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NetWare/IP Domain Name and Information

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

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1.0 Abstract

The Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) [RFC 2131] provides a framework for passing configuration information to hosts on a TCP/IP network. DHCP includes options for specific configuration parameters [RFC 2132]. This document defines options that carry NetWare/IP domain name and NetWare/IP sub-options to DHCP clients.

1.1 Requirements

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 [RFC 2119].

1.2 Terminology

This document uses the following terms:

- o "DHCP client"

A DHCP client is an Internet host using DHCP to obtain configuration parameters such as a network address.

- o "DHCP server"

A DHCP server is an Internet host that returns configuration parameters to DHCP clients.

2. The NetWare/IP Domain Name option

This option code is used to convey the NetWare/IP domain name used by the NetWare/IP product. The NetWare/IP Domain in the option is an NVT ASCII [RFC 854] string whose length is inferred from the option 'len' field.

The code for this option is 62, and its maximum length is 255.

Code	Len	NetWare/IP Domain Name			
62	n	c1	c2	c3	...

The 'len' field gives the length of the NetWare/IP Domain Name.

3. The NetWare/IP Information option

The NetWare/IP option code will be used to convey all the NetWare/IP related information except for the NetWare/IP domain name.

The code for this option is 63, and its maximum length is 255. A number of NetWare/IP sub-options will be conveyed using this option code. The 'len' field for this option gives the length of the option data, which includes the sub-option code, length and data fields.

Each sub-option contains in sequential order, a one byte sub-option code, a one byte length, and an optional multiple byte value field. The sub-option length gives the length of the value field for the sub-option. The example below illustrates the use of the 'len' and sub-option length fields in this option.

One and only one of the following four sub-options must be the first sub-option to be present in option 63 encoding. Each of them is simply a type length pair with length set to zero.

Sub-options:

NWIP_DOES_NOT_EXIST (code 1)

The responding DHCP server does not have any NetWare/IP information configured.

NWIP_EXIST_IN_OPTIONS_AREA (code 2)

All NetWare/IP information is present in the 'options' area of the DHCP response packet.

NWIP_EXIST_IN_SNAME_FILE (code 3)

All NetWare/IP information is present in the 'sname' and, if necessary, 'file' fields of the DHCP response packet. If used, the following DHCP server behavior is required: within the 'options' area, option 63 is present with its length field set to 2. The first byte of the value field is set to NWIP_EXIST_IN_SNAME_FILE tag and the second byte is set to zero. Both option 62 and option 63 will be placed in the area covered by the sname and file fields. Option 62 is encoded normally. Option 63 is encoded with its tag, length and value. The value field does not contain any of the first four sub-options described herein.

NWIP_EXIST_BUT_TOO_BIG (code 4)

Neither 'options' area nor 'sname' field can accommodate the NetWare/IP information.

If either NWIP_EXIST_IN_OPTIONS_AREA or NWIP_EXIST_IN_SNAME_FILE sub-options is set, one or more of the following sub-options may be present.

NSQ_BROADCAST (code 5)

Length is 1 and a value of 1 or 0. If the value is 1, the client SHOULD perform a NetWare Nearest Server Query to find out its nearest NetWare/IP server.

PREFERRED_DSS (code 6)

Length is $(n * 4)$ and the value is an array of n IP addresses, each four bytes in length. The maximum number of addresses is 5 and therefore the maximum length value is 20. The list contains the addresses of n NetWare Domain SAP/RIP Server (DSS).

NEAREST_NWIP_SERVER (code 7)

Length is $(n * 4)$ and the value is an array of n IP addresses, each four bytes in length. The maximum number of addresses is 5 and therefore the maximum length value is 20. The list contains the addresses of n Nearest NetWare/IP servers.

AUTORETRIES (code 8)

Length is 1 and the value is a one byte integer value indicating the number of times a NetWare/IP client should attempt to communicate with a given DSS server at startup.

AUTORETRY_SECS (code 9)

Length is 1 and the value is a one byte integer value indicating the amount of delay in seconds in between each NetWare/IP client attempt to communicate with a given DSS server at startup.

NWIP_1_1 (code 10)

Length is 1 and the value is 1 or 0. If the value is 1, the NetWare/IP client SHOULD support NetWare/IP Version 1.1 compatibility. A NetWare/IP client only needs this compatibility if it will contact a NetWare/IP version 1.1 server.

PRIMARY_DSS (code 11)

Length of 4, and the value is a single IP address. This field identifies the Primary Domain SAP/RIP Service server (DSS) for this NetWare/IP domain. NetWare/IP administration utility uses this value as Primary DSS server when configuring a secondary DSS server.

An example of option 63 encoding is provided below.

Code	Len	NetWare/IP	General	Info
63	11	2	0	
NWIP_EXIST_IN_OPTIONS_AREA (length 0)				
5	1	1	1	
NSQ_BROADCAST_SERVER (length 1) value is YES				
7	4	IP address		
NEAREST_NWIP_SERVER (length 4) value is IP address of server				

4. References

[RFC 854] Postel, J. and J. Reynolds, "Telnet Protocol Specification", RFC 854, May 1983.

[RFC 2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", RFC 2119, March 1997.

[RFC 2131] Droms, R., "Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol", RFC 2131, March 1997.

[RFC 2132] Alexander, S. and R. Droms, "DHCP Options and BOOTP Vendor Extensions", RFC 2132, March 1997.

5. Security considerations

DHCP currently provides no authentication or security mechanisms. Potential exposures to attack are discussed in section 7 of the DHCP protocol specification [RFC 2131].

The NetWare/IP options can be used by unauthorized DHCP servers to misconfigure NetWare/IP clients with potentially disruptive information.

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