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**Key Chain YANG Data Model**  
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**Abstract**

This document describes the key chain YANG data model. A key chain is a list of elements each containing a key, send lifetime, accept lifetime, and algorithm. By properly overlapping the send and accept lifetimes of multiple key chain elements, keys and algorithms may be gracefully updated. By representing them in a YANG data model, key distribution can be automated. Key chains are commonly used for routing protocol authentication and other applications. In some applications, the protocols do not use the key chain element key directly, but rather a key derivation function is used to derive a short-lived key from the key chain element key.

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## 1. Introduction

This document describes the key chain YANG data model. A key chain is a list of elements each containing a key, send lifetime, accept lifetime, and algorithm. By properly overlapping the send and accept lifetimes of multiple key chain elements, keys and algorithms may be gracefully updated. By representing them in a YANG data model, key distribution can be automated. Key chains are commonly used for routing protocol authentication and other applications. In some applications, the protocols do not use the key chain element key directly, but rather a key derivation function is used to derive a short-lived key from the key chain element key.



### **1.1. Requirements Notation**

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 [\[RFC-KEYWORDS\]](#).

## **2. Problem Statement**

This document describes a YANG [\[YANG\]](#) data model for key chains. Key chains have been implemented and deployed by a large percentage of network equipment vendors. Providing a standard YANG model will facilitate automated key distribution and non-disruptive key rollover. This will aid in tightening the security of the core routing infrastructure as recommended in [\[IAB-REPORT\]](#).

A key chain is a list containing one or more elements containing a Key ID, key, send/accept lifetimes, and the associated authentication or encryption algorithm. A key chain can be used by any service or application requiring authentication or encryption. In essence, the key-chain is a reusable key policy that can be referenced where ever it is required. The key-chain construct has been implemented by most networking vendors and deployed in many networks.

A conceptual representation of a crypto key table is described in [\[CRYPTO-KEYTABLE\]](#). The crypto key table also includes keys as well as their corresponding lifetimes and algorithms. Additionally, the key table includes key selection criteria and envisions a deployment model where the details of the applications or services requiring authentication or encryption permeate into the key database. The YANG key-chain model described herein doesn't include key selection criteria or support this deployment model. At the same time, it does not preclude it. The draft [\[YANG-CRYPTO-KEYTABLE\]](#) describes augmentations to the key chain YANG model in support of key selection criteria.

### **2.1. Graceful Key Rollover using Key Chains**

Key chains may be used to gracefully update the key and/or algorithm used by an application for authentication or encryption. This MAY be accomplished by accepting all the keys that have a valid accept lifetime and sending the key with the most recent send lifetime. One scenario for facilitating key rollover is to:

1. Distribute a key chain with a new key to all the routers or other network devices in the domain of that key chain. The new key's accept lifetime should be such that it is accepted during the key rollover period. The send lifetime should be a time in the future when it can be assured that all the routers in the domain



of that key are upgraded. This will have no immediate impact on the keys used for transmission.

2. Assure that all the network devices have been updated with the updated key chain and that their system times are roughly synchronized. The system times of devices within an administrative domain are commonly synchronized (e.g., using Network Time Protocol (NTP) [[NTP-PROTO](#)]). This also may be automated.
3. When the send lifetime of the new key becomes valid, the network devices within the domain of key chain will start sending the new key.
4. At some point in the future, a new key chain with the old key removed may be distributed to the network devices within the domain of the key chain. However, this may be deferred until the next key rollover. If this is done, the key chain will always include two keys; either the current and future key (during key rollovers) or the current and previous keys (between key rollovers).

### **3. Design of the Key Chain Model**

The ietf-keychain module contains a list of one or more keys indexed by a Key ID. For some applications (e.g., OSPFv3 [[OSPFV3-AUTH](#)]), the Key-Id is used to identify the key chain entry to be used. In addition to the Key-ID, each key chain entry includes a key-string and a cryptographic algorithm. Optionally, the key chain entries include send/accept lifetimes. If the send/accept lifetime is unspecified, the key is always considered valid.

Note that asymmetric keys, i.e., a different key value used for transmission versus acceptance, may be supported with multiple key chain elements where the accept-lifetime or send-lifetime is not valid (e.g., has an end-time equal to the start-time).

Due to the differences in key chain implementations across various vendors, some of the data elements are optional. Additionally, the key-chain is made a grouping so that an implementation could support scoping other than at the global level. Finally, the crypto-algorithm-types grouping is provided for reuse when configuring legacy authentication and encryption not using key-chains.

