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## Advanced Sockets Application Program Interface (API) for IPv6

### Status of this Memo

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### Abstract

This document provides sockets Application Program Interface (API) to support "advanced" IPv6 applications, as a supplement to a separate specification, [RFC 3493](#). The expected applications include Ping, Traceroute, routing daemons and the like, which typically use raw sockets to access IPv6 or ICMPv6 header fields. This document proposes some portable interfaces for applications that use raw sockets under IPv6. There are other features of IPv6 that some applications will need to access: interface identification (specifying the outgoing interface and determining the incoming interface), IPv6 extension headers, and path Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU) information. This document provides API access to these features too. Additionally, some extended interfaces to libraries for the "r" commands are defined. The extension will provide better backward compatibility to existing implementations that are not IPv6-capable.

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## 1. Introduction

A separate specification [[RFC-3493](#)] contains changes to the sockets API to support IP version 6. Those changes are for TCP and UDP-based applications. This document defines some of the "advanced" features of the sockets API that are required for applications to take advantage of additional features of IPv6.

Today, the portability of applications using IPv4 raw sockets is quite high, but this is mainly because most IPv4 implementations started from a common base (the Berkeley source code) or at least started with the Berkeley header files. This allows programs such as Ping and Traceroute, for example, to compile with minimal effort on many hosts that support the sockets API. With IPv6, however, there is no common source code base that implementors are starting from, and the possibility for divergence at this level between different implementations is high. To avoid a complete lack of portability amongst applications that use raw IPv6 sockets, some standardization is necessary.

There are also features from the basic IPv6 specification that are not addressed in [RFC-3493]: sending and receiving Routing headers, Hop-by-Hop options, and Destination options, specifying the outgoing interface, being told of the receiving interface, and control of path MTU information.

This document updates and replaces RFC 2292. This revision is based on implementation experience of RFC 2292, as well as some additional extensions that have been found to be useful through the IPv6 deployment. Note, however, that further work on this document may still be needed. Once the API specification becomes mature and is deployed among implementations, it may be formally standardized by a more appropriate body, such as has been done with the Basic API [RFC-3493].

This document can be divided into the following main sections.

1. Definitions of the basic constants and structures required for applications to use raw IPv6 sockets. This includes structure definitions for the IPv6 and ICMPv6 headers and all associated constants (e.g., values for the Next Header field).
2. Some basic semantic definitions for IPv6 raw sockets. For example, a raw ICMPv4 socket requires the application to calculate and store the ICMPv4 header checksum. But with IPv6 this would require the application to choose the source IPv6 address because the source address is part of the pseudo header that ICMPv6 now uses for its checksum computation. It should be defined that with a raw ICMPv6 socket the kernel always calculates and stores the ICMPv6 header checksum.
3. Packet information: how applications can obtain the received interface, destination address, and received hop limit, along with specifying these values on a per-packet basis. There are a class of applications that need this capability and the technique should be portable.

4. Access to the optional Routing header, Hop-by-Hop options, and Destination options extension headers.
5. Additional features required for improved IPv6 application portability.

The packet information along with access to the extension headers (Routing header, Hop-by-Hop options, and Destination options) are specified using the "ancillary data" fields that were added to the 4.3BSD Reno sockets API in 1990. The reason is that these ancillary data fields are part of the Posix standard [[POSIX](#)] and should therefore be adopted by most vendors.

This document does not address application access to either the authentication header or the encapsulating security payload header.

Many examples in this document omit error checking in favor of brevity and clarity.

We note that some of the functions and socket options defined in this document may have error returns that are not defined in this document. Some of these possible error returns will be recognized only as implementations proceed.

Datatypes in this document follow the Posix format: `intN_t` means a signed integer of exactly N bits (e.g., `int16_t`) and `uintN_t` means an unsigned integer of exactly N bits (e.g., `uint32_t`).

Note that we use the (unofficial) terminology ICMPv4, IGMPv4, and ARPv4 to avoid any confusion with the newer ICMPv6 protocol.

## 2. Common Structures and Definitions

Many advanced applications examine fields in the IPv6 header and set and examine fields in the various ICMPv6 headers. Common structure definitions for these protocol headers are required, along with common constant definitions for the structure members.

This API assumes that the fields in the protocol headers are left in the network byte order, which is big-endian for the Internet protocols. If not, then either these constants or the fields being tested must be converted at run-time, using something like `htons()` or `htonl()`.

Two new header files are defined: `<netinet/ip6.h>` and `<netinet/icmp6.h>`.

When an include file is specified, that include file is allowed to include other files that do the actual declaration or definition.

## 2.1. The ip6\_hdr Structure

The following structure is defined as a result of including `<netinet/ip6.h>`. Note that this is a new header.

```
struct ip6_hdr {
    union {
        struct ip6_hdrctl {
            uint32_t ip6_un1_flow; /* 4 bits version, 8 bits TC, 20 bits
                                   flow-ID */
            uint16_t ip6_un1_plen; /* payload length */
            uint8_t  ip6_un1_nxt;  /* next header */
            uint8_t  ip6_un1_hlim; /* hop limit */
        } ip6_un1;
        uint8_t ip6_un2_vfc;      /* 4 bits version, top 4 bits
                                   tclass */
    } ip6_ctlun;
    struct in6_addr ip6_src;      /* source address */
    struct in6_addr ip6_dst;      /* destination address */
};

#define ip6_vfc    ip6_ctlun.ip6_un2_vfc
#define ip6_flow   ip6_ctlun.ip6_un1.ip6_un1_flow
#define ip6_plen   ip6_ctlun.ip6_un1.ip6_un1_plen
#define ip6_nxt    ip6_ctlun.ip6_un1.ip6_un1_nxt
#define ip6_hlim   ip6_ctlun.ip6_un1.ip6_un1_hlim
#define ip6_hops   ip6_ctlun.ip6_un1.ip6_un1_hlim
```

### 2.1.1. IPv6 Next Header Values

IPv6 defines many new values for the Next Header field. The following constants are defined as a result of including `<netinet/in.h>`.

```
#define IPPROTO_HOPOPTS  0 /* IPv6 Hop-by-Hop options */
#define IPPROTO_IPV6     41 /* IPv6 header */
#define IPPROTO_ROUTING  43 /* IPv6 Routing header */
#define IPPROTO_FRAGMENT 44 /* IPv6 fragment header */
#define IPPROTO_ESP      50 /* encapsulating security payload */
#define IPPROTO_AH       51 /* authentication header */
#define IPPROTO_ICMPV6   58 /* ICMPv6 */
#define IPPROTO_NONE     59 /* IPv6 no next header */
#define IPPROTO_DSTOPTS  60 /* IPv6 Destination options */
```

Berkeley-derived IPv4 implementations also define IPPROTO\_IP to be 0. This should not be a problem since IPPROTO\_IP is used only with IPv4 sockets and IPPROTO\_HOPOPTS only with IPv6 sockets.

### 2.1.2. IPv6 Extension Headers

Six extension headers are defined for IPv6. We define structures for all except the Authentication header and Encapsulating Security Payload header, both of which are beyond the scope of this document. The following structures are defined as a result of including <netinet/ip6.h>.

```
/* Hop-by-Hop options header */
struct ip6_hbh {
    uint8_t ip6h_nxt;          /* next header */
    uint8_t ip6h_len;          /* length in units of 8 octets */
    /* followed by options */
};

/* Destination options header */
struct ip6_dest {
    uint8_t ip6d_nxt;          /* next header */
    uint8_t ip6d_len;          /* length in units of 8 octets */
    /* followed by options */
};

/* Routing header */
struct ip6_rthdr {
    uint8_t ip6r_nxt;          /* next header */
    uint8_t ip6r_len;          /* length in units of 8 octets */
    uint8_t ip6r_type;         /* routing type */
    uint8_t ip6r_segleft;      /* segments left */
    /* followed by routing type specific data */
};

/* Type 0 Routing header */
struct ip6_rthdr0 {
    uint8_t ip6r0_nxt;         /* next header */
    uint8_t ip6r0_len;         /* length in units of 8 octets */
    uint8_t ip6r0_type;        /* always zero */
    uint8_t ip6r0_segleft;     /* segments left */
    uint32_t ip6r0_reserved;    /* reserved field */
    /* followed by up to 127 struct in6_addr */
};
```

```

/* Fragment header */
struct ip6_frag {
    uint8_t    ip6f_nxt;        /* next header */
    uint8_t    ip6f_reserved;   /* reserved field */
    uint16_t   ip6f_offlg;      /* offset, reserved, and flag */
    uint32_t   ip6f_ident;      /* identification */
};

#if    BYTE_ORDER == BIG_ENDIAN
#define IP6F_OFF_MASK          0xffff /* mask out offset from
                                       ip6f_offlg */
#define IP6F_RESERVED_MASK    0x0006 /* reserved bits in
                                       ip6f_offlg */
#define IP6F_MORE_FRAG        0x0001 /* more-fragments flag */
#else /* BYTE_ORDER == LITTLE_ENDIAN */
#define IP6F_OFF_MASK          0xf8ff /* mask out offset from
                                       ip6f_offlg */
#define IP6F_RESERVED_MASK    0x0600 /* reserved bits in
                                       ip6f_offlg */
#define IP6F_MORE_FRAG        0x0100 /* more-fragments flag */
#endif

```

### 2.1.3. IPv6 Options

Several options are defined for IPv6, and we define structures and macro definitions for some of them below. The following structures are defined as a result of including <netinet/ip6.h>.

```

/* IPv6 options */
struct ip6_opt {
    uint8_t    ip6o_type;
    uint8_t    ip6o_len;
};

/*
 * The high-order 3 bits of the option type define the behavior
 * when processing an unknown option and whether or not the option
 * content changes in flight.
 */
#define IP6OPT_TYPE(o)      ((o) & 0xc0)
#define IP6OPT_TYPE_SKIP    0x00
#define IP6OPT_TYPE_DISCARD 0x40
#define IP6OPT_TYPE_FORCEICMP 0x80
#define IP6OPT_TYPE_ICMP    0xc0
#define IP6OPT_MUTABLE      0x20

#define IP6OPT_PAD1         0x00 /* 00 0 00000 */
#define IP6OPT_PADN         0x01 /* 00 0 00001 */

```



```
#define IP6OPT_JUMBO          0xc2  /* 11 0 00010 */
#define IP6OPT_NSAP_ADDR     0xc3  /* 11 0 00011 */
#define IP6OPT_TUNNEL_LIMIT  0x04  /* 00 0 00100 */
#define IP6OPT_ROUTER_ALERT  0x05  /* 00 0 00101 */

/* Jumbo Payload Option */
struct ip6_opt_jumbo {
    uint8_t  ip6oj_type;
    uint8_t  ip6oj_len;
    uint8_t  ip6oj_jumbo_len[4];
};
#define IP6OPT_JUMBO_LEN    6

/* NSAP Address Option */
struct ip6_opt_nsap {
    uint8_t  ip6on_type;
    uint8_t  ip6on_len;
    uint8_t  ip6on_src_nsap_len;
    uint8_t  ip6on_dst_nsap_len;
    /* followed by source NSAP */
    /* followed by destination NSAP */
};

/* Tunnel Limit Option */
struct ip6_opt_tunnel {
    uint8_t  ip6ot_type;
    uint8_t  ip6ot_len;
    uint8_t  ip6ot_encap_limit;
};

/* Router Alert Option */
struct ip6_opt_router {
    uint8_t  ip6or_type;
    uint8_t  ip6or_len;
    uint8_t  ip6or_value[2];
};

/* Router alert values (in network byte order) */
#ifdef _BIG_ENDIAN
#define IP6_ALERT_MLD      0x0000
#define IP6_ALERT_RSVP    0x0001
#define IP6_ALERT_AN      0x0002
#else
#define IP6_ALERT_MLD      0x0000
#define IP6_ALERT_RSVP    0x0100
#define IP6_ALERT_AN      0x0200
#endif
```

## 2.2. The icmp6\_hdr Structure

The ICMPv6 header is needed by numerous IPv6 applications including Ping, Traceroute, router discovery daemons, and neighbor discovery daemons. The following structure is defined as a result of including <netinet/icmp6.h>. Note that this is a new header.

```
struct icmp6_hdr {
    uint8_t    icmp6_type;    /* type field */
    uint8_t    icmp6_code;    /* code field */
    uint16_t   icmp6_cksum;   /* checksum field */
    union {
        uint32_t icmp6_un_data32[1]; /* type-specific field */
        uint16_t icmp6_un_data16[2]; /* type-specific field */
        uint8_t  icmp6_un_data8[4];  /* type-specific field */
    } icmp6_dataun;
};

#define icmp6_data32    icmp6_dataun.icmp6_un_data32
#define icmp6_data16    icmp6_dataun.icmp6_un_data16
#define icmp6_data8     icmp6_dataun.icmp6_un_data8
#define icmp6_pptr      icmp6_data32[0] /* parameter prob */
#define icmp6_mtu       icmp6_data32[0] /* packet too big */
#define icmp6_id        icmp6_data16[0] /* echo request/reply */
#define icmp6_seq       icmp6_data16[1] /* echo request/reply */
#define icmp6_maxdelay  icmp6_data16[0] /* mcast group
                                         membership */
```

### 2.2.1. ICMPv6 Type and Code Values

In addition to a common structure for the ICMPv6 header, common definitions are required for the ICMPv6 type and code fields. The following constants are also defined as a result of including <netinet/icmp6.h>.

```
#define ICMP6_DST_UNREACH          1
#define ICMP6_PACKET_TOO_BIG      2
#define ICMP6_TIME_EXCEEDED       3
#define ICMP6_PARAM_PROB          4

#define ICMP6_INFOMSG_MASK 0x80 /* all informational
                                messages */

#define ICMP6_ECHO_REQUEST         128
#define ICMP6_ECHO_REPLY           129

#define ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_NOROUTE 0 /* no route to
                                destination */
```

```

#define ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_ADMIN      1 /* communication with
                                         destination */
                                         /* admin. prohibited */
#define ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_BEYONDSCOPE 2 /* beyond scope of source
                                         address */
#define ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_ADDR      3 /* address unreachable */
#define ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_NOPORT    4 /* bad port */

#define ICMP6_TIME_EXCEED_TRANSIT    0 /* Hop Limit == 0 in
                                         transit */
#define ICMP6_TIME_EXCEED_REASSEMBLY 1 /* Reassembly time out */

#define ICMP6_PARAMPROB_HEADER      0 /* erroneous header
                                         field */
#define ICMP6_PARAMPROB_NEXTHEADER  1 /* unrecognized
                                         Next Header */
#define ICMP6_PARAMPROB_OPTION      2 /* unrecognized
                                         IPv6 option */

```

The five ICMP message types defined by IPv6 neighbor discovery (133-137) are defined in the next section.

