
University of Colorado Boulder

Network Management and Automation
CSCI 5180

Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)

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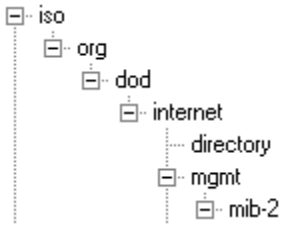
- **Syllabus**
- **Ungraded Labs**
- **Discussions**
  - NMS
    - ***Coding vs. Commercial***
  - SNMP
    - ***Legacy vs. Current***

SNMP Overview

- **Vocabulary**
  - SNMP – Simple Network Management Protocol
  - NMS – Network Management System/station
    - ***Where is it located?***
  - MIB – Management Information Base
    - ***Definitions of the management data***
    - ***Tree structure***
    - ***Problems & Limitations of MIBs?***

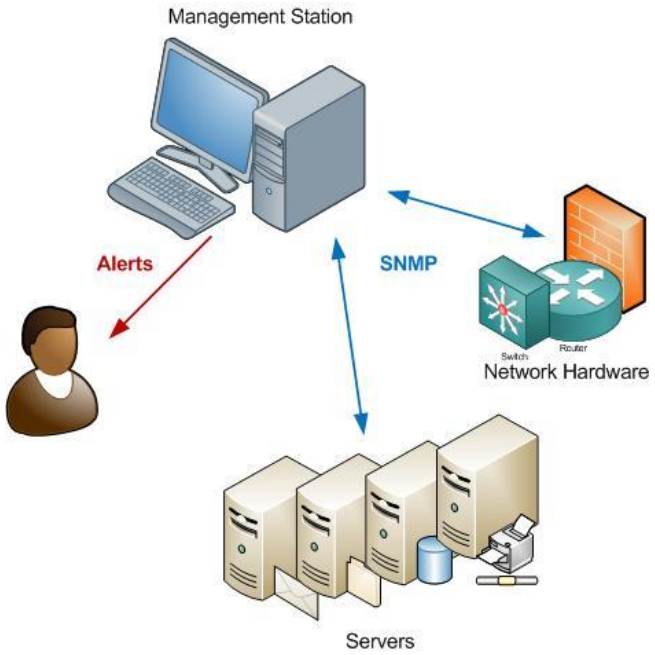


  - OID – Object Identifier
    - ***Variables that can be read/set ("eth1 status")***
  - Trap – An asynchronous notification about conditions that the monitor should know
  - Agent

  - Coffee Example
    - ***Monitor water temp; warming/idle; how full it is; how long since last brew***
    - ***MIBs/OIDS***

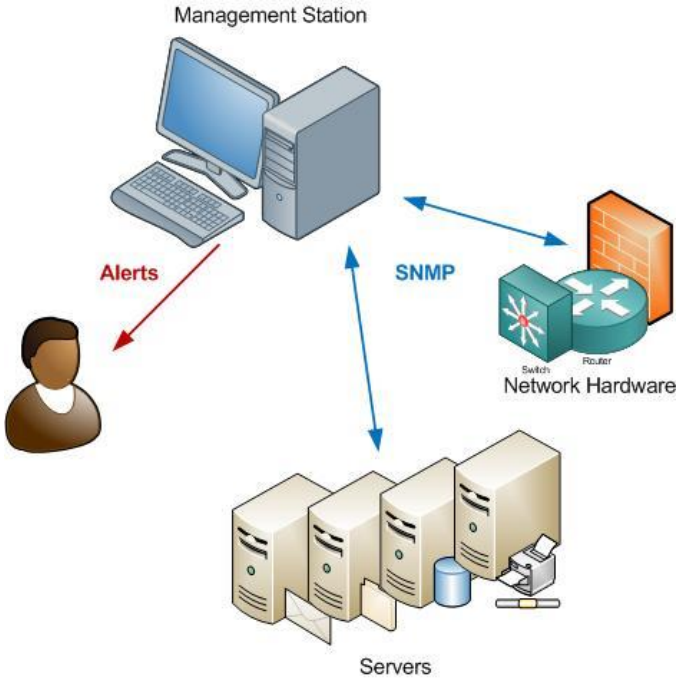
SNMP Overview

- **Three key parts:**
  1. Managed device (server, router, switch, etc.)
  2. Agent (software on device)
  3. NMS (software running on manager/server)



SNMP Diagram Example

- **Management Console (software)**
  - Polling (FROM NMS to Agent)
    - ***What must happen for this to work?***
- **Agent (software)**
- **Trap (alert – "rule has been broken")**



