Detecting Network Attachment in IPv6 Networks (DNAv6)
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Abstract

Efficient detection of network attachment in IPv6 needs the following three components: a method for hosts to detect link change in the presence of unmodified (non-DNAv6) routers, a method for the host to query routers on the link to identify the link (Link Identification) and a method for the routers on the link to consistently respond to such a query with minimal delay (Fast RA). Solving the link identification based strictly on RFC 2461 is difficult because of the flexibility offered to routers in terms of prefixes advertised in a router advertisement (RA) message. Similarly, the random delay in
responding to router solicitation messages imposed by RFC 2461 makes it difficult to receive an RA quickly. In this memo, a mechanism that requires the hosts to monitor all the prefixes advertised on the link and use it for link identification in the presence of non-DNAv6 routers is presented. A more efficient link-identification mechanism requiring the DNAv6 routers to monitor the link for advertised prefixes to assist the hosts in link identification combined with a fast router advertisement mechanism that selects the order of response for the router deterministically is also presented.

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1. Introduction

This memo defines a mechanism for an IPv6 host to detect link-change in the presence of unmodified (non-DNAv6) routers and proposes new extensions to "IPv6 Neighbor Discovery" [3] to increase the efficiency of link-change detection in the presence of DNAv6 enabled routers. The proposed mechanism define the construct that identifies a link, proposes an algorithm for the routers on the link to send a quick RA response without randomly waiting for up to MAX_RA_DELAY_TIME seconds as specified in RFC2461 [3]. This memo also defines a mechanism to exchange Source Link-Layer Address without affecting the neighbor caches when the host is performing Optimistic DAD.

The rest of the document refers to the proposed mechanisms by the term "DNAv6".

2. Terms and Abbreviations

The term "link" is used as defined in RFC 2460 [2]. NOTE: this is completely different from the term "link" as used by IEEE 802, etc.

Attachment: The process of establishing a layer-2 connection. Attachment (and detachment) may cause a link-change.

DNA Hint: An indication from other subsystems or protocol layers that link-change may have occurred.

Link-Change: Link-Change occurs when a host moves from a point-of-attachment on a link, to another point-of-attachment where it is unable to reach devices belonging to the previous link, without being forwarded through a router.

Point-of-Attachment: A link-layer base-station, VLAN or port through which a device attempts to reach the network. Changes to a host’s point-of-attachment may cause link-change.

Reachability Detection: Determination that a device (such as a router) is currently reachable. This is typically achieved using Neighbor Unreachability Detection procedure [3].

3. Overview

The DNA protocol presented in this document tries to achieve the following objectives:

- Eliminate the delays introduced by RFC 2461 in discovering the configuration.
Make it possible for the hosts to accurately detect the identity of their current link from a single RS-RA pair in the presence of either DNAv6 enabled routers and/or non-DNAv6 routers.

DNAv6 assumes that the host’s link interface software and hardware is capable of delivering a 'link up' event notification when layer 2 on the host is configured and sufficiently stable for IP traffic. This event notification acts as a DNA Hint to the layer 3 DNA procedures to check whether or not the host is attached to the same link as before. DNAv6 also assumes that an interface on the host is never connected to two links at the same time. In the case that the layer 2 technology is capable of having multiple attachments (for instance, multiple layer 2 associations or connections) at the same time, DNAv6 requires the individual layer-2 associations to be represented as separate (virtual interfaces) to layer 3 and DNAv6 in particular.

3.1 Link Identification

DNAv6 uses the set of prefixes that are assigned to the link to uniquely identify the link, which is quite natural and doesn’t require introducing any new form of identifier. However, this choice implies that the protocol needs to be robust against changes in the set of prefixes assigned to a link, including the case when a link is renumbered and the prefix is later reassigned to a different link. The protocol handles this during graceful renumbering (when the valid lifetime of the prefix is allowed to decrease to zero before it is removed and perhaps reassigned to a different link), it describes how to remove and reassign prefixes earlier than this without any incorrect behaviour, and will also recover in case where a prefix is reassigned without following the draft recommendations.

DNAv6 is based on using a Router Solicitation/Router Advertisement exchange to both verify whether the host has changed link, and if it has, provide the host with the configuration information for the new link. The base method for detecting link change involves getting routers to listen to all of the prefixes that are being advertised by other routers on the link. They can then respond to solicitations with complete prefix information. This information consists of the prefixes a router would advertise itself as per RFC 2461, and also, the prefixes learned from other routers on the link that are not being advertised by itself. These learned prefixes are included in a new Learned Prefix Option in the Router Advertisement.

A host receiving one of these "Complete RAs" - so marked by a flag - then knows all of the prefixes in use on a link, and by inference all those that are not. By comparing this with previously received prefixes the host can correctly decide whether it is connected to the same link as previously, or whether this Router Advertisement is from...
a router on a new link.

If the link contains all non-DNAv6 routers, then the host relies on the completeness (which the host always keeps track) of its own prefix list to make a decision; i.e. if its own prefix list is known to be ‘complete’, the host can make a decision by comparing the received prefixes with its prefix list, if its own prefix is not yet ‘complete’, the host will wait for the completeness criteria to be met before making the comparison.

Though frequently all routers on a link will advertise the same set of prefixes and thus experience no cost in making the RAs complete, there is potential for the RAs to be large when there are many prefixes advertised. Two mechanisms are defined that allow certain RAs to be reduced in size. Both these mechanisms use one prefix as a representative for the set of prefixes on a particular link.

One uses a technique called a "landmark", where the host chooses one of the prefixes as a landmark prefix, and then includes this in the Router Solicitation message in the form of a question "Am I on the link which has this prefix?". The landmark is carried in a new option, called the Landmark Option.

In the case when the host is still attached to the same link, which might occur when the host has changed from using one layer 2 access point to another, but the access points are on the same link, the Router Advertisement(s) it receives will contain a "yes, that prefix is on this link" answer by the inclusion of the landmark prefix in the RA, and no other information. Thus, such RA messages are quite small.

In the case when the landmark prefix is unknown to the responding router, the host will receive a "No" answer by non-inclusion of the landmark prefix in the RA, and also the information it needs to configure itself for the new link. The routers try to include as much information as possible in such messages, so that the host can be informed of all the prefixes assigned to the new link as soon as possible.

A second mechanism for reducing packet sizes applies to unsolicited Router Advertisements. By selecting a common prefix on the link to be the representative for the entire set of prefixes on the link, and making sure that it is included in every advertisement, it is possible to omit some prefixes. The smallest prefix on the link is selected as the common prefix. Such advertisements will not inform a host of all of the prefixes at once, but in general these unsolicited advertisements will not be the first advertisement received on a link. Inclusion of the smallest prefix simply ensures that there is
overlap in the information advertised by each router on a link and
that hosts will thus not incorrectly interpret one of these
incomplete RAs as an indication of movement. Even though this
document recommends the use of a prefix as the representative of the
link, future specifications can use the Learned Prefix Option to
include a non-prefix identifier as long as this identifier is 128 bit
long to avoid collision with any currently assigned prefix. So, any
future non-prefix link identifier MUST be 128 bits long.

The Router Advertisement messages are, in general, larger than the
solicitations, and with multiple routers on the link there will be
multiple advertisements sent for each solicitation. This
amplification can be used by an attacker to cause a Denial of Service
attack. Such attacks are limited by applying a rate limit on the
unicast Router Advertisements sent directly in response to each
solicitation, and using multicast RAs when the rate limit is
exceeded.

In order for the routers be able to both respond to the landmark
questions and send the complete RAs, the routers need to track the
prefixes that other routers advertise on the link. This process is
initialized when a router is enabled, by sending a Router
Solicitation and collecting the resulting RAs, and then multicasting
a few RAs more rapidly as already suggested in RFC 2461. This
process ensures with high probability that all the routers have the
same notion of the set of prefixes assigned to the link.