### 2.2.2. ICMPv6 Neighbor Discovery Definitions

The following structures and definitions are defined as a result of including <netinet/icmp6.h>.

```

#define ND_ROUTER_SOLICIT            133
#define ND_ROUTER_ADVERT             134
#define ND_NEIGHBOR_SOLICIT          135
#define ND_NEIGHBOR_ADVERT           136
#define ND_REDIRECT                  137

struct nd_router_solicit {            /* router solicitation */
    struct icmp6_hdr nd_rs_hdr;
    /* could be followed by options */
};

#define nd_rs_type                    nd_rs_hdr.icmp6_type
#define nd_rs_code                    nd_rs_hdr.icmp6_code
#define nd_rs_cksum                   nd_rs_hdr.icmp6_cksum
#define nd_rs_reserved                nd_rs_hdr.icmp6_data32[0]

```

```

struct nd_router_advert {      /* router advertisement */
    struct icmp6_hdr nd_ra_hdr;
    uint32_t nd_ra_reachable; /* reachable time */
    uint32_t nd_ra_retransmit; /* retransmit timer */
    /* could be followed by options */
};

#define nd_ra_type          nd_ra_hdr.icmp6_type
#define nd_ra_code          nd_ra_hdr.icmp6_code
#define nd_ra_cksum         nd_ra_hdr.icmp6_cksum
#define nd_ra_curhoplimit   nd_ra_hdr.icmp6_data8[0]
#define nd_ra_flags_reserved nd_ra_hdr.icmp6_data8[1]
#define ND_RA_FLAG_MANAGED  0x80
#define ND_RA_FLAG_OTHER    0x40
#define nd_ra_router_lifetime nd_ra_hdr.icmp6_data16[1]

struct nd_neighbor_solicit { /* neighbor solicitation */
    struct icmp6_hdr nd_ns_hdr;
    struct in6_addr nd_ns_target; /* target address */
    /* could be followed by options */
};

#define nd_ns_type          nd_ns_hdr.icmp6_type
#define nd_ns_code          nd_ns_hdr.icmp6_code
#define nd_ns_cksum         nd_ns_hdr.icmp6_cksum
#define nd_ns_reserved      nd_ns_hdr.icmp6_data32[0]

struct nd_neighbor_advert { /* neighbor advertisement */
    struct icmp6_hdr nd_na_hdr;
    struct in6_addr nd_na_target; /* target address */
    /* could be followed by options */
};

#define nd_na_type          nd_na_hdr.icmp6_type
#define nd_na_code          nd_na_hdr.icmp6_code
#define nd_na_cksum         nd_na_hdr.icmp6_cksum
#define nd_na_flags_reserved nd_na_hdr.icmp6_data32[0]
#if BYTE_ORDER == BIG_ENDIAN
#define ND_NA_FLAG_ROUTER    0x80000000
#define ND_NA_FLAG_SOLICITED 0x40000000
#define ND_NA_FLAG_OVERRIDE 0x20000000
#else /* BYTE_ORDER == LITTLE_ENDIAN */
#define ND_NA_FLAG_ROUTER    0x00000080
#define ND_NA_FLAG_SOLICITED 0x00000040
#define ND_NA_FLAG_OVERRIDE 0x00000020
#endif
#endif

```

```

struct nd_redirect {          /* redirect */
    struct icmp6_hdr  nd_rd_hdr;
    struct in6_addr   nd_rd_target; /* target address */
    struct in6_addr   nd_rd_dst;    /* destination address */
    /* could be followed by options */
};

#define nd_rd_type          nd_rd_hdr.icmp6_type
#define nd_rd_code          nd_rd_hdr.icmp6_code
#define nd_rd_cksum         nd_rd_hdr.icmp6_cksum
#define nd_rd_reserved     nd_rd_hdr.icmp6_data32[0]

struct nd_opt_hdr {          /* Neighbor discovery option header */
    uint8_t  nd_opt_type;
    uint8_t  nd_opt_len;      /* in units of 8 octets */
    /* followed by option specific data */
};

#define ND_OPT_SOURCE_LINKADDR      1
#define ND_OPT_TARGET_LINKADDR     2
#define ND_OPT_PREFIX_INFORMATION   3
#define ND_OPT_REDIRECTED_HEADER    4
#define ND_OPT_MTU                  5

struct nd_opt_prefix_info {   /* prefix information */
    uint8_t  nd_opt_pi_type;
    uint8_t  nd_opt_pi_len;
    uint8_t  nd_opt_pi_prefix_len;
    uint8_t  nd_opt_pi_flags_reserved;
    uint32_t nd_opt_pi_valid_time;
    uint32_t nd_opt_pi_preferred_time;
    uint32_t nd_opt_pi_reserved2;
    struct in6_addr nd_opt_pi_prefix;
};

#define ND_OPT_PI_FLAG_ONLINK      0x80
#define ND_OPT_PI_FLAG_AUTO       0x40

struct nd_opt_rd_hdr {        /* redirected header */
    uint8_t  nd_opt_rh_type;
    uint8_t  nd_opt_rh_len;
    uint16_t nd_opt_rh_reserved1;
    uint32_t nd_opt_rh_reserved2;
    /* followed by IP header and data */
};

```

```

struct nd_opt_mtu {
    uint8_t    nd_opt_mtu_type;
    uint8_t    nd_opt_mtu_len;
    uint16_t   nd_opt_mtu_reserved;
    uint32_t   nd_opt_mtu_mtu;
};

```

We note that the `nd_na_flags_reserved` flags have the same byte ordering problems as we showed with `ip6f_offlg`.

### 2.2.3. Multicast Listener Discovery Definitions

The following structures and definitions are defined as a result of including `<netinet/icmp6.h>`.

```

#define MLD_LISTENER_QUERY      130
#define MLD_LISTENER_REPORT     131
#define MLD_LISTENER_REDUCTION 132

struct mld_hdr {
    struct icmp6_hdr  mld_icmp6_hdr;
    struct in6_addr   mld_addr; /* multicast address */
};

#define mld_type           mld_icmp6_hdr.icmp6_type
#define mld_code           mld_icmp6_hdr.icmp6_code
#define mld_cksum          mld_icmp6_hdr.icmp6_cksum
#define mld_maxdelay       mld_icmp6_hdr.icmp6_data16[0]
#define mld_reserved       mld_icmp6_hdr.icmp6_data16[1]

```

### 2.2.4. ICMPv6 Router Renumbering Definitions

The following structures and definitions are defined as a result of including `<netinet/icmp6.h>`.

```

#define ICMP6_ROUTER_RENUMBERING 138 /* router renumbering */

struct icmp6_router_renum { /* router renumbering header */
    struct icmp6_hdr  rr_hdr;
    uint8_t           rr_segnum;
    uint8_t           rr_flags;
    uint16_t          rr_maxdelay;
    uint32_t          rr_reserved;
};

#define rr_type           rr_hdr.icmp6_type
#define rr_code           rr_hdr.icmp6_code
#define rr_cksum          rr_hdr.icmp6_cksum
#define rr_segnum         rr_hdr.icmp6_data32[0]

```

```
/* Router renumbering flags */
#define ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_TEST      0x80
#define ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_REQRESULT 0x40
#define ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_FORCEAPPLY 0x20
#define ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_SPECSITE  0x10
#define ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_PREVDONE  0x08

struct rr_pco_match { /* match prefix part */
    uint8_t      rpm_code;
    uint8_t      rpm_len;
    uint8_t      rpm_ordinal;
    uint8_t      rpm_matchlen;
    uint8_t      rpm_minlen;
    uint8_t      rpm_maxlen;
    uint16_t     rpm_reserved;
    struct in6_addr rpm_prefix;
};

/* PCO code values */
#define RPM_PCO_ADD      1
#define RPM_PCO_CHANGE   2
#define RPM_PCO_SETGLOBAL 3

struct rr_pco_use { /* use prefix part */
    uint8_t      rpu_uselen;
    uint8_t      rpu_keeplen;
    uint8_t      rpu_ramask;
    uint8_t      rpu_raflags;
    uint32_t     rpu_vltime;
    uint32_t     rpu_pltime;
    uint32_t     rpu_flags;
    struct in6_addr rpu_prefix;
};

#define ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_RAFLAGS_ONLINK 0x20
#define ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_RAFLAGS_AUTO  0x10

#if BYTE_ORDER == BIG_ENDIAN
#define ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_FLAGS_DECRVLTIME 0x80000000
#define ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_FLAGS_DECRPLTIME 0x40000000
#elif BYTE_ORDER == LITTLE_ENDIAN
#define ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_FLAGS_DECRVLTIME 0x80
#define ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_FLAGS_DECRPLTIME 0x40
#endif
#endif
```

```

struct rr_result {      /* router renumbering result message */
    uint16_t            rrr_flags;
    uint8_t             rrr_ordinal;
    uint8_t             rrr_matchedlen;
    uint32_t            rrr_ifid;
    struct in6_addr     rrr_prefix;
};

#if BYTE_ORDER == BIG_ENDIAN
#define ICMP6_RR_RESULT_FLAGS_OOB      0x0002
#define ICMP6_RR_RESULT_FLAGS_FORBIDDEN 0x0001
#elif BYTE_ORDER == LITTLE_ENDIAN
#define ICMP6_RR_RESULT_FLAGS_OOB      0x0200
#define ICMP6_RR_RESULT_FLAGS_FORBIDDEN 0x0100
#endif

```

### 2.3. Address Testing Macros

The basic API ([RFC-3493]) defines some macros for testing an IPv6 address for certain properties. This API extends those definitions with additional address testing macros, defined as a result of including `<netinet/in.h>`.

```

int  IN6_ARE_ADDR_EQUAL(const struct in6_addr *,
                        const struct in6_addr *);

```

This macro returns non-zero if the addresses are equal; otherwise it returns zero.

### 2.4. Protocols File

Many hosts provide the file `/etc/protocols` that contains the names of the various IP protocols and their protocol number (e.g., the value of the protocol field in the IPv4 header for that protocol, such as 1 for ICMP). Some programs then call the function `getprotobyname()` to obtain the protocol value that is then specified as the third argument to the `socket()` function. For example, the Ping program contains code of the form

```

struct protoent  *proto;

proto = getprotobyname("icmp");

s = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_RAW, proto->p_proto);

```

Common names are required for the new IPv6 protocols in this file, to provide portability of applications that call the `getprotoXXX()` functions.



We define the following protocol names with the values shown. These are taken under <http://www.iana.org/numbers.html>.

hopopt	0	# hop-by-hop options for ipv6
ipv6	41	# ipv6
ipv6-route	43	# routing header for ipv6
ipv6-frag	44	# fragment header for ipv6
esp	50	# encapsulating security payload for ipv6
ah	51	# authentication header for ipv6
ipv6-icmp	58	# icmp for ipv6
ipv6-nonxt	59	# no next header for ipv6
ipv6-opts	60	# destination options for ipv6

### 3. IPv6 Raw Sockets

Raw sockets bypass the transport layer (TCP or UDP). With IPv4, raw sockets are used to access ICMPv4, IGMPv4, and to read and write IPv4 datagrams containing a protocol field that the kernel does not process. An example of the latter is a routing daemon for OSPF, since it uses IPv4 protocol field 89. With IPv6 raw sockets will be used for ICMPv6 and to read and write IPv6 datagrams containing a Next Header field that the kernel does not process. Examples of the latter are a routing daemon for OSPF for IPv6 and RSVP (protocol field 46).

All data sent via raw sockets must be in network byte order and all data received via raw sockets will be in network byte order. This differs from the IPv4 raw sockets, which did not specify a byte ordering and used the host's byte order for certain IP header fields.

Another difference from IPv4 raw sockets is that complete packets (that is, IPv6 packets with extension headers) cannot be sent or received using the IPv6 raw sockets API. Instead, ancillary data objects are used to transfer the extension headers and hoplimit information, as described in [Section 6](#). Should an application need access to the complete IPv6 packet, some other technique, such as the datalink interfaces BPF or DLPI, must be used.

All fields except the flow label in the IPv6 header that an application might want to change (i.e., everything other than the version number) can be modified using ancillary data and/or socket options by the application for output. All fields except the flow label in a received IPv6 header (other than the version number and Next Header fields) and all extension headers that an application might want to know are also made available to the application as ancillary data on input. Hence there is no need for a socket option

similar to the IPv4 `IP_HDRINCL` socket option and on receipt the application will only receive the payload i.e., the data after the IPv6 header and all the extension headers.

This API does not define access to the flow label field, because today there is no standard usage of the field.

When writing to a raw socket the kernel will automatically fragment the packet if its size exceeds the path MTU, inserting the required fragment headers. On input the kernel reassembles received fragments, so the reader of a raw socket never sees any fragment headers.

When we say "an ICMPv6 raw socket" we mean a socket created by calling the `socket` function with the three arguments `AF_INET6`, `SOCK_RAW`, and `IPPROTO_ICMPV6`.

Most IPv4 implementations give special treatment to a raw socket created with a third argument to `socket()` of `IPPROTO_RAW`, whose value is normally 255, to have it mean that the application will send down complete packets including the IPv4 header. (Note: This feature was added to IPv4 in 1988 by Van Jacobson to support traceroute, allowing a complete IP header to be passed by the application, before the `IP_HDRINCL` socket option was added.) We note that `IPPROTO_RAW` has no special meaning to an IPv6 raw socket (and the IANA currently reserves the value of 255 when used as a next-header field).

### 3.1. Checksums

The kernel will calculate and insert the ICMPv6 checksum for ICMPv6 raw sockets, since this checksum is mandatory.

For other raw IPv6 sockets (that is, for raw IPv6 sockets created with a third argument other than `IPPROTO_ICMPV6`), the application must set the new `IPV6_CHECKSUM` socket option to have the kernel (1) compute and store a checksum for output, and (2) verify the received checksum on input, discarding the packet if the checksum is in error. This option prevents applications from having to perform source address selection on the packets they send. The checksum will incorporate the IPv6 pseudo-header, defined in [Section 8.1](#) of [RFC-2460]. This new socket option also specifies an integer offset into the user data of where the checksum is located.

```
int  offset = 2;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_CHECKSUM, &offset,
           sizeof(offset));
```

By default, this socket option is disabled. Setting the offset to -1 also disables the option. By disabled we mean (1) the kernel will not calculate and store a checksum for outgoing packets, and (2) the kernel will not verify a checksum for received packets.

This option assumes the use of the 16-bit one's complement of the one's complement sum as the checksum algorithm and that the checksum field is aligned on a 16-bit boundary. Thus, specifying a positive odd value as offset is invalid, and `setsockopt()` will fail for such offset values.

An attempt to set `IPV6_CHECKSUM` for an ICMPv6 socket will fail. Also, an attempt to set or get `IPV6_CHECKSUM` for a non-raw IPv6 socket will fail.

(Note: Since the checksum is always calculated by the kernel for an ICMPv6 socket, applications are not able to generate ICMPv6 packets with incorrect checksums (presumably for testing purposes) using this API.)

### 3.2. ICMPv6 Type Filtering

ICMPv4 raw sockets receive most ICMPv4 messages received by the kernel. (We say "most" and not "all" because Berkeley-derived kernels never pass echo requests, timestamp requests, or address mask requests to a raw socket. Instead these three messages are processed entirely by the kernel.) But ICMPv6 is a superset of ICMPv4, also including the functionality of IGMPv4 and ARPv4. This means that an ICMPv6 raw socket can potentially receive many more messages than would be received with an ICMPv4 raw socket: ICMP messages similar to ICMPv4, along with neighbor solicitations, neighbor advertisements, and the three multicast listener discovery messages.

Most applications using an ICMPv6 raw socket care about only a small subset of the ICMPv6 message types. To transfer extraneous ICMPv6 messages from the kernel to user can incur a significant overhead. Therefore this API includes a method of filtering ICMPv6 messages by the ICMPv6 type field.

