

## Repeated Authentication in Internet Key Exchange (IKEv2) Protocol

### Status of This Memo

This memo defines an Experimental Protocol for the Internet community. It does not specify an Internet standard of any kind. Discussion and suggestions for improvement are requested. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

### Copyright Notice

Copyright (C) The Internet Society (2006).

### Abstract

This document extends the Internet Key Exchange (IKEv2) Protocol document [IKEv2]. With some IPsec peers, particularly in the remote access scenario, it is desirable to repeat the mutual authentication periodically. The purpose of this is to limit the time that security associations (SAs) can be used by a third party who has gained control of the IPsec peer. This document describes a mechanism to perform this function.

### 1. Introduction

In several cases, such as the remote access scenario, policy dictates that the mutual authentication needs to be repeated periodically. Repeated authentication can usually be achieved by simply repeating the Initial exchange by whichever side has a stricter policy.

However, in the remote access scenario it is usually up to a human user to supply the authentication credentials, and often Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) is used for authentication, which makes it unreasonable or impossible for the remote access gateway to initiate the IKEv2 exchange.

This document describes a new notification that the original Responder can send to the original Initiator with the number of seconds before the authentication needs to be repeated. The Initiator SHOULD repeat the Initial exchange before that time is expired. If the Initiator fails to do so, the Responder may close all Security Associations.

Repeated authentication is not the same as IKE SA rekeying, and need not be tied to it. The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", and "MAY" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

## 2. Authentication Lifetime

The Responder in an IKEv2 negotiation MAY be configured to limit the time that an IKE SA and the associated IPsec SAs may be used before the peer is required to repeat the authentication, through a new Initial Exchange.

The Responder MUST send this information to the Initiator in an AUTH\_LIFETIME notification either in the last message of an IKE\_AUTH exchange, or in an INFORMATIONAL request, which may be sent at any time.

When sent as part of the IKE SA setup, the AUTH\_LIFETIME notification is used as follows:

Initiator		Responder
-----		-----
HDR, SAi1, KEi, Ni	-->	
	<--	HDR, SAR1, KEr, Nr, [CERTREQ]
HDR, SK {IDi, [CERT,] [CERTREQ,] [IDr,] AUTH, SAi2, TSi, TSr}	-->	
	<--	HDR, SK {IDr, [CERT,] AUTH, SAr2, TSi, TSr, N(AUTH_LIFETIME)}

The separate Informational exchange is formed as follows:

	<--	HDR, SK {N(AUTH_LIFETIME)}
HDR SK {}	-->	

The AUTH\_LIFETIME notification is described in Section 3.

The original Responder that sends the AUTH\_LIFETIME notification SHOULD send a DELETE notification soon after the end of the lifetime period, unless the IKE SA is deleted before the lifetime period elapses. If the IKE SA is rekeyed, then the time limit applies to the new SA.

An Initiator that received an AUTH\_LIFETIME notification SHOULD repeat the Initial exchange within the time indicated in the notification. The time is measured from the time that the original Initiator receives the notification.

A special case is where the notification is sent in an Informational exchange, and the lifetime is zero. In that case, the original responder SHOULD allow a reasonable time for the repeated authentication to occur.

The AUTH\_LIFETIME notification MUST be protected and MAY be sent by the original Responder at any time. If the policy changes, the original Responder MAY send it again in a new Informational.

The new Initial exchange is not altered. The initiator SHOULD delete the old IKE SA within a reasonable time of the new Auth exchange.

### 3. AUTH\_LIFETIME Notification

The AUTH\_LIFETIME message is a notification payload formatted as follows:

```

          1               2               3
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
! Next Payload  !C!  RESERVED   !           Payload Length         !
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
! Protocol ID   !   SPI Size    !           Notify Message Type     !
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
!                                     Lifetime                           !
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

- o Payload Length is 12.
- o Protocol ID (1 octet) MUST be 0.
- o SPI size is 0 (SPI is in message header).
- o Notify Message type is 16403 by IANA.
- o Lifetime is the amount of time (in seconds) left before the peer should repeat the Initial exchange. A zero value signifies that the Initial exchange should begin immediately. It is usually not reasonable to set this value to less than 300 (5 minutes) since that is too cumbersome for a user. It is also usually not reasonable to set this value to more than 86400 (1 day) as that would negate the security benefit of repeating the authentication.

### 4. Interoperability with Non-Supporting IKEv2 Implementations

IKEv2 implementations that do not support the AUTH\_LIFETIME notification will ignore it and will not repeat the authentication. In that case the original Responder will send a Delete notification for the IKE SA in an Informational exchange. Such implementations may be configured manually to repeat the authentication periodically.

Non-supporting Responders are not a problem because they will simply not send these notifications. In that case, there is no requirement that the original Initiator re-authenticate.

## 5. Security Considerations

The AUTH\_LIFETIME notification sent by the Responder does not override any security policy on the Initiator. In particular, the Initiator may have a different policy regarding re-authentication, requiring more frequent re-authentication. Such an Initiator can repeat the authentication earlier than is required by the notification.

An Initiator MAY set reasonable limits on the amount of time in the AUTH\_LIFETIME notification. For example, an authentication lifetime of less than 300 seconds from SA initiation may be considered unreasonable.

## 6. IANA Considerations

The IANA has assigned a notification payload type for the AUTH\_LIFETIME notifications from the IKEv2 Notify Message Types registry.

## 7. Normative References

- [IKEv2] Kaufman, C., "Internet Key Exchange (IKEv2) Protocol", RFC 4306, December 2005.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.

## Author's Address

Yoav Nir  
Check Point Software Technologies  
  
EMail: [ynir@checkpoint.com](mailto:ynir@checkpoint.com)

## Full Copyright Statement

Copyright (C) The Internet Society (2006).

This document is subject to the rights, licenses and restrictions contained in BCP 78, and except as set forth therein, the authors retain all their rights.

This document and the information contained herein are provided on an "AS IS" basis and THE CONTRIBUTOR, THE ORGANIZATION HE/SHE REPRESENTS OR IS SPONSORED BY (IF ANY), THE INTERNET SOCIETY AND THE INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY THAT THE USE OF THE INFORMATION HEREIN WILL NOT INFRINGE ANY RIGHTS OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

## Intellectual Property

The IETF takes no position regarding the validity or scope of any Intellectual Property Rights or other rights that might be claimed to pertain to the implementation or use of the technology described in this document or the extent to which any license under such rights might or might not be available; nor does it represent that it has made any independent effort to identify any such rights. Information on the procedures with respect to rights in RFC documents can be found in BCP 78 and BCP 79.

Copies of IPR disclosures made to the IETF Secretariat and any assurances of licenses to be made available, or the result of an attempt made to obtain a general license or permission for the use of such proprietary rights by implementers or users of this specification can be obtained from the IETF on-line IPR repository at <http://www.ietf.org/ipr>.

The IETF invites any interested party to bring to its attention any copyrights, patents or patent applications, or other proprietary rights that may cover technology that may be required to implement this standard. Please address the information to the IETF at [ietf-ipr@ietf.org](mailto:ietf-ipr@ietf.org).

## Acknowledgement

Funding for the RFC Editor function is provided by the IETF Administrative Support Activity (IASA).

