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A YANG Data Model for BGP Communities  
draft-ietf-grow-yang-bgp-communities-06

## Abstract

This document defines a YANG data model for the structured specification of BGP communities. The model provides operators with a way to publish their locally defined BGP communities in a standardized format.

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## 1. Introduction

ISPs use BGP communities to add information to their prefix announcements or to let customers influence routing behaviour inside the network of the ISP. Each ISP defines for itself which BGP communities to support and how the structure of these communities should be interpreted. This document provides a YANG[RFC7950] module for describing the structure and meaning of BGP communities[RFC1997], Extended BGP communities[RFC4360] and Large BGP communities[RFC8092]. ISPs can use this standardized format to publish their community definitions. Section 3 elaborates on further advantages of using such a standardized format.

## 2. Terminology

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.

The meaning of the symbols in tree diagrams are defined in [RFC8340].

### 3. Rationale

ISPs may define various BGP communities that have local significance within their network. These communities could be used to add miscellaneous information to a prefix announcement. For example, a community "64501:1:528" may signify that the AS with ASN 64501 is originating a prefix from a point of presence in The Netherlands (ISO 3166-1 code 528). Communities could be used to allow customers of an ISP to control the routing behavior of their prefixes inside the ISP. For example, a community "64501:4:64498" attached to a prefix advertised to AS64501 by a customer may be interpreted by AS64501 to mean that this prefix must not be propagated to AS64498.

For both use cases it is necessary for the ISP to communicate the meaning of their locally defined communities to others. Currently this is typically done by publishing a list of communities on a web page, or as a remark inside an "autnum" object in the Internet Routing Registry. This makes it cumbersome to determine whether and where an ISP publishes community information. The lack of a well-defined structure makes it hard to create a standardized publishing mechanism, and to develop tools for automatically parsing community information and eventually triggering configuration actions.

The purpose of the YANG model defined in this document is to provide a standardized format for publishing community definitions. These definitions help applications to interpret the structure and purpose of BGP communities. For example, looking glasses may use the published definitions to parse communities seen in BGP announcements and display their meaning. Another potential use case is in generating routing policy configurations based on community definitions published by an upstream ASN. This could be achieved automatically using external tooling to generate router configurations, or inside a router's command-line interface by importing the definitions and providing the CLI-user with available choices for manual configuration.

This document only describes a data model for the publishing format of community definitions. The publishing location and publishing mechanism used are outside the scope of this specification. The data model does not make any assumption about the protocol used to publish/retrieve formatted data following the model.

### 4. Tree view

The following tree diagram provides an overview of the "ietf-bgp-communities" data model.

```
module: ietf-bgp-communities
  +--ro bgp-communities
    +--ro serial?      uint32
    +--ro uri?         inet:uri
    +--ro description? string
    +--ro contact-url? inet:uri
    +--ro contact* [email-address]
      +--ro email-address      inet:email-address
      +--ro name?              string
      +--ro role?              string
      +--ro organization?      string
      +--ro organizational-unit? string
    +--ro regular* [name]
      +--ro name                community-name
      +--ro category?          community-category
      +--ro description?       community-description
      +--ro global-admin       two-octet-as-number
      +--ro local-admin
        +--ro format?         local-admin-format
        +--ro field* [name]
          +--ro name          field-name
          +--ro length?       uint8
          +--ro pattern       field-pattern
          +--ro description?  field-description
    +--ro extended* [name]
      +--ro name                community-name
      +--ro category?          community-category
      +--ro description?       community-description
      +--ro type                uint8
      +--ro subtype             uint8
      +--ro (global-admin)
        +--:(asn)
          +--ro asn?          two-octet-as-number
        +--:(asn4)
          +--ro asn4?         inet:as-number
      +--ro local-admin
        +--ro format?         local-admin-format
        +--ro field* [name]
          +--ro name          field-name
          +--ro length?       uint8
          +--ro pattern       field-pattern
          +--ro description?  field-description
    +--ro large* [name]
      +--ro name                community-name
      +--ro category?          community-category
      +--ro description?       community-description
      +--ro global-admin       inet:as-number
      +--ro local-data-part-1
```

```

|   +--ro format?    local-admin-format
|   +--ro field* [name]
|       +--ro name          field-name
|       +--ro length?       uint8
|       +--ro pattern       field-pattern
|       +--ro description?  field-description
+--ro local-data-part-2
    +--ro format?    local-admin-format
    +--ro field* [name]
        +--ro name          field-name
        +--ro length?       uint8
        +--ro pattern       field-pattern
        +--ro description?  field-description