3.2 Fast Router Advertisement

According to RFC 2461 a solicited Router Advertisement should have a
random delay between 0 and MAX_RA_DELAY_TIME, to avoid the
advertisements from all the routers colliding on the link causing
congestion and higher probability of packet loss. In addition, RFC
2461 suggests that the RAs be multicast, and multicast RAs are rate
limited to one message every 3 seconds. This implies that the
response to a RS might be delayed up to 3.5 seconds.

DNAv6 avoids this delay by using a different mechanism to ensure that
two routers will not respond at exactly the same time while allowing
one of the routers on the link to respond immediately. Since the
hosts might be likely to use the first responding router as the first
choice from their default router list, the mechanism also ensures
that the same router doesn’t respond first to the RSs from different
hosts.

The mechanism is based on the routers on the link determining (from
the same RAs that are used in Section 3.1 to determine all the
prefixes assigned to the link), the link-local addresses of all the
other routers on the link. With this loosely consistent list, each router can independently compute some function of the (link-local) source address of the RS and each of the routers’ link-local addresses. The results of that function are then compared to create a ranking, and the ranking determines the delay each router will use when responding to the RS. The router which is ranked as #0 will respond with a zero delay.

If the routers become out-of-sync with respect to their learned router lists, two or more routers may respond with the same delay, but over time the routers will converge on their lists of learned routers on the link.

3.3 Tentative Source Link-Layer Address option (TO)

DNAv6 protocol requires the host to switch its IPv6 addresses to ‘optimistic’ state as recommended by Optimistic DAD [5] after receiving a link-up notification until a decision on the link-change possibility is made.

Optimistic DAD [5] prevents use of Source Link-Layer Address options (SLLAOs) in Router and Neighbour Solicitation messages from a tentative address (while Duplicate Address Detection is occurring). This is because receiving a Neighbour Solicitation (NS) or Router Solicitation (RS) containing an SLLAO would otherwise overwrite an existing cache entry, even if the cache entry contained the legitimate address owner, and the solicitor was a duplicate address.

Neighbour Advertisement (NA) messages don’t have such an issue, since the Advertisement message contains a flag which explicitly disallows overriding of existing cache entries, by the target link-layer address option carried within.

The effect of preventing SLLAOs for tentative addresses is that communications with these addresses are difficult for the tentative period. Sending solicitations without these options causes an additional round-trip for neighbour discovery if the advertiser does not have an existing neighbour cache entry for the solicitor. In some cases, multicast advertisements will be scheduled, where neighbour discovery is not possible on the advertiser.

A new option, called Tentative Option (TO), is defined that functions in the same role as the Source Link-Layer Address option defined by [3], but it MUST NOT override an existing neighbour cache entry.

The differing neighbour cache entry MUST NOT be affected by the reception of the Tentative Option. This ensures that tentative addresses are unable to modify legitimate neighbour cache entries.
In the case where an entry is unable to be added to the neighbour cache, a node MAY send responses direct to the link-layer address specified in the TO.

4. Message Formats

This memo defines two new flags for inclusion in the router advertisement message and three new options.

4.1 Router Advertisement

DNAv6 modifies the format of the Router Advertisement message by defining a bit to indicate that the router sending the message is participating in the DNAv6 protocol as well as a flag to indicate the completeness of the set of prefixes included in the Router Advertisement. The new message format is as follows:

```
0                   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
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|     Type      |     Code      |          Checksum             |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| Cur Hop Limit |M|O|H|Pr |D|C|R|       Router Lifetime         |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                         Reachable Time                        |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                          Retrans Timer                        |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                                                                 |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|                                                                 |
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|                                                                 |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
+   Options ...                                                |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
DNAAware (D)

The DNAAware (D) bit indicates that the router sending the RA is participating in the DNAv6 protocol. Other routers should include this router in calculating response delay tokens.

Complete (C)

The Complete (C) bit indicates that the Router Advertisement contains PIOs for all prefixes explicitly configured on the sending router, and, if other routers on the link are advertising additional prefixes, a Learned Prefix Option containing all additional prefixes that the router has heard from other routers on the link.
Reserved (R)

The reserved field is reduced from 3 bits to 1 bit.

4.2 Landmark Option

The Landmark Option is used by hosts in a Router Solicitation message to ask the routers on a link if the specified prefix is being advertised by some router on the link.

