

Adding a new EAP method to the UI

By, Chris Hessing (chris@open1x.org)

The purpose of this document is to provide developers with a road map on how to add new EAP methods to the XSupplicant UI. This document follows my implementation of EAP-FAST in the UI.

Implementing the Wizard

The first thing you need to do is look at the configuration options that are used in your EAP method to determine if you will need any additional wizard widgets to fully configure your EAP method. EAP-FAST is similar in a lot of ways to EAP-PEAP, or EAP-TTLS. So looking at the widgets used for those methods is a good way to start to line up the configuration options you might need.

It is not uncommon for EAP method implementations to have configuration options that a normal user wouldn't use. Identify those options, and ignore them for now. It is also possible that even though some options are yes/no values and can be mixed, a normal user wouldn't. EAP-FAST is a perfect example of both of these situations. A normal user would never disable PAC provisioning, so there is no need to expose a configuration option for that in the wizard. (Though, it may make sense to expose it in the advanced configuration window.) Also, even though it is permissible to configure EAP-FAST to allow both authenticated provisioning, and anonymous provisioning, in practice this would be an unusual configuration, so in the wizard, we will want to make them mutually exclusive with the use of radio buttons.

EAP-FAST's configuration is very similar to the configuration of EAP-PEAP, so looking at how EAP-PEAP is implemented in the wizard is a good place to start. The PEAP wizard has all of the pages that we will need to complete a configuration of EAP-FAST, and they are already in a logical order. However, EAP-FAST has the following extra items that we will need to configure :

<Allow_Anonymous_Provision> and <Allow_Authenticated_Provision>

As I mentioned earlier, we want to make these options radio buttons, so we are going to need to make a custom widget for EAP-FAST in order to add these options. The easiest way to do that is to make a copy of the existing widget used for EAP-PEAP configuration, and modify it. So, we make a copy of wizardPageDot1XInnerProtocol.ui, and call it wizardPageFASTInnerProtocol.ui. Once we have done this, we can open wizardPageFASTInnerProtocol.ui and make our changes. Specifically, we want to put radio buttons around the "Validate server certificate" checkbox. Above the checkbox, we want to add "Use authenticated provisioning", and below it we want to add "Use anonymous provisioning". Also, the

“Validate server certificate” checkbox now only has meaning if “Use authenticated provisioning” is selected, so we want to indent that a little to show this.

NOTE: *Do not change the size of the form. This form will be used in a widget stack, and changing its size will have unexpected results!*

Now that we have finished our UI widget, we can save it, and move on to writing the code to support it.

In the supplicant’s configuration file (and in the engine) the configuration data is stored in a hierarchical fashion. In the UI, it is stored in a flat fashion, and converted when it is saved or read. Since we are adding configuration options for the two new settings, we need to add variables to store that information in. In ConnectionWizardData.h, we want to add two new private variables to the class. So, we want to change this :

```
QString m_SCreader;  
bool m_autoRealm;  
bool m_validateCert;
```

to this :

```
QString m_SCreader;  
bool m_autoRealm;  
bool m_anonymousProvisioning;  
bool m_authenticatedProvisioning;  
bool m_validateCert;
```

Next, we need to let the class know that there is a new EAP type that can be configured. Since this is a phase 1 EAP method, we need to add it to the phase 1 EAP method enumerations. Find this block above the variables you just created :

```
// 802.1X settings  
typedef enum {  
    eap_peap,  
    eap_ttls,  
    eap_aka,  
    eap_sim,  
    eap_md5  
} Dot1XProtocol;
```

And change it to :

```
// 802.1X settings  
typedef enum {  
    eap_peap,  
    eap_ttls,  
    eap_aka,  
    eap_sim,  
    eap_fast,
```

```
        eap_md5  
    } Dot1XProtocol;
```

Notice that we now have an `eap_fast` option in the enumeration. Where you add new values to the list is irrelevant, as long as you refer to members of the enumeration by name, and not number.

Now, we need to edit the code that reads the configuration from the supplicant engine, and writes the information back. The easiest way to do this is to use a prototype that is similar to what we are adding. Since we have been using PEAP as our template so far, we will continue to use it by copying this prototype :

```
bool toProfileEAP_PEAPProtocol(config_profiles * const, config_trusted_server  
const * const);
```

and creating this prototype :

```
bool toProfileEAP_FASTProtocol(config_profiles * const, config_trusted_server  
const * const);
```

This function will be used to save the configuration information back to the supplicant engine when the user instructs the UI to do so. We don't need to create a function for reading the data, since it is all handled in the `initFromSupplicantProfiles()` function.

At this point, we should be done editing the `ConnectionWizardData.h` file. Save it, and open up the `ConnectionWizardData.cpp` file to implement the `toProfileEAP_FASTProtocol()` function.

There are two ways to implement this function. One is to write it completely from scratch. The other is to copy an existing function, and modify it fit the needs of our new EAP type. Since we have been using PEAP as a template, we will continue to do that. Make a copy of `toProfileEAP_PEAPProtocol()`, rename it to `toProfileEAP_FASTProtocol()`, and go through it changing things from referencing PEAP to referencing FAST.

