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A Data Manifest for Contextualized Telemetry Data

draft-ietf-opsawg-collected-data-manifest-07

Abstract

Network platforms use Network Telemetry, such as YANG-Push, to

continuously stream information, including both counters and state

information. This document describes the metadata that ensure that

the collected data can be interpreted correctly. This document

specifies the data manifest, composed of two YANG data models (the

platform manifest and the non-normative data collection manifest).

These YANG modules are specified at the network level (e.g., network

controllers) to provide a model that encompasses several network

platforms. The data manifest must be streamed and stored along with

the data, up to the collection and analytics systems to keep

the collected data fully exploitable by the data scientists and

relevant tools. Additionally, this document specifies an

augmentation of the YANG-Push model to include the actual collection

period, in case it differs from the configured collection period.

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1. Introduction

Network platforms use Network Telemetry, such as YANG-Push

[RFC8641], to continuously stream information, including both

counters and state information.

This document specifies what needs to be kept as metadata to ensure

that the collected data can still be interpreted correctly throughout

the collection and network analytics toolchain. When streaming YANG-

structured data with YANG-Push, there is a semantic definition in the

corresponding YANG module definition. This is the semantic

information for the collected data nodes: While this semantic is

absolutely required to correctly decode and interpret the data,

understanding the network platform and collection environment

contexts information is equally important to interpret the data.

One part of this information is the actual collection period, as

opposed to the configured collection period. On some platforms, that

period can be adjusted automatically by the platform, for instance to

reduce the load incurred by sending the telemetry. To later exploit

the collected data, getting this actual collection period is crucial.

This document defines a YANG model augmenting the YANG-Push model

[RFC8641] to expose the actual collection period in Section 4.

This document introduces the data manifest, which is composed of two

YANG modules, namely, the platform manifest and the data collection

manifest, to keep the collected data exploitable by the data

scientists and relevant tools.

The platform manifest contains information characterizing the

platform streaming the telemetry information, while the data

collection manifest contains the required information to characterize

how and when the telemetry information was metered. The platform

manifest is specified in Section 5. An example of data collection

manifest is specified in Section 6. The latter module is non-

normative due to the lack of design-time schema mount in YANG, see

Section 1 of [RFC8528].

These two YANG modules do not expose any new information but rather

define what should be exposed by a platform streaming or storing

telemetry data. Some related YANG modules have been specified to

retrieve the platform capabilities such as:

\* "YANG Library" [RFC8525].

\* "YANG Modules Describing Capabilities for Systems and Datastore

Update Notifications" [RFC9196] for the platform capabilities

regarding the production and export of telemetry data.

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\* [I-D.claise-netconf-metadata-for-collection], which is based on

[RFC9196] to define the optimal settings to stream specific items

(i.e., per path).

These related YANG modules are important to discover the capabilities

before applying the telemetry configuration (such as on-change

subscription). Some of their content is part of the context for the

streamed data.

This document covers only metadata about the collection context for

the telemetry. The collected data is likely to be transformed into

usable indicators for the network. The list of such transformation

operations applied to the data is often called data lineage.

Supplying the data lineage for the computed indicators is out of

scope of this document.

To retrieve the context in which a particular piece of data was

collected, three elements are necessary: the time of data emission,

the originating platform and the subscription through which the data

arrived. The approach described in this document delegates the time

retrieval to the database storing the collected telemetry and

focusing on providing a way to match a platform and a subscription

identifier to the collection context. This is consistent with most

of the YANG modules for devices, which focus on describing the

current state of the device, rather than the evolution of that state

through time.

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.

Platform: equipment of the network able to produce telemetry data.

Data manifest: The necessary data required to interpret a telemetry

information.

Platform manifest: part of the data manifest that completely

characterizes the platform producing the telemetry information.

Data collection manifest: part of the data manifest that completely

characterizes how and when the telemetry information was metered.

Datapoint: an instance of data collected via Network Telemetry at a specific

time.

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Collector: software that receives the stream of telemetry.

3. Use Cases

3.1. Network Analytics

Streamed information from network platforms is used for network

analytics, incident detection, and in the closed control loop for

network automation. See [I-D.ietf-nmop-terminology] for definition

of some of these terms. This streamed data can be stored in a

time series database or processed in a real-time streaming processor for further analysis.

As an example, a database could store a time series representing the

evolution of a specific counter collected from a network platform.

When analyzing the data, a network operator/data scientist must

understand the context information for these data:

\* This counter definition, typically as defined in the YANG model.

\* The network platform vendor, model, and OS.

\* The collection parameters.

Characterizing the source used for producing the data (vendor,

platform, and OS) is useful to complement the data. As an example,

knowing the exact data source software specification might reveal a

particularity in the observed data, explained by a specific bug, a

specific bug fix, or simply a particular specific behavior. This is

also necessary to ensure the reliability of the collected data. On

top of that, for YANG-Push [RFC8641], it is crucial to

know the set of YANG modules supported by the platform, along with

their deviations. In some cases, there might even be some backwards

incompatible changes in native modules (i.e., vendor proprietary

modules) between one OS version to the next one. This information is

captured by means of the platform manifest Section 5.

From a collection parameters point of view, the data scientists

analyzing the collected data must know whether the counter was

requested from the network platform as on-change or at specific

cadence [RFC8641]. Indeed, an on-change collection explains why

there is a single value as opposed to a time series. In case of

periodic collection, this exact cadence might not be observable in

the time series. Indeed, this time series might report some values

as 0 or might even omit some values. The reason for this behavior

might be diverse: the network platform may be under stress, with a

too small observation period, compared to the minimum-observed-

period. Knowing the conditions under which a counter was collected

and streamed (along with the platform details) helps drawing the

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informed conclusions. As an example, some platform might report a

value of 0 for counters when the collection period is too short with

respect to the capabilities of the platform. Without context, this

value of 0 might lead to a wrong conclusion that the corresponding

counter dropped to zero.

