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Y. Liu
ZTE
Z. Li
Y. Liu
China Mobile
C. Lin
New H3C Technologies
G. Dong
China Telecom
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Export of SRv6 Path Segment Identifier Information in IPFIX
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Abstract

This document introduces a new IPFIX Information Element to identify the Path Segment Identifier(PSID) in the SRH for SRv6 path identification purpose.

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1. Introduction

[RFC9487] introduces new IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX) Information Elements (IEs) to identify a set of information related to Segment Routing over IPv6 (SRv6). For the SRv6 segment list, two IPFIX IPv6 SRH IEs are defined in [RFC9487], `srhSegmentIPv6BasicList` (elementID:496) and `srhSegmentIPv6ListSection` (elementID:497), both encoding the Segment List in the SRH starting from Segment List[0].

When monitoring a traffic flow in an SR network, a typical use case is to answer the following questions:

- * How many packets are steered into an certain SR path ?
- * Which SR Policy or candidate path or segment list this SR path belongs to ?

To answer these questions, when exporting the flow record using IPFIX messages, the SR path information needs to be included.

An SRv6 path could be identified by the content of a segment list in IPFIX using IE496 or IE497, but the segment list is not always the best key identifier due to the following reasons:

- * When a segment list contains many SIDs, the size of IPFIX message (especially the data record) would be large, making the collecting and analyzing of flow records inefficient.

- * In the cases that different SRv6 policies use the same segment list for traffic steering, it is difficult to distinguish the traffic flow of different SRv6 policies.
- * An SRv6 path may not be identified by the segment list carried by the SRH in reduced mode [RFC8754] as the first SID is not present in the SRH.
- * When the `srhSegmentIPv6BasicList` or `srhSegmentIPv6ListSection` contains compressed-SID containers [I-D.ietf-spring-srv6-srh-compression], additional information and processing procedures are required to decode compressed-SID containers as described in [RFC9487] section 6.2 to obtain the original segment list information before compression.

Path Segment is a type of Segment Routing (SR) segment, and a Path Segment Identifier (PSID) is used to identify an SR path. PSID in SRv6 networks is defined in [I-D.ietf-spring-srv6-path-segment]. In SRH, the PSID appears as the last entry in the segment list.

This document introduces a new IPFIX Information Element to identify the Path Segment Identifier (PSID) in the SRH for SRv6 path identification purpose.

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.

This document makes use of the terms defined in [RFC7011], [RFC8402], and [RFC8754].

The following terms are used as defined in [RFC7011]:

- * IPFIX
- * IPFIX Information Elements
- * Metering Process
- * Template Record
- * Data Record
- * Collector

The following terms are used as defined in [RFC8402]:

- * Segment Routing (SR)
- * Segment List
- * SRv6

The following terms are used as defined in [RFC8754]:

- * SRH
- * Last Entry

3. SRv6 PSID in IPFIX

A new IE "srhPSID" is defined in this document to identify the Path Segment Identifier(PSID) in the SRH, it carries a 128-bit IPv6 address that represents an SRv6 PSID.

Name: srhPSID

ElementID: TBD1

Description: The 128-bit IPv6 address that represents an SRv6 PSID.

Abstract Data Type: ipv6Address

Data Type Semantics: default

Additional Information: Specified in Section 3 of [I-D.ietf-spring-srv6-path-segment].

Reference: This document.

Although IE srhPSID is used to identify an SRv6 path, this document doesn't limit using srhPSID together with srhSegmentIPv6BasicList or srhSegmentIPv6ListSection in the same IPFIX message, see section4.2 for more information.

4. Operational Considerations

4.1. Exporting, Decoding and Analyzing srhPSID

As specified in [I-D.ietf-spring-srv6-path-segment], the P-flag in the SRH is set to indicate the presence of PSID. In order to generate Flow Records with PSID included, the metering process MUST understand the P-flag. Only when the P-flag is set SHOULD the metering process capture the last entry in the SRH to get the PSID. If the P-flag in the packet is unset, when the srhPSID appears in the template record, the corresponding field in the data record is RECOMMENDED to set to all zero.

After decoding the IPFIX messages to get the flow record with PSID included in it at the collector, the collector might process the flow record locally or send it to an analyzer for further analysis purpose. In order to recognize the SR path, the analysis node SHOULD be aware of which SR path the PSID identifies. How to get this information is out of the scope of this document.

4.2. Scope of srhPSID

As in [I-D.ietf-spring-srv6-path-segment] section 3, the PSID allocation depends on the use cases, including:

- * each segment list may have its own PSID with different value;
- * the same PSID may be used for some or all the segment list under a Candidate path;
- * the same PSID may be used for some or all Candidate Path within an SRv6 policy.

If srhPSID and srhSegmentIPv6BasicList/srhSegmentIPv6ListSection appear together, the srhPSID MAY be used to identify an SR Policy or candidate path, and the information carried in srhSegmentIPv6BasicList/srhSegmentIPv6ListSection shows the detailed segment list belonging to this SR Policy or candidate path. This document does not limit how to use srhPSID and the detail is out of scope.

5. Security Considerations

There are no additional security considerations regarding allocation of these new IPFIX IEs compared to [RFC7012].

Other security considerations for SRv6 PSID described in [I-D.ietf-spring-srv6-path-segment] apply to this document.

6. IANA Considerations

This document requests IANA to create one new IE under the "IPFIX Information Elements" registry [RFC7012] available at [IANA-IPFIX].

Element ID	Name	Reference
TBD1	srhPSID	This document

7. Acknowledgement

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8. References

8.1. Normative References

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Authors' Addresses

Yao Liu
ZTE
Nanjing
China
Email: liu.yao71@zte.com.cn

Zhenqiang Li
China Mobile
Email: lizhenqiang@chinamobile.com

Yisong Liu
China Mobile
Email: liuyisong@chinamobile.com

Changwang Lin
New H3C Technologies
Email: linchangwang.04414@h3c.com

Guozhen Dong
China Telecom
Email: donggz@chinatelecom.cn