                      Rapid Commit Option for the
        Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol version 4 (DHCPv4)

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Abstract

   This document defines a new Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
   version 4 (DHCPv4) option, modeled on the DHCPv6 Rapid Commit option,
   for obtaining IP address and configuration information using a
   2-message exchange rather than the usual 4-message exchange,
   expediting client configuration.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

   In some environments, such as those in which high mobility occurs and
   the network attachment point changes frequently, it is beneficial to
   rapidly configure clients. And, in these environments it is possible
   to more quickly configure clients because the protections offered by
   the normal (and longer) 4-message exchange may not be needed. The
   4-message exchange allows for redundancy (multiple DHCP servers)
   without wasting addresses, as addresses are only provisionally
   assigned to a client until the client chooses and requests one of the
   provisionally assigned addresses. The 2-message exchange may
   therefore be used when only one server is present or when addresses
   are plentiful and having multiple servers commit addresses for a
   client is not a problem.

   This document defines a new Rapid Commit option for DHCPv4, modeled
   on the DHCPv6 Rapid Commit option [RFC3315], which can be used to
   initiate a 2-message exchange to expedite client configuration in
   some environments. A client advertises its support of this option by
   sending it in DHCPDISCOVER messages. A server then determines
   whether to allow the 2-message exchange based on its configuration
   information and can either handle the DHCPDISCOVER as defined in
   [RFC2131] or commit the client's configuration information and
   advance to sending a DHCPACK message with the Rapid Commit option as
   defined herein.

2. Requirements

   The keywords MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHALL, SHALL NOT, SHOULD,
   SHOULD NOT, RECOMMENDED, MAY, and OPTIONAL, when they appear in this
   document, are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

3. Client/Server Operations

   If a client that supports the Rapid Commit option intends to use the
   rapid commit capability, it includes a Rapid Commit option in
   DHCPDISCOVER messages that it sends. The client MUST NOT include it
   in any other messages. A client and server only use this option when
   configured to do so.

   A client that sent a DHCPDISCOVER with Rapid Commit option processes
   responses as described in [RFC2131]. However, if the client receives
   a DHCPACK message with a Rapid Commit option, it SHOULD process the
   DHCPACK immediately (without waiting for additional DHCPOFFER or
   DHCPACK messages) and use the address and configuration information
   contained therein.

A server that supports the Rapid Commit option MAY respond to a
DHCPDISCOVER message that included the Rapid Commit option with a
DHCPACK that includes the Rapid Commit option and fully committed
address and configuration information. A server MUST NOT include the
Rapid Commit option in any other messages.

The Rapid Commit option MUST NOT appear in a Parameter Request List
option [RFC2132].

All other DHCP operations are as documented in [RFC2131].

3.1. Detailed Flow

The following is revised from Section 3.1 of [RFC2131], which
includes handling of the Rapid Commit option.

   1. The client broadcasts a DHCPDISCOVER message on its local
      physical subnet. If the client supports the Rapid Commit
      option and intends to use the rapid commit capability, it
      includes a Rapid Commit option in the DHCPDISCOVER message.
      The DHCPDISCOVER message MAY include options that suggest
      values for the network address and lease duration. BOOTP relay
      agents may pass the message on to DHCP servers not on the same
      physical subnet.

   2. Each server may respond with either a DHCPOFFER message or a
      DHCPACK message with the Rapid Commit option (the latter only
      if the DHCPDISCOVER contained a Rapid Commit option and the
      server's configuration policies allow use of Rapid Commit).
      These would include an available network address in the
      'yiaddr' field (and other configuration parameters in DHCP
      options). Servers sending a DHCPOFFER need not reserve the
      offered network address, although the protocol will work more
      efficiently if the server avoids allocating the offered network
      address to another client. Servers sending the DHCPACK message
      commit the binding for the client to persistent storage before
      sending the DHCPACK. The combination of 'client identifier' or
      'chaddr' and assigned network address constitute a unique
      identifier for the client's lease and are used by both the
      client and server to identify a lease referred to in any DHCP
      messages. The server transmits the DHCPOFFER or DHCPACK
      message to the client, if necessary by using the BOOTP relay
      agent.

      When allocating a new address, servers SHOULD check that the
      offered network address is not already in use; e.g., the server
      may probe the offered address with an ICMP Echo Request.

Servers SHOULD be implemented so that network administrators
MAY choose to disable probes of newly allocated addresses.

Figure 3 in [RFC2131] shows the flow for the normal 4-message
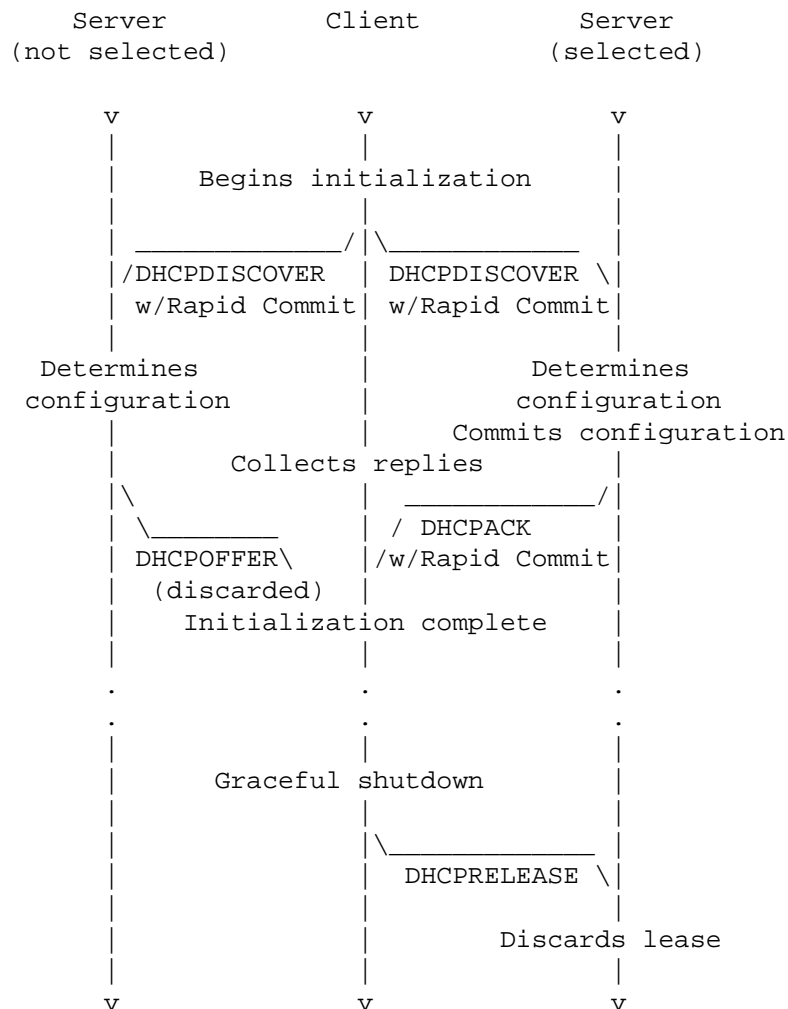exchange. Figure 1 below shows the 2-message exchange.

```
              Server              Client           Server
           (not selected)                        (selected)


                   v                 v               v
                   |                 |               |
                   |        Begins initialization    |
                   |                 |               |
                   | _____/|_____  |
                   |/DHCPDISCOVER    | DHCPDISCOVER \|
                   | w/Rapid Commit|  w/Rapid Commit|
                   |                 |               |
               Determines            |           Determines
              configuration          |          configuration
                   |                 |     Commits configuration
                   |          Collects replies       |
                   |\                |   _____/|
                   | _____        |  / DHCPACK    |
                   |  DHCPOFFER\      | /w/Rapid Commit|
                   |   (discarded)    |               |
                   |      Initialization complete     |
                   |                 |               |
                   .                 .               .
                   .                 .               .
                   |                 |               |
                   |         Graceful shutdown       |
                   |                 |               |
                   |                 |_____  |
                   |                 |  DHCPRELEASE \|
                   |                 |               |
                   |                 |        Discards lease
                   |                 |               |
                   v                 v               v
```

        Figure 1 Timeline diagram when Rapid Commit is used

3. The client receives one or more DHCPOFFER or DHCPACK (if the
   Rapid Commit option is sent in DHCPDISCOVER) messages from one
   or more servers. If a DHCPACK (with the Rapid Commit option)
   is received, the client may immediately advance to step 5 below
   if the offered configuration parameters are acceptable. The
   client may choose to wait for multiple responses. The client
   chooses one server from which to request or accept

configuration parameters, based on the configuration parameters
offered in the DHCPOFFER and DHCPACK messages. If the client
chooses a DHCPACK, it advances to step 5. Otherwise, the
client broadcasts a DHCPREQUEST message that MUST include the
'server identifier' option to indicate which server it has
selected, the message MAY include other options specifying
desired configuration values. The 'requested IP address'
option MUST be set to the value of 'yiaddr' in the DHCPOFFER
message from the server. This DHCPREQUEST message is broadcast
and relayed through DHCP/BOOTP relay agents. To help ensure
that any BOOTP relay agents forward the DHCPREQUEST message to
the same set of DHCP servers that received the original
DHCPDISCOVER message, the DHCPREQUEST message MUST use the same
value in the DHCP message header's 'secs' field and be sent to
the same IP broadcast address as was the original DHCPDISCOVER
message. The client times out and retransmits the DHCPDISCOVER
message if the client receives no DHCPOFFER messages.

4. The servers receive the DHCPREQUEST broadcast from the client.
   Servers not selected by the DHCPREQUEST message use the message
   as notification that the client has declined those servers'
   offers. The server selected in the DHCPREQUEST message commits
   the binding for the client to persistent storage and responds
   with a DHCPACK message containing the configuration parameters
   for the requesting client. The combination of 'client
   identifier' or 'chaddr' and assigned network address constitute
   a unique identifier for the client's lease and are used by both
   the client and server to identify a lease referred to in any
   DHCP messages. Any configuration parameters in the DHCPACK
   message SHOULD NOT conflict with those in the earlier DHCPOFFER
   message to which the client is responding. The server SHOULD
   NOT check the offered network address at this point. The
   'yiaddr' field in the DHCPACK messages is filled in with the
   selected network address.

   If the selected server is unable to satisfy the DHCPREQUEST
   message (e.g., the requested network address has been
   allocated), the server SHOULD respond with a DHCPNAK message.

   A server MAY choose to mark addresses offered to clients in
   DHCPOFFER messages as unavailable. The server SHOULD mark an
   address offered to a client in a DHCPOFFER message as available
   if the server receives no DHCPREQUEST message from that client.

5. The client receives the DHCPACK message with configuration
   parameters. The client SHOULD perform a final check on the
   parameters (e.g., ARP for allocated network address), and it
   notes the duration of the lease specified in the DHCPACK

message. At this point, the client is configured. If the
client detects that the address is already in use (e.g.,
through the use of ARP), the client MUST send a DHCPDECLINE
message to the server, and it restarts the configuration
process. The client SHOULD wait a minimum of ten seconds
before restarting the configuration process to avoid excessive
network traffic in case of looping.

If the client receives a DHCPNAK message, the client restarts
the configuration process.

The client times out and retransmits the DHCPREQUEST message if
the client receives neither a DHCPACK nor a DHCPNAK message.
The client retransmits the DHCPREQUEST according to the
retransmission algorithm in section 4.1 of [RFC2131]. The
client should choose to retransmit the DHCPREQUEST enough times
to give an adequate probability of contacting the server
without causing the client (and the user of that client) to
wait too long before giving up; e.g., a client retransmitting
as described in section 4.1 of [RFC2131] might retransmit the
DHCPREQUEST message four times, for a total delay of 60
seconds, before restarting the initialization procedure. If
the client receives neither a DHCPACK nor a DHCPNAK message
after employing the retransmission algorithm, the client
reverts to INIT state and restarts the initialization process.
The client SHOULD notify the user that the initialization
process has failed and is restarting.

6. The client may choose to relinquish its lease on a network
   address by sending a DHCPRELEASE message to the server. The
   client identifies the lease to be released with its 'client
   identifier' or 'chaddr' and network address in the DHCPRELEASE
   message. If the client used a 'client identifier' when it
   obtained the lease, it MUST use the same 'client identifier' in
   the DHCPRELEASE message.

3.2. Administrative Considerations

   Network administrators MUST only enable the use of Rapid Commit on a
   DHCP server if one of the following conditions is met:

   1. The server is the only server for the subnet.

   2. When multiple servers are present, they may each commit a
      binding for all clients, and therefore each server must have
      sufficient addresses available.

A server MAY allow configuration for a different (likely shorter)
initial lease time for addresses assigned when Rapid Commit is used
to expedite reclaiming addresses not used by clients.

4. Rapid Commit Option Format

The Rapid Commit option is used to indicate the use of the two-
message exchange for address assignment. The code for the Rapid
Commit option is 80. The format of the option is:

```
      Code  Len
     +-----+-----+
     | 80  |  0  |
     +-----+-----+
```

A client MUST include this option in a DHCPDISCOVER message if the
client is prepared to perform the DHCPDISCOVER-DHCPACK message
exchange described earlier.

A server MUST include this option in a DHCPACK message sent in a
response to a DHCPDISCOVER message when completing the DHCPDISCOVER-
DHCPACK message exchange.

5. IANA Considerations

IANA has assigned value 80 for the Rapid Commit option code in
accordance with [RFC2939].

6. Security Considerations

The concepts in this document do not significantly alter the security
considerations for DHCP (see [RFC2131] and [RFC3118]). However, use
of this option could expedite denial of service attacks by allowing a
mischievous client to consume all available addresses more rapidly or
to do so without requiring two-way communication (as injecting
DHCPDISCOVER messages with the Rapid Commit option is sufficient to
cause a server to allocate an address).

7. References

7.1. Normative References

   [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate
              Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.

   [RFC2131] Droms, R., "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol", RFC
              2131, March 1997.

7.2. Informative References

   [RFC2132] Alexander, S. and R. Droms, "DHCP Options and BOOTP Vendor
              Extensions", RFC 2132, March 1997.

   [RFC2939] Droms, R., "Procedures and IANA Guidelines for Definition
              of New DHCP Options and Message Types", BCP 43, RFC 2939,
              September 2000.

   [RFC3118] Droms, R. and W. Arbaugh, "Authentication for DHCP
              Messages", RFC 3118, June 2001.

   [RFC3315] Droms, R., Bound, J., Volz, B., Lemon, T., Perkins, C.,
              and M. Carney, "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol for
              IPv6 (DHCPv6)", RFC 3315, July 2003.

8. Acknowledgements

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