

Transport Security Model for the  
Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)

Status of This Memo

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## Abstract

This memo describes a Transport Security Model for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

This memo also defines a portion of the Management Information Base (MIB) for monitoring and managing the Transport Security Model for SNMP.

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## 1. Introduction

This memo describes a Transport Security Model for the Simple Network Management Protocol for use with secure Transport Models in the Transport Subsystem [RFC5590].

This memo also defines a portion of the Management Information Base (MIB) for monitoring and managing the Transport Security Model for SNMP.

It is important to understand the SNMP architecture and the terminology of the architecture to understand where the Transport Security Model described in this memo fits into the architecture and interacts with other subsystems and models within the architecture. It is expected that readers will have also read and understood [RFC3411], [RFC3412], [RFC3413], and [RFC3418].

### 1.1. The Internet-Standard Management Framework

For a detailed overview of the documents that describe the current Internet-Standard Management Framework, please refer to [section 7 of RFC 3410](#) [RFC3410].

Managed objects are accessed via a virtual information store, termed the Management Information Base or MIB. MIB objects are generally accessed through the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). Objects in the MIB are defined using the mechanisms defined in the Structure of Management Information (SMI). This memo specifies a MIB module that is compliant to the SMIV2, which is described in STD 58, RFC 2578 [RFC2578], STD 58, RFC 2579 [RFC2579] and STD 58, RFC 2580 [RFC2580].

### 1.2. Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

Lowercase versions of the keywords should be read as in normal English. They will usually, but not always, be used in a context that relates to compatibility with the [RFC 3411](#) architecture or the subsystem defined here but that might have no impact on on-the-wire compatibility. These terms are used as guidance for designers of proposed IETF models to make the designs compatible with [RFC 3411](#) subsystems and Abstract Service Interfaces (ASIs). Implementers are free to implement differently. Some usages of these lowercase terms are simply normal English usage.

For consistency with SNMP-related specifications, this document favors terminology as defined in STD 62, rather than favoring terminology that is consistent with non-SNMP specifications that use different variations of the same terminology. This is consistent with the IESG decision to not require the SNMPv3 terminology be modified to match the usage of other non-SNMP specifications when SNMPv3 was advanced to Full Standard.

Authentication in this document typically refers to the English meaning of "serving to prove the authenticity of" the message, not data source authentication or peer identity authentication.

The terms "manager" and "agent" are not used in this document because, in the [RFC 3411](#) architecture, all SNMP entities have the capability of acting as manager, agent, or both depending on the SNMP applications included in the engine. Where distinction is needed, the application names of command generator, command responder, notification originator, notification receiver, and proxy forwarder are used. See "Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) Applications" [[RFC3413](#)] for further information.

While security protocols frequently refer to a user, the terminology used in [[RFC3411](#)] and in this memo is "principal". A principal is the "who" on whose behalf services are provided or processing takes place. A principal can be, among other things, an individual acting in a particular role, a set of individuals each acting in a particular role, an application or a set of applications, or a combination of these within an administrative domain.

### 1.3. Modularity

The reader is expected to have read and understood the description of the SNMP architecture, as defined in [[RFC3411](#)], and the architecture extension specified in "Transport Subsystem for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)" [[RFC5590](#)], which enables the use of external "lower-layer transport" protocols to provide message

security. Transport Models are tied into the SNMP architecture through the Transport Subsystem. The Transport Security Model is designed to work with such lower-layer, secure Transport Models.

In keeping with the RFC 3411 design decisions to use self-contained documents, this memo includes the elements of procedure plus associated MIB objects that are needed for processing the Transport Security Model for SNMP. These MIB objects SHOULD NOT be referenced in other documents. This allows the Transport Security Model to be designed and documented as independent and self-contained, having no direct impact on other modules. It also allows this module to be upgraded and supplemented as the need arises, and to move along the standards track on different time-lines from other modules.

This modularity of specification is not meant to be interpreted as imposing any specific requirements on implementation.

#### 1.4. Motivation

This memo describes a Security Model to make use of Transport Models that use lower-layer, secure transports and existing and commonly deployed security infrastructures. This Security Model is designed to meet the security and operational needs of network administrators, maximize usability in operational environments to achieve high deployment success, and at the same time minimize implementation and deployment costs to minimize the time until deployment is possible.

#### 1.5. Constraints

The design of this SNMP Security Model is also influenced by the following constraints:

1. In times of network stress, the security protocol and its underlying security mechanisms SHOULD NOT depend solely upon the ready availability of other network services (e.g., Network Time Protocol (NTP) or Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) protocols).
2. When the network is not under stress, the Security Model and its underlying security mechanisms MAY depend upon the ready availability of other network services.
3. It might not be possible for the Security Model to determine when the network is under stress.
4. A Security Model SHOULD NOT require changes to the SNMP architecture.