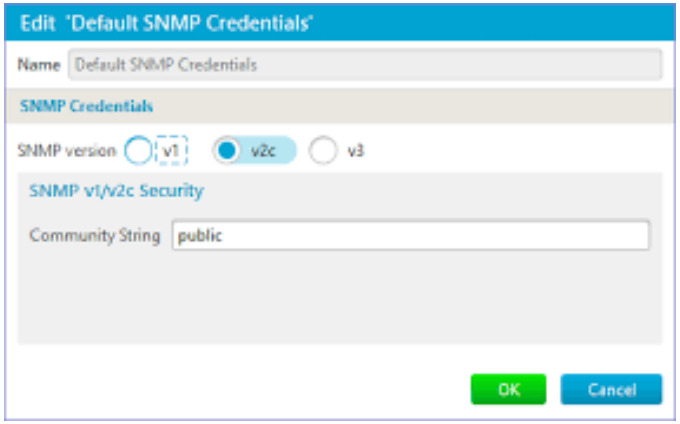
SNMP

- **Proactively monitor and communicate with devices**
- **Allows network admins to remotely manage their devices, network performance management, trend analysis**
- **Part of bigger SOFTWARE system**
- **Application Layer protocol (layer 7)**
- **Uses UDP as its transport layer protocol**
  - SNMP Requests = port 161
  - SNMP Traps/Informs = port 162
  - Connectionless
  - Efficient
  - Unreliable
    - ***Lost traps?***

SNMP

- **Community strings (*passwords/pre-shared key)***
  - "public" (RO) and "private" (RW) - (default)
    - ***MUST CHANGE!***
  - DOD - #1 Security Attack
    - ***Security Denial of Service (DOS) - (LAN/WAN)***
      - Why is it a DOS?
      - How to prevent DOS?
        - » Out of Band management
        - » ACL "only NMS IP address & port"
        - » LAN DOS prevention
          - Different subnet (firewall rules)

- **What can be monitored?**
  - Alerts
  - Preventative maintenance
    - ***Server fan (example)***
  - Power outage?
  - WAN link down?



SNMP

- **SNMP messages should be sent <u>out of band (OoB)</u>**
  - How/why?
    - ***Physical interfaces / VLANs***
    - ***Save bandwidth***
      - Not using company resources for management traffic
    - ***Backup link***

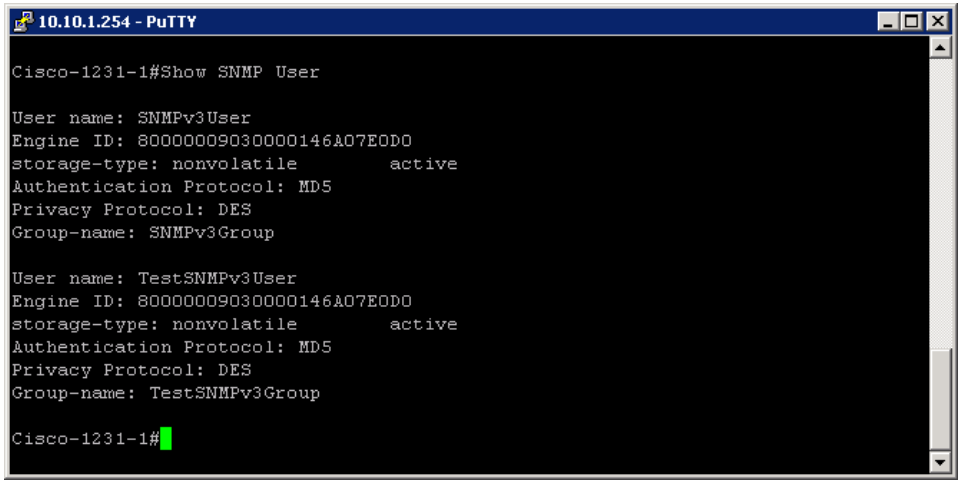
SNMP Versions

- **SNMP a.k.a. SNMPv1**
  - Works

- **SNMPv2 or SNMPv2c (community-based SNMP)**
  - “Feature pack upgrade” to v1
  - Improves performance, security (community), confidentiality
  - GetBulk (alt. GetNextRequest)
  - Standard (de facto) (most utilized)
  - Incompatible with v1 (without proxy)
  - Telnet vs SSH (still use management with Telnet)
  - SNMP = “Security Not My Problem”
  - Protocol analyzer can sniff community and contents!
    - ***Out of band network reduces this risk***

