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J. Schoenwaelder
A. Sehgal
Jacobs University
T. Tsou
Huawei Technologies (USA)
C. Zhou
Huawei Technologies
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Definition of Managed Objects for IPv6 over Low-Power Wireless Personal
Area Networks (6LoWPANs)
[draft-schoenw-6lowpan-mib-03](#)

Abstract

This memo defines a portion of the Management Information Base (MIB) for use with network management protocols in the Internet community. In particular, it defines objects for managing IPv6 over Low-Power Wireless Personal Area Networks (6LoWPANs).

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

This memo defines a portion of the Management Information Base (MIB) for use with network management protocols. In particular it defines objects for managing IPv6 over Low-Power Wireless Personal Area Networks (6LoWPANs) [[RFC4944](#)].

2. 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](#)].

3. 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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

4. Overview

The MIB module is organized into groups of scalars and tables.

```
# LOWPAN-MIB registration tree (generated by smidump 0.4.8)
```

```
--lowpanMIB(1.3.6.1.2.1.XXXX)
  +--lowpanNotifications(0)
  +--lowpanObjects(1)
    |   +-- r-n Unsigned32 lowpanReasmTimeout(1)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInReceives(2)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInHdrErrors(3)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInMeshReceives(4)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInMeshForwds(5)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInMeshDelivers(6)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInReasmReqds(7)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInReasmFails(8)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInReasmOKs(9)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInCompReqds(10)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInCompFails(11)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInCompOKs(12)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInDiscards(13)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanInDelivers(14)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutRequests(15)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutCompReqds(16)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutCompFails(17)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutCompOKs(18)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutFragReqds(19)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutFragFails(20)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutFragOKs(21)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutFragCreates(22)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutMeshHopLimitExceeds(23)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutMeshNoRoutes(24)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutMeshRequests(25)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutMeshForwds(26)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutMeshTransmits(27)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutDiscards(28)
    |   +-- r-n Counter32 lowpanOutTransmits(29)
  +--lowpanConformance(2)
    +--lowpanGroups(1)
      |   +--lowpanCoreGroup(1)
    +--lowpanCompliances(2)
      +--lowpanCompliance(1)
```

The counters defined in the MIB module provide information about the 6LoWPAN datagrams received and transmitted and how they are processed in the 6LoWPAN layer. For the purpose of this specification, a 6LoWPAN datagram is an IEEE 805.14.5 datagram with a dispatch byte matching the bit patterns 01xxxxxx, 10xxxxxx, or 11xxxxxx. The processing of IEEE 805.14.5 datagrams matching the bit pattern 00xxxxxx (NALP - not a LoWPAN frame) [[RFC4944](#)] is not considered by this specification. Other radio technologies may use different

The diagram illustrates the relationship between metrics in the IPv6 layer and the interface layer. It is structured as follows:

- IPv6 layer** (top section):
 - Left side (Inputs/Receives):**
 - InDelivers
 - InDiscards
 - InCompOKs
 - InCompFails
 - InCompReqds
 - InReasmOKs
 - InReasmFails
 - InReasmReqds
 - InMeshDelivers
 - InMeshForwds
 - InMeshReceives
 - InHdrErrors
 - InReceives
 - Right side (Outputs/Transmits):**
 - OutRequests
 - OutCompReqds
 - OutCompFails
 - OutCompOKs
 - OutFragReqds
 - OutFragFails
 - OutFragOKs
 - OutFragCreates
 - OutMeshHopLimitExceeds
 - OutMeshNoRoutes
 - OutMeshRequests
 - OutMeshForwds
 - OutMeshTransmits
 - OutDiscards
 - OutTransmits
- interface layer** (bottom section):
 - Left side (Inputs/Receives):**
 - ^
 - +-
 - <--+
 - .-->
 - <--|
 - `<--+
 - .-->
 - <--|
 - `<--+
 - <--.
 - |
 - +-->'
 - <--+
 - +-
 - ^
 - Right side (Outputs/Transmits):**
 - v
 - +-
 - |
 - >.
 - +-->
 - +<--'
 - |
 - +-->.
 - +-->
 - +-
 - +<--'
 - |
 - +-->
 - |
 - .<--+
 - `-->|
 - `-->
 - |
 - +-->
 - +-
 - v

Arrows and symbols (like ^, v, ., ', --, +, -, |) indicate the direction and type of flow or relationship between the metrics in the IPv6 layer and the interface layer.

The compression related counters provide insights into compression requests and in particular also compression related failures. Note that the diagram is conceptual in the sense that compression happens after reassembly for incoming 6LoWPAN datagrams and compression happens before fragmentation for outgoing 6LoWPAN datagrams.