3.2. New Device Onboarding

When a new device is onboarded, operators must check that the new

device streams data (e.g., with YANG-Push), that the Network Telemetry data

is the right one, that the data is correctly collected at the data collection, and finally that the data can be analyzed

(compared with other similar devices). For the last point, the data

manifest, which must be linked to the data up to the collection and

analytics system, contains the relevant information.

3.3. Data Mesh Principles in Networking

The concept behind the data mesh [DataMesh] are:

\* Domain Ownership: Architecturally and organizationally align

business, technology, and analytical data, following the line of

responsibility. The Data Mesh principles adopt the boundary of

bounded context to individual data products where each domain is

responsible for (and owns) its data and models.

\* Data as a Product: The “Domain” owners are responsible to provide

the data in useful way (discoverable through a catalog,

addressable with a permanent and unique address, understandable

with well-defined semantics, trustworthy and truthful, self-

describing for easy consumption, interoperable by supporting

standards, secure, self-contained, etc.) and should treat

consumers of that data as customers. It requires and relies on

the “Domain Ownership” principle.

\* Self-serve Data Platform: This fosters the sharing of cross-domain

data to create extra value.

\* Federated Computational Governance: Describes the operating model

and approach to establishing global policies across a mesh of data

products.

The most relevant concept for this document is the "Data as a

Product" principle. The data manifest fulfills this principle as the

two YANG data models, platform manifest and the data collection

manifest, along with the data, provide all the necessary information

in a self-describing way for easy consumption.

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4. The "ietf-yp-current-period" YANG module

Some platforms will adjust the collection period depending on their

capabilities and current load. The YANG module in this section

augments the "ietf-subscribed-notification" module to provide the

"current-period" leaf. The value of this leaf indicates the current

collection which might be different from the configured collection

period.

Figure 1 contains the YANG tree diagram [RFC8340] of the "ietf-yp-

current-period" module.

module: ietf-yp-current-period

augment /sn:subscriptions/sn:subscription:

+--ro current-period? yp:centiseconds

Figure 1: YANG tree diagram for "ietf-yp-current-period" module

The code of the "ietf-yp-current" YANG module is given below.

<CODE BEGINS> file "ietf-yp-current-period@2025-02-21.yang"

module ietf-yp-current-period {

yang-version 1.1;

namespace "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yp-current-period";

prefix yp-cp;

import ietf-subscribed-notifications {

prefix sn;

reference

"RFC 8639: A YANG Data Model for Subscriptions to

Event Notifications";

}

import ietf-yang-push {

prefix yp;

// RFC Ed.: remove revision-date, needed here for datatracker

// to properly validate the module, because the latest version

// on the server is not the ratified one and validation fails.

revision-date 2019-09-09;

reference

"RFC 8641: Subscriptions to YANG Datastores.";

}

organization

"IETF OPSAWG (Operations and Management Area) Working Group";

contact

"WG Web: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/opsawg/>

WG List: <mailto:opsawg@ietf.org>

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Author: Thomas Graf <thomas.graf@swisscom.com>";

description

"This module augments ietf-subscribed-notification and

ietf-yang-push with the current-period statistics reporting the

actual collection period, as opposed to the configured one.

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RFC itself for full legal notices. ";

revision 2025-02-21 {

description

"Initial revision";

reference

"RFC XXXX: A Data Manifest for Contextualized Telemetry Data";

}

augment "/sn:subscriptions/sn:subscription" {

description

"Adds current period statistics";

leaf current-period {

when '../yp:periodic';

type yp:centiseconds;

config false;

description

"Period during two successive data collections, in the

current state. Might differ from the configured period

when the platform might increase the period

automatically when it is overloaded.";

}

}

}

<CODE ENDS>

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5. Platform Manifest

5.1. Overview of the Model

Figure 2 contains the YANG tree diagram of the "ietf-platform-

manifest module".

module: ietf-platform-manifest

+--ro platforms

+--ro platform\* [id]

+--ro id string

+--ro name? string

+--ro vendor? string

+--ro vendor-pen? uint32

+--ro software-version? string

+--ro software-flavor? string

+--ro os-version? string

+--ro os-type? string

+--ro module-set\* [name]

| +--ro name string

| +--ro module\* [name]

| | +--ro name yang:yang-identifier

| | +--ro revision? revision-identifier

| | +--ro namespace inet:uri

| | +--ro location\* inet:uri

| | +--ro submodule\* [name]

| | | +--ro name yang:yang-identifier

| | | +--ro revision? revision-identifier

| | | +--ro location\* inet:uri

| | +--ro feature\* yang:yang-identifier

| | +--ro deviation\* -> ../../module/name

| +--ro import-only-module\* [name revision]

| +--ro name yang:yang-identifier

| +--ro revision union

| +--ro namespace inet:uri

| +--ro location\* inet:uri

| +--ro submodule\* [name]

| +--ro name yang:yang-identifier

| +--ro revision? revision-identifier

| +--ro location\* inet:uri

+--ro schema\* [name]

| +--ro name string

| +--ro module-set\* -> ../../module-set/name

+--ro datastore\* [name]

+--ro name ds:datastore-ref

+--ro schema -> ../../schema/name

Figure 2: YANG tree diagram for ietf-platform-manifest module

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The YANG module contains a list of platform manifests (in 'platforms/

platform'), indexed by the identifier of the platform. That

identifier should be defined by the network manager so that each

platform emitting Network Telemetry has a unique identifier. There are

several documents about managing the inventory of the network, e.g.,

[I-D.ietf-ivy-network-inventory-yang]. The platform identifier

should be the same as the identifier used in inventories or the

'node-id' in [RFC8345]. As an example, the identifier could be the

'sysName' from [RFC3418]. The scope of the "ietf-platform-manifest"

module is the scope of the data collection, i.e., a given network,

therefore it contains a collection of platform manifests, as opposed

to the device scope, which would contain a single platform manifest.