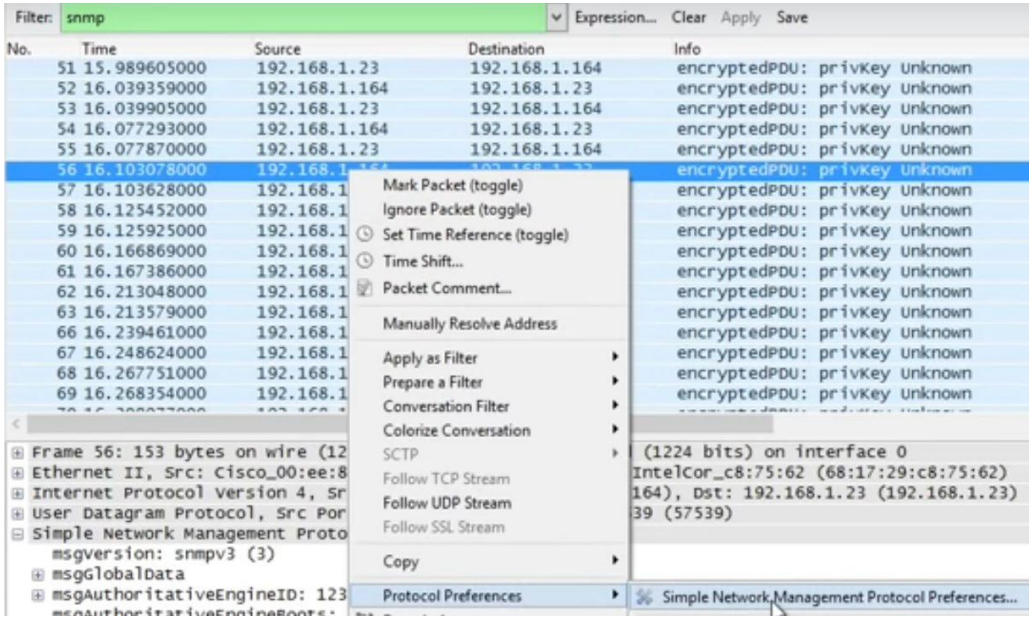
SNMP Versions

- **SMNPv3**
  - Security (“priv” - authentication and encryption)
    - ***Community string are not required***
    - ***Groups & Users & Auth/Encryption***
      - Can bypass this in Wireshark if UN/PW known
  - Mandatory in secure environments
  - Remote configuration
    - ***NETCONF!***
  - Each device has identifier
    - ***SNMPEngineID***
      - manually configured
        - » (better for documentation)
  - IOS – “show snmp user”



- **SNMPv2 vs SNMPv3**
  - V3 = more secure and better
  - V2 = easier

- **Capture Community string, interface status, route table, etc.**
- **V3 - Decrypt in Wireshark**
  - Find SNMP packet (SNMP)
  - Right Click > Protocol Preferences > SNMP
  - Edit Users Table = (UN/PW, etc.)