Implementations may choose to implement things slightly differently. For example, implementations may decompress FRAG1 fragments as soon as they are received, not waiting for reassembly to complete.

The mesh header processing related counters do not have an explicit discard counter. Implementations that do not support mesh forwarding MUST count the number of received 6LoWPAN datagrams with a MESH header (`lowpanInMeshReceives`) but they MUST NOT increment the `lowpanInMeshReceives` and `lowpanInMeshDelivers` counters if these 6LoWPAN datagrams are dropped.

5. Relationship to Other MIB Modules

The MIB module IMPORTS definitions from SNMPv2-SMI [RFC2578] and SNMPv2-CONF [RFC2580].

6. Definitions

LOWPAN-MIB DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

IMPORTS

```
    MODULE-IDENTITY, OBJECT-TYPE, Unsigned32, Counter32, mib-2
    FROM SNMPv2-SMI                                -- RFC 2578
    OBJECT-GROUP, MODULE-COMPLIANCE
    FROM SNMPv2-CONF;                               -- RFC 2580
```

lowpanMIB MODULE-IDENTITY

LAST-UPDATED "201301090000Z"

ORGANIZATION

"Jacobs University Bremen"

CONTACT-INFO

"Juergen Schoenwaelder

Jacobs University Bremen

Email: j.schoenwaelder@jacobs-university.de

Anuj Sehgal

Jacobs University Bremen

Email: s.anuj@jacobs-university.de

Tina Tsou

Huawei Technologies

Email: tina.tsou.zouting@huawei.com

Cathy Zhou

Huawei Technologies

Email: cathyzhou@huawei.com"

DESCRIPTION

"The MIB module for monitoring nodes implementing the IPv6 over Low-Power Wireless Personal Area Networks (6LoWPAN) protocol.

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REVISION "201301090000Z"

DESCRIPTION

"Initial version, published as RFC XXXX."

-- RFC Ed.: replace XXXX with actual RFC number and remove this note

::= { mib-2 XXXX }

-- object definitions

lowpanNotifications OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { lowpanMIB 0 }

lowpanObjects OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { lowpanMIB 1 }

lowpanConformance OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { lowpanMIB 2 }

lowpanReasmTimeout OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Unsigned32

UNITS "seconds"

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The maximum number of seconds that received fragments are held while they are awaiting reassembly at this entity."

::= { lowpanObjects 1 }

lowpanInReceives OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of 6LoWPAN datagrams received, including those received in error."

::= { lowpanObjects 2 }

lowpanInHdrErrors OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of received 6LoWPAN datagrams discarded due to errors in their headers, including unknown dispatch values, errors discovered during any decompression attempts, etc."

::= { lowpanObjects 3 }

lowpanInMeshReceives OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of received 6LoWPAN datagrams with a MESH header."

::= { lowpanObjects 4 }

lowpanInMeshForwds OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of received 6LoWPAN datagrams requiring MESH forwarding."

::= { lowpanObjects 5 }

lowpanInMeshDelivers OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of received 6LoWPAN datagrams with a MESH header delivered to the local system."

::= { lowpanObjects 6 }

lowpanInReasmReqds OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of received 6LoWPAN fragments that needed to be reassembled. This includes both FRAG1 and FRAGN 6LoWPAN datagrams."

::= { lowpanObjects 7 }

lowpanInReasmFails OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of failures detected by the re-assembly algorithm (e.g., timeouts). Note that this is not necessarily a count of discarded 6LoWPAN fragments since implementations can lose track of the number of fragments by combining them as received."

::= { lowpanObjects 8 }

lowpanInReasmOKs OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of IPv6 packets successfully reassembled."

::= { lowpanObjects 9 }

lowpanInCompReqds OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams requiring header decompression."

::= { lowpanObjects 10 }

lowpanInCompFails OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams where header decompression failed (e.g., because the necessary context information is not available)."

::= { lowpanObjects 11 }

lowpanInCompOKs OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams where header decompression was successful."

::= { lowpanObjects 12 }

lowpanInDiscards OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of received 6LoWPAN datagrams for which no problems were encountered to prevent their continued processing, but were discarded (e.g., for lack of buffer space). Note that this counter does not include any datagrams discarded due to a reassembly failure."

::= { lowpanObjects 13 }

lowpanInDelivers OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of IPv6 packets successfully delivered to the IPv6 layer."

::= { lowpanObjects 14 }

lowpanOutRequests OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of IPv6 packets supplied by the IPv6 layer."

::= { lowpanObjects 15 }

lowpanOutCompReqds OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of IPv6 packets for which header compression was attempted."