```
0                   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
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|     Type      |    Length     | Pref Length   |               |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+               +
|                           Reserved                            |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+               |
|                                                               |
+----------------- Landmark Prefix ----------------+               |
|                                                               |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+               |
```

Type

TBA

Length

8 bit unsigned integer indicating the length of the option in units of 8 octets. Set to 2 or 3.

Pref Length

An 8 bit unsigned integer representing the number of bits in the prefix to be used for matching.

Reserved

A 38 bit unused field. It MUST be initialised to zero by the sender, and ignored by the receiver.

Prefix
A prefix being used by the host currently for a global IPv6 address, padded at the right with zeros. If the prefix length is less than 65 bits, only 64 bits need be included, otherwise 128 bits are included.

### 4.3 Learned Prefix Option

The Learned Prefix Option (LPO) is used by a router to indicate prefixes that are being advertised by other routers on the link, but not by itself.
Type

TBA

Length

8 bit unsigned integer indicating the length of the option in units of 8 octets.

Prefix Len

One or more fields (N) each consisting of an 8-bit unsigned integer representing the prefix lengths of the following prefixes. The Prefix Len fields are ordered the same as the Prefix fields so that the first Prefix Len field represents the prefix length of the prefix contained in the first prefix field, and so on.

Padding

Zero padding sufficient to align the following prefix field on an 8-octet boundary.

Prefix

One or more fields (N) each containing a 128-bit address representing a prefix that has been heard on the link but is not explicitly configured on this router.

Description

This option MUST only be included in a Router Advertisement. This option contains prefixes that are being advertised on the link but are not explicitly configured on the sending router. The router MUST NOT include any prefixes with a zero valid lifetime in the LPO.

4.4 Tentative option
Type

TBD    (Requires IANA Allocation) suggest 17 (0x11)

Length

The length of the option (including the type and length fields) in units of 8 octets.

Link-Layer Address

The variable length link-layer address.

Description

The Tentative option contains the link-layer address of the sender of the packet. It is used in the Neighbour Solicitation and Router Solicitation packets.

5. DNA Operation

5.1 DNA Router Operation

Routers MUST collect information about the other routers that are advertising on the link.

5.1.1 Data Structures

The routers maintain a set of conceptual data structures for each interface to track the prefixes advertised by other routers on the link, and also the set of DNA routers (the routers that will quickly respond to RSs) on the link.

For each interface, routers maintain a list of all prefixes learned from other routers on the link but not explicitly configured on the router's own interface. The list will be referred to in this document as "DNARouterLearnedPrefixList". Prefixes are learned by their reception within Prefix Information Options [3] in Router Advertisements. Prefixes in Learned Prefix Options (see Section 4.3) MUST NOT update the contents of DNARouterLearnedPrefixList. For each prefix the router MUST store sufficient information to identify the prefix and to know when to remove the prefix entry from the list. This may be achieved by storing the following information:

1. Prefix
2. Prefix length

3. Prefix valid lifetime

4. Expiry time

The expiry time for entries in DNARouterLearnedPrefixList is LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME after the last received Router Advertisement affecting the entry, or the scheduled expiry of the prefix valid lifetime, whichever is earlier.

For each interface, routers also maintain a list of the other routers advertising on the link. The list will be referred to in this memo as "DNARouterList". For each router from which a Router Advertisement is received with the DNAAware flag set, the following information MUST be stored:

1. Link-local source address of advertising router

2. Token equal to the first 64 bits of an SHA-1 hash of the above address

3. Expiry time

Each router MUST include itself in the DNARouterList and generate a token for itself as described above based on the link-local address used in its RA messages.

The expiry time for entries in DNARouterList is LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME after the last received Router Advertisement affecting the entry.

5.1.2 Bootstrapping DNA Data Structures

As per RFC 2461 [3], when an interface on a host first starts up, it SHOULD transmit up to MAX_RTR_SOLICITATIONS Router Solicitations separated by RTR_SOLICITATION_INTERVAL in order to quickly learn of the routers and prefixes active on the link. DNAv6 requires the router to follow the same steps when its interface first starts up.

Upon startup, a router interface SHOULD also send a few unsolicited Router Advertisements as recommended in Section 6.2.4 of RFC 2461 [3], in order to inform others routers on the link of its presence.

During the bootstrap period ( (MAX_RTR_SOLICITATIONS - 1) * RTR_SOLICITATION_INTERVAL + RetransTimer [3]), a router interface both sends unsolicited Router Advertisements and responds to Router Solicitations, but the Router Advertisements MUST NOT include any DNA specific options except for setting the DNAAware flag. The DNAAware
flag is set so that other routers will know to include this router in their timing calculations for fast RA transmission. Other DNA options are omitted because the router may have incomplete information during bootstrap.

During the bootstrap period, the Complete flag in Router Advertisements MUST NOT be set.

During the bootstrap period, the timing of Router Advertisement transmission is as specified in RFC 2461.

5.1.3 Processing Router Advertisements

When a router receives a Router Advertisement, it first validates the RA as per the rules in RFC 2461, and then performs the actions specified in RFC 2461. In addition, each valid Router Advertisement is processed as follows:

If the DNAAware flag is set in the RA, the router checks if there is an entry in its DNARouterList by looking up the source address of the RA in that list. If not found, a new entry is added to DNARouterList, including the source address and a token equal to the first 64 bits of an SHA-1 hash of the source address. The entry’s expiry time is updated.

Regardless of the state of the DNAAware flag, each PIO in the RA is examined. If the prefix is not in the router’s DNARouterLearnedPrefixList and not in the router’s AdvPrefixList [3], the prefix is added to the DNARouterLearnedPrefixList, and its expiry time is set.

5.1.4 Processing Router Solicitations

The usual response to a Router Solicitation SHOULD be a unicast RA. However, to keep control of the rate of unicast RAs sent, a token bucket is used. The token bucket is filled at one token every UNICAST_RA_INTERVAL. A maximum of MAX_UNICAST_RA_BURST tokens are stored.

When a Router Solicitation is received, the router checks if it is possible to send a unicast response. A unicast response requires that the following conditions to be met:

- A unicast send token is available.

- The source address of the Router Solicitation is NOT the unspecified address (::).

If a unicast response is possible and the Router Solicitation contains a Landmark Option whose prefix is present in DNARouterLearnedPrefixList or AdvPrefixList, the router SHOULD send an abbreviated Router Advertisement. This abbreviated advertisement includes the Landmark prefix in a PIO if the prefix is in the AdvPrefixList or in a LPO if the prefix is found in the DNAOuterLearnedPrefixList, plus the base RA header and any SEND options as appropriate. The DNAware flag MUST be set. The Complete flag MUST NOT be set. This is the one exception where the common prefix (i.e. the smallest prefix) MAY be omitted.

If there is NO Landmark Option in the received Router Solicitation or it contains a Landmark Option whose prefix is NOT present in DNARouterLearnedPrefixList or AdvPrefixList or a unicast response is not possible, then the router SHOULD generate a Complete RA as specified in Section 5.1.5. The Router Advertisement MUST include the common prefix(es), as described in Section 5.1.6.

If a unicast response is possible, then a token is removed and the Router Advertisement is scheduled for transmission as specified in Section 5.1.7.

If a unicast response is not possible and there is no multicast RA already scheduled for transmission in the next MULTICAST_RA_DELAY the RA MUST be sent to the link-scoped all-nodes multicast address at the current time plus MULTICAST_RA_DELAY.

If a unicast response is not possible but there is a multicast RA already scheduled for transmission in the next MULTICAST_RA_DELAY, then the Router Solicitation MUST be silently discarded.

All Router Advertisements sent by a DNA router MUST have the "D" flag set so that hosts processing them know that they can interpret the messages according to this specification.

In order to understand the conditions leading to the different type of Router Advertisement messages (Abbreviated Vs CompleteRA, Unicast Vs Multicast), please refer to the figure below,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RA Message</th>
<th>Unicast</th>
<th>Multicast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviated RA</td>
<td>Landmark prefix present</td>
<td>Never on the link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete RA</td>
<td>No LO in RS or Landmark prefix NOT present</td>
<td>No token available in the token bucket on the link</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.1.5 Complete Router Advertisements

A CompleteRA is formed as follows:

Starting with a Router Advertisement with all fixed options (MTU, Advertisement Interval, flags, etc.), the DNAAware flag is set. As many Prefix Information Options for explicitly configured prefixes as will fit are added to the Router Advertisement. If there is sufficient room, a Learned Prefix Option as defined in Section 4.3 containing as many of the learned prefixes as will fit is added.