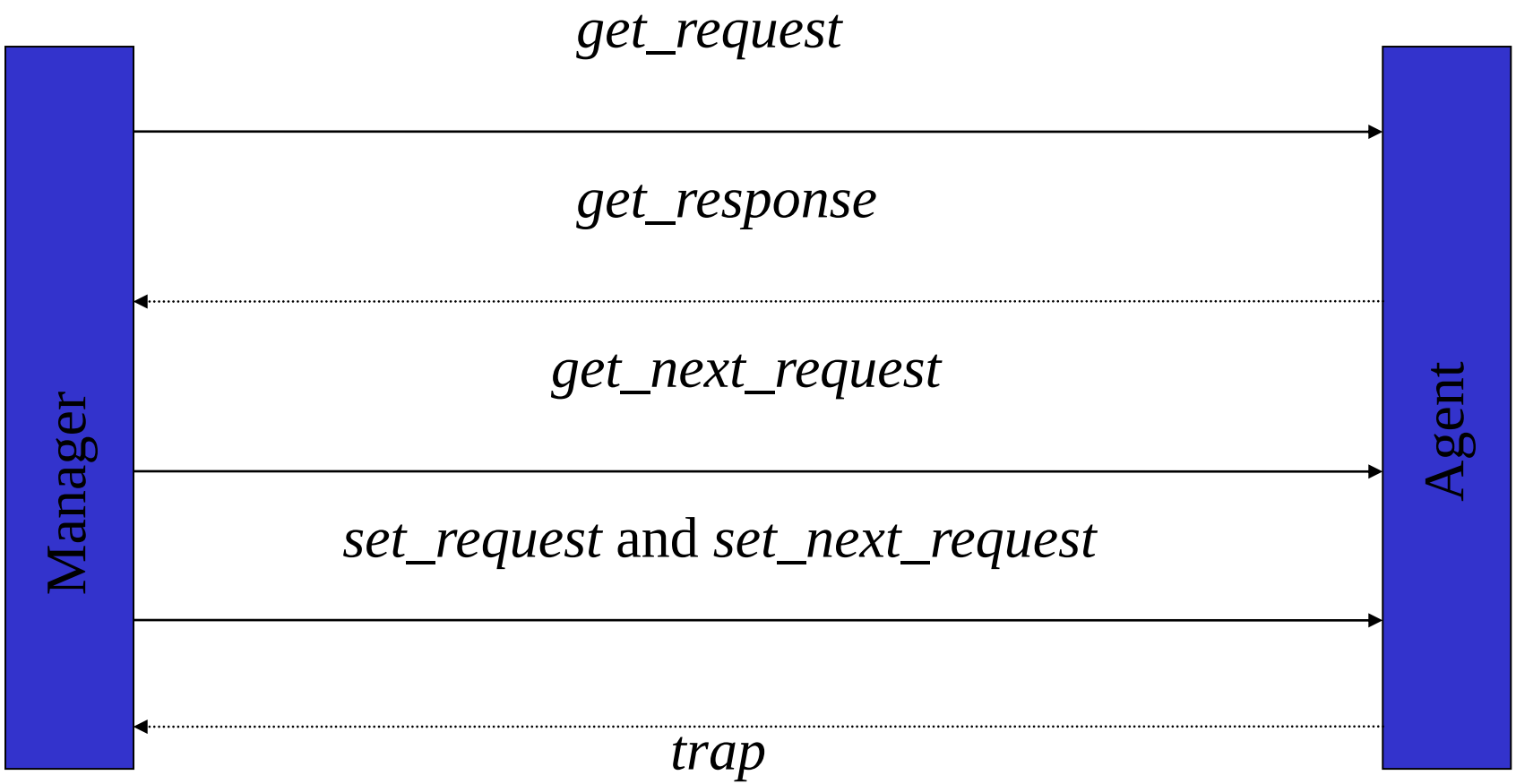
Community Strings

- Gives access to an SNMP Agent (the device we want to look at)
  - ***Essentially passwords or pre-shared key***
- Clear text (security problem but addressed in SNMPv3)
  - ***Users & Groups***
- Default for Read-Only: public
- Default for Read/Write: private
- Top 10 Most Critical Internet Security Threat
- Caution on “extreme” Community strings
  - ***Reserved characters (@ = VLAN)***
  - ***Length of string***

SNMPv1 Messages

- **5 Messages**
  - GetRequest
    - ***Used to retrieve information from an agent***
  - GetNextRequest
    - ***Used in conjunction w/ a get request to get a table of data (routing table)***
  - SetRequest
    - ***Allows remote configuration (change IP address)***
  - GetResponse
    - ***Agent's response to a get-request***
  - Trap
    - ***Unsolicited message from an agent to a manager***