Changing the function involves changing references to `EAP_TYPE_PEAP`, and `config_eap_peap` to `EAP_TYPE_FAST`, and `config_eap_fast`. (It also makes sense to change variables such as "mypeap" to something that will make sense like "myfast".)

Once you have done that, you need to find any variables that existing in the PEAP implementation that are not in FAST, and remove them. In the places that you remove those variables, you will want to replace them with configuration variables for your EAP method. For our EAP-FAST implementation we want to remove "`mypeap->force_peap_version`" and replace it with our new configuration options for FAST.

Rather than copy all of the code changes here, I would suggest looking at the implementations for `toProfileEAP_PEAPProtocol()` and `toProfileEAP_FASTProtocol()` to see what I changed. Following this step, you need to go in to the `toProfileData()` function, and add your EAP method to the case statement there so that the UI knows the proper way of saving the configuration.

Once you have completed your changes on `toProfileEAP_FASTProtocol()`, it is time to put the code in place to parse the configuration data and store it in the right variables. To do that, go in to the `initFromSupplicantProfiles()` function, find the section for PEAP, and copy it. Then, go through and make your changes to fill in the needed variables based on the information in your configuration structure. For an example, look at the EAP-FAST section in `initFromSupplicantProfiles()` and compare it to the EAP-PEAP section.

You should now be finished editing the `ConnectionWizardData.cpp` file. Now, we need to actually use the configuration widget we used, and configure the code to know how to go forward and backward through the wizard. To do that, open `WizardPages.cpp`, and `WizardPages.h`.

The `WizardPage` base class has all of the members that you should override to implement a new page. Because the page I am implementing is very similar to the `WizardPageDot1XInnerProtocol` class, I am using a copy of that class to start with. To that class, I need to add the radio button objects for the radio buttons that I added to the form at the beginning of this document. Once I have done that, I am ready to go to the `WizardPages.cpp` file, and create my implementation.

Start by going to `WizardPageDot1XProtocol` class and add your EAP method name to the `create()` function. After that, you need to go to the `init()` function, and add your EAP method name and add a line to the switch statement that will map your EAP method name to its index in the combo box. (Failing to do this will result in the wrong EAP method being selected in the combo box when using the wizard to edit a configuration.) Finally, go to the `wizardData()` function, and add code to the switch statement to map the combo boxes index back to the appropriate EAP method.

In the `create()` member of your class, you need to load the widget from the file on disk. I suggest looking at other `create()` members to determine how that is done. Once you have loaded the form, you need to map the objects on that form to objects that you can work with. This mapping is done using the names that were given to the objects on the form when you created it. It is often easiest to have the form open while you work through this part.

Once your `create()` member is complete, you need to set up your `init()` member. The `init()` member should set any objects on the form to show the data that was read from the code you added to `ConnectionWizardData` class. It is often a good idea to check and make sure the object you are setting is valid before you set data to it. One of the goals of allowing the forms to be loaded from disk is people can modify them to fit their own needs. As a result, the form may not have all of the objects on it that you originally put there.

Now, you need to implement your `wizardData()` member. This member should take the data that is in the forms, and store it to the `ConnectionWizardData` class so that it can later be sent to the supplicant engine, and saved. Take special care in this function not to miss any important variables, or you will end up wondering why some of your configuration settings don't get saved.

Many wizard page widgets would be complete at this point. However, our form has a radio button that when it is in one state we want to disable the “Verify certificate” check box. So, we need to implement a set of slots/signals to make sure that we change the state of those widgets.

At this point, we have almost everything we need in order to configure out new EAP method. The last thing we need to do is create the path that the wizard will follow. To do this, you want to hop over to ConnectionWizard.h. Locate the wizardPages enumeration, and add a name for your new wizard page. I called mine “pageFastInnerProtocol” to make it obvious what it is supposed to do. Then, open up ConnectionWizard.cpp where we will add the final pieces to make the wizard work correctly.

Our first stop should be the loadPages() function. This function is where you instantiate the page which will be inserted in the wizard’s widget stack. In the case statement, add the enumeration that you put in ConnectionWizard.h, and have it instantiate the class that you created in WizardPages.cpp.

Next, scroll down to getNextPage() and add your enumeration value to the case statement in this function. The case statement that you create will define the page that the user will be displayed when they click the “Next” button. So if “Next” takes you to a page you didn’t expect, this is where to look. In addition to creating your case statement for your new page, you will also need to edit the case statement for the page that comes before it so that you get directed to the proper page.

Assuming you did everything correctly, you should now be able to build the UI, and configure your EAP method through the wizard. Next, we will go through how to add it to the advanced configuration window.

Adding a new EAP method to the advanced configuration window

The advanced configuration window is the window that breaks down all of the components of the configuration file, and allows users to fine tune things that a normal user probably wouldn't touch. Because of this, it is important that the advanced configuration window expose settings that more advanced users might need to change. (Some settings may be so unusual for someone to use that you might consider not providing a configuration method for them at all. There are several configuration options in the PEAP implementation that fall in to this category.)

The first step to adding an EAP method to the advanced configuration is to open the ConfigWindow.ui file in QT Designer. On the stacked widget cycle through the widgets until you find the profile configuration widget.

In the profile configuration widget, there is a “Protocol” combo box that contains all of the EAP types that are supported. You need to add your EAP type to the list so that a user can select it. In general, the

more common an EAP methods use is, the higher it should be in the list. (This is why PEAP and TTLS are the first ones in the list.)

Once you get to the profile configuration widget, you need to ask yourself if some combination of existing tabs will fill the needs of your EAP method. Assuming it does, you can close QT Designer, and move on.

If not, you need to decide which options cannot be filled by other tabs, and create a new tab that allows for configuration of those options. The general order of the tabs is tabs that are more likely to be used should be on the left. Less likely tabs, should be to the right. (Less likely tabs will be grayed out when an EAP method that doesn't need them is selected.)

When creating a new tab, you should ask yourself if you believe there are other EAP methods that might be able to make use of your new tab. If you believe there are, you should name your tab something that doesn't tie it strictly to your EAP method. An example is EAP-TLS. EAP-TLS required the addition of a tab to select the user's certificate. It is a reasonable configuration for TTLS or PEAP to have a user certificate when authenticating. (It is rare, but allowed.) So, rather than name the tab "EAP-TLS options", it was named "User Certificate".

Once your tab is created you need to populate it with the controls to configure your EAP method. Using QT Designer to do this is outside the scope of this document, so we will skip those details. (TrollTech has some good documentation on their web site about using Designer. Consider looking there if you need help.)

Once you are finished creating the tab, you may want to leave the designer program open so that you can refer to the widget names as you work through the remainder of the process.

Back in your source code editor, open up the ConfigWidgetEditProfile.cpp file. There is a small change that needs to be made to allow the profile editor to recognize your new EAP type. Find the updateWindow() function, and scroll to the bottom of it. Here, you need to add an "if" statement that finds your EAP method, by name, in the list and sets the proper index for the combo box.

Now, open up ConfigProfileTabs.h in the private area of the class, add a value to the enumeration that will be used to reference your tab. Keep in mind that the order of the enumeration needs to match the order that the tabs are displayed in!

Below the enumeration add two prototypes for your EAP method. One should be called saveEAP<type>Data(), the other should be called populateEAP<type>Data(). These functions will be used to read the necessary data from the configuration and set the options when it is drawn, and to read the data off your tab and write it to the supplicant's configuration.

Finally, add any variables that you will need to interface with the tab you created.

Now, open the ConfigProfileTabs.cpp file so that we can hook up the newly created tab and read/write the user's configuration data. The first thing you need to do is to assign the newly created widgets to the

variables you created in the class. Start in the attach() function. In the middle of that function you will see code blocks that look like this :

```
m_pPassword = qFindChild<QLineEdit*>(m_pRealWidget, "dataFrameProfilesPassword");

if (m_pPassword == NULL)
{
    QMessageBox::critical(this, tr("Form Design Error"), tr("Unable to locate the QLineEdit called
'dataFrameProfilesPassword'."));

    return false;
}
```

Each of these code blocks binds a variable in the class to an object on a tab. You need to set up the variables that you added to the class in this same way. (Make sure that you are binding the right type of class to each variable or bad things will happen!) The parameter passed in quotes to qFindChild() is the name of the object you created in designer.

At the bottom of the function there are calls to Util::myConnect(). This area is where you want to hook up any slots and signals you need to make the interaction with your tab function correctly. Also, make sure to add matching disconnect calls to the destructor!

Next, you want to find the setPhase1EAPType() function, and update it to know how to deal with your EAP method. This function is called when the user selects a different EAP method from the Protocol combo box. Inside this function you should add your EAP method's name, and a call to a function that will enable and disable the proper tabs for your EAP method. (It may also not be a bad idea to change the active tab if you disable the one that is currently showing.) You should also call your populate function here so that the right data is being displayed.

You also need to allow the UI to translate the EAP method name to the EAP method number. To do this, edit the eaptypeFromString() function, and add your EAP method name and have it return the number. In general, the number that is returned should be a #define that was used in the supplicant engine implementation.

The next function you want to edit will depend on the EAP method you have implemented. There are generally two types of EAP methods. Those that only have a single phase for the authentication, and those that have two (or rarely, more) phases. If you are working with a single phase method, you want to edit populateOnePhase(), if it has two (or more) phases, you want to edit populateTwoPhase().

From here, the steps you take to populate the data in the form will vary depending the EAP method you are using. Because of this, it would be impossible to walk you through adding the proper data. It is suggested that you look for an EAP type that is already implemented that has similar characteristics to the one you are working on, and use it as a pattern for implementing you own.

The final step to adding a new EAP method to the advanced configuration dialog is to write the function to save your data.