

Encrypting the Protocol for Carrying Authentication for  
Network Access (PANA) Attribute-Value Pairs

Abstract

This document specifies a mechanism for delivering the Protocol for Carrying Authentication for Network Access (PANA) Attribute-Value Pairs (AVPs) in encrypted form.

Status of This Memo

This is an Internet Standards Track document.

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## 1. Introduction

PANA [[RFC5191](#)] is a UDP-based protocol to perform an Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) authentication between a PANA Client (PaC) and a PANA Authentication Agent (PAA).

Various types of payload are exchanged as part of the network access authentication and authorization. These payloads are carried in PANA Attribute-Value Pairs (AVPs). AVPs can be integrity protected using the AUTH AVP when EAP authentication generates cryptographic keying material. AVPs are transmitted in the clear (i.e., not encrypted).

Certain payload types need to be delivered privately (e.g., network keys, private identifiers, etc.). This document defines a mechanism for applying encryption to selected AVPs.

## 1.1. Specification of Requirements

In this document, several words are used to signify the requirements of the specification. These words are often capitalized. 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](#)].

## 2. Details

This document extends the AVP set defined in [Section 8 of \[RFC5191\]](#) by defining two new AVPs: the Encryption-Algorithm AVP (see [Section 4](#)) and the Encryption-Encap AVP (see [Section 5](#)). Two new encryption keys, PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY and PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY, are defined to encrypt AVPs from the PaC to the PAA and AVPs from the PAA to the PaC, respectively (see [Section 3](#)).

When encryption is needed, the required algorithm is negotiated as follows: the PAA SHALL send the initial PANA-Auth-Request carrying one or more Encryption-Algorithm AVPs supported by it. The PaC SHALL select one of the algorithms from this AVP, and it SHALL respond with the initial PANA-Auth-Answer carrying one Encryption-Algorithm AVP for the selected algorithm. Once PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY and PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY have been generated, a PANA message MAY contain an Encryption-Encap AVP.

## 3. Encryption Keys

PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY is used for encrypting the AVP payload of the Encryption-Encap AVP sent in a PANA message from the PaC to the PAA.

PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY SHALL be computed according to the following formula:

$$\text{PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY} = \text{prf+}(\text{MSK}, \text{"IETF PANA PaC Encr"} \mid \text{I\_PAR} \mid \text{I\_PAN} \mid \text{PaC\_nonce} \mid \text{PAA\_nonce} \mid \text{Key\_ID})$$

PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY is used for encrypting the AVP payload of the Encryption-Encap AVP sent in a PANA message from the PAA to the PaC. PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY SHALL be computed according to the following formula:

$$\text{PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY} = \text{prf+}(\text{MSK}, \text{"IETF PANA PAA Encr"} \mid \text{I\_PAR} \mid \text{I\_PAN} \mid \text{PaC\_nonce} \mid \text{PAA\_nonce} \mid \text{Key\_ID})$$

In both cases:

- The prf+ function is defined in the Internet Key Exchange Protocol version 2 (IKEv2) [\[RFC5996\]](#).
- The pseudo-random function (PRF) to be used for the prf+ function SHALL be negotiated using the PRF-Algorithm AVP in the initial PANA-Auth-Request and PANA-Auth-Answer exchange with the 'S' (Start) bit set as described in [Section 4.1 of \[RFC5191\]](#).

- MSK is the master session key (MSK) generated by the EAP method [RFC3748]. PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY and PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY MUST be recalculated whenever a new MSK is generated by the EAP method.
- "IETF PANA PaC Encr" and "IETF PANA PAA Encr" are the ASCII code representations of the respective non-NULL terminated strings (excluding the double quotes around them).
- I\_PAR and I\_PAN are the initial PANA-Auth-Request and PANA-Auth-Answer messages (the PANA header and the following PANA AVPs) with the 'S' (Start) bit set, respectively.
- PaC\_nonce and PAA\_nonce are values of the Nonce AVP carried in the first non-initial PANA-Auth-Answer and PANA-Auth-Request messages in the authentication and authorization phase or the first PANA-Auth-Answer and PANA-Auth-Request messages in the re-authentication phase, respectively.
- Key\_ID is the value of the Key-Id AVP.

