6 hash would be: b1.b2.b3.b4 . This proposal is that the system MAY also use 255.b2.b3.b4 as its REFID. This reduces the risk of ambiguity, since addresses beginning with 255 are "reserved", and thus will not collide with valid IPv4 on the network.

When using the REFID to check for a timing loop for an IPv6 association, if the code that checks the first four-octets of the
hash fails to match then the code must check again, using 0xFF as the first octet of the hash.

3.2. Potential Problems

There is a 1 in 16,777,216 chance that the REFID hashes of two IPv6 addresses will be identical, producing a false-positive loop detection. With a sufficient number of servers, the risk of this problem becomes a non-issue. [The use of the NOT-YOU REFID and/or the proposed "REFID Suggestion" or "I-DO" extension fields are ways to mitigate this potential situation.]

Unrealistically, if only two instances of NTP are communicating via IPv6 and system A implements this new IPv6 REFID hash and system B does not, system B will not be able to detect this loop condition. In this case, the two machines will slowly increase their Stratum until they reach S16 and become unsynchronized. This situation is considered to be unrealistic because, for this to happen, each system would have to have only the other system available as a time source, for example, in a misconfigured "orphan mode" setup. There is no risk of this happening in an NTP network with 3 or more time sources, or in a properly-configured "time island" setup.

3.3. Questions

Should we reference the REFID Suggestion and I-DO proposals here?

4. Acknowledgements

For the "not-you" REFID, we acknowledge useful discussions with Aanchal Malhotra and Matthew Van Gundy.

For the IPv6 REFID, we acknowledge Dan Mahoney (and perhaps others) for suggesting the idea of using an "impossible" first-octet value to indicate an IPv6 refid hash.

5. IANA Considerations

This memo requests IANA to allocate a pseudo Extension Field Type of 0xFFFF so the proposed "I-Do" exchange can report whether or not the "IPv6 REFID Hash" is supported.

6. Security Considerations

Many systems running NTP are configured to return responses to timing queries by default. These responses contain a REFID field, which generally reveals the address of the system’s time source if that source is an IPv4 address. This behavior can be exploited by remote
attackers who wish to first learn the address of a target’s time source, and then attack the target and/or its time source. As such, the "not-you" REFID proposal is designed to harden NTP against these attacks by limiting the amount of information leaked in the REFID field.

Systems running NTP should reveal the identity of their system in peer in their REFID only when they are on a trusted network. The IPv6 REFID proposal provides one way to do this, when the system peer uses addresses in the IPv6 family.

7. References

7.1. Normative References


7.2. Informative References


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Network Time Security for the Network Time Protocol

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Abstract

This memo specifies Network Time Security (NTS), a mechanism for using Transport Layer Security (TLS) and Authenticated Encryption with Associated Data (AEAD) to provide cryptographic security for the client-server mode of the Network Time Protocol (NTP).

NTS is structured as a suite of two loosely coupled sub-protocols: the NTS Key Establishment Protocol (NTS-KE) and NTS Extensions for NTPv4. NTS-KE handles NTS service authentication, initial handshaking, and key extraction over TLS. Encryption and authentication during NTP time synchronization is performed through NTS extension fields in otherwise standard NTP packets. Except for during the initial NTS-KE process, all state required by the protocol is held by the client in opaque cookies.

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1. Introduction

This memo specifies Network Time Security (NTS), a cryptographic security mechanism for network time synchronization. A complete specification is provided for application of NTS to the client-server mode of the Network Time Protocol (NTP) [RFC5905].

1.1. Objectives

The objectives of NTS are as follows:

- Identity: Through the use of the X.509 public key infrastructure, implementations may cryptographically establish the identity of the parties they are communicating with.
o Authentication: Implementations may cryptographically verify that any time synchronization packets are authentic, i.e., that they were produced by an identified party and have not been modified in transit.

o Confidentiality: Although basic time synchronization data is considered non-confidential and sent in the clear, NTS includes support for encrypting NTP extension fields.

o Replay prevention: Client implementations may detect when a received time synchronization packet is a replay of a previous packet.

o Request-response consistency: Client implementations may verify that a time synchronization packet received from a server was sent in response to a particular request from the client.

o Unlinkability: For mobile clients, NTS will not leak any information additional to NTP which would permit a passive adversary to determine that two packets sent over different networks came from the same client.

o Non-amplification: Implementations (especially server implementations) may avoid acting as distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) amplifiers by never responding to a request with a packet larger than the request packet.

o Scalability: Server implementations may serve large numbers of clients without having to retain any client-specific state.

1.2. Protocol Overview

The Network Time Protocol includes many different operating modes to support various network topologies. In addition to its best-known and most-widely-used client-server mode, it also includes modes for synchronization between symmetric peers, a control mode for server monitoring and administration, and a broadcast mode. These various modes have differing and partly contradictory requirements for security and performance. Symmetric and control modes demand mutual authentication and mutual replay protection. Additionally, for certain message types control mode may require confidentiality as well as authentication. Client-server mode places more stringent requirements on resource utilization than other modes, because servers may have vast number of clients and be unable to afford to maintain per-client state. However, client-server mode also has more relaxed security needs, because only the client requires replay protection: it is harmless for stateless servers to process replayed packets. The security demands of symmetric and control modes, on the
other hand, are in conflict with the resource-utilization demands of client-server mode: any scheme which provides replay protection inherently involves maintaining some state to keep track of what messages have already been seen.

This memo specifies NTS exclusively for the client-server mode of NTP. To this end, NTS is structured as a suite of two protocols:

The "NTS Extensions for NTPv4" define a collection of NTP extension fields for cryptographically securing NTPv4 using previously-established key material. They are suitable for securing client-server mode because the server can implement them without retaining per-client state. All state is kept by the client and provided to the server in the form of an encrypted cookie supplied with each request. On the other hand, the NTS Extension Fields are suitable *only* for client-server mode because only the client, and not the server, is protected from replay.

The "NTS Key Establishment" protocol (NTS-KE) is a mechanism for establishing key material for use with the NTS Extension Fields for NTPv4. It uses TLS to exchange keys, provide the client with an initial supply of cookies, and negotiate some additional protocol options. After this exchange, the TLS channel is closed with no per-client state remaining on the server side.

The typical protocol flow is as follows: The client connects to an NTS-KE server on the NTS TCP port and the two parties perform a TLS handshake. Via the TLS channel, the parties negotiate some additional protocol parameters and the server sends the client a supply of cookies along with a list of one or more IP addresses to NTP servers for which the cookies are valid. The parties use TLS key export [RFC5705] to extract key material which will be used in the next phase of the protocol. This negotiation takes only a single round trip, after which the server closes the connection and discards all associated state. At this point the NTS-KE phase of the protocol is complete. Ideally, the client never needs to connect to the NTS-KE server again.

Time synchronization proceeds with one of the indicated NTP servers over the NTP UDP port. The client sends the server an NTP client packet which includes several extension fields. Included among these fields are a cookie (previously provided by the key exchange server) and an authentication tag, computed using key material extracted from the NTS-KE handshake. The NTP server uses the cookie to recover this key material and send back an authenticated response. The response includes a fresh, encrypted cookie which the client then sends back.
in the clear in a subsequent request. (This constant refreshing of
cookies is necessary in order to achieve NTS’s unlinkability goal.)

Figure 1 provides an overview of the high-level interaction between
the client, the NTS-KE server, and the NTP server. Note that the
cookies’ data format and the exchange of secrets between NTS-KE and
NTP servers are not part of this specification and are implementation
dependent. However, a suggested format for NTS cookies is provided
in Section 6.

Figure 1: Overview of High-Level Interactions in NTS

2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT",
"SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and
"OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in
BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

3. TLS profile for Network Time Security

Network Time Security makes use of TLS for NTS key establishment.

Since the NTS protocol is new as of this publication, no backward-
compatibility concerns exist to justify using obsolete, insecure, or
otherwise broken TLS features or versions. Implementations MUST
conform with [RFC7525] or with a later revision of BCP 195.
Furthermore:

Implementations MUST NOT negotiate TLS versions earlier than 1.2,
SHOULD negotiate TLS 1.3 [RFC8446] or later when possible, and MAY
refuse to negotiate any TLS version which has been superseded by a
later supported version.

Use of the Application-Layer Protocol Negotiation Extension [RFC7301]
is integral to NTS and support for it is REQUIRED for
interoperability.

4. The NTS Key Establishment Protocol

The NTS key establishment protocol is conducted via TCP port
[[TBD1]]. The two endpoints carry out a TLS handshake in conformance
with Section 3, with the client offering (via an ALPN [RFC7301]
extension), and the server accepting, an application-layer protocol
of "ntske/1". Immediately following a successful handshake, the
client SHALL send a single request as Application Data encapsulated
in the TLS-protected channel. Then, the server SHALL send a single
response followed by a TLS "Close notify" alert and then discard the
channel state.

The client’s request and the server’s response each SHALL consist of
a sequence of records formatted according to Figure 2. Requests and
non-error responses each SHALL include exactly one NTS Next Protocol
Negotiation record. The sequence SHALL be terminated by a "End of
Message" record. The requirement that all NTS-KE messages be
terminated by an End of Message record makes them self-delimiting.

Clients and servers MAY enforce length limits on requests and
responses, however, servers MUST accept requests of at least 1024
octets and clients SHOULD accept responses of at least 65536 octets.
The fields of an NTS-KE record are defined as follows:

- **C (Critical Bit):** Determines the disposition of unrecognized Record Types. Implementations which receive a record with an unrecognized Record Type MUST ignore the record if the Critical Bit is 0 and MUST treat it as an error if the Critical Bit is 1.

- **Record Type Number:** A 15-bit integer in network byte order. The semantics of record types 0-6 are specified in this memo. Additional type numbers SHALL be tracked through the IANA Network Time Security Key Establishment Record Types registry.

- **Body Length:** The length of the Record Body field, in octets, as a 16-bit integer in network byte order. Record bodies MAY have any representable length and need not be aligned to a word boundary.

- **Record Body:** The syntax and semantics of this field SHALL be determined by the Record Type.

For clarity regarding bit-endianness: the Critical Bit is the most-significant bit of the first octet. In C, given a network buffer `unsigned char b[]` containing an NTS-KE record, the critical bit is `b[0] >> 7` while the record type is `(((b[0] & 0x7f) << 8) + b[1])`.

Figure 3 provides a schematic overview of the key exchange. It displays the protocol steps to be performed by the NTS client and server and record types to be exchanged.
- Verify client request message.
- Extract TLS key material.
- Generate KE response message.
- Include Record Types:
  - NTS Next Protocol Negotiation
  - AEAD Algorithm Negotiation
  - NTP Server Negotiation
  - New Cookie for NTPv4
  - <New Cookie for NTPv4>
  - End of Message

---

Server -----------+---------------+-----+----------------------->

^                      \
/                        \
/    TLS application       \
/     data                   \
/                              \
/                                V
Client -----+---------------------------------+---------------->

- Generate KE request message.
- Include Record Types:
  - NTS Next Protocol Negotiation
  - AEAD Algorithm Negotiation
  - <NTP Server Negotiation>
  - End of Message

- Verify server response message.
- Extract cookie(s).

Figure 3: NTS Key Exchange Messages

4.1. NTS-KE Record Types

The following NTS-KE Record Types are defined:

4.1.1. End of Message

The End of Message record has a Record Type number of 0 and a zero-length body. It MUST occur exactly once as the final record of every NTS-KE request and response. The Critical Bit MUST be set.
4.1.2. NTS Next Protocol Negotiation

The NTS Next Protocol Negotiation record has a Record Type number of 1. It MUST occur exactly once in every NTS-KE request and response. Its body consists of a sequence of 16-bit unsigned integers in network byte order. Each integer represents a Protocol ID from the IANA Network Time Security Next Protocols registry. The Critical Bit MUST be set.

The Protocol IDs listed in the client’s NTS Next Protocol Negotiation record denote those protocols which the client wishes to speak using the key material established through this NTS-KE session. The Protocol IDs listed in the server’s response MUST comprise a subset of those listed in the request and denote those protocols which the server is willing and able to speak using the key material established through this NTS-KE session. The client MAY proceed with one or more of them. The request MUST list at least one protocol, but the response MAY be empty.

4.1.3. Error

The Error record has a Record Type number of 2. Its body is exactly two octets long, consisting of an unsigned 16-bit integer in network byte order, denoting an error code. The Critical Bit MUST be set.

Clients MUST NOT include Error records in their request. If clients receive a server response which includes an Error record, they MUST discard any negotiated key material and MUST NOT proceed to the Next Protocol.

The following error codes are defined:

- Error code 0 means "Unrecognized Critical Record". The server MUST respond with this error code if the request included a record which the server did not understand and which had its Critical Bit set. The client SHOULD NOT retry its request without modification.

- Error code 1 means "Bad Request". The server MUST respond with this error if, upon the expiration of an implementation-defined timeout, it has not yet received a complete and syntactically well-formed request from the client.

4.1.4. Warning

The Warning record has a Record Type number of 3. Its body is exactly two octets long, consisting of an unsigned 16-bit integer in
Clients MUST NOT include Warning records in their request. If clients receive a server response which includes a Warning record, they MAY discard any negotiated key material and abort without proceeding to the Next Protocol. Unrecognized warning codes MUST be treated as errors.

This memo defines no warning codes.

4.1.5. AEAD Algorithm Negotiation

The AEAD Algorithm Negotiation record has a Record Type number of 4. Its body consists of a sequence of unsigned 16-bit integers in network byte order, denoting Numeric Identifiers from the IANA AEAD registry [RFC5116]. The Critical Bit MAY be set.

If the NTS Next Protocol Negotiation record offers Protocol ID 0 (for NTPv4), then this record MUST be included exactly once. Other protocols MAY require it as well.

When included in a request, this record denotes which AEAD algorithms the client is willing to use to secure the Next Protocol, in decreasing preference order. When included in a response, this record denotes which algorithm the server chooses to use. It is empty if the server supports none of the algorithms offered. In requests, the list MUST include at least one algorithm. In responses, it MUST include at most one. Honoring the client’s preference order is OPTIONAL: servers may select among any of the client’s offered choices, even if they are able to support some other algorithm which the client prefers more.

Server implementations of NTS extension fields for NTPv4 (Section 5) MUST support AEAD_AES_SIV_CMAC_256 [RFC5297] (Numeric Identifier 15). That is, if the client includes AEAD_AES_SIV_CMAC_256 in its AEAD Algorithm Negotiation record and the server accepts Protocol ID 0 (NTPv4) in its NTS Next Protocol Negotiation record, then the server’s AEAD Algorithm Negotiation record MUST NOT be empty.

4.1.6. New Cookie for NTPv4

The New Cookie for NTPv4 record has a Record Type number of 5. The contents of its body SHALL be implementation-defined and clients MUST NOT attempt to interpret them. See Section 6 for a suggested construction.
Clients MUST NOT send records of this type. Servers MUST send at least one record of this type, and SHOULD send eight of them, if the Next Protocol Negotiation response record contains Protocol ID 0 (NTPv4) and the AEAD Algorithm Negotiation response record is not empty. The Critical Bit SHOULD NOT be set.

4.1.7. NTPv4 Server Negotiation

The NTPv4 Server Negotiation record has a Record Type number of 6. Its body consists of an ASCII-encoded [ANSI.X3-4.1986] string conforming to the syntax of the Host subcomponent of a URI ([RFC3986]). IPv6 addresses MUST NOT include zone identifiers [RFC6874].

When NTPv4 is negotiated as a Next Protocol and this record is sent by the server, the body specifies the hostname or IP address of the NTPv4 server with which the client should associate and which will accept the supplied cookies. If no record of this type is sent, the client SHALL interpret this as a directive to associate with an NTPv4 server at the same IP address as the NTS-KE server. Servers MUST NOT send more than one record of this type.

When this record is sent by the client, it indicates that the client wishes to associate with the specified NTP server. The NTS-KE server MAY incorporate this request when deciding what NTPv4 Server Negotiation records to respond with, but honoring the client’s preference is OPTIONAL. The client MUST NOT send more than one record of this type.

Servers MAY set the Critical Bit on records of this type; clients SHOULD NOT.

4.1.8. NTPv4 Port Negotiation

The NTPv4 Port Negotiation record has a Record Type number of 7. Its body consists of a 16-bit unsigned integer in network byte order, denoting a UDP port number.

When NTPv4 is negotiated as a Next Protocol and this record is sent by the server, the body specifies the port number of the NTPv4 server with which the client should associate and which will accept the supplied cookies. If no record of this type is sent, the client SHALL assume a default of 123 (the registered port number for NTP).

When this record is sent by the client in conjunction with a NTPv4 Server Negotiation record, it indicates that the client wishes to associate with the NTP server at the specified port. The NTS-KE server MAY incorporate this request when deciding what NTPv4 Server
Negotiation and NTPv4 Port Negotiation records to respond with, but honoring the client’s preference is OPTIONAL.

Servers MAY set the Critical Bit on records of this type; clients SHOULD NOT.

4.2.  Key Extraction (generally)

Following a successful run of the NTS-KE protocol, key material SHALL be extracted according to RFC 5705 [RFC5705]. Inputs to the exporter function are to be constructed in a manner specific to the negotiated Next Protocol. However, all protocols which utilize NTS-KE MUST conform to the following two rules:

The disambiguating label string MUST be "EXPORTER-network-time-security/1".

The per-association context value MUST be provided and MUST begin with the two-octet Protocol ID which was negotiated as a Next Protocol.

5.  NTS Extension Fields for NTPv4

5.1.  Key Extraction (for NTPv4)

Following a successful run of the NTS-KE protocol wherein Protocol ID 0 (NTPv4) is selected as a Next Protocol, two AEAD keys SHALL be extracted: a client-to-server (C2S) key and a server-to-client (S2C) key. These keys SHALL be computed according to RFC 5705 [RFC5705], using the following inputs.

The disambiguating label string SHALL be "EXPORTER-network-time-security/1".

The per-association context value SHALL consist of the following five octets:

The first two octets SHALL be zero (the Protocol ID for NTPv4).

The next two octets SHALL be the Numeric Identifier of the negotiated AEAD Algorithm in network byte order.

The final octet SHALL be 0x00 for the C2S key and 0x01 for the S2C key.

Implementations wishing to derive additional keys for private or experimental use MUST NOT do so by extending the above-specified syntax for per-association context values. Instead, they SHOULD use
their own disambiguating label string. Note that RFC 5705 [RFC5705] provides that disambiguating label strings beginning with "EXPERIMENTAL" MAY be used without IANA registration.