The platform manifest is characterized by a set of parameters

('name', 'software-version', 'software-flavor', 'os-version', and

'os-type') that are aligned with the YANG Catalog

[I-D.clacla-netmod-model-catalog] so that the YANG Catalog could be

used to retrieve the YANG modules a posteriori. The vendor of the

platform can be identified via its name 'vendor' or its PEN number

'vendor-pen', as described in [RFC9371].

The platform manifest also includes the contents of the YANG Library

[RFC8525]. That module set is particularly useful to retrieve the

YANG modules associated to a subscription by analyzing the xpath

filters or the subtree filters. Xpath filters are based on module

names (see [RFC8639], description of leaf 'stream-xpath-filter', page

45). Subtree filters are based on namespaces.

5.2. "ietf-platform-manifest" YANG module

This section defines the "ietf-platform-manifest" YANG module.

<CODE BEGINS> file "ietf-platform-manifest@2025-02-21.yang"

module ietf-platform-manifest {

yang-version 1.1;

namespace "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-platform-manifest";

prefix p-mf;

import ietf-yang-library {

prefix yanglib;

reference

"RFC8525: YANG Library";

}

organization

"IETF OPSAWG (Operations and Management Area) Working Group";

contact

"WG Web: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/opsawg/>

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<ignacio.dominguezmartinez@telefonica.com>

Author: Thomas Graf <thomas.graf@swisscom.com>";

description

"This module describes the platform information to be used as

context of data collection from a given network element. The

contents of this model must be streamed along with the data

streamed from the network element so that the platform context

of the data collection can be retrieved later.

The data content of this model should not change except on

upgrade or patching of the device.

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(https://trustee.ietf.org/license-info).

This version of this YANG module is part of RFC XXXX; see the

RFC itself for full legal notices. ";

revision 2025-02-21 {

description

"Initial revision";

reference

"RFC XXXX: A Data Manifest for Contextualized Telemetry Data";

}

grouping platform-details {

description

"This grouping contains the information about a particular

platform, as stored in the YANG catalog.";

leaf name {

type string {

length "1..1023";

}

description

"Model of the platform from which data is collected.";

}

leaf vendor {

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type string {

length "1..1023";

}

description

"Organization that implements that platform.";

}

leaf vendor-pen {

type uint32;

description

"Vendor's registered Private Enterprise Number";

reference

"RFC9371: Registration Procedures for Private Enterprise

Numbers (PENs)";

}

leaf software-version {

type string {

length "1..1023";

}

description

"Name of the version of software. With respect to most

network device appliances, this will be the operating system

version. But for other YANG module implementation, this

would be a version of appliance software. Ultimately, this

should correspond to a version string that will be

recognizable by the consumers of the platform.";

}

leaf software-flavor {

type string {

length "1..1023";

}

description

"A variation of a specific version where YANG model support

may be different. Depending on the vendor, this could be a

license, additional software component, or a feature set.";

}

leaf os-version {

type string {

length "1..1023";

}

description

"Version of the operating system using this module. This is

primarily useful if the software implementing the module is

an application that requires a specific operating system

version.";

}

leaf os-type {

type string {

length "1..1023";

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}

description

"Type of the operating system using this module. This is

primarily useful if the software implementing the module is

an application that requires a specific operating system

type.";

}

}

container platforms {

config false;

description

"Top container including all platforms in scope. If this model

is hosted on a single device, it should contain a single entry

in the list. At the network level, it should contain an entry

for every monitored platform.";

list platform {

key "id";

description

"Contains information about the platform that allows

identifying and understanding the individual data collection

information.";

leaf id {

type string {

length "1..1023";

}

description

"Identifies a given platform on the network, for instance

the 'sysName' of the platform. The 'id' has to be unique

within the network scope at every point in time. The same

id can point to different platform if they are not

simultaneously part of the network, e.g., when a device

associated to a particular id is replaced.";

}

uses platform-details;

uses yanglib:yang-library-parameters;

}

}

}

<CODE ENDS>

6. Data Collection Manifest

This section is non-normative.

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6.1. Overview of the Model

Figure 3 contains the YANG tree diagram [RFC8340] of the "example-

collection-manifest" module. The module relies upon the YANG Schema

mount [RFC8528] to reuse existing YANG modules describing the current

data collection status. This module is an example, i.e. non-

normative, as YANG Schema mount does not support design-time schema

mount. Appendix C explains how the YANG tree is obtained.

module: example-collection-manifest

+--ro data-collections

+--mp data-collection\* [platform-id]

+--ro platform-id -> /p-mf:platforms/p-mf:platform/p-mf:id

+--ro streams/

| +--ro stream\* [name]

| +--ro name string

| +--ro description? string

+--ro filters/

| +--ro stream-filter\* [name]

| | +--ro name string

| | +--ro (filter-spec)?

| | +--:(stream-subtree-filter)

| | +--:(stream-xpath-filter)

| | +--ro stream-xpath-filter? yang:xpath1.0

| | {xpath}?

| +--ro selection-filter\* [filter-id]

| +--ro filter-id string

| +--ro (filter-spec)?

| +--:(datastore-subtree-filter)

| +--:(datastore-xpath-filter)

| +--ro datastore-xpath-filter? yang:xpath1.0

| {sn:xpath}?