Each ICMPv6 raw socket has an associated filter whose datatype is defined as

```
struct icmp6_filter;
```

This structure, along with the macros and constants defined later in this section, are defined as a result of including the `<netinet/icmp6.h>`.

The current filter is fetched and stored using `getsockopt()` and `setsockopt()` with a level of `IPPROTO_ICMPV6` and an option name of `ICMP6_FILTER`.

Six macros operate on an `icmp6_filter` structure:

```
void ICMP6_FILTER_SETPASSALL (struct icmp6_filter *);
void ICMP6_FILTER_SETBLOCKALL(struct icmp6_filter *);

void ICMP6_FILTER_SETPASS ( int, struct icmp6_filter *);
void ICMP6_FILTER_SETBLOCK( int, struct icmp6_filter *);

int  ICMP6_FILTER_WILLPASS (int,
                           const struct icmp6_filter *);
int  ICMP6_FILTER_WILLBLOCK(int,
                           const struct icmp6_filter *);
```

The first argument to the last four macros (an integer) is an ICMPv6 message type, between 0 and 255. The pointer argument to all six macros is a pointer to a filter that is modified by the first four macros and is examined by the last two macros.

The first two macros, `SETPASSALL` and `SETBLOCKALL`, let us specify that all ICMPv6 messages are passed to the application or that all ICMPv6 messages are blocked from being passed to the application.

The next two macros, `SETPASS` and `SETBLOCK`, let us specify that messages of a given ICMPv6 type should be passed to the application or not passed to the application (blocked).

The final two macros, `WILLPASS` and `WILLBLOCK`, return true or false depending whether the specified message type is passed to the application or blocked from being passed to the application by the filter pointed to by the second argument.

When an ICMPv6 raw socket is created, it will by default pass all ICMPv6 message types to the application.

As an example, a program that wants to receive only router advertisements could execute the following:

```
struct icmp6_filter  myfilt;

fd = socket(AF_INET6, SOCK_RAW, IPPROTO_ICMPV6);

ICMP6_FILTER_SETBLOCKALL(&myfilt);
ICMP6_FILTER_SETPASS(ND_ROUTER_ADVERT, &myfilt);
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_ICMPV6, ICMP6_FILTER, &myfilt,
```

```
sizeof(myfilt));
```

The filter structure is declared and then initialized to block all messages types. The filter structure is then changed to allow router advertisement messages to be passed to the application and the filter is installed using `setsockopt()`.

In order to clear an installed filter the application can issue a `setsockopt` for `ICMP6_FILTER` with a zero length. When no such filter has been installed, `getsockopt()` will return the kernel default filter.

The `icmp6_filter` structure is similar to the `fd_set` datatype used with the `select()` function in the sockets API. The `icmp6_filter` structure is an opaque datatype and the application should not care how it is implemented. All the application does with this datatype is allocate a variable of this type, pass a pointer to a variable of this type to `getsockopt()` and `setsockopt()`, and operate on a variable of this type using the six macros that we just defined.

Nevertheless, it is worth showing a simple implementation of this datatype and the six macros.

```
struct icmp6_filter {
    uint32_t  icmp6_filt[8]; /* 8*32 = 256 bits */
};

#define ICMP6_FILTER_WILLPASS(type, filterp) \
    (((filterp)->icmp6_filt[(type) >> 5]) & \
     (1 << ((type) & 31))) != 0)
#define ICMP6_FILTER_WILLBLOCK(type, filterp) \
    (((filterp)->icmp6_filt[(type) >> 5]) & \
     (1 << ((type) & 31))) == 0)
#define ICMP6_FILTER_SETPASS(type, filterp) \
    (((filterp)->icmp6_filt[(type) >> 5]) |= \
     (1 << ((type) & 31)))
#define ICMP6_FILTER_SETBLOCK(type, filterp) \
    (((filterp)->icmp6_filt[(type) >> 5]) &= \
     ~(1 << ((type) & 31)))
#define ICMP6_FILTER_SETPASSALL(filterp) \
    memset((filterp), 0xFF, sizeof(struct icmp6_filter))
#define ICMP6_FILTER_SETBLOCKALL(filterp) \
    memset((filterp), 0, sizeof(struct icmp6_filter))
```

(Note: These sample definitions have two limitations that an implementation may want to change. The first four macros evaluate their first argument two times. The second two macros require the inclusion of the `<string.h>` header for the `memset()` function.)

### 3.3. ICMPv6 Verification of Received Packets

The protocol stack will verify the ICMPv6 checksum and discard any packets with invalid checksums.

An implementation might perform additional validity checks on the ICMPv6 message content and discard malformed packets. However, a portable application must not assume that such validity checks have been performed.

The protocol stack should not automatically discard packets if the ICMP type is unknown to the stack. For extensibility reasons received ICMP packets with any type (informational or error) must be passed to the applications (subject to ICMP6\_FILTER filtering on the type value and the checksum verification).

## 4. Access to IPv6 and Extension Headers

Applications need to be able to control IPv6 header and extension header content when sending as well as being able to receive the content of these headers. This is done by defining socket option types which can be used both with `setsockopt` and with ancillary data. Ancillary data is discussed in [Appendix A](#). The following optional information can be exchanged between the application and the kernel:

1. The send/receive interface and source/destination address,
2. The hop limit,
3. Next hop address,
4. The traffic class,
5. Routing header,
6. Hop-by-Hop options header, and
7. Destination options header.

First, to receive any of this optional information (other than the next hop address, which can only be set) on a UDP or raw socket, the application must call `setsockopt()` to turn on the corresponding flag:

```
int  on = 1;

setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVPKTINFO, &on, sizeof(on));
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVHOPLIMIT, &on, sizeof(on));
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVRTHDR, &on, sizeof(on));
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVHOPOPTS, &on, sizeof(on));
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVDSTOPTS, &on, sizeof(on));
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVTCLASS, &on, sizeof(on));
```

When any of these options are enabled, the corresponding data is returned as control information by `recvmsg()`, as one or more ancillary data objects.

This document does not define how to receive the optional information on a TCP socket. See [Section 4.1](#) for more details.

Two different mechanisms exist for sending this optional information:

1. Using `setsockopt` to specify the option content for a socket. These are known "sticky" options since they affect all transmitted packets on the socket until either a new `setsockopt` is done or the options are overridden using ancillary data.
2. Using ancillary data to specify the option content for a single datagram. This only applies to datagram and raw sockets; not to TCP sockets.

The three socket option parameters and the three `cmsghdr` fields that describe the options/ancillary data objects are summarized as:

opt level/ cmsg_level	optname/ cmsg_type	optval/ cmsg_data[]
-----	-----	-----
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_PKTINFO	in6_pktinfo structure
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_HOPLIMIT	int
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_NEXTHOP	socket address structure
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_RTHDR	ip6_rthdr structure
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_HOPOPTS	ip6_hbh structure
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_DSTOPTS	ip6_dest structure
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS	ip6_dest structure
IPPROTO_IPV6	IPV6_TCLASS	int

(Note: `IPV6_HOPLIMIT` can be used as ancillary data items only)

All these options are described in detail in [Section 6](#), [7](#), [8](#) and [9](#). All the constants beginning with `IPV6_` are defined as a result of including `<netinet/in.h>`.

Note: We intentionally use the same constant for the `cmsg_level` member as is used as the second argument to `getsockopt()` and `setsockopt()` (what is called the "level"), and the same constant for the `cmsg_type` member as is used as the third argument to `getsockopt()` and `setsockopt()` (what is called the "option name").

Issuing `getsockopt()` for the above options will return the sticky option value i.e., the value set with `setsockopt()`. If no sticky option value has been set `getsockopt()` will return the following values:

- For the `IPV6_PKTINFO` option, it will return an `in6_pktinfo` structure with `ipi6_addr` being `in6addr_any` and `ipi6_ifindex` being zero.
- For the `IPV6_TCLASS` option, it will return the kernel default value.
- For other options, it will indicate the lack of the option value with `optlen` being zero.

The application does not explicitly need to access the data structures for the Routing header, Hop-by-Hop options header, and Destination options header, since the API to these features is through a set of `inet6_rth_XXX()` and `inet6_opt_XXX()` functions that we define in [Section 7](#) and [Section 10](#). Those functions simplify the interface to these features instead of requiring the application to know the intimate details of the extension header formats.

When specifying extension headers, this API assumes the header ordering and the number of occurrences of each header as described in [\[RFC-2460\]](#). More details about the ordering issue will be discussed in [Section 12](#).

#### 4.1. TCP Implications

It is not possible to use ancillary data to transmit the above options for TCP since there is not a one-to-one mapping between send operations and the TCP segments being transmitted. Instead an application can use `setsockopt` to specify them as sticky options. When the application uses `setsockopt` to specify the above options it is expected that TCP will start using the new information when sending segments. However, TCP may or may not use the new information when retransmitting segments that were originally sent when the old sticky options were in effect.

It is unclear how a TCP application can use received information (such as extension headers) due to the lack of mapping between received TCP segments and receive operations. In particular, the received information could not be used for access control purposes like on UDP and raw sockets.



This specification therefore does not define how to get the received information on TCP sockets. The result of the IPV6\_RECVxxx options on a TCP socket is undefined as well.

#### 4.2. UDP and Raw Socket Implications

The receive behavior for UDP and raw sockets is quite straightforward. After the application has enabled an IPV6\_RECVxxx socket option it will receive ancillary data items for every `recvmsg()` call containing the requested information. However, if the information is not present in the packet the ancillary data item will not be included. For example, if the application enables IPV6\_RECVRTHDR and a received datagram does not contain a Routing header there will not be an IPV6\_RTHDR ancillary data item. Note that due to buffering in the socket implementation there might be some packets queued when an IPV6\_RECVxxx option is enabled and they might not have the ancillary data information.

For sending the application has the choice between using sticky options and ancillary data. The application can also use both having the sticky options specify the "default" and using ancillary data to override the default options.

When an ancillary data item is specified in a call to `sendmsg()`, the item will override an existing sticky option of the same name (if previously specified). For example, if the application has set IPV6\_RTHDR using a sticky option and later passes IPV6\_RTHDR as ancillary data this will override the IPV6\_RTHDR sticky option and the routing header of the outgoing packet will be from the ancillary data item, not from the sticky option. Note, however, that other sticky options than IPV6\_RTHDR will not be affected by the IPV6\_RTHDR ancillary data item; the overriding mechanism only works for the same type of sticky options and ancillary data items.

(Note: the overriding rule is different from the one in [RFC 2292](#). In [RFC 2292](#), an ancillary data item overrode all sticky options previously defined. This was reasonable, because sticky options could only be specified as a set by a single socket option. However, in this API, each option is separated so that it can be specified as a single sticky option. Additionally, there are much more ancillary data items and sticky options than in [RFC 2292](#), including ancillary-only one. Thus, it should be natural for application programmers to separate the overriding rule as well.)

An application can also temporarily disable a particular sticky option by specifying a corresponding ancillary data item that could disable the sticky option when being used as an argument for a socket option. For example, if the application has set IPV6\_HOPOPTS as a

sticky option and later passes IPV6\_HOPOPTS with a zero length as an ancillary data item, the packet will not have a Hop-by-Hop options header.

## 5. Extensions to Socket Ancillary Data

This specification uses ancillary data as defined in Posix with some compatible extensions, which are described in the following subsections. [Section 20](#) will provide a detailed overview of ancillary data and related structures and macros, including the extensions.

### 5.1. CMSG\_NXTHDR

```
struct cmsghdr *CMSG_NXTHDR(const struct msghdr *mhdr,  
                             const struct cmsghdr *cmsg);
```

CMSG\_NXTHDR() returns a pointer to the cmsghdr structure describing the next ancillary data object. Mhdr is a pointer to a msghdr structure and cmsg is a pointer to a cmsghdr structure. If there is not another ancillary data object, the return value is NULL.

The following behavior of this macro is new to this API: if the value of the cmsg pointer is NULL, a pointer to the cmsghdr structure describing the first ancillary data object is returned. That is, CMSG\_NXTHDR(mhdr, NULL) is equivalent to CMSG\_FIRSTHDR(mhdr). If there are no ancillary data objects, the return value is NULL.

### 5.2. CMSG\_SPACE

```
socklen_t CMSG_SPACE(socklen_t length);
```

This macro is new with this API. Given the length of an ancillary data object, CMSG\_SPACE() returns an upper bound on the space required by the object and its cmsghdr structure, including any padding needed to satisfy alignment requirements. This macro can be used, for example, when allocating space dynamically for the ancillary data. This macro should not be used to initialize the cmsg\_len member of a cmsghdr structure; instead use the CMSG\_LEN() macro.

### 5.3. CMSG\_LEN

```
socklen_t CMSG_LEN(socklen_t length);
```

This macro is new with this API. Given the length of an ancillary data object, `CMSG_LEN()` returns the value to store in the `cmsg_len` member of the `cmsg_hdr` structure, taking into account any padding needed to satisfy alignment requirements.

Note the difference between `CMSG_SPACE()` and `CMSG_LEN()`, shown also in the figure in [Section 20.2](#): the former accounts for any required padding at the end of the ancillary data object and the latter is the actual length to store in the `cmsg_len` member of the ancillary data object.

## 6. Packet Information

There are five pieces of information that an application can specify for an outgoing packet using ancillary data:

1. the source IPv6 address,
2. the outgoing interface index,
3. the outgoing hop limit,
4. the next hop address, and
5. the outgoing traffic class value.

Four similar pieces of information can be returned for a received packet as ancillary data:

1. the destination IPv6 address,
2. the arriving interface index,
3. the arriving hop limit, and
4. the arriving traffic class value.

The first two pieces of information are contained in an `in6_pktinfo` structure that is set with `setsockopt()` or sent as ancillary data with `sendmsg()` and received as ancillary data with `recvmsg()`. This structure is defined as a result of including `<netinet/in.h>`.

```
struct in6_pktinfo {
    struct in6_addr ipi6_addr;    /* src/dst IPv6 address */
    unsigned int    ipi6_ifindex; /* send/recv interface index */
};
```

In the socket option and `cmsg_hdr` level will be `IPPROTO_IPV6`, the type will be `IPV6_PKTINFO`, and the first byte of the option value and `cmsg_data[]` will be the first byte of the `in6_pktinfo` structure. An application can clear any sticky `IPV6_PKTINFO` option by doing a

"regular" `setsockopt` with `ipi6_addr` being `in6addr_any` and `ipi6_ifindex` being zero.

This information is returned as ancillary data by `recvmsg()` only if the application has enabled the `IPV6_RECVPKTINFO` socket option:

```
int on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVPKTINFO, &on, sizeof(on));
```

(Note: The hop limit is not contained in the `in6_pktinfo` structure for the following reason. Some UDP servers want to respond to client requests by sending their reply out the same interface on which the request was received and with the source IPv6 address of the reply equal to the destination IPv6 address of the request. To do this the application can enable just the `IPV6_RECVPKTINFO` socket option and then use the received control information from `recvmsg()` as the outgoing control information for `sendmsg()`. The application need not examine or modify the `in6_pktinfo` structure at all. But if the hop limit were contained in this structure, the application would have to parse the received control information and change the hop limit member, since the received hop limit is not the desired value for an outgoing packet.)