5.2. Packet Structure Overview

In general, an NTS-protected NTPv4 packet consists of:

The usual 48-octet NTP header which is authenticated but not encrypted.

Some extension fields which are authenticated but not encrypted.

An extension field which contains AEAD output (i.e., an authentication tag and possible ciphertext). The corresponding plaintext, if non-empty, consists of some extension fields which benefit from both encryption and authentication.

Possibly, some additional extension fields which are neither encrypted nor authenticated. These are discarded by the receiver.

Always included among the authenticated or authenticated-and-encrypted extension fields are a cookie extension field and a unique identifier extension field. The purpose of the cookie extension field is to enable the server to offload storage of session state onto the client. The purpose of the unique identifier extension field is to protect the client from replay attacks.

5.3. The Unique Identifier Extension Field

The Unique Identifier extension field provides the client with a cryptographically strong means of detecting replayed packets. It has a Field Type of [[TBD2]]. When the extension field is included in a client packet (mode 3), its body SHALL consist of a string of octets generated uniformly at random. The string MUST be at least 32 octets long. When the extension field is included in a server packet (mode 4), its body SHALL contain the same octet string as was provided in the client packet to which the server is responding. All server packets generated by NTS-implementing servers in response to client packets containing this extension field MUST also contain this field with the same content as in the client’s request. The field’s use in modes other than client-server is not defined.

This extension field MAY also be used standalone, without NTS, in which case it provides the client with a means of detecting spoofed packets from off-path attackers. Historically, NTP’s origin timestamp field has played both these roles, but for cryptographic purposes this is suboptimal because it is only 64 bits long and,
depending on implementation details, most of those bits may be predictable. In contrast, the Unique Identifier extension field enables a degree of unpredictability and collision resistance more consistent with cryptographic best practice.

5.4. The NTS Cookie Extension Field

The NTS Cookie extension field has a Field Type of [[TBD3]]. Its purpose is to carry information which enables the server to recompute keys and other session state without having to store any per-client state. The contents of its body SHALL be implementation-defined and clients MUST NOT attempt to interpret them. See Section 6 for a suggested construction. The NTS Cookie extension field MUST NOT be included in NTP packets whose mode is other than 3 (client) or 4 (server).

5.5. The NTS Cookie Placeholder Extension Field

The NTS Cookie Placeholder extension field has a Field Type of [[TBD4]]. When this extension field is included in a client packet (mode 3), it communicates to the server that the client wishes it to send additional cookies in its response. This extension field MUST NOT be included in NTP packets whose mode is other than 3.

Whenever an NTS Cookie Placeholder extension field is present, it MUST be accompanied by an NTS Cookie extension field. The body length of the NTS Cookie Placeholder extension field MUST be the same as the body length of the NTS Cookie extension field. This length requirement serves to ensure that the response will not be larger than the request, in order to improve timekeeping precision and prevent DDoS amplification. The contents of the NTS Cookie Placeholder extension field’s body are undefined and, aside from checking its length, MUST be ignored by the server.

5.6. The NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields Extension Field

The NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension field is the central cryptographic element of an NTS-protected NTP packet. Its Field Type is [[TBD5]]. It SHALL be formatted according to Figure 4 and include the following fields:

- Nonce length: Two octets in network byte order, giving the length of the Nonce field, excluding any padding, interpreted as an unsigned integer.
Ciphertext Length: Two octets in network byte order, giving the length of the Ciphertext field, excluding any padding, interpreted as an unsigned integer.

Nonce: A nonce as required by the negotiated AEAD Algorithm. The field is zero-padded to a word (four octets) boundary.

Ciphertext: The output of the negotiated AEAD Algorithm. The structure of this field is determined by the negotiated algorithm, but it typically contains an authentication tag in addition to the actual ciphertext. The field is zero-padded to a word (four octets) boundary.

Additional Padding: Clients which use a nonce length shorter than the maximum allowed by the negotiated AEAD algorithm may be required to include additional zero-padding. The necessary length of this field is specified below.

```
+-----------------+-----------------+
| Nonce Length    | Ciphertext Length|
+-----------------+-----------------+
|                 |                 |
|     Nonce,      |     Ciphertext  |
|     including   |     including   |
|     up to 3     |     up to 3     |
|     bytes       |     bytes       |
|     padding     |     padding     |
|                 |                 |
|     Additional  |                 |
|     Padding     |                 |
```

Figure 4: NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields Extension Field Format

The Ciphertext field SHALL be formed by providing the following inputs to the negotiated AEAD Algorithm:
K: For packets sent from the client to the server, the C2S key SHALL be used. For packets sent from the server to the client, the S2C key SHALL be used.

A: The associated data SHALL consist of the portion of the NTP packet beginning from the start of the NTP header and ending at the end of the last extension field which precedes the NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension field.

P: The plaintext SHALL consist of all (if any) NTP extension fields to be encrypted. The format of any such fields SHALL be in accordance with RFC 7822 [RFC7822]. If multiple extension fields are present they SHALL be joined by concatenation.

N: The nonce SHALL be formed however required by the negotiated AEAD algorithm.

The purpose of the Additional Padding field is to ensure that servers can always choose a nonce whose length is adequate to ensure its uniqueness, even if the client chooses a shorter one, and still ensure that the overall length of the server’s response packet does not exceed the length of the request. For mode 4 (server) packets, no Additional Padding field is ever required. For mode 3 (client) packets, the length of the Additional Padding field SHALL be computed as follows. Let ‘N_LEN’ be the padded length of the the Nonce field. Let ‘N_MAX’ be, as specified by RFC 5116 [RFC5116], the maximum permitted nonce length for the negotiated AEAD algorithm. Let ‘N_REQ’ be the lesser of 16 and N_MAX, rounded up to the nearest multiple of 4. If N_LEN is greater than or equal to N_REQ, then no Additional Padding field is required. Otherwise, the Additional Padding field SHALL be at least N_REQ - N_LEN octets in length. Servers MUST enforce this requirement by discarding any packet which does not conform to it.

The NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension field MUST NOT be included in NTP packets whose mode is other than 3 (client) or 4 (server).

5.7. Protocol Details

A client sending an NTS-protected request SHALL include the following extension fields as displayed in Figure 5:

Exactly one Unique Identifier extension field which MUST be authenticated, MUST NOT be encrypted, and whose contents MUST NOT duplicate those of any previous request.
Exactly one NTS Cookie extension field which MUST be authenticated and MUST NOT be encrypted. The cookie MUST be one which has been previously provided to the client; either from the key exchange server during the NTS-KE handshake or from the NTP server in response to a previous NTS-protected NTP request. To protect the client’s privacy, the same cookie SHOULD NOT be included in multiple requests. If the client does not have any cookies that it has not already sent, it SHOULD initiate a re-run the NTS-KE protocol.

Exactly one NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension field, generated using an AEAD Algorithm and C2S key established through NTS-KE.

The client MAY include one or more NTS Cookie Placeholder extension fields which MUST be authenticated and MAY be encrypted. The number of NTS Cookie Placeholder extension fields that the client includes SHOULD be such that if the client includes N placeholders and the server sends back N+1 cookies, the number of unused cookies stored by the client will come to eight. The client SHOULD NOT include more than seven NTS Cookie Placeholder extension fields in a request. When both the client and server adhere to all cookie-management guidance provided in this memo, the number of placeholder extension fields will equal the number of dropped packets since the last successful volley.
The client MAY include additional (non-NTS-related) extension fields which MAY appear prior to the NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension fields (therefore authenticated but not encrypted), within it (therefore encrypted and authenticated), or after it (therefore neither encrypted nor authenticated). In general, however, the server MUST discard any unauthenticated extension fields and process the packet as though they were not
present. Servers MAY implement exceptions to this requirement for particular extension fields if their specification explicitly provides for such.

Upon receiving an NTS-protected request, the server SHALL (through some implementation-defined mechanism) use the cookie to recover the AEAD Algorithm, C2S key, and S2C key associated with the request, and then use the C2S key to authenticate the packet and decrypt the ciphertext. If the cookie is valid and authentication and decryption succeed, the server SHALL include the following extension fields in its response:

- Exactly one Unique Identifier extension field which MUST be authenticated, MUST NOT be encrypted, and whose contents SHALL echo those provided by the client.

- Exactly one NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension field, generated using the AEAD algorithm and S2C key recovered from the cookie provided by the client.

- One or more NTS Cookie extension fields which MUST be authenticated and encrypted. The number of NTS Cookie extension fields included SHOULD be equal to, and MUST NOT exceed, one plus the number of valid NTS Cookie Placeholder extension fields included in the request. The cookies returned in those fields MUST be valid for use with the NTP server that sent them. They MAY be valid for other NTP servers as well, but there is no way for the server to indicate this.

We emphasize the contrast that NTS Cookie extension fields MUST NOT be encrypted when sent from client to server, but MUST be encrypted from sent from server to client. The former is necessary in order for the server to be able to recover the C2S and S2C keys, while the latter is necessary to satisfy the unlinkability goals discussed in Section 10.1. We emphasize also that "encrypted" means encapsulated within the the NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extensions extension field. While the body of an NTS Cookie extension field will generally consist of some sort of AEAD output (regardless of whether the recommendations of Section 6 are precisely followed), this is not sufficient to make the extension field "encrypted".

The server MAY include additional (non-NTS-related) extension fields which MAY appear prior to the NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension field (therefore authenticated but not encrypted), within it (therefore encrypted and authenticated), or after it (therefore neither encrypted nor authenticated). In general, however, the client MUST discard any unauthenticated extension fields and process the packet as though they were not
Clients MAY implement exceptions to this requirement for particular extension fields if their specification explicitly provides for such.

Upon receiving an NTS-protected response, the client MUST verify that the Unique Identifier matches that of an outstanding request, and that the packet is authentic under the S2C key associated with that request. If either of these checks fails, the packet MUST be discarded without further processing.

If the server is unable to validate the cookie or authenticate the request, it SHOULD respond with a Kiss-o’-Death (KoD) packet (see RFC 5905, Section 7.4 [RFC5905]) with kiss code "NTSN", meaning "NTS negative-acknowledgment (NAK)". It MUST NOT include any NTS Cookie or NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension fields.

If the NTP server has previously responded with authentic NTS-protected NTP packets (i.e., packets containing the NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields extension field), the client MUST verify that any KoD packets received from the server contain the Unique Identifier extension field and that the Unique Identifier matches that of an outstanding request. If this check fails, the packet MUST be discarded without further processing. If this check passes, the client MUST comply with RFC 5095, Section 7.4 [RFC5905] where required. A client MAY automatically re-run the NTS-KE protocol upon forced disassociation from an NTP server. In that case, it MUST be able to detect and stop looping between the NTS-KE and NTP servers.

Upon reception of the NTS NAK kiss code, the client SHOULD wait until the next poll for a valid NTS-protected response and if none is received, initiate a fresh NTS-KE handshake to try to renegotiate new cookies, AEAD keys, and parameters. If the NTS-KE handshake succeeds, the client MUST discard all old cookies and parameters and use the new ones instead. As long as the NTS-KE handshake has not succeeded, the client SHOULD continue polling the NTP server using the cookies and parameters it has.

The client MAY reuse cookies in order to prioritize resilience over unlinkability. Which of the two that should be prioritized in any particular case is dependent on the application and the user’s preference. Section 10.1 describes the privacy considerations of this in further detail.

To allow for NTP session restart when the NTS-KE server is unavailable and to reduce NTS-KE server load, the client SHOULD keep at least one unused but recent cookie, AEAD keys, negotiated AEAD algorithm, and other necessary parameters on persistent storage.
This way, the client is able to resume the NTP session without performing renewed NTS-KE negotiation.

6. Suggested Format for NTS Cookies

This section is non-normative. It gives a suggested way for servers to construct NTS cookies. All normative requirements are stated in Section 4.1.6 and Section 5.4.

The role of cookies in NTS is closely analogous to that of session cookies in TLS. Accordingly, the thematic resemblance of this section to RFC 5077 [RFC5077] is deliberate and the reader should likewise take heed of its security considerations.

Servers should select an AEAD algorithm which they will use to encrypt and authenticate cookies. The chosen algorithm should be one such as AEAD_AES_SIV_CMAC_256 [RFC5297] which resists accidental nonce reuse. It need not be the same as the one that was negotiated with the client. Servers should randomly generate and store a master AEAD key ‘K’. Servers should additionally choose a non-secret, unique value ‘I’ as key-identifier for ‘K’.

Servers should periodically (e.g., once daily) generate a new pair (I,K) and immediately switch to using these values for all newly-generated cookies. Immediately following each such key rotation, servers should securely erase any keys generated two or more rotation periods prior. Servers should continue to accept any cookie generated using keys that they have not yet erased, even if those keys are no longer current. Erasing old keys provides for forward secrecy, limiting the scope of what old information can be stolen if a master key is somehow compromised. Holding on to a limited number of old keys allows clients to seamlessly transition from one generation to the next without having to perform a new NTS-KE handshake.

The need to keep keys synchronized between NTS-KE and NTP servers as well as across load-balanced clusters can make automatic key rotation challenging. However, the task can be accomplished without the need for central key-management infrastructure by using a ratchet, i.e., making each new key a deterministic, cryptographically pseudo-random function of its predecessor. A recommended concrete implementation of this approach is to use HKDF [RFC5869] to derive new keys, using the key’s predecessor as Input Keying Material and its key identifier as a salt.

To form a cookie, servers should first form a plaintext ‘P’ consisting of the following fields:
The AEAD algorithm negotiated during NTS-KE.

The S2C key.

The C2S key.

Servers should then generate a nonce \( N \) uniformly at random, and form AEAD output \( C \) by encrypting \( P \) under key \( K \) with nonce \( N \) and no associated data.

The cookie should consist of the tuple \( (I, N, C) \).

To verify and decrypt a cookie provided by the client, first parse it into its components \( I \), \( N \), and \( C \). Use \( I \) to look up its decryption key \( K \). If the key whose identifier is \( I \) has been erased or never existed, decryption fails; reply with an NTS NAK. Otherwise, attempt to decrypt and verify ciphertext \( C \) using key \( K \) and nonce \( N \) with no associated data. If decryption or verification fails, reply with an NTS NAK. Otherwise, parse out the contents of the resulting plaintext \( P \) to obtain the negotiated AEAD algorithm, S2C key, and C2S key.

7. IANA Considerations

7.1. Service Name and Transport Protocol Port Number Registry

IANA is requested to allocate the following entry in the Service Name and Transport Protocol Port Number Registry [RFC6335]:

Service Name: ntske

Transport Protocol: tcp

Assignee: IESG <iesg@ietf.org>

Contact: IETF Chair <chair@ietf.org>

Description: Network Time Security Key Exchange

Reference: [[this memo]]

Port Number: [[TBD1]], selected by IANA from the User Port range

[[RFC EDITOR: Replace all instances of [[TBD1]] in this document with the IANA port assignment.]]
7.2. TLS Application-Layer Protocol Negotiation (ALPN) Protocol IDs Registry

IANA is requested to allocate the following entry in the TLS Application-Layer Protocol Negotiation (ALPN) Protocol IDs registry [RFC7301]:

Protocol: Network Time Security Key Establishment, version 1

Identification Sequence: 0x6E 0x74 0x73 0x6B 0x2F 0x31 ("ntske/1")

Reference: [[this memo]], Section 4

7.3. TLS Exporter Labels Registry

IANA is requested to allocate the following entry in the TLS Exporter Labels Registry [RFC5705]:

+----------------+---------+-------------+---------------+------+
| Value          | DTLS-OK | Recommended | Reference     | Note |
|----------------+---------+-------------+---------------+------+
| EXPORTER-network-time-security/1 | Y       | Y           | [[this memo]], |      |
|                |         |             | Section 4.2   |      |
|----------------+---------+-------------+---------------+------+

7.4. NTP Kiss-o’-Death Codes Registry

IANA is requested to allocate the following entry in the registry of NTP Kiss-o’-Death Codes [RFC5905]:

+----------------+---------------+----------+
| Code | Meaning                                | Reference |
|----------------+---------------+----------+
| NTSN | Network Time Security (NTS) negative-acknowledgment (NAK) | [[this memo]], Section 5.7 |
+----------------+---------------+----------+

7.5. NTP Extension Field Types Registry

IANA is requested to allocate the following entries in the NTP Extension Field Types registry [RFC5905]:

### Field Type 
| Unique Identifier | 
| NTS Cookie | 
| NTS Cookie Placeholder | 
| NTS Authenticator and Encrypted Extension Fields |

| Reference |
| [this memo], Section 5.3 |
| [this memo], Section 5.4 |
| [this memo], Section 5.5 |
| [this memo], Section 5.6 |

[RFC EDITOR: Replace all instances of [[TBD2]], [[TBD3]], [[TBD4]], and [[TBD5]] in this document with the respective IANA assignments.]

#### 7.6. Network Time Security Key Establishment Record Types Registry

IANA is requested to create a new registry entitled "Network Time Security Key Establishment Record Types". Entries SHALL have the following fields:

- **Record Type Number (REQUIRED):** An integer in the range 0-32767 inclusive.
- **Description (REQUIRED):** A short text description of the purpose of the field.
- **Reference (REQUIRED):** A reference to a document specifying the semantics of the record.

The policy for allocation of new entries in this registry SHALL vary by the Record Type Number, as follows:

- **0-1023:** IETF Review
- **1024-16383:** Specification Required
- **16384-32767:** Private and Experimental Use

Applications for new entries SHALL specify the contents of the Description, Set Critical Bit, and Reference fields as well as which of the above ranges the Record Type Number should be allocated from. Applicants MAY request a specific Record Type Number and such requests MAY be granted at the registrar's discretion.

The initial contents of this registry SHALL be as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Type Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>End of Message</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NTS Next Protocol Negotiation</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Error</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>AEAD Algorithm Negotiation</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>New Cookie for NTPv4</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>NTPv4 Server Negotiation</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NTPv4 Port Negotiation</td>
<td>[[this memo]], Section 4.1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16384-32767</td>
<td>Reserved for Private &amp; Experimental Use</td>
<td>[[this memo]]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.7. Network Time Security Next Protocols Registry

IANA is requested to create a new registry entitled "Network Time Security Next Protocols". Entries SHALL have the following fields:

- **Protocol ID (REQUIRED):** An integer in the range 0-65535 inclusive, functioning as an identifier.
- **Protocol Name (REQUIRED):** A short text string naming the protocol being identified.
- **Reference (REQUIRED):** A reference to a relevant specification document.

