Status of this Memo

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

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1. Introduction

A networked application is a realization of some well defined service on one or more host computers that is accessible via some network, uses some network for its internal operations, or both.

There are a wide range of networked applications for which it is appropriate to provide SNMP monitoring of their network usage. This includes applications using both TCP/IP and OSI networking. This document defines a MIB which contains the elements common to the monitoring of any network service application. This information includes a table of all monitorable network service applications, a count of the associations (connections) to each application, and basic information about the parameters and status of each application-related association.

This MIB may be used on its own for any application, and for most simple applications this will suffice. This MIB is also designed to serve as a building block which can be used in conjunction with application-specific monitoring and management. Two examples of this are MIBs defining additional variables for monitoring a Message Transfer Agent (MTA) service or a Directory Service Agent (DSA) service. It is expected that further MIBs of this nature will be specified.
This MIB does not attempt to provide facilities for management of the host or hosts the network service application runs on, nor does it provide facilities for monitoring applications that provide something other than a network service. Host resource and general application monitoring is handled by the Host Resources MIB at present; development of an additional application MIB is currently underway in the IETF.

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3. The SNMPv2 Network Management Framework

The SNMPv2 Network Management Framework consists of seven major components. They are:

- RFC 1902 [1] which defines the SMI, the mechanisms used for describing and naming objects for the purpose of management.


- RFC 1906 [5] defines the protocol operations used for network access to managed objects.


The Framework permits new objects to be defined for the purpose of experimentation and evaluation.

3.1. Object Definitions

Managed objects are accessed via a virtual information store, termed the Management Information Base or MIB. Objects in the MIB are defined using the subset of Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) defined in the SMI. In particular, each object type is named by an OBJECT IDENTIFIER, an administratively assigned name. The object type together with an object instance serves to uniquely identify a specific instantiation of the object. For human convenience, we often use a textual string, termed the descriptor, to refer to the object type.

4. Rationale for having a Network Services Monitoring MIB

Much effort has been expended in developing tools to manage lower layer network facilities. However, relatively little work has been done on managing application layer entities. It is neither efficient nor reasonable to manage all aspects of application layer entities using only lower layer information. Moreover, the difficulty of managing application entities in this way increases dramatically as application entities become more complex.

This leads to a substantial need to monitor applications which provide network services, particularly distributed components such as MTAs and DSAs, by monitoring specific aspects of the application itself. Reasons to monitor such components include but are not limited to measuring load, detecting broken connectivity, isolating system failures, and locating congestion.

In order to manage network service applications effectively two requirements must be met:

(1) It must be possible to monitor a large number of components (typical for a large organization).

(2) Application monitoring must be integrated into general network management.

This specification defines simple read-only access; this is sufficient to determine up/down status and provide an indication of a broad class of operational problems.
4.1. General Relationship to Other MIBs

This MIB is intended to only provide facilities common to the monitoring of any network service application. It does not provide all the facilities necessary to monitor any specific application. Each specific type of network service application is expected to have a MIB of its own that makes use of these common facilities.

4.2. Restriction of Scope

The framework provided here is very minimal; there is a lot more that could be done. For example:

(1) General network service application configuration monitoring and control.

(2) Detailed examination and modification of individual entries in service-specific request queues.

(3) Probing to determine the status of a specific request (e.g. the location of a mail message with a specific message-id).

(4) Requesting that certain actions be performed (e.g. forcing an immediate connection and transfer of pending messages to some specific system).

All these capabilities are both impressive and useful. However, these capabilities would require provisions for strict security checking. These capabilities would also mandate a much more complex design, with many characteristics likely to be fairly implementation-specific. As a result such facilities are likely to be both contentious and difficult to implement.

This document religiously keeps things simple and focuses on the basic monitoring aspect of managing applications providing network services. The goal here is to provide a framework which is simple, useful, and widely implementable.

4.3. Configuration Information

This MIB attempts to provide information about the operational aspects of an application. Further information about the actual configuration of a given application may be kept in other places; the applDirectoryName or applURL may be used to point to places where such information is kept.
5. Application Objects

This MIB defines a set of general purpose attributes which would be appropriate for a range of applications that provide network services. Both OSI and non-OSI services can be accommodated. Additional tables defined in extensions to this MIB provide attributes specific to specific network services.

A table is defined which will have one row for each operational network service application on the system. The only static information held on the application is its name. All other static information should be obtained from various directory services. The applDirectoryName is an external key, which allows an SNMP MIB entry to be cleanly related to the X.500 Directory. In SNMP terms, the applications are grouped in a table called applTable, which is indexed by an integer key applIndex.

The type of the application will be determined by one or both of:

1. Additional MIB variables specific to the applications.
2. An association to the application of a specific protocol.

6. Definitions

NETWORK-SERVICES-MIB DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

IMPORTS
OBJECT-TYPE, Counter32, Gauge32, MODULE-IDENTITY, mib-2
FROM SNMPv2-SMI
DisplayString, TimeStamp, TEXTUAL-CONVENTION
FROM SNMPv2-TC
MODULE-COMPLIANCE, OBJECT-GROUP
FROM SNMPv2-CONF;

application MODULE-IDENTITY
LAST-UPDATED "9708170000Z"
ORGANIZATION "IETF Mail and Directory Management Working Group"
CONTACT-INFO
"Ned Freed
1050 Lakes Drive
West Covina, CA 91790
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Tel: +1 626 919 3600
Fax: +1 626 919 3614"
DESCRIPTION
"The MIB module describing network service applications"

REVISION "9311280000Z"
DESCRIPTION
"The original version of this MIB was published in RFC 1565"
::= {mib-2 27}

-- Textual conventions

-- DistinguishedName is used to refer to objects in the
-- directory.

