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Network Services Monitoring MIB

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

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1. Introduction

A networked application is a realization of some well defined service on one or more host computers that is accessible via some network, uses some network for its internal operations, or both.

There are a wide range of networked applications for which it is appropriate to provide SNMP monitoring of their network usage. This includes applications using both TCP/IP and OSI networking. This document defines a MIB which contains the elements common to the monitoring of any network service application. This information includes a table of all monitorable network service applications, a count of the associations (connections) to each application, and basic information about the parameters and status of each application-related association.

This MIB may be used on its own for any application, and for most simple applications this will suffice. This MIB is also designed to serve as a building block which can be used in conjunction with application-specific monitoring and management. Two examples of this are MIBs defining additional variables for monitoring a Message Transfer Agent (MTA) service or a Directory Service Agent (DSA) service. It is expected that further MIBs of this nature will be specified.

This MIB does not attempt to provide facilities for management of the host or hosts the network service application runs on, nor does it provide facilities for monitoring applications that provide something other than a network service. Host resource and general application monitoring is handled by the Host Resources MIB at present; development of an additional application MIB is currently underway in the IETF.

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3. The SNMPv2 Network Management Framework

The SNMPv2 Network Management Framework consists of seven major components. They are:

- o RFC 1902 [1] which defines the SMI, the mechanisms used for describing and naming objects for the purpose of management.
- o RFC 1903 [2] defines textual conventions for SNMPv2.
- o RFC 1904 [3] defines conformance statements for SNMPv2.
- o RFC 1905 [4] defines transport mappings for SNMPv2.
- o RFC 1906 [5] defines the protocol operations used for network access to managed objects.
- o RFC 1907 [6] defines the Management Information Base for SNMPv2.
- o RFC 1908 [7] specifies coexistence between SNMP and SNMPv2.

The Framework permits new objects to be defined for the purpose of experimentation and evaluation.

3.1. Object Definitions

Managed objects are accessed via a virtual information store, termed the Management Information Base or MIB. Objects in the MIB are defined using the subset of Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) defined in the SMI. In particular, each object type is named by an OBJECT IDENTIFIER, an administratively assigned name. The object type together with an object instance serves to uniquely identify a specific instantiation of the object. For human convenience, we often use a textual string, termed the descriptor, to refer to the object type.

4. Rationale for having a Network Services Monitoring MIB

Much effort has been expended in developing tools to manage lower layer network facilities. However, relatively little work has been done on managing application layer entities. It is neither efficient nor reasonable to manage all aspects of application layer entities using only lower layer information. Moreover, the difficulty of managing application entities in this way increases dramatically as application entities become more complex.

This leads to a substantial need to monitor applications which provide network services, particularly distributed components such as MTAs and DSAs, by monitoring specific aspects of the application itself. Reasons to monitor such components include but are not limited to measuring load, detecting broken connectivity, isolating system failures, and locating congestion.

In order to manage network service applications effectively two requirements must be met:

- (1) It must be possible to monitor a large number of components (typical for a large organization).
- (2) Application monitoring must be integrated into general network management.

This specification defines simple read-only access; this is sufficient to determine up/down status and provide an indication of a broad class of operational problems.

4.1. General Relationship to Other MIBs

This MIB is intended to only provide facilities common to the monitoring of any network service application. It does not provide all the facilities necessary to monitor any specific application. Each specific type of network service application is expected to have a MIB of its own that makes use of these common facilities.

4.2. Restriction of Scope

The framework provided here is very minimal; there is a lot more that could be done. For example:

- (1) General network service application configuration monitoring and control.
- (2) Detailed examination and modification of individual entries in service-specific request queues.
- (3) Probing to determine the status of a specific request (e.g. the location of a mail message with a specific message-id).
- (4) Requesting that certain actions be performed (e.g. forcing an immediate connection and transfer of pending messages to some specific system).

All these capabilities are both impressive and useful. However, these capabilities would require provisions for strict security checking. These capabilities would also mandate a much more complex design, with many characteristics likely to be fairly implementation-specific. As a result such facilities are likely to be both contentious and difficult to implement.

This document religiously keeps things simple and focuses on the basic monitoring aspect of managing applications providing network services. The goal here is to provide a framework which is simple, useful, and widely implementable.

4.3. Configuration Information

This MIB attempts to provide information about the operational aspects of an application. Further information about the actual configuration of a given application may be kept in other places; the `applDirectoryName` or `applURL` may be used to point to places where such information is kept.

5. Application Objects

This MIB defines a set of general purpose attributes which would be appropriate for a range of applications that provide network services. Both OSI and non-OSI services can be accommodated. Additional tables defined in extensions to this MIB provide attributes specific to specific network services.