SNMP Messages



SNMP Messages - Architecture

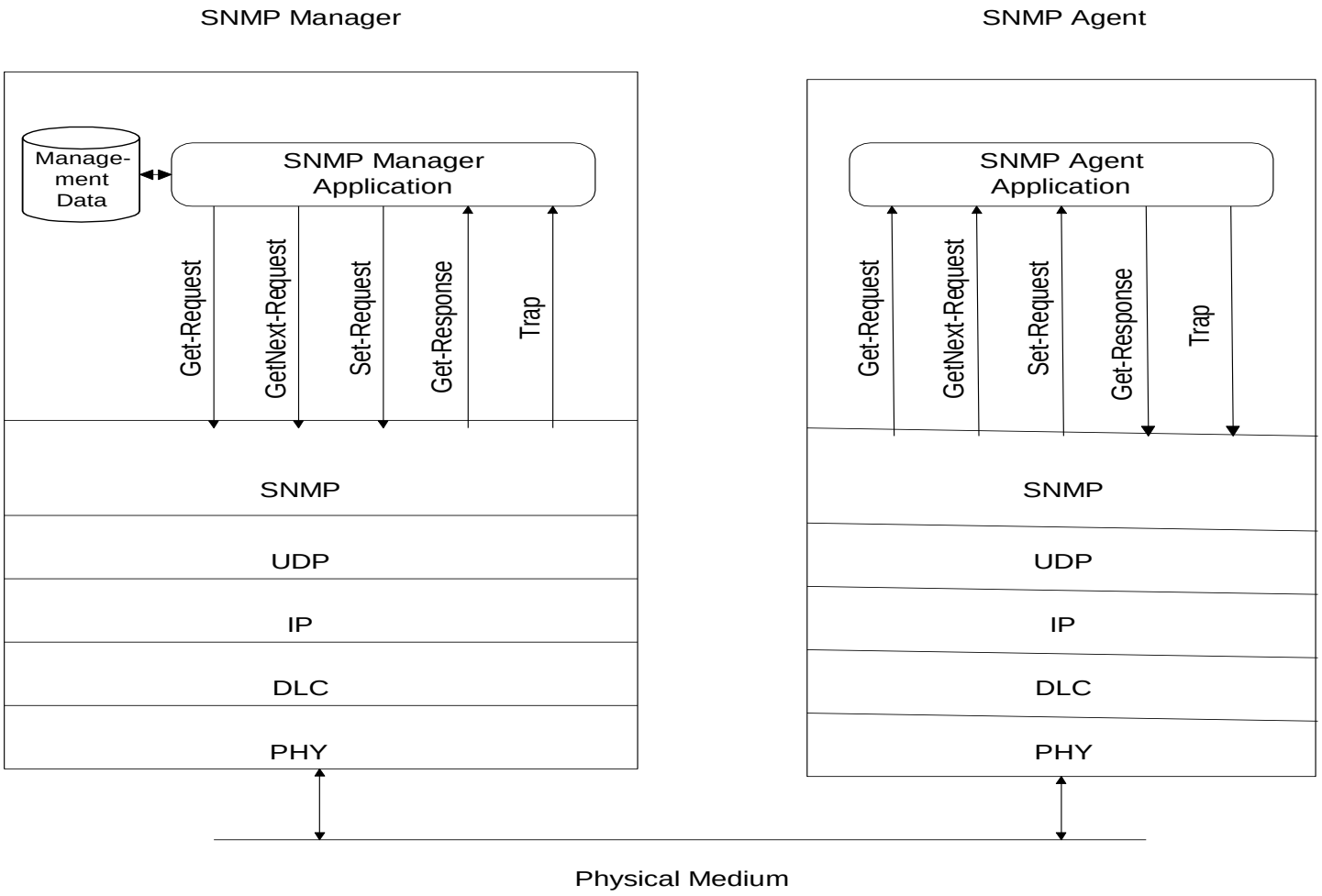


Figure 4.9 SNMP Network Management Architecture

SNMPv2 Messages

- **7 Messages**
  - GetRequest
    - ***Used to retrieve information from an agent***
  - GetNextRequest
    - ***Used in conjunction w/ a get request to get a table of data (routing table)***
  - *GetBulkRequest
  - SetRequest
    - ***Allows remote configuration (change IP address)***
  - *InformRequest
    - ***Similar to a Trap, but sent continuously until an ACK is received***
  - Response
    - ***Agent's response to a GetRequest, SetRequest, GetNextRequest, GetBulkRequest, and InformRequest***
  - Trap
    - ***Unsolicited message from an agent to a manager***

SNMPv3 Messages

- **8 Messages**
  - GetRequest
    - ***Used to retrieve information from an agent***
  - GetNextRequest
    - ***Used in conjunction w/ a get request to get a table of data (routing table)***
  - SetRequest
    - ***Allows remote configuration (change address)***
  - GetBulkRequest
  - Response
    - ***Agent's response to a get-request, SetRequest, GetNextRequest, GetBulkRequest, and InformRequest***
  - Trap
    - ***Unsolicited message from an agent to a manager***
  - InformRequest
    - ***Similar to a Trap, but sent continuously until an ACK is received***
  - *Report PDU
    - ***Make encrypted messages more secure***

GET

Frame 126 (203 bytes on wire, 203 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: DellEsgP_67:5f:03 (00:0b:db:67:5f:03), Dst: All-HSRP-routers_1c (00:00:0c:07:ac:1c)

Internet Protocol, Src: 172.22.67.204 (172.22.67.204), Dst: 10.19.251.224 (10.19.251.224)

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 1587 (1587), Dst Port: snmp (161)

Simple Network Management Protocol

- Version: 1 (0)
- Community: public
- PDU type: GET (0)
- Request Id: 0x0000267b
- Error Status: NO ERROR (0)
- Error Index: 0
- Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.1.0 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysDescr.0)
- Value: NULL
- Object identifier 2: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.2.0 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysObjectID.0)
- Value: NULL

GET RESPONSE

Frame 127 (291 bytes on wire, 291 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: 172.22.71.251 (00:30:b6:34:ca:40), Dst: DellEsgP_67:5f:03 (00:0b:db:67:5f:03)

Internet Protocol, Src: 10.19.251.224 (10.19.251.224), Dst: 172.22.67.204 (172.22.67.204)