It may not be possible to include all of the prefixes in use on the link due to MTU or administrative limitations. If all Prefix Information Options and a Learned Prefix Option containing all of the learned prefixes were included in the RA, then the Complete flag in the Router Advertisement header is set.

If there are known to be prefixes that are not included in the Router Advertisement, then the Complete flag MUST NOT be set.

Note that although it may not be possible to fit all of the prefixes into an RA, the smallest prefix(es) MUST be included as discussed in Section 5.1.6.

5.1.6 Inclusion of a common prefixes

Among the prefixes advertised on a link, all routers selects one prefix and include that as a common prefix whenever they send an RA, both solicited and unsolicited. The inclusion of the common prefix ensures that there always is an overlap in the information advertised by each router on the link and that hosts will have a common prefix to correlate all RA messages received from routers on the same link.

This section presents how the routers select the common prefix without pre-arrangement, advertise it and change the common prefix gracefully without causing hosts to mistakenly assume a link change.

Even when stateful address configuration (DHCPv6) is used, at least one router on a link MUST be configured with one prefix, so that the common prefix can be included in the RA messages.

5.1.6.1 Selecting the common prefix

The router MUST pick the smallest prefix of all the prefixes
configured on the routers on the link as the common prefix. The selection is made from among the prefixes whose valid lifetime is greater than LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME, and learned prefixes which were received within LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME.

For comparing prefixes, they are padded to the right with zeros to make them 128 bit unsigned integers. Note that this smallest prefix is the smallest of all the prefixes configured on the routers on the link and may not be the smallest prefix used in the link through stateful address configuration.

When a router receives a new prefix in PIO, if the prefix is smaller than the current common prefix and has valid lifetime greater than LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME, the router selects that new prefix as a new common prefix. In case a new prefix smaller than the current common prefix is advertised in LPIO, the router doesn’t change the common prefix.

5.1.6.2 Advertising the common prefix

Whenever a router sends an RA, whether solicited or unsolicited, it MUST include the common prefix in it. Hence, all RAs MUST carry the common prefix except the abbreviated RA message sent in response to a RS with LO.

When a router advertises the common prefix, if the common prefix is explicitly configured on the router, it sends it in PIO. If the prefix was learned from advertisement of another router on the link, the router sends the common prefix in LPIO.

5.1.6.3 Changing the common prefix gracefully

Basic idea is, when a router changes a common prefix, it MUST send both the new common prefix and the old common prefix to ensure an overlapping prefix among RAs for LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME period and then it can retire the old common prefix.

When either a new prefix is added to a link that is numerically smaller than the current common prefix or the lifetime of the current common prefix falls below LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME, a new common prefix MUST be determined. In order to ensure that there is overlap between consecutive RAs on the link, the old common prefix must continue to be advertised for some time alongside the new common prefix. After the change, the old common prefix MUST be included in RAs for the following LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME. If the common prefix changes multiple times within LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME time window, the RA SHOULD include all of the previous common prefixes that were advertised during that time window.
For the purposes of propagating information, it is reasonable to assume that after three advertisements of the change, all routers have been made aware of it.

5.1.6.3.1 Using non-prefix identifier as common prefix

Although this memo only discusses the use of prefixes as common identifier among multiple RA messages, a future specification or amendment may describe a mechanism to select a "link identifier" that is not a prefix.

Since information from the Learned Prefix Option is only stored in DNAHostPrefixList, and is only used for DNA purposes and because a length field is used in LPIO, it is possible to carry any variable length identifier less than or equal to 128 bits in an LPIO and store it in DNAHostPrefixList (Section 5.2.1). To avoid any collision to prefixes, an future non-prefix link identifier MUST be 128 bits long and can be included in the LPIO of a RA message.

Future specifications are advised NOT to treat the information in an LPIO as prefixes such as they would the prefixes found in a Prefix Information Option. Future specifications are also advised NOT to assume that the entries in a host’s DNAHostPrefixList are actual prefixes in use on the link.

5.1.7 Scheduling Fast Router Advertisements

RAs may need to be delayed to avoid collisions in the case that there is more than one router on a link. The delay is calculated by determining a ranking for the router for the received RS, and multiplying that by RA_SEPARATION.

A Host Token is needed from the RS to calculate the router’s ranking. The first 64 bits of an SHA-1 hash of the source address of the RS MUST be used as the RS host token.

A router’s ranking is determined by taking the XOR of the RS Host Token and each of the stored Router Tokens. The results of these XOR operations are sorted lowest to highest. The router corresponding to the first entry in the sorted list is ranked zero, the second, one, and so on.

Note: it is not necessary for a router to actually sort the whole list. Each router just needs to determine its own position in the sorted list.

If Rank < FAST_RA_THRESHOLD, then the RA MUST be scheduled for transmission in Rank * RA_SEPARATION milliseconds. When the router
is ranked as zero, the resulting delay is zero, thus the RA SHOULD be
sent immediately.

If Rank \(\geq\) FAST_RA_THRESHOLD, then the RA MUST be replaced with a
Complete RA, if there is not one already, and scheduled for multicast
transmission as in RFC 2461.

5.1.8 Scheduling Unsolicited Router Advertisements

Unsolicited router advertisements MUST be scheduled as per RFC 2461.

The "D" flag in the RA header MUST be set.

They MAY be Complete RAs or MAY include only a subset of the
configured prefixes, but MUST include the common prefix as discussed in
Section 5.1.6.

This ensures that there will be overlap in the sets of prefixes
contained in consecutive RAs on a link from DNA routers, and thus an
absence of that overlap can be used to infer link change.

5.1.9 Removing a Prefix from an Interface

When a prefix is to stop being advertised in a PIO in RAs by an
interface before the expiry of the prefix’s valid lifetime, then the
router MUST add the prefix to the DNARouterLearnedPrefixList and set
it to expire in LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME or at the expiry of the last
advertised valid lifetime, whichever is earlier. This ensures that
to hosts there will be overlap in the prefixes in the RAs they see
and prevent them from incorrectly interpreting changed prefixes as
movement.

5.1.9.1 Early Removal of the common Prefix

If the common (the smallest) prefix is to be withdrawn early from a
link, that is before the expiry of its previously advertised valid
lifetime, it MUST be advertised for at least LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME
with a valid lifetime of less than LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME. This
ensures that all of the other routers are notified to begin the
process of changing the common prefix as well, and hosts will always
see overlap between the prefixes in consecutive RAs and thus not
mistake an RA for an indication of link change.

5.1.10 Prefix Reassignment

A prefix whose lifetime has expired after counting down in real time
for at least LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME may be reassigned to another link
immediately after expiry. If a prefix is withdrawn from a link
without counting down to the expiry of its valid lifetime, it SHOULD NOT be reassigned to another link for at least LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME or until the original expiry time, whichever is earlier. This gives sufficient time for other routers that have learned the prefix to expire it, and for hosts that have seen advertisements from those routers to expire the prefix as well.

Earlier reassignment may result in hosts that move from between the old and new links failing to detect the movement.

When the host is sure that the prefix list is complete, a false movement assumption may happen due to renumbering when a new prefix is introduced in RAs at about the same time as the host handles the ‘link UP’ event. We may solve the renumbering problem with minor modification as specified below.

When a router starts advertising a new prefix, it includes at least one old prefix in the same RA. The old prefix assures that the host doesn’t falsely assume a link change because of a new prefix. After a while, hosts will recognize the new prefix as the one assigned to the current link and update its prefix list.

In this way, we may provide a fast and robust solution. If a host can make the Complete Prefix List with certainty, it can check for link change fast. Otherwise, it can fall back on a slow but robust scheme. It is up to the host to decide which scheme to use.

5.2 DNA Host Operation

Hosts collect information about the prefixes advertised on the link to facilitate change detection.

5.2.1 Data Structures

Hosts MUST maintain a list of prefixes advertised on the link. This is separate from the RFC 2461 "Prefix List" and will be referred to here as the "DNAHostPrefixList". All prefixes SHOULD be stored, however an upper bound MUST be placed on the number stored to prevent overflow. For each prefix stored the host MUST store the following information:

1. Prefix