A table is defined which will have one row for each operational network service application on the system. The only static information held on the application is its name. All other static information should be obtained from various directory services. The `applDirectoryName` is an external key, which allows an SNMP MIB entry to be cleanly related to the X.500 Directory. In SNMP terms, the applications are grouped in a table called `applTable`, which is indexed by an integer key `applIndex`.

The type of the application will be determined by one or both of:

- (1) Additional MIB variables specific to the applications.
- (2) An association to the application of a specific protocol.

6. Definitions

```
NETWORK-SERVICES-MIB DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN
```

```
IMPORTS
```

```
    OBJECT-TYPE, Counter32, Gauge32, MODULE-IDENTITY, mib-2
    FROM SNMPv2-SMI
    DisplayString, TimeStamp, TEXTUAL-CONVENTION
    FROM SNMPv2-TC
    MODULE-COMPLIANCE, OBJECT-GROUP
    FROM SNMPv2-CONF;
```

```
application MODULE-IDENTITY
```

```
    LAST-UPDATED "9708170000Z"
    ORGANIZATION "IETF Mail and Directory Management Working Group"
    CONTACT-INFO
        "                Ned Freed
```

```
        Postal: Innosoft International, Inc.
                1050 Lakes Drive
                West Covina, CA 91790
                US
```

```
        Tel: +1 626 919 3600
        Fax: +1 626 919 3614
```

```
E-Mail: ned.freed@innosoft.com"
DESCRIPTION
  "The MIB module describing network service applications"
REVISION "9311280000Z"
DESCRIPTION
  "The original version of this MIB was published in RFC 1565"
 ::= {mib-2 27}

-- Textual conventions

-- DistinguishedName is used to refer to objects in the
-- directory.

DistinguishedName ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION
  STATUS current
  DESCRIPTION
    "A Distinguished Name represented in accordance with
    RFC 1779 [8]."
```

```
  SYNTAX DisplayString

-- Uniform Resource Locators are stored in URLStrings.

URLString ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION
  STATUS current
  DESCRIPTION
    "A Uniform Resource Locator represented in accordance
    with RFC 1738 [10]."
```

```
  SYNTAX DisplayString

-- The basic applTable contains a list of the application
-- entities.

applTable OBJECT-TYPE
  SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF ApplEntry
  MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
  STATUS current
  DESCRIPTION
    "The table holding objects which apply to all different
    kinds of applications providing network services.
    Each network service application capable of being
    monitored should have a single entry in this table."
  ::= {application 1}

applEntry OBJECT-TYPE
  SYNTAX ApplEntry
  MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
  STATUS current
  DESCRIPTION
```

"An entry associated with a single network service application."
INDEX {applIndex}
::= {applTable 1}

```
ApplEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
    applIndex
        INTEGER,
    applName
        DisplayString,
    applDirectoryName
        DistinguishedName,
    applVersion
        DisplayString,
    applUptime
        TimeStamp,
    applOperStatus
        INTEGER,
    applLastChange
        TimeStamp,
    applInboundAssociations
        Gauge32,
    applOutboundAssociations
        Gauge32,
    applAccumulatedInboundAssociations
        Counter32,
    applAccumulatedOutboundAssociations
        Counter32,
    applLastInboundActivity
        TimeStamp,
    applLastOutboundActivity
        TimeStamp,
    applRejectedInboundAssociations
        Counter32,
    applFailedOutboundAssociations
        Counter32,
    applDescription
        DisplayString,
    applURL
        URLString
}
```

applIndex OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX INTEGER (1..2147483647)
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"An index to uniquely identify the network service

application. This attribute is the index used for lexicographic ordering of the table."

::= {applEntry 1}

applName OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX DisplayString

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The name the network service application chooses to be known by."

::= {applEntry 2}

applDirectoryName OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX DistinguishedName

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The Distinguished Name of the directory entry where static information about this application is stored. An empty string indicates that no information about the application is available in the directory."

::= {applEntry 3}

applVersion OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX DisplayString

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The version of network service application software. This field is usually defined by the vendor of the network service application software."

::= {applEntry 4}

applUptime OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX TimeStamp

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The value of sysUpTime at the time the network service application was last initialized. If the application was last initialized prior to the last initialization of the network management subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."