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: snmp (161), Dst Port: 1587 (1587)

Simple Network Management Protocol

- Version: 1 (0)
- Community: public
- PDU type: RESPONSE (2)
- Request Id: 0x0000267b
- Error Status: NO ERROR (0)
- Error Index: 0
- Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.1.0 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysDescr.0)
- Value: STRING: NetVanta 4430, Version: R11.4.3.E, Date: Thu Nov 24 16:20:50 2014
- Object identifier 2: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.2.0 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysObjectID.0)
- Value: OID: SNMPv2-SMI::enterprises.664.1.583

GET-NEXT

Frame 43 (88 bytes on wire, 88 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: DellEsgP_67:5f:03 (00:0b:db:67:5f:03), Dst: All-HSRP-routers_1c (00:00:0c:07:ac:1c)

Internet Protocol, Src: 172.22.67.204 (172.22.67.204), Dst: 10.19.251.224 (10.19.251.224)

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 1616 (1616), Dst Port: snmp (161)

Simple Network Management Protocol

- Version: 1 (0)
- Community: public
- PDU type: GET-NEXT (1)
- Request Id: 0x00002ea5
- Error Status: NO ERROR (0)
- Error Index: 0
- Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1 (SNMPv2-SMI::mib-2)
- Value: NULL

GET-NEXT RESPONSE

Frame 44 (152 bytes on wire, 152 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: 172.22.71.251 (00:30:b6:34:ca:40), Dst: DellEsgP_67:5f:03 (00:0b:db:67:5f:03)

Internet Protocol, Src: 10.19.251.224 (10.19.251.224), Dst: 172.22.67.204 (172.22.67.204)

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: snmp (161), Dst Port: 1616 (1616)

Simple Network Management Protocol

- Version: 1 (0)
- Community: public
- PDU type: RESPONSE (2)
- Request Id: 0x00002ea5
- Error Status: NO ERROR (0)
- Error Index: 0
- Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.1.0 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysDescr.0)
- Value: STRING: NetVanta 6355, Version: R11.05.00.E, Date: Thu Nov 24 16:20:50 2010

SET

Frame 52 (88 bytes on wire, 88 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: DellEsgP_67:5f:03 (00:0b:db:67:5f:03), Dst: All-HSRP-routers_1c (00:00:0c:07:ac:1c)

Internet Protocol, Src: 172.22.67.204 (172.22.67.204), Dst: 10.19.251.224 (10.19.251.224)

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 1803 (1803), Dst Port: snmp (161)

Simple Network Management Protocol

- Version: 1 (0)
- Community: private
- PDU type: SET (3)
- Request Id: 0x00000206
- Error Status: NO ERROR (0)
- Error Index: 0
- Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.4.0 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysContact.0)
- Value: STRING: LEVI

SET RESPONSE

Frame 53 (88 bytes on wire, 88 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: 172.22.71.251 (00:30:b6:34:ca:40), Dst: DellEsgP_67:5f:03 (00:0b:db:67:5f:03)

Internet Protocol, Src: 10.19.251.224 (10.19.251.224), Dst: 172.22.67.204 (172.22.67.204)

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: snmp (161), Dst Port: 1803 (1803)

Simple Network Management Protocol

- Version: 1 (0)
- Community: private
- PDU type: RESPONSE (2)
- Request Id: 0x00000206
- Error Status: NO ERROR (0)
- Error Index: 0
- Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.4.0 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysContact.0)
- Value: STRING: LEVI

RESPONSE ERROR

Frame 44 (92 bytes on wire, 92 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: 172.22.71.251 (00:30:b6:34:ca:40), Dst: DellEsgP_67:5f:03 (00:0b:db:67:5f:03)

Internet Protocol, Src: 10.19.251.224 (10.19.251.224), Dst: 172.22.67.204 (172.22.67.204)

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: snmp (161), Dst Port: 1632 (1632)