2. Prefix length
3. Expiry time

If a host is not able to store this information for every prefix,
there is a risk that the host will incorrectly decide that it has moved to a new link, when it receives advertisements from a non-DNA router.

Prefix entries in the DNAHostPrefixList expire and MUST be removed LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME after they are last seen in a received Router Advertisement (in either a PIO or LPIO) or at the expiry of the valid lifetime of the prefix, whichever is earlier.

Hosts SHOULD also maintain a "Landmark Prefix" as described in Section 5.2.4.

5.2.2 Host Configuration Variables

Hosts MUST make use of the following conceptual variables and they SHOULD be configurable:

DNASameLinkDADFlag

Boolean value indicating whether or not a host should re-run DAD when DNA indicates that link change has not occurred.

Default: False

5.2.3 Detecting Network Attachment Steps

An IPv6 host SHOULD follow the following steps when they receive a DNA Hint indicating the possibility of link change.

1. Mark all the preferred IPv6 addresses in use as optimistic. See Section 5.2.7.2.

2. Set all Neighbor Cache entries for routers on its Default Router List to STALE.

3. Send router solicitation. (See Section 5.2.5).

4. Receive router advertisement(s).

5. Mark the router Neighbor Cache Entry [3] as REACHABLE for the router from which RA(s) arrived, or add a new Neighbor Cache Entry for the router in the REACHABLE state if one does not currently exist.

6. Process received router advertisement. (See Section 5.2.6).
7. If the link has changed
   Change the IP configuration parameters of the host (see Section 5.2.7).

8. If the link has NOT changed
   Restore the address configuration state of all the IPv6 addresses known to be on the link. See Section 5.2.7.2.

9. Update default routers list and their reachability information (see Section 5.2.6.3).

5.2.4 Selection of a Landmark Prefix

For each interface, hosts SHOULD choose a prefix to use as a Landmark Prefix in Router Solicitations. The following rules are used in selecting the landmark prefix:

The prefix MUST have a non-zero valid lifetime. If the valid lifetime of a previously selected Landmark Prefix expires, a new Landmark Prefix MUST be selected.

The prefix MUST be one of those that the hosts has used to assign a non-link-local address to itself.

The prefix SHOULD be chosen as the one with the longest preferred lifetime, but it is not necessary to switch to different prefix if the preferred lifetime of the current landmark prefix changes.

5.2.5 Sending Router Solicitations

Upon the occurrence of a Layer 2 link-up event notification, hosts SHOULD send a Router Solicitation. Hosts SHOULD apply rate limiting and/or hysteresis to this behaviour as appropriate to the link technology subject to the reliability of the DNA Hints.

Editor’s note: The following two paragraph are talking about behavior specified by 2461. Do we want to keep these?

The host also uses this to trigger sending an RS, subject to the rate limitations in [3]. Since there is no natural limit on how frequently the link UP notifications might be generated, we take the conservative approach that even if the host establishes new link layer connectivity very often, under no circumstances should it send Router Solicitations more frequently than RTR_SOLICITATION_INTERVAL.
If the RS does not result in the host receiving at least one RA with at least one valid prefix, then the host can retransmit the RS. It is allowed to multicast up to MAX_RTR_SOLICITATIONS RS messages spaced RTR_SOLICITATION_INTERVAL apart as per RFC 2461 [3].

Note that if link-layer notifications are reliable, a host can reset the number of sent Router Solicitations to 0, while still maintaining RTR_SOLICITATION_INTERVAL between RSs. Resetting the count is necessary so that after each link up notification, the host is allowed to send MAX_RTR_SOLICITATIONS to reliably discover the, possibly new, prefix list.

Hosts SHOULD include a Landmark Option (LO) in the RS message with the landmark prefix chosen based on the rules in Section 5.2.4.

Hosts SHOULD include a tentative source link layer address option (TO) in the RS message Section 5.3. The router solicitation message is sent to the All_Routers_Multicast address and the source address MUST be the link local address of the host.

The host MUST consider its link local address to be in the "Optimistic" state for duplicate address detection [5] until either the returned RA confirms that the host has not switched to a new link or, if an link change has occurred, until the host has performed optimistic duplicate address detection for the address.

5.2.6 Processing Router Advertisements

When the host receives a Router Advertisement, the host checks for the following conditions in the given order and derives the associated conclusions given below:

If the RA includes a prefix that matches an entry in its DNAHostPrefixList, then the host SHOULD conclude that no link change has occurred and the current configuration can be assumed to still be current.

If the RA is a Complete RA, as indicated by the "Complete" flag in the RA header, and there are no prefixes included in it in either a PIO or LPIO that are also in the host’s DNAHostPrefixList, then the host MUST conclude that it has changed link and MUST initiate re-configuration using the information in the received Router Advertisement.
If the host has the complete prefix list (CPL) and the RA does NOT include any prefixes in either a PIO or LPIO that matches a prefix in CPL then the host MUST conclude that link change has occurred and use the information in the received RA to configure itself.

If the host doesn’t have the complete prefix list (CPL), the received RA is not complete, contains no prefixes that are stored in DNAHostPrefixList, then the host SHOULD execute RS/RA exchange until num_RS_RA is equal to NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE to create a new CPL and compare it with the already known prefixes. If after NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE exchanges still no prefix received in either a PIO or LPO of the RAs match known prefixes, the host MUST conclude link change. If a matching prefix is received in the RAs, then the host SHOULD conclude that no link change has occurred.

5.2.6.1 Pseudocode

IF (Receive RA contains a prefix matching a prefix in DNAHostPrefixList) THEN

{

/* This case covers the landmark prefix being included in the RA, smallest prefix included in RA or CompleteRA message containing all prefixes*/

No link change has occurred.

RETURN; // Don’t have to do the following checks.

}

IF (Receive RA is a CompleteRA) THEN

{

/* We already checked if there are any matching prefix before. Since this is a CompleteRA, implies link-change.*/

Link change has occurred.

RETURN; // Don’t have to do the following checks.

}
Link change has occurred.
RETURN; // Don’t have to do the following checks.

} -->

IF (DNAHostPrefixList is marked as complete (i.e. the completeness criteria is already met)) THEN

{ /* We already checked if there are any matching prefix before. Since the DNAHostPrefixList is complete, implies link-change. */

Link change has occurred.

RETURN; // Don’t have to do the following checks.
}

Wait for NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE exchanges of RS/RA message to be done since the previous link UP event (Previous link UP event here refers to the link UP received before the current link UP event that lead to this processing).

IF (One of the received RA contains a prefix matching a prefix in DNAHostPrefixList from before the current link UP event), THEN No link change has occurred ELSE link change has occurred.

5.2.6.2 Maintaining the DNAHostPrefixList

The host should maintain a current DNAHostPrefixList with the prefixes learned after the current link UP event and a previous DNAHostPrefixList with prefixes learned prior to the link UP event. These data structures are maintained per interface.

If the Router Advertisement has the C flag set, then the host SHOULD make the current DNAHostPrefixList match the contents of the advertisement and mark it as complete (i.e. it becomes CPL). Any new prefixes are added and any prefixes in the list that are absent in the advertisement are removed. Expiry times on prefixes are updated if the prefix was contained in a PIO, but not if it was contained in an LPO.

If the Router Advertisement does not have the C flag set, then the host SHOULD add any new prefixes and update expiry times as above, but SHOULD NOT remove any entries from DNAHostPrefixList.
If the host decides that a link change has occurred after processing the received RA message, it uses the information available in the current DNAHostPrefixList to configure itself as specified in Section 5.2.7. If the host decides that it is on the same link, then the current DNAHostPrefixList and the previous DNAHostPrefixList are merged as specified in the next sub-section and the merged list becomes the current DNAHostPrefixList.

For each interface, the host also maintains a counter (called num_RS_RA) which counts how many successful RS/RA exchanges have been accomplished since the last time the host moved to a different link. Note that this is not necessarily since the last link UP event as a link UP event may not correspond to an actual link change. The host declares "one successful RS/RA exchange" is accomplished after it sends an RS, waits for MIN_RA_WAIT seconds and receives a positive number of resulting RAs. At least one RA (with at least one prefix) should be received. After the RS, if a link UP event occurs before MIN_RA_WAIT seconds expire, the host should not assume that a successful RS/RA exchange is accomplished. This counter is used to determine when DNAHostPrefixList is considered to be complete. The host SHOULD conclude that the prefix list is complete when NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE number of RS/RA exchanges have been completed or a RA message with the complete bit set is received. The complete DNAHostPrefixList is also refered to as CPL (Complete Prefix List).

After NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE RS/RA exchange, the host will generate the Complete Prefix List if there is no packet loss.

5.2.6.2.1 Merging DNAHostPrefixList