#### 6.1. Specifying/Receiving the Interface

Interfaces on an IPv6 node are identified by a small positive integer, as described in [Section 4 of \[RFC-3493\]](#). That document also describes a function to map an interface name to its interface index, a function to map an interface index to its interface name, and a function to return all the interface names and indexes. Notice from this document that no interface is ever assigned an index of 0.

When specifying the outgoing interface, if the `ipi6_ifindex` value is 0, the kernel will choose the outgoing interface.

The ordering among various options that can specify the outgoing interface, including `IPV6_PKTINFO`, is defined in [Section 6.7](#).

When the `IPV6_RECVPKTINFO` socket option is enabled, the received interface index is always returned as the `ipi6_ifindex` member of the `in6_pktinfo` structure.

## 6.2. Specifying/Receiving Source/Destination Address

The source IPv6 address can be specified by calling `bind()` before each output operation, but supplying the source address together with the data requires less overhead (i.e., fewer system calls) and requires less state to be stored and protected in a multithreaded application.

When specifying the source IPv6 address as ancillary data, if the `ipi6_addr` member of the `in6_pktinfo` structure is the unspecified address (`IN6ADDR_ANY_INIT` or `in6addr_any`), then (a) if an address is currently bound to the socket, it is used as the source address, or (b) if no address is currently bound to the socket, the kernel will choose the source address. If the `ipi6_addr` member is not the unspecified address, but the socket has already bound a source address, then the `ipi6_addr` value overrides the already-bound source address for this output operation only.

The kernel must verify that the requested source address is indeed a unicast address assigned to the node. When the address is a scoped one, there may be ambiguity about its scope zone. This is particularly the case for link-local addresses. In such a case, the kernel must first determine the appropriate scope zone based on the zone of the destination address or the outgoing interface (if known), then qualify the address. This also means that it is not feasible to specify the source address for a non-binding socket by the `IPV6_PKTINFO` sticky option, unless the outgoing interface is also specified. The application should simply use `bind()` for such purposes.

`IPV6_PKTINFO` can also be used as a sticky option for specifying the socket's default source address. However, the `ipi6_addr` member must be the unspecified address for TCP sockets, because it is not possible to dynamically change the source address of a TCP connection. When the `IPV6_PKTINFO` option is specified for a TCP socket with a non-unspecified address, the call will fail. This restriction should be applied even before the socket binds a specific address.

When the `in6_pktinfo` structure is returned as ancillary data by `recvmsg()`, the `ipi6_addr` member contains the destination IPv6 address from the received packet.

## 6.3. Specifying/Receiving the Hop Limit

The outgoing hop limit is normally specified with either the `IPV6_UNICAST_HOPS` socket option or the `IPV6_MULTICAST_HOPS` socket option, both of which are described in [\[RFC-3493\]](#). Specifying the

hop limit as ancillary data lets the application override either the kernel's default or a previously specified value, for either a unicast destination or a multicast destination, for a single output operation. Returning the received hop limit is useful for IPv6 applications that need to verify that the received hop limit is 255 (e.g., that the packet has not been forwarded).

The received hop limit is returned as ancillary data by `recvmsg()` only if the application has enabled the `IPV6_RECVHOPLIMIT` socket option:

```
int on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVHOPLIMIT, &on, sizeof(on));
```

In the `cmsghdr` structure containing this ancillary data, the `cmsg_level` member will be `IPPROTO_IPV6`, the `cmsg_type` member will be `IPV6_HOPLIMIT`, and the first byte of `cmsg_data[]` will be the first byte of the integer hop limit.

Nothing special need be done to specify the outgoing hop limit: just specify the control information as ancillary data for `sendmsg()`. As specified in [RFC-3493], the interpretation of the integer hop limit value is

```
x < -1:      return an error of EINVAL
x == -1:     use kernel default
0 <= x <= 255: use x
x >= 256:    return an error of EINVAL
```

This API defines `IPV6_HOPLIMIT` as an ancillary-only option, that is, the option name cannot be used as a socket option. This is because [RFC-3493] has more fine-grained socket options; `IPV6_UNICAST_HOPS` and `IPV6_MULTICAST_HOPS`.

#### 6.4. Specifying the Next Hop Address

The `IPV6_NEXTHOP` ancillary data object specifies the next hop for the datagram as a socket address structure. In the `cmsghdr` structure containing this ancillary data, the `cmsg_level` member will be `IPPROTO_IPV6`, the `cmsg_type` member will be `IPV6_NEXTHOP`, and the first byte of `cmsg_data[]` will be the first byte of the socket address structure.

This is a privileged option. (Note: It is implementation defined and beyond the scope of this document to define what "privileged" means. Unix systems use this term to mean the process must have an effective user ID of 0.)

This API only defines the case where the socket address contains an IPv6 address (i.e., the `sa_family` member is `AF_INET6`). And, in this case, the node identified by that address must be a neighbor of the sending host. If that address equals the destination IPv6 address of the datagram, then this is equivalent to the existing `SO_DONTROUTE` socket option.

This option does not have any meaning for multicast destinations. In such a case, the specified next hop will be ignored.

When the outgoing interface is specified by `IPV6_PKTINFO` as well, the next hop specified by this option must be reachable via the specified interface.

In order to clear a sticky `IPV6_NEXTHOP` option the application must issue a `setsockopt` for `IPV6_NEXTHOP` with a zero length.

#### 6.5. Specifying/Receiving the Traffic Class value

The outgoing traffic class is normally set to 0. Specifying the traffic class as ancillary data lets the application override either the kernel's default or a previously specified value, for either a unicast destination or a multicast destination, for a single output operation. Returning the received traffic class is useful for programs such as a `diffserv` debugging tool and for user level ECN (explicit congestion notification) implementation.

The received traffic class is returned as ancillary data by `recvmsg()` only if the application has enabled the `IPV6_RECVTCLASS` socket option:

```
int on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVTCLASS, &on, sizeof(on));
```

In the `cmsg_hdr` structure containing this ancillary data, the `cmsg_level` member will be `IPPROTO_IPV6`, the `cmsg_type` member will be `IPV6_TCLASS`, and the first byte of `cmsg_data[]` will be the first byte of the integer traffic class.

To specify the outgoing traffic class value, just specify the control information as ancillary data for `sendmsg()` or using `setsockopt()`. Just like the hop limit value, the interpretation of the integer traffic class value is

```
x < -1:      return an error of EINVAL
x == -1:     use kernel default
0 <= x <= 255: use x
x >= 256:    return an error of EINVAL
```

In order to clear a sticky IPV6\_TCLASS option the application can specify -1 as the value.

There are cases where the kernel needs to control the traffic class value and conflicts with the user-specified value on the outgoing traffic. An example is an implementation of ECN in the kernel, setting 2 bits of the traffic class value. In such cases, the kernel should override the user-specified value. On the incoming traffic, the kernel may mask some of the bits in the traffic class field.

#### 6.6. Additional Errors with sendmsg() and setsockopt()

With the IPV6\_PKTINFO socket option there are no additional errors possible with the call to recvmmsg(). But when specifying the outgoing interface or the source address, additional errors are possible from sendmsg() or setsockopt(). Note that some implementations might only be able to return this type of errors for setsockopt(). The following are examples, but some of these may not be provided by some implementations, and some implementations may define additional errors:

ENXIO	The interface specified by <code>ip6_ifindex</code> does not exist.
ENETDOWN	The interface specified by <code>ip6_ifindex</code> is not enabled for IPv6 use.
EADDRNOTAVAIL	<code>ip6_ifindex</code> specifies an interface but the address <code>ip6_addr</code> is not available for use on that interface.
EHOSTUNREACH	No route to the destination exists over the interface specified by <code>ip6_ifindex</code> .

#### 6.7. Summary of Outgoing Interface Selection

This document and [RFC-3493] specify various methods that affect the selection of the packet's outgoing interface. This subsection summarizes the ordering among those in order to ensure deterministic behavior.

For a given outgoing packet on a given socket, the outgoing interface is determined in the following order:

1. if an interface is specified in an IPV6\_PKTINFO ancillary data item, the interface is used.
2. otherwise, if an interface is specified in an IPV6\_PKTINFO sticky option, the interface is used.



3. otherwise, if the destination address is a multicast address and the `IPV6_MULTICAST_IF` socket option is specified for the socket, the interface is used.
4. otherwise, if an `IPV6_NEXTHOP` ancillary data item is specified, the interface to the next hop is used.
5. otherwise, if an `IPV6_NEXTHOP` sticky option is specified, the interface to the next hop is used.
6. otherwise, the outgoing interface should be determined in an implementation dependent manner.

The ordering above particularly means if the application specifies an interface by the `IPV6_MULTICAST_IF` socket option (described in [RFC-3493]) as well as specifying a different interface by the `IPV6_PKTINFO` sticky option, the latter will override the former for every multicast packet on the corresponding socket. The reason for the ordering comes from expectation that the source address is specified as well and that the pair of the address and the outgoing interface should be preferred.

In any case, the kernel must also verify that the source and destination addresses do not break their scope zones with regard to the outgoing interface.

## 7. Routing Header Option

Source routing in IPv6 is accomplished by specifying a Routing header as an extension header. There can be different types of Routing headers, but IPv6 currently defines only the Type 0 Routing header [RFC-2460]. This type supports up to 127 intermediate nodes (limited by the length field in the extension header). With this maximum number of intermediate nodes, a source, and a destination, there are 128 hops.

Source routing with the IPv4 sockets API (the `IP_OPTIONS` socket option) requires the application to build the source route in the format that appears as the IPv4 header option, requiring intimate knowledge of the IPv4 options format. This IPv6 API, however, defines six functions that the application calls to build and examine a Routing header, and the ability to use sticky options or ancillary data to communicate this information between the application and the kernel using the `IPV6_RTHDR` option.

Three functions build a Routing header:

```
inet6_rth_space()    - return #bytes required for Routing header
inet6_rth_init()     - initialize buffer data for Routing header
inet6_rth_add()      - add one IPv6 address to the Routing header
```

Three functions deal with a returned Routing header:

```
inet6_rth_reverse() - reverse a Routing header
inet6_rth_segments() - return #segments in a Routing header
inet6_rth_getaddr() - fetch one address from a Routing header
```

The function prototypes for these functions are defined as a result of including `<netinet/in.h>`.

To receive a Routing header the application must enable the `IPV6_RECVRTHDR` socket option:

```
int  on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVRTHDR, &on, sizeof(on));
```

Each received Routing header is returned as one ancillary data object described by a `cmsghdr` structure with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_RTHDR`. When multiple Routing headers are received, multiple ancillary data objects (with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_RTHDR`) will be returned to the application.

To send a Routing header the application specifies it either as ancillary data in a call to `sendmsg()` or using `setsockopt()`. For the sending side, this API assumes the number of occurrences of the Routing header as described in [RFC-2460]. That is, applications can only specify at most one outgoing Routing header.

The application can remove any sticky Routing header by calling `setsockopt()` for `IPV6_RTHDR` with a zero option length.

When using ancillary data a Routing header is passed between the application and the kernel as follows: The `cmsg_level` member has a value of `IPPROTO_IPV6` and the `cmsg_type` member has a value of `IPV6_RTHDR`. The contents of the `cmsg_data[]` member is implementation dependent and should not be accessed directly by the application, but should be accessed using the six functions that we are about to describe.

The following constant is defined as a result of including the `<netinet/in.h>`:

```
#define IPV6_RTHDR_TYPE_0    0 /* IPv6 Routing header type 0 */
```

When a Routing header is specified, the destination address specified for `connect()`, `sendto()`, or `sendmsg()` is the final destination address of the datagram. The Routing header then contains the addresses of all the intermediate nodes.

### 7.1. `inet6_rth_space`

```
socklen_t inet6_rth_space(int type, int segments);
```

This function returns the number of bytes required to hold a Routing header of the specified type containing the specified number of segments (addresses). For an IPv6 Type 0 Routing header, the number of segments must be between 0 and 127, inclusive. The return value is just the space for the Routing header. When the application uses ancillary data it must pass the returned length to `CMSG_SPACE()` to determine how much memory is needed for the ancillary data object (including the `cmsghdr` structure).

If the return value is 0, then either the type of the Routing header is not supported by this implementation or the number of segments is invalid for this type of Routing header.

(Note: This function returns the size but does not allocate the space required for the ancillary data. This allows an application to allocate a larger buffer, if other ancillary data objects are desired, since all the ancillary data objects must be specified to `sendmsg()` as a single `msg_control` buffer.)

### 7.2. `inet6_rth_init`

```
void *inet6_rth_init(void *bp, socklen_t bp_len, int type,  
                    int segments);
```

This function initializes the buffer pointed to by `bp` to contain a Routing header of the specified type and sets `ip6r_len` based on the segments parameter. `bp_len` is only used to verify that the buffer is large enough. The `ip6r_segleft` field is set to zero; `inet6_rth_add()` will increment it.

When the application uses ancillary data the application must initialize any `cmsghdr` fields.

The caller must allocate the buffer and its size can be determined by calling `inet6_rth_space()`.

Upon success the return value is the pointer to the buffer (`bp`), and this is then used as the first argument to the `inet6_rth_add()` function. Upon an error the return value is `NULL`.

### 7.3. inet6\_rth\_add

```
int inet6_rth_add(void *bp, const struct in6_addr *addr);
```

This function adds the IPv6 address pointed to by `addr` to the end of the Routing header being constructed.

If successful, the `segleft` member of the Routing Header is updated to account for the new address in the Routing header and the return value of the function is 0. Upon an error the return value of the function is -1.

### 7.4. inet6\_rth\_reverse

```
int inet6_rth_reverse(const void *in, void *out);
```

This function takes a Routing header extension header (pointed to by the first argument) and writes a new Routing header that sends datagrams along the reverse of that route. The function reverses the order of the addresses and sets the `segleft` member in the new Routing header to the number of segments. Both arguments are allowed to point to the same buffer (that is, the reversal can occur in place).

The return value of the function is 0 on success, or -1 upon an error.

### 7.5. inet6\_rth\_segments

```
int inet6_rth_segments(const void *bp);
```

This function returns the number of segments (addresses) contained in the Routing header described by `bp`. On success the return value is zero or greater. The return value of the function is -1 upon an error.

### 7.6. inet6\_rth\_getaddr

```
struct in6_addr *inet6_rth_getaddr(const void *bp, int index);
```

This function returns a pointer to the IPv6 address specified by `index` (which must have a value between 0 and one less than the value returned by `inet6_rth_segments()`) in the Routing header described by `bp`. An application should first call `inet6_rth_segments()` to obtain the number of segments in the Routing header.

Upon an error the return value of the function is NULL.

## 8. Hop-By-Hop Options

A variable number of Hop-by-Hop options can appear in a single Hop-by-Hop options header. Each option in the header is TLV-encoded with a type, length, and value. This IPv6 API defines seven functions that the application calls to build and examine a Hop-by-Hop options header, and the ability to use sticky options or ancillary data to communicate this information between the application and the kernel. This uses the `IPV6_HOPOPTS` for a Hop-by-Hop options header.

Today several Hop-by-Hop options are defined for IPv6. Two pad options, `Pad1` and `PadN`, are for alignment purposes and are automatically inserted by the `inet6_opt_XXX()` routines and ignored by the `inet6_opt_XXX()` routines on the receive side. This section of the API is therefore defined for other (and future) Hop-by-Hop options that an application may need to specify and receive.

