

6lo  
Internet-Draft  
Updates: 8928 (if approved)  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: 28 December 2025

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26 June 2025

Fixing the C-Flag in Extended Address Registration Option (EARO)  
draft-ietf-6lo-updating-rfc-8928-05

## Abstract

This document updates “Address-Protected Neighbor Discovery for Low-Power and Lossy Networks” (RFC 8928) by changing the position of the C-flag in the Extended Address Registration Option (EARO) and registering it with IANA.

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## 1. Introduction

The Address-Protected Neighbor Discovery for Low-Power and Lossy Networks (AP-ND) [RFC8928] defined the C-flag in EARO. It is used to indicate that the Registration Ownership Verifier (ROVR) field contains a Crypto-ID and that the 6LoWPAN Node (6LN) may be challenged for ownership of the registered address. Initially [RFC8928] defined the C-flag in the EARO in bit position 3; later [RFC9685] defined the P-Field in bits 2 and 3 of the EARO flags field with proper IANA registration, causing an overlap with Figure 1 of [RFC8928] which depicts the location of the C-flag.

This specification updates [RFC8928] by repositioning the C-flag as bit 1 of the EARO flags field, thereby preventing conflicts.

## 2. Terminology

## 2.1. 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.

## 2.2. References

This document uses terms and concepts that are discussed in IPv6-Neighbor Discovery (ND) [RFC4861], [RFC4862], as well as 6LoWPAN-ND [RFC6775], [RFC8505], [RFC8928], [RFC8929], [RFC9685], and [I-D.ietf-6lo-prefix-registration].

### 2.3. Acronyms

This document uses the following abbreviations:

\*6LN:\* 6LoWPAN Node  
 \*EARO:\* Extended Address Registration Option  
 \*ND:\* Neighbor Discovery  
 \*RATInd:\* Registered Address Type Indicator  
 \*ROVR:\* Registration Ownership Verifier

### 3. Updating RFC 8928

[RFC8928] incorrectly refers to the Extended Address Registration Option (EARO) as the Enhanced Address Registration Option. This specification corrects this terminology throughout the document.

In [RFC8928], the C-flag is specified in the EARO flags field at bit position 3 (as depicted in Figure 1 of [RFC8928]); however, [RFC8928] fails to register its position with IANA. Later, [RFC9685] defined the P-Field in bits 2 and 3 of the EARO flags field and obtained proper IANA registration, but this introduced an overlap with the representation in [RFC8928]. To resolve the conflict, this specification updates [RFC8928] by repositioning the C-flag to bit 1 of the EARO flags field, ensuring there are no overlapping definitions.

Figure 1 replaces Figure 1 in [RFC8928] in the case of an EARO used in an NS message.

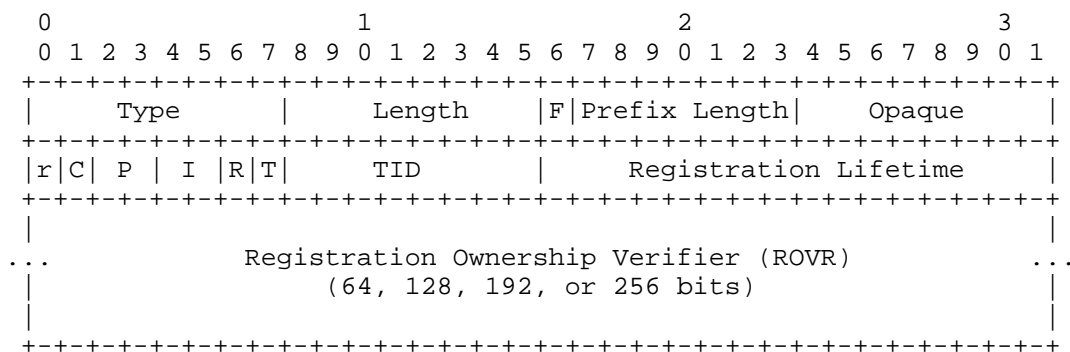


Figure 1: Extended Address Registration Option (EARO) Format for use in NS messages

Figure 2 replaces Figure 1 in [RFC8928] in the case of an EARO used in an NA message. The difference between the two formats is in the usage of bits 16 to 23.