5. A Security Model SHOULD NOT require changes to the underlying security protocol.

## 2. How the Transport Security Model Fits in the Architecture

The Transport Security Model is designed to fit into the RFC 3411 architecture as a Security Model in the Security Subsystem and to utilize the services of a secure Transport Model.

For incoming messages, a secure Transport Model will pass a tmStateReference cache, described in [RFC5590]. To maintain RFC 3411 modularity, the Transport Model will not know which securityModel will process the incoming message; the Message Processing Model will determine this. If the Transport Security Model is used with a non-secure Transport Model, then the cache will not exist or will not be populated with security parameters, which will cause the Transport Security Model to return an error (see Section 5.2).

The Transport Security Model will create the securityName and securityLevel to be passed to applications, and will verify that the tmTransportSecurityLevel reported by the Transport Model is at least as strong as the securityLevel requested by the Message Processing Model.

For outgoing messages, the Transport Security Model will create a tmStateReference cache (or use an existing one), and will pass the tmStateReference to the specified Transport Model.

### 2.1. Security Capabilities of this Model

#### 2.1.1. Threats

The Transport Security Model is compatible with the RFC 3411 architecture and provides protection against the threats identified by the RFC 3411 architecture. However, the Transport Security Model does not provide security mechanisms such as authentication and encryption itself. Which threats are addressed and how they are mitigated depends on the Transport Model used. To avoid creating potential security vulnerabilities, operators should configure their system so this Security Model is always used with a Transport Model that provides appropriate security, where "appropriate" for a particular deployment is an administrative decision.

### 2.1.2. Security Levels

The RFC 3411 architecture recognizes three levels of security:

- without authentication and without privacy (noAuthNoPriv)
- with authentication but without privacy (authNoPriv)
- with authentication and with privacy (authPriv)

The model-independent securityLevel parameter is used to request specific levels of security for outgoing messages and to assert that specific levels of security were applied during the transport and processing of incoming messages.

The transport-layer algorithms used to provide security should not be exposed to the Transport Security Model, as the Transport Security Model has no mechanisms by which it can test whether an assertion made by a Transport Model is accurate.

The Transport Security Model trusts that the underlying secure transport connection has been properly configured to support security characteristics at least as strong as reported in tmTransportSecurityLevel.

### 2.2. Transport Sessions

The Transport Security Model does not work with transport sessions directly. Instead the transport-related state is associated with a unique combination of transportDomain, transportAddress, securityName, and securityLevel, and is referenced via the tmStateReference parameter. How and if this is mapped to a particular transport or channel is the responsibility of the Transport Subsystem.

### 2.3. Coexistence

In the RFC 3411 architecture, a Message Processing Model determines which Security Model SHALL be called. As of this writing, IANA has registered four Message Processing Models (SNMPv1, SNMPv2c, SNMPv2u/SNMPv2\*, and SNMPv3) and three other Security Models (SNMPv1, SNMPv2c, and the User-based Security Model).

#### 2.3.1. Coexistence with Message Processing Models

The SNMPv1 and SNMPv2c message processing described in BCP 74 [RFC3584] always selects the SNMPv1(1) and SNMPv2c(2) Security Models. Since there is no mechanism defined in RFC 3584 to select an

alternative Security Model, SNMPv1 and SNMPv2c messages cannot use the Transport Security Model. Messages might still be able to be conveyed over a secure transport protocol, but the Transport Security Model will not be invoked.

The SNMPv2u/SNMPv2\* Message Processing Model is an historic artifact for which there is no existing IETF specification.

The SNMPv3 message processing defined in [RFC3412] extracts the securityModel from the msgSecurityModel field of an incoming SNMPv3Message. When this value is transportSecurityModel(4), security processing is directed to the Transport Security Model. For an outgoing message to be secured using the Transport Security Model, the application MUST specify a securityModel parameter value of transportSecurityModel(4) in the sendPdu Abstract Service Interface (ASI).

### 2.3.2. Coexistence with Other Security Models

The Transport Security Model uses its own MIB module for processing to maintain independence from other Security Models. This allows the Transport Security Model to coexist with other Security Models, such as the User-based Security Model (USM) [RFC3414].

### 2.3.3. Coexistence with Transport Models

The Transport Security Model (TSM) MAY work with multiple Transport Models, but the RFC 3411 Abstract Service Interfaces (ASIs) do not carry a value for the Transport Model. The MIB module defined in this memo allows an administrator to configure whether or not TSM prepends a Transport Model prefix to the securityName. This will allow SNMP applications to consider Transport Model as a factor when making decisions, such as access control, notification generation, and proxy forwarding.