Four functions build an options header:

<code>inet6_opt_init()</code>	- initialize buffer data for options header
<code>inet6_opt_append()</code>	- add one TLV option to the options header
<code>inet6_opt_finish()</code>	- finish adding TLV options to the options header
<code>inet6_opt_set_val()</code>	- add one component of the option content to the option

Three functions deal with a returned options header:

<code>inet6_opt_next()</code>	- extract the next option from the options header
<code>inet6_opt_find()</code>	- extract an option of a specified type from the header
<code>inet6_opt_get_val()</code>	- retrieve one component of the option content

Individual Hop-by-Hop options (and Destination options, which are described in [Section 9](#) and are very similar to the Hop-by-Hop options) may have specific alignment requirements. For example, the 4-byte Jumbo Payload length should appear on a 4-byte boundary, and IPv6 addresses are normally aligned on an 8-byte boundary. These requirements and the terminology used with these options are discussed in [Section 4.2](#) and [Appendix B of \[RFC-2460\]](#). The alignment of first byte of each option is specified by two values, called *x* and *y*, written as "*xn + y*". This states that the option must appear at an integer multiple of *x* bytes from the beginning of the options header (*x* can have the values 1, 2, 4, or 8), plus *y* bytes (*y* can have a value between 0 and 7, inclusive). The `Pad1` and `PadN` options are inserted as needed to maintain the required alignment. The

functions below need to know the alignment of the end of the option (which is always in the form "xn," where x can have the values 1, 2, 4, or 8) and the total size of the data portion of the option. These are passed as the "align" and "len" arguments to `inet6_opt_append()`.

Multiple Hop-by-Hop options must be specified by the application by placing them in a single extension header.

Finally, we note that use of some Hop-by-Hop options or some Destination options, might require special privilege. That is, normal applications (without special privilege) might be forbidden from setting certain options in outgoing packets, and might never see certain options in received packets.

### 8.1. Receiving Hop-by-Hop Options

To receive a Hop-by-Hop options header the application must enable the `IPV6_RECVHOPOPTS` socket option:

```
int  on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVHOPOPTS, &on, sizeof(on));
```

When using ancillary data a Hop-by-hop options header is passed between the application and the kernel as follows: The `cmsg_level` member will be `IPPROTO_IPV6` and the `cmsg_type` member will be `IPV6_HOPOPTS`. These options are then processed by calling the `inet6_opt_next()`, `inet6_opt_find()`, and `inet6_opt_get_val()` functions, described in [Section 10](#).

### 8.2. Sending Hop-by-Hop Options

To send a Hop-by-Hop options header, the application specifies the header either as ancillary data in a call to `sendmsg()` or using `setsockopt()`.

The application can remove any sticky Hop-by-Hop options header by calling `setsockopt()` for `IPV6_HOPOPTS` with a zero option length.

All the Hop-by-Hop options must be specified by a single ancillary data object. The `cmsg_level` member is set to `IPPROTO_IPV6` and the `cmsg_type` member is set to `IPV6_HOPOPTS`. The option is normally constructed using the `inet6_opt_init()`, `inet6_opt_append()`, `inet6_opt_finish()`, and `inet6_opt_set_val()` functions, described in [Section 10](#).

Additional errors may be possible from `sendmsg()` and `setsockopt()` if the specified option is in error.

## 9. Destination Options

A variable number of Destination options can appear in one or more Destination options headers. As defined in [RFC-2460], a Destination options header appearing before a Routing header is processed by the first destination plus any subsequent destinations specified in the Routing header, while a Destination options header that is not followed by a Routing header is processed only by the final destination. As with the Hop-by-Hop options, each option in a Destination options header is TLV-encoded with a type, length, and value.

### 9.1. Receiving Destination Options

To receive Destination options header the application must enable the `IPV6_RECVDSTOPTS` socket option:

```
int on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVDSTOPTS, &on, sizeof(on));
```

Each Destination options header is returned as one ancillary data object described by a `cmsghdr` structure with `cmsg_level` set to `IPPROTO_IPV6` and `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_DSTOPTS`.

These options are then processed by calling the `inet6_opt_next()`, `inet6_opt_find()`, and `inet6_opt_get_value()` functions.

### 9.2. Sending Destination Options

To send a Destination options header, the application specifies it either as ancillary data in a call to `sendmsg()` or using `setsockopt()`.

The application can remove any sticky Destination options header by calling `setsockopt()` for `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS/IPV6_DSTOPTS` with a zero option length.

This API assumes the ordering about extension headers as described in [RFC-2460]. Thus, one set of Destination options can only appear before a Routing header, and one set can only appear after a Routing header (or in a packet with no Routing header). Each set can consist of one or more options but each set is a single extension header.

Today all destination options that an application may want to specify can be put after (or without) a Routing header. Thus, applications should usually need `IPV6_DSTOPTS` only and should avoid using `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS` whenever possible.

When using ancillary data a Destination options header is passed between the application and the kernel as follows: The set preceding a Routing header are specified with the `cmsg_level` member set to `IPPROTO_IPV6` and the `cmsg_type` member set to `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS`. Any `setsockopt` or ancillary data for `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS` is silently ignored when sending packets unless a Routing header is also specified. Note that the "Routing header" here means the one specified by this API. Even when the kernel inserts a routing header in its internal routine (e.g., in a mobile IPv6 stack), the Destination options header specified by `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS` will still be ignored unless the application explicitly specifies its own Routing header.

The set of Destination options after a Routing header, which are also used when no Routing header is present, are specified with the `cmsg_level` member is set to `IPPROTO_IPV6` and the `cmsg_type` member is set to `IPV6_DSTOPTS`.

The Destination options are normally constructed using the `inet6_opt_init()`, `inet6_opt_append()`, `inet6_opt_finish()`, and `inet6_opt_set_val()` functions, described in [Section 10](#).

Additional errors may be possible from `sendmsg()` and `setsockopt()` if the specified option is in error.

## 10. Hop-by-Hop and Destination Options Processing

Building and parsing the Hop-by-Hop and Destination options is complicated for the reasons given earlier. We therefore define a set of functions to help the application. These functions assume the formatting rules specified in [Appendix B in \[RFC-2460\]](#) i.e., that the largest field is placed last in the option.

The function prototypes for these functions are defined as a result of including `<netinet/in.h>`.

The first 3 functions (`init`, `append`, and `finish`) are used both to calculate the needed buffer size for the options, and to actually encode the options once the application has allocated a buffer for the header. In order to only calculate the size the application must pass a `NULL` `extbuf` and a zero `extlen` to those functions.



### 10.1. inet6\_opt\_init

```
int inet6_opt_init(void *extbuf, socklen_t extlen);
```

This function returns the number of bytes needed for the empty extension header i.e., without any options. If extbuf is not NULL it also initializes the extension header to have the correct length field. In that case if the extlen value is not a positive (i.e., non-zero) multiple of 8 the function fails and returns -1.

(Note: since the return value on success is based on a "constant" parameter, i.e., the empty extension header, an implementation may return a constant value. However, this specification does not require the value be constant, and leaves it as implementation dependent. The application should not assume a particular constant value as a successful return value of this function.)

### 10.2. inet6\_opt\_append

```
int inet6_opt_append(void *extbuf, socklen_t extlen, int offset,
                    uint8_t type, socklen_t len, uint_t align,
                    void **databuf);
```

Offset should be the length returned by inet6\_opt\_init() or a previous inet6\_opt\_append(). This function returns the updated total length taking into account adding an option with length 'len' and alignment 'align'. If extbuf is not NULL then, in addition to returning the length, the function inserts any needed pad option, initializes the option (setting the type and length fields) and returns a pointer to the location for the option content in databuf. If the option does not fit in the extension header buffer the function returns -1.

Type is the 8-bit option type. Len is the length of the option data (i.e., excluding the option type and option length fields).

Once inet6\_opt\_append() has been called the application can use the databuf directly, or use inet6\_opt\_set\_val() to specify the content of the option.

The option type must have a value from 2 to 255, inclusive. (0 and 1 are reserved for the Pad1 and PadN options, respectively.)

The option data length must have a value between 0 and 255, inclusive, and is the length of the option data that follows.

The align parameter must have a value of 1, 2, 4, or 8. The align value can not exceed the value of len.

### 10.3. inet6\_opt\_finish

```
int inet6_opt_finish(void *extbuf, socklen_t extlen, int offset);
```

Offset should be the length returned by `inet6_opt_init()` or `inet6_opt_append()`. This function returns the updated total length taking into account the final padding of the extension header to make it a multiple of 8 bytes. If `extbuf` is not NULL the function also initializes the option by inserting a Pad1 or PadN option of the proper length.

If the necessary pad does not fit in the extension header buffer the function returns -1.

### 10.4. inet6\_opt\_set\_val

```
int inet6_opt_set_val(void *databuf, int offset, void *val,  
                      socklen_t vallen);
```

Databuf should be a pointer returned by `inet6_opt_append()`. This function inserts data items of various sizes in the data portion of the option. Val should point to the data to be inserted. Offset specifies where in the data portion of the option the value should be inserted; the first byte after the option type and length is accessed by specifying an offset of zero.

The caller should ensure that each field is aligned on its natural boundaries as described in [Appendix B of \[RFC-2460\]](#), but the function must not rely on the caller's behavior. Even when the alignment requirement is not satisfied, `inet6_opt_set_val` should just copy the data as required.

The function returns the offset for the next field (i.e., `offset + vallen`) which can be used when composing option content with multiple fields.

### 10.5. inet6\_opt\_next

```
int inet6_opt_next(void *extbuf, socklen_t extlen, int offset,  
                  uint8_t *typep, socklen_t *lenp,  
                  void **databufp);
```

This function parses received option extension headers returning the next option. Extbuf and extlen specifies the extension header. Offset should either be zero (for the first option) or the length returned by a previous call to `inet6_opt_next()` or `inet6_opt_find()`. It specifies the position where to continue scanning the extension buffer. The next option is returned by updating `typep`, `lenp`, and

databufp. Typep stores the option type, lenp stores the length of the option data (i.e., excluding the option type and option length fields), and databufp points the data field of the option. This function returns the updated "previous" length computed by advancing past the option that was returned. This returned "previous" length can then be passed to subsequent calls to `inet6_opt_next()`. This function does not return any PAD1 or PADN options. When there are no more options or if the option extension header is malformed the return value is -1.

#### 10.6. `inet6_opt_find`

```
int inet6_opt_find(void *extbuf, socklen_t extlen, int offset,
                  uint8_t type, socklen_t *lenp,
                  void **databufp);
```

This function is similar to the previously described `inet6_opt_next()` function, except this function lets the caller specify the option type to be searched for, instead of always returning the next option in the extension header.

If an option of the specified type is located, the function returns the updated "previous" total length computed by advancing past the option that was returned and past any options that didn't match the type. This returned "previous" length can then be passed to subsequent calls to `inet6_opt_find()` for finding the next occurrence of the same option type.

If an option of the specified type is not located, the return value is -1. If the option extension header is malformed, the return value is -1.

#### 10.7. `inet6_opt_get_val`

```
int inet6_opt_get_val(void *databuf, int offset, void *val,
                     socklen_t vallen);
```

Databuf should be a pointer returned by `inet6_opt_next()` or `inet6_opt_find()`. This function extracts data items of various sizes in the data portion of the option. Val should point to the destination for the extracted data. Offset specifies from where in the data portion of the option the value should be extracted; the first byte after the option type and length is accessed by specifying an offset of zero.

It is expected that each field is aligned on its natural boundaries as described in [Appendix B of \[RFC-2460\]](#), but the function must not rely on the alignment.

The function returns the offset for the next field (i.e., offset + vallen) which can be used when extracting option content with multiple fields.

## 11. Additional Advanced API Functions

### 11.1. Sending with the Minimum MTU

Unicast applications should usually let the kernel perform path MTU discovery [RFC-1981], as long as the kernel supports it, and should not care about the path MTU. Some applications, however, might not want to incur the overhead of path MTU discovery, especially if the applications only send a single datagram to a destination. A potential example is a DNS server.

[RFC-1981] describes how path MTU discovery works for multicast destinations. From practice in using IPv4 multicast, however, many careless applications that send large multicast packets on the wire have caused implosion of ICMPv4 error messages. The situation can be worse when there is a filtering node that blocks the ICMPv4 messages. Though the filtering issue applies to unicast as well, the impact is much larger in the multicast cases.

Thus, applications sending multicast traffic should explicitly enable path MTU discovery only when they understand that the benefit of possibly larger MTU usage outweighs the possible impact of MTU discovery for active sources across the delivery tree(s). This default behavior is based on the today's practice with IPv4 multicast and path MTU discovery. The behavior may change in the future once it is found that path MTU discovery effectively works with actual multicast applications and network configurations.

This specification defines a mechanism to avoid path MTU discovery by sending at the minimum IPv6 MTU [RFC-2460]. If the packet is larger than the minimum MTU and this feature has been enabled the IP layer will fragment to the minimum MTU. To control the policy about path MTU discovery, applications can use the IPV6\_USE\_MIN\_MTU socket option.

As described above, the default policy should depend on whether the destination is unicast or multicast. For unicast destinations path MTU discovery should be performed by default. For multicast destinations path MTU discovery should be disabled by default. This option thus takes the following three types of integer arguments:

- 1: perform path MTU discovery for unicast destinations but do not perform it for multicast destinations. Packets to multicast destinations are therefore sent with the minimum MTU.

0: always perform path MTU discovery.

1: always disable path MTU discovery and send packets at the minimum MTU.

The default value of this option is -1. Values other than -1, 0, and 1 are invalid, and an error EINVAL will be returned for those values.

As an example, if a unicast application intentionally wants to disable path MTU discovery, it will add the following lines:

```
int on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_USE_MIN_MTU, &on, sizeof(on));
```

Note that this API intentionally excludes the case where the application wants to perform path MTU discovery for multicast but to disable it for unicast. This is because such usage is not feasible considering a scale of performance issues around whether to do path MTU discovery or not. When path MTU discovery makes sense to a destination but not to a different destination, regardless of whether the destination is unicast or multicast, applications either need to toggle the option between sending such packets on the same socket, or use different sockets for the two classes of destinations.

This option can also be sent as ancillary data. In the `cmsg_hdr` structure containing this ancillary data, the `cmsg_level` member will be `IPPROTO_IPV6`, the `cmsg_type` member will be `IPV6_USE_MIN_MTU`, and the first byte of `cmsg_data[]` will be the first byte of the integer.

### 11.2. Sending without Fragmentation

In order to provide for easy porting of existing UDP and raw socket applications IPv6 implementations will, when originating packets, automatically insert a fragment header in the packet if the packet is too big for the path MTU.

Some applications might not want this behavior. An example is traceroute which might want to discover the actual path MTU.

This specification defines a mechanism to turn off the automatic inserting of a fragment header for UDP and raw sockets. This can be enabled using the `IPV6_DONTFRAG` socket option.

```
int on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_DONTFRAG, &on, sizeof(on));
```

By default, this socket option is disabled. Setting the value to 0 also disables the option i.e., reverts to the default behavior of automatic inserting. This option can also be sent as ancillary data. In the `cmsghdr` structure containing this ancillary data, the `cmsg_level` member will be `IPPROTO_IPV6`, the `cmsg_type` member will be `IPV6_DONTFRAG`, and the first byte of `cmsg_data[]` will be the first byte of the integer. This API only specifies the use of this option for UDP and raw sockets, and does not define the usage for TCP sockets.