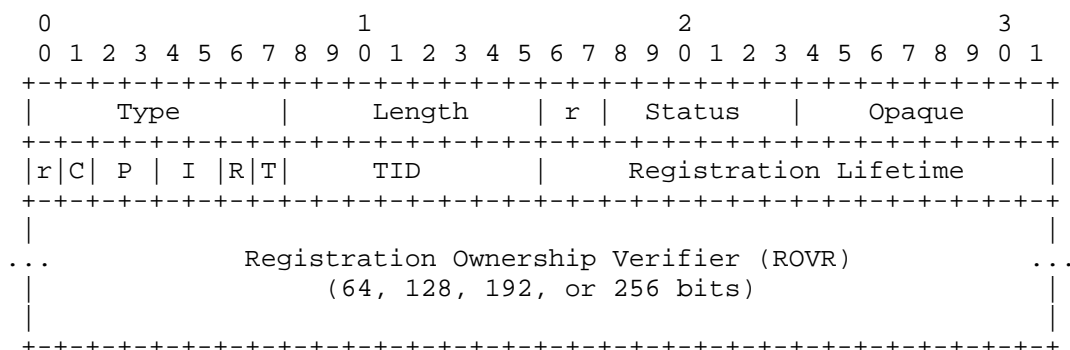


Figure 2: Extended Address Registration Option (EARO) Format for use in NA messages

Option fields of interest for this specification:

\*Type:\* 33

\*Length:\* Defined in [RFC8505].

\*F:\* Defined in [I-D.ietf-6lo-prefix-registration]

\*Prefix Length\* Defined in [I-D.ietf-6lo-prefix-registration]

\*Status: 6-bit unsigned integer. This field is used in NA(EARO) response messages only to indicate the status of a registration. This field is defined in [RFC8505] and resized by [RFC9010]. The values for the Status field are available in [IANA.ICMP.AR.O.STAT]. This field MUST be set to 0 in NS(EARO) messages unless the registration is for a prefix, in which case the F-flag is set and the prefix length is provided.

\*Opaque:\* Defined in [RFC8505]

\*r (reserved):\* 1-bit reserved field in NS(EARO) and NA(EARO) as depicted in Figure 1 and Figure 2. 2-bit reserved field (most significant bits of Status filed) in NA(EARO) as depicted in Figure 2. All reserved field MUST be set to zero by the sender and MUST be ignored by the receiver.

\*C:\* 1-bit flag, moved from its position in Figure 1 of [RFC8928].  
It is set to indicate that the ROVR field contains a Crypto-ID and  
that the 6LN MAY be challenged for ownership.

\*P:\* 2-bit field for Registered Address Type Indicator (RATInd).

Indicates whether the registered address is unicast, multicast, or anycast, or derived from the registered unicast prefix. Used to transport the RATInd in different protocols. The values for the RATInd field are available in [IANA.ICMP.ARO.P-FIELD].

\*I:\* Defined in [RFC8505]

\*R:\* Defined in [RFC8505]

\*T:\* Defined in [RFC8505]

\*TID (Transaction ID):\* Defined in [RFC8505]

\*Registration Lifetime:\* Defined in [RFC8505]

\*Registration Ownership Verifier (ROVR):\* Defined in [RFC8505].  
Variable length field, used to verify who "owns" a registered IPv6  
address. When the C-flag is set, this field contains a Crypto-ID  
[RFC8928].

## 4. Security Considerations

This specification does not introduce any new security considerations beyond those already discussed in [RFC8928] and [RFC8505].

## 5. Operational Considerations

The updates introduced in this document are not backward compatible. However, given that there are no known implementations or deployments of [RFC8928], this document do not require any transition plan.

## 6. IANA Considerations

### 6.1. Bit Position of the C-flag

IANA is requested to reference this RFC in addition to [RFC8928] when updating the "Address Registration Option Flags" [IANA.ICMP.ARO.FLG] registry under the heading "Internet Control Message Protocol version 6 (ICMPv6) Parameters" as specified in Table 1:

EARO flag	Description	Reference
1 (suggested)	C-Flag	RFC XXXX and [RFC8928]

Table 1: Bit Position of the C-flag

## 7. Normative References

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- [RFC9685] Thubert, P., Ed., "Listener Subscription for IPv6 Neighbor Discovery Multicast and Anycast Addresses", RFC 9685, DOI 10.17487/RFC9685, November 2024, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc9685>>.

[I-D.ietf-6lo-prefix-registration]

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[IANA.ICMP.ARO.FLG]

IANA, "IANA Registry for the Address Registration Option Flags", IANA, <https://www.iana.org/assignments/icmpv6-parameters/icmpv6-parameters.xhtml#icmpv6-address-registration-option-flags>.

[IANA.ICMP.ARO.STAT]

IANA, "IANA Registry for the Address Registration Option Status Value", IANA, <https://www.iana.org/assignments/icmpv6-parameters/icmpv6-parameters.xhtml#address-registration>.

[IANA.ICMP.ARO.P-FIELD]

IANA, "IANA Registry for the Address Registration Option Status Value", IANA, <https://www.iana.org/assignments/icmpv6-parameters/icmpv6-parameters.xhtml#p-field-values>.

## 8. Informative References

[RFC8929] Thubert, P., Ed., Perkins, C.E., and E. Levy-Abegnoli, "IPv6 Backbone Router", RFC 8929, DOI 10.17487/RFC8929, November 2020, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8929>>.

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