```

## 5. YANG Module

This section contains the complete YANG module defined in this document.

Several elements in this module use data types from [I-D.ietf-netmod-rfc6991-bis]. These data types are represented with the prefix "inet".

<CODE BEGINS> file "ietf-bgp-communities@2025-07-04.yang"

```

module ietf-bgp-communities {
  yang-version 1.1;
  namespace
    "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-bgp-communities";
  prefix bgp-comm;

  import ietf-inet-types {
    prefix inet;
    reference
      "draft-ietf-netmod-rfc6991-bis-18: Common YANG Data Types";
  }

  organization
    "IETF GROW Working Group";
  contact
    "WG Web:  <https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/grow/>
    WG List:  <mailto:grow@ietf.org>

    Author:   Martin Pels
              <mailto:mpels@ripe.net>";
  description
    "This module describes a structure for BGP Communities

```

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This version of this YANG module is part of RFC YYYY; see the RFC itself for full legal notices.

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 (RFC 2119) (RFC 8174) when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.";

// RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID

```
revision 2025-07-04 {  
  description  
    "Initial revision.";  
  reference  
    "RFC YYYY: A YANG Data Model for BGP Communities  
    RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID";  
}
```

```
typedef two-octet-as-number {  
  type uint16;  
  description  
    "This type represents autonomous system numbers, which  
    identify an Autonomous System (AS).  
  
    Autonomous system numbers were originally limited to 16  
    bits. BGP extensions have enlarged the autonomous system  
    number space to 32 bits. The two-octet-as-number type uses  
    an uint16 base type for use cases where the enlarged number  
    space is not supported.";  
  reference  
    "RFC 1930: Guidelines for creation, selection, and  
    registration of an Autonomous System (AS)";  
}
```

```
typedef community-name {  
  type string {  
    length "1..255";
```

```
    pattern '^[^s]+';
  }
  description
    "This type restricts values for the name of a BGP community.";
  reference
    "RFC YYYY: A YANG Data Model for BGP Communities
    RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID";
}

typedef community-category {
  type enumeration {
    enum informational {
      value 0;
      description
        "Informational community";
    }
    enum action {
      value 1;
      description
        "Action community";
    }
  }
  description
    "This type restricts values for the category of a BGP
    community.";
  reference
    "RFC 8195: Use of BGP Large Communities";
}

typedef community-description {
  type string {
    length "1..65535";
  }
  description
    "This type restricts values for the description of a BGP
    community.";
  reference
    "RFC YYYY: A YANG Data Model for BGP Communities
    RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID";
}

typedef local-admin-format {
  type enumeration {
    enum decimal {
      value 0;
      description
        "Decimal number string";
    }
  }
}
```

```
    enum binary {
        value 1;
        description
            "Bit string";
    }
}
description
    "This type defines the format options for a BGP community
    Local Administrator/Local Data field encoding";
reference
    "RFC YYYY: A YANG Data Model for BGP Communities
    RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID";
}

typedef field-name {
    type string {
        length "1..255";
        pattern '^[^s]+';
    }
    description
        "This type restricts values for the name leaf of a BGP