When the data size is larger than the MTU of the outgoing interface, the packet will be discarded. Applications can know the result by enabling the `IPV6_RECVPATHMTU` option described below and receiving the corresponding ancillary data items. An additional error `EMSGSIZE` may also be returned in some implementations. Note, however, that some other implementations might not be able to return this additional error when sending a message.

### 11.3. Path MTU Discovery and UDP

UDP and raw socket applications need to be able to determine the "maximum send transport-message size" ([Section 5.1 of \[RFC-1981\]](#)) to a given destination so that those applications can participate in path MTU discovery. This lets those applications send smaller datagrams to the destination, avoiding fragmentation.

This is accomplished using a new ancillary data item (`IPV6_PATHMTU`) which is delivered to `recvmsg()` without any actual data. The application can enable the receipt of `IPV6_PATHMTU` ancillary data items by setting the `IPV6_RECVPATHMTU` socket option.

```
int on = 1;
setsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_RECVPATHMTU, &on, sizeof(on));
```

By default, this socket option is disabled. Setting the value to 0 also disables the option. This API only specifies the use of this option for UDP and raw sockets, and does not define the usage for TCP sockets.

When the application is sending packets too big for the path MTU `recvmsg()` will return zero (indicating no data) but there will be a `cmsghdr` with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_PATHMTU`, and `cmsg_len` will indicate that `cmsg_data` is `sizeof(struct ip6_mtuinfo)` bytes long. This can happen when the sending node receives a corresponding ICMPv6 packet too big error, or when the packet is sent from a socket with the `IPV6_DONTFRAG` option being on and the packet size is larger than the MTU of the outgoing interface. This indication is considered as an ancillary data item for a separate (empty) message. Thus, when

there are buffered messages (i.e., messages that the application has not received yet) on the socket the application will first receive the buffered messages and then receive the indication.

The first byte of `cmsg_data[]` will point to a struct `ip6_mtuinfo` carrying the path MTU to use together with the IPv6 destination address.

```
struct ip6_mtuinfo {
    struct sockaddr_in6 ip6m_addr; /* dst address including
                                   zone ID */
    uint32_t             ip6m_mtu; /* path MTU in host byte order */
};
```

This `cmsghdr` will be passed to every socket that sets the `IPV6_RECVPATHMTU` socket option, even if the socket is non-connected. Note that this also means an application that sets the option may receive an `IPV6_MTU` ancillary data item for each ICMP too big error the node receives, including such ICMP errors caused by other applications on the node. Thus, an application that wants to perform the path MTU discovery by itself needs to keep history of destinations that it has actually sent to and to compare the address returned in the `ip6_mtuinfo` structure to the history. An implementation may choose not to delivery data to a connected socket that has a foreign address that is different than the address specified in the `ip6m_addr` structure.

When an application sends a packet with a routing header, the final destination stored in the `ip6m_addr` member does not necessarily contain complete information of the entire path.

#### 11.4. Determining the Current Path MTU

Some applications might need to determine the current path MTU e.g., applications using `IPV6_RECVPATHMTU` might want to pick a good starting value.

This specification defines a get-only socket option to retrieve the current path MTU value for the destination of a given connected socket. If the IP layer does not have a cached path MTU value it will return the interface MTU for the interface that will be used when sending to the destination address.

This information is retrieved using the `IPV6_PATHMTU` socket option. This option takes a pointer to the `ip6_mtuinfo` structure as the fourth argument, and the size of the structure should be passed as a value-result parameter in the fifth argument.

```
struct ip6_mtuinfo mtuinfo;
socklen_t infolen = sizeof(mtuinfo);

getsockopt(fd, IPPROTO_IPV6, IPV6_PATHMTU, &mtuinfo, &infolen);
```

When the call succeeds, the path MTU value is stored in the `ip6m_mtu` member of the `ip6_mtuinfo` structure. Since the socket is connected, the `ip6m_addr` member is meaningless and should not be referred to by the application.

This option can only be used for a connected socket, because a non-connected socket does not have the information of the destination and there is no way to pass the destination via `getsockopt()`. When `getsockopt()` for this option is issued on a non-connected socket, the call will fail. Despite this limitation, this option is still useful from a practical point of view, because applications that care about the path MTU tend to send a lot of packets to a single destination and to connect the socket to the destination for performance reasons. If the application needs to get the MTU value in a more generic way, it should use a more generic interface, such as routing sockets [[TCPIPILLUST](#)].

## 12. Ordering of Ancillary Data and IPv6 Extension Headers

Three IPv6 extension headers can be specified by the application and returned to the application using ancillary data with `sendmsg()` and `recvmsg()`: the Routing header, Hop-by-Hop options header, and Destination options header. When multiple ancillary data objects are transferred via `recvmsg()` and these objects represent any of these three extension headers, their placement in the control buffer is directly tied to their location in the corresponding IPv6 datagram. For example, when the application has enabled the `IPV6_RECVRTHDR` and `IPV6_RECVDSTOPTS` options and later receives an IPv6 packet with extension headers in the following order:

```
The IPv6 header
A Hop-by-Hop options header
A Destination options header (1)
A Routing header
An Authentication header
A Destination options header (2)
A UDP header and UDP data
```



then the application will receive three ancillary data objects in the following order:

- an object with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_DSTOPTS`, which represents the destination options header (1)
- an object with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_RTHDR`, which represents the Routing header
- an object with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_DSTOPTS`, which represents the destination options header (2)

This example follows the header ordering described in [RFC-2460], but the receiving side of this specification does not assume the ordering. Applications may receive any numbers of objects in any order according to the ordering of the received IPv6 datagram.

For the sending side, however, this API imposes some ordering constraints according to [RFC-2460]. Applications using this API cannot make a packet with extension headers that do not follow the ordering. Note, however, that this does not mean applications must always follow the restriction. This is just a limitation in this API in order to give application programmers a guideline to construct headers in a practical manner. Should an application need to make an outgoing packet in an arbitrary order about the extension headers, some other technique, such as the datalink interfaces BPF or DLPI, must be used.

The followings are more details about the constraints:

- Each `IPV6_xxx` ancillary data object for a particular type of extension header can be specified at most once in a single control buffer.
- `IPV6_xxx` ancillary data objects can appear in any order in a control buffer, because there is no ambiguity of the ordering.
- Each set of `IPV6_xxx` ancillary data objects and sticky options will be put in the outgoing packet along with the header ordering described in [RFC-2460].
- An ancillary data object or a sticky option of `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS` will affect the outgoing packet only when a Routing header is specified as an ancillary data object or a sticky option. Otherwise, the specified value for `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS` will be ignored.

For example, when an application sends a UDP datagram with a control data buffer containing ancillary data objects in the following order:

- an object with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_DSTOPTS`
- an object with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS`
- an object with `cmsg_type` set to `IPV6_HOPOPTS`

and the sending socket does not have any sticky options, then the outgoing packet would be constructed as follows:

- The IPv6 header
- A Hop-by-Hop options header
- A Destination options header
- A UDP header and UDP data

where the destination options header corresponds to the ancillary data object with the type `IPV6_DSTOPTS`.

Note that the constraints above do not necessarily mean that the outgoing packet sent on the wire always follows the header ordering specified in this API document. The kernel may insert additional headers that break the ordering as a result. For example, if the kernel supports Mobile IPv6, an additional destination options header may be inserted before an authentication header, even without a routing header.

This API does not provide access to any other extension headers than the supported three types of headers. In particular, no information is provided about the IP security headers on an incoming packet, nor can be specified for an outgoing packet. This API is for applications that do not care about the existence of IP security headers.

### 13. IPv6-Specific Options with IPv4-Mapped IPv6 Addresses

The various socket options and ancillary data specifications defined in this document apply only to true IPv6 sockets. It is possible to create an IPv6 socket that actually sends and receives IPv4 packets, using IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses, but the mapping of the options defined in this document to an IPv4 datagram is beyond the scope of this document.

In general, attempting to specify an IPv6-only option, such as the Hop-by-Hop options, Destination options, or Routing header on an IPv6 socket that is using IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses, will probably result in an error. Some implementations, however, may provide access to

the packet information (source/destination address, send/receive interface, and hop limit) on an IPv6 socket that is using IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses.

#### 14. Extended interfaces for rresvport, rcmd and rexec

Library functions that support the "r" commands hide the creation of a socket and the name resolution procedure from an application. When the libraries return an AF\_INET6 socket to an application that do not support the address family, the application may encounter an unexpected result when, e.g., calling getpeername() for the socket. In order to support AF\_INET6 sockets for the "r" commands while keeping backward compatibility, this section defines some extensions to the libraries.

##### 14.1. rresvport\_af

The rresvport() function is used by the rcmd() function, and this function is in turn called by many of the "r" commands such as rlogin. While new applications are not being written to use the rcmd() function, legacy applications such as rlogin will continue to use it and these will be ported to IPv6.

rresvport() creates an IPv4/TCP socket and binds a "reserved port" to the socket. Instead of defining an IPv6 version of this function we define a new function that takes an address family as its argument.

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int rresvport_af(int *port, int family);
```

This function behaves the same as the existing rresvport() function, but instead of creating an AF\_INET TCP socket, it can also create an AF\_INET6 TCP socket. The family argument is either AF\_INET or AF\_INET6, and a new error return is EAFNOSUPPORT if the address family is not supported.

(Note: There is little consensus on which header defines the rresvport() and rcmd() function prototypes. 4.4BSD defines it in <unistd.h>, others in <netdb.h>, and others don't define the function prototypes at all.)

##### 14.2. rcmd\_af

The existing rcmd() function can not transparently use AF\_INET6 sockets since an application would not be prepared to handle AF\_INET6 addresses returned by e.g., getpeername() on the file descriptor created by rcmd(). Thus a new function is needed.

```
int rcmd_af(char **ahost, unsigned short rport,
            const char *locuser, const char *remuser,
            const char *cmd, int *fd2p, int af)
```

This function behaves the same as the existing `rcmd()` function, but instead of creating an `AF_INET` TCP socket, it can also create an `AF_INET6` TCP socket. The family argument is `AF_INET`, `AF_INET6`, or `AF_UNSPEC`. When either `AF_INET` or `AF_INET6` is specified, this function will create a socket of the specified address family. When `AF_UNSPEC` is specified, it will try all possible address families until a connection can be established, and will return the associated socket of the connection. A new error `EAFNOSUPPORT` will be returned if the address family is not supported.

#### 14.3. `rexec_af`

The existing `rexec()` function can not transparently use `AF_INET6` sockets since an application would not be prepared to handle `AF_INET6` addresses returned by e.g., `getpeername()` on the file descriptor created by `rexec()`. Thus a new function is needed.

```
int rexec_af(char **ahost, unsigned short rport, const char *name,
            const char *pass, const char *cmd, int *fd2p, int af)
```

This function behaves the same as the existing `rexec()` function, but instead of creating an `AF_INET` TCP socket, it can also create an `AF_INET6` TCP socket. The family argument is `AF_INET`, `AF_INET6`, or `AF_UNSPEC`. When either `AF_INET` or `AF_INET6` is specified, this function will create a socket of the specified address family. When `AF_UNSPEC` is specified, it will try all possible address families until a connection can be established, and will return the associated socket of the connection. A new error `EAFNOSUPPORT` will be returned if the address family is not supported.

#### 15. Summary of New Definitions

The following list summarizes the constants and structure, definitions discussed in this memo, sorted by header.

```
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_DST_UNREACH
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_ADDR
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_ADMIN
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_BEYONDScope
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_NOport
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_DST_UNREACH_NORoute
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_ECHO_REPLY
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_ECHO_REQUEST
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_INFOMSG_MASK
```

```
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_PACKET_TOO_BIG
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_PARAMPROB_HEADER
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_PARAMPROB_NEXTHEADER
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_PARAMPROB_OPTION
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_PARAM_PROB
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_ROUTER_RENUMBERING
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_FORCEAPPLY
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_PREVDONE
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_REQRESULT
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_SPECSITE
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_FLAGS_TEST
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_FLAGS_DECRPLTIME
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_FLAGS_DECRVLTIME
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_RAFLAGS_AUTO
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_PCOUSE_RAFLAGS_ONLINK
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_RESULT_FLAGS_FORBIDDEN
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_RR_RESULT_FLAGS_OOB
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_TIME_EXCEEDED
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_TIME_EXCEED_REASSEMBLY
<netinet/icmp6.h> ICMP6_TIME_EXCEED_TRANSIT
<netinet/icmp6.h> MLD_LISTENER_QUERY
<netinet/icmp6.h> MLD_LISTENER_REDUCTION
<netinet/icmp6.h> MLD_LISTENER_REPORT
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_NA_FLAG_OVERRIDE
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_NA_FLAG_ROUTER
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_NA_FLAG_SOLICITED
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_NEIGHBOR_ADVERT
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_NEIGHBOR_SOLICIT
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_OPT_MTU
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_OPT_PI_FLAG_AUTO
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_OPT_PI_FLAG_ONLINK
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_OPT_PREFIX_INFORMATION
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_OPT_REDIRECTED_HEADER
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_OPT_SOURCE_LINKADDR
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_OPT_TARGET_LINKADDR
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_RA_FLAG_MANAGED
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_RA_FLAG_OTHER
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_REDIRECT
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_ROUTER_ADVERT
<netinet/icmp6.h> ND_ROUTER_SOLICIT

<netinet/icmp6.h> struct icmp6_filter{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct icmp6_hdr{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct icmp6_router_renum{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct mld_hdr{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_neighbor_advert{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_neighbor_solicit{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_opt_hdr{};
```

```
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_opt_mtu{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_opt_prefix_info{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_opt_rd_hdr{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_redirect{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_router_advert{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct nd_router_solicit{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct rr_pco_match{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct rr_pco_use{};
<netinet/icmp6.h> struct rr_result{};

<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_AH
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_DSTOPTS
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_ESP
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_FRAGMENT
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_HOPOPTS
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_ICMPV6
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_IPV6
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_NONE
<netinet/in.h>      IPPROTO_ROUTING
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_CHECKSUM
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_DONTFRAG
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_DSTOPTS
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_HOPLIMIT
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_HOPOPTS

<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_NEXTHOP
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_PATHMTU
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_PKTINFO
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RECVDSTOPTS
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RECVHOPLIMIT
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RECVHOPOPTS
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RECVPKTINFO
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RECVRTHDR
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RECVTCLASS
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RTHDR
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RTHDRDSTOPTS
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RTHDR_TYPE_0
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_RECVPATHMTU
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_TCLASS
<netinet/in.h>      IPV6_USE_MIN_MTU
<netinet/in.h>      struct in6_pktinfo{};
<netinet/in.h>      struct ip6_mtuinfo{};

<netinet/ip6.h>     IP6F_MORE_FRAG
<netinet/ip6.h>     IP6F_OFF_MASK
<netinet/ip6.h>     IP6F_RESERVED_MASK
<netinet/ip6.h>     IP6OPT_JUMBO
<netinet/ip6.h>     IP6OPT_JUMBO_LEN
```

```

<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_MUTABLE
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_NSAP_ADDR
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_PAD1
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_PADN
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_ROUTER_ALERT
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_TUNNEL_LIMIT
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_TYPE_DISCARD
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_TYPE_FORCEICMP
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_TYPE_ICMP
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6OPT_TYPE_SKIP
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6_ALERT_AN
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6_ALERT_MLD
<netinet/ip6.h>    IP6_ALERT_RSVP
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_dest{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_frag{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_hbh{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_hdr{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_opt{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_opt_jumbo{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_opt_nsap{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_opt_router{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_opt_tunnel{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_rthdr{};
<netinet/ip6.h>    struct ip6_rthdr0{};

```

The following list summarizes the function and macro prototypes discussed in this memo, sorted by header.