To have SNMP properly utilize the security services coordinated by the Transport Security Model, this Security Model MUST only be used with Transport Models that know how to process a tmStateReference, such as the Secure Shell Transport Model [RFC5592].

## 3. Cached Information and References

When performing SNMP processing, there are two levels of state information that might need to be retained: the immediate state linking a request-response pair and a potentially longer-term state relating to transport and security. "Transport Subsystem for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)" [RFC5590] defines general requirements for caches and references.



This document defines additional cache requirements related to the Transport Security Model.

### 3.1. Transport Security Model Cached Information

The Transport Security Model has specific responsibilities regarding the cached information.

#### 3.1.1. securityStateReference

The Transport Security Model adds the `tmStateReference` received from the `processIncomingMsg` ASI to the `securityStateReference`. This `tmStateReference` can then be retrieved during the `generateResponseMsg` ASI so that it can be passed back to the Transport Model.

#### 3.1.2. tmStateReference

For outgoing messages, the Transport Security Model uses parameters provided by the SNMP application to look up or create a `tmStateReference`.

For the Transport Security Model, the security parameters used for a response MUST be the same as those used for the corresponding request. This Security Model uses the `tmStateReference` stored as part of the `securityStateReference` when appropriate. For responses and reports, this Security Model sets the `tmSameSecurity` flag to true in the `tmStateReference` before passing it to a Transport Model.

For incoming messages, the Transport Security Model uses parameters provided in the `tmStateReference` cache to establish a `securityName`, and to verify adequate security levels.

#### 3.1.3. Prefixes and securityNames

The `SNMP-VIEW-BASED-ACM-MIB` module [RFC3415], the `SNMP-TARGET-MIB` module [RFC3413], and other MIB modules contain objects to configure security parameters for use by applications such as access control, notification generation, and proxy forwarding.

Transport domains and their corresponding prefixes are coordinated via the IANA registry "SNMP Transport Domains".

If `snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix` is set to true, then all `securityNames` provided by, or provided to, the Transport Security Model MUST include a valid transport domain prefix.

If `snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix` is set to false, then all `securityNames` provided by, or provided to, the Transport Security Model MUST NOT include a transport domain prefix.

The `tmSecurityName` in the `tmStateReference` stored as part of the `securityStateReference` does not contain a prefix.

#### 4. Processing an Outgoing Message

An error indication might return an Object Identifier (OID) and value for an incremented counter, a value for `securityLevel`, values for `contextEngineID` and `contextName` for the counter, and the `securityStateReference`, if this information is available at the point where the error is detected.

##### 4.1. Security Processing for an Outgoing Message

This section describes the procedure followed by the Transport Security Model.

The parameters needed for generating a message are supplied to the Security Model by the Message Processing Model via the `generateRequestMsg()` or the `generateResponseMsg()` ASI. The Transport Subsystem architectural extension has added the `transportDomain`, `transportAddress`, and `tmStateReference` parameters to the original [RFC 3411](#) ASIs.

```

statusInformation =                                -- success or errorIndication
    generateRequestMsg(
        IN    messageProcessingModel  -- typically, SNMP version
        IN    globalData              -- message header, admin data
        IN    maxMessageSize          -- of the sending SNMP entity
        IN    transportDomain         -- (NEW) specified by application
        IN    transportAddress        -- (NEW) specified by application
        IN    securityModel           -- for the outgoing message
        IN    securityEngineID        -- authoritative SNMP entity
        IN    securityName            -- on behalf of this principal
        IN    securityLevel           -- Level of Security requested
        IN    scopedPDU              -- message (plaintext) payload
        OUT   securityParameters      -- filled in by Security Module
        OUT   wholeMsg                -- complete generated message
        OUT   wholeMsgLength          -- length of generated message
        OUT   tmStateReference        -- (NEW) transport info
    )

statusInformation = -- success or errorIndication
    generateResponseMsg(
        IN    messageProcessingModel  -- typically, SNMP version

```

```

IN    globalData          -- message header, admin data
IN    maxMessageSize      -- of the sending SNMP entity
IN    transportDomain     -- (NEW) specified by application
IN    transportAddress    -- (NEW) specified by application
IN    securityModel       -- for the outgoing message
IN    securityEngineID    -- authoritative SNMP entity
IN    securityName        -- on behalf of this principal
IN    securityLevel       -- Level of Security requested
IN    scopedPDU           -- message (plaintext) payload
IN    securityStateReference -- reference to security state
                                -- information from original
                                -- request
OUT   securityParameters  -- filled in by Security Module
OUT   wholeMsg            -- complete generated message
OUT   wholeMsgLength      -- length of generated message
OUT   tmStateReference    -- (NEW) transport info
                                )