The policy for allocation of new entries in these registries SHALL vary by their Protocol ID, as follows:

- **0-1023:** IETF Review
- **1024-32767:** Specification Required
- **32768-65535:** Private and Experimental Use

The initial contents of this registry SHALL be as follows:
### Network Time Security Error and Warning Codes Registries

IANA is requested to create two new registries entitled "Network Time Security Error Codes" and "Network Time Security Warning Codes". Entries in each SHALL have the following fields:

- **Number (REQUIRED):** An integer in the range 0-65535 inclusive
- **Description (REQUIRED):** A short text description of the condition.
- **Reference (REQUIRED):** A reference to a relevant specification document.

The policy for allocation of new entries in these registries SHALL vary by their Number, as follows:

- 0-1023: IETF Review
- 1024-32767: Specification Required
- 32768-65535: Private and Experimental Use

The initial contents of the Network Time Security Error Codes Registry SHALL be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Unrecognized Critical Extension</td>
<td>[[this memo]],</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Section 4.1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bad Request</td>
<td>[[this memo]],</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Section 4.1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32768-65535</td>
<td>Reserved for Private or Experimental Use</td>
<td>Reserved by [[this memo]]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Network Time Security Warning Codes Registry SHALL initially be empty except for the reserved range, i.e.:
8. Implementation Status

This section records the status of known implementations of the protocol defined by this specification at the time of posting of this Internet-Draft, and is based on a proposal described in RFC 7942. The description of implementations in this section is intended to assist the IETF in its decision processes in progressing drafts to RFCs. Please note that the listing of any individual implementation here does not imply endorsement by the IETF. Furthermore, no effort has been spent to verify the information presented here that was supplied by IETF contributors. This is not intended as, and must not be construed to be, a catalog of available implementations or their features. Readers are advised to note that other implementations may exist.

According to RFC 7942, "this will allow reviewers and working groups to assign due consideration to documents that have the benefit of running code, which may serve as evidence of valuable experimentation and feedback that have made the implemented protocols more mature. It is up to the individual working groups to use this information as they see fit".

8.1. Implementation PoC 1

Organization: Ostfalia University of Applied Science

Implementor: Martin Langer

Maturity: Proof-of-Concept Prototype

This implementation was used to verify consistency and to ensure completeness of this specification. It also demonstrate interoperability with NTP’s client-server mode messages.

8.1.1. Coverage

This implementation covers the complete specification.
8.1.2. Licensing

The code is released under a Apache License 2.0 license.

The source code is available at: https://gitlab.com/MLanger/nts/

8.1.3. Contact Information

Contact Martin Langer: mart.langer@ostfalia.de

8.1.4. Last Update

The implementation was updated 3rd May 2018.

8.2. Implementation PoC 2

Organization: tbd

Implementor: Daniel Fox Franke

Maturity: Proof-of-Concept Prototype

This implementation was used to verify consistency and to ensure completeness of this specification.

8.2.1. Coverage

This implementation provides the client and the server for the initial TLS handshake and NTS key exchange. It provides the the client part of the NTS protected NTP messages.

8.2.2. Licensing

Public domain.

The source code is available at: https://github.com/dfoxfranke/nts-hackathon

8.2.3. Contact Information

Contact Daniel Fox Franke: dfoxfranke@gmail.com

8.2.4. Last Update

The implementation was updated 16th March 2018.
8.3. Interoperability

The Interoperability tests distinguished between NTS key exchange and NTS time exchange messages. For the NTS key exchange, interoperability between the two implementations has been verified successfully. Interoperability of NTS time exchange messages has been verified successfully for the case that PoC 1 represents the server and PoC 2 the client.

These tests successfully demonstrate that there are at least two running implementations of this draft which are able to interoperate.

9. Security Considerations

9.1. Sensitivity to DDoS attacks

The introduction of NTS brings with it the introduction of asymmetric cryptography to NTP. Asymmetric cryptography is necessary for initial server authentication and AEAD key extraction. Asymmetric cryptosystems are generally orders of magnitude slower than their symmetric counterparts. This makes it much harder to build systems that can serve requests at a rate corresponding to the full line speed of the network connection. This, in turn, opens up a new possibility for DDoS attacks on NTP services.

The main protection against these attacks in NTS lies in that the use of asymmetric cryptosystems is only necessary in the initial NTS-KE phase of the protocol. Since the protocol design enables separation of the NTS-KE and NTP servers, a successful DDoS attack on an NTS-KE server separated from the NTP service it supports will not affect NTP users that have already performed initial authentication, AEAD key extraction, and cookie exchange.

NTS users should also consider that they are not fully protected against DDoS attacks by on-path adversaries. In addition to dropping packets and attacks such as those described in Section 9.4, an on-path attacker can send spoofed kiss-o’-death replies, which are not authenticated, in response to NTP requests. This could result in significantly increased load on the NTS-KE server. Implementers have to weigh the user’s need for unlinkability against the added resilience that comes with cookie reuse in cases of NTS-KE server unavailability.

9.2. Avoiding DDoS Amplification

Certain non-standard and/or deprecated features of the Network Time Protocol enable clients to send a request to a server which causes the server to send a response much larger than the request. Servers
which enable these features can be abused in order to amplify traffic volume in DDoS attacks by sending them a request with a spoofed source IP. In recent years, attacks of this nature have become an endemic nuisance.

NTS is designed to avoid contributing any further to this problem by ensuring that NTS-related extension fields included in server responses will be the same size as the NTS-related extension fields sent by the client. In particular, this is why the client is required to send a separate and appropriately padded-out NTS Cookie Placeholder extension field for every cookie it wants to get back, rather than being permitted simply to specify a desired quantity.

Due to the RFC 7822 [RFC7822] requirement that extensions be padded and aligned to four-octet boundaries, response size may still in some cases exceed request size by up to three octets. This is sufficiently inconsequential that we have declined to address it.

9.3. Initial Verification of Server Certificates

NTS’s security goals are undermined if the client fails to verify that the X.509 certificate chain presented by the NTS-KE server is valid and rooted in a trusted certificate authority. RFC 5280 [RFC5280] and RFC 6125 [RFC6125] specify how such verification is to be performed in general. However, the expectation that the client does not yet have a correctly-set system clock at the time of certificate verification presents difficulties with verifying that the certificate is within its validity period, i.e., that the current time lies between the times specified in the certificate’s notBefore and notAfter fields. It may be operationally necessary in some cases for a client to accept a certificate which appears to be expired or not yet valid. While there is no perfect solution to this problem, there are several mitigations the client can implement to make it more difficult for an adversary to successfully present an expired certificate:

Check whether the system time is in fact unreliable. If the system clock has previously been synchronized since last boot, then on operating systems which implement a kernel-based phase-locked-loop API, a call to ntp_gettime() should show a maximum error less than NTP_PHASE_MAX. In this case, the clock SHOULD be considered reliable and certificates can be strictly validated.

Allow the system administrator to specify that certificates should "always" be strictly validated. Such a configuration is appropriate on systems which have a battery-backed clock and which can reasonably prompt the user to manually set an approximately-correct time if it appears to be needed.
Once the clock has been synchronized, periodically write the current system time to persistent storage. Do not accept any certificate whose notAfter field is earlier than the last recorded time.

Do not process time packets from servers if the time computed from them falls outside the validity period of the server’s certificate.

Use multiple time sources. The ability to pass off an expired certificate is only useful to an adversary who has compromised the corresponding private key. If the adversary has compromised only a minority of servers, NTP’s selection algorithm (RFC 5905 section 11.2.1 [RFC5905]) will protect the client from accepting bad time from the adversary-controlled servers.

9.4. Delay Attacks

In a packet delay attack, an adversary with the ability to act as a man-in-the-middle delays time synchronization packets between client and server asymmetrically [RFC7384]. Since NTP’s formula for computing time offset relies on the assumption that network latency is roughly symmetrical, this leads to the client to compute an inaccurate value [Mizrahi]. The delay attack does not reorder or modify the content of the exchanged synchronization packets. Therefore, cryptographic means do not provide a feasible way to mitigate this attack. However, the maximum error that an adversary can introduce is bounded by half of the round trip delay.

RFC 5905 [RFC5905] specifies a parameter called MAXDIST which denotes the maximum round-trip latency (including not only the immediate round trip between client and server, but the whole distance back to the reference clock as reported in the Root Delay field) that a client will tolerate before concluding that the server is unsuitable for synchronization. The standard value for MAXDIST is one second, although some implementations use larger values. Whatever value a client chooses, the maximum error which can be introduced by a delay attack is MAXDIST/2.

Usage of multiple time sources, or multiple network paths to a given time source [Shpiner], may also serve to mitigate delay attacks if the adversary is in control of only some of the paths.

9.5. Random Number Generation

At various points in NTS, the generation of cryptographically secure random numbers is required. Whenever this draft specifies the use of random numbers, cryptographically secure random number generation
10. Privacy Considerations

10.1. Unlinkability

Unlinkability prevents a device from being tracked when it changes network addresses (e.g. because said device moved between different networks). In other words, unlinkability thwarts an attacker that seeks to link a new network address used by a device with a network address that it was formerly using, because of recognizable data that the device persistently sends as part of an NTS-secured NTP association. This is the justification for continually supplying the client with fresh cookies, so that a cookie never represents recognizable data in the sense outlined above.

NTS’s unlinkability objective is merely to not leak any additional data that could be used to link a device’s network address. NTS does not rectify legacy linkability issues that are already present in NTP. Thus, a client that requires unlinkability must also minimize information transmitted in a client query (mode 3) packet as described in the draft [I-D.ietf-ntp-data-minimization].

The unlinkability objective only holds for time synchronization traffic, as opposed to key exchange traffic. This implies that it cannot be guaranteed for devices that function not only as time clients, but also as time servers (because the latter can be externally triggered to send authentication data).

It should also be noted that it could be possible to link devices that operate as time servers from their time synchronization traffic, using information exposed in (mode 4) server response packets (e.g. reference ID, reference time, stratum, poll). Also, devices that respond to NTP control queries could be linked using the information revealed by control queries.

Note that the unlinkability objective does not prevent a client device to be tracked by its time servers.

10.2. Confidentiality

NTS does not protect the confidentiality of information in NTP’s header fields. When clients implement [I-D.ietf-ntp-data-minimization], client packet headers do not contain any information which the client could conceivably wish to keep secret: one field is random, and all others are fixed. Information in server packet headers is likewise public: the origin
timestamp is copied from the client’s (random) transmit timestamp, and all other fields are set the same regardless of the identity of the client making the request.

Future extension fields could hypothetically contain sensitive information, in which case NTS provides a mechanism for encrypting them.

11. Acknowledgements

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12. References

12.1. Normative References


12.2. Informative References


Appendix A. Terms and Abbreviations

AEAD    Authenticated Encryption with Associated Data [RFC5116]
ALPN    Application-Layer Protocol Negotiation [RFC7301]
C2S     Client-to-server
DDoS    Distributed Denial-of-Service
EF      Extension Field [RFC5905]
HKDF    Hashed Message Authentication Code-based Key Derivation Function [RFC5869]
IANA    Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
IP      Internet Protocol
KoD     Kiss-o’-Death [RFC5905]
NTP     Network Time Protocol [RFC5905]
NTS     Network Time Security
NTS-KE  Network Time Security Key Exchange
S2C     Server-to-client
SCSV    Signaling Cipher Suite Value [RFC7507]
TCP     Transmission Control Protocol [RFC0793]
TLS     Transport Layer Security [RFC8446]
UDP     User Datagram Protocol [RFC0768]
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A YANG Data Model for NTP
draft-ietf-ntp-yang-data-model-03

Abstract

This document defines a YANG data model for Network Time Protocol (NTP) implementations. The data model includes configuration data and state data.

Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

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This Internet-Draft will expire on December 24, 2018.
1. Introduction


The data model covers configuration of system parameters of NTP, such as access rules, authentication and VPN Routing and Forwarding (VRF) binding, and also associations of NTP in different modes and parameters of per-interface. It also provides information about running state of NTP implementations.

1.1. Operational State

NTP Operational State is included in the same tree as NTP configuration, consistent with Network Management Datastore Architecture [RFC8342]. NTP current state and statistics are also maintained in the operational state. Additionally, the operational state also include the associations state.

1.2. Terminology

The terminology used in this document is aligned to [RFC5905].

1.3. Tree Diagrams

A simplified graphical representation of the data model is used in this document. This document uses the graphical representation of data models defined in [RFC8340].

1.4. Prefixes in Data Node Names

In this document, names of data nodes and other data model objects are often used without a prefix, as long as it is clear from the context in which YANG module each name is defined. Otherwise, names are prefixed using the standard prefix associated with the corresponding YANG module, as shown in Table 1.
2. NTP data model

This document defines the YANG module "ietf-ntp", which has the following structure:

module: ietf-ntp
  +--rw ntp!
    | +--rw port? uint16 {ntp-port}?
    | +--rw refclock-master!
    |    +--rw master-stratum? ntp-stratum
    | +--rw authentication
    |    +--rw auth-enabled? boolean
    |    +--rw trusted-keys* [key-id]  
    |         +--rw key-id
    |            -> /ntp/authentication/authentication-keys/key-id
    |    +--rw authentication-keys* [key-id]  
    |         +--rw key-id uint32
    |         +--rw algorithm? identityref
    |         +--rw password? ianach:crypt-hash
    | +--rw access-rules
    |    +--rw access-rule* [access-mode]  
    |        +--rw access-mode access-modes
    |        +--rw acl? -> /acl:acls/acl/name
  +--ro clock-state
    | +--ro system-status
    |    +--ro clock-state ntp-clock-status
    |    +--ro clock-stratum ntp-stratum
    |    +--ro clock-refid union
    |    +--ro associations-address?
    |         -> /ntp/associations/address
    |    +--ro associations-local-mode?
    |         -> /ntp/associations/local-mode
    | +--ro associations-isConfigured?
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|     |       -> /ntp/associations/isConfigured
|     +--ro nominal-freq             decimal64
|     +--ro actual-freq              decimal64
|     +--ro clock-precision          uint8
|     +--ro clock-offset?            decimal64
|     +--ro root-delay?              decimal64
|     +--ro root-dispersion?         decimal64
|     +--ro reference-time?          yang:date-and-time
|     +--ro sync-state               ntp-sync-state

+-rw unicast-configuration* [address type]
  +--rw address            inet:host
  +--rw type               unicast-configuration-type
  +--rw authentication    
    +--rw (authentication-type)?
      +--:(symmetric-key)
        +--rw key-id?   leafref
  +--rw prefer?           boolean
  +--rw burst?            boolean
  +--rw iburst?           boolean
  +--rw source?           if:interface-ref
  +--rw minpoll?          ntp-minpoll
  +--rw maxpoll?          ntp-maxpoll
  +--rw port?             uint16 {ntp-port}?
  +--rw version?          ntp-version

+-rw associations* [address local-mode isConfigured]
  +--ro address            inet:host
  +--ro local-mode         association-modes
  +--ro isConfigured       boolean
  +--ro stratum?           ntp-stratum
  +--ro refid?             union
    -> /ntp/authentication/authentication-keys/key-id
  +--ro prefer?           boolean
  +--ro peer-interface?    if:interface-ref
  +--ro minpoll?           ntp-minpoll
  +--ro maxpoll?           ntp-maxpoll
  +--ro port?             uint16 {ntp-port}?
  +--ro version?          ntp-version
  +--ro reach?            uint8
  +--ro unreach?          uint8
  +--ro poll?             uint8
  +--ro now?              uint32
  +--ro offset?           decimal64
  +--ro delay?            decimal64
  +--ro dispersion?       decimal64
  +--ro originate-time?   yang:date-and-time
  +--ro receive-time?     yang:date-and-time
  +--ro transmit-time?    yang:date-and-time

YANG for NTP

++-ro input-time? yang:date-and-time
++-ro ntp-statistics
  |  +--ro packet-sent? yang:counter32
  |  +--ro packet-sent-fail? yang:counter32
  |  +--ro packet-received? yang:counter32
  |  +--ro packet-dropped? yang:counter32
++-rw interfaces
  +-rw interface* [name]
    |  +--rw name if:interface-ref
    |  +--rw broadcast-server!
    |    |  +--rw ttl? uint8
    |    +--rw authentication
    |    |    |  +--rw (authentication-type)?
    |    |    |    +--:(symmetric-key)
    |    |    |    +--rw key-id? leafref
    |    |    +--rw minpoll? ntp-minpoll
    |    |    +--rw maxpoll? ntp-maxpoll
    |    |    +--rw port? uint16 {ntp-port}?
    |    |    +--rw version? ntp-version
    +--rw broadcast-client!
      +--rw multicast-server* [address]
      |  +--rw address rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address
      |  +--rw ttl? uint8
      +--rw authentication
      |    |  +--rw (authentication-type)?
      |    |    +--:(symmetric-key)
      |    |    +--rw key-id? leafref
      |    +--rw minpoll? ntp-minpoll
      |    +--rw maxpoll? ntp-maxpoll
      |    +--rw port? uint16 {ntp-port}?
      |    +--rw version? ntp-version
      +--rw multicast-client* [address]
      |  +--rw address rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address
      |  +--rw authentication
      |    |  +--rw (authentication-type)?
      |    |    +--:(symmetric-key)
      |    |    +--rw key-id? leafref
      |    +--rw ttl? uint8
      |    +--rw minclock? uint8
      |    +--rw maxclock? uint8
      |    +--rw beacon? uint8
      |    +--rw minpoll? ntp-minpoll
      +--rw manycast-server* [address]
      |  +--rw address rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address
      +--rw manycast-client* [address]
      |  +--rw address rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address
      +--rw authentication
      |  +--rw (authentication-type)?
      |    +--:(symmetric-key)
      |    +--rw key-id? leafref
      +--rw ttl? uint8
      +--rw minpoll? uint8
      +--rw maxpoll? uint8
      +--rw beacon? uint8
      +--rw minpoll? ntp-minpoll
This data model defines one top-level container which includes both the NTP configuration and the NTP running state including access rules, authentication, associations, unicast configurations, interfaces, system status and associations.

3. Relationship with NTPv4-MIB

If the device implements the NTPv4-MIB [RFC5907], data nodes from YANG module can be mapped to table entries in NTPv4-MIB.