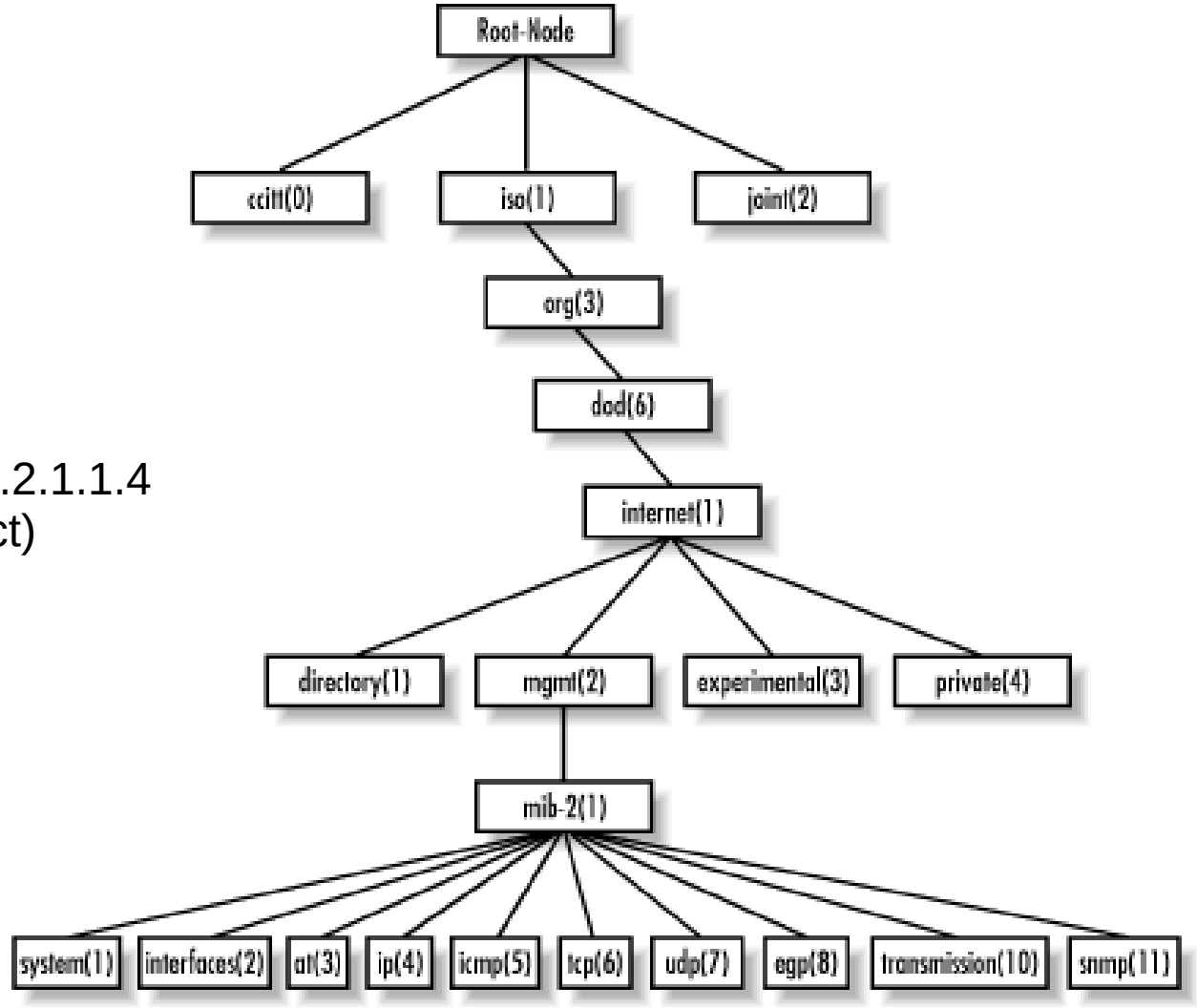
Simple Network Management Protocol

- Version: 1 (0)
- Community: private
- PDU type: RESPONSE (2)
- Request Id: 0x00002ec9
- Error Status: NO SUCH NAME (2)
- Error Index: 1
- Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.4 (SNMPv2-MIB::sysContact)
- Value: STRING: Levi Test

MIBs

- **Provided by "manufacturer" and loaded/installed on NMS (server) and extracted**
- **Define managed objects and their behavior**
- **A database of objects and agent tracks**
  - i.e. what devices are connected to ports of my switch
- **Written in ASN.1 and are clear text**
- **Must be compiled by the NMS before use (each NMS has its own way of compiling)**

SNMP MIB



Object identifier 1: 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.4
(SNMPv2-MIB::sysContact)

Traps

• A message (alert) sent from an SNMP agent to a NMS (SNMP Monitor) because a certain (triggered) event occurred

• This allows the device to send a message to a monitor saying

  - "Hey I'm OK" or "Hey I'm Having Problems" without the monitor always polling the device

•User/Admin defined

  - "What do I want to be alerted about?"