        community Local Administrator/Local Data field.";
    reference
        "RFC YYYY: A YANG Data Model for BGP Communities
        RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID";
}

typedef field-pattern {
    type string {
        length "1..4095";
        pattern '[-0-9.,*?^$+|(){}\\[\\]]+';
    }
    description
        "This type restricts values for the pattern leaf of a BGP
        community Local Administrator/Local Data field. Patterns
        are described as POSIX Extended Regular Expressions";
    reference
        "IEEE 1003.2-1992: Information Technology - Portable
        Operating System Interface (POSIX) - Part 2: Shell and
        Utilities (Vol. 1)";
}

typedef field-description {
    type string {
        length "1..65535";
        pattern '([^*]|([^*]+))';
    }
    description
```



```
"This type restricts values for the description leaf of a BGP
community Local Administrator/Local Data field. The string
containing a single asterisk '*' indicates that the value of
the field should be used as description.";
reference
  "RFC YYYY: A YANG Data Model for BGP Communities
  RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID";
}

grouping local-admin-fields {
  description
    "A group of subfields inside the Local Administrator/Local
    Data section of a BGP Community";
  list field {
    key "name";
    ordered-by user;
    description
      "Ordered list of fields with their meanings";
    leaf name {
      type field-name;
      description
        "The name of the field";
    }
    leaf length {
      type uint8;
      description
        "Length of the field. If local-admin-format is 'decimal',
        this is a number of digits. In case local-admin-format is
        'binary', it is a number of bits.

        Parsers use the field length to determine how many
        decimals or bits from the Local Administrator part of the
        community are used by this field. If this leaf is not
        defined, the length is assumed to be the maximum allowed
        length of the entire field list. In this case the field
        list MUST NOT contain more than one element.";
    }
    leaf pattern {
      type field-pattern;
      mandatory true;
      description
        "Used by parsers to match on the content of the field.
        This could be a single value or a regular expression
        pattern matching multiple values.";
    }
    leaf description {
      type field-description;
      description
```

```
        "A text description of the field pattern. This description
        can be used to provide meaning to specific values for a
        field.";
    }
}
}

container bgp-communities {
  config false;
  description
    "A community set";
  leaf serial {
    type uint32;
    must "boolean(.)";
    description
      "Version number of the community set. This value wraps and
      should be compared using sequence space arithmetic.
      Publishing implementations are free to decide how to
      generate this value. One example method is to use the
      YYYYMMDDnn syntax as commonly used inside the DNS.";
    reference
      "RFC 1912: Common DNS Operational and Configuration Errors";
  }
  leaf uri {
    type inet:uri;
    description
      "Publication point for the community set";
  }
  leaf description {
    type string {
      length "1..65535";
    }
    description
      "A description for the community set";
  }
  leaf contact-url {
    type inet:uri;
    description
      "A reference to a webpage with maintainer contact
      information";
  }
  list contact {
    key "email-address";
    description
      "A list of contacts for the community set maintainer(s)";
    leaf email-address {
      type inet:email-address;
      description