The following tables list the YANG data nodes with corresponding objects in the NTPv4-MIB.
YANG NTP Configuration Data Nodes and Related NTPv4-MIB Objects

YANG data nodes in /ntp/ | NTPv4-MIB objects
---|---
ntp-enabled | ntpEntStatusCurrentMode

YANG data nodes in /ntp/associations | NTPv4-MIB objects
---|---
address | ntpAssocAddressType
| ntpAssocAddress

YANG NTP State Data Nodes and Related NTPv4-MIB Objects

YANG data nodes in /ntp/clock-state/system-status | NTPv4-MIB objects
---|---
clock-state | ntpEntStatusCurrentMode
| ntpEntStatusStratum
| ntpEntStatusActiveRefSourceId
| ntpEntStatusActiveRefSourceName
| ntpEntTimePrecision
| ntpEntStatusActiveOffset
| ntpEntStatusDispersion
clock-stratum
clock-refid
clock-precision
clock-offset
root-dispersion

YANG data nodes in /ntp/associations/ | NTPv4-MIB objects
---|---
address | ntpAssocAddressType
| ntpAssocAddress
| ntpAssocStratum
| ntpAssocRefId
| ntpAssocOffset
| ntpAssocStatusDelay
| ntpAssocStatusDispersion
stratum
refid
offset
delay
dispersion
ntp-statistics/packet-sent
ntp-statistics/packet-received
ntp-statistics/packet-dropped
| ntpAssocStatOutPkts
| ntpAssocStatInPkts
| ntpAssocStatProtocolError
4. Relationship with RFC 7317

This section describes the relationship with NTP definition in Section 3.2 System Time Management of [RFC7317]. YANG data nodes in /ntp/ also supports per-interface configurations which is not supported in /system/ntp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YANG data nodes in /ntp/</th>
<th>YANG data nodes in /system/ntp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ntp-enabled</td>
<td>enabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unicast-configuration</td>
<td>server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unicast-configuration/address</td>
<td>server/transport/udp/address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unicast-configuration/port</td>
<td>server/transport/udp/port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unicast-configuration/type</td>
<td>server/association-type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unicast-configuration/iburst</td>
<td>server/iburst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unicast-configuration/prefer</td>
<td>server/prefer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YANG NTP Configuration Data Nodes and counterparts in RFC 7317

5. NTP YANG Module

```<CODE BEGINS> file "ietf-ntp@2018-06-22.yang"
module ietf-ntp {
    yang-version 1.1;
    namespace "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp";
    prefix "ntp";

    import ietf-yang-types {
        prefix "yang";
        reference "RFC 6991";
    }

    import ietf-inet-types {
        prefix "inet";
        reference "RFC 6991";
    }

    import ietf-interfaces {
        prefix "if";
        reference "RFC 8343";
    }
```
import iana-crypt-hash {
    prefix "ianach";
    reference "RFC 7317";
}

import ietf-key-chain {
    prefix "key-chain";
    reference "RFC 8177";
}

import ietf-access-control-list {
    prefix "acl";
    reference "RFC XXXX";
}

import ietf-routing-types {
    prefix "rt-types";
    reference "RFC 8294";
}

organization
    "IETF NTP (Network Time Protocol) Working Group";

contact
    "WG Web: <http://tools.ietf.org/wg/ntp/>
    WG List: <mailto: ntpwg@lists.ntp.org
    Editor: Eric Wu
        <mailto:eric.wu@huawei.com>
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    Editor: Dhruv Dhody
        <mailto:dhruv.ietf@gmail.com>
    Editor: Ankit Kumar Sinha
        <mailto:ankit.ietf@gmail.com>";

description
    "This YANG module defines essential components for the
    management of a routing subsystem.

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    Redistribution and use in source and binary forms,
    with or without modification, is permitted pursuant to,
    and subject to the license terms contained in, the
    Simplified BSD License set forth in Section 4.c of the
    IETF Trust’s Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents
typedef ntp-stratum {
    type uint8 {
        range "1..16";
    }
}

description
    "The level of each server in the hierarchy is defined by a stratum number. Primary servers are assigned stratum one; secondary servers at each lower level are assigned stratum numbers one greater than the preceding level";

typedef ntp-version {
    type uint8 {
        range "1..4";
        default "3";
    }
}

description
    "The current NTP version supported by corresponding association";

typedef ntp-minpoll {
    type uint8 {
        range "4..17";
        default "6";
    }
}

description
    "The minimum poll exponent for this NTP association";

typedef ntp-maxpoll {
    type uint8 {
        range "4..17";
    }
}
typedef access-modes {
  enum peer {
    value "0";
    description
      "Sets the fully access authority. Both time
      request and control query can be performed
      on the local NTP service, and the local clock
      can be synchronized to the remote server.";
  }
  enum server {
    value "1";
    description
      "Enables the server access and query.
      Both time requests and control query can be
      performed on the local NTP service, but the
      local clock cannot be synchronized to the
      remote server.";
  }
  enum synchronization {
    value "2";
    description
      "Enables the server to access.
      Only time request can be performed on the
      local NTP service.";
  }
  enum query {
    value "3";
    description
      "Sets the maximum access limitation.
      Control query can be performed only on the
      local NTP service.";
  }
}

description
  "This defines NTP access modes.";
}

typedef unicast-configuration-type {
  type enumeration {
    enum server {
      value "0";
      description
        "Sets the server configuration. Control
        query can be performed on the local NTP
        service.";
    }
    enum peer {
      value "1";
      description
        "Sets the peer configuration. Both time
        request and control query can be performed
        on the local NTP service, and the local clock
        can be synchronized to the remote server.";
    }
    enum synchronization {
      value "2";
      description
        "Enables the server to synchronize.
        Only time request can be performed on the
        local NTP service.";
    }
  }
}

description
  "This defines NTP unicast configurations.";
}
"Use client association mode. This device will not provide synchronization to the configured NTP server."
}
enum peer {
  value "1";
  description
    "Use symmetric active association mode. This device may provide synchronization to the configured NTP server.";
}
description
  "This defines NTP unicast mode of operation."
}
typedef association-modes {
  type enumeration {
    enum client {
      value "0";
      description
        "Use client association mode (mode 3). This device will not provide synchronization to the configured NTP server.";
    }
    enum active {
      value "1";
      description
        "Use symmetric active association mode (mode 1). This device may synchronize with its NTP peer, or provide synchronization to configured NTP peer.";
    }
    enum passive {
      value "2";
      description
        "Use symmetric passive association mode (mode 2). This device has learnt this asso dynamically. This device may synchronize with its NTP peer.";
    }
    enum broadcast {
      value "3";
      description
        "Use broadcast mode (mode 5). This mode defines that its eithier working as broadcast-server or multicast-server.";
    }
    enum broadcast-client {
      value "4";
      description

"This mode defines that its eigther working as broadcast-client or multicast-client."
}

description
 "This defines NTP association modes.";
}

typedef ntp-clock-status {
 type enumeration {
 enum synchronized {
 value "0";
 description
 "Indicates that the local clock has been synchronized with an NTP server or the reference clock.";
 }
 enum unsynchronized {
 value "1";
 description
 "Indicates that the local clock has not been synchronized with any NTP server.";
 }
}

description
 "This defines NTP clock status.";
}

typedef ntp-sync-state {
 type enumeration {
 enum clock-not-set {
 value "0";
 description
 "Indicates the clock is not updated.";
 }
 enum freq-set-by-cfg {
 value "1";
 description
 "Indicates the clock frequency is set by NTP configuration.";
 }
 enum clock-set {
 value "2";
 description
 "Indicates the clock is set.";
 }
 enum freq-not-determined {
 value "3";
}
description
"Indicates the clock is set but the frequency is not determined.";
}
enum clock-synchronized {
  value "4";
  description
  "Indicates that the clock is synchronized";
}
enum spike {
  value "5";
  description
  "Indicates a time difference of more than 128 milliseconds is detected between NTP server and client clock. The clock change will take effect in XXX seconds.";
}
}
description
"This defines NTP clock sync states.";
}

/* feature */
feature ntp-port {
  description
  "Indicates that the device supports the configuration of the port for NTP.

  This is a ‘feature’, since many implementations do not support any port other than the default port.";
}

/* Groupings */
grouping authentication-key {
  description
  "To define an authentication key for a Network Time Protocol (NTP) time source.";
  leaf key-id {
    type uint32 {
      range "1..max";
    }
    description
    "Authentication key identifier.";
  }
  leaf algorithm {
    type identityref {
      base key-chain:crypto-algorithm;
    }
  }
}
description "Authentication algorithm.";
}
leaf password {
  type ianach:crypt-hash;
  description "Clear or encrypted mode for password text.";
}

grouping authentication-type-param {
  description "Authentication type.";
  choice authentication-type {
    description "Type of authentication.";
    case symmetric-key {
      leaf key-id {
        type leafref {
          path "/ntp:ntp/ntp:authentication/" + "ntp:authentication-keys/ntp:key-id";
        }
        description "Authentication key id referenced in this association.";
      }
    }
  }
}

grouping statistics {
  description "NTP packet statistic.";
  leaf packet-sent {
    type yang:counter32;
    description "Indicates the total number of packets sent.";
  }
  leaf packet-sent-fail {
    type yang:counter32;
    description "Indicates the number of times packet sending failed.";
  }
  leaf packet-received {
    type yang:counter32;
    description "Indicates the total number of packets received.";
  }
}
leaf packet-dropped {
    type yang:counter32;
    description
        "Indicates the number of packets dropped."
}

grouping comman-attributes {
    description
        "NTP common attributes for configuration."
    leaf minpoll {
        type ntp-minpoll;
        description
            "The minimum poll interval used in this association."
    }
    leaf maxpoll {
        type ntp-maxpoll;
        description
            "The maximum poll interval used in this association."
    }
    leaf port {
        if-feature ntp-port;
        type uint16 {
            range "123 | 1025..max"
        }
        default "123";
        description
            "Specify the port used to send NTP packets."
    }
    leaf version {
        type ntp-version;
        description
            "NTP version."
    }
}

grouping association-ref {
    description
        "Reference to NTP association mode";
    leaf associations-address {
        type leafref {
            path "/ntp:ntp/ntp:associations/ntp:address"
        }
        description
            "Indicates the association address
            which result in clock synchronization."
    }
    leaf associations-local-mode {
type leafref {
    path "/ntp:ntp/ntp:associations/ntp:local-mode";
}
description
"Indicates the association local-mode which result in clock synchronization.";

leaf associations-isConfigured {
    type leafref {
        path "/ntp:ntp/ntp:associations/
        + "ntp:isConfigured";
    }
    description
    "Indicates the association was configured or dynamic which result in clock synchronization.";
}

/* Configuration data nodes */
container ntp {
    presence
    "NTP is enable";
    description
    "Configuration parameters for NTP.";
    leaf port {
        if-feature ntp-port;
        type uint16 {
            range "123 | 1025..max";
        }
        default "123";
        description
        "Specify the port used to send NTP packets.";
    }
    container refclock-master {
        presence
        "NTP master clock is enable";
        description
        "Configures the device as NTP server.";
        leaf master-stratum {
            type ntp-stratum;
            default "16";
            description
            "Stratum level from which NTP clients get their time synchronized.";
        }
    }
    container authentication {
        description
"Configuration of authentication."

leaf auth-enabled {
  type boolean;
  default false;
  description
  "Controls whether NTP authentication is enabled
  or disabled on this device."
}

list trusted-keys {
  key "key-id";
  description
  "List of keys trusted by NTP."
  leaf key-id {
    type leafref {
      path "/ntp:ntp/ntp:authentication/
        + ":authentication-keys/ntp:key-id";
    }
    description
    "The key trusted by NTP."
  }
}

list authentication-keys {
  key "key-id";
  uses authentication-key;
  description
  "List of authentication key."
}

container access-rules {
  description
  "Configuration of access rules."
  list access-rule {
    key "access-mode";
    description
    "List of access rules."
    leaf access-mode {
      type access-modes;
      description
      "NTP access mode."
    }
    leaf acl {
      type leafref {
        path "/acl:acls/acl:acl/acl:name";
      }
      description
      "NTP ACL."
    }
  }
}
container clock-state {
  config "false";
  description
    "Operational state of the NTP.";
}

container system-status {
  description
    "System status of NTP.";
  leaf clock-state {
    type ntp-clock-status;
    mandatory true;
    description "Indicates the state of system clock.";
  }
  leaf clock-stratum {
    type ntp-stratum;
    mandatory true;
    description
      "Indicates the stratum of the reference clock.";
  }
  leaf clock-refid {
    type union {
      type inet:ipv4-address;
      type binary {
        length "4";
      }
      type string {
        length "4";
      }
    }
    mandatory true;
    description
      "IPv4 address or first 32 bits of the MD5 hash of
      the IPv6 address or reference clock of the peer to
      which clock is synchronized.";
  }
  uses association-ref {
    description
      "Reference to Association mode";
  }
  leaf nominal-freq {
    type decimal64 {
      fraction-digits 4;
    }
    mandatory true;
  }
description
  "Indicates the nominal frequency of the local clock, in Hz."
}
leaf actual-freq {
  type decimal64 {
    fraction-digits 4;
  }
  mandatory true;
  description
    "Indicates the actual frequency of the local clock, in Hz."
}
leaf clock-precision {
  type uint8;
  mandatory true;
  description
    "Precision of the clock of this system in Hz. (prec=2^-n)"
}
leaf clock-offset {
  type decimal64 {
    fraction-digits 4;
  }
  description
    "Offset of clock to synchronized peer, in milliseconds."
}
leaf root-delay {
  type decimal64 {
    fraction-digits 2;
  }
  description
    "Total delay along path to root clock, in milliseconds."
}
leaf root-dispersion {
  type decimal64 {
    fraction-digits 2;
  }
  description
    "Indicates the dispersion between the local clock and the master reference clock, in milliseconds."
}
leaf reference-time {
  type yang:date-and-time;
  description
    "Indicates reference timestamp.";
leaf sync-state {
      type ntp-sync-state;
      mandatory true;
      description
         "Indicates the synchronization status of
         the local clock."
}

list unicast-configuration {
  key "address type";
  description
     "list of unicast-configuration.";
  leaf address {
      type inet:host;
      description
         "The address of this association.";
  }
  leaf type {
      type unicast-configuration-type;
      description
         "Type for this NTP configuration";
  }
  container authentication{
      description
         "Authentication type.";
      uses authentication-type-param;
  }
  leaf prefer {
      type boolean;
      default "false";
      description
         "Whether this association is preferred.";
  }
  leaf burst {
      type boolean;
      default "false";
      description
         "Sends a series of packets instead of a single packet
         within each synchronization interval to achieve faster
         synchronization.";
  }
  leaf iburst {
      type boolean;
      default "false";
      description
         "Sends a series of packets instead of a single packet
within the initial synchronization interval to achieve
closer synchronization.";
}
leaf source {
  type if:interface-ref;
  description
  "The interface whose ip address this association used
  as source address.";
}
uses common-attributes {
  description
  "Common attribute like port, version, min and max
  poll.";
}
list associations {
  key "address local-mode isConfigured";
  config "false";
  description
  "list of NTP association.";
  leaf address {
    type inet:host;
    description
    "The address of this association.";
  }
  leaf local-mode {
    type association-modes;
    description
    "Local mode for this NTP association.";
  }
  leaf isConfigured {
    type boolean;
    description
    "Whether this association is configured or
    dynamically learnt.";
  }
  leaf stratum {
    type ntp-stratum;
    description
    "Indicates the stratum of the reference clock.";
  }
  leaf refid {
    type union {
      type inet:ipv4-address;
      type binary {
        length "4";
      }
      type string {

leaf reference {
    type leafref {
        path "/ntp:ntp/ntp:authentication/ntp:authentication-keys/ntp:key-id";
    }
    description
        "Reference clock type or address for the peer."
}

leaf authentication{
    type leafref {
        path "/ntp:ntp/ntp:authentication/ntp:authentication-keys/ntp:key-id";
    }
    description
        "Authentication Key used for this association."
}

leaf prefer {
    type boolean;
    default "false";
    description
        "Whether this association is preferred."
}

leaf peer-interface {
    type if:interface-ref;
    description
        "The interface which is used for communication."
}

uses comman-attributes {
    description
        "Common attribute like port, version, min and max poll."
}

leaf reach {
    type uint8;
    description
        "Indicates the reachability of the configured server or peer."
}

leaf unreach {
    type uint8;
    description
        "Indicates the unreachability of the configured server or peer."
}

leaf poll {
    type uint8;
    description
        "Indicates the polling interval for current, in seconds."
}
leaf now {
    type uint32;
    description
        "Indicates the time since the NTP packet was not received or last synchronized, in seconds.";
}
leaf offset {
    type decimal64 {
        fraction-digits 4;
    }
    description
        "Indicates the offset between the local clock and the superior reference clock.";
}
leaf delay {
    type decimal64 {
        fraction-digits 2;
    }
    description
        "Indicates the delay between the local clock and the superior reference clock.";
}
leaf dispersion {
    type decimal64 {
        fraction-digits 2;
    }
    description
        "Indicates the dispersion between the local clock and the superior reference clock.";
}
leaf originate-time {
    type yang:date-and-time;
    description
        "Indicates packet originate timestamp(T1).";
}
leaf receive-time {
    type yang:date-and-time;
    description
        "Indicates packet receive timestamp(T2).";
}
leaf transmit-time {
    type yang:date-and-time;
    description
        "Indicates packet transmit timestamp(T3).";
}
leaf input-time {
    type yang:date-and-time;
    description
"Indicates packet input timestamp(T4).";
}
container ntp-statistics {
    description "Per Peer packet send and receive statistic.";
    uses statistics {
        description "NTP send and receive packet statistic.";
    }
}
}

container interfaces {
    description "Configuration parameters for NTP interfaces.";
    list interface {
        key "name";
        description "List of interfaces.";
        leaf name {
            type if:interface-ref;
            description "The interface name.";
        }
    }
}

container broadcast-server {
    presence "NTP broadcast-server is configured";
    description "Configuration of broadcast server.";
    leaf ttl {
        type uint8;
        description "Specifies the time to live (TTL) of a broadcast packet.";
    }
}

container authentication {
    description "Authentication type.";
    uses authentication-type-param;
}

uses common-attributes {
    description "Common attribute like port, version, min and max poll.";
}
}
container broadcast-client {
    presence
        "NTP broadcast-client is configured";
    description
        "Configuration of broadcast-client.";
}

list multicast-server {
    key "address";
    description
        "Configuration of multicast server.";
    leaf address {
        type rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address;
        description
            "The IP address to send NTP multicast packets.";
    }
    leaf ttl {
        type uint8;
        description
            "Specifies the time to live (TTL) of a multicast packet.";
    }
}

container authentication{
    description
        "Authentication type.";
    uses authentication-type-param;
}

uses comman-attributes {
    description
        "Common attribute like port, version, min and max poll.";
}

list multicast-client {
    key "address";
    description
        "Configuration of multicast-client.";
    leaf address {
        type rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address;
        description
            "The IP address of the multicast group to join.";
    }
}

list manycast-server {
    key "address";
    description
        "Configuration of manycast server.";
}
leaf address {
    type rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address;
    description
        "The multicast group IP address to receive
        manycast client messages.";
}
reference
    "RFC 5905";
}
list manycast-client {
    key "address";
    description
        "Configuration of manycast-client.";
    leaf address {
        type rt-types:ip-multicast-group-address;
        description
            "The group IP address that the manycast client
            broadcasts the request message to.";
    }
    container authentication{
        description
            "Authentication type.";
        uses authentication-type-param;
    }
    leaf ttl {
        type uint8;
        description
            "Specifies the maximum time to live (TTL) for
            the expanding ring search.";
    }
    leaf minclock {
        type uint8;
        description
            "The minimum manycast survivors in this
            association.";
    }
    leaf maxclock {
        type uint8;
        description
            "The maximum manycast candidates in this
            association.";
    }
    leaf beacon {
        type uint8;
        description
            "The maximum interval between beacons in this
            association.";
    }
}
uses common-attributes {
  description
    "Common attribute like port, version, min and max poll.";
}
reference
  "RFC 5905";
}
}

container ntp-statistics {
  config "false";
  description
    "Total NTP packet statistic.";
  uses statistics {
    description
      "NTP send and receive packet statistic.";
  }
}
}

<CODE ENDS>

6. Usage Example

6.1. Unicast association

Below is the example on how to configure a preferred unicast server present at 192.0.2.1 running at port 1025 with authentication-key 10 and version 4
<edit-config xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <target>
    <running/>
  </target>
  <config>
    <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
      <unicast-configuration>
        <address>192.0.2.1</address>
        <type>server</type>
        <prefer>true</prefer>
        <version>4</version>
        <port>1025</port>
        <authentication>
          <symmetric-key>
            <key-id>10</key-id>
          </symmetric-key>
        </authentication>
      </unicast-configuration>
    </ntp>
  </config>
</edit-config>

An example with IPv6 would use an IPv6 address (say 2001:DB8::1) in the "address" leaf with no change in any other data tree.