```

#### 4.2. Elements of Procedure for Outgoing Messages

1. If there is a securityStateReference (Response or Report message), then this Security Model uses the cached information rather than the information provided by the ASI. Extract the tmStateReference from the securityStateReference cache. Set the tmRequestedSecurityLevel to the value of the extracted tmTransportSecurityLevel. Set the tmSameSecurity parameter in the tmStateReference cache to true. The cachedSecurityData for this message can now be discarded.
2. If there is no securityStateReference (e.g., a Request-type or Notification message), then create a tmStateReference cache. Set tmTransportDomain to the value of transportDomain, tmTransportAddress to the value of transportAddress, and tmRequestedSecurityLevel to the value of securityLevel. (Implementers might optimize by pointing to saved copies of these session-specific values.) Set the transaction-specific tmSameSecurity parameter to false.

If the snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix object is set to false, then set tmSecurityName to the value of securityName.

If the snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix object is set to true, then use the transportDomain to look up the corresponding prefix. (Since the securityStateReference stores the tmStateReference with the tmSecurityName for the incoming message, and since tmSecurityName never has a prefix, the prefix-stripping step only occurs when we are not using the securityStateReference).

If the prefix lookup fails for any reason, then the `snmpTsmUnknownPrefixes` counter is incremented, an error indication is returned to the calling module, and message processing stops.

If the lookup succeeds, but there is no prefix in the `securityName`, or the prefix returned does not match the prefix in the `securityName`, or the length of the prefix is less than 1 or greater than 4 US-ASCII alpha-numeric characters, then the `snmpTsmInvalidPrefixes` counter is incremented, an error indication is returned to the calling module, and message processing stops.

Strip the transport-specific prefix and trailing ':' character (US-ASCII 0x3a) from the `securityName`. Set `tmSecurityName` to the value of `securityName`.

3. Set `securityParameters` to a zero-length OCTET STRING ('0400').
4. Combine the message parts into a `wholeMsg` and calculate `wholeMsgLength`.
5. The `wholeMsg`, `wholeMsgLength`, `securityParameters`, and `tmStateReference` are returned to the calling Message Processing Model with the `statusInformation` set to success.

## 5. Processing an Incoming SNMP Message

An error indication might return an OID and value for an incremented counter, a value for `securityLevel`, values for `contextEngineID` and `contextName` for the counter, and the `securityStateReference`, if this information is available at the point where the error is detected.

### 5.1. Security Processing for an Incoming Message

This section describes the procedure followed by the Transport Security Model whenever it receives an incoming message from a Message Processing Model. The ASI from a Message Processing Model to the Security Subsystem for a received message is:

```
statusInformation = -- errorIndication or success
                  -- error counter OID/value if error
processIncomingMsg(
IN   messageProcessingModel  -- typically, SNMP version
IN   maxMessageSize         -- from the received message
IN   securityParameters     -- from the received message
IN   securityModel           -- from the received message
IN   securityLevel           -- from the received message
```

```

IN   wholeMsg                -- as received on the wire
IN   wholeMsgLength          -- length as received on the wire
IN   tmStateReference        -- (NEW) from the Transport Model
OUT  securityEngineID        -- authoritative SNMP entity
OUT  securityName            -- identification of the principal
OUT  scopedPDU,              -- message (plaintext) payload
OUT  maxSizeResponseScopedPDU -- maximum size sender can handle
OUT  securityStateReference   -- reference to security state
)                             -- information, needed for response

```

## 5.2. Elements of Procedure for Incoming Messages

1. Set the securityEngineID to the local snmpEngineID.
2. If tmStateReference does not refer to a cache containing values for tmTransportDomain, tmTransportAddress, tmSecurityName, and tmTransportSecurityLevel, then the snmpTsmInvalidCaches counter is incremented, an error indication is returned to the calling module, and Security Model processing stops for this message.
3. Copy the tmSecurityName to securityName.

If the snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix object is set to true, then use the tmTransportDomain to look up the corresponding prefix.

If the prefix lookup fails for any reason, then the snmpTsmUnknownPrefixes counter is incremented, an error indication is returned to the calling module, and message processing stops.

If the lookup succeeds but the prefix length is less than 1 or greater than 4 octets, then the snmpTsmInvalidPrefixes counter is incremented, an error indication is returned to the calling module, and message processing stops.

Set the securityName to be the concatenation of the prefix, a ':' character (US-ASCII 0x3a), and the tmSecurityName.