```

```
        "Maintainer contact e-mail address";
    }
    leaf name {
        type string {
            length "1..255";
        }
        description
            "Maintainer contact name";
    }
    leaf role {
        type string {
            length "1..255";
        }
        description
            "Maintainer contact role";
    }
    leaf organization {
        type string {
            length "1..255";
        }
        description
            "Maintainer contact organization";
    }
    leaf organizational-unit {
        type string {
            length "1..255";
        }
        description
            "Maintainer contact organizational unit";
    }
}
list regular {
    key "name";
    ordered-by user;
    description
        "A list of objects describing RFC 1997 BGP Communities";
    leaf name {
        type community-name;
        description
            "Community name";
    }
    leaf category {
        type community-category;
        description
            "Category of the community";
    }
    leaf description {
        type community-description;
    }
}
```

```
    description
      "Description for the community";
  }
  leaf global-admin {
    type two-octet-as-number;
    mandatory true;
    description
      "Global Administrator field";
  }
  container local-admin {
    description
      "Local Administrator Field";
    leaf format {
      type local-admin-format;
      default "decimal";
      description
        "Format used for parsing Local Administrator subfields";
    }
    uses local-admin-fields;
  }
  reference
    "RFC 1997: BGP Communities Attribute";
}
list extended {
  key "name";
  ordered-by user;
  description
    "A list of objects describing RFC 4360 Extended BGP
    Communities. Two-Octet and Four-Octet AS Specific
    communities are supported by this model.";
  leaf name {
    type community-name;
    description
      "Community name";
  }
  leaf category {
    type community-category;
    description
      "Category of the community";
  }
  leaf description {
    type community-description;
    description
      "Description for the community";
  }
  leaf type {
    type uint8 {
      range "0|2|64|66";
    }
  }
}
```

```
}
mandatory true;
description
    "High-order Type of the community. Supported values are 0
    (0x00) for Transitive Two-Octet AS-Specific Extended
    Communities, 2 (0x02) for Transitive Four-Octet
    AS-Specific Extended Communities, 64 (0x40) for
    Non-Transitive Two-Octet AS-Specific Extended Communities
    and 66 (0x42) for Non-Transitive Four-Octet AS-Specific
    Extended Communities.";
}
leaf subtype {
    type uint8;
    mandatory true;
    description
        "Low-order Sub-Type of the community";
}
choice global-admin {
    mandatory true;
    description
        "Global Administrator Field";
    case asn {
        leaf asn {
            type two-octet-as-number;
            must "../type = 0 or ../type = 64";
            description
                "Two-Octet AS";
        }
    }
    case asn4 {
        leaf asn4 {
            type inet:as-number;
            must "../type = 2 or ../type = 66";
            description
                "Four-Octet AS";
        }
    }
}
container local-admin {
    description
        "Local Administrator Field";
    leaf format {
        type local-admin-format;
        default "decimal";
        description
            "Format used for parsing Local Administrator subfields";
    }
    uses local-admin-fields;
```

```
    }
    reference
      "RFC 4360: BGP Extended Communities Attribute";
  }
  list large {
    key "name";
    ordered-by user;
    description
      "A list of objects describing RFC 8092 Large BGP
      Communities";
    leaf name {
      type community-name;
      description
        "Community name";
    }
    leaf category {
      type community-category;
      description
        "Category of the community";
    }
    leaf description {
      type community-description;
      description
        "Description for the community";
    }
    leaf global-admin {
      type inet:as-number;
      mandatory true;
      description
        "Global Administrator field";
    }
    container local-data-part-1 {
      description
        "Local Data Part 1 Field";
      leaf format {
        type local-admin-format;
        default "decimal";
        description
          "Format used for parsing Local Data Part 1 subfields";
      }
      uses local-admin-fields;
    }
    container local-data-part-2 {
      description
        "Local Data Part 2 Field";
      leaf format {
        type local-admin-format;
        default "decimal";
      }
    }
  }
}
```

```
        description
            "Format used for parsing Local Data Part 2 subfields";
        }
        uses local-admin-fields;
    }
    reference
        "RFC 8092: BGP Large Communities Attribute";
    }
}
}
<CODE ENDS>
```

## 6. Operational guidelines

### 6.1. Publishing guidelines

Operators SHOULD only publish BGP community definitions for networks they control. This may include communities where the Global Administrator field contains a private ASN, if this community has a local meaning inside the network of the publisher.

When publishing community definitions with overlapping field patterns, these definitions MUST be ordered from most to least preferred. This ensures parsers can perform deterministic matching (see Section 6.2). For example, a definition for a single community "64500:123" needs to be specified before a definition that matches a covering range of communities "64500:\*".

### 6.2. Parsing guidelines

A published BGP community definition can be used by parsers to display information about a received community. If a received community matches multiple published community definitions, the first matching definition in the published order takes precedence.