When a host has been collecting information about a potentially different link in its Current DNAHostPrefixList, and it discovers that it is in fact the same link as another DNAHostPrefixList, then it needs to merge the information in the two objects to produce a single new object. Since the DNAHostPrefixList contains the most recent information, any information contained in it will override the information in the old DNAHostPrefixList, for example the remaining lifetimes for the prefixes. When the two objects contain different pieces of information, for instance different prefixes or default routers, the union of these are used in the resulting merged object.

5.2.6.3 Router Reachability Detection and Default Router Selection

The receipt of a unicast RA from a router in response to a multicast RS indicates that the host has bi-directional reachability with the routers that responded. Such reachability is necessary for the host to use a router as a default router, in order to have packets routed off the host’s current link. It is notable that the choice of
whether the messages are addressed to multicast or unicast address will have different reachability implications. The reachability implications from the hosts’ perspective for the four different message exchanges defined by [RFC 2461] are presented in the table below. The host can confirm bi-directional reachability from the neighbor discovery or router discovery message exchanges except when a multicast RA is received at the host for its RS message. In this case, using IPv6 Neighbour Discovery procedures, the host cannot know whether the multicast RA is in response to its solicitation message or whether it is a periodic un-solicited transmission from the router.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchanges:</th>
<th>Upstream</th>
<th>Downstream</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>multicast NS/NA</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unicast NS/NA</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS/multicast RA</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS/unicast RA</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the destination address of the received RA is a unicast address, the host knows the router heard its RS, and therefore that the host has reachability with the router.

Prior to sending a DNA RS in response to an indication of link change, the host SHOULD set all Neighbor Cache entries for routers on its Default Router List to STALE. When the host receives an RA in reply to the RS, the host SHOULD mark that router’s Neighbor Cache Entry as REACHABLE, or add a Neighbor Cache Entry in the REACHABLE state if one does not currently exist.

The host SHOULD also update its Default Router List in the following fashion. If any of the routers returning RAs are already on the default router list, the host SHOULD use the information in the RA to update the Default Route List entry with the new information. The host SHOULD add entries to the Default Router List for any routers returning RAs that are not on the list. The host SHOULD confine selection of a router from the Default Router List to those routers whose Neighbor Cache entries are in the REACHABLE state. Note that the Default Router List SHOULD be updated as described here regardless of whether the RA indicates that the host has changed to a new IP link, since changes in router reachability are possible on some link types even if the host remains on the same IP link.
Note that this procedure does not prevent a MN from sending packets to its current default router while the RA solicitation is in progress and if reachability with the current default router is unchanged, there should be no change in default router after the RA solicitation completes. If the current default router is still reachable, it will forward the packets.

5.2.7 DNA and Address Configuration

When a host moves to a new point of attachment, a potential exists for a change in the validity of its unicast and multicast addresses on that network interface. In this section, host processing for address configuration is specified. The section considers both statelessly and statefully configured addresses.

5.2.7.1 Duplicate Address Detection

A DNA host MUST support optimistic Duplicate Address Detection [5] for autoconfiguring unicast link local addresses. If a DNA host uses address autoconfiguration [7] for global unicast addresses, the DNA host MUST support optimistic Duplicate Address Detection for autoconfiguring global unicast addresses.

5.2.7.2 DNA and the Address Autoconfiguration State Machine

When a link level event occurs on a network interface indicating that the host has moved from one point of attachment to another, it is possible that a change in the reachability of the addresses associated with that interface may occur. Upon detection of such a link event and prior to sending the RS initiating a DNA exchange, a DNA host MUST change the state of addresses associated with the interface in the following way (address state designations follow RFC 2461):

- Addresses in the "Preferred" state are moved to the "Optimistic" state, but the host defers sending out an NS to initiate Duplicate Address Detection.

- Addresses in the "Optimistic" state remain in the "Optimistic" state, but the host defers sending out an NS to initiate Duplicate Address Detection.

- Addresses in the "Deprecated" state remain in the "Deprecated" state.

- No addresses should be in the "Tentative" state, since this state is unnecessary for nodes that support optimistic Duplicate Address Detection.
A host MUST keep track of which "Preferred" addresses are moved to the "Optimistic" state, so it is possible to know which addresses were in the "Preferred" state and which were in the "Optimistic" state prior to the change in point of attachment.

In order to perform the DNA transaction, the DNA host SHOULD select one of the unicast link local addresses that was in the "Preferred" state prior to switching to "Optimistic" and utilize that as the source address on the DNA RS. If the host had no "Preferred" unicast link local address but did have an address in the "Optimistic" state, it MUST utilize such an address as the source address. If the host currently has no unicast link local addresses, it MUST construct one and put it into the "Optimistic" state and note this address as having been in the "Optimistic" state previously, but defer sending the NS to confirm. Note that the presence of a duplicate unicast link local address on the link will not interfere with the ability of the link to route a unicast DNA RA from the router back to the host nor will it result in corruption of the router’s neighbor cache, because the TO is included in the RS and is utilized by the router on the RA frame without changing the neighbor cache.

When the host receives unicast or multicast RAs from the router, if the host determines from the received RAs that it has moved to a new link, the host MUST immediately move all unicast global addresses to the "Deprecated" state and configure new addresses using the subnet prefixes obtained from the RA. For all unicast link local addresses, the host MUST initiate NS signaling for optimistic Duplicate Address Detection to confirm the uniqueness of the unicast link local addresses on the new link.

If the host determines from the received RAs that it has not moved to a new link (i.e. the link has not changed) and the previous state of an address was "Optimistic", then the host MUST send an NS to confirm that the address is unique on the link. This is required because optimistic Duplicate Address Detection may not have completed on the previous point of attachment, so the host may not have confirmed address uniqueness. If the previous state of an address was "Preferred", whether or not the host initiates optimistic Duplicate Address Detection depends on the configurable DNASameLinkDADFlag flag. A host MUST forgo sending an NS to confirm uniqueness if the value of the DNASameLinkDAD flag is False. If, however, the DNASameLinkDAD flag is True, the host MUST perform optimistic duplicate address detection on its unicast link local and unicast global addresses to determine address uniqueness.

5.2.7.3 DNA and Statefully Configured Addresses

The DHCPv6 specification [16] requires hosts to send a DHCPv6 CONFIRM
message when a change in point of attachment is detected. Since the DNA protocol provides the same level of movement detection as the DHCPv6 CONFIRM, it is RECOMMENDED that DNA hosts not utilize the DHCPv6 CONFIRM message when a DNA RA is received, to avoid excessive signaling. If, however, a non-DNA RA is received, the host SHOULD use the DHCPv6 CONFIRM message as described in RFC 3315 [16] rather than wait for additional RAs to perform CPL, since this will reduce the amount of time required for the host to confirm whether or not it has moved to a new link. If the CONFIRM message validates the addresses, the host can continue to use them.

When a DNA RA is received and the received RA indicates that the host has not moved to a new link, the host SHOULD apply the same rules to interpreting the ‘M’ flag in the received RA and any subsequently received RAs as in Section 5.5.3 of RFC 2461 [3]. That is, if an RA is received with the ‘M’ flag set, then the ‘M’ flag value is copied into the ManagedFlag, and if the ManagedFlag changes from False to True the host should run DHCPv6, but if the ManagedFlag changes from True to False, the host should continue to run DHCPv6. If, however, the value of the ManagedFlag remains the same both before and after the change in point of attachment on the same link has been confirmed, it is NOT RECOMMENDED that the host run DHCPv6 to obtain new addresses, since the old addresses will continue to be valid.

If the DNA RA indicates that the host has moved to a new link or the DHCPv6 CONFIRM indicates that the addresses are invalid, the host MUST move its old addresses to the "Deprecated" state and MUST run DHCPv6 to obtain new addresses. Normally, the DHCPv6 operation is 4-message exchange, however, this exchange allows for redundancy (multiple DHCPv6 servers) without wasting addresses, as addresses are only provisionally assigned to a host until the host chooses and requests one of the provisionally assigned addresses. If the DNA host supports the Rapid Commit Option [16], the host SHOULD use the Rapid Commit Option in order to shorten the exchange from 4 messages to 2 messages.

5.2.7.4 Packet Delivery During DNA