Below is the example on how to get unicast configuration

<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:unicast-configuration/>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <unicast-configuration>
      <address>192.0.2.1</address>
      <type>server</type>
      <authentication>
        <symmetric-key>
          <key-id>10</key-id>
        </symmetric-key>
      </authentication>
      <prefer>true</prefer>
      <burst>false</burst>
    </unicast-configuration>
  </ntp>
</data>
6.2. Refclock master

Below is the example on how to configure reference clock with stratum 8
<edit-config xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <target>
    <running/>
  </target>
  <config>
    <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
      <refclock-master>
        <master-stratum>8</master-stratum>
      </refclock-master>
    </ntp>
  </config>
</edit-config>

Below is the example on how to get reference clock configuration

<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:refclock-master>
        <sys:refclock-master>
        </sys:refclock-master>
      </sys:ntp>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <refclock-master>
      <master-stratum>8</master-stratum>
    </refclock-master>
  </ntp>
</data>

6.3. Authentication configuration

Below is the example on how to enable authentication and configure authentication key 10 with mode as md5 and password as abcd
<edit-config xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <target>
    <running/>
  </target>
  <config>
    <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
      <authentication>
        <auth-enabled>true</auth-enabled>
        <authentication-keys>
          <key-id>10</key-id>
          <algorithm>md5</algorithm>
          <password>abcd</password>
        </authentication-keys>
      </authentication>
    </ntp>
  </config>
</edit-config>

Below is the example on how to get authentication related configuration

<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:authentication>
        <sys:authentication>
      </sys:ntp>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <authentication>
      <auth-enabled>false</auth-enabled>
      <trusted-keys/>
      <authentication-keys>
        <key-id>10</key-id>
        <algorithm>md5</algorithm>
        <password>abcd</password>
      </authentication-keys>
    </authentication>
  </ntp>
</data>
6.4. Access configuration

Below is the example on how to configure access type peer associated with acl 2000

<edit-config xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <target>
    <running/>
  </target>
  <config>
    <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
      <access-rules>
        <access-rule>
          <access-mode>peer</access-mode>
          <acl>2000</acl>
        </access-rule>
      </access-rules>
    </ntp>
  </config>
</edit-config>

Below is the example on how to get access related configuration

<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:access-rules/>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <access-rules>
      <access-rule>
        <access-mode>peer</access-mode>
        <acl>2000</acl>
      </access-rule>
    </access-rules>
  </ntp>
</data>

6.5. Multicast configuration

Below is the example on how to configure multicast-server with address as "224.1.1.1", port as 1025 and authentication keyid as 10
Below is the example on how to get multicast-server related configuration
Below is the example on how to configure multicast-client with address as "224.1.1.1"
<edit-config xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <target>
    <running/>
  </target>
  <config>
    <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
      <interfaces>
        <interface>
          <name>Ethernet3/0/0</name>
          <multicast-client>
            <address>224.1.1.1</address>
          </multicast-client>
        </interface>
      </interfaces>
    </ntp>
  </config>
</edit-config>

Below is the example on how to get multicast-client related configuration

<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:interfaces>
        <sys:interface>
          <sys:multicast-client/>
        </sys:interface>
      </sys:interfaces>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <interfaces>
      <interface>
        <name>Ethernet3/0/0</name>
        <multicast-client>
          <address>224.1.1.1</address>
        </multicast-client>
      </interface>
    </interfaces>
  </ntp>
</data>
6.6. Manycast configuration

Below is the example on how to configure manycast-client with address as "224.1.1.1", port as 1025 and authentication keyid as 10

```xml
<edit-config xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <target>
    <running/>
  </target>
  <config>
    <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
      <interfaces>
        <interface>
          <name>Ethernet3/0/0</name>
          <manycast-client>
            <address>224.1.1.1</address>
            <authentication>
              <symmetric-key>
                <key-id>10</key-id>
              </symmetric-key>
            </authentication>
            <port>1025</port>
          </manycast-client>
        </interface>
      </interfaces>
    </ntp>
  </config>
</edit-config>
```

Below is the example on how to get manycast-client related configuration
Below is the example on how to configure manycast-server with address as "224.1.1.1"
<edit-config xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <target>
    <running/>
  </target>
  <config>
    <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
      <interfaces>
        <interface>
          <name>Ethernet3/0/0</name>
          <manycast-server>
            <address>224.1.1.1</address>
          </manycast-server>
        </interface>
      </interfaces>
    </ntp>
  </config>
</edit-config>

Below is the example on how to get manycast-server related configuration

<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <interfaces>
        <interface>
          <sys:manycast-server/>
        </interface>
      </interfaces>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <interfaces>
      <interface>
        <name>Ethernet3/0/0</name>
        <manycast-server>
          <address>224.1.1.1</address>
        </manycast-server>
      </interface>
    </interfaces>
  </ntp>
</data>
6.7. Clock state

Below is the example on how to get clock current state

```xml
<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:clock-state/>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>
```

```xml
<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <clock-state>
      <system-status>
        <clock-state>synchronized</clock-state>
        <clock-stratum>7</clock-stratum>
        <clock-refid>192.0.2.1</clock-refid>
        <associations-address>192.0.2.1</associations-address>
        <associations-local-mode>client</associations-local-mode>
        <associations-isConfigured>yes</associations-isConfigured>
        <nominal-freq>100.0</nominal-freq>
        <actual-freq>100.0</actual-freq>
        <clock-precision>18</clock-precision>
        <clock-offset>0.025</clock-offset>
        <root-delay>0.5</root-delay>
        <root-dispersion>0.8</root-dispersion>
        <reference-time>10-10-2017 07:33:55.258 Z+05:30</reference-time>
      </system-status>
    </clock-state>
  </ntp>
</data>
```

6.8. Get all association

Below is the example on how to get all association present
<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:associations>
      </sys:associations>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <associations>
      <address>192.0.2.1</address>
      <stratum>9</stratum>
      <refid>20.1.1.1</refid>
      <local-mode>client</local-mode>
      <isConfigured>true</isConfigured>
      <authentication-key>10</authentication-key>
      <prefer>true</prefer>
      <peer-interface>Ethernet3/0/0</peer-interface>
      <minpoll>6</minpoll>
      <maxpoll>10</maxpoll>
      <port>1025</port>
      <version>4</version>
      <reach>255</reach>
      <unreach>0</unreach>
      <poll>128</poll>
      <now>10</now>
      <offset>0.025</offset>
      <delay>0.5</delay>
      <dispersion>0.6</dispersion>
      <originate-time>10-10-2017 07:33:55.253 Z+05:30</originate-time>
      <receive-time>10-10-2017 07:33:55.258 Z+05:30</receive-time>
      <transmit-time>10-10-2017 07:33:55.300 Z+05:30</transmit-time>
      <input-time>10-10-2017 07:33:55.305 Z+05:30</input-time>
      <ntp-statistics>
        <packet-sent>20</packet-sent>
        <packet-sent-fail>0</packet-sent-fail>
        <packet-received>20</packet-received>
        <packet-dropped>0</packet-dropped>
      </ntp-statistics>
    </associations>
  </ntp>
</data>
6.9. Global statistic

Below is the example on how to get clock current state

```xml
<get>
  <filter type="subtree">
      <sys:ntp-statistics>
        </sys:ntp-statistics>
    </sys:ntp>
  </filter>
</get>

<data xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
  <ntp xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ntp">
    <ntp-statistics>
      <packet-sent>30</packet-sent>
      <packet-sent-fail>5</packet-sent-fail>
      <packet-received>20</packet-received>
      <packet-dropped>2</packet-dropped>
    </ntp-statistics>
  </ntp>
</data>
```

7. IANA Considerations

This document registers a URI in the "IETF XML Registry" [RFC3688]. Following the format in RFC 3688, the following registration has been made.


Registrant Contact: The NETMOD WG of the IETF.

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-ntp


Prefix: ntp

Reference: RFC XXXX
8. Security Considerations

The YANG module specified in this document defines a schema for data that is designed to be accessed via network management protocols such as NETCONF [RFC6241] or RESTCONF [RFC8040]. The lowest NETCONF layer is the secure transport layer, and the mandatory-to-implement secure transport is Secure Shell (SSH) [RFC6242]. The lowest RESTCONF layer is HTTPS, and the mandatory-to-implement secure transport is TLS [RFC5246].

The NETCONF access control model [RFC8341] provides the means to restrict access for particular NETCONF or RESTCONF users to a preconfigured subset of all available NETCONF or RESTCONF protocol operations and content.

There are a number of data nodes defined in this YANG module that 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. These are the subtrees and data nodes and their sensitivity/vulnerability:

- /ntp/port - This data node specify the port number to be used to send NTP packets. Unexpected changes could lead to disruption and/or network misbehavior.

- /ntp/authentication and /ntp/access-rules - The entries in the list include the authentication and access control configurations. Car should be taken while setting these parameters.

- /ntp/unicast-configuration - The entries in the list include all unicast configurations (server or peer mode), and indirectly creates or modify the NTP associations. Unexpected changes could lead to disruption and/or network misbehavior.

- /ntp/interfaces/interface - The entries in the list include all per-interface configurations related to broadcast, multicast and manycast mode, and indirectly creates or modify the NTP associations. Unexpected changes could lead to disruption and/or network misbehavior.

Some of the readable data nodes in this YANG module may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. It is thus important to control read access (e.g., via get, get-config, or notification) to these data nodes. These are the subtrees and data nodes and their sensitivity/vulnerability:
/ntp/associations - The entries in the list includes all active NTP associations of all modes. Unauthorized access to this needs to be curtailed.

9. Acknowledgments

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10. References

10.1. Normative References

[I-D.ietf-netmod-acl-model]


10.2.  Informative References


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Abstract

This document defines a YANG data model for the configuration of IEEE 1588-2008 devices and clocks, and also retrieval of the configuration information, data set and running states of IEEE 1588-2008 clocks. The YANG module in this document conforms to the Network Management Datastore Architecture (NMDA).

Status of this Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted to IETF in full conformance with the provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

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This Internet-Draft will expire on March 10, 2019.
1. Introduction

As a synchronization protocol, IEEE 1588-2008 [IEEE1588] is widely supported in the carrier networks, industrial networks, automotive networks, and many other applications. It can provide high precision time synchronization as fine as nano-seconds. The protocol depends on a Precision Time Protocol (PTP) engine to decide its own state automatically, and a PTP transportation layer to carry the PTP timing and various quality messages. The
configuration parameters and state data sets of IEEE 1588-2008 are numerous.

According to the concepts described in [RFC3444], IEEE 1588-2008 itself provides an information model in its normative specifications for the data sets (in IEEE 1588-2008 clause 8). Some standardization organizations including the IETF have specified data models in MIBs (Management Information Bases) for IEEE 1588-2008 data sets (e.g. [RFC8173], [IEEE8021AS]). These MIBs are typically focused on retrieval of state data using the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), furthermore, configuration of PTP data sets is not considered in [RFC8173].

Some service providers and applications require that the management of the IEEE 1588-2008 synchronization network be flexible and more Internet-based (typically overlaid on their transport networks). Software Defined Network (SDN) is another driving factor, which demands an improved configuration capability of synchronization networks.

YANG [RFC7950] is a data modeling language used to model configuration and state data manipulated by network management protocols like the Network Configuration Protocol (NETCONF) [RFC6241]. A small set of built-in data types are defined in [RFC7950], and a collection of common data types are further defined in [RFC6991]. Advantages of YANG include Internet based configuration capability, validation, rollback and so on. All of these characteristics make it attractive to become another candidate modeling language for IEEE 1588-2008.

This document defines a YANG data model for the configuration of IEEE 1588-2008 devices and clocks, and retrieval of the state data of IEEE 1588-2008 clocks. The data model is based on the PTP data sets as specified in [IEEE1588]. The technology specific IEEE 1588-2008 information, e.g., those specifically implemented by a bridge, a router or a telecom profile, is out of scope of this document.

The YANG module in this document conforms to the Network Management Datastore Architecture (NMDA) [RFC8342].

When used in practice, network products in support of synchronization typically conform to one or more IEEE 1588-2008 profiles. Each profile specifies how IEEE 1588-2008 is used in a given industry (e.g. telecom, automotive) and application. A profile can require features that are optional in IEEE 1588-2008, and it can specify new features that use IEEE 1588-2008 as a foundation.
It is expected that the IEEE 1588-2008 YANG module be used as follows:

- The IEEE 1588-2008 YANG module can be used as-is for products that conform to one of the default profiles specified in IEEE 1588-2008.

- When the IEEE 1588 standard is revised (e.g., the IEEE 1588 revision in progress at the time of writing this document), it will add some new optional features to its data sets. The YANG module of this document MAY be revised and extended to support these new features. Moreover, the YANG "revision" SHOULD be used to indicate changes to the YANG module under such a circumstance.

- A profile standard based on IEEE 1588-2008 may create a dedicated YANG module for its profile. The profile’s YANG module SHOULD use YANG "import" to import the IEEE 1588-2008 YANG module as its foundation. Then the profile’s YANG module SHOULD use YANG "augment" to add any profile-specific enhancements.

- A product that conforms to a profile standard can also create its own YANG module. The product’s YANG module SHOULD "import" the profile’s module, and then use YANG "augment" to add any product-specific enhancements.

1.1. Conventions used in this document

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

1.2. Terminology

Most terminologies used in this document are extracted from [IEEE1588].

BC      Boundary Clock, see Section 3.1.3 of [IEEE1588]
DS      Data Set
E2E     End-to-End
EUI     Extended Unique Identifier
GPS     Global Positioning System
PTP data set
Structured attributes of clocks (an OC, BC or TC) used for
PTP protocol decisions and for providing values for PTP
message fields, see Section 8 of [IEEE1588].

PTP instance
A PTP implementation in the device (i.e., an OC or BC)
represented by a specific PTP data set.

2. IEEE 1588-2008 YANG Model hierarchy

This section describes the hierarchy of an IEEE 1588-2008 YANG
module. Query and configuration of device wide or port specific
configuration information and clock data set are described for this
version.

Query and configuration of clock information include:

(Note: The attribute names are consistent with IEEE 1588-2008, but
changed to the YANG style, i.e., using all lower-case, with dashes
between words.)

- Clock data set attributes in a clock node, including: current-ds,
  parent-ds, default-ds, time-properties-ds, and transparent-clock-
  default-ds.
- Port-specific data set attributes, including: port-ds and transparent-clock-port-ds.

The readers are assumed to be familiar with IEEE 1588-2008. As all PTP terminologies and PTP data set attributes are described in details in IEEE 1588-2008 [IEEE1588], this document only outlines each of them in the YANG module.