Parsers that use published community definitions from multiple operators SHOULD NOT attempt to match received communities where the Global Administrator field contains a private ASN, unless they have some method to determine which published definition is the authoritative one.

By default, communities are compared using the decimal representation of the fields. If "format" for a Local Administrator or Local Data Part is set to "binary", the fields in the received community are converted to strings of zeros and ones before comparison.

See Section 9.2 for security considerations when parsing community definitions.

## 7. IANA considerations

### 7.1. YANG Namespace Registration

This document registers the following XML namespace URN in the "IETF XML Registry", following the format defined in [RFC3688]:

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-bgp-communities  
Registrant Contact: The IESG.  
XML: N/A, the requested URI is an XML namespace.

### 7.2. YANG Module Registration

This document registers the following YANG module in the "YANG Module Names" registry [RFC6020]:

Name: ietf-bgp-communities  
Maintained by IANA? N  
Namespace: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-bgp-communities  
Prefix: bgp-comm  
Reference: RFC YYYY  
RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID

### 7.3. YANG SID Allocation

This document registers the following entry in the "IETF YANG SID" registry [RFC9595]:

SID range entry point: TBD  
SID range size: 100  
YANG module name: ietf-bgp-communities  
Reference: RFC YYYY  
RFC-EDITOR: please update YYYY with this RFC ID

## 8. Implementation status

RFC-EDITOR: Please remove this section and the accompanying reference(s) 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.

According to [RFC7942], "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. Publishing implementations

The following networks are known to publish BGP community definitions according to this specification.

ASN	Publication URI	YANG model revision
197000	as197000.json ( <a href="https://www-static.ripe.net/dynamic/draft-ietf-grow-yang-bgp-communities/as197000.json">https://www-static.ripe.net/dynamic/draft-ietf-grow-yang-bgp-communities/as197000.json</a> )	2025-07-04
25152	as25152.json ( <a href="https://www-static.ripe.net/dynamic/draft-ietf-grow-yang-bgp-communities/as25152.json">https://www-static.ripe.net/dynamic/draft-ietf-grow-yang-bgp-communities/as25152.json</a> )	2025-07-04

Table 1: Publishing implementations

### 8.2. Parser implementations

The following known parser implementations exist.

Name	YANG model revision
NLNOG Looking Glass ( <a href="https://github.com/NLNOG/lg.ring.nlnog.net/">https://github.com/NLNOG/lg.ring.nlnog.net/</a> )	2025-07-04

Table 2: Parser implementations

## 9. Security considerations

### 9.1. Publishing considerations

This section is modeled after the template described in Section 3.7 of [I-D.ietf-netmod-rfc8407bis].

The "ietf-bgp-communities" YANG module defines a data model that is designed to be accessed via YANG-based management protocols, such as NETCONF [RFC6241] and RESTCONF [RFC8040]. These YANG-based management protocols (1) have to use a secure transport layer (e.g., SSH [RFC4252], TLS [RFC8446], and QUIC [RFC9000]) and (2) have to use mutual authentication.

The Network Configuration Access Control Model (NACM) [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 no data nodes defined in this YANG module that are writable/creatable/deletable.

Some of the readable data nodes in this YANG module may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. Specifically, the following subtrees and data nodes have particular sensitivities/vulnerabilities:

- \* bgp-communities/contact/email-address
- \* bgp-communities/contact/name

Disclosing this information may be misused, e.g., for tracking and data correlation. Publishers MUST NOT populate these elements with Personally Identifiable Information (PII). For example, these elements may be set with information that refers to generic contact information, not pointing to specific individuals.

### 9.2. Parsing considerations

The YANG module described in this document may be used to specify BGP community definitions in different serialization formats, such as XML, JSON or CBOR. Applications that parse these community definitions SHOULD reject objects that do not conform to the YANG model. Furthermore, parsers SHOULD check that the sum of the specified Local Administrator or Local Data Part field lengths in each community definition does not exceed the local part size of the specified community type. For example, a Regular BGP community definition with format "decimal" containing a field of length 4 and a

field of length 2 would be illegal, as the Local Administrator field has a maximum length of 65535 (5 digits).