The specification of packet delivery before, during, and immediately after DNA when a change in point of attachment occurs is out of scope for this document. The details of how packets are delivered depends on the mobility management protocols (if any) available to the host’s stack.

5.2.7.5 Multicast Address Configuration

Multicast routers on a link are aware of which groups are in use within a link. This information is used to undertake initiation of
If the returning RAs indicate that the host has not moved to a new link, no further action is required for multicast addresses to which the host has subscribed using MLD Report [17]. In particular, the host MUST NOT perform MLD signaling for any multicast addresses unless such signaling was not performed prior to movement to the new point of attachment. For example, if an address is put into the "Optimistic" state prior to movement but the MLD Report for the Solicited_Node_Multicast_Address is not sent prior to movement to a new point of attachment, the host MUST send the MLD Report on the new point of attachment prior to performing optimistic Duplicate Address Detection. The host SHOULD use the procedure described below for sending an MLD Report.

If, on the other hand, the DNA RA indicates that the host has moved to a new link, the host MUST issue a new MLD Report to the router for subscribed multicast addresses. MLD signaling for the Solicited_Node_Multicast_Addresses [7] MUST be sent prior to performing signaling for optimistic DAD.

To avoid lengthy delays in address reconfiguration, it is RECOMMENDED that the host send the MLD Report for newly configured addresses immediately, as soon as the addresses have been constructed, rather than waiting for a random backoff.

Hosts MUST defer MLD signaling until after the results of DNA have confirmed whether or not a link change has occurred.

5.3 Tentative options for IPv6 ND

5.3.1 Sending solicitations containing Tentative Options

Tentative Options may be sent in Router and Neighbour Solicitations, as described below.

In a case where it is safe to send a Source Link-Layer Address Option, a host SHOULD NOT send a TO, since the message may be misinterpreted by legacy nodes.

Importantly, a node MUST NOT send a Tentative Option in the same message where a Source Link-Layer Address Option is sent.

5.3.1.1 Sending Neighbour Solicitations with Tentative Options

Neighbour Solicitations sent to unicast addresses MAY contain a Tentative Option.
5.3.1.2 Sending Router Solicitations with Tentative Options

Any Router Solicitation from a Preferred, Deprecated or Optimistic address MAY be sent with a Tentative Option [5].

An extension which allows Router Solicitations to be sent with a TO from the unspecified address is described in Section 5.3.3.

5.3.2 Receiving Tentative Options

Receiving a Tentative Option allows nodes to unicast responses to solicitations without performing neighbour discovery.

It does this by allowing the solicitation to create STALE neighbour cache entries if one doesn’t exist, but only update an entry if the link-layer address in the option matches the entry.

Additionally, messages containing TO may be used to direct advertisements to particular link-layer destinations without updating neighbour cache entries. This is described in Section 5.3.3.

Use of Tentative Options is only defined for Neighbour and Router Solicitation messages.

In any other received message, the presence of the option is silently ignored, that is, the packet is processed as if the option was not present.

It is REQUIRED that the same validation algorithms for Neighbour and Router Solicitations received with TO as in the IPv6 Neighbour Discovery specification [3], are used.

In the case that a solicitation containing a Tentative Option is received, The only processing differences occur in checking and updating the neighbour cache entry. Particularly, there is no reason to believe that the host will remain tentative after receiving a responding advertisement.

Tentative Options do not overwrite existing neighbour cache entries where the link-layer addresses of the option and entry differ.

If a solicitation from a unicast source address is received where no difference exists between the TO and an existing neighbour cache entry, the option MUST be treated as if it were an SLLAO after message validation, and processed accordingly.

In the case that a cache entry is unable to be created or updated due to existence of a conflicting neighbour cache entry, it MUST NOT
update the neighbour cache entry.

An extension which allows a direct advertisement to the soliciting host without modifying the neighbour cache entry is described in Section 5.3.3.

5.3.2.1 Receiving Neighbour Solicitations containing Tentative Options

The Tentative Option is allowed in Neighbour Solicitations with specified source addresses for which SLLAO is not required.

A Neighbour Solicitation message received with a TO and an unspecified source address MUST be silently discarded.

Upon reception of a Tentative Option in a Neighbour Solicitation for which the receiver has the Target Address configured, a node checks to see if there is a neighbour cache entry with conflicting link-layer address.

If no such entry exists, the neighbour cache of the receiver SHOULD be updated, as if the Tentative Option was a SLLAO.

Sending of the solicited Neighbour Advertisement then proceeds normally, as defined in section 7.2.4 of [3].

If there is a conflicting neighbour cache entry, the node processes the solicitation as defined in Section 7.2.4 of [3], except that the Neighbour Cache entry MUST NOT be modified.

5.3.2.2 Receiving Router Solicitations containing Tentative Options

In IPv6 Neighbour Discovery [3], responses to Router Solicitations are either sent to the all-nodes multicast address, or may be sent to the solicitation’s source address if it is a unicast address.

Including a Tentative Option in the solicitation allows a router to choose to send a packet directly to the link-layer address even in situations where this would not normally be possible.

For Router Solicitations with unicast source addresses, neighbour caches SHOULD be updated with the link-layer address from a Tentative Option if there is no differing neighbour cache entry. In this case, Router Advertisement continues as in Section 6.2.6 of [3].

For received solicitations with a differing link-layer address to that stored in the neighbour cache, the node processes the solicitation as defined in Section 6.2.6 of [3], except that the Neighbour Cache entry MUST NOT be modified.
5.3.3 Sending directed advertisements without the neighbour cache

In the case where an entry is unable to be added to the neighbour cache, a node MAY send responses direct to the link-layer address specified in the Tentative Option. Also, RS packets sent without a specified source address may potentially contain a Tentative Option.

In this case the unicast link-layer address from the solicitation MAY be extracted from the Tentative Option and used as the destination of the link-layer frame for a responding Router Advertisement.

Sending such a packet MUST NOT consult the neighbour or destination caches for address.

Such packets SHOULD be scheduled as if they were unicast advertisements as specified in [3].

If an implementation can not send a Router Advertisement using information from the Tentative Option i.e., without consulting the neighbour cache, then it SHOULD behave as if the Tentative Option was not present in the solicitation message.

Each router can have its own configuration with respect to sending RA, and the treatment of router and neighbor solicitations. Different timers and constants might be used by different routers, such as the delay between Router Advertisements or delay before replying to an RS. If a host is changing its IPv6 link, the new router on that link may have a different configuration and may introduce more delay than the previous default. If a host can be attached to different links at the same time with the same interface, the host will probably listen to different routers, at least one on each link. To be simultaneously attached to several links may be very valuable for a MN when it moves from one access network to another. If the node can still be reachable through its old link while configuring the interface for its new link, packet loss can be minimized.

Such a situation may happen in a wireless environment if the link layer technology allows the MN to be simultaneously attached to several points of attachment and if the coverage area of access points are overlapping.

For the purposes of DNA, it is necessary to treat each of these points-of-attachment separately, otherwise incorrect conclusions of link-change may be made even if another of the link-layer connections is valid.

When a host is participating in DNA on a link where multicast
snooping is in use, multicast packets may not be delivered to the LAN-segment to which the host is attached until MLD signaling has been performed [9][17][11]. Where DNA relies upon multicast packet delivery (for example, if a router needs to send a Neighbor Solicitation to the host), its function will be degraded until after an MLD report is sent.

Where it is possible that multicast snooping is in operation, hosts MUST send MLD group joins (MLD reports) for solicited nodes’ addresses swiftly after starting DNA procedures.

Link partitioning occurs when a link’s internal switching or relaying hardware fails, or if the internal communications within a link are prevented due to topology changes or wireless propagation.

When a host is on a link which partitions, only a subset of the addresses or devices it is communicating with may still be available. Where link partitioning is rare (for example, with wired communication between routers on the link), existing router and neighbor discovery procedures may be sufficient for detecting change.

6. Security Considerations

6.1 Attacks on the Token Bucket

A host on the link could easily drain the token bucket(s) of the router(s) on the link by continuously sending RS messages on the link. For example, if a host sends one RS message every UNICAST_RA_INTERVAL, and send a additional RS every third UNICAST_RA_INTERVAL, the token bucket in the router(s) on the link will drain within MAX_UNICAST_RA_BURST * UNICAST_RA_INTERVAL * 3 time-units. For the recommended values of UNICAST_RA_INTERVAL and MAX_UNICAST_RA_BURST, this value is 3000 milliseconds. It is not clear whether arrival of such RS messages can be recognized by the router as a DoS attack. This attack can also be mitigated by aggregating responses. Since only one aggregation is possible in this interval due to MIN_DELAY_BETWEEN_RAS restriction, the routers may not be able protect the tokens in the bucket.