A simplified YANG tree diagram [RFC8340] representing the data model is typically used by YANG modules. This document uses the same tree diagram syntax as described in [RFC8340].

```yang
module: ietf-ptp
  +--rw ptp
    +--rw instance-list* [instance-number]
      +--rw instance-number      uint32
      +--rw default-ds
        +--rw two-step-flag?    boolean
        +--ro clock-identity?   clock-identity-type
        +--rw number-ports?     uint16
          +--rw clock-quality
            |  +--rw clock-class?                  uint8
            |  +--rw clock-accuracy?               uint8
            |  +--rw offset-scaled-log-variance?   uint16
            +--rw priority1?        uint8
            +--rw priority2?        uint8
            +--rw domain-number?    uint8
            +--rw slave-only?       boolean
          +--rw current-ds
            |  +--rw steps-removed?        uint16
            |  +--rw offset-from-master?   time-interval-type
            +--rw mean-path-delay?      time-interval-type
        +--rw parent-ds
          +--rw parent-port-identity
            |  +--rw clock-identity?   clock-identity-type
            |  +--rw port-number?      uint16
            +--rw parent-stats?      boolean
            +--rw observed-parent-offset-scaled-log-variance? uint16
            +--rw observed-parent-clock-phase-change-rate?    int32
            +--rw grandmaster-identity?         clock-identity-type
          +--rw grandmaster-clock-quality
            |  +--rw clock-class?                  uint8
            |  +--rw clock-accuracy?               uint8
            |  +--rw offset-scaled-log-variance?   uint16
            +--rw grandmaster-priority1?        uint8
```

+-rw grandmaster-priority2?  uint8

++-rw time-properties-ds
    +-rw current-utc-offset-valid?  boolean
    +-rw current-utc-offset?  int16
    +-rw leap59?  boolean
    +-rw leap61?  boolean
    +-rw time-traceable?  boolean
    +-rw frequency-traceable?  boolean
    +-rw ptp-timescale?  boolean
    +-rw time-source?  uint8

++-rw port-ds-list* [port-number]
    +-rw port-number  uint16
    +-rw port-state?  port-state-enumeration
    +-rw underlying-interface?  if:interface-ref
    +-rw log-min-delay-req-interval?  int8
    +-rw peer-mean-path-delay?  time-interval-type
    +-rw log-announce-interval?  int8
    +-rw announce-receipt-timeout?  uint8
    +-rw log-sync-interval?  int8
    +-rw delay-mechanism?  delay-mechanism-enumeration
    +-rw log-min-pdelay-req-interval?  int8
    +-rw version-number?  uint8

++-rw transparent-clock-default-ds
    +-ro clock-identity?  clock-identity-type
    +-rw number-ports?  uint16
    +-rw delay-mechanism?  delay-mechanism-enumeration
    +-rw primary-domain?  uint8

++-rw transparent-clock-port-ds-list* [port-number]
    +-rw port-number  uint16
    +-rw log-min-pdelay-req-interval?  int8
    +-rw faulty-flag?  boolean
    +-rw peer-mean-path-delay?  time-interval-type
2.1. Interpretations from IEEE 1588 Working Group

The preceding model and the associated YANG module have some subtle differences from the data set specifications of IEEE Std 1588-2008. These differences are based on interpretation from the IEEE 1588 Working Group, and are intended to provide compatibility with future revisions of the IEEE 1588 standard.

In IEEE Std 1588-2008, a physical product can implement multiple PTP clocks (i.e., ordinary, boundary, or transparent clock). As specified in 1588-2008 subclause 7.1, each of the multiple clocks operates in an independent domain. However, the organization of multiple PTP domains was not clear in the data sets of IEEE Std 1588-2008. This document introduces the concept of PTP instance as described in the new revision of IEEE 1588. The instance concept is used exclusively to allow for optional support of multiple domains. The instance number has no usage within PTP messages.

Based on statements in IEEE 1588-2008 subclauses 8.3.1 and 10.1, most transparent clock products have interpreted the transparent clock data sets to reside as a singleton at the root level of the managed product, and this YANG model reflects that location.

2.2. Configuration and state

The information model of IEEE Std 1588-2008 classifies each member in PTP data sets as one of the following:

- Configurable: Writable by management.
- Dynamic: Read-only to management, and the value is changed by 1588 protocol operation.
- Static: Read-only to management, and the value typically does not change.

For details on the classification of each PTP data set member, refer to the IEEE Std 1588-2008 specification for that member.

Under certain circumstances, the classification of an IEEE 1588 data set member may change for a YANG implementation, for example, a configurable member needs to be changed to read-only. In such a case, an implementation MAY choose to return a warning upon writing to a read-only member, or use the deviation mechanism to develop a new deviation model as described in Section 7.20.3 of [RFC7950].
3. IEEE 1588-2008 YANG Module

This module imports typedef "interface-ref" from [RFC8343]. Most attributes are based on the information model defined in [IEEE1588], but their names are adapted to the YANG style of naming.

```yang
<CODE BEGINS> file "ietf-ptp@2018-09-10.yang"
//Note to RFC Editor: update the date to date of publication
module ietf-ptp {
    yang-version 1.1;
    namespace "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ptp";
    prefix "ptp";

    import ietf-interfaces {
        prefix if;
        reference
            "RFC8343: A YANG Data Model for Interface Management";
    }

    organization "IETF TICTOC Working Group";
    contact
        "WG Web:    http://tools.ietf.org/wg/tictoc/
        WG List:   <mailto:tictoc@ietf.org>
        Editor:    Yuanlong Jiang
                    <mailto:jiangyuanlong@huawei.com>
        Editor:    Rodney Cummings
                    mailto:rodney.cummings@ni.com";
    description
        "This YANG module defines a data model for the configuration
        of IEEE 1588-2008 clocks, and also for retrieval of the state
        data of IEEE 1588-2008 clocks.";

    revision "2018-09-10" {
        //Note to RFC Editor: update the date to date of publication
        description "Initial version";
        reference "RFC XXXX: YANG Data Model for IEEE 1588-2008";
        //Note to RFC Editor: update RFC XXXX to the actual RFC number
    }

    typedef delay-mechanism-enumeration {
        type enumeration {
            enum e2e {
                value 1;
                description
                    "The port uses the delay request-response mechanism.";
            }
        }
    }
```
enum p2p {
  value 2;
  description
    "The port uses the peer delay mechanism.";
}
enum disabled {
  value 254;
  description
    "The port does not implement any delay mechanism.";
}

description
  "The propagation delay measuring option used by the port. Values for this enumeration are specified by the IEEE 1588 standard exclusively.";
reference
  "IEEE Std 1588-2008: 8.2.5.4.4";

typedef port-state-enumeration {
  type enumeration {
    enum initializing {
      value 1;
      description
        "The port is initializing its data sets, hardware, and communication facilities.";
    }
    enum faulty {
      value 2;
      description
        "The port is in the fault state.";
    }
    enum disabled {
      value 3;
      description
        "The port is disabled, and is not communicating PTP messages (other than possibly PTP management messages).";
    }
    enum listening {
      value 4;
      description
        "The port is listening for an Announce message.";
    }
    enum pre-master {
      value 5;
      description
        "The port is in the pre-master state.";
    }
  }
}
"The port is in the pre-master state."

}  

enum master {  
  value 6;  
  description  
    "The port is behaving as a master port.";  
}

enum passive {  
  value 7;  
  description  
    "The port is in the passive state.";  
}

enum uncalibrated {  
  value 8;  
  description  
    "A master port has been selected, but the port is still  
    in the uncalibrated state.";  
}

enum slave {  
  value 9;  
  description  
    "The port is synchronizing to the selected master port.";  
}

}  

description  
"The current state of the protocol engine associated  
with the port. Values for this enumeration are specified  
by the IEEE 1588 standard exclusively.";  
reference  
"IEEE Std 1588-2008: 8.2.5.3.1, 9.2.5";

typedef time-interval-type {  
  type int64;  
  description  
    "Derived data type for time interval, represented in units of  
    nanoseconds and multiplied by 2^16";  
  reference  
    "IEEE Std 1588-2008: 5.3.2";
}

typedef clock-identity-type {  
  type binary {  
    length "8";  
  }  
  description  
    "This type represents the clock identity, encoded as a  
    binary string of length 8. It is used to establish  
    the master-slave relationship in the network.";  
  reference  
    "IEEE Std 1588-2008: 3.4";
}
grouping clock-quality-grouping {
  description "Derived data type for quality of a clock, which contains
clockClass, clockAccuracy and offsetScaledLogVariance.";
  reference "IEEE Std 1588-2008: 5.3.7";
  
  leaf clock-class {
    type uint8;
    default 248;
    description "The clockClass denotes the traceability of the time
    or frequency distributed by the clock.";
  }

  leaf clock-accuracy {
    type uint8;
    description "The clockAccuracy indicates the expected accuracy
    of the clock.";
  }

  leaf offset-scaled-log-variance {
    type uint16;
    description "The offsetScaledLogVariance provides an estimate of
    the variations of the clock from a linear timescale
    when it is not synchronized to another clock
    using the protocol.";
  }
}

container ptp {
  description "The PTP struct containing all attributes of PTP data set,
  other optional PTP attributes can be augmented as well.";
  
  list instance-list {
    key "instance-number";
  }
}
description
"List of one or more PTP data sets in the device (see IEEE Std 1588-2008 subclause 6.3).
Each PTP data set represents a distinct instance of PTP implementation in the device (i.e., distinct Ordinary Clock or Boundary Clock).";

leaf instance-number {
  type uint32;
  description
  "The instance number of the current PTP instance. This instance number is used for management purposes only. This instance number does not represent the PTP domain number, and is not used in PTP messages.";
}

container default-ds {
  description
  "The default data set of the clock (see IEEE Std 1588-2008 subclause 8.2.1). This data set represents the configuration/state required for operation of Precision Time Protocol (PTP) state machines.";

  leaf two-step-flag {
    type boolean;
    description
    "When set to true, the clock is a two-step clock; otherwise, the clock is a one-step clock.";
  }

  leaf clock-identity {
    type clock-identity-type;
    config false;
    description
    "The clockIdentity of the local clock";
  }

  leaf number-ports {
    type uint16;
    description
    "The number of PTP ports on the instance.";
  }

  container clock-quality {
  description
  "The clockQuality of the local clock.";
  }

uses clock-quality-grouping;
}

leaf priority1 {
    type uint8;
    description
    "The priority1 attribute of the local clock."
}

leaf priority2{
    type uint8;
    description
    "The priority2 attribute of the local clock."
}

leaf domain-number {
    type uint8;
    description
    "The domain number of the current syntonization domain.";
}

leaf slave-only {
    type boolean;
    description
    "When set to true, the clock is a slave-only clock.";
}

}

container current-ds {
    description
    "The current data set of the clock (see IEEE Std 1588-2008 subclause 8.2.2). This data set represents local states learned from the exchange of Precision Time Protocol (PTP) messages.";

    leaf steps-removed {
        type uint16;
        default 0;
        description
        "The number of communication paths traversed between the local clock and the grandmaster clock.";
    }

    leaf offset-from-master {
        type time-interval-type;
    }


description
"The current value of the time difference between
a master and a slave clock as computed by the slave.";
)
leaf mean-path-delay {
type time-interval-type;
description
"The current value of the mean propagation time between
a master and a slave clock as computed by the slave.";
}
)
container parent-ds {
description
"The parent data set of the clock (see IEEE Std 1588-2008
subclause 8.2.3).";
container parent-port-identity {
description
"The portIdentity of the port on the master, it
contains two members: clockIdentity and portNumber.";
reference
"IEEE Std 1588-2008: 5.3.5";
leaf clock-identity {
type clock-identity-type;
description
"Identity of the clock";
}
leaf port-number {
type uint16;
description
"Port number";
}
leaf parent-stats {
type boolean;
default false;
description
"When set to true, the values of
observedParentOffsetScaledLogVariance and
observedParentClockPhaseChangeRate of parentDS
have been measured and are valid.

leaf observed-parent-offset-scaled-log-variance {
  type uint16;
  default 65535;
  description
    "An estimate of the parent clock's PTP variance
    as observed by the slave clock."
}

leaf observed-parent-clock-phase-change-rate {
  type int32;
  description
    "An estimate of the parent clock's phase change rate
    as observed by the slave clock."
}

leaf grandmaster-identity {
  type clock-identity-type;
  description
    "The clockIdentity attribute of the grandmaster clock."
}

container grandmaster-clock-quality {
  description
    "The clockQuality of the grandmaster clock."
  uses clock-quality-grouping;
}

leaf grandmaster-priority1 {
  type uint8;
  description
    "The priority1 attribute of the grandmaster clock."
}

leaf grandmaster-priority2 {
  type uint8;
  description
    "The priority2 attribute of the grandmaster clock."
}

container time-properties-ds {
  description
    "The timeProperties data set of the clock (see
.
leaf current-utc-offset-valid {
  type boolean;
  description
  "When set to true, the current UTC offset is valid.";
}

leaf current-utc-offset {
  when "../current-utc-offset-valid='true'";
  type int16;
  description
  "The offset between TAI and UTC when the epoch of the
  PTP system is the PTP epoch in units of seconds, i.e.,
  when ptp-timescale is TRUE; otherwise, the value has
  no meaning.";
}

leaf leap59 {
  type boolean;
  description
  "When set to true, the last minute of the current UTC
day contains 59 seconds.";
}

leaf leap61 {
  type boolean;
  description
  "When set to true, the last minute of the current UTC
day contains 61 seconds.";
}

leaf time-traceable {
  type boolean;
  description
  "When set to true, the timescale and the
  currentUtcOffset are traceable to a primary reference.";
}

leaf frequency-traceable {
  type boolean;
  description
  "When set to true, the frequency determining the
timescale is traceable to a primary reference.";
}
leaf ptp-timescale {
  type boolean;
  description
  "When set to true, the clock timescale of the
  grandmaster clock is PTP; otherwise, the timescale is
  ARB (arbitrary).";
}

leaf time-source {
  type uint8;
  description
  "The source of time used by the grandmaster clock.";
}

list port-ds-list {
  key "port-number";
  description
  "List of port data sets of the clock (see IEEE Std
  1588-2008 subclause 8.2.5).";

  leaf port-number {
    type uint16;
    description
    "Port number.
    The data sets (i.e., information model) of IEEE Std
    1588-2008 specify a member portDS.portIdentity, which
    uses a typed struct with members clockIdentity and
    portNumber.

    In this YANG data model, portIdentity is not modeled
    in the port-ds-list, however, its members are provided
    as follows: portIdentity.portNumber is provided as this port-
    number leaf in port-ds-list; and
    portIdentity.clockIdentity is provided as the clock-
    identity leaf in default-ds of the instance
    (i.e., ../default-ds/clock-identity).";
  }

  leaf port-state {
    type port-state-enumeration;
    default "initializing";
    description
    "Current state associated with the port.";
  }
}
leaf underlying-interface {
  type if:interface-ref;
  description
  "Reference to the configured underlying interface that is used by this PTP Port (see RFC 8343).";
}

leaf log-min-delay-req-interval {
  type int8;
  description
  "The base-two logarithm of the minDelayReqInterval (the minimum permitted mean time interval between successive Delay_Req messages).";
}

leaf peer-mean-path-delay {
  type time-interval-type;
  default 0;
  description
  "An estimate of the current one-way propagation delay on the link when the delayMechanism is P2P; otherwise, it is zero.";
}

leaf log-announce-interval {
  type int8;
  description
  "The base-two logarithm of the mean announceInterval (mean time interval between successive Announce messages).";
}

leaf announce-receipt-timeout {
  type uint8;
  description
  "The number of announceInterval that have to pass without receipt of an Announce message before the occurrence of the event ANNOUNCE_RECEIPT_TIMEOUT_EXPIRES.";
}

leaf log-sync-interval {
  type int8;
  description
  "The base-two logarithm of the mean SyncInterval
for multicast messages. The rates for unicast
transmissions are negotiated separately on a per port
basis and are not constrained by this attribute.";
}

leaf delay-mechanism {
  type delay-mechanism-enumeration;
  description
    "The propagation delay measuring option used by the
    port in computing meanPathDelay.";
}

leaf log-min-pdelay-req-interval {
  type int8;
  description
    "The base-two logarithm of the
    minPdelayReqInterval (minimum permitted mean time
    interval between successive Pdelay_Req messages).";
}

leaf version-number {
  type uint8;
  description
    "The PTP version in use on the port.";
}

}

container transparent-clock-default-ds {
  description
    "The members of the transparentClockDefault data set (see
    IEEE Std 1588-2008 subclause 8.3.2).";

leaf clock-identity {
  type clock-identity-type;
  config false;
  description
    "The clockIdentity of the transparent clock.";
}

leaf number-ports {
  type uint16;
  description
    "The number of PTP ports on the transparent clock.";
}
leaf delay-mechanism {
    type delay-mechanism-enumeration;
    description
        "The propagation delay measuring option
         used by the transparent clock.";
}

leaf primary-domain {
    type uint8;
    default 0;
    description
        "The domainNumber of the primary syntonization domain (see
         IEEE Std 1588-2008 subclause 10.1).";
}

list transparent-clock-port-ds-list {
    key "port-number";
    description
        "List of transparentClockPort data sets of the transparent
         clock (see IEEE Std 1588-2008 subclause 8.3.3).";
    leaf port-number {
        type uint16;
        description
            "Port number.
            The data sets (i.e., information model) of IEEE Std
            1588-2008 specify a member
            transparentClockPortDS.portIdentity, which uses a typed
            struct with members clockIdentity and portNumber.

            In this YANG data model, portIdentity is not modeled in
            the transparent-clock-port-ds-list, however, its
            members are provided as follows:
            portIdentity.portNumber is provided as this leaf member
            in transparent-clock-port-ds-list; and
            portIdentity.clockIdentity is provided as the clock-
            identity leaf in transparent-clock-default-ds
            (i.e., ./../transparent-clock-default-ds/clock-
            identity).";
    }
}

leaf log-min-pdelay-req-interval {
    type int8;

description
"The logarithm to the base 2 of the
minPdelayReqInterval (minimum permitted mean time
interval between successive Pdelay_Req messages).";
}

leaf faulty-flag {
  type boolean;
  default false;
  description
    "When set to true, the port is faulty.";
}

leaf peer-mean-path-delay {
  type time-interval-type;
  default 0;
  description
    "An estimate of the current one-way propagation delay
on the link when the delayMechanism is P2P; otherwise,
it is zero.";
}

4. Security Considerations

The YANG module specified in this document defines a schema for
data that is designed to be accessed via network management
protocols such as NETCONF [RFC6241] or RESTCONF [RFC8040]. The
lowest NETCONF layer is the secure transport layer, and the
mandatory-to-implement secure transport is Secure Shell (SSH)
[RFC6242]. The lowest RESTCONF layer is HTTPS, and the mandatory-
to-implement secure transport is TLS [RFC8446]. Furthermore,
general security considerations of time protocols are discussed in
[RFC7384].

The NETCONF access control model [RFC8341] provides the means to
restrict access for particular NETCONF or RESTCONF users to a
preconfigured subset of all available NETCONF or RESTCONF protocol
operations and content.

There are a number of data nodes defined in this YANG module are
writable, and the involved subtrees that are sensitive include:
/ptp/instance-list specifies an instance (i.e., PTP data sets) for an OC or BC.

/ptp/transparent-clock-default-ds specifies a default data set for a TC.

/ptp/transparent-clock-port-ds-list specifies a list of port data sets for a TC.

Write operations (e.g., edit-config) to these data nodes without proper protection can have a negative effect on network operations. Specifically, an inappropriate configuration of them may adversely impact a PTP synchronization network. For example, loss of synchronization on a clock, accuracy degradation on a set of clocks, or even break down of a whole synchronization network.