Traps

- Events are defined in the MIB for the device

- Configured on each Agent

- Concept / Network Design - Proactive vs. Reactive Traps
  - Link down vs. Fan failure

Troubleshooting

- **Troubleshooting - Bottom Up vs Top Down**
  - CCNP TSHOOT
- **Can you ping the device from the NMS?**
  - No route to NMS
- **Can the device ping the NMS?**
  - Why could you ping agent, but agent couldn't ping NMS?
- **You can browse the MIB on the device (from the NMS) but don't receive traps**
  - Traps enabled?
  - SNMP server IP address configured? Configured correctly?
  - Firewall?
  - Source IP address or Loopback

Troubleshooting

- **Are the community strings set?**
  - Do they match? Case sensitive?
- **Do you need to specify a *source interface* on the agent?**
  - Draw
- **Note: SNMP walk of all the entries in the MIB, can crash the device (or the network)**

Troubleshooting

- **Cisco SNMP commands reference: http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/ios/12_2/configfun/command/reference/ffun_r/frf014.html**

Router# **show snmp**
Chassis: 01506199
37 SNMP packets input
0 Bad SNMP version errors
4 Unknown community name
0 Illegal operation for community name supplied
0 Encoding errors
24 Number of requested variables
0 Number of altered variables
0 Get-request PDUs
28 Get-next PDUs
0 Set-request PDUs
78 SNMP packets output
0 Too big errors (Maximum packet size 1500)
0 No such name errors
0 Bad values errors
0 General errors
24 Response PDUs
13 Trap PDUs

SNMP and NMS Software

- **Nagios**
  - Open Source; Free
  - CLI based
    - ***GUI Display/Reporting***

- **SolarWinds**
  - Popular in industry (expensive)
  - Arguably best all-around solution

- **Cacti**
  - Network Graphing solution

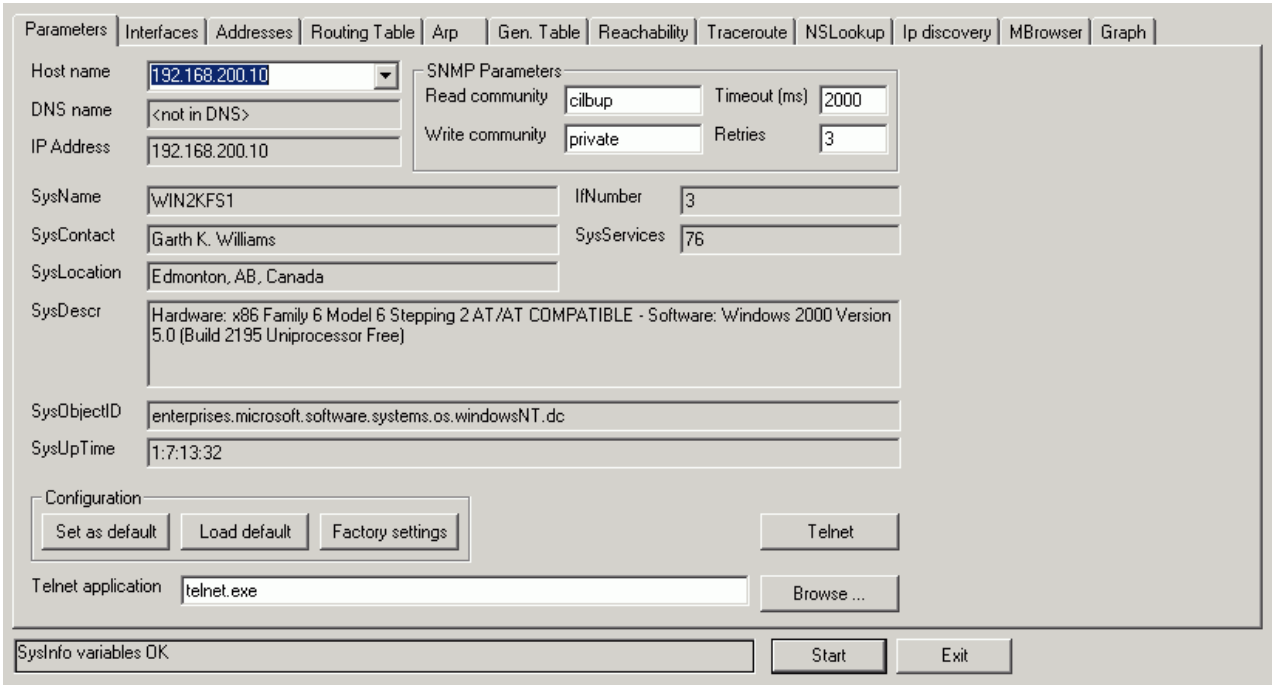
Continued…

- **WhatsUPGold**
  - Popular in industry (expensive)

- **Network Management Information System (NMIS)**
  - FOSS
  - GUI based

SNMP and NMS Software

- **Free/basic SNMP Software**
  - Getif (MIB browser)
  - Net-snmp



SNMP - Python

Questions?