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A Profile for Autonomous System Provider Authorization  
draft-ietf-sidrops-aspa-profile-24

Abstract

This document defines a Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) protected content type for Autonomous System Provider Authorization (ASPA) objects for use with the Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI). An ASPA is a digitally signed object through which the issuer (the holder of an Autonomous System identifier), can authorize one or more other Autonomous Systems (ASes) as its transit providers. When validated, an ASPA's eContent can be used for detection and mitigation of route leaks.

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.

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## Table of Contents

1. Introduction . . . . .	3
2. ASPA Content Type . . . . .	4
3. ASPA eContent . . . . .	4
3.1. version . . . . .	5
3.2. customerASID . . . . .	5
3.3. providers . . . . .	6
4. ASPA Validation . . . . .	6
5. IANA Considerations . . . . .	7
6. Implementation Considerations . . . . .	8
6.1. Use of One-Time Use End Entity Certificates . . . . .	8
6.2. ASPA Object Filenames . . . . .	9
6.3. Upper Bound on the Number of Providers . . . . .	9
7. Security Considerations . . . . .	9
8. Implementation status . . . . .	9
9. Acknowledgments . . . . .	10
Contributors . . . . .	10
References . . . . .	11
Normative References . . . . .	11
Informative References . . . . .	12
Appendix A. Example ASPA eContent Payload . . . . .	13
Authors' Addresses . . . . .	15

## 1. Introduction

The primary purpose of the Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) [RFC6480] is to improve security in the global Internet routing system. As part of this infrastructure, a mechanism is needed for Autonomous Systems (AS) operators, in their capacity as customer, to designate and authorize other ASes as their Provider(s). A Provider AS (PAS) is a network providing connectivity between networks - it provides transit services to the customer, that is:

- a. the provider may propagate Network Layer Reachability Information (NLRI) received from any direction (e.g., routes the provider learned from its own providers, lateral peers, and other customers), or default route advertisements, towards the customer;
- b. the provider may propagate NLRI received from the customer towards any direction (e.g. towards the provider's providers, lateral peers, and other customers).

The digitally signed Autonomous System Provider Authorization (ASPA) object profile specified in this document provides the authorization mechanism mentioned above and can be used to facilitate detection and mitigation of route leaks.

An ASPA object is a cryptographically verifiable attestation signed by the holder of an Autonomous System identifier (hereafter called the "Customer AS", or CAS). An ASPA contains a list of one or more ASes, each entry meaning the listed AS is authorized to act as Provider network for the CAS. When the CAS makes use of multiple providers, all Provider ASes are to be listed in the ASPA, including any non-transparent Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Route Server (RS) ASes. Note that the common case for RS ASes at IXPs is to operate transparently (see Section 2.2.2.1 [RFC7947]), and transparent IXP Route Servers need not be listed as PAS in ASPAs.

The BGP Roles that an Autonomous System (AS) may have in its peering relationships with eBGP neighbors are discussed in [I-D.ietf-sidrops-asma-verification]. The details of ASPA registration requirements for ASes in different scenarios are also specified in that document. In addition, the procedures for verifying AS\_PATHs in BGP UPDATE messages using Validated ASPA Payloads (VAPs) are described in that document.

This CMS [RFC5652] protected content type definition conforms to the [RFC6488] template for RPKI signed objects. In accordance with Section 4 of [RFC6488], this document defines:

1. The object identifier (OID) that identifies the ASPA signed object. This OID appears in the `eContentType` field of the `encapContentInfo` object as well as the content-type signed attribute within the `signerInfo` structure.
2. The ASN.1 syntax for the ASPA content, which is the payload signed by the CAS. The ASPA content is encoded using the ASN.1 [X.680] Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) [X.690].
3. The steps required to validate an ASPA beyond the validation steps specified in [RFC6488].

## 2. ASPA Content Type

The content-type for an ASPA is defined as `id-ct-ASPA`, which has the numerical value of 1.2.840.113549.1.9.16.1.49. This OID MUST appear both within the `eContentType` in the `encapContentInfo` structure as well as the content-type signed attribute within the `signerInfo` structure (see [RFC6488]).