4. Compare the value of tmTransportSecurityLevel in the tmStateReference cache to the value of the securityLevel parameter passed in the processIncomingMsg ASI. If securityLevel specifies privacy (Priv) and tmTransportSecurityLevel specifies no privacy (noPriv), or if securityLevel specifies authentication (auth) and tmTransportSecurityLevel specifies no authentication (noAuth) was provided by the Transport Model, then the snmpTsmInadequateSecurityLevels counter is incremented, an error indication (unsupportedSecurityLevel) together with the OID and

value of the incremented counter is returned to the calling module, and Transport Security Model processing stops for this message.

5. The `tmStateReference` is cached as `cachedSecurityData` so that a possible response to this message will use the same security parameters. Then `securityStateReference` is set for subsequent references to this cached data.
6. The `scopedPDU` component is extracted from the `wholeMsg`.
7. The `maxSizeResponseScopedPDU` is calculated. This is the maximum size allowed for a `scopedPDU` for a possible Response message.
8. The `statusInformation` is set to success and a return is made to the calling module passing back the OUT parameters as specified in the `processIncomingMsg` ASI.

## 6. MIB Module Overview

This MIB module provides objects for use only by the Transport Security Model. It defines a configuration scalar and related error counters.

### 6.1. Structure of the MIB Module

Objects in this MIB module are arranged into subtrees. Each subtree is organized as a set of related objects. The overall structure and assignment of objects to their subtrees, and the intended purpose of each subtree, is shown below.

#### 6.1.1. The `snmpTsmStats` Subtree

This subtree contains error counters specific to the Transport Security Model.

#### 6.1.2. The `snmpTsmConfiguration` Subtree

This subtree contains a configuration object that enables administrators to specify if they want a transport domain prefix prepended to `securityNames` for use by applications.

### 6.2. Relationship to Other MIB Modules

Some management objects defined in other MIB modules are applicable to an entity implementing the Transport Security Model. In particular, it is assumed that an entity implementing the Transport Security Model will implement the SNMP-FRAMEWORK-MIB [RFC3411], the

SNMP-TARGET-MIB [RFC3413], the SNMP-VIEW-BASED-ACM-MIB [RFC3415], and the SNMPv2-MIB [RFC3418]. These are not needed to implement the SNMP-TSM-MIB.

#### 6.2.1. MIB Modules Required for IMPORTS

The following MIB module imports items from [RFC2578], [RFC2579], and [RFC2580].

### 7. MIB Module Definition

```
SNMP-TSM-MIB DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN
```

```
IMPORTS
```

```
    MODULE-IDENTITY, OBJECT-TYPE,  
    mib-2, Counter32  
    FROM SNMPv2-SMI -- RFC2578  
    MODULE-COMPLIANCE, OBJECT-GROUP  
    FROM SNMPv2-CONF -- RFC2580  
    TruthValue  
    FROM SNMPv2-TC -- RFC2579  
    ;
```

```
snmpTsmMIB MODULE-IDENTITY
```

```
    LAST-UPDATED "200906090000Z"  
    ORGANIZATION "ISMS Working Group"  
    CONTACT-INFO "WG-EMail:  isms@lists.ietf.org  
                   Subscribe: isms-request@lists.ietf.org
```

```
    Chairs:
```

```
        Juergen Quittek  
        NEC Europe Ltd.  
        Network Laboratories  
        Kurfuersten-Anlage 36  
        69115 Heidelberg  
        Germany  
        +49 6221 90511-15  
        quittek@netlab.nec.de
```

```
        Juergen Schoenwaelder  
        Jacobs University Bremen  
        Campus Ring 1  
        28725 Bremen  
        Germany  
        +49 421 200-3587  
        j.schoenwaelder@jacobs-university.de
```

## Editor:

David Harrington  
Huawei Technologies USA  
1700 Alma Dr.  
Plano TX 75075  
USA  
+1 603-436-8634  
ietfdbh@comcast.net

Wes Hardaker  
Cobham Analytic Solutions  
P.O. Box 382  
Davis, CA 95617  
USA  
+1 530 792 1913  
ietf@hardakers.net

"

## DESCRIPTION

"The Transport Security Model MIB.

In keeping with the [RFC 3411](#) design decisions to use self-contained documents, the RFC that contains the definition of this MIB module also includes the elements of procedure that are needed for processing the Transport Security Model for SNMP. These MIB objects SHOULD NOT be modified via other subsystems or models defined in other documents. This allows the Transport Security Model for SNMP to be designed and documented as independent and self-contained, having no direct impact on other modules, and this allows this module to be upgraded and supplemented as the need arises, and to move along the standards track on different time-lines from other modules.