A key-chain is identified by a unique name within the scope of the network device. The "key-chain-ref" typedef SHOULD be used by other YANG modules when they need to reference a configured key-chain.



### 3.1. Key Chain Operational State

The key chain operational state is maintained in the key-chain entries along with the configuration state. The key string itself is omitted from the operational state to minimize visibility similar to what was done with keys in SNMP MIBs. This is an area for further discussion. Additionally, the operational state includes an indication of whether or not a key chain entry is valid for sending or acceptance.

### 3.2. Key Chain Model Tree

```

+--rw key-chains
  +--rw key-chain-list* [name]
    +--rw name string
    +--ro name-state? string
    +--rw accept-tolerance {accept-tolerance}?
    | +--rw duration? uint32
    +--ro accept-tolerance-state
    | +--ro duration? uint32
    +--rw key-chain-entry* [key-id]
      +--rw key-id uint64
      +--ro key-id-state? uint64
      +--rw key-string
      | +--rw (key-string-style)?
      |   +--:(keystring)
      |   | +--rw keystring? string
      |   +--:(hexadecimal) {hex-key-string}?
      |   | +--rw hexadecimal-string? yang:hex-string
      +--rw lifetime
      | +--rw (lifetime)?
      |   +--:(send-and-accept-lifetime)
      |   | +--rw send-accept-lifetime
      |   |   +--rw (lifetime)?
      |   |   | +--:(always)
      |   |   | | +--rw always? empty
      |   |   +--:(start-end-time)
      |   |   | +--rw start-date-time?
      |   |   | | yang:date-and-time
      |   |   +--rw (end-time)?
      |   |   | +--:(infinite)
      |   |   | | +--rw no-end-time? empty
      |   |   +--:(duration)
      |   |   | +--rw duration? uint32
      |   |   +--:(end-date-time)
      |   |   | +--rw end-date-time?
      |   |   | | yang:date-and-time
      |   +--:(independent-send-accept-lifetime)

```





```

|         {independent-send-accept-lifetime}?
+--rw send-lifetime
|   +--rw (lifetime)?
|     +--:(always)
|       | +--rw always?          empty
|     +--:(start-end-time)
|       +--rw start-date-time?
|         | yang:date-and-time
|       +--rw (end-time)?
|         +--:(infinite)
|           | +--rw no-end-time?    empty
|         +--:(duration)
|           | +--rw duration?      uint32
|         +--:(end-date-time)
|           +--rw end-date-time?
|             yang:date-and-time
+--rw accept-lifetime
|   +--rw (lifetime)?
|     +--:(always)
|       | +--rw always?          empty
|     +--:(start-end-time)
|       +--rw start-date-time?
|         | yang:date-and-time
|       +--rw (end-time)?
|         +--:(infinite)
|           | +--rw no-end-time?    empty
|         +--:(duration)
|           | +--rw duration?      uint32
|         +--:(end-date-time)
|           +--rw end-date-time?
|             yang:date-and-time
+--ro lifetime-state
|   +--ro send-lifetime
|     | +--ro (lifetime)?
|     |   +--:(always)
|     |     | +--ro always?          empty
|     |   +--:(start-end-time)
|     |     +--ro start-date-time?
|     |       | yang:date-and-time
|     |   +--ro (end-time)?
|     |     +--:(infinite)
|     |       | +--ro no-end-time?    empty
|     |     +--:(duration)
|     |       | +--ro duration?      uint32
|     |     +--:(end-date-time)
|     |       +--ro end-date-time?
|     |         yang:date-and-time
|   +--ro send-valid?          boolean

```



```

| +--ro accept-lifetime
| | +--ro (lifetime)?
| | | +--:(always)
| | | | +--ro always?          empty
| | | +--:(start-end-time)
| | | | +--ro start-date-time?  yang:date-and-time
| | | | +--ro (end-time)?
| | | | | +--:(infinite)
| | | | | | +--ro no-end-time?    empty
| | | | | +--:(duration)
| | | | | | +--ro duration?      uint32
| | | | | +--:(end-date-time)
| | | | | | +--ro end-date-time?
| | | | | | | yang:date-and-time
| | +--ro accept-valid?        boolean
+--rw crypto-algorithm
| +--rw (algorithm)?
| | +--:(hmac-sha-1-12) {crypto-hmac-sha-1-12}?
| | | +--rw hmac-sha1-12?    empty
| | +--:(md5)
| | | +--rw md5?              empty
| | +--:(sha-1)
| | | +--rw sha-1?            empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-1)
| | | +--rw hmac-sha-1?      empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-256)
| | | +--rw hmac-sha-256?    empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-384)
| | | +--rw hmac-sha-384?    empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-512)
| | | +--rw hmac-sha-512?    empty
+--ro crypto-algorithm-state
| +--ro (algorithm)?
| | +--:(hmac-sha-1-12) {crypto-hmac-sha-1-12}?
| | | +--ro hmac-sha1-12?    empty
| | +--:(md5)
| | | +--ro md5?              empty
| | +--:(sha-1)
| | | +--ro sha-1?            empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-1)
| | | +--ro hmac-sha-1?      empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-256)
| | | +--ro hmac-sha-256?    empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-384)
| | | +--ro hmac-sha-384?    empty
| | +--:(hmac-sha-512)
| | | +--ro hmac-sha-512?    empty