## 3. ASPA eContent

The content of an ASPA identifies the Customer AS (CAS) as well as the Set of Provider ASes (SPAS) that are authorized by the CAS to be its Providers.

A user registering ASPA(s) must be cognizant of Sections 2, 3, and 4 of [I-D.ietf-sidrops-asma-verification] and the user (or their software tool) must comply with the ASPA registration recommendations in Section 4 of that document.

It is highly recommended that for a given Customer AS, a single ASPA object be maintained which contains all providers, including any non-transparent RS ASes. Such a practice helps prevent race conditions during ASPA updates. Otherwise, said race conditions might affect route propagation. The software that provides hosting for ASPA records SHOULD support enforcement of this recommendation. In the case of the transition process between different CA registries, the ASPA records SHOULD be kept identical in all registries in terms of their authorization contents.

The eContent of an ASPA is an instance of `ASProviderAttestation`, formally defined by the following ASN.1 [X.680] module:

```
RPKI-ASPA-2023
{ iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549) pkcs(1)
  pkcs-9(9) smime(16) modules(0) id-mod-rpki-aspa-2023(TBD) }

DEFINITIONS EXPLICIT TAGS ::=
BEGIN

IMPORTS
  CONTENT-TYPE
  FROM CryptographicMessageSyntax-2010 -- From RFC 6268
    { iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549) pkcs(1)
      pkcs-9(9) smime(16) modules(0) id-mod-cms-2009(58) } ;

id-ct-ASPA OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::=
{ iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549) pkcs(1)
  pkcs-9(9) id-smime(16) id-ct(1) aspa(49) }

ct-ASPA CONTENT-TYPE ::=
{ TYPE ASProviderAttestation IDENTIFIED BY id-ct-ASPA }

ASProviderAttestation ::= SEQUENCE {
  version [0]    INTEGER DEFAULT 0,
  customerASID   CAS,
  providers      ProviderASSet }

CAS ::= INTEGER (1..4294967295)

ProviderASSet ::= SEQUENCE (SIZE(1..MAX)) OF ASID

ASID ::= INTEGER (0..4294967295)

END
```

Note that this content appears as the eContent within the encapContentInfo as specified in [RFC6488].

### 3.1. version

The version number of the ASProviderAttestation that complies with this specification MUST be 1 and MUST be explicitly encoded.

### 3.2. customerASID

The customerASID field contains a positive integer that represents the AS number of the Customer Autonomous System that is the authorizing entity.

### 3.3. providers

The providers field contains the listing of ASes that are authorized as providers.

Each element contained in the providers field is an instance of ASID. Each ASID element contains the AS number of an AS that has been authorized by the customer AS as its provider or RS.

In addition to the constraints described by the formal ASN.1 definition, the contents of the providers field MUST satisfy the following constraints:

- \* The CustomerASID value MUST NOT appear in any ASID in the providers field.
- \* The elements of providers MUST be ordered in ascending numerical order.
- \* Each value of ASID MUST be unique (with respect to the other elements of providers).
- \* An ASID value of 0 can only be encoded in the providers field as a single item list, i.e., an element for AS 0 MUST NOT appear alongside any other elements.

## 4. ASPA Validation

Before a relying party can use an ASPA to validate a routing announcement, the relying party MUST first validate the ASPA object itself. To validate an ASPA, the relying party MUST perform all the validation checks specified in [RFC6488] as well as the following additional ASPA-specific validation steps.

- \* The Autonomous System Identifier Delegation Extension [RFC3779] MUST be present in the end-entity (EE) certificate (contained within the ASPA), and the Customer ASID in the ASPA eContent MUST match the ASID specified by the EE certificate's Autonomous System Identifier Delegation Extension.
- \* The Autonomous System Identifier Delegation Extension MUST contain exactly one "id" element (Section 3.2.3.6 of [RFC3779]) and MUST NOT contain any "inherit" elements (Section 3.2.3.3 of [RFC3779]) or "range" elements (Section 3.2.3.7 of [RFC3779]).
- \* The IP Address Delegation Extension [RFC3779] MUST be absent.