5. IANA Considerations

This document registers the following URI in the "IETF XML registry" [RFC3688]:

Registrant Contact: The IESG
XML: N/A; the requested URI is an XML namespace

This document registers the following YANG module in the "YANG Module Names" registry [RFC6020]:
Name:     ietf-ptp
Prefix:   ptp
Reference: RFC XXXX

6. References

6.1. Normative References

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997


[ RFC8174 ] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words", BCP 14, RFC 8174, May 2017


6.2. Informative References


7. Acknowledgments

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Appendix A  Transferring YANG Work to IEEE 1588 WG

This Appendix is informational.

This appendix describes a future plan to transition responsibility for IEEE 1588 YANG modules from the IETF TICTOC Working Group (WG) to the IEEE 1588 WG, which develops the time synchronization technology that the YANG modules are designed to manage.

This appendix is forward-looking with regard to future standardization roadmaps in IETF and IEEE. Since those roadmaps cannot be predicted with significant accuracy, this appendix is informational, and it does not specify imperatives or normative specifications of any kind.

The IEEE 1588-2008 YANG module of this standard represents a cooperation between IETF (for YANG) and IEEE (for 1588). For the initial standardization of IEEE-1588 YANG modules, the information model is relatively clear (i.e., IEEE 1588 data sets), but expertise in YANG is required, making IETF an appropriate location for the standards. The TICTOC WG has expertise with IEEE 1588, making it the appropriate location within IETF.

The IEEE 1588 WG anticipates future changes to its standard on an ongoing basis. As IEEE 1588 WG members gain practical expertise with YANG, the IEEE 1588 WG will become more appropriate for standardization of its YANG modules. As the IEEE 1588 standard is revised and/or amended, IEEE 1588 members can more effectively synchronize the revision of this YANG module with future versions of the IEEE 1588 standard.

This appendix is meant to establish some clear expectations between IETF and IEEE about the future transfer of IEEE 1588 YANG modules to the IEEE 1588 WG. The goal is to assist in making the future transfer as smooth as possible. As the transfer takes place, some case-by-case situations are likely to arise, which can be handled by discussion on the IETF TICTOC WG mailing lists and/or appropriate liaisons.

This appendix obtained insight from [RFC4663], an informational memo that described a similar transfer of MIB work from the IETF Bridge MIB WG to the IEEE 802.1 WG.
A.1. Assumptions for the Transfer

For the purposes of discussion in this appendix, assume that the IESG has approved the publication of an RFC containing a YANG module for a published IEEE 1588 standard. As of this writing, this is IEEE Std 1588-2008, but it is possible that YANG modules for subsequent 1588 revisions could be published from the IETF TICTOC WG. For discussion in this appendix, we use the phrase "last IETF 1588 YANG" to refer to the most recently published 1588 YANG module from the IETF TICTOC WG.

The IEEE-SA Standards Board New Standards Committee (NesCom) handles new Project Authorization Requests (PARs) (see http://standards.ieee.org/board/nes/). PARs are roughly the equivalent of IETF Working Group Charters and include information concerning the scope, purpose, and justification for standardization projects.

Assume that IEEE 1588 has an approved PAR that explicitly specifies development of a YANG module. The transfer of YANG work will occur in the context of this IEEE 1588 PAR. For discussion in this appendix, we use the phrase "first IEEE 1588 YANG" to refer to the first IEEE 1588 standard for YANG.

Assume that as part of the transfer of YANG work, the IETF TICTOC WG agrees to cease all work on standard YANG modules for IEEE 1588.

Assume that the IEEE 1588 WG has participated in the development of the last IETF 1588 YANG module, such that the first IEEE 1588 YANG module will effectively be a revision of it. In other words, the transfer of YANG work will be relatively clean.

The actual conditions for the future transfer can be such that the preceding assumptions do not hold. Exceptions to the assumptions will need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the time of the transfer. This appendix describes topics that can be addressed based on the preceding assumptions.

A.2. Intellectual Property Considerations

During review of the legal issues associated with transferring Bridge MIB WG documents to the IEEE 802.1 WG (Section 3.1 and Section 9 of [RFC4663]), it was concluded that the IETF does not have sufficient legal authority to make the transfer to IEEE without the consent of the document authors.
If the last IETF 1588 YANG is published as a RFC, the work is required to be transferred from the IETF to the IEEE, so that IEEE 1588 WG can begin working on the first IEEE 1588 YANG.

When work on the first IEEE YANG module begins in the IEEE 1588 WG, that work derives from the last IETF YANG module of this RFC, requiring a transfer of that work from the IETF to the IEEE. In order to avoid having the transfer of that work be dependent on the availability of this RFC’s authors at the time of its publication, the IEEE Standards Association department of Risk Management and Licensing provided the appropriate forms and mechanisms for this document’s authors to assign a non-exclusive license for IEEE to create derivative works from this document. Those IEEE forms and mechanisms will be updated as needed for any future IETF YANG modules for IEEE 1588 (The signed forms are held by the IEEE Standards Association department of Risk Management and Licensing.). This will help to make the future transfer of work from IETF to IEEE occur as smoothly as possible.

As stated in the initial "Status of this Memo", the YANG module in this document conforms to the provisions of BCP 78. The IETF will retain all the rights granted at the time of publication in the published RFCs.

A.3. Namespace and Module Name

As specified in Section 5 "IANA Considerations", the YANG module in this document uses IETF as the root of its URN namespace and YANG module name.

Use of IETF as the root of these names implies that the YANG module is standardized in a Working Group of IETF, using the IETF processes. If the IEEE 1588 Working Group were to continue using these names rooted in IETF, the IEEE 1588 YANG standardization would need to continue in the IETF. The goal of transferring the YANG work is to avoid this sort of dependency between standards organizations.

IEEE 802 has an active PAR (IEEE P802d) for creating a URN namespace for IEEE use (see http://standards.ieee.org/develop/project/802d.html). It is likely that this IEEE 802 PAR will be approved and published prior to the transfer of YANG work to the IEEE 1588 WG. If so, the IEEE 1588 WG can use the IEEE URN namespace for the first IEEE 1588 YANG module, such as:

urn:ieee:Std:1588:yang:ieee1588-ptp
where "ieee1588-ptp" is the registered YANG module name in the IEEE.

Under the assumptions of section A.1, the first IEEE 1588 YANG module prefix can be the same as the last IETF 1588 YANG module prefix (i.e. "ptp"), since the nodes within both YANG modules are compatible.

The result of these name changes are that for complete compatibility, a server (i.e., IEEE 1588 node) can choose to implement a YANG module for the last IETF 1588 YANG module (with IETF root) as well as the first IEEE 1588 YANG module (with IEEE root). Since the content of the YANG module transferred are the same, the server implementation is effectively common for both.

From a client’s perspective, a client of the last IETF 1588 YANG module (or earlier) looks for the IETF-rooted module name; and a client of the first IEEE 1588 YANG module (or later) looks for the IEEE-rooted module name.

A.4. IEEE 1588 YANG Modules in ASCII Format

Although IEEE 1588 can certainly decide to publish YANG modules only in the PDF format that they use for their standard documents, without publishing an ASCII version, most network management systems cannot import the YANG module directly from the PDF. Thus, not publishing an ASCII version of the YANG module would negatively impact implementers and deployers of YANG modules and would make potential IETF reviews of YANG modules more difficult.

This appendix recommends that the IEEE 1588 WG consider future plans for:

- Public availability of the ASCII YANG modules during project development. These ASCII files allow IETF participants to access these documents for pre-standard review purposes.

- Public availability of the YANG portion of published IEEE 1588 standards, provided as an ASCII file for each YANG module. These ASCII files are intended for use of the published IEEE 1588 standard.

As an example of public availability during project development, IEEE 802 uses the same repository that IETF uses for YANG module development (see https://github.com/YangModels/yang). IEEE branches are provided for experimental work (i.e. pre-PAR) as well as standard work (post-PAR drafts). IEEE-SA has approved use of this repository for project development, but not for published standards.
As an example of public availability of YANG modules for published standards, IEEE 802.1 provides a public list of ASCII files for MIB (see http://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/MIBs/ and http://www.ieee802.org/1/pages/MIBS.html), and analogous lists are planned for IEEE 802.1 YANG files.
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Enterprise Profile for the Precision Time Protocol
With Mixed Multicast and Unicast Messages

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Status of this Memo
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Abstract

This document describes a profile for the use of the Precision Time Protocol in an IPV4 or IPV6 Enterprise information system environment. The profile uses the End to End Delay Measurement Mechanism, allows both multicast and unicast Delay Request and Delay Response Messages.

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1. Introduction

The Precision Time Protocol ("PTP"), standardized in IEEE 1588, has been designed in its first version (IEEE 1588-2002) with the goal to minimize configuration on the participating nodes. Network communication was based solely on multicast messages, which unlike NTP did not require that a receiving node ("slave clock") in [IEEE1588] needs to know the identity of the time sources in the network (the Master Clocks).

The "Best Master Clock Algorithm" ([IEEE1588] Subclause 9.3), a mechanism that all participating PTP nodes must follow, set up strict rules for all members of a PTP domain to determine which node shall be the active sending time source (Master Clock).

Although the multicast communication model has advantages in smaller networks, it complicated the application of PTP in larger networks, for example in environments like IP based telecommunication networks or financial data centers. It is considered inefficient that, even if the content of a message applies only to one receiver, it is forwarded by the underlying...
network (IP) to all nodes, requiring them to spend network bandwidth and other resources, such as CPU cycles, to drop the message.

The second revision of the standard (IEEE 1588-2008) is the current version (also known as PTPv2) and introduced the possibility to use unicast communication between the PTP nodes in order to overcome the limitation of using multicast messages for the bi-directional information exchange between PTP nodes. The unicast approach avoided that, in PTP domains with a lot of nodes, devices had to throw away more than 99% of the received multicast messages because they carried information for some other node. PTPv2 also introduced PTP profiles ([IEEE1588] subclause 19.3).

This construct allows organizations to specify selections of attribute values and optional features, simplifying the configuration of PTP nodes for a specific application. Instead of having to go through all possible parameters and configuration options and individually set them up, selecting a profile on a PTP node will set all the parameters that are specified in the profile to a defined value. If a PTP profile definition allows multiple values for a parameter, selection of the profile will set the profile-specific default value for this parameter. Parameters not allowing multiple values are set to the value defined in the PTP profile. Many PTP features and functions are optional, and a profile should also define which optional features of PTP are required, permitted, or prohibited. It is possible to extend the PTP standard with a PTP profile by using the TLV mechanism of PTP (see [IEEE1588] subclause 13.4), defining an optional Best Master Clock Algorithm and a few other ways. PTP has its own management protocol (defined in [IEEE1588] subclause 15.2) but allows a PTP profile specify an alternative management mechanism, for example SNMP.

2. Conventions used in this document

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].

In this document, these words will appear with that interpretation only when in ALL CAPS. Lower case uses of these words are not to be interpreted as carrying RFC-2119 significance.

3. Technical Terms

Acceptable Master Table: A PTP Slave Clock may maintain a list of masters which it is willing to synchronize to.

Alternate Master: A PTP Master Clock, which is not the Best Master, may act as a master with the Alternate Master flag set on the messages it sends.
Announce message: Contains the Master Clock properties of a Master Clock. Used to determine the Best Master.

Best Master: A clock with a port in the master state, operating consistently with the Best Master Clock Algorithm.

Best Master Clock Algorithm: A method for determining which state a port of a PTP clock should be in. The algorithm works by identifying which of several PTP Master capable clocks is the best master. Clocks have priority to become the acting Grandmaster, based on the properties each Master Clock sends in its Announce Message.

Boundary Clock: A device with more than one PTP port. Generally boundary Clocks will have one port in slave state to receive timing and then other ports in master state to re-distribute the timing.

Clock Identity: In IEEE 1588-2008 this is a 64-bit number assigned to each PTP clock which must be unique. Often it is derived from the Ethernet MAC address, since there is already an international infrastructure for assigning unique numbers to each device manufactured.

Domain: Every PTP message contains a domain number. Domains are treated as separate PTP systems in the network. Clocks, however, can combine the timing information derived from multiple domains.

End to End Delay Measurement Mechanism: A network delay measurement mechanism in PTP facilitated by an exchange of messages between a Master Clock and Slave Clock.

Grandmaster: the primary Master Clock within a domain of a PTP system

IEEE 1588: The timing and synchronization standard which defines PTP, and describes the node, system, and communication properties necessary to support PTP.

Master Clock: a clock with at least one port in the master state.

NTP: Network Time Protocol, defined by RFC 5905, see [NTP].

Ordinary Clock: A clock that has a single Precision Time Protocol (PTP) port in a domain and maintains the timescale used in the domain. It may serve as a Master Clock, or be a slave clock.

Peer to Peer Delay Measurement Mechanism: A network delay measurement mechanism in PTP facilitated by an exchange of messages between adjacent devices in a network.

Preferred Master: A device intended to act primarily as the Grandmaster of a PTP system, or as a back up to a Grandmaster.
PTP: The Precision Time Protocol, the timing and synchronization protocol defined by IEEE 1588.

PTP port: An interface of a PTP clock with the network. Note that there may be multiple PTP ports running on one physical interface, for example, a unicast slave which talks to several Grandmaster clocks in parallel.

PTPv2: Refers specifically to the second version of PTP defined by IEEE 1588-2008.

Rogue Master: A clock with a port in the master state, even though it should not be in the master state according to the Best Master Clock Algorithm, and does not set the alternate master flag.

Slave clock: a clock with at least one port in the slave state, and no ports in the master state.

Slave Only Clock: An Ordinary Clock which cannot become a Master Clock.

TLV: Type Length Value, a mechanism for extending messages in networked communications.

Transparent Clock. A device that measures the time taken for a PTP event message to transit the device and then updates the message with a correction for this transit time.

Unicast Discovery: A mechanism for PTP slaves to establish a unicast communication with PTP masters using a configured table of master IP addresses and Unicast Message Negotiation.

Unicast Negotiation: A mechanism in PTP for Slave Clocks to negotiate unicast Sync, announce and Delay Request Message Rates from a Master Clock.

4. Problem Statement

This document describes a version of PTP intended to work in large enterprise networks. Such networks are deployed, for example, in financial corporations. It is becoming increasingly common in such networks to perform distributed time tagged measurements, such as one-way packet latencies and cumulative delays on software systems spread across multiple computers. Furthermore, there is often a desire to check the age of information time tagged by a different machine. To perform these measurements, it is necessary to deliver a common precise time to multiple devices on a network. Accuracy currently required in the Financial Industry range from 100 microseconds to 100 nanoseconds to the Grandmaster. This profile does not specify timing performance requirements, but such requirements explain why the needs cannot always be met by NTP, as commonly implemented. Such accuracy cannot usually be achieved with a traditional time transfer such as NTP, without adding
non-standard customizations such as hardware time stamping, and on path support. These features are currently part of PTP, or are allowed by it. Because PTP has a complex range of features and options it is necessary to create a profile for enterprise networks to achieve interoperability between equipment manufactured by different vendors.

Although enterprise networks can be large, it is becoming increasingly common to deploy multicast protocols, even across multiple subnets. For this reason, it is desired to make use of multicast whenever the information going to many destinations is the same. It is also advantageous to send information which is unique to one device as a unicast message. The latter can be essential as the number of PTP slaves becomes hundreds or thousands.

PTP devices operating in these networks need to be robust. This includes the ability to ignore PTP messages which can be identified as improper, and to have redundant sources of time.

Interoperability among independent implementations of this PTP profile has been demonstrated at the ISPCS Plugfest [ISPCS].

5. Network Technology

This PTP profile SHALL operate only in networks characterized by UDP [RFC768] over either IPv4 [RFC791] or IPv6 [RFC2460], as described by Annexes D and E in [IEEE1588] respectively. If a network contains both IPv4 and IPv6, then they SHALL be treated as separate communication paths. Clocks which communicate using IPv4 can interact with clocks using IPv6 if there is an intermediary device which simultaneously communicates with both IP versions. A Boundary Clock might perform this function, for example. A PTP domain SHALL use either IPv4 or IPv6 over a communication path, but not both. The PTP system MAY include switches and routers. These devices MAY be Transparent Clocks, boundary Clocks, or neither, in any combination. PTP Clocks MAY be Preferred Masters, Ordinary Clocks, or Boundary Clocks. The Ordinary Clocks may be Slave Only Clocks, or be master capable.

Note that clocks SHOULD always be identified by their clock ID and not the IP or Layer 2 address. This is important in IPv6 networks since Transparent Clocks are required to change the source address of any packet which they alter. In IPv4 networks some clocks might be hidden behind a NAT, which hides their IP addresses from the rest of the network. Note also that the use of NATs may place limitations on the topology of PTP networks, depending on the port forwarding scheme employed. Details of implementing PTP with NATs are out of scope of this document.

PTP, like NTP, assumes that the one-way network delay for Sync Messages and Delay Response Messages are the same. When this is not true it can cause errors in the transfer of time from the Master to the Slave. It is up to the system integrator to design the network so that such effects do not prevent the PTP system from meeting the timing requirements. The details of
network asymmetry are outside the scope of this document. See for example, [G8271].

6. Time Transfer and Delay Measurement

Master Clocks, Transparent Clocks and Boundary Clocks MAY be either one-step clocks or two-step clocks. Slave clocks MUST support both behaviors. The End to End Delay Measurement Method MUST be used.

Note that, in IP networks, Sync messages and Delay Request messages exchanged between a master and slave do not necessarily traverse the same physical path. Thus, wherever possible, the network SHOULD be traffic engineered so that the forward and reverse routes traverse the same physical path. Traffic engineering techniques for path consistency are out of scope of this document.

Sync messages MUST be sent as PTP event multicast messages (UDP port 319) to the PTP primary IP address. Two step clocks SHALL send Follow-up messages as PTP general messages (UDP port 320). Announce messages MUST be sent as multicast messages (UDP port 320) to the PTP primary address. The PTP primary IP address is 224.0.1.129 for IPv4 and FF0X:0:0:0:0:0:0:181 for IPv6, where X can be a value between 0x0 and 0xF, see [IEEE1588] Annex E, Section E.3.

Delay Request Messages MAY be sent as either multicast or unicast PTP event messages. Master Clocks SHALL respond to multicast Delay Request messages with multicast Delay Response PTP general messages. Master Clocks SHALL respond to unicast Delay Request PTP event messages with unicast Delay Response PTP general messages. This allow for the use of Ordinary Clocks which do not support the Enterprise Profile, if they are slave Only Clocks.

