Location Source Parameter for the SIP Geolocation Header Field

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Abstract

There are some circumstances where a Geolocation header field may contain more than one locationValue. Knowing the identity of the node adding the locationValue allows the recipient more freedom in selecting the value to look at first rather than relying solely on the order of the locationValues. This document defines the "loc-src" parameter so that the entity adding the locationValue to Geolocation header field can identify itself using its hostname. This document updates RFC 6442.

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1. Introduction

The SIP Geolocation specification [RFC6442] describes the "Geolocation" SIP header field which is used to indicate that the SIP message is conveying location information. [RFC6442] specifies that SIP intermediaries should not add locationValues to a SIP request that already contains locationValue. [RFC6442] also states that if a SIP intermediary adds location it is fully responsible for addressing the concerns of any 424 (Bad Location Information) SIP response it receives. However, some communications architectures, such as 3GPP [TS23-167] and ETSI [M493], prefer to use information provided by edge proxies or acquired through the use of core-network nodes, before using information provided solely by user equipment (UE). These solutions don’t preclude the use of UE provided location but require a means of being able to distinguish the identity of the node adding the locationValue to the SIP message from that provided by the UE.

[RFC6442] stipulates that the order of locationValues in the Geolocation header field is the same as the order in which they were added to the header field. Whilst this order provides guidance to the recipient as to which values were added to the message earlier in the communication chain, it does not identify which node added the locationValue. Knowing the identity of the entity that added the location to the message allows the recipient to choose which location to consider first rather than relying solely on the order of the locationValues in the Geolocation header field.

This document extends the Geolocation header field, by allowing an entity adding the locationValue to identity itself using a hostname. This is done by defining a new geoloc-param header field parameter, "loc-src"."How the entity adding the locationValue to the header field obtains the location information is out of scope of this document.

2. Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

3. Rationale

The primary intent of the "loc-src" parameter in this specification is for use in emergency calling. There are various architectures defined for providing emergency calling using SIP-based messaging.
Each has its own characteristics with corresponding pros and cons. All of them allow the UE to provide location information, however, many also attach other sources of location information to support veracity checks, provide backup information, or to be used as the primary location.

This document does not comment on these various architectures or on the rationale for including multiple locationValues. It does recognize that these architectures exist and that there is a need to identify the entity adding the location information.

The "loc-src" parameter adds the location source generating the locationValue to increase the trustworthiness of the location information.

The "loc-src" parameter is applicable within a single private administrative domain or between different administrative domains where there is a trust relationship between the domains. Thus it is intended to use this parameter only in trust domains where Spec(T) as described in [RFC3325] exists.

The "loc-src" parameter is not included in a SIP message sent to another network if there is no trust relationship. The "loc-src" parameter is not applicable if the administrative domain manages emergency calls in a way that does not require any generation of the location.

The functional architecture described within ETSI [M493] is an example of an architecture where it makes sense to use this parameter.

4. Mechanism

The mechanism adds a geoloc-param parameter to the locationValue defined in [RFC6442] that identifies the hostname of the entity adding the locationValue to the Geolocation header field. The Augmented BNF (ABNF) [RFC5234] for this parameter is shown in Figure 1.

    location-source = "loc-src" EQUAL hostname
    hostname = <defined in RFC3261>

Figure 1: Location Source
Only a fully qualified host name is valid. The syntax does not support IP addresses, and if an entity conforming to this specification receives a Geolocation header field with a "loc-src" parameter containing an IP address then the parameter MUST be removed.

A SIP intermediary conformant to this specification adding a locationValue to a Geolocation header field SHOULD also add a "loc-src" header field parameter so that it is clearly identified as the node adding the location. A UA MUST NOT insert a "loc-src" header field parameter. If a SIP intermediary receives a message from an untrusted source with the "loc-src" parameter set then it MUST remove the "loc-src" parameter before passing the message into a trusted network.

5. Example

The following example shows a SIP INVITE message containing a Geolocation header field with two locationValues. The first locationValue points to a PIDF-LO in the SIP body using a content-indirection (cid:) URI per [RFC4483] and this is provided by the UE. The second locationValue is an https URI provided by a SIP intermediary which identifies itself using the "loc-src" parameter.

```
INVITE sip:bob@biloxi.example.com SIP/2.0
Via: SIP/2.0/TLS pc33.atlanta.example.com;branch=z9hG4bK74bf9
Max-Forwards: 70
To: Bob <sip:bob@biloxi.example.com>
From: Alice <sip:alice@atlanta.example.com>;tag=9fxced76sl
Call-ID: 3848276298220188511@atlanta.example.com
Geolocation: <cid:target123@atlanta.example.com>,
            <https://lis.example.com:8222/y77syc7cuecbh>
            loc-src=edgeproxy.example.com
Geolocation-Routing: yes
Accept: application/sdp, application/pidf+xml
CSeq: 31862 INVITE
Contact: <sip:alice@atlanta.example.com>
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary=boundary1
Content-Length: ...
```

Figure 2: Example Location Request.

6. Privacy Considerations

This document doesn’t change any of the privacy considerations described in [RFC6442]. While the addition of the "loc-src" parameter identifies the entity that added the location in the
signaling path, this addition provides little more exposure than adding a proxy identity to the Record-Route header field.

7. Security Considerations

This document introduces the ability of a SIP intermediary to insert a host name indicating that they added the specific locationValue to the Geolocation header field. The intent is for this field to be used by the location recipient in the event that the SIP message contains multiple locationValues. As a consequence this parameter should only be used by the location recipient in a trusted network.

As already stated in [RFC6442] securing the location hop-by-hop, using TLS, protects the message from eavesdropping and modification in transit, but exposes the information to all SIP intermediaries on the path as well as the endpoint. The "loc-src" parameter is applicable within a single private administrative domain or between different administrative domains where there is a trust relationship between the domains. If such trust domain is not given it is strongly recommended to delete the location information.

The use of this parameter is not restricted to a specific architecture but using multiples locations and loc-src may end in compatibility issues. [RFC6442] already addresses the issue of multiples locations. To avoid problems with misinterpretation of the "loc-src" parameter, the value may be removed when passed to an other domain.

8. IANA Considerations

8.1. Registration of loc-src parameter for Geolocation header field

The IANA is asked to add a new SIP header field parameter for the Geolocation header field in the "Header Field Parameters and Parameter Values" subregistry (created by [RFC3968]) of the "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Parameters" registry found at https://www.iana.org/assignments/sip-parameters/.

Header Field:  Geolocation

Parameter Name:  loc-src

Predefined Values:  No

Reference:  this RFC
9. Acknowledgements

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10. References

10.1. Normative References


10.2. Informative References

[M493] European Telecommunications Standards Institute, "Functional architecture to support European requirements on emergency caller location determination and transport", ES 203 178, V 1.1.1, Februar 2015.


Authors’ Addresses

James Winterbottom
Winterb Consulting Services
Gwynneville, NSW 2500
AU

Phone: +61 448 266004
Email: a.james.winterbottom@gmail.com

Roland Jesske
Deutsche Telekom
Heinrich-Hertz Str, 3-7
Darmstadt 64295
Germany

Email: r.jesske@telekom.de
URI: www.telekom.de

Bruno Chatras
Orange Labs
44, avenue de la Republique
Chatillon F-92320
France

Email: bruno.chatras@orange.com

Andrew Hutton
Atos
Mid City Place
London WC1V 6EA
UK

Email: andrew.hutton@atos.net