The "bgp-communities/contact-url" element may contain a link to an untrusted webpage. Parsers MAY opt to render the URL as plain text rather than a clickable link, to prevent inadvertent exposure of information by users of the rendered output.

Several elements with the "string" data type may be used to display information in a web page or application. Parsers should take care that the appropriate escaping is performed to protect against cross-site scripting attacks.

## 10. Normative References

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## Appendix A. JSON Examples

This section shows example use cases for the YANG module defined in this document, using JSON encoding (see [RFC7951]). The examples contain long lines that may be folded, as described in [RFC8792].

### A.1. RFC8195 Selective NO\_EXPORT definition

A JSON definition for the example Large BGP community described in [RFC8195], Section 4.1.1 looks as follows.

===== NOTE: '\ ' line wrapping per RFC 8792 =====

```
{
  "ietf-bgp-communities:bgp-communities": {
    "serial": 2023080101,
    "uri": "http://example.net/peering/communities",
    "description": "BGP Community example for ASN-Based Selective \
NO_EXPORT",
    "contact": [
      {
        "email-address": "noc@example.net",
        "name": "Example.net contact",
        "role": "Administrative contact",
        "organization": "Example.net",
        "organizational-unit": "NOC"
      }
    ],
    "large": [
      {
        "name": "RFC8195-NOEXPORT-ASN",
        "category": "action",
        "description": "Do not export route to ASN",
        "global-admin": 64497,
        "local-data-part-1": {
          "field": [
            {
              "name": "Function",
              "pattern": "4",
              "description": "ASN-No-Export"
            }
          ]
        },
        "local-data-part-2": {
          "field": [
            {
              "name": "ASN",
              "pattern": ".*",
              "description": "*"
            }
          ]
        }
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

## A.2. RFC4384 Data Collection definition

A JSON definition for the example Regular and Extended BGP communities described in [RFC4384], Section 4 looks as follows.

===== NOTE: '\ ' line wrapping per RFC 8792 =====

```
{
  "ietf-bgp-communities:bgp-communities": {
    "serial": 2023080101,
    "uri": "http://example.net/peering/communities",
    "description": "BGP Community example for Data Collection",
    "contact-url": "https://example.net/contact",
    "regular": [
      {
        "name": "RFC4384-REGULAR-ORIGIN-OC/FJ",
        "description": "A national route over a terrestrial link \
from the Fiji Islands",
        "global-admin": 10876,
        "local-admin": {
          "format": "binary",
          "field": [
            {
              "name": "Region",
              "length": 5,
              "pattern": "00010",
              "description": "OC"
            },
            {
              "name": "Satellite",
              "length": 1,
              "pattern": "0",
              "description": "*"
            },
            {
              "name": "Country",
              "length": 10,
              "pattern": "0011110010",
              "description": "FJ"
            }
          ]
        }
      }
    ],
    "extended": [
      {
        "name": "RFC4384-EXTENDED-ORIGIN-OC/FJ",
        "description": "A national route over a terrestrial link \
```



```
from the Fiji Islands",
  "type": 0,
  "subtype": 8,
  "asn": 10876,
  "local-admin": {
    "format": "binary",
    "field": [
      {
        "name": "Reserved",
        "length": 16,
        "pattern": "0000000000000000"
      },
      {
        "name": "Region",
        "length": 5,
        "pattern": "00010",
        "description": "OC"
      },
      {
        "name": "Satellite",
        "length": 1,
        "pattern": "0",
        "description": "*"
      },
      {
        "name": "Country",
        "length": 10,
        "pattern": "0011110010",
        "description": "FJ"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

## Appendix B. Acknowledgements

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