The length of PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY and PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY depends on the encryption algorithm in use.

#### 4. Encryption-Algorithm AVP

The Encryption-Algorithm AVP (AVP code 13) is used for conveying the encryption algorithm to be used with the Encryption-Encap AVP. The AVP value data is of type Unsigned32.

Only one encryption algorithm identifier AES128\_CTR (code 1) is identified by this document. Encryption algorithm identifier values other than 1 are reserved for future use. Future specifications are allowed to extend this list.

AES128\_CTR: 1

In the absence of an application profile specifying otherwise, all implementations SHALL support AES128\_CTR.

#### 4.1. AES128\_CTR Encryption Algorithm

The AES128\_CTR encryption algorithm uses the AES-CTR (Counter) mode of operation as specified in [NIST\_SP800\_38A] using the AES-128 block cipher. The formatting function and counter generation function, as specified in [Appendix A](#) of [NIST\_SP800\_38C], are used with the following parameters:

n = 12,  
q = 3

The 12-octet nonce consists of a 4-octet Key-Id, a 4-octet Session ID, and a 4-octet Sequence Number in that order where each 4-octet value is encoded in network byte order. The Session ID and Sequence Number values SHALL be the same as those in the PANA message carrying the key Encryption-Encap AVP. The Key-Id value SHALL be the same as the one used for deriving PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY and PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY. The output blocks of the encryption processing are encoded as OctetString data in the Value field of a Encryption-Encap AVP.

Note that the first counter block used for encryption is Ctr<sub>1</sub>, where "<sub>1</sub>" denotes "subscript 1" as described in [Appendix A.3](#) of [NIST\_SP800\_38C]. For example, given the following:

Key-Id = 0x55667788,  
Session ID = 0xaabbccdd,  
Sequence Number = 0x11223344

The first counter block used for encryption will be:

0x0255667788aabbccdd11223344000001

where the initial 0x02 represents the Flags field of the counter block.

The nonce meets the requirement of uniqueness-per-key usage provided that the sequence number does not wrap. Therefore, for the purpose of generating new keys:

- If Encryption-Encap AVPs are being sent from the PaC to the PAA and the sequence number is about to wrap, the PaC SHALL initiate PANA re-authentication as described in [Section 4.3](#) of [RFC5191].
- If Encryption-Encap AVPs are being sent from the PAA to the PaC and the sequence number is about to wrap, the PAA SHALL initiate PANA re-authentication as described in [Section 4.3](#) of [RFC5191].

Re-authentication ensures the generation of a new MSK [RFC3748] and thus a new PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY and PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY.

## 5. Encryption-Encap AVP

The Encryption-Encap AVP (AVP code 12) is used to encrypt one or more PANA AVPs. The format of the Encryption-Encap AVP depends on the negotiated encryption algorithm.

When the negotiated encryption algorithm identifier is AES128\_CTR (code 1), AVP data payload is occupied by the encrypted AVPs.

There SHALL be only one Encryption-Encap AVP in a PANA message. All AVPs that require encryption SHALL be encapsulated within the Encryption-Encap AVP.

The Encryption-Encap AVP uses either PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY or PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY, and the encryption algorithm negotiated by the Encryption-Algorithm AVP. The Encryption-Encap AVP SHALL only be used if the EAP method generates cryptographic keys (specifically, the MSK [RFC3748]).

The Encryption-Encap AVP MAY be used in a PANA message from the PaC to the PAA when the encryption algorithm has been successfully negotiated and once PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY has been generated.

The Encryption-Encap AVP MAY be used in a PANA message from the PAA to the PaC when the encryption algorithm has been successfully negotiated and once PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY has been generated.

The Encryption-Encap AVP MAY be used in the very first PANA message carrying the Result-Code AVP set to PANA\_Success value and any subsequent message within the same PANA session.

## 6. Encryption Policy

The specification of any AVP SHOULD state that the AVP either shall or shall not be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP. The specification of an AVP MAY state that the AVP may (or may not) be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP. The specification SHOULD use a table in the format specified in [Section 6.1](#). If the specification of an AVP is silent about whether the AVP shall or shall not be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP, this implies that the AVP MAY be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP.