::= { lowpanObjects 16 }

lowpanOutCompFails OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of IPv6 packets for which header compression failed (e.g., because the UDP checksum check failed while performing UDP header compression)."

::= { lowpanObjects 17 }

lowpanOutCompOKs OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The total number of IPv6 packets for which header compression was successful."

::= { lowpanObjects 18 }

lowpanOutFragReqds OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of IPv6 packets that require fragmentation in order to be transmitted."

::= { lowpanObjects 19 }

lowpanOutFragFails OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of IPv6 packets that have been discarded because they needed to be fragmented but could not be."

::= { lowpanObjects 20 }

lowpanOutFragOKs OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of IPv6 packets that have been successfully fragmented."

::= { lowpanObjects 21 }

lowpanOutFragCreates OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of 6LoWPAN fragments that have been generated as a result of fragmentation. This includes both FRAG1 and FRAGN 6LoWPAN datagrams."

::= { lowpanObjects 22 }

lowpanOutMeshHopLimitExceeds OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32

MAX-ACCESS read-only

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION

"The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams with a MESH header that

were dropped because the hop limit has been exceeded."
 ::= { lowpanObjects 23 }

lowpanOutMeshNoRoutes OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
 "The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams with a MESH header that
 were dropped because there was no forwarding information
 available."
 ::= { lowpanObjects 24 }

lowpanOutMeshRequests OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
 "The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams requiring MESH header
 encapsulation."
 ::= { lowpanObjects 25 }

lowpanOutMeshForwds OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
 "The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams with a MESH header for
 which suitable forwarding information was available."
 ::= { lowpanObjects 26 }

lowpanOutMeshTransmits OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
 "The number of 6LoWPAN datagrams with a MESH header
 created."
 ::= { lowpanObjects 27 }

lowpanOutDiscards OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
 "The number of IPv6 packets for which no problem was
 encountered to prevent their transmission to their
 destination, but were discarded (e.g., for lack of

```
        buffer space)."  
 ::= { lowpanObjects 28 }  
  
lowpanOutTransmits OBJECT-TYPE  
    SYNTAX      Counter32  
    MAX-ACCESS  read-only  
    STATUS      current  
    DESCRIPTION  
        "The total number of 6LoWPAN datagram that this entity  
        supplied to the lower layers for transmission."  
 ::= { lowpanObjects 29 }  
  
-- conformance definitions  
  
lowpanGroups          OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { lowpanConformance 1 }  
lowpanCompliances     OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { lowpanConformance 2 }  
  
lowpanCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE  
    STATUS      current  
    DESCRIPTION  
        "Compliance statement for systems that implement 6LoWPAN."  
    MODULE      -- this module  
    MANDATORY-GROUPS {  
        lowpanCoreGroup  
    }  
 ::= { lowpanCompliances 1 }  
  
lowpanCoreGroup OBJECT-GROUP  
    OBJECTS {  
        lowpanReasmTimeout,  
        lowpanInReceives,  
        lowpanInHdrErrors,  
        lowpanInMeshReceives,  
        lowpanInMeshForwds,  
        lowpanInMeshDelivers,  
        lowpanInReasmReqds,  
        lowpanInReasmFails,  
        lowpanInReasmOKs,  
        lowpanInCompReqds,  
        lowpanInCompFails,  
        lowpanInCompOKs,  
        lowpanInDiscards,  
        lowpanInDelivers,  
        lowpanOutRequests,  
        lowpanOutCompReqds,  
        lowpanOutCompFails,  
        lowpanOutCompOKs,  
        lowpanOutFragReqds,  
    }
```

```
        lowpanOutFragFails,
        lowpanOutFragOKs,
        lowpanOutFragCreates,
        lowpanOutMeshHopLimitExceeds,
        lowpanOutMeshNoRoutes,
        lowpanOutMeshRequests,
        lowpanOutMeshForwds,
        lowpanOutMeshTransmits,
        lowpanOutDiscards,
        lowpanOutTransmits
    }
    STATUS          current
    DESCRIPTION
        "A collection of objects providing information and
        statistics about the processing of 6LoWPAN datagrams."
    ::= { lowpanGroups 1 }
```

END

7. Security Considerations

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:

The read-only counters provide insights into the amount of 6LoWPAN traffic a node is receiving or transmitting. This might provide information whether a device is regularly exchanging information with other devices or whether a device is mostly not participating in any communication (e.g., the device might be "easier" to take away unnoticed). The reassembly counters could be used to direct denial of service attacks on the reassembly mechanism.

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 SNMPv3 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.

8. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to assign a value for "XXXX" under the 'mib-2' subtree and to record the assignment in the SMI Numbers registry. When the assignment has been made, the RFC Editor is asked to replace "XXXX" (here and in the MIB module) with the assigned value and to remove this note.

9. Acknowledgements

This specification borrows heavily from the IP-MIB defined in [\[RFC4293\]](#).

Juergen Schoenwaelder and Anuj Sehgal were partly funded by Flamingo, a Network of Excellence project (ICT-318488) supported by the European Commission under its Seventh Framework Programme.

10. References

10.1. Normative References

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| [RFC2119] | Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14 , RFC 2119 , March 1997. |
| [RFC2578] | McCloghrie, K., Ed., Perkins, D., Ed., and J. Schoenwaelder, Ed., "Structure of Management Information Version 2 (SMIv2)", STD 58, RFC 2578 , April 1999. |
| [RFC2579] | McCloghrie, K., Ed., Perkins, D., Ed., and J. Schoenwaelder, Ed., "Textual Conventions for SMIv2", STD 58, RFC 2579 , April 1999. |
| [RFC2580] | McCloghrie, K., Perkins, D., and J. Schoenwaelder, "Conformance Statements for SMIv2", STD 58, RFC 2580 , April 1999. |

- [RFC4944] Montenegro, G., Kushalnagar, N., Hui, J., and D. Culler, "Transmission of IPv6 Packets over IEEE 802.15.4 Networks", [RFC 4944](#), September 2007.
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10.2. Informative References

- [RFC3410] Case, J., Mundy, R., Partain, D., and B. Stewart, "Introduction and Applicability Statements for Internet-Standard Management Framework", [RFC 3410](#), December 2002.
- [RFC4293] Routhier, S., "Management Information Base for the Internet Protocol (IP)", [RFC 4293](#), April 2006.
- [RFC6643] Schoenwaelder, J., "Translation of Structure of Management Information Version 2 (SMIv2) MIB Modules to YANG Modules", [RFC 6643](#), July 2012.
- [I-D.lhotka-netmod-yang-json] Lhotka, L., "Modeling JSON Text with YANG", [draft-lhotka-netmod-yang-json-00](#) (work in progress), October 2012.

[Appendix A.](#) JSON Representation

Using the translation algorithm defined in [\[RFC6643\]](#), the SMIv2 module can be translated to YANG. Using the JSON representation of data modeled in YANG defined in [\[I-D.lhotka-netmod-yang-json\]](#), the objects defined in the MIB module can be represented in JSON as shown below. The compact representation without any white space uses 468 octets. (Of course, this number depends on the number of octets needed for the counter values.)


```
{
  "LOWPAN-MIB:LOWPAN-MIB": {
    "lowpanReasmTimeout": 20,
    "lowpanInReceives": 42,
    "lowpanInHdrErrors": 0,
    "lowpanInMeshReceives": 8,
    "lowpanInMeshForwds": 0,
    "lowpanInMeshDelivers": 0,
    "lowpanInReasmReqds": 22,
    "lowpanInReasmFails": 2,
    "lowpanInReasmOKs": 20,
    "lowpanInCompReqds": 16,
    "lowpanInCompFails": 2,
    "lowpanInCompOKs": 14,
    "lowpanInDiscards": 1,
    "lowpanInDelivers": 12,
    "lowpanOutRequests": 12,
    "lowpanOutCompReqds": 0,
    "lowpanOutCompFails": 0,
    "lowpanOutCompOKs": 0,
    "lowpanOutFragReqds": 5,
    "lowpanOutFragFails": 0,
    "lowpanOutFragOKs": 5,
    "lowpanOutFragCreates": 8,
    "lowpanOutMeshHopLimitExceeds": 0,
    "lowpanOutMeshNoRoutes": 0,
    "lowpanOutMeshRequests": 0,
    "lowpanOutMeshForwds": 0,
    "lowpanOutMeshTransmits": 0,
    "lowpanOutDiscards": 0,
    "lowpanOutTransmits": 15
  }
}
```

Authors' Addresses

Juergen Schoenwaelder
Jacobs University
Campus Ring 1
Bremen 28759
Germany

EMail: j.schoenwaelder@jacobs-university.de

Anuj Sehgal
Jacobs University
Campus Ring 1
Bremen 28759
Germany

EMail: s.anuj@jacobs-university.de

Tina Tsou
Huawei Technologies (USA)
2330 Central Expressway
Santa Clara CA 95050
USA

EMail: tina.tsou.zouting@huawei.com

Cathy Zhou
Huawei Technologies
Bantian, Longgang District
Shenzhen 518129
P.R. China

EMail: cathyzhou@huawei.com