## 5. IANA Considerations

### 5.1. SMI Security for S/MIME Module Identifier registry

IANA is requested to allocate for id-mod-rpki-aspa-2023 in the "SMI Security for S/MIME Module Identifier (1.2.840.113549.1.9.16.0)" registry as follows:

Decimal	Description	Specification
TBD2	id-mod-rpki-aspa-2023	[RFC-to-be]

Table 1

### 5.2. SMI Security for S/MIME CMS Content Type registry

IANA is requested to make permanent in the "SMI Security for S/MIME CMS Content Type (1.2.840.113549.1.9.16.1)" registry as follows:

Decimal	Description	Specification
49	id-ct-ASPA	[RFC-to-be]

Table 2

### 5.3. RPKI Signed Object registry

IANA is requested to make permanent in the "RPKI Signed Object" registry as follows:

Name	OID	Specification
Autonomous System Provider Authorization	1.2.840.113549.1.9.16.1.49	[RFC-to-be]

Table 3

### 5.4. RPKI Repository Name Scheme registry

IANA is requested to make permanent in the "RPKI Repository Name Scheme" registry [RFC6481] as follows:

Filename Extension	RPKI Object	Reference
.asa	Autonomous System Provider Authorization	[RFC-to-be]

Table 4

### 5.5. Media Type registry

The IANA is requested to register the media type application/rpki-aspa in the "Media Type" registry as follows:

```
Type name: application
Subtype name: rpki-aspa
Required parameters: N/A
Optional parameters: N/A
Encoding considerations: binary
Security considerations: Carries an RPKI ASPA [RFC-to-be].
    This media type contains no active content. See
    Section 4 of [RFC-to-be] for further information.
Interoperability considerations: None
Published specification: [RFC-to-be]
Applications that use this media type: RPKI operators
Additional information:
    Content: This media type is a signed object, as defined
    in [RFC6488], which contains a payload of a list of
    AS identifiers as defined in [RFC-to-be].
    Magic number(s): None
    File extension(s): .asa
    Macintosh file type code(s):
    Person & email address to contact for further information:
    Job Snijders <job@bsd.nl>
    Intended usage: COMMON
    Restrictions on usage: None
    Change controller: IETF
```

## 6. Implementation Considerations

### 6.1. Use of One-Time Use End Entity Certificates

CA are RECOMMENDED to generate a new key pair for each new ASPA and only sign one ASPA with each EE certificate. This type of EE certificate is termed a "one-time-use" EE certificate (see Section 3 of [RFC6487]).



## 6.2. ASPA Object Filenames

CAs are RECOMMENDED to follow the guidelines for naming ASPA objects based on Section 2.2 of [RFC6481], i.e., convert the 160-bit hash of the EE's public key value into a 27-character string using Base 64 Encoding with the URL and Filename Safe Alphabet (see Section 5 of [RFC4648]). See Section 7.7 of [I-D.ietf-sidrops-publication-server-bcp] for more information and considerations.

## 6.3. Upper Bound on the Number of Providers

While the ASN.1 profile specified in Section 3 imposes no limit on the number of Provider ASes that can be listed for a given Customer ASID, consideration will need to be given to limitations existing in validators and elsewhere in the RPKI supply chain. For example, the number of Provider ASes that can be listed in a single RPKI-To-Router protocol ASPA PDU (following the Length field constraints in Section 5.1 of [I-D.ietf-sidrops-8210bis]) is 16,380 providers. In addition to protocol limitations in the supply chain, locally defined restrictions could exist for the maximum file size of signed objects a Relying Party implementation is willing to accept.

Relying Party implementations are RECOMMENDED to impose an upper bound on the number of Provider ASes for a given Customer ASID. An upper bound value between 4,000 and 10,000 Provider ASes is suggested. If this threshold is exceeded, Relying Party implementations SHOULD treat all ASPA objects related to the Customer ASID invalid; e.g. not emit a partial list of Provider ASes. Additionally, an error SHOULD be logged in the local system, indicating the Customer ASID for which the threshold was exceeded.