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This version of this MIB module is part of [RFC 5591](#); see the RFC itself for full legal notices."

REVISION "200906090000Z"

DESCRIPTION "The initial version, published in [RFC 5591](#)."

::= { mib-2 190 }

-- -----  
-- subtrees in the SNMP-TSM-MIB  
-- -----

snmpTsmNotifications OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpTsmMIB 0 }  
snmpTsmMIBObjects OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpTsmMIB 1 }  
snmpTsmConformance OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpTsmMIB 2 }

-- -----  
-- Objects  
-- -----

-- Statistics for the Transport Security Model

snmpTsmStats OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpTsmMIBObjects 1 }

snmpTsmInvalidCaches OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION "The number of incoming messages dropped because the

```

        tmStateReference referred to an invalid cache.
    "
    ::= { snmpTsmStats 1 }

snmpTsmInadequateSecurityLevels OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX      Counter32
    MAX-ACCESS   read-only
    STATUS       current
    DESCRIPTION  "The number of incoming messages dropped because
                  the securityLevel asserted by the Transport Model was
                  less than the securityLevel requested by the
                  application.
    "
    ::= { snmpTsmStats 2 }

snmpTsmUnknownPrefixes OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX      Counter32
    MAX-ACCESS   read-only
    STATUS       current
    DESCRIPTION  "The number of messages dropped because
                  snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix was set to true and
                  there is no known prefix for the specified transport
                  domain.
    "
    ::= { snmpTsmStats 3 }

snmpTsmInvalidPrefixes OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX      Counter32
    MAX-ACCESS   read-only
    STATUS       current
    DESCRIPTION  "The number of messages dropped because
                  the securityName associated with an outgoing message
                  did not contain a valid transport domain prefix.
    "
    ::= { snmpTsmStats 4 }

-- -----
-- Configuration
-- -----

-- Configuration for the Transport Security Model

snmpTsmConfiguration  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpTsmMIBObjects 2 }

snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX      TruthValue
    MAX-ACCESS   read-write
    STATUS       current
```

```
DESCRIPTION "If this object is set to true, then securityNames
            passing to and from the application are expected to
            contain a transport-domain-specific prefix.  If this
            object is set to true, then a domain-specific prefix
            will be added by the TSM to the securityName for
            incoming messages and removed from the securityName
            when processing outgoing messages.  Transport domains
            and prefixes are maintained in a registry by IANA.
            This object SHOULD persist across system reboots.
            "
DEFVAL { false }
 ::= { snmpTsmConfiguration 1 }

-- -----
-- snmpTsmMIB - Conformance Information
-- -----

snmpTsmCompliances OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpTsmConformance 1 }

snmpTsmGroups      OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpTsmConformance 2 }

-- -----
-- Compliance statements
-- -----

snmpTsmCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
    STATUS          current
    DESCRIPTION     "The compliance statement for SNMP engines that support
                    the SNMP-TSM-MIB.
                    "
    MODULE
        MANDATORY-GROUPS { snmpTsmGroup }
    ::= { snmpTsmCompliances 1 }

-- -----
-- Units of conformance
-- -----

snmpTsmGroup OBJECT-GROUP
    OBJECTS {
        snmpTsmInvalidCaches,
        snmpTsmInadequateSecurityLevels,
        snmpTsmUnknownPrefixes,
        snmpTsmInvalidPrefixes,
        snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix
    }
    STATUS          current
    DESCRIPTION     "A collection of objects for maintaining
                    information of an SNMP engine that implements
```

the SNMP Transport Security Model.

"

::= { snmpTsmGroups 2 }

END

## 8. Security Considerations

This document describes a Security Model, compatible with the [RFC 3411](#) architecture, that permits SNMP to utilize security services provided through an SNMP Transport Model. The Transport Security Model relies on Transport Models for mutual authentication, binding of keys, confidentiality, and integrity.

The Transport Security Model relies on secure Transport Models to provide an authenticated principal identifier and an assertion of whether authentication and privacy are used during transport. This Security Model SHOULD always be used with Transport Models that provide adequate security, but "adequate security" is a configuration and/or run-time decision of the operator or management application. The security threats and how these threats are mitigated should be covered in detail in the specifications of the Transport Models and the underlying secure transports.

An authenticated principal identifier (securityName) is used in SNMP applications for purposes such as access control, notification generation, and proxy forwarding. This Security Model supports multiple Transport Models. Operators might judge some transports to be more secure than others, so this Security Model can be configured to prepend a prefix to the securityName to indicate the Transport Model used to authenticate the principal. Operators can use the prefixed securityName when making application decisions about levels of access.