+--ro subscriptions/

+--ro subscription\* [id]

+--ro id subscription-id

+--ro (target)

| +--:(stream)

| | +--ro (stream-filter)?

| | | +--:(by-reference)

| | | | +--ro stream-filter-name

| | | | stream-filter-ref

| | | +--:(within-subscription)

| | | +--ro (filter-spec)?

| | | +--:(stream-subtree-filter)

| | | +--:(stream-xpath-filter)

| | | +--ro stream-xpath-filter?

| | | yang:xpath1.0 {xpath}?

| | +--ro stream stream-ref

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| +--:(datastore)

| +--ro datastore identityref

| +--ro (selection-filter)?

| +--:(by-reference)

| | +--ro selection-filter-ref

| | selection-filter-ref

| +--:(within-subscription)

| +--ro (filter-spec)?

| +--:(datastore-subtree-filter)

| +--:(datastore-xpath-filter)

| +--ro datastore-xpath-filter?

| yang:xpath1.0 {sn:xpath}?

+--ro stop-time? yang:date-and-time

+--ro encoding? encoding

+--ro receivers

| +--ro receiver\* [name]

| +--ro name string

| +--ro sent-event-records?

| | yang:zero-based-counter64

| +--ro excluded-event-records?

| | yang:zero-based-counter64

| +--ro state enumeration

+--ro (update-trigger)?

| +--:(periodic)

| | +--ro periodic!

| | +--ro period centiseconds

| | +--ro anchor-time? yang:date-and-time

| +--:(on-change) {on-change}?

| +--ro on-change!

| +--ro dampening-period? centiseconds

| +--ro sync-on-start? boolean

| +--ro excluded-change\* change-type

+--ro current-period? yp:centiseconds

Figure 3: YANG tree diagram for example-collection-manifest module

The 'data-collections' container contains the information related to

each YANG-Push subscription. As for the platform manifest, these

subscriptions are indexed by the 'platform-id', so that all

subscriptions in the network can be represented at the network level

without any conflict.

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As most of the information related to YANG-push subscription

[RFC8639] and [RFC8641] is stored in the "ietf-yang-push" module,

these modules are mounted. These modules have a part common to all

subscriptions of the platform, stored in the 'streams' and 'filters'

containers. The information about subscriptions themselves are

stored in the 'subscriptions/subscription' list, indexed by a

subscription identifier.

In the subscription object, the 'current-period' indicates the period

currently used between two updates. That leaf can only be present

when the subscription is periodic. The current period might differ

from the requested period if the platform implements a mechanism to

increase the collection period when it is overloaded. Having the

current period information is crucial to understand if telemetry is

missing because of a bug or a packet loss or simply because it was

dynamically adjusted by the platform.

The 'current-period' data node is added by the module 'ietf-data-

collection-manifest-statistics' presented in Section 4. This module

augments the subscription list from the module 'ietf-subscribed-

notifications'. It is mounted as well via the YANG Schema Mount

mechanism. The module for the data collection manifest is presented

in Section 6.2.

6.2. The "example-collection-manifest" YANG module

This section includes the code of the "example-collection-manifest"

YANG module. Additionally, it defines the extension data file for

YANG schema mount. The data collection manifest should conform to

the model obtained by combining these two specifications.

module example-collection-manifest {

yang-version 1.1;

namespace "http://example.com/example-data-collection-manifest";

prefix ex-d-mf;

import ietf-platform-manifest {

prefix p-mf;

reference

"RFC XXXX: A Data Manifest for Contextualized Telemetry

Data";

}

import ietf-yang-schema-mount {

prefix yangmnt;

reference

"RFC8528: YANG Schema Mount";

}

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organization

"IETF OPSAWG (Operations and Management Area) Working Group";

contact

"WG Web: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/opsawg/>

WG List: <mailto:opsawg@ietf.org>

Author: Benoit Claise <mailto:benoit.claise@huawei.com>

Author: Jean Quilbeuf <mailto:jean.quilbeuf@huawei.com>

Author: Diego R. Lopez <diego.r.lopez@telefonica.com>

Author: Ignacio Dominguez

<ignacio.dominguezmartinez@telefonica.com>

Author: Thomas Graf <thomas.graf@swisscom.com>";

description

"This module describes the context of data collection from a

given network element. The contents of this model must be

streamed along with the data streamed from the network

element so that the context of the data collection can

be retrieved later.

This module must be completed with

ietf-platform-manifest

to capture the whole context of a data collection session.

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(https://trustee.ietf.org/license-info).

This version of this YANG module is part of RFC XXXX; see the

RFC itself for full legal notices. ";

revision 2025-02-21 {

description

"Initial revision";

reference

"RFC XXXX: A Data Manifest for Contextualized Telemetry Data";

}

container data-collections {

config false;

description

"Contains the configuration and statistics for the collected

data, per node in the network.";

list data-collection {

key "platform-id";

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description

"Defines the information for each collected object.";

leaf platform-id {

type leafref {

path "/p-mf:platforms/p-mf:platform/p-mf:id";

}

description

"Identifier of the platform collecting the data. This

identifier is the same as the one in the platform

manifest.";

}

yangmnt:mount-point "yang-push-collection" {

description

"This mount point must mount the following modules and

their dependencies:

\* ietf-subscribed-notifications

\* ietf-yang-push

\* ietf-yp-current-period.