Implementers and operators SHOULD periodically review whether imposed upper bounds still are reasonable in context of the global Internet routing system.

## 7. Security Considerations

The security considerations of [RFC6481], [RFC6485], and [RFC6488] also apply to ASPAs.

## 8. Implementation status

This section is to be removed before publishing as an RFC.

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".

- \* A validator implementation [rpki-client] written in C was provided by Job Snijders.
- \* A validator implementation [routinator] written in Rust was provided by Martin Hoffman from NLnet Labs.
- \* A validator implementation [rpki-prover] written in Haskell was provided by Mikhail Puzanov.
- \* A signer implementation [rpki-aspa-demo] written in Perl was provided by Tom Harrison from APNIC.
- \* A signer implementation [rpki-commons] in Java was reported on by Ties de Kock from RIPE NCC.
- \* A signer implementation [krill] in Rust was reported on by Tim Bruijnzeels.

## 9. Acknowledgments

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#### Appendix A. Example ASPA eContent Payload

Below an example of a DER encoded ASPA eContent is provided with annotation following the '#' character.

```
$ echo 301DA003020101020300FE633011020300FC00020301000F020500FA56EA00 \
| xxd -r -ps | openssl asn1parse -inform DER -dump -i
0:d=0 hl=2 l= 29 cons: SEQUENCE
2:d=1 hl=2 l= 3 cons: cont [ 0 ]
4:d=2 hl=2 l= 1 prim: INTEGER :01
7:d=1 hl=2 l= 3 prim: INTEGER :FE63 # Customer ASID 65123
12:d=1 hl=2 l= 17 cons: SEQUENCE
14:d=2 hl=2 l= 3 prim: INTEGER :FC00 # ProviderAS 64512
19:d=2 hl=2 l= 3 prim: INTEGER :01000F # ProviderAS 65551
24:d=2 hl=2 l= 5 prim: INTEGER :FA56EA00 # ProviderAS 4200000000
```