### 8.1. MIB Module Security

There are a number of management objects defined in this MIB module with a MAX-ACCESS clause of read-write and/or read-create. Such objects may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. The support for SET operations in a non-secure environment without proper protection can have a negative effect on network operations. These are the tables and objects and their sensitivity/vulnerability:

- o The `snmpTsmConfigurationUsePrefix` object could be modified, creating a denial of service or authorizing SNMP messages that would not have previously been authorized by an Access Control Model (e.g., the View-based Access Control Model (VACM)).

Some of the readable objects in this MIB module (i.e., objects with a MAX-ACCESS other than not-accessible) may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. It is thus important to control even GET and/or NOTIFY access to these objects and possibly to even encrypt the values of these objects when sending them over the network via SNMP. These are the tables and objects and their sensitivity/vulnerability:

- o All the counters in this module refer to configuration errors and do not expose sensitive information.

SNMP versions prior to SNMPv3 did not include adequate security. Even if the network itself is secure (for example by using IPsec), even then, there is no control as to who on the secure network is allowed to access and GET/SET (read/change/create/delete) the objects in this MIB module.

It is RECOMMENDED that implementers consider the security features as provided by the SNMPv3 framework (see [\[RFC3410\]](#), [section 8](#)), including full support for the USM and Transport Security Model cryptographic mechanisms (for authentication and privacy).

Further, deployment of SNMP versions prior to SNMPv3 is NOT RECOMMENDED. Instead, it is RECOMMENDED to deploy SNMPv3 and to enable cryptographic security. It is then a customer/operator responsibility to ensure that the SNMP entity giving access to an instance of this MIB module is properly configured to give access to the objects only to those principals (users) that have legitimate rights to indeed GET or SET (change/create/delete) them.

## 9. IANA Considerations

IANA has assigned:

1. An SMI number (190) with a prefix of `mib-2` in the MIB module registry for the MIB module in this document.
2. A value (4) to identify the Transport Security Model, in the Security Models registry of the SNMP Number Spaces registry. This results in the following table of values:

Value	Description	References
-----	-----	-----
0	reserved for 'any'	[RFC3411]
1	reserved for SNMPv1	[RFC3411]
2	reserved for SNMPv2c	[RFC3411]
3	User-Based Security Model (USM)	[RFC3411]
4	Transport Security Model (TSM)	[RFC5591]

## 10. Acknowledgments

The editors would like to thank Jeffrey Hutzelman for sharing his SSH insights and Dave Shield for an outstanding job wordsmithing the existing document to improve organization and clarity.

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### 11.2. Informative References

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## Appendix A. Notification Tables Configuration

The SNMP-TARGET-MIB and SNMP-NOTIFICATION-MIB [RFC3413] are used to configure notification originators with the destinations to which notifications should be sent.

Most of the configuration is Security-Model-independent and Transport-Model-independent.

The values we will use in the examples for the five model-independent security and transport parameters are:

```
transportDomain = snmpSSHDomain

transportAddress = 192.0.2.1:5162

securityModel = Transport Security Model

securityName = alice

securityLevel = authPriv
```

The following example will configure the notification originator to send informs to a notification receiver at 192.0.2.1:5162 using the securityName "alice". "alice" is the name for the recipient from the standpoint of the notification originator and is used for processing access controls before sending a notification.

The columns marked with an "\*" are the items that are Security-Model-specific or Transport-Model-specific.

The configuration for the "alice" settings in the SNMP-VIEW-BASED-ACM-MIB objects are not shown here for brevity. First, we configure which type of notification will be sent for this taglist (toCRTag). In this example, we choose to send an Inform.

```
snmpNotifyTable row:
    snmpNotifyName      CRNotif
    snmpNotifyTag       toCRTag
    snmpNotifyType       inform
    snmpNotifyStorageType nonVolatile
    snmpNotifyColumnStatus createAndGo
```

Then we configure a transport address to which notifications associated with this taglist will be sent, and we specify which snmpTargetParamsEntry will be used (toCR) when sending to this transport address.



```

snmpTargetAddrTable row:
    snmpTargetAddrName          toCRAddr
*   snmpTargetAddrTDomain       snmpSSHDomain
*   snmpTargetAddrTAddress       192.0.2.1:5162
    snmpTargetAddrTimeout       1500
    snmpTargetAddrRetryCount     3
    snmpTargetAddrTagList        toCRTag
    snmpTargetAddrParams         toCR    (MUST match below)
    snmpTargetAddrStorageType    nonVolatile
    snmpTargetAddrColumnStatus   createAndGo