```



#### 4. Key Chain YANG Model

```
<CODE BEGINS>
module ietf-key-chain {
  namespace "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-key-chain";
  // replace with IANA namespace when assigned
  prefix "key-chain";

  import ietf-yang-types {
    prefix "yang";
  }

  organization
    "Cisco Systems
     170 West Tasman Drive
     San Jose, CA 95134-1706
     USA";
  contact
    "Acee Lindem - acee@cisco.com";

  description
    "This YANG module defines the generic configuration
     data for key-chain. It is intended that the module
     will be extended by vendors to define vendor-specific
     key-chain configuration parameters.
    ";

  revision 2015-06-29 {
    description
      "Updated version. Added Operation State following
       draft-openconfig-netmod-opstate-00.";
    reference
      "RFC XXXX: A YANG Data Model for key-chain";
  }
  revision 2015-02-24 {
    description
      "Initial revision.";
    reference
      "RFC XXXX: A YANG Data Model for key-chain";
  }

  typedef key-chain-ref {
    type leafref {
      path "/key-chain:key-chains/key-chain:key-chain-list/"
        + "key-chain:name";
    }
    description
      "This type is used by data models that need to reference
```



```
        configured key-chains.";
    }

    feature hex-key-string {
        description
            "Support hexadecimal key string.";
    }

    feature accept-tolerance {
        description
            "To specify the tolerance or acceptance limit.";
    }

    feature independent-send-accept-lifetime {
        description
            "Support for independent send and accept key lifetimes.";
    }

    feature crypto-hmac-sha-1-12 {
        description
            "Support for TCP HMAC-SHA-1 12 byte digest hack.";
    }

    grouping lifetime {
        description
            "Key lifetime specification.";
        choice lifetime {
            default always;
            description
                "Options for specifying key accept or send lifetimes";
            case always {
                leaf always {
                    type empty;
                    description
                        "Indicates key lifetime is always valid.";
                }
            }
            case start-end-time {
                leaf start-date-time {
                    type yang:date-and-time;
                    description "Start time.";
                }
                choice end-time {
                    default infinite;
                    description
                        "End-time setting.";
                    case infinite {
                        leaf no-end-time {
```





```
        type empty;
      description
        "Indicates key lifetime end-time in infinite.";
    }
  }
  case duration {
    leaf duration {
      type uint32 {
        range "1..2147483646";
      }
      units seconds;
      description "Key lifetime duration, in seconds";
    }
  }
  case end-date-time {
    leaf end-date-time {
      type yang:date-and-time;
      description "End time.";
    }
  }
}
}
}
}
}

grouping crypto-algorithm-types {
  description "Cryptographic algorithm types.";
  choice algorithm {
    description
      "Options for cryptographic algorithm specification.";
    case hmac-sha-1-12 {
      if-feature crypto-hmac-sha-1-12;
      leaf hmac-sha1-12 {
        type empty;
        description "The HMAC-SHA1-12 algorithm.";
      }
    }
    case md5 {
      leaf md5 {
        type empty;
        description "The MD5 algorithm.";
      }
    }
    case sha-1 {
      leaf sha-1 {
        type empty;
        description "The SHA-1 algorithm.";
      }
    }
  }
}
```



```
    }
    case hmac-sha-1 {
      leaf hmac-sha-1 {
        type empty;
        description "HMAC-SHA-1 authentication algorithm.";
      }
    }
    case hmac-sha-256 {
      leaf hmac-sha-256 {
        type empty;
        description "HMAC-SHA-256 authentication algorithm.";
      }
    }
    case hmac-sha-384 {
      leaf hmac-sha-384 {
        type empty;
        description "HMAC-SHA-384 authentication algorithm.";
      }
    }
    case hmac-sha-512 {
      leaf hmac-sha-512 {
        type empty;
        description "HMAC-SHA-512 authentication algorithm.";
      }
    }
  }
}

grouping key-chain {
  description
    "key-chain specification grouping.";
  leaf name {
    type string;
    description "Name of the key-chain.";
  }

  leaf name-state {
    type string;
    config false;
    description "Configured name of the key-chain.";
  }

  container accept-tolerance {
    if-feature accept-tolerance;
    description
      "Tolerance for key lifetime acceptance (seconds).";
    leaf duration {
      type uint32;
    }
  }
}
```



```
        units seconds;
        default "0";
        description
            "Tolerance range, in seconds.";
    }
}

container accept-tolerance-state {
    config false;
    description
        "Configured tolerance for key lifetime
        acceptance (seconds).";
    leaf duration {
        type uint32;
        description
            "Configured tolerance range, in seconds.";
    }
}

list key-chain-entry {
    key "key-id";
    description "One key.";
    leaf key-id {
        type uint64;
        description "Key id.";
    }
    leaf key-id-state {
        type uint64;
        config false;
        description "Configured key id.";
    }
}

container key-string {
    description "The key string.";
    choice key-string-style {
        description
            "Key string styles";
        case keystack {
            leaf keystack {
                type string;
                description "Key string in ASCII format.";
            }
        }
        case hexadecimal {
            if-feature hex-key-string;
            leaf hexadecimal-string {
                type yang:hex-string;
                description
                    "Key in hexadecimal string format.";
            }
        }
    }
}
```



```
    }
  }
}
container lifetime {
  description "Specify a key's lifetime.";
  choice lifetime {
    description
      "Options for specification of send and accept
      lifetimes.";
    case send-and-accept-lifetime {
      description
        "Send and accept key have the same lifetime.";
      container send-accept-lifetime {
        uses lifetime;
        description
          "Single lifetime specification for both send and
          accept lifetimes.";
      }
    }
    case independent-send-accept-lifetime {
      if-feature independent-send-accept-lifetime;
      description
        "Independent send and accept key lifetimes.";
      container send-lifetime {
        uses lifetime;
        description
          "Separate lifetime specification for send
          lifetime.";
      }
      container accept-lifetime {
        uses lifetime;
        description
          "Separate lifetime specification for accept
          lifetime.";
      }
    }
  }
}
container lifetime-state {
  config false;
  description "Configured key's lifetime.";
  container send-lifetime {
    uses lifetime;
    description
      "Configured send-lifetime.";
  }
  leaf send-valid {
```





```
        type boolean;
        description
            "Status of send-lifetime.";
    }
    container accept-lifetime {
        uses lifetime;
        description
            "Configured accept-lifetime.";
    }
    leaf accept-valid {
        type boolean;
        description
            "Status of accept-lifetime.";
    }
}
container crypto-algorithm {
    uses crypto-algorithm-types;
    description "Cryptographic algorithm associated with key.";
}
container crypto-algorithm-state {
    config false;
    uses crypto-algorithm-types;
    description "Configured cryptographic algorithm.";
}
}
}

container key-chains {
    list key-chain-list {
        key "name";
        description
            "List of key-chains.";
        uses key-chain;
    }
    description "All configured key-chains for the device.";
}
}
<CODE ENDS>
```