Below is a complete Base64 [RFC4648] encoded RPKI ASPA Signed Object.

```
MIIGLAYJKoZIhvcNAQcCoIIIGHTCCBhkCAQMxDtALBglghkgBZQMEAgEwMAYLKoZI
hvcNAQkQATGgIQfIMB2gAwIBAQIDAP5jMBECAwD8AAIDAQAPAgUA+lbqAKCCBCMW
ggQfMIIDB6ADAgECAgEEMA0GCSqGSIB3DQEBCwUAMA8xDtALBglhkgBZQMEAgEw
HhcNMjUwMTA2MTAyNjQ4WhcNMjUwMTA2MTAyNjQ4WjAPMQ0wCwYDVQQDEwRyb290
MIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEAmgJRVMrjafIK81cxs8GB
ehcjlP97o3CdlhceX8ogtUE19Clv3VZQttdzaBG1ViI2+TJiyueHm2M6nq7t17A9
HfkPWGdvwjTUeF4ynpxNlqqoG5pGPMLuuk6HdVaKbuEeX3ZAYD2daG8qm3zkmmF3
F7e+XPvr6nCTIQX7nr0WQyX74FmLGwlr6TV+6MGdCnp24A5aCXJo3mlvG1QUKdd/
bMszpbfzaXlrXBKA0GSdWx/QEOxFb1BPobjF+P/GpDXOq3i0DoZiDB+omgdUAWDZ
dmskG0l+2EyQaCS/pVCEs50Y5zAagTcFabCLKnPvr3qh9tvjD/KlolyC35gNifoX
7wIDAQABo4IBhDCCAYAwDgYDVR0PAQH/BAQDAgeAMB0GA1UdDgQWBBQrh8dvXu72
IET1KLgskpsolVcyrdAfBgNVHSMEGDAWgBQ2mtAZLGD0eDIizTKFZreUERGPJjAY
BgNVHSABaf8EDjAMMAoGCCsGAQUFBw4CMF8GCCsGAQUFBwEBBFmWUTBPBggrBgEF
BQcwAoZDcnN5bmM6Ly9sb2NhbGhvc3Qvcmlvby8zNj1BRDAXOTJDNjc0RtC4MzIy
MkNEMzI4NTY2Qjc5NDEyQjE4RjI2LmNlcjBxBG9wMDU0FEMDE5MkM2NzRFNzgzMjIyQ0QzMjg1
NjZCNzk0MTJCMThGMjUyY3JSMd4GCCsGAQUFBwELBDIwMDAuBggrBgEFBQcwC4Yi
cnN5bmM6Ly9sb2NhbGhvc3QvdGEvYW4tb2JqZW50LmFzYTAaBggrBgEFBQcBCAEB
/wQLMAMgBzAFAGMA/mMwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQADggEBACqgWrD692DUuN1jrriv
SGqI7JqAtbqOSvnwxNGMlPZ6oTkarf4aDMJNcwqMaOUOzZPQ9VXA48h5R8TgvAub
s/HJ263DLtPiScwkWqLZzs6Ius2zFothzDwW0oe/rHKieCF0YpJqFhaa6dw6vs0
zK77Ze+GfalSeeuI1DTwGDjiNBtXCaRxAPmvpYGxSKQmRYCio6vKPSZlZCPqzEza
MVCmxdladQjVPUuWLBfV/bbZmS4wM1nbikt5WLZEVHMcAyyqWOb7a3KO2GIIw0Ak9
O6JgUoex/8y0s6smSWCre2y9d6kAht0COW1KvFoNM5lFKSelrYqTtMFY33XfCI7e
IgsxggGqMIIBpgIBA4AUK4fHb17u9iBE9Si4LJKbKNVXMqwwCwYJYIZIAWUDBAIB
oGswGgYJKoZIhvcNAQkDMQ0GCyqGSIB3DQEEJEAExMBwGCSqGSIB3DQEEJBTEPFw0y
NTAxMDYxMDI2NDhaMC8GCSqGSIB3DQEEJBDEiBCCLMweRYDN5u5auRQYv6+Dx+b9X
mlt5R3gkH9c3aX40gzANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAASCAQATWDI3fYgku2fJPzFXAbnz
IKabFMRvhp9LAhvl8oPkCp0zQu4SyJsdvoWxkpHKnXGwgdgub/d4GF0weoJgauDr
ugUsB2e40aQwFoTyPcVuS/BirhlW5j0NwYovmuJ9GiBe67/sCRBaPC5sBKRBP0Iv
IpMpAe2QhaoeDUDc0KYCM42f1kFD+PD8PnlvXRisL3A3OFhB+0LY1Z3xivRAEdtf
qzobZT0Hq6CilaJNeocG0gMfJj/lFyElLkJdfGHZCWLNVNX2I+9GbDDdYV13cUTG
yk5CFeQWetsX7D7XRNSdKwrrW6qWK/KxGF38SsuGeTyDQiNcOhwqvSfFc388ge/G
```

The above should decode as following:

```
Object SHA256 hash:      S6B+jKOCFXPlRn7ws6Kd5tgpsSx609tJZpw60CVaf9Y=
EE Subject key identifier: 2B87C76F5EEEF62044F528B82C929B28D55732AC
EE Certificate issuer:    /CN=root
EE Certificate serial:    04
EE Authority key identifier: 369AD0192C674E783222CD328566B79412B18F26
EE Authority info access: rsync://localhost/repo/369AD0192C674E783222CD328566B79412B18
F26.cer
EE Subject info access:   rsync://localhost/ta/an-object.asa
CMS Signing time:        Mon 06 Jan 2025 10:26:48 +0000
EE notBefore:            Mon 06 Jan 2025 10:26:48 +0000
EE notAfter:             Tue 06 Jan 2026 10:26:48 +0000

ASPA eContent:
  Customer AS:            65123
  Provider Set:           1: AS: 64512
                           2: AS: 65551
                           3: AS: 4200000000
```

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