```

Then we configure which principal at the host will receive the notifications associated with this taglist. Here, we choose "alice", who uses the Transport Security Model.

```

snmpTargetParamsTable row:
    snmpTargetParamsName        toCR
    snmpTargetParamsMPModel     SNMPv3
*   snmpTargetParamsSecurityModel TransportSecurityModel
    snmpTargetParamsSecurityName "alice"
    snmpTargetParamsSecurityLevel authPriv
    snmpTargetParamsStorageType nonVolatile
    snmpTargetParamsRowStatus   createAndGo

```

#### A.1. Transport Security Model Processing for Notifications

The Transport Security Model is called using the `generateRequestMsg()` ASI, with the following parameters (those with an \* are from the above tables):

```

statusInformation =          -- success or errorIndication
    generateRequestMsg(
        IN  messageProcessingModel -- *snmpTargetParamsMPModel
        IN  globalData             -- message header, admin data
        IN  maxMessageSize         -- of the sending SNMP entity
        IN  transportDomain        -- *snmpTargetAddrTDomain
        IN  transportAddress       -- *snmpTargetAddrTAddress
        IN  securityModel          -- *snmpTargetParamsSecurityModel
        IN  securityEngineID       -- immaterial; TSM will ignore.
        IN  securityName           -- snmpTargetParamsSecurityName
        IN  securityLevel          -- *snmpTargetParamsSecurityLevel
        IN  scopedPDU              -- message (plaintext) payload
        OUT securityParameters     -- filled in by Security Module
        OUT wholeMsg               -- complete generated message
        OUT wholeMsgLength         -- length of generated message
        OUT tmStateReference       -- reference to transport info
    )

```

The Transport Security Model will determine the Transport Model based on the `snmpTargetAddrTDomain`. The selected Transport Model will select the appropriate transport connection using the `tmStateReference` cache created from the values of `snmpTargetAddrTAddress`, `snmpTargetParamsSecurityName`, and `snmpTargetParamsSecurityLevel`.

#### Appendix B. Processing Differences between USM and Secure Transport

USM and secure transports differ in the processing order and responsibilities within the [RFC 3411](#) architecture. While the steps are the same, they occur in a different order and might be done by different subsystems. The following lists illustrate the difference in the flow and the responsibility for different processing steps for incoming messages when using USM and when using a secure transport. (These lists are simplified for illustrative purposes, and do not represent all details of processing. Transport Models MUST provide the detailed elements of procedure.)

With USM, SNMPv1, and SNMPv2c Security Models, security processing starts when the Message Processing Model decodes portions of the ASN.1 message to extract header fields that are used to determine which Security Model will process the message to perform authentication, decryption, timeliness checking, integrity checking, and translation of parameters to model-independent parameters. By comparison, a secure transport performs those security functions on the message, before the ASN.1 is decoded.

Step 6 cannot occur until after decryption occurs. Steps 6 and beyond are the same for USM and a secure transport.

##### B.1. USM and the [RFC 3411](#) Architecture

- 1) Decode the ASN.1 header (Message Processing Model).
- 2) Determine the SNMP Security Model and parameters (Message Processing Model).
- 3) Verify `securityLevel` (Security Model).
- 4) Translate parameters to model-independent parameters (Security Model).
- 5) Authenticate the principal, check message integrity and timeliness, and decrypt the message (Security Model).

- 6) Determine the pduType in the decrypted portions (Message Processing Model).
- 7) Pass on the decrypted portions with model-independent parameters.

#### B.2. Transport Subsystem and the RFC 3411 Architecture

- 1) Authenticate the principal, check integrity and timeliness of the message, and decrypt the message (Transport Model).
- 2) Translate parameters to model-independent parameters (Transport Model).
- 3) Decode the ASN.1 header (Message Processing Model).
- 4) Determine the SNMP Security Model and parameters (Message Processing Model).
- 5) Verify securityLevel (Security Model).
- 6) Determine the pduType in the decrypted portions (Message Processing Model).
- 7) Pass on the decrypted portions with model-independent security parameters.

If a message is secured using a secure transport layer, then the Transport Model will provide the translation from the authenticated identity (e.g., an SSH user name) to a human-friendly identifier (tmSecurityName) in step 2. The Security Model will provide a mapping from that identifier to a model-independent securityName.

## Authors' Addresses

David Harrington  
Huawei Technologies (USA)  
1700 Alma Dr. Suite 100  
Plano, TX 75075  
USA

Phone: +1 603 436 8634  
EMail: ietfdbh@comcast.net

Wes Hardaker  
Cobham Analytic Solutions  
P.O. Box 382  
Davis, CA 95617  
US

Phone: +1 530 792 1913  
EMail: ietf@hardakers.net