```

<netinet/icmp6.h> void ICMP6_FILTER_SETBLOCK(int, struct
                                icmp6_filter *);
<netinet/icmp6.h> void
    ICMP6_FILTER_SETBLOCKALL(struct icmp6_filter *);
<netinet/icmp6.h> void
    ICMP6_FILTER_SETPASS(int,
                                struct icmp6_filter *);
<netinet/icmp6.h> void
    ICMP6_FILTER_SETPASSALL(struct icmp6_filter *);
<netinet/icmp6.h> int  ICMP6_FILTER_WILLBLOCK(int,
                                const struct icmp6_filter *);
<netinet/icmp6.h> int  ICMP6_FILTER_WILLPASS(int,
                                const struct icmp6_filter *);

<netinet/in.h>     int IN6_ARE_ADDR_EQUAL(const struct in6_addr *,
                                const struct in6_addr *);

<netinet/in.h>     int inet6_opt_append(void *, socklen_t, int,
                                uint8_t, socklen_t, uint_t,
                                void **);

```

```

<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_opt_get_val(void *, int, void *,
                    socklen_t);
<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_opt_find(void *, socklen_t,
                    int, uint8_t ,
                    socklen_t *, void **);
<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_opt_finish(void *, socklen_t, int);
<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_opt_init(void *, socklen_t);
<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_opt_next(void *, socklen_t,
                    int, uint8_t *,
                    socklen_t *, void **);
<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_opt_set_val(void *, int,
                    void *, socklen_t);

<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_rth_add(void *,
                    const struct in6_addr *);
<netinet/in.h>    struct in6_addr inet6_rth_getaddr(const void *,
                    int);
<netinet/in.h>    void *inet6_rth_init(void *, socklen_t,
                    int, int);
<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_rth_reverse(const void *, void *);
<netinet/in.h>    int inet6_rth_segments(const void *);
<netinet/in.h>    socklen_t inet6_rth_space(int, int);

<netinet/ip6.h>    int  IP6OPT_TYPE(uint8_t);

<sys/socket.h>    socklen_t CMSG_LEN(socklen_t);
<sys/socket.h>    socklen_t CMSG_SPACE(socklen_t);

<unistd.h>        int rresvport_af(int *, int);
<unistd.h>        int rcmd_af(char **, unsigned short,
                    const char *, const char *,
                    const char *, int *, int);
<unistd.h>        int rexec_af(char **, unsigned short,
                    const char *, const char *,
                    const char *, int *, int);

```

## 16. Security Considerations

The setting of certain Hop-by-Hop options and Destination options may be restricted to privileged processes. Similarly some Hop-by-Hop options and Destination options may not be returned to non-privileged applications.

The ability to specify an arbitrary source address using IPV6\_PKTINFO must be prevented; at least for non-privileged processes.



## 17. Changes from RFC 2292

Significant changes that affect the compatibility to RFC 2292:

- Removed the IPV6\_PKTOPTIONS socket option by allowing sticky options to be set with individual setsockopt() calls.
- Removed the ability to be able to specify Hop-by-Hop and Destination options using multiple ancillary data items. The application, using the inet6\_opt\_xxx() routines (see below), is responsible for formatting the whole extension header.
- Removed the support for the loose/strict Routing header since that has been removed from the IPv6 specification.
- Loosened the constraints for jumbo payload option that this option was always hidden from applications.
- Disabled the use of the IPV6\_HOPLIMIT sticky option.
- Removed ip6r0\_addr field from the ip6\_rthdr structure.
- Intentionally unspecified how to get received packet's information on TCP sockets.

New features:

- Added IPV6\_RTHDRDSTOPTS to specify a Destination Options header before the Routing header.
- Added separate IPV6\_RECVxxx options to enable the receipt of the corresponding ancillary data items.
- Added inet6\_rth\_xxx() and inet6\_opt\_xxx() functions to deal with routing or IPv6 options headers.
- Added extensions of libraries for the "r" commands.
- Introduced additional IPv6 option definitions such as IP6OPT\_PAD1.
- Added MLD and router renumbering definitions.
- Added MTU-related socket options and ancillary data items.
- Added options and ancillary data items to manipulate the traffic class field.

- Changed the name of ICMPv6 unreachable code 2 to be "beyond scope of source address." ICMP6\_DST\_UNREACH\_NOTNEIGHBOR was removed with this change.

#### Clarifications:

- Added clarifications on extension headers ordering; for the sending side, assume the recommended ordering described in [RFC 2460](#). For the receiving side, do not assume any ordering and pass all headers to the application in the received order.
- Added a summary about the interface selection rule.
- Clarified the ordering between IPV6\_MULTICAST\_IF and the IPV6\_PKTINFO sticky option for multicast packets.
- Clarified how sticky options and the ICMPv6 filter are turned off and that getsockopt() of a sticky option returns what was set with setsockopt().
- Clarified that IPV6\_NEXTHOP should be ignored for a multicast destination, that it should not contradict with the specified outgoing interface, and that the next hop should be a sockaddr\_in6 structure.
- Clarified corner cases of IPV6\_CHECKSUM.
- Aligned with the POSIX standard.

#### Editorial changes:

- Replaced MUST with must (since this is an informational document).
- Revised abstract to be more clear and concise, particularly concentrating on differences from [RFC 2292](#).
- Made the URL of assigned numbers less specific so that it would be more robust for future changes.
- Updated the reference to the basic API.
- Added a reference to the latest POSIX standard.
- Moved general specifications of ancillary data and CMSG macros to the appendix.

## 18. References

- [RFC-1981] McCann, J., Deering, S. and J. Mogul, "Path MTU Discovery for IP version 6", [RFC 1981](#), August 1996.
- [RFC-2460] Deering, S. and R. Hinden, "Internet Protocol, Version 6 (IPv6) Specification", [RFC 2460](#), December 1998.
- [RFC-3493] Gilligan, R., Thomson, S., Bound, J., McCann, J. and W. Stevens, "Basic Socket Interface Extensions for IPv6", [RFC 3493](#), March 2003.
- [POSIX] IEEE Std. 1003.1-2001 Standard for Information Technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX). Open group Technical Standard: Base Specifications, Issue 6, December 2001. ISO/IEC 9945:2002. <http://www.opengroup.org/austin>
- [TCPIPILLUST] Wright, G., Stevens, W., "TCP/IP Illustrated, Volume 2: The Implementation", Addison Wesley, 1994.

## 19. Acknowledgments

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## 20. Appendix A: Ancillary Data Overview

4.2BSD allowed file descriptors to be transferred between separate processes across a UNIX domain socket using the `sendmsg()` and `recvmsg()` functions. Two members of the `msghdr` structure, `msg_accrights` and `msg_accrightslen`, were used to send and receive the descriptors. When the OSI protocols were added to 4.3BSD Reno in 1990 the names of these two fields in the `msghdr` structure were changed to `msg_control` and `msg_controllen`, because they were used by the OSI protocols for "control information", although the comments in the source code call this "ancillary data".

Other than the OSI protocols, the use of ancillary data has been rare. In 4.4BSD, for example, the only use of ancillary data with IPv4 is to return the destination address of a received UDP datagram if the `IP_RECVDSTADDR` socket option is set. With Unix domain sockets ancillary data is still used to send and receive descriptors.

Nevertheless the ancillary data fields of the `msghdr` structure provide a clean way to pass information in addition to the data that is being read or written. The inclusion of the `msg_control` and `msg_controllen` members of the `msghdr` structure along with the `cmsg_hdr` structure that is pointed to by the `msg_control` member is required by the Posix sockets API standard.

### 20.1. The `msghdr` Structure

The `msghdr` structure is used by the `recvmsg()` and `sendmsg()` functions. Its Posix definition is:

```
struct msghdr {
    void          *msg_name;          /* ptr to socket address
                                     structure */
    socklen_t     msg_namelen;        /* size of socket address
                                     structure */
    struct iovec   *msg_iov;           /* scatter/gather array */
    int           msg_iovlen;         /* # elements in msg_iov */
    void          *msg_control;        /* ancillary data */
    socklen_t     msg_controllen;      /* ancillary data buffer length */
    int           msg_flags;           /* flags on received message */
};
```

The structure is declared as a result of including `<sys/socket.h>`.

(Note: Before Posix the two "void \*" pointers were typically "char \*", and the two `socklen_t` members were typically integers. Earlier drafts of Posix had the two `socklen_t` members as `size_t`, but it then changed these to `socklen_t` to simplify binary portability for 64-bit

implementations and to align Posix with X/Open's Networking Services, Issue 5. The change in `msg_control` to a "void \*" pointer affects any code that increments this pointer.)

Most Berkeley-derived implementations limit the amount of ancillary data in a call to `sendmsg()` to no more than 108 bytes (an mbuf). This API requires a minimum of 10240 bytes of ancillary data, but it is recommended that the amount be limited only by the buffer space reserved by the socket (which can be modified by the `SO_SNDBUF` socket option). (Note: This magic number 10240 was picked as a value that should always be large enough. 108 bytes is clearly too small as the maximum size of a Routing header is 2048 bytes.)

## 20.2. The cmsghdr Structure

The `cmsghdr` structure describes ancillary data objects transferred by `recvmsg()` and `sendmsg()`. Its Posix definition is:

```
struct cmsghdr {
    socklen_t  cmsg_len; /* #bytes, including this header */
    int        cmsg_level; /* originating protocol */
    int        cmsg_type; /* protocol-specific type */
    /* followed by unsigned char cmsg_data[]; */
};
```

This structure is declared as a result of including `<sys/socket.h>`.

(Note: Before Posix the `cmsg_len` member was an integer, and not a `socklen_t`. See the Note in the previous section for why `socklen_t` is used here.)

As shown in this definition, normally there is no member with the name `cmsg_data[]`. Instead, the data portion is accessed using the `CMSG_xxx()` macros, as described in [Section 20.3](#). Nevertheless, it is common to refer to the `cmsg_data[]` member.

When ancillary data is sent or received, any number of ancillary data objects can be specified by the `msg_control` and `msg_controllen` members of the `msghdr` structure, because each object is preceded by a `cmsghdr` structure defining the object's length (the `cmsg_len` member). Historically Berkeley-derived implementations have passed only one object at a time, but this API allows multiple objects to be passed in a single call to `sendmsg()` or `recvmsg()`. The following example shows two ancillary data objects in a control buffer.

```

|<----- msg_controllen ----->|
|                                |
|                                OR
|<----- msg_controllen ----->|
|
|<----- ancillary data object ----->|<----- ancillary data object ----->|
|<----- min CMSG_SPACE() ----->|<----- min CMSG_SPACE() ----->|
|
|<----- cmsg_len ----->|<----- cmsg_len ----->|
|<----- CMSG_LEN() ----->|<----- CMSG_LEN() ----->|
|
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|cmsg_|cmsg_|cmsg_|XX|  cmsg_|  XX|cmsg_|cmsg_|cmsg_|XX|  cmsg_|  XX|
|len  |level|type |XX|  data[] |XX|len  |level|type |XX|  data[] |XX|
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
^
|
msg_control
points here

```

The fields shown as "XX" are possible padding, between the cmsghdr structure and the data, and between the data and the next cmsghdr structure, if required by the implementation. While sending an application may or may not include padding at the end of last ancillary data in msg\_controllen and implementations must accept both as valid. On receiving a portable application must provide space for padding at the end of the last ancillary data as implementations may copy out the padding at the end of the control message buffer and include it in the received msg\_controllen. When recvmsg() is called if msg\_controllen is too small for all the ancillary data items including any trailing padding after the last item an implementation may set MSG\_CTRUNC.

### 20.3. Ancillary Data Object Macros

To aid in the manipulation of ancillary data objects, three macros from 4.4BSD are defined by Posix: CMSG\_DATA(), CMSG\_NXTHDR(), and CMSG\_FIRSTHDR(). Before describing these macros, we show the following example of how they might be used with a call to recvmsg().

```

struct msghdr  msg;
struct cmsghdr *cmsgptr;

/* fill in msg */

/* call recvmsg() */

```

```

for (cmsgptr = CMSG_FIRSTHDR(&msg); cmsgptr != NULL;
    cmsgptr = CMSG_NXTHDR(&msg, cmsgptr)) {
    if (cmsgptr->cmsg_len == 0) {
        /* Error handling */
        break;
    }
    if (cmsgptr->cmsg_level == ... &&
        cmsgptr->cmsg_type == ... ) {
        u_char *ptr;

        ptr = CMSG_DATA(cmsgptr);
        /* process data pointed to by ptr */
    }
}

```

We now describe the three Posix macros, followed by two more that are new with this API: CMSG\_SPACE() and CMSG\_LEN(). All these macros are defined as a result of including <sys/socket.h>.

#### 20.3.1. CMSG\_FIRSTHDR

```
struct cmsghdr *CMSG_FIRSTHDR(const struct msghdr *mhdr);
```

CMSG\_FIRSTHDR() returns a pointer to the first cmsghdr structure in the msghdr structure pointed to by mhdr. The macro returns NULL if there is no ancillary data pointed to by the msghdr structure (that is, if either msg\_control is NULL or if msg\_controllen is less than the size of a cmsghdr structure).

One possible implementation could be

```

#define CMSG_FIRSTHDR(mhdr) \
    ( (mhdr)->msg_controllen >= sizeof(struct cmsghdr) ? \
      (struct cmsghdr *) (mhdr)->msg_control : \
      (struct cmsghdr *) NULL )

```

(Note: Most existing implementations do not test the value of msg\_controllen, and just return the value of msg\_control. The value of msg\_controllen must be tested, because if the application asks recvmsg() to return ancillary data, by setting msg\_control to point to the application's buffer and setting msg\_controllen to the length of this buffer, the kernel indicates that no ancillary data is available by setting msg\_controllen to 0 on return. It is also easier to put this test into this macro, than making the application perform the test.)

## 20.3.2. CMSG\_NXTHDR

As described in [Section 5.1](#), CMSG\_NXTHDR has been extended to handle a NULL 2nd argument to mean "get the first header". This provides an alternative way of coding the processing loop shown earlier:

```
struct msghdr  msg;
struct cmsghdr *cmsgptr = NULL;

/* fill in msg */

/* call recvmsg() */

while ((cmsgptr = CMSG_NXTHDR(&msg, cmsgptr)) != NULL) {
    if (cmsgptr->cmsg_len == 0) {
        /* Error handling */
        break;
    }
    if (cmsgptr->cmsg_level == ... &&
        cmsgptr->cmsg_type == ... ) {
        u_char *ptr;

        ptr = CMSG_DATA(cmsgptr);
        /* process data pointed to by ptr */
    }
}
```

One possible implementation could be:

```
#define CMSG_NXTHDR(mhdr, cmsg) \
(((cmsg) == NULL) ? CMSG_FIRSTHDR(mhdr) : \
 (((u_char *) (cmsg) + ALIGN_H((cmsg)->cmsg_len) \
 + ALIGN_D(sizeof(struct cmsghdr)) > \
 (u_char *) ((mhdr)->msg_control) + (mhdr)->msg_controllen) ? \
 (struct cmsghdr *) NULL : \
 (struct cmsghdr *) ((u_char *) (cmsg) + \
 ALIGN_H((cmsg)->cmsg_len))))
```

The macros ALIGN\_H() and ALIGN\_D(), which are implementation dependent, round their arguments up to the next even multiple of whatever alignment is required for the start of the cmsghdr structure and the data, respectively. (This is probably a multiple of 4 or 8 bytes.) They are often the same macro in implementations platforms where alignment requirement for header and data is chosen to be identical.



### 20.3.3. CMSG\_DATA

```
unsigned char *CMSG_DATA(const struct cmsghdr *cmsg);
```

CMSG\_DATA() returns a pointer to the data (what is called the `cmsg_data[]` member, even though such a member is not defined in the structure) following a `cmsghdr` structure.

One possible implementation could be:

```
#define CMSG_DATA(cmsg) ( (u_char *) (cmsg) + \
                          ALIGN_D(sizeof(struct cmsghdr)) )
```

### 20.3.4. CMSG\_SPACE

CMSG\_SPACE is new with this API (see [Section 5.2](#)). It is used to determine how much space needs to be allocated for an ancillary data item.

One possible implementation could be:

```
#define CMSG_SPACE(length) ( ALIGN_D(sizeof(struct cmsghdr)) + \
                             ALIGN_H(length) )
```

### 20.3.5. CMSG\_LEN

CMSG\_LEN is new with this API (see [Section 5.3](#)). It returns the value to store in the `cmsg_len` member of the `cmsghdr` structure, taking into account any padding needed to satisfy alignment requirements.

One possible implementation could be:

```
#define CMSG_LEN(length) ( ALIGN_D(sizeof(struct cmsghdr)) + \
                           length )
```

## 21. [Appendix B](#): Examples Using the `inet6_rth_XXX()` Functions

Here we show an example for both sending Routing headers and processing and reversing a received Routing header.

### 21.1. Sending a Routing Header

As an example of these Routing header functions defined in this document, we go through the function calls for the example on p. 17 of [\[RFC-2460\]](#). The source is S, the destination is D, and the three intermediate nodes are I1, I2, and I3.

	S	----->	I1	----->	I2	----->	I3	----->	D
src:	*		S		S		S		S
dst:	D		I1		I2		I3		D
A[1]:	I1		I2		I1		I1		I1
A[2]:	I2		I3		I3		I2		I2
A[3]:	I3		D		D		D		I3
#seg:	3		3		2		1		0

src and dst are the source and destination IPv6 addresses in the IPv6 header. A[1], A[2], and A[3] are the three addresses in the Routing header. #seg is the Segments Left field in the Routing header.

The six values in the column beneath node S are the values in the Routing header specified by the sending application using `sendmsg()` or `setsockopt()`. The function calls by the sender would look like:

```
void *extptr;
socklen_t extlen;
struct msghdr msg;
struct cmsghdr *cmsgp;
int cmsglen;
struct sockaddr_in6 I1, I2, I3, D;

extlen = inet6_rth_space(IPV6_RTHDR_TYPE_0, 3);
cmsglen = CMSG_SPACE(extlen);
cmsgp = malloc(cmsglen);
cmsgp->cmsg_len = CMSG_LEN(extlen);
cmsgp->cmsg_level = IPPROTO_IPV6;
cmsgp->cmsg_type = IPV6_RTHDR;

extptr = CMSG_DATA(cmsgp);
extptr = inet6_rth_init(extptr, extlen, IPV6_RTHDR_TYPE_0, 3);

inet6_rth_add(extptr, &I1.sin6_addr);
inet6_rth_add(extptr, &I2.sin6_addr);
inet6_rth_add(extptr, &I3.sin6_addr);

msg.msg_control = cmsgp;
msg.msg_controllen = cmsglen;

/* finish filling in msg{}, msg_name = D */
/* call sendmsg() */
```

We also assume that the source address for the socket is not specified (i.e., the asterisk in the figure).

The four columns of six values that are then shown between the five nodes are the values of the fields in the packet while the packet is in transit between the two nodes. Notice that before the packet is sent by the source node S, the source address is chosen (replacing the asterisk), I1 becomes the destination address of the datagram, the two addresses A[2] and A[3] are "shifted up", and D is moved to A[3].

The columns of values that are shown beneath the destination node are the values returned by `recvmsg()`, assuming the application has enabled both the `IPV6_RECVPKTINFO` and `IPV6_RECVRTHDR` socket options. The source address is S (contained in the `sockaddr_in6` structure pointed to by the `msg_name` member), the destination address is D (returned as an ancillary data object in an `in6_pktinfo` structure), and the ancillary data object specifying the Routing header will contain three addresses (I1, I2, and I3). The number of segments in the Routing header is known from the Hdr Ext Len field in the Routing header (a value of 6, indicating 3 addresses).

The return value from `inet6_rth_segments()` will be 3 and `inet6_rth_getaddr(0)` will return I1, `inet6_rth_getaddr(1)` will return I2, and `inet6_rth_getaddr(2)` will return I3,

If the receiving application then calls `inet6_rth_reverse()`, the order of the three addresses will become I3, I2, and I1.

We can also show what an implementation might store in the ancillary data object as the Routing header is being built by the sending process. If we assume a 32-bit architecture where `sizeof(struct cmsghdr)` equals 12, with a desired alignment of 4-byte boundaries, then the call to `inet6_rth_space(3)` returns 68: 12 bytes for the `cmsghdr` structure and 56 bytes for the Routing header ( $8 + 3 \cdot 16$ ).

The call to `inet6_rth_init()` initializes the ancillary data object to contain a Type 0 Routing header:

```

+-----+
|      cmsg_len = 20      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_level = IPPROTO_IPV6      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_type = IPV6_RTHDR      |
+-----+
| Next Header | Hdr Ext Len=6 | Routing Type=0 | Seg Left=0 |
+-----+
|                               Reserved                               |
+-----+

```

The first call to `inet6_rth_add()` adds `I1` to the list.

```

+-----+
|      cmsg_len = 36      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_level = IPPROTO_IPV6      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_type = IPV6_RTHDR      |
+-----+
| Next Header | Hdr Ext Len=6 | Routing Type=0 | Seg Left=1 |
+-----+
|                                     Reserved                                     |
+-----+
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+-----+
|                                     Address[1] = I1                                     |
+-----+

```

`cmsg_len` is incremented by 16, and the Segments Left field is incremented by 1.

The next call to `inet6_rth_add()` adds I2 to the list.

```

+-----+
|      cmsg_len = 52      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_level = IPPROTO_IPV6      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_type = IPV6_RTHDR      |
+-----+
| Next Header | Hdr Ext Len=6 | Routing Type=0 | Seg Left=2 |
+-----+
|                                     Reserved                                     |
+-----+
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+-----+
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+-----+
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+                                     +
|                                     |
+-----+
|                                     |
+-----+
|                                     |
+-----+
|                                     |
+-----+

```

`cmsg_len` is incremented by 16, and the Segments Left field is incremented by 1.

The last call to `inet6_rth_add()` adds I3 to the list.

```

+-----+
|      cmsg_len = 68      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_level = IPPROTO_IPV6      |
+-----+
|      cmsg_type = IPV6_RTHDR      |
+-----+
| Next Header | Hdr Ext Len=6 | Routing Type=0 | Seg Left=3 |
+-----+
|                               Reserved                               |
+-----+
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+-----+
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+-----+
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+                               +
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+-----+
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+-----+
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+                               +
|                               |
+-----+

```

`cmsg_len` is incremented by 16, and the Segments Left field is incremented by 1.

## 21.2. Receiving Routing Headers

This example assumes that the application has enabled `IPV6_RECVRTHDR` socket option. The application prints and reverses a source route and uses that to echo the received data.

```

struct sockaddr_in6    addr;
struct msghdr          msg;
struct iovec           iov;
struct cmsghdr         *cmsgptr;
socklen_t              cmsgspace;
void                   *extptr;
int                    extlen;

int                    segments;
int                    i;
char                   databuf[8192];

segments = 100;          /* Enough */
extlen = inet6_rth_space(IPV6_RTHDR_TYPE_0, segments);
cmsgspace = CMSG_SPACE(extlen);
cmsgptr = malloc(cmsgspace);
if (cmsgptr == NULL) {
    perror("malloc");
    exit(1);
}
extptr = CMSG_DATA(cmsgptr);

msg.msg_control = cmsgptr;
msg.msg_controllen = cmsgspace;
msg.msg_name = (struct sockaddr *)&addr;
msg.msg_namelen = sizeof (addr);
msg.msg_iov = &iov;
msg.msg_iovlen = 1;
iov.iov_base = databuf;
iov.iov_len = sizeof (databuf);
msg.msg_flags = 0;
if (recvmsg(s, &msg, 0) == -1) {
    perror("recvmsg");
    return;
}
if (msg.msg_controllen != 0 &&
    cmsgptr->cmsg_level == IPPROTO_IPV6 &&
    cmsgptr->cmsg_type == IPV6_RTHDR) {
    struct in6_addr *in6;
    char asciname[INET6_ADDRSTRLEN];
    struct ip6_rthdr *rthdr;

    rthdr = (struct ip6_rthdr *)extptr;
    segments = inet6_rth_segments(extptr);
    printf("route (%d segments, %d left): ",
           segments, rthdr->ip6r_segleft);
    for (i = 0; i < segments; i++) {
        in6 = inet6_rth_getaddr(extptr, i);

```

```

        if (in6 == NULL)
            printf("<NULL> ");
        else
            printf("%s ", inet_ntop(AF_INET6,
                                    (void *)in6->s6_addr,
                                    asciiiname, INET6_ADDRSTRLEN));
    }
    if (inet6_rth_reverse(extptr, extptr) == -1) {
        printf("reverse failed");
        return;
    }
}
iov.iov_base = databuf;
iov.iov_len = strlen(databuf);
if (sendmsg(s, &msg, 0) == -1)
    perror("sendmsg");
if (cmsgptr != NULL)
    free(cmsgptr);

```

Note: The above example is a simple illustration. It skips some error checks, including those involving the MSG\_TRUNC and MSG\_CTRUNC flags. It also leaves some type mismatches in favor of brevity.

## 22. [Appendix C](#): Examples Using the inet6\_opt\_XXX() Functions

This shows how Hop-by-Hop and Destination options can be both built as well as parsed using the inet6\_opt\_XXX() functions. These examples assume that there are defined values for OPT\_X and OPT\_Y.

Note: The example is a simple illustration. It skips some error checks and leaves some type mismatches in favor of brevity.

### 22.1. Building Options

We now provide an example that builds two Hop-by-Hop options using the example in [Appendix B of \[RFC-2460\]](#).

```

void *extbuf;
socklen_t extlen;
int currentlen;
void *databuf;
int offset;
uint8_t value1;
uint16_t value2;
uint32_t value4;
uint64_t value8;

/* Estimate the length */

```



```
currentlen = inet6_opt_init(NULL, 0);
if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);
currentlen = inet6_opt_append(NULL, 0, currentlen, OPT_X,
                              12, 8, NULL);

if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);
currentlen = inet6_opt_append(NULL, 0, currentlen, OPT_Y,
                              7, 4, NULL);

if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);
currentlen = inet6_opt_finish(NULL, 0, currentlen);
if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);
extlen = currentlen;

extbuf = malloc(extlen);
if (extbuf == NULL) {
    perror("malloc");
    return (-1);
}
currentlen = inet6_opt_init(extbuf, extlen);
if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);

currentlen = inet6_opt_append(extbuf, extlen, currentlen,
                              OPT_X, 12, 8, &databuf);
if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);
/* Insert value 0x12345678 for 4-octet field */
offset = 0;
value4 = 0x12345678;
offset = inet6_opt_set_val(databuf, offset,
                           &value4, sizeof (value4));
/* Insert value 0x0102030405060708 for 8-octet field */
value8 = 0x0102030405060708;
offset = inet6_opt_set_val(databuf, offset,
                           &value8, sizeof (value8));

currentlen = inet6_opt_append(extbuf, extlen, currentlen,
                              OPT_Y, 7, 4, &databuf);
if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);
/* Insert value 0x01 for 1-octet field */
offset = 0;
value1 = 0x01;
offset = inet6_opt_set_val(databuf, offset,
                           &value1, sizeof (value1));
```

```
/* Insert value 0x1331 for 2-octet field */
value2 = 0x1331;
offset = inet6_opt_set_val(databuf, offset,
                           &value2, sizeof (value2));
/* Insert value 0x01020304 for 4-octet field */
value4 = 0x01020304;
offset = inet6_opt_set_val(databuf, offset,
                           &value4, sizeof (value4));

currentlen = inet6_opt_finish(extbuf, extlen, currentlen);
if (currentlen == -1)
    return (-1);
/* extbuf and extlen are now completely formatted */
```

## 22.2. Parsing Received Options

This example parses and prints the content of the two options in the previous example.

```
int
print_opt(void *extbuf, socklen_t extlen)
{
    struct ip6_dest *ext;
    int currentlen;
    uint8_t type;
    socklen_t len;
    void *databuf;
    int offset;
    uint8_t value1;
    uint16_t value2;
    uint32_t value4;
    uint64_t value8;

    ext = (struct ip6_dest *)extbuf;
    printf("nxt %u, len %u (bytes %d)\n", ext->ip6d_nxt,
          ext->ip6d_len, (ext->ip6d_len + 1) * 8);

    currentlen = 0;
    while (1) {
        currentlen = inet6_opt_next(extbuf, extlen,
                                    currentlen, &type,
                                    &len, &databuf);

        if (currentlen == -1)
            break;
        printf("Received opt %u len %u\n",
              type, len);
        switch (type) {
            case OPT_X:
```

```
        offset = 0;
        offset =
            inet6_opt_get_val(databuf, offset,
                              &value4,
                              sizeof (value4));
        printf("X 4-byte field %x\n", value4);
        offset =
            inet6_opt_get_val(databuf, offset,
                              &value8,
                              sizeof (value8));
        printf("X 8-byte field %llx\n", value8);
        break;
    case OPT_Y:
        offset = 0;
        offset =
            inet6_opt_get_val(databuf, offset,
                              &value1,
                              sizeof (value1));
        printf("Y 1-byte field %x\n", value1);
        offset =
            inet6_opt_get_val(databuf, offset,
                              &value2,
                              sizeof (value2));
        printf("Y 2-byte field %x\n", value2);
        offset =
            inet6_opt_get_val(databuf, offset,
                              &value4,
                              sizeof (value4));
        printf("Y 4-byte field %x\n", value4);
        break;
    default:
        printf("Unknown option %u\n", type);
        break;
    }
}
return (0);
}
```

### 23. Authors' Addresses

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