### 6.1. Encryption Policy Specification

This section defines a table format for the specification of whether an AVP shall or shall not be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP.

The table uses the following symbols:

Y: The AVP SHALL be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP. If the AVP is encountered not encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP, it SHALL be considered invalid and the message containing the AVP SHALL be discarded.

N: The AVP SHALL NOT be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP. If the AVP is encountered encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP, it SHALL be considered invalid and the message containing the AVP SHALL be discarded.

X: The AVP MAY be encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP. If the AVP is encountered either encrypted or not encrypted using the Encryption-Encap AVP, it SHALL be considered valid.

The legitimate occurrence of unencrypted AVPs and AVPs after decryption and unencapsulation SHALL be subject to the AVP Occurrence Table (Figure 4 in [RFC5191]).

The following table shows the encryption requirements for the existing AVPs defined in [RFC5191]:

Attribute Name	Enc
-----+-----	
AUTH	N
EAP-Payload	X
Integrity-Algorithm	N
Key-Id	N
Nonce	N
PRF-Algorithm	N
Result-Code	N
Session-Lifetime	X
Termination-Cause	X
-----+-----	

The following table shows the encryption requirements for the AVPs defined in [RFC6345]:

Attribute Name	Enc
-----+-----	-----+-----
PaC-Information	N
Relayed-Message	N
-----+-----	-----+-----

The following table shows the encryption requirements for the AVPs defined in this document:

Attribute Name	Enc
-----+-----	-----+-----
Encryption-Algorithm	N
Encryption-Encap	N
-----+-----	-----+-----

The following table is an example showing the encryption requirements for a newly defined AVP, Example-AVP:

Attribute Name	Enc
-----+-----	-----+-----
Example-AVP	Y
-----+-----	-----+-----

The guidance for specifying the encryption requirements for a newly defined AVP is as follows:

Y: If the payload needs privacy against eavesdroppers (e.g., carrying a secret key).

N: If the payload may need to be observed by on-path network elements (i.e., subject to deep packet inspection).

X: If neither concern applies.

## 7. Security Considerations

PANA\_PAC\_ENCR\_KEY and PANA\_PAA\_ENCR\_KEY are secret keys shared between the PaC and the PAA. They SHALL NOT be used for purposes other than those specified in this document. Compromise of these keys would lead to compromise of the secret information protected by these keys.



### 7.1. AES-CTR Security Considerations

The use of AES-CTR encryption has its own security considerations, which are detailed in the Security Considerations section of [RFC3686]. Specifically:

- The nonce specified in [Section 4.1](#) meets the requirement of uniqueness-per-key usage.
- [Section 4.1 of \[RFC5191\]](#) states that if the EAP method generates cryptographic keys, an AUTH AVP will always be present in every PANA message after key generation. Therefore, an Encryption-Encap AVP will always be sent in conjunction with an AUTH AVP. This meets the requirement of a companion authentication function.

## 8. IANA Considerations

As described in [Sections 4 and 5](#), and following the IANA allocation policy on PANA messages [RFC5872], two PANA AVP codes and one set of AVP values have been registered. An additional encryption policy for AVP codes has also been registered.

### 8.1. PANA AVP Codes

The following AVP codes have been registered in the "AVP Codes" sub-registry of the "Protocol for Carrying Authentication for Network Access (PANA) Parameters" registry:

- o A standard AVP code of 12 for the Encryption-Encap AVP.
- o A standard AVP code of 13 for the Encryption-Algorithm AVP.

### 8.2. PANA Encryption-Algorithm AVP Values

The following AVP values representing the encryption algorithm identifier for the Encryption-Algorithm AVP code have been assigned in the "Encryption-Algorithm (AVP Code 13) AVP Values" sub-registry under the "Protocol for Carrying Authentication for Network Access (PANA) Parameters" registry:

- o An AVP value of 1 for AES128\_CTR.
- o All other AVP values (0, 2-4294967295) are unassigned.

The registration procedures are IETF Review or IESG Approval in accordance with [RFC5872].

### 8.3. PANA AVP Codes Encryption Policy

The additional encryption policy defined in [Section 6.1](#) has been added as a column labeled "Enc" in the "AVP Codes" sub-registry and has been applied to all existing AVP codes and those defined in this specification.

## 9. Acknowledgments

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