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L2TP Link Extensions

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Abstract

The physical separation of the LAC and LNS with L2TP[2] and logical separation of the responsibilities of each with respect to negotiated link parameters introduces a lack of awareness between the tunnel endpoints that does not exist in a typical PPP dialup device. When possible, Proxy LCP provides a manner in which to negotiate link parameters at the LAC and communication of these in full to the LNS. If these options can be made acceptable to the LNS, then there should not be any insurmountable difficulty with regard to mismatch of link expectations. However, given that there are instances where negotiation of LCP[1] must take place at the LNS, some direction by the LAC as to what parameters are acceptable, as well as some communication from the LNS as to what parameters have been negotiated, is desirable.

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1.0 Introduction

For the majority of topologies today, the Bearer Type, Bearer Capabilities, Framing Type, ACCM, and Framing Capabilities AVPs defined in the L2TP base specification communicate sufficient information between the LAC and LNS for a typical analog or digital dialup link with HDLC-like framing[3]. Defaults for PPP LCP options such as MRU, ACFC and PFC are well understood for various bearer and framing types and are utilized in the event that LCP negotiation by the LNS must occur.

For some L2TP applications and, specifically, some PPP media types, particular link capabilities and requirements may need to be sent from the LAC to the LNS in order for the LNS to properly initialize negotiation of LCP. Further, the LCP options negotiated may need to be transmitted back to the LAC so that it may make allowances at the physical link if necessary.

LCP options may be classified into roughly three different categories with respect to their affect on L2TP; (1) options which affect framing in a way that the LAC may need to know about or handle specifically (e.g., ALT-FCS, ACCM, MRU), (2) options that are transparent to the LAC (e.g., AUTH-TYPE), and (3) options that the LAC may wish to influence because they are dependent on the media type (ACFC, PFC). We are most concerned about options which fall into category (1) and (3).

This document defines new AVPs to allow the LAC and the LNS to communicate complete LCP information in order to react accordingly. LCP option information is structured in the same way as the Proxy LCP AVPs are in the base L2TP specification. This essentially involves encapsulation of a PPP LCP Configure- Request or Configure-Ack packet within an L2TP AVP.

1.1 Conventions

The following language conventions are used in the items of specification in this document:

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](#) [15].

2.0 Communicating desired link parameters from the LAC to the LNS

The LAC may utilize the following AVPs within an ICCN or OCCN message in order to influence the LNS to negotiate LCP in a specific manner. If these AVPs are supported by the LNS, they should override any suggestions for LCP options implied by all other AVPs received.

These AVPs may coexist with the Proxy AVPs defined in the base L2TP

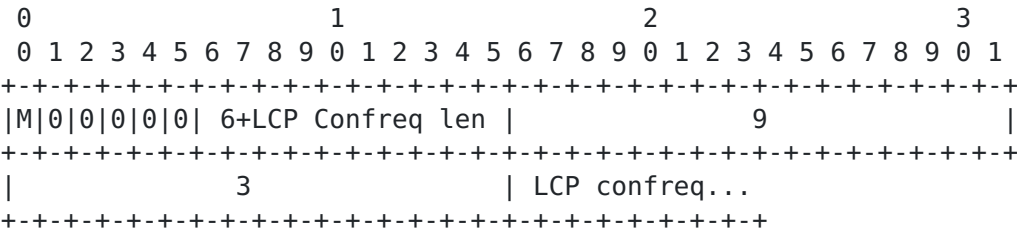
specification. If Proxy AVPs are received, the LNS may choose to accept these parameters, or renegotiate LCP with the options suggested by these AVPs. If the LAC wishes to force negotiation of

LCP by the LNS, it should simply omit all Proxy AVPs during call initialization.

By default, the AVPs defined in 2.1 and 2.2 are not mandatory (M-bit is set to zero). However, if an LAC implementation needs to strongly enforce adherence to the options defined within the AVPs, it MAY set the M-bit to 1, thus forcing the LNS to discontinue the session if it does not support this AVP.

If the AVPs in sections 2.1 and 2.2 are sent to the LNS, the LAC MUST be prepared to accept the AVPs as defined in section 2.3.

2.1 LCP Want Options



This AVP contains a list of options that the LAC would like to see negotiated by the LNS. In some cases this maps to a desired value (e.g., MRU) and in some cases it maps to a specific option that is desired to be enabled (e.g., ACFC). The LNS should use these suggestions when building its initial Configure- Request. Presence of this AVP is optional.

The following chart defines some of the more common LCP options that may be included in this AVP with guidance of how to handle them at the LAC and LNS. This table is provided for some of the more common or problematic LCP options. It is not intended to be an exhaustive representation of all LCP options available.

LCP Want Option	LAC Action	LNS Action
MRU	LAC provides a maximum value	LNS SHOULD begin negotiation with this value. However, it MAY reduce it if necessary.
ACCM	LAC Provides a mask	LNS SHOULD begin negotiation with this value. LNS may add bit(s) while negotiating
PFC	LAC provides PFC if it is desired on the link type (e.g. AHDLC)	LNS SHOULD begin negotiation with this value.

ACFC

LAC provides ACCOMP
if it is desired on

LNS SHOULD begin negotiation
with this value.

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PFC

LAC provides PFC
if it is allowed on
the link type

LNS may accept PFC

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	(e.g. AHDLC)	
ACFC	LAC provides ACFC if it is allowed on the link type (e.g. AHDLC)	LNS may accept ACFC
FCS-ALT	LAC indicates valid values for the link type	Negotiation this option is of no consequence to the LNS as the FCS is stripped at the LAC. However, the LNS SHOULD only accept FCS-ALT types listed here (more than one value may be present).

2.3 Communicating negotiated link parameters from the LNS to the LAC

There are no new AVPs defined for communication of negotiated parameters from the LNS to the LAC. Instead, two AVPs that are defined in the base L2TP specification are simply included in a new location.

When LCP negotiation is complete by the LNS, a Set-Link-Info control message may be sent with the the Last Sent LCP Confreq (IETF L2TP Attribute 27) and Last Received LCP Confreq (IETF L2TP Attribute 28) included in the list of AVPs. These AVPs should contain the last sent and last received (with respect to the LNS) LCP packets. For AVP format details, refer to the L2TP base specification.

If LCP negotiation occurs at the LNS and the new AVPs defined in [section 2.1](#) and 2.2 of this document are utilized, then a Set-Link-Info control message MUST be sent on completion of the LCP negotiation, and the Last Sent and Last Received LCP Confreq packets MUST be included.

3.0 Contacts

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4.0 References

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