6.2 Attacks on DNA Hosts

RFC 3756 outlines a collection of threats involving rogue routers. Since DNAv6 requires a host to obtain trustworthy responses from routers, such threats are relevant to DNAv6. In order to counter such threats, DNAv6 hosts SHOULD support RFC 3971 [4](SEND) secure router discovery.
6.3 Tentative options

The use of the Tentative Option in Neighbour and Router Solicitation messages acts in a similar manner to SLLAO, updating neighbour cache entries, in a way which causes packet transmission.

An attacker may cause messages be sent to another node by an advertising node (a reflector), without creating any ongoing state on the reflector.

This attack requires one solicitation for each advertisement and the advertisement has to go to a unicast MAC destination. That said, the size of the advertisement may be significantly larger than the solicitation, or the attacker and reflector may be on a medium with greater available bandwidth than the victim.

For link-layers where it isn’t possible to spoof the link-layer source address this allows a slightly increased risk of reflection attacks from nodes which are on-link.

Additionally, since a SEND host must always advertise using SEND options and signatures, a non-SEND attacker may cause excess computation on both a victim node and a router by causing SEND advertisement messages to be transmitted to a particular MAC address and the all-nodes multicast. SEND specifies guidelines to hosts receiving unsolicited advertisements in order to mitigate such attacks [4].

While this is the same effect as experienced when accepting SLLAO from non-SEND nodes, the lack of created neighbour cache entries on the advertiser may make such attacks more difficult to trace.

Modification of Neighbour Discovery messages on the network is possible, unless SEND is used. [4] provides a protocol specification in which soliciting nodes sign ND messages with a private key and use addresses generated from this key.

Even if SEND is used, the lifetime of a neighbour cache entry may be extended by continually replaying a solicitation message to a particular router or hosts. Since this may be achieved for any Neighbour or Router Solicitation message, corresponding advertisements to the original transmitters of these solicitation messages may occur.

SEND defines use of Timestamp values to protect a device from attack through replay of previously sent messages. Although this applies to Neighbour and Router Solicitation messages, granularity of the timestamp allows the messages to be used for up to five minutes [4].
All Router and Neighbour Solicitations using SEND contain a Nonce option, containing a random identifier octet string. Since SEND messages are digitally signed, and may not be easily modified, replay attacks will contain the same Nonce option, as was used in the original solicitation.

6.4 Authorization and Detecting Network Attachment

When a host is determining if link change has occurred, it may receive messages from devices with no advertised security mechanisms purporting to be routers, nodes sending signed router advertisements but with unknown delegation, or routers whose credentials need to be checked [12]. Where a host wishes to configure an unsecured router, it SHOULD confirm bidirectional reachability with the device, and it MUST mark the device as unsecured as described in [4].

In any case, a secured router SHOULD be preferred over an unsecured one, except where other factors (unreachability) make the router unsuitable. Since secured routers’ advertisement services may be subject to attack, alternative (secured) reachability mechanisms from upper layers, or secured reachability of other devices known to be on the same link may be used to check reachability in the first instance.

6.5 Addressing

While a DNA host is checking for link-change, and observing DAD, it may receive a DAD defense NA from an unsecured source.

SEND says that DAD defenses MAY be accepted even from non SEND nodes for the first configured address [4].

While deconfiguring the address is a valid action in the case where a host collides with another address owner after arrival on a new link, in the case that the host returns immediately to the same link, such a DAD defense NA message may be a denial-of-service attack.

7. IANA Considerations

This memo defines three new Neighbor Discovery [3] options, which must be assigned Option Type values within the option numbering space for Neighbor Discovery messages:

1. The Landmark option, described in Section 4.2; and

2. The Learned Prefix option, described in Section 4.3.
3. The tentative option, described in Section 4.4

8. Constants

NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE

Definition: Number of RS/RA exchange messages necessary to declare the prefix list to be complete.

Value: 2

MIN_RA_WAIT

Definition: Minimum time the host will have to wait before assuming receipt of all possible RAs.

Default: 4 seconds

UNICAST_RA_INTERVAL

Definition: The interval corresponding to the maximum average rate of Router Solicitations that the router is prepared to service with unicast responses. This is the interval at which the token bucket controlling the unicast responses is replenished.

Value: 50 milliseconds

MAX_UNICAST_RA_BURST

Definition: The maximum size burst of Router Solicitations that the router is prepared to service with unicast responses. This is the maximum number of tokens allowed in the token bucket controlling the unicast responses.

Value: 20

RA_SEPARATION

Definition: The separation between responses from different routers on the same link to a single Router Solicitation.

Value: 20 milliseconds

MULTICAST_RA_DELAY
Definition: The delay to be introduced when scheduling a multicast RA in response to a RS message when the token bucket is empty.

Value: 3000 milliseconds

FAST_RA_THRESHOLD

Definition: The maximum number of fast responses that a host should receive when soliciting for Router Advertisements.

Value: 3

LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME

Definition: The time for which received prefix can be considered valid for use in link indentification.

Value: LEAST_VALID_LIFETIME

9. Changes since -05

- Removed DNARAReceivedFlag and related text. The RA processing is very simple now: Check for prefix overlap, else if check if completeRA, else fall back on CPL.
- Changed Router Configuration variables to constants.
- Remove "Complete Prefix List Generation" subsection from the "Overview" section. The text was not adding that much value to the document. We talk further about CPL generation in section "Maintaining the DNAHostPrefixList".
- Added a table to explain the conditions for different type of router advertisement, a table was added to Section 5.1.4.
- All "link change" decisions were made "MUSTs" and "no link change" decision "SHOULDs" in the process RA message section of the host operation.
- Revised "Maintained the DNAHostPrefixList" section.
- Revised "Inclusion of the common prefix" section (JinHyeock).
- Thorough review of the whole document.
10. Changes since -04

- Edited the document to improve readability and clarity.
- Edited the document to make the distinction between what is recommended by RFC 2461 and what is modified behavior for DNA. (The flash renumbering sections were not touched.)

11. Changes since -03

- A global replace of "1.5 hours" with "3 times maximum of MaxRtrAdvInterval".
- Removed Y/N bit from the landmark option and modified the text to remove all references to the Y/N bit. The description in Section 3.1 was twicked to explain the semantics of Yes and No.
- Removed MaxCacheTime and reference to use of prior link information.
- Made NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE a constant with value 2, MIN_RA_WAIT a constant with value 4 seconds.
- Removed reference to the terminology draft as there was nothing important to be transferred.
- Removed sections on Link indication, complications and DNA without link UP notifications.
- Removed reference to linkID and replaced with smallest prefix. Which requires a DNARAReceivedFlag to be added to the conceptual values maintained by the host.
- Included sentence to mandate the configuration of at least one prefix on each router even when stateful address configuration is used. The change was made in Section 5.1.6.

12. Changes since -02

- Changed the Router Advertisement processing in Section 5.2.6 and Section 5.2.6.1 to fix a mistake in the logic.
- Changed variable names from NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE, MAX_RA_WAIT, MAX_CACHE_TIME to NUM_RS_RA_COMPLETE, MIN_RA_WAIT, MaxCacheTime. Added an open issue whether these should be variables or constants.
o Fixed some typos.

13. Open issues

1. Is my re-write of Section 5.2.6.2 right?

2. Is Section 5.3 still too long?

14. Contributors

This document is the result of merging four different working group documents. The draft-ietf-dna-protocol-01.txt authored by James Kempf, Sathya Narayanan, Erik Nordmark, Brett Pentland and JinHyoeck Choi was used as the base for the merger. The draft-ietf-dna-cpl-02 authored by JinHyoeck Choi and Erik Normark provided the idea/text for the complete prefix list mechanism described in this document. The best current practice for hosts draft (draft-ietf-dna-hosts-03) authored by Sathya Narayanan, Greg Daley and Nicolas Montavont, and the tentative options (draft-ietf-dna-tentative-00) authored by Greg Daley, Erik Normark and Nick Moore were also adopted into this document.

15. Acknowledgments

The design presented in this document grew out of discussions among the members of the DNA design team (JinHyoeck Choi, Tero Kauppinen, James Kempf, Sathya Narayanan, Erik Nordmark and Brett Pentland). The spirited debates on the design, and the advantages and disadvantages of various DNA solutions helped the creation of this document.

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Thanks to Gabriel Montenegro for his review of draft-pentland-dna-protocol.
Thanks also to other members of the DNA working group for their comments that helped shape this work.

16. References

16.1 Normative References


16.2 Informative References


"Candidate Access Router Discovery (CARD)", RFC 4066, July 2005.


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