## 5. Relationship to other Work

## 6. Security Considerations

This document enables the automated distribution of industry standard key chains using the NETCONF [\[NETCONF\]](#) protocol. As such, the security considerations for the NETCONF protocol are applicable. Given that the key chains themselves are sensitive data, it is RECOMMENDED that the NETCONF communication channel be encrypted. One



way to do accomplish this would be to invoke and run NETCONF over SSH as described in [[NETCONF-SSH](#)].

The key strings themselves are not included in the operational state. This is a practice carried over from SNMP MIB modules and is an are for further discussion.

## 7. IANA Considerations

This document registers a URI in the IETF XML registry [[XML-REGISTRY](#)]. Following the format in [RFC 3688](#), the following registration is requested to be made:

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-key-chain

Registrant Contact: The IESG.

XML: N/A, the requested URI is an XML namespace.

This document registers a YANG module in the YANG Module Names registry [[YANG](#)].

name: ietf-acl namespace: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-key-chain prefix: ietf-key-chain reference: RFC XXXX

## 8. References

### 8.1. Normative References

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## 8.2. Informative References

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### [OSPFV3-AUTH]

Bhatia, M., Manral, V., and A. Lindem, "Supporting  
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## Appendix A. Acknowledgments

The RFC text was produced using Marshall Rose's xml2rfc tool.

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