Clocks SHOULD include support for multiple domains. The purpose is to support multiple simultaneous masters for redundancy. Leaf devices (non-forwarding devices) can use timing information from multiple masters by combining information from multiple instantiations of a PTP stack, each operating in a different domain. Redundant sources of timing can be ensembled, and/or compared to check for faulty Master Clocks. The use of multiple simultaneous masters will help mitigate faulty masters reporting as healthy, network delay asymmetry, and security problems. Security problems include man-in-the-middle attacks such as delay attacks, packet interception / manipulation attacks. Assuming the path to each master is different, failures malicious or otherwise would have to happen at more than one path simultaneously. Whenever feasible, the underlying network transport technology SHOULD be configured so that timing messages in different domains traverse different network paths.
7. Default Message Rates

The Sync, Announce and Delay Request default message rates SHALL each be once per second. The Sync and Delay Request message rates MAY be set to other values, but not less than once every 128 seconds, and not more than 128 messages per second. The Announce message rate SHALL NOT be changed from the default value. The Announce Receipt Timeout Interval SHALL be three Announce Intervals for Preferred Masters, and four Announce Intervals for all other masters.

The logMessageInterval carried in the unicast Delay Response message MAY be set to correspond to the master ports preferred message period, rather than 7F, which indicates message periods are to be negotiated. Note that negotiated message periods are not allowed, see section 13.

8. Requirements for Master Clocks

Master Clocks SHALL obey the standard Best Master Clock Algorithm from [IEEE1588]. PTP systems using this profile MAY support multiple simultaneous Grandmasters if each active Grandmaster is operating in a different PTP domain.

A port of a clock SHALL NOT be in the master state unless the clock has a current value for the number of UTC leap seconds.

If a unicast negotiation signaling message is received it SHALL be ignored.

9. Requirements for Slave Clocks

Slave clocks MUST be able to operate properly in a network which contains multiple Masters in multiple domains. Slaves SHOULD make use of information from the all Masters in their clock control subsystems. Slave Clocks MUST be able to operate properly in the presence of a Rogue Master. Slaves SHOULD NOT Synchronize to a Master which is not the Best Master in its domain. Slaves will continue to recognize a Best Master for the duration of the Announce Time Out Interval. Slaves MAY use an Acceptable Master Table. If a Master is not an Acceptable Master, then the Slave MUST NOT synchronize to it. Note that IEEE 1588-2008 requires slave clocks to support both two-step or one-step Master clocks. See [IEEE1588], subClause 11.2.
Since Announce messages are sent as multicast messages slaves can obtain the IP addresses of a master from the Announce messages. Note that the IP source addresses of Sync and Follow-up messages may have been replaced by the source addresses of a Transparent Clock, so, slaves MUST send Delay Request messages to the IP address in the Announce message. Sync and Follow-up messages can be correlated with the Announce message using the clock ID, which is never altered by Transparent Clocks in this profile.

10. Requirements for Transparent Clocks

Transparent Clocks SHALL NOT change the transmission mode of an Enterprise Profile PTP message. For example, a Transparent Clock SHALL NOT change a unicast message to a multicast message.

Transparent Clocks SHOULD support multiple domains. Transparent Clocks which syntonize to the master clock will need to maintain separate clock rate offsets for each of the supported domains.

11. Requirements for Boundary Clocks

Boundary Clocks SHOULD support multiple simultaneous PTP domains. This will require them to maintain servo loops for each of the domains supported, at least in software. Boundary Clocks MUST NOT combine timing information from different domains.

12. Management and Signaling Messages

PTP Management messages MAY be used. Management messages intended for a specific clock, i.e. the [IEEE1588] defined attribute targetPortIdentity.clockIdentity is not set to All 1’s, MUST be sent as a unicast message. Similarly, if any signaling messages are used they MUST also be sent as unicast messages whenever the message is intended for a specific clock.

13. Forbidden PTP Options

Clocks operating in the Enterprise Profile SHALL NOT use peer to peer timing for delay measurement. Grandmaster Clusters are NOT ALLOWED. The Alternate Master option is also NOT ALLOWED. Clocks operating in the Enterprise Profile SHALL NOT use Alternate Timescales. Unicast discovery and unicast negotiation SHALL NOT be used.
14. Interoperation with IEEE 1588 Default Profile

Clocks operating in the Enterprise Profile will interoperate with clocks operating in the Default Profile described in [IEEE1588] Annex J.3. This variant of the Default Profile uses the End to End Delay Measurement Mechanism. In addition, the Default Profile would have to operate over IPv4 or IPv6 networks, and use management messages in unicast when those messages are directed at a specific clock. If either of these requirements are not met than Enterprise Profile clocks will not interoperate with Annex J.3 Default Profile Clocks. The Enterprise Profile will not interoperate with the Annex J.4 variant of the Default Profile which requires use of the Peer to Peer Delay Measurement Mechanism.

Enterprise Profile Clocks will interoperate with clocks operating in other profiles if the clocks in the other profiles obey the rules of the Enterprise Profile. These rules MUST NOT be changed to achieve interoperability with other profiles.

15. Profile Identification

The IEEE 1588 standard requires that all profiles provide the following identifying information.

PTP Profile:
Enterprise Profile
Version: 1.0
Profile identifier: 00-00-5E-00-01-00

This profile was specified by the IETF

A copy may be obtained at https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/tictoc/documents

16. Security Considerations

Protocols used to transfer time, such as PTP and NTP can be important to security mechanisms which use time windows for keys and authorization. Passing time through the networks poses a security risk since time can potentially be manipulated. The use of multiple simultaneous masters, using multiple PTP domains can mitigate problems from rogue masters and man-in-the-middle attacks. See sections 9 and 10. Additional security mechanisms are outside the scope of this document.

PTP native management messages SHOULD not be used, due to the lack of a security mechanism for this option. Secure management can be obtained using standard management mechanisms which include security, for example NETCONF [NETCONF].

General security considerations of time protocols are discussed in [RFC7384].

17. IANA Considerations

There are no IANA requirements in this specification.
18. References

18.1. Normative References


18.2. Informative References


19. Acknowledgments

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Guidelines for Defining Packet Timestamps
draft-mizrahi-intarea-packet-timestamps-01

Abstract

This document specifies guidelines for defining binary packet timestamp formats in networking protocols at various layers. It also presents three recommended timestamp formats. The target audience of this memo includes network protocol designers. It is expected that a new network protocol that requires a packet timestamp will, in most cases, use one of the recommended timestamp formats. If none of the recommended formats fits the protocol requirements, the new protocol specification should specify the format of the packet timestamp according to the guidelines in this document.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

Timestamps are widely used in network protocols for various purposes, including delay measurement, clock synchronization, and logging or reporting the time of an event.

Timestamps are represented in the RFC series in one of two forms: text-based timestamps, and packet timestamps. Text-based timestamps [RFC3339] are represented as user-friendly strings, and are widely used in the RFC series, for example in information objects and data models, e.g., [RFC5646], [RFC6991], and [RFC7493]. Packet timestamps, on the other hand, are represented by a compact binary field that has a fixed size, and are not intended to have a human-friendly format. Packet timestamps are also very common in the RFC
series, and are used for example for measuring delay and for
synchronizing clocks, e.g., [RFC5905], [RFC4656], and [RFC1323].

This memo presents guidelines for defining a packet timestamp format
in network protocols. Three recommended timestamp formats are
presented. It is expected that a new network protocol that requires
a packet timestamp will, in most cases, use one of the recommended
timestamp formats. If none of the recommended formats fits the
protocol requirements, the new protocol specification should specify
the format of the packet timestamp according to the guidelines in
this document.

2. Terminology

2.1. 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].

2.2. Abbreviations

NTP        Network Time Protocol [RFC5905]
PTP        Precision Time Protocol [IEEE1588]

3. Packet Timestamp Format Specification

This memo recommends to use the timestamp formats defined in
Section 4. In cases where these timestamp formats do not satisfy the
protocol requirements, the timestamp specification should clearly
state the reasons for defining a new format. Moreover, it is
recommended to derive the new timestamp format from an existing
timestamp format, either a timestamp format from this memo, or any
other previously defined timestamp format.

This section defines a template for specifying packet timestamp
formats. A timestamp format specification MUST include the following
aspects:

Timestamp field format:

The format of the timestamp field consists of:

- Size: The number of bits (or octets) used to represent the
  packet timestamp field.
- Units: The units used to represent the timestamp.
If the timestamp is comprised of more than one field, the format of each field is specified.

Epoch:

The origin of the timescale used for the timestamp; the moment in time used as a reference for the timestamp value.

Resolution:

The timestamp resolution; the resolution is equal to the timestamp field unit. If the timestamp consists of two or more fields using different time units, then the resolution is the smallest time unit.

Wraparound:

The wraparound period of the timestamp; any further wraparound-related considerations should be described here.

4. Recommended Timestamp Formats

This memo recommends to use one of the timestamp formats specified below.

Clearly, different network protocols may have different requirements and constraints, and consequently may use different timestamp formats. The choice of the specific timestamp format for a given protocol may depend on a various factors. A few examples of factors that may affect the choice of the timestamp format:

- Timestamp size: while some network protocols may allow a large timestamp fields, in other cases there may be constraints with respect to the timestamp size, affecting the choice of the timestamp format.

- Resolution: the time resolution is another factor that may directly affect the selected timestamp format. Similarly, the wraparound periodicity of the timestamp may also affect the selected format.

- Wraparound period: the length of the time interval in which the timestamp is unique may also be an important factor in choosing the timestamp format. Along with the timestamp resolution, these two factors determine the required number of bits in the timestamp.
o Common format for multiple protocols: if there are two or more network protocols that use timestamps and are often used together in typical systems, using a common timestamp format should be preferred if possible. Specifically, if the network protocol that is being defined typically runs on a PC, then an NTP-based timestamp format may allow easier integration with an NTP-synchronized timer. In contrast, a protocol that is typically deployed on a hardware-based platform, may make better use of a PTP-based timestamp, allowing more efficient integration with a PTP-synchronized timer.

4.1. Using a Recommended Timestamp Format

A specification that uses one of the recommended timestamp formats should specify explicitly that this is a recommended timestamp format, and point to the relevant section in the current memo.

A specification that uses one of the recommended timestamp formats should also include a section on Synchronization Aspects. Any assumptions or requirements related to synchronization should be specified in this section. For example, the synchronization aspects may specify whether nodes populating the timestamps should be synchronized among themselves, and whether the timestamp is measured with respect to a central reference clock such as an NTP server. If time is assumed to be synchronized to a time standard such as UTC or TAI, it should be specified in this section. Further considerations may be discussed in this section, such as required accuracy, or leap second handling.

4.2. NTP Timestamp Formats

4.2.1. NTP 64-bit Timestamp Format

The Network Time Protocol (NTP) 64-bit timestamp format is defined in [RFC5905]. This timestamp format is used in several network protocols, including [RFC6374], [RFC4656], and [RFC5357]. Since this timestamp format is used in NTP, this timestamp format should be preferred in network protocols that are typically deployed in concert with NTP.

The format is presented in this section according to the template defined in Section 3.
Figure 1: NTP [RFC5905] 64-bit Timestamp Format

Timestamp field format:

Seconds: specifies the integer portion of the number of seconds since the epoch.
+ Size: 32 bits.
+ Units: seconds.

Fraction: specifies the fractional portion of the number of seconds since the epoch.
+ Size: 32 bits.
+ Units: the unit is $2^{-32}$ seconds, which is roughly equal to 233 picoseconds.

Epoch:

The epoch is 1 January 1900 at 00:00 UTC.

Resolution:

The resolution is $2^{-32}$ seconds.

Wraparound:

This time format wraps around every $2^{32}$ seconds, which is roughly 136 years. The next wraparound will occur in the year 2036.

4.2.2. NTP 32-bit Timestamp Format

The Network Time Protocol (NTP) 32-bit timestamp format is defined in [RFC5905]. This timestamp format is used in [I-D.morton-ippm-mbm-registry]. This timestamp format should be preferred in network protocols that are typically deployed in concert with NTP. The 32-bit format can be used either when space
constraints do not allow the use of the 64-bit format, or when the 32-bit format satisfies the resolution and wraparound requirements.

The format is presented in this section according to the template defined in Section 3.

```
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|          Seconds              |           Fraction            |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+

Figure 2: NTP [RFC5905] 32-bit Timestamp Format
```

Timestamp field format:

- **Seconds**: specifies the integer portion of the number of seconds since the epoch.
  - Size: 16 bits.
  - Units: seconds.

- **Fraction**: specifies the fractional portion of the number of seconds since the epoch.
  - Size: 16 bits.
  - Units: the unit is 2^(-16) seconds, which is roughly equal to 15.3 microseconds.

**Epoch:**

The epoch is 1 January 1900 at 00:00 UTC.

**Resolution:**

The resolution is 2^(-16) seconds.

**Wraparound:**

This time format wraps around every 2^16 seconds, which is roughly 10 hours.
4.3. The PTP Truncated Timestamp Format

The Precision Time Protocol (PTP) [IEEE1588] uses an 80-bit timestamp format. The truncated timestamp format is a 64-bit field, which is the 64 least significant bits of the 80-bit PTP timestamp. Since this timestamp format is similar to the one used in PTP, this timestamp format should be preferred in network protocols that are typically deployed in PTP-capable devices.

The PTP truncated timestamp format is used in several protocols, such as [RFC6374], [RFC7456], [RFC8186] and [ITU-T-Y.1731].

![Figure 3: PTP [IEEE1588] Truncated Timestamp Format](image)

**Timestamp field format:**

- **Seconds:** specifies the integer portion of the number of seconds since the epoch.
  - Size: 32 bits.
  - Units: seconds.

- **Nanoseconds:** specifies the fractional portion of the number of seconds since the epoch.
  - Size: 32 bits.
  - Units: nanoseconds. The value of this field is in the range 0 to (10^9)-1.

**Epoch:**

The PTP [IEEE1588] epoch is 1 January 1970 00:00:00 TAI, which is 31 December 1969 23:59:51.999918 UTC.

**Resolution:**

The resolution is 1 nanosecond.
Wraparound:

This time format wraps around every $2^{32}$ seconds, which is roughly 136 years. The next wraparound will occur in the year 2106.

5. Timestamp Use Cases

Packet timestamps are used in various network protocols. Typical applications of packet timestamps include delay measurement, clock synchronization, and others. The following table presents a (non-exhaustive) list of protocols that use packet timestamps, and the timestamp formats used in each of these protocols.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>NTP 64-bit</th>
<th>NTP 32-bit</th>
<th>PTP Trunc.</th>
<th>Other format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTP [RFC5905]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWAMP [RFC4656]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWAMP [RFC5357]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWAMP [RFC8186]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRILL [RFC7456]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPLS [RFC6374]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP [RFC1323]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTP [RFC3550]</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4: Protocols that use Packet Timestamps

The rest of this section presents two hypothetic examples of network protocol specifications that use one of the recommended timestamp formats. The examples include the text that specifies the information related to the timestamp format.

5.1. Example 1

Timestamp:
The timestamp format used in this specification is the NTP [RFC5905] 64-bit format, as specified in Section 4.2.1 of [I-D.mizrahi-intarea-packet-timestamps].

Synchronization aspects:

It is assumed that nodes that run this protocol are synchronized to UTC using a synchronization mechanism that is outside the scope of this document. In typical deployments this protocol will be run on a machine that uses NTP [RFC5905] for synchronization. Thus, the timestamp may be derived from the NTP-synchronized clock, allowing the timestamp to be measured with respect to the clock of an NTP server.

5.2. Example 2

Timestamp:

The timestamp format used in this specification is the PTP [IEEE1588] Truncated format, as specified in Section 4.2.3 of [I-D.mizrahi-intarea-packet-timestamps].

Synchronization aspects:

It is assumed that nodes that run this protocol are synchronized among themselves. Nodes may be synchronized to a global reference time. Note that if PTP [IEEE1588] is used for synchronization, the timestamp may be derived from the PTP-synchronized clock, allowing the timestamp to be measured with respect to the clock of an PTP Grandmaster clock.

6. Packet Timestamp Control Field

In some cases it is desirable to have a control field that includes information about the timestamp format. This section defines a recommended format of a timestamp-related control field that is intended for network protocols that require such timestamp-related control information.

The recommended control field includes the following sub-fields:

- Timestamp format.
- Precision – the resolution or granularity of the system clock.
- Epoch.
7. IANA Considerations

This memo includes no request to IANA.

8. Security Considerations

A network protocol that uses a packet timestamp MUST specify the security considerations that result from using the timestamp. This section provides an overview of some of the common security considerations of using timestamps.

Any metadata that is attached to control or data packets, and specifically packet timestamps, can facilitate network reconnaissance; by passively eavesdropping to timestamped packets an attacker can gather information about the network performance, and about the level of synchronization between nodes.

Timestamps can be spoofed or modified by on-path attackers, thus attacking the application that uses the timestamps. For example, if timestamps are used in a delay measurement protocol, an attacker can modify en route timestamps in a way that manipulates the measurement results. Integrity protection mechanisms, such as Hashed Message Authentication Codes (HMAC), can mitigate such attacks. The specification of an integrity protection mechanism is outside the scope of this document, as typically integrity protection will be defined on a per-network-protocol basis, and not specifically for the timestamp field.

Another potential threat that can have a similar impact is delay attacks. An attacker can maliciously delay some or all of the en route messages, with the same harmful implications as described in the previous paragraph. Mitigating delay attacks is a significant challenge; in contrast to spoofing and modification attacks, the delay attack cannot be prevented by cryptographic integrity protection mechanisms. In some cases delay attacks can be mitigated by sending the timestamped information through multiple paths, allowing to detect and to be resilient to an attacker that has access to one of the paths.

In many cases timestamping relies on an underlying synchronization mechanism. Thus, any attack that compromises the synchronization mechanism can also compromise protocols that use timestamping. Attacks on time protocols are discussed in detail in [RFC7384].
9. Acknowledgments

The authors thank Yaakov Stein and other members of the TICTOC and NTP working groups for many helpful comments.

10. References

10.1. Normative References


10.2. Informative References

[I-D.mizrahi-intarea-packet-timestamps]

[I-D.morton-ippm-mbm-registry]

[IEEE1588]

[ITU-T-Y.1731]

[RFC1323]

[RFC3339]

[RFC3550]


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