

## **Proposal for token subformat Standardization**

### **Current Specification:**

In the current specification, a NLIP message can carry any number of submessages with the format field of token. The subformat of this field can be any string value that the application chooses. The only restriction is that the end-point which did not create the token field needs to send over all such submessages to the end-point which created it.

### **Proposed Specification:**

The protocol should specify some reserved fields for subformat. The proposed reserved subfields are – ‘authentication’, ‘conversation id’.

The reason for standardization is that we expect end-points to have two separate implementation components, one component would be NLIP-specific, while the other component would be the application/solution implementing NLIP.

Having a reserved field means the NLIP-specific component can examine the subformat, and if it starts with any of the reserved subfields, it can perform a general action for protocol support such as consulting a local authentication component, or maintain state for a new session using conversation id.

Having the NLIP-specific component work in this manner would increase interoperability among independent implementations of clients and servers that are NLIP-specific.