This mount point must not mount any other modules.";

reference

"RFC8639: Subscription to YANG Notifications

RFC8641: Subscription to YANG Notifications for datastore

updates";

}

}

}

}

7. Data Manifest and the Collected Data

This section focuses on associating the collected data to the data

manifest. As this document specifically focuses on giving context on

data collected via Network Telemetry, it is assumed that a Network Telemetry system is available. Another premise of this document is

the storage of the collected data into a database for later

exploitation. This document assumes that such a database exists and

can be used for storing the data manifest.

7.1. Collecting the Data Manifest

The data manifest MUST be streamed and stored along with the

collected data. In case the collected data are moved to a different

place (typically a database), the companion data manifest MUST follow

the collected data. Storing the collected data without the companion

data manifest might prevent the correct interpretation of the

collected data. The data manifest MUST be updated when the data

manifest information changes, for example, when a router is upgraded,

when a new telemetry subscription is configured, or when the

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Network Telemetry subscription parameters change. The data manifest can

itself be considered as a time series, and stored in a similar

fashion to the collected data.

This document recommends reusing existing Network Telemetry systems (in-band

approach) to lower the efforts for implementing this

approach. To enable a platform supporting Network Telemetry to

also support the data manifest, it is sufficient that this platform

supports the models from Sections 5 and 6. The collection of the

data manifest MUST be explicitly configured by the collector by

requesting the relevant subscriptions. These subscriptions MUST

include the platform manifest and the data collection manifest,

possibly limited to the subscriptions for which the context needs to

be retrieved a posteriori. Appendix B shows how the in-band approach

would work while storing to a time series database.

Each type of manifest has its own rough frequency update, i.e., at

reboot for the platform manifest and when subscriptions are modified

for the data collection manifest. The data manifest SHOULD be

streamed with the YANG-Push on-change feature [RFC8641] (also called

event-driven telemetry) whenever possible.

A platform manifest is likely to remain the same until the platform

is updated. Thus, the platform manifest only needs to be collected

once per streaming session and updated after a platform reboot. The

"subscription-terminated" (Section 2.7.3 of [RFC8639]) will indicate

to the collector that the platform rebooted. The collector MUST then

collect the potential update of the platform manifest on re-

establishment of the subscription. Using the on-change feature

enables to capture dynamic changes to the platform manifest as well,

if any.

Regarding the data manifest, the elements common to all

subscriptions, such as the stream definitions and the common filters

might be updated less frequently than the subscriptions. Relying on

YANG-Push on-change feature enables keeping an up-to-date version of

the data collection manifest.

The underlying time series database should accommodate the various

rates at which different parts of the data manifest are updated. In

particular, storing the platform manifest should be optimized to

avoid duplicating repeated content and only storing a new version

when there is a change in the manifest.

7.2. Mapping Collected Data to the Data Manifest

As explained in the introduction, three elements are necessary to

identify the data manifest associated to a datapoint:

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\* the time at which the data was sent from the device,

\* the originating platform sending the data, and

\* the identifier of the subscription that produced the data.

These elements can be either known to the collector, if it is the one

configuring the collection, or retrieved via dedicated headers as

proposed, e.g., in [I-D.netana-netconf-notif-envelope]. To

enable a posteriori retrieval of the data manifest associated to a

datapoint, the collector MUST keep the subscription identifier and

platform identifier in the metadata of the collected values.

With these three elements, to retrieve the data manifest from a

datapoint, the following happens:

\* The subscription identifier, platform identifier and timestamp of

the data are retrieved from the datapoint metadata

\* The platform manifest for that datapoint is obtained by looking up

the latest version before the timestamp matching the platform

identifier.

\* The data collection manifest for that datapoint is obtained by

looking up the latest version before the timestamp matching the

platform identifier and the subscription identifier.

The reliability of the collection of the data manifest is the same as

the reliability of the data collection itself, since the data

manifest is like any other data.

7.3. Operational and Management Considerations

It is expected that the data manifest is streamed directly from the

network equipment, along with YANG-Push [RFC8641] data. However, if

the network equipment Network Telemetry does not yet support the

YANG modules from the data manifest specified in this document, the

telemetry collector could populate the data manifest from available

information collected from the platform. This latter option requires

efforts on the Network Telemetry data collection side, as the information gathered

in the data manifest proposed in this document could be scattered

among various standard and vendor-specific YANG modules [RFC8199],

that depend on the platform.

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8. Example

Figure 4 shows an example of both a Platform manifest and

corresponding data collection manifests. The list of YANG modules in

the 'yang-library' container is kept empty for brevity.

{

"ietf-platform-manifest:platforms": {

"platform": [

{

"id": "PE1",

"name": "PE1",

"vendor": "ACME",

"vendor-pen": 32473,

"software-version": "3.14",

"os-version": "2.79",

"os-type": "ACME OS"

}

]

},

"example-collection-manifest:data-collections": {

"data-collection": [

{

"platform-id": "PE1",

"ietf-subscribed-notifications:subscriptions": {

"subscription": [

{

"id": 4242,

"ietf-yang-push:datastore":

"ietf-datastores:operational",

"ietf-yang-push:datastore-xpath-filter":

"/ietf-interfaces:interfaces/interface/enabled",

"ietf-yang-push:on-change": {},

"receivers": {

"receiver": [

{

"name": "yp-collector",

"state": "active"

}

]

}

},

{

"id": 4243,

"ietf-yang-push:datastore":

"ietf-datastores:operational",

"ietf-yang-push:datastore-xpath-filter":

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"/ietf-interfaces:interfaces/interface/statistics/in-octets",

"ietf-yang-push:periodic": {

"period": 10000

},

"ietf-yp-current-period:current-period": 20000,

"receivers": {

"receiver": [

{

"name": "yp-collector",

"state": "active"

}

]

}

}

]

}

}

]

}

}

Figure 4: Example of data manifest

Figure 4 contains the data collection manifest for two XPaths

subscriptions. With the data collection manifest for the first one,

with subscription identifier 4242, the exact semantics of the

collected path, here the administrative status of the network

interfaces, can be obtained by looking up the module in the yang-

library of the corresponding platform manifest, to obtain

the exact revision of ietf-interfaces used at collection time. Also,

the "on-change" container indicates that data will be sent only if

there is a change, thus not receiving data indicates that the

administrative status of the interface did not change.

The other example of data collection manifest, with subscription

identifier 4243, shows how a periodic subscription is reported. In

that example, the 'current-period' indicates that the requested

period of 10s (1000 centiseconds) could not be attained and is now of

20s, for instance because the device is overloaded.

Appendix D gives the command line for validating this example using

[yanglint].

9. Security Considerations

This section is modeled after the template described in Section 3.7

of [I-D.ietf-netmod-rfc8407bis].

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The "ietf-platform-manifest" module defines a data model that is

designed to be accessed via YANG-based management protocols, such as

NETCONF [RFC6241] and RESTCONF[RFC8040]. These protocols have to use

a secure transport layer (e.g., SSH [RFC6242], TLS [RFC8446] and QUIC

[RFC9000]) and 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.

Some of the readable data nodes in this YANG module may be considered

sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. It is thus

important to control read access (e.g., via get, get-config, or

notification) to these data nodes. Specifically, the following

subtrees and data nodes have particular sensitivities/

vulnerabilities:

\* platforms/platform contains details about the platform that an

attacker could use to find the known vulnerabilities of the

platform.

The "ietf-yp-current-period" module defines a data model that is

designed to be accessed via YANG-based management protocols, such as

NETCONF [RFC6241] and RESTCONF[RFC8040]. These protocols have to use

a secure transport layer (e.g., SSH [RFC6242], TLS [RFC8446] and QUIC

[RFC9000]) and 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.

Some of the readable data nodes in this YANG module may be considered

sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. It is thus

important to control read access (e.g., via get, get-config, or

notification) to these data nodes. Specifically, the following

subtrees and data nodes have particular sensitivities/

vulnerabilities:

There are no particularly sensitive readable data nodes.

As the present approach reuses an existing telemetry system, the

security considerations lie with the new content divulged in the new

manifests. Appropriate access control filters must be associated to

the corresponding leafs and containers, as well as the databases

storing them.

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The integrity and provenance of the data of the collection manifest

can be ensured by a signing mechanism such as

[I-D.lopez-opsawg-yang-provenance].

10. IANA Considerations

RFC Ed.: replace XXXX with actual RFC number and remove this note.

IANA is requested to register the following URIs in the "ns"

subregistry within the "IETF XML Registry" [RFC3688]:

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-platform-manifest

Registrant Contact: The IESG.

XML: N/A; the requested URI is an XML namespace.

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yp-current-period

Registrant Contact: The IESG.

XML: N/A; the requested URI is an XML namespace.

IANA is requested to register the following YANG modules in the "YANG

Module Names" subregistry [RFC6020] within the "YANG Parameters"

registry.

Name: ietf-platform-manifest

Maintained by IANA? N

Namespace: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-platform-manifest

Prefix: p-mf

Reference: RFC XXXX

Name: ietf-yp-current-period

Maintained by IANA? N

Namespace: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yp-current-period

Prefix: yp-cp

Reference: RFC XXXX

11. Contributors

12. Open Issues

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

\* Do we want to handle the absence of values, i.e. add information

about missed collection or errors in the collection context ? It

could also explain why some values are missing. On the other

hand, this might also be out scope. CLOSED: the goal of the

manifest is to be able to detect miscollection a posteriori.

Assurance of the metric collection is out of scope and could be

done via an external mechanism such as SAIN.

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\* Henk: how does this interact with SBOM effort? CLOSED: SBOM is

another kind of manifest, we are focusing here on data collection.

\* What is the link with the RFC8345 NodeId and IVY? CLOSED: added

text.

\* Handling of deletion in [I-D.kll-yang-label-tsdb]. CLOSED: out of

scope

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Appendix A. Changes between revisions

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

v06 -> v07

\* Operational +(and management) considerations (draft-opsarea-

rfc5706bis)

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\* Make current period config false

\* Explicit that data collection is non-normative

\* Adjust security section to RFC8407bis new template

\* Other comments from Med

v05 -> v06

\* Example can be validated using yanglint

\* Applied details comments from Joe and Med

\* Making the "current-period" update more generic and mentioning it

in the introduction

\* Section 7 (previously 5) reworked to clarify how data manifest is

collected and retrieved from a datapoint

\* Remove use of YANG schema mount for the platform manifest and

change data collection manifest to example

v04 -> v05

\* Remove references to full-include draft, use schema mount.

\* Explain link with schema node id

v03 -> v04

\* State that data lineage is out of scope

\* Replace copy-pasted version of the modules with schema mount

version, use full-embed for the "real" one

\* Schema mount version is the fallback plan if full:embed is not

there fast enough.

\* Update examples accordingly

v02 -> v03

\* Explicit that modules are network (Controller) level

\* InfluxDB example changed to TSDB example aligned with

[I-D.kll-yang-label-tsdb]

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\* Minor edits i.e. network element -> platform , object -> data node

v01 -> v02

\* Updated example with latest version of the model.

v00 (WG adoption) - v01

\* Solve integrity issue by delegating to

[I-D.lopez-opsawg-yang-provenance].

v05 -> v06

\* Remove YANG packages

\* Switch YANG models from device view to network view

\* Add PEN number to identify vendors

\* Intro rewritten with uses cases

\* Added an "Operational Considerations" section

\* Switch from MDT to YANG-push

v04 -> v05

\* First version of example scenario

\* Updated affiliation

\* Updated YANG module names to ietf-platform-manifest and ietf-data-

collection-manifest

\* Unify used terms as defined in the terminology section

\* Replaced 'device' with 'platform'

\* Split Section 5 into two sections for better readibility

v03 -> v04

\* Fix xym error

\* Moved terminology after introduction

\* Clarified the role of the module

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v02 -> v03

\* Add when clause in YANG model

\* Fix validation errors on YANG modules

\* Augment YANG library to handle semantic versioning

v01 -> v02

\* Alignment with YANGCatalog YANG module: name, vendor

\* Clarify the use of YANG instance file

\* Editorial improvements

v00 -> v01

\* Adding more into data platform: yang packages, whole yanglib

module to specify datastores

\* Setting the right type for periods: int64 -> uint64

\* Specify the origin datastore for mdt subscription

\* Set both models to config false

\* Applying text comments from Mohamed Boucadair

\* Adding an example of data-manifest file

\* Adding rationale for reusing telemetry system for collection of

the manifests

\* Export manifest with on change telemetry as opposed to YANG

instance file

v00

\* Initial version

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Appendix B. An Example of Use Based on MDT

In this example, the goal is to collect the administrative status and

number of received bytes for the interfaces of a fictional ACME

device, and store the result in a time-series database. The metrics

are collected using YANG-Push, which is configured by specifying

their XPaths and when they should be collected (periodically or on-

change). More precisely, the Xpaths to collect are "ietf-

interfaces:interfaces/interface/enabled" on every change and "ietf-

interfaces:interfaces/interface/statistics/in-octets" every 100

milliseconds. The paths here are referring to the YANG module from

[RFC8343]. The configuration of YANG push is out of scope for this

document. Since they don’t have the same trigger, each of the path

must be collected in its own subscription. Figure 5 presents an

example for such a collection.

+------------+ +--------+

| MDT |--------------> | TSDB |

| Collector | +--------+

+------------+

^

|

|

+---------+

| Device |

+---------+

Figure 5: Example of Collection From a Device to a TSDB

In the scenario depicted in Figure 5, the collector receives YANG-

push data from the device and stores it into a TSDB. This section

first presents a version without data manifest and then how to enrich

it with the data manifest.

Examples rely on the notation from [I-D.kll-yang-label-tsdb] to

represent how the data is stored in the TSDB. Without the data

manifest, the result of the collection would be stored as showed in

Figure 6. The "host" label indicates the devices from which the data

is collected and the YANG keys are included as well. Here the

interface "eth0" is enabled and received 1234 octets. In that case,

the value is stored, without any way to know how the value was

obtained.

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\* Metric: interfaces\_interface\_enabled

\* Value: True

\* Labels:

- host: "PE1"

- interfaces\_interface\_name: "eth0"

--

\* Metric: interfaces\_interface\_statistics\_in\_octets

\* Value: 1234

\* Labels:

- host: "PE1"

- interfaces\_interface\_name: "eth0"

Figure 6: Storing Datapoints without Data Manifest

An option for keeping the data manifest with the data is to store it

directly into the TSDB. In that case, the collector can subscribe to

the data exported by the module presented in this document and store

it as other metrics. For the platform manifest, assuming the

platform identifier is "PE1", the collector subscribes to the path

"ietf-platform-manifest:platforms/platform[id=PE1]". For the data

collection manifests, the collector subscribes to the path "ietf-

data-collection-manifest:data-collections/data-collection[platform-

id="PE1"]/yang-push-collection/subscriptions/subscription[id=X]"

where X is the subscription identifier of existing subscriptions.

With the approach from [I-D.kll-yang-label-tsdb], the corresponding

subtrees would be split into a set of datapoints, one per leaf.

Figure 7 shows two examples of storing leaves in a TSDB. The first

leaf is the vendor PEN number, which is part of the platform

manifest. The second leaf is the Xpath filter used for subscription

to the interface status.

\* Metric: platforms\_platform\_vendor\_pen

\* Value: 32473

\* Labels:

- host: "PE1"

- platforms\_platform\_id: "PE1"

--

\* Metric: data\_collections\_data\_collection\_yang\_push\_collection\_

subscriptions\_subscription\_datastore\_xpath\_filter

\* Value: "ietf-interfaces:interfaces/interface/enabled"

\* Labels:

- host: "PE1"

- data\_collections\_data\_collection\_platform\_id: "PE1"

- data\_collections\_data\_collection\_yang\_push\_collection\_

subscriptions\_subscription\_id: 4242

Figure 7: Example of storing Platform and Data Collection

Manifest: Vendor PEN and Xpath filter.

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In the labels, the "host" might be different from the

"platforms\_platform\_id" in case the collector is the one assembling

it, i.e. for devices that do not natively support the data manifest.

In that case, the value of this label could be the hostname of the

collector. The host value does not matter for retrieving the data

manifest as the platform identifier is the meaningful field.

In this example, retrieving the platform manifest associated to a

collected datapoint is done by looking for datapoints that have the

label "platforms\_platform\_id" equal to the value of the host for that

collected datapoint. In order to link a datapoint with the

corresponding data collection manifest, an additional label for the

subscription identifier is required. For instance, the same

datapoints as in Figure 6 could be stored as in Figure 8.

\* Metric: interfaces\_interface\_enabled

\* Value: True

\* Labels:

- host: "PE1"

- interfaces\_interface\_name: "eth0"

- data\_collections\_data\_collection\_yang\_push\_subscriptions\_

subscription\_id: 4242

--

\* Metric: interfaces\_interface\_statistics\_in\_octets

\* Value: 1234

\* Labels:

- host: "PE1"

- interfaces\_interface\_name: "eth0"

- data\_collections\_data\_collection\_yang\_push\_subscriptions\_

subscription\_id: 4243

Figure 8: Storing datapoints with information to retrieve the

data manifest

From the "interfaces\_interface\_enabled" datapoint, one can retrieve

the corresponding data collection manifest by looking for datapoints

that have the label data\_collections\_data\_collection\_yang\_push\_collec

tion\_subscriptions\_subscription\_id equal to 4242.

Various optimizations could be done, such as relying on on-change

subscription to modify only the leaves that changed. In that way,

the amount of data needed for updating and storing the data manifest

in the TSDB would be limited.

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Appendix C. Generating YANG Tree Diagrams

This section provides the files needed to generate the YANG tree

diagram [RFC8340] from Figure 3. The diagram was obtained using

yanglint [yanglint] version 2.1.80, using the YANG Schema Mount

[RFC8528]. It was manually edited to remove parts irrelevant to this

document such as data nodes from imported modules, notifications and

RPCs.

In order to get a tree diagram involving YANG Schema Mount with

yanglint, two data files are required, in addition to the YANG

module, its dependencies and the YANG modules to be mounted. The

first required file the extension data, containing the YANG library

to use at the mount point, this file is provided below as "data-

collection-extension-data.xml". The second required file is the YANG

library to use at the top-level context, this file is provided below

as "data-collection-toplevel-yanglib.xml". The following command was

used to obtain the YANG Tree diagram (before manual edition).

yanglint -f tree \

-x data-collection-extension-data.xml \

-Y data-collection-toplevel-yanglib.xml \

example-collection-manifest@2025-02-21.yang

<CODE BEGINS> file "data-collection-extension-data.xml"

<yang-library xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-library"

xmlns:ds="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-datastores">

<module-set>

<name>mountee-set</name>

<module>

<name>ietf-subscribed-notifications</name>

<revision>2019-09-09</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-subscribed-notifications

</namespace>

<feature>xpath</feature>

</module>

<module>

<name>ietf-yang-push</name>

<revision>2019-09-09</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-push

</namespace>

<feature>on-change</feature>

</module>

<module>

<name>ietf-yp-current-period</name>

<revision>2025-02-21</revision>

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<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yp-current-period

</namespace>

</module>

<module>

<name>ietf-datastores</name>

<revision>2018-02-14</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-datastores

</namespace>

</module>

<module>

<name>ietf-yang-library</name>

<revision>2019-01-04</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-library

</namespace>

</module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-inet-types</name>

<revision>2013-07-15</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-inet-types

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-interfaces</name>

<revision>2018-02-20</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-interfaces

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-ip</name>

<revision>2018-02-22</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ip

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-netconf-acm</name>

<revision>2018-02-14</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-netconf-acm

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-network-instance</name>

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<revision>2019-01-21</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-network-instance

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-restconf</name>

<revision>2017-01-26</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-restconf

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-yang-patch</name>

<revision>2017-02-22</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-patch

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-yang-types</name>

<revision>2023-01-23</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-types

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

</module-set>

<schema>

<name>test-schema</name>

<module-set>mountee-set</module-set>

</schema>

<datastore>

<name>ds:running</name>

<schema>test-schema</schema>

</datastore>

<datastore>

<name>ds:operational</name>

<schema>test-schema</schema>

</datastore>

<content-id>2</content-id>

</yang-library>

<modules-state xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-library">

<module-set-id>2</module-set-id>

</modules-state>

<schema-mounts

xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-schema-mount">

<mount-point>

<module>example-collection-manifest</module>

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<label>yang-push-collection</label>

<shared-schema/>

</mount-point>

</schema-mounts>

<CODE ENDS>

<CODE BEGINS> file "data-collection-toplevel-yanglib.xml"

<yang-library xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-library"

xmlns:ds="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-datastores">

<module-set>

<name>main-set</name>

<module>

<name>ietf-datastores</name>

<revision>2018-02-14</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-datastores

</namespace>

</module>

<module>

<name>ietf-yang-library</name>

<revision>2019-01-04</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-library

</namespace>

</module>

<module>

<name>ietf-yang-schema-mount</name>

<revision>2019-01-14</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-schema-mount

</namespace>

</module>

<module>

<name>example-collection-manifest</name>

<revision>2025-02-21</revision>

<namespace>

http://example.org/example-collection-manifest

</namespace>

</module>

<module>

<name>ietf-platform-manifest</name>

<revision>2025-02-21</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-platform-manifest

</namespace>

</module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-inet-types</name>

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<revision>2013-07-15</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-inet-types

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

<import-only-module>

<name>ietf-yang-types</name>

<revision>2023-01-23</revision>

<namespace>

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-types

</namespace>

</import-only-module>

</module-set>

<schema>

<name>main-schema</name>

<module-set>main-set</module-set>

</schema>

<datastore>

<name>ds:running</name>

<schema>main-schema</schema>

</datastore>

<datastore>

<name>ds:operational</name>

<schema>main-schema</schema>

</datastore>

<content-id>1</content-id>

</yang-library>

<modules-state

xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-yang-library">

<module-set-id>2</module-set-id>

</modules-state>

<CODE ENDS>

Appendix D. Validating the Example

This section provides the command line for validating the example in

Figure 4 using [yanglint]. The files "data-collection-extension-

data.xml" and "data-collection-toplevel-yanglib.xml" are provided in

the previous section. The file "manifests-example.json" in the one

from Figure 4.

yanglint -e -x data-collection-extension-data.xml \

-Y data-collection-toplevel-yanglib.xml \

manifests-example.json

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