::= {applEntry 5}

applOperStatus OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX INTEGER {  
    up(1),  
    down(2),  
    halted(3),  
    congested(4),  
    restarting(5),  
    quiescing(6)  
}
```

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"Indicates the operational status of the network service application. 'down' indicates that the network service is not available. 'up' indicates that the network service is operational and available. 'halted' indicates that the service is operational but not available. 'congested' indicates that the service is operational but no additional inbound associations can be accomodated. 'restarting' indicates that the service is currently unavailable but is in the process of restarting and will be available soon. 'quiescing' indicates that service is currently operational but is in the process of shutting down. Additional inbound associations may be rejected by applications in the 'quiescing' state."

::= {applEntry 6}

applLastChange OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX TimeStamp

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The value of sysUpTime at the time the network service application entered its current operational state. If the current state was entered prior to the last initialization of the local network management subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."

::= {applEntry 7}

applInboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Gauge32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of current associations to the network service application, where it is the responder. An inbound association occurs when a another application successfully connects to this one."

::= {applEntry 8}

applOutboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Gauge32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of current associations to the network service application, where it is the initiator. An outbound association occurs when this application successfully connects to another one."

::= {applEntry 9}

applAccumulatedInboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of associations to the application entity since application initialization, where it was the responder."

::= {applEntry 10}

applAccumulatedOutboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of associations to the application entity since application initialization, where it was the initiator."

::= {applEntry 11}

applLastInboundActivity OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX TimeStamp

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The value of sysUpTime at the time this application last had an inbound association. If the last association occurred prior to the last initialization of the network subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."

::= {applEntry 12}

applLastOutboundActivity OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX TimeStamp

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The value of sysUpTime at the time this application last

had an outbound association. If the last association occurred prior to the last initialization of the network subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."
 ::= {applEntry 13}

applRejectedInboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of inbound associations the application entity has rejected, since application initialization. Rejected associations are not counted in the accumulated association totals. Note that this only counts associations the application entity has rejected itself; it does not count rejections that occur at lower layers of the network. Thus, this counter may not reflect the true number of failed inbound associations."

::= {applEntry 14}

applFailedOutboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number associations where the application entity is initiator and association establishment has failed, since application initialization. Failed associations are not counted in the accumulated association totals."

::= {applEntry 15}

applDescription OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX DisplayString

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"A text description of the application. This information is intended to identify and briefly describe the application in a status display."

::= {applEntry 16}

applURL OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX URLString

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"A URL pointing to a description of the application. This information is intended to identify and describe

the application in a status display."
::= {applEntry 17}

-- The assocTable augments the information in the applTable
-- with information about associations. Note that two levels
-- of compliance are specified below, depending on whether
-- association monitoring is mandated.

assocTable OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF AssocEntry

MAX-ACCESS not-accessible

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The table holding a set of all active application
associations."

::= {application 2}

assocEntry OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX AssocEntry

MAX-ACCESS not-accessible

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"An entry associated with an association for a network
service application."

INDEX {applIndex, assocIndex}

::= {assocTable 1}

AssocEntry ::= SEQUENCE {

assocIndex

INTEGER,

assocRemoteApplication

DisplayString,

assocApplicationProtocol

OBJECT IDENTIFIER,

assocApplicationType

INTEGER,

assocDuration

TimeStamp

}

assocIndex OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX INTEGER (1..2147483647)

MAX-ACCESS not-accessible

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"An index to uniquely identify each association for a network
service application. This attribute is the index that is

used for lexicographic ordering of the table. Note that the table is also indexed by the applIndex."
 ::= {assocEntry 1}

assocRemoteApplication OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX DisplayString

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The name of the system running remote network service application. For an IP-based application this should be either a domain name or IP address. For an OSI application it should be the string encoded distinguished name of the managed object. For X.400(1984) MTAs which do not have a Distinguished Name, the RFC 1327 [9] syntax 'mta in globalid' should be used. Note, however, that not all connections an MTA are necessarily to another MTA."

::= {assocEntry 2}

assocApplicationProtocol OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX OBJECT IDENTIFIER

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"An identification of the protocol being used for the application. For an OSI Application, this will be the Application Context. For Internet applications, the IANA maintains a registry of the OIDs which correspond to well-known applications. If the application protocol is not listed in the registry, an OID value of the form {applTCPProtoID port} or {applUDPProtoID port} are used for TCP-based and UDP-based protocols, respectively. In either case 'port' corresponds to the primary port number being used by the protocol."

::= {assocEntry 3}

assocApplicationType OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX INTEGER {

ua-initiator(1),

ua-responder(2),

peer-initiator(3),

peer-responder(4)}

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"This indicates whether the remote application is some type of client making use of this network service (e.g. a Mail User Agent) or a server acting as a peer. Also indicated is whether

```

    the remote end initiated an incoming connection to the network
    service or responded to an outgoing connection made by the
    local application.  MTAs and messaging gateways are
    considered to be peers for the purposes of this variable."
 ::= {assocEntry 4}

assocDuration OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX TimeStamp
    MAX-ACCESS read-only
    STATUS current
    DESCRIPTION
        "The value of sysUpTime at the time this association was
        started.  If this association started prior to the last
        initialization of the network subsystem, then this
        object contains a zero value."
 ::= {assocEntry 5}

-- Conformance information

applConformance OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {application 3}

applGroups      OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {applConformance 1}
applCompliances OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {applConformance 2}

-- Compliance statements

applCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
    STATUS current
    DESCRIPTION
        "The compliance statement for SNMPv2 entities
        which implement the Network Services Monitoring MIB
        for basic monitoring of network service applications."
    MODULE -- this module
        MANDATORY-GROUPS {applGroup}
    ::= {applCompliances 1}

assocCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
    STATUS current
    DESCRIPTION
        "The compliance statement for SNMPv2 entities which
        implement the Network Services Monitoring MIB for basic
        monitoring of network service applications and their
        associations."
    MODULE -- this module
        MANDATORY-GROUPS {applGroup, assocGroup}
    ::= {applCompliances 2}
```

-- Units of conformance

applGroup OBJECT-GROUP

OBJECTS {

applName, applVersion, applUptime, applOperStatus,
applLastChange, applInboundAssociations,
applOutboundAssociations, applAccumulatedInboundAssociations,
applAccumulatedOutboundAssociations, applLastInboundActivity,
applLastOutboundActivity, applRejectedInboundAssociations,
applFailedOutboundAssociations, applDescription, applURL}

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"A collection of objects providing basic monitoring of
network service applications."

::= {applGroups 1}

assocGroup OBJECT-GROUP

OBJECTS {

assocRemoteApplication, assocApplicationProtocol,
assocApplicationType, assocDuration}

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"A collection of objects providing basic monitoring of
network service applications' associations."

::= {applGroups 2}

-- OIDs of the form {applTCPProtoID port} are intended to be used
-- for TCP-based protocols that don't have OIDs assigned by other
-- means. {applUDPPProtoID port} serves the same purpose for
-- UDP-based protocols. In either case 'port' corresponds to
-- the primary port number being used by the protocol. For example,
-- assuming no other OID is assigned for SMTP, an OID of
-- {applTCPProtoID 25} could be used, since SMTP is a TCP-based
-- protocol that uses port 25 as its primary port.

applTCPProtoID OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {application 4}

applUDPPProtoID OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {application 5}

END

7. Changes made since RFC 1565

The only changes made to this document since it was issued as RFC 1565 [11] are the following:

- (1) applDescription and applURL fields have been added. These fields are intended to identify and describe the application.
- (2) A number of DESCRIPTION fields have been reworded, hopefully making them clearer.
- (3) The new "quiescing" state has been added to applOperStatus.
- (4) The prose about "dynamic single threaded processes" has been removed -- it was simply too confusing.
- (5) Various RFC references have been updated to refer to more recent versions.
- (6) The MIB has been renamed from APPLICATION-MIB to NETWORK-SERVICES-MIB. This was done because an application MIB is now under development within the IETF that provides very different functionality from this MIB.

8. Acknowledgements

This document is a product of the Mail and Directory Management (MADMAN) Working Group. It is based on an earlier MIB designed by S. Kille, T. Lenggenhager, D. Partain, and W. Yeong. The Electronic Mail Association's TSC committee was instrumental in providing feedback on and suggesting enhancements to RFC 1565 [11] that have led to the present document.

9. References

- [1] SNMPv2 Working Group, Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and S. Waldbusser, "Structure of Management Information for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", RFC 1902, January 1996.
- [2] SNMPv2 Working Group, Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and S. Waldbusser, "Textual Conventions for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", RFC 1903, January 1996.
- [3] SNMPv2 Working Group, Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and S. Waldbusser, "Conformance Statements for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", RFC 1904, January 1996.

- [4] SNMPv2 Working Group, Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and S. Waldbusser, "Protocol Operations for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", [RFC 1905](#), January 1996.
- [5] SNMPv2 Working Group, Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and S. Waldbusser, "Transport Mappings for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", [RFC 1906](#), January 1996.
- [6] SNMPv2 Working Group, Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and S. Waldbusser, "Management Information Base for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", [RFC 1907](#), January 1996.
- [7] SNMPv2 Working Group, Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and S. Waldbusser, "Coexistence between Version 1 and Version 2 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework", [RFC 1908](#), January 1996.
- [8] Kille, S., "A String Representation of Distinguished Names", [RFC 1779](#), March 1995.
- [9] Kille, S., "Mapping between X.400(1988) / ISO 10021 and [RFC 822](#)", [RFC 1327](#), May 1992.
- [10] Berners-Lee, T., Masinter, L. and M. McCahill, Uniform Resource Locators (URL)", [RFC 1738](#), December 1994.
- [11] Freed, N., and S. Kille, "Network Services Monitoring MIB", [RFC 1565](#), January 1994.

10. Security Considerations

This MIB does not offer write access, and as such cannot be used to actively attack a system. However, this MIB does provide passive information about the existence, type, and configuration of applications on a given host that could potentially indicate some sort of vulnerability. Finally, the information MIB provides about network usage could be used to analyze network traffic patterns.

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