DHCP Option for Configuring IPv6-over-IPv4 Tunnels
<draft-daniel-dhc-ipv6in4-opt-04.txt>

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Abstract

This document provides a mechanism by which the DHCPv4 servers can provide information about the configured IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnel end-point. The IPv4/IPv6 dual-stack nodes can use this information to set up a configured tunnel to the tunnel end-point to obtain IPv6 connectivity.
1. Introduction

In the initial deployment of IPv6, the IPv6 nodes may need to communicate with the other IPv6 nodes via IPv4 tunnel service. The connectivity can be obtained by setting up an IPv6-over-IPv4 configured tunnel between a client and a tunnel router.

This document defines a new option by which the DHCPv4 [RFC-2131] server can notify the client with the list of end-points of the possible configured tunnels.

Particularly, this mechanism is useful where the ISP is providing the IPv6 services but is doing it using tunneling over IPv4 to avoid upgrading all their infrastructure to support IPv6 on day one.

Regarding IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnel, the tunnel broker [RFC-3053] architecture has been widely deployed in the dual networks to obtain IPv6 connectivity via tunnel service because of easy configuration on the users. After configuring IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnel between the users and the selected tunnel server, tunnel broker allows user to get access to the 6bone or any other IPv6 network the tunnel server is connected to. In case of no tunnel broker, the proposed mechanism in this document can allow users to obtain the IPv6 connectivity efficiently.
2. Requirements

The keywords MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHALL, SHALL NOT, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT, RECOMMENDED, MAY, and OPTIONAL, when they appear in this document, are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC-2119].

3. Configured Tunnel End Point Option

This option specifies the configured tunnel end-point that client should use when discovering the IPv4 address of the ISP’s tunnel router somehow via the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol.

Once the IPv4 address has been learned, it is configured as the tunnel end-point for the configured IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnel.

The format of the Configured Tunnel End Point Option is shown as below;

The code for this option is TBD. The length of this option is 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>CTEP Order in Sequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1</td>
<td>OPTION_CTEP</td>
<td>Len</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--------------------------------------------+----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--------------------------------------------+----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>+--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the above diagram, CTEP Addr is 32-bit integers corresponding to DHCP options which specify the IP address of different configured tunnel end-point.

4. DHCP Client Behavior
The DHCP client will use this option to create a tunnel end-point address for configuring IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnel. The client may receive tunnel services in this option that it does not support or has not been configured to access. Likewise, a client may receive an option that tunnel services for which no corresponding DHCP option was supplied. Clients will interpret this option in a system-specific manner whose specification is outside the scope of this document.

As described in [RFC-2893], the dual node received CTEP option MUST store the tunnel end-point address and this address is used as destination address for the encapsulating IPv4 header.

The determination of which packets to tunnel is usually made by routing information on the encapsulator. This is usually done via a routing table, which directs packets based on their destination address using the prefix mask and match technique. For more information, refer to section 4. Configured Tunneling in [RFC-2893].

5. Multiple Tunnel End Point Considerations

For the simple configured tunnel, one tunnel end-point is generally used and it assumes that all the networks will be reached through the same end-point. In this case, one CTEP Addr field in the CTEP option is used for configured tunnel service.

The list of end-points can be installed as the default routes and the routes will be tried in a round robin fashion if the IPv6 host load-sharing is honored [IPv6LOAD]. Instead there can be specific default routes for the different destination.

Generally, there may not be a need for installing multiple configured tunnel end-points unless administrator wants two for redundancy purposes. It is out of scope of this draft.

6. Security Considerations
A rogue DHCP server can issue invalid or incorrect configured tunnel end-point. This may cause denial of service due to unreachability or makes the client to reach incorrect destination.

The latter has very severe security issues as the tunnel end-point is on-the-path towards all the IPv6 destinations, and can trivially act as a man-in-the-middle attacker.

To increase secure exchange between users and tunnel end-points, the tunnel broker or any tunnel agent can be used for configuring IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnels including authentication, security association and so on, but it is not scope of this document.

The authenticated DHCP [RFC-3118] can be also used for secure exchange between users and tunnel end-points.

7. Extended Usage

As stated in Introduction, the tunnel broker is a nice tool for allowing user to get the IPv6 connectivity through IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnel. To configure tunnel between users and tunnel servers, users have to access to the tunnel broker by web registration and then tunnel broker set up tunnel between users and a selected tunnel server. Prior to filling up the form on the tunnel broker, users have to know the IPv4 address of the tunnel broker (as described in [6], it may be IPv6 addressable but not mandatory). Regarding this operation, this option proposed in this document can allow users to obtain an available tunnel broker address (or addresses) without any manual operations.

For this operation, a new option (called Tunnel Broker Configuration Option: option name is OPTION_TBCO and value is TBD) can be simply made by DHCPv4 option extension which may be the same format as CTEP option.

To increase secure exchange between users and tunnel end-points (tunnel servers or dual routers) this extended usage can be applied for configuring IPv6-over-IPv4 tunnel instead of direct tunnel
configuration between them. Specific method for secure exchange is beyond scope of this document.

8. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to assign a value for the Configured Tunnel Endpoint option code in accordance with RFC 2939 [RFC-2939].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option Name</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Described in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPTION_CTEP</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Section 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. References

9.1 Normative References


9.2 Informative Reference


10. Authors’ Addresses

Soohong Daniel Park
Mobile Platform Laboratory
Samsung Electronics.
Suwon
Korea

Phone: +81 31 200 4508
Email: soohong.park@samsung.com

Pyungsoo Kim
Mobile Platform Laboratory
Samsung Electronics.
Suwon
Korea

Phone: +81 31 200 4635
Email: kimps@samsung.com

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