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EtherType Protocol Identification ~~of~~for In-situ OAM Data  
draft-weis-ippm-ioam-eth-05

Abstract

In-situ Operations, Administration, and Maintenance (IOAM) records operational and telemetry information in the packet while the packet traverses a path between two points in the network. This document defines an EtherType that identifies IOAM data fields as being the next protocol in a packet, and a header that encapsulates the IOAM data fields.

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#### 1. Introduction

In-situ Operations, Administration, and Maintenance (IOAM) records operational and telemetry information in the packet while the packet traverses a particular ~~network domain~~IOAM domain within a network.

The term "in-situ" refers to

the fact that the IOAM data fields are added to the data packets rather than being sent within packets specifically dedicated to OAM. This document proposes a new EtherType for IOAM and defines how IOAM data fields are carried as part of encapsulations where the IOAM data fields ~~follows~~ follow an encapsulation header that uses an EtherType to denote the type of protocol data unit. Examples of these protocols are GRE [RFC2784] [RFC2890] and Geneve [RFC8926]. This document outlines how IOAM data fields are encoded in these ~~encapsulation~~ ~~encapsulation~~ headers.

## 2. Conventions

### 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. Abbreviations

Abbreviations used in this document:

E2E:	Edge-to-Edge
Geneve:	Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation
GRE:	Generic Routing Encapsulation
IOAM:	In-situ Operations, Administration, and Maintenance
OAM:	Operations, Administration, and Maintenance
POT:	Proof of Transit

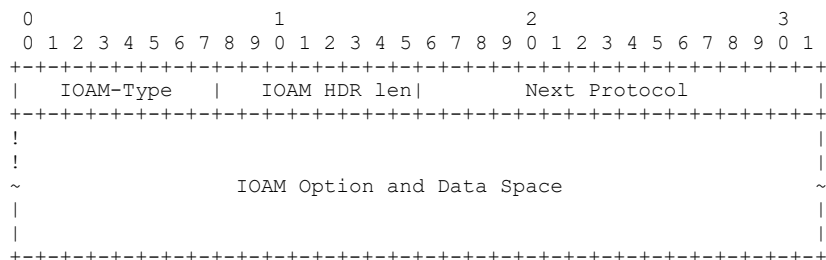
## 3. IOAM EtherType

When ~~the~~ IOAM data fields are included within an encapsulation that identifies the next protocol using an EtherType (e.g., GRE or Geneve) the presence of IOAM data fields are identified with TBD IOAM. When this EtherType is used, an additional IOAM header is ~~also~~ ~~included~~ ~~inserted before the ethernet frame~~.

This header indicates the type of IOAM data fields that follows, and the next protocol that follows the IOAM data fields.

**Commented [TG2]:** I reference to <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7799#section-3.8> is advisable and the relationship between in-situ and hybrid type should be established in a terminology section of the document.

It is noteworthy that on this subject there are some controversies and efforts taken in <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-opsawg-oam-characterization> which are not yet resolved but expected to be resolved by the time the this document is progressing.



The IOAM encapsulation is defined as follows.

IOAM Type: 8-bit field defining the IOAM Option type, as defined in Section 5.1 of [~~rfc9197~~~~I-D.ietf-ippm-ioam-data~~].

IOAM HDR Len: 8 bit Length field contains the length of the IOAM header in 4-octet units.

Next Protocol: 16 bits Next Protocol Type field contains the protocol type of the protocol data unit following TOAM protocol header. Protocol Type is defined to be an EtherType value from [ETYPES]. An implementation receiving a packet containing a Protocol Type which is not listed in one of those registries SHOULD discard the ~~packet~~frame.

IOAM Option and Data Space: IOAM option header and data is present as specified by the IOAM-Option-Type field, and is defined in Section 5 of ~~[rfc9197I-D.ietf-ippm-ioam-data]~~.

Multiple IOAM options MAY be included within the encapsulation header. For example, if a GRE encapsulation contains two IOAM options before the data payload, the Next Protocol field of the first IOAM option will contain the value of TBD\_IOAM, while the Next Protocol field of the second IOAM option will contain the EtherType indicating the type of the data payload.

#### 4. Usage Examples of the IOAM EtherType

The IOAM EtherType can be used with any encapsulation that uses EtherType to denote the type of the protocol data unit. The following sections show how it can be used when GRE and Geneve are used as the encapsulation header.

**Commented [TG3]:** As expressed during IETF 123 IPPM working group session, speaking for a SRv6 network operator using L2 EVPN (<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc3378>, <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc9252>) to transport Ethernet over a SRv6 network, I would love to see examples related to RFC 3378.

#### 4.1. Example: GRE Encapsulation of IOAM Data Fields

When IOAM data fields are carried in GRE, the IOAM encapsulation defined above follows the GRE header and is inserted before the ethernet or IP header, as shown in Figure 1.

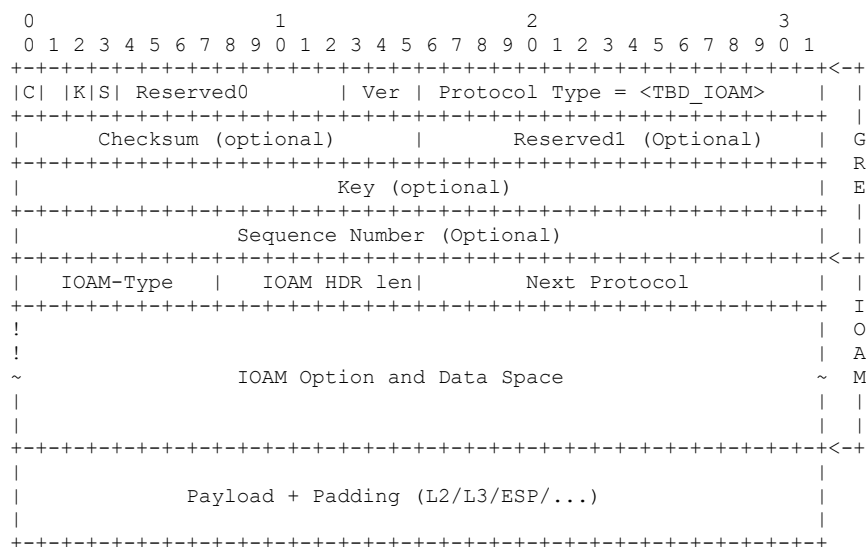


Figure 1: GRE Encapsulation Example

The GRE header and fields are defined in [RFC2890]. GRE can carry ethernet or IP payload. The GRE Protocol Type value is set to TBD IOAM.

**Commented [TG4]:** That helps the reader to be prepared for Figure 2 where both is shown.

Figure 2 shows two example protocol header stacks that use GRE along with IOAM. IOAM Option-Types (the below diagram uses "IOAM" as shorthand for IOAM Option-Types) are sequenced in behind the GRE header that follows the "outer" header of the next protocol unit.

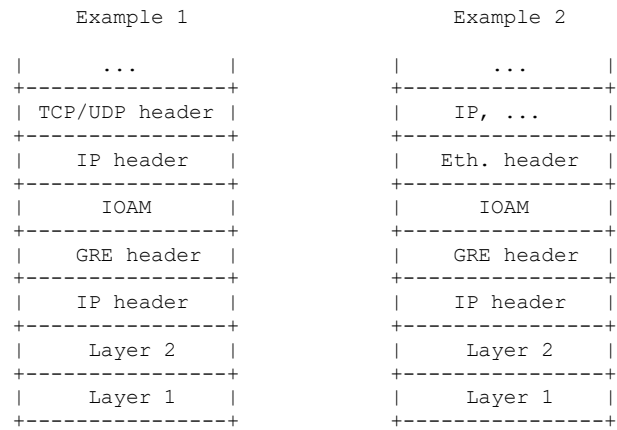


Figure 2: GRE with IOAM examples

4.2. Example: Geneve Encapsulation of IOAM Data Fields

When IOAM data fields are carried in Geneve, the IOAM encapsulation defined above follows the Geneve header, as shown in Figure 3.

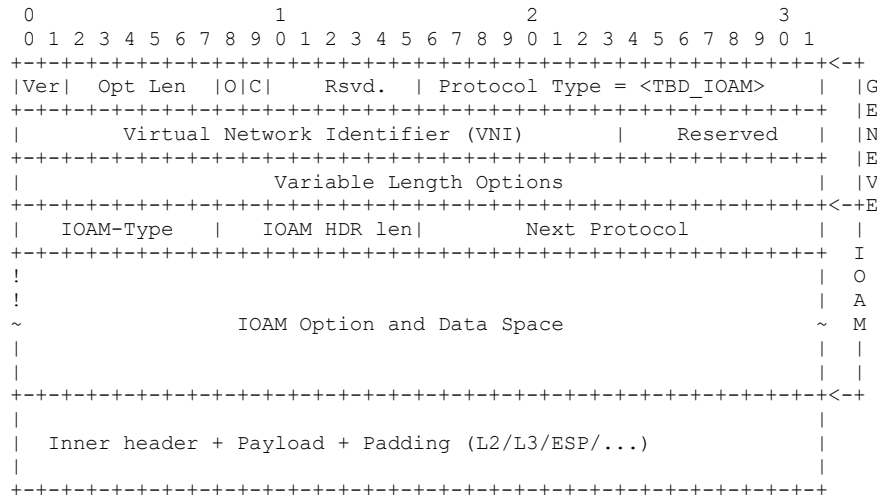


Figure 3: Geneve Encapsulation Example

The Geneve header and fields are defined in [RFC8926]. The Geneve Protocol Type value is TBD\_IOAM.

## 5. Security Considerations

This document describes the encapsulation of IOAM data fields in the encapsulation header such as GRE and Geneve that uses EtherType to denote the protocol data unit. Security considerations of the specific IOAM data fields for each case (i.e., Trace, Proof of Transit, and E2E) are described in [[section 9 of rfc9197](#) ~~I-D.ietf-ippm-ioam-data~~].

As this document describes new protocol fields within the existing encapsulation, any security considerations of the respective encapsulation header is applicable. When the encapsulation is GRE, the security considerations of [RFC2890] is applicable. When the encapsulation is Geneve, the security considerations of [RFC8926] is applicable.

IOAM data fields SHOULD be integrity protected (e.g., with [I-D.ietf-ippm-ioam-data-integrity]) to detect changes made by a device between the IOAM encapsulating node and the IOAM decapsulating node.

**Commented [TG5]:** I suggest to define both terms in the terminology section and refer to <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc9378> for detailing the meaning.

## 6. IANA Considerations

A new EtherType value is requested to be added to the [ETYPES] IANA registry by IEEE Registration Authority "IEEE 802 Numbers" registry. The description should be "In-situ OAM (IOAM)".

**Commented [TG6]:** This section requires refactoring. I suggest to read and follow <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc8126#section-3>.

## 7. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Nagendra Kumar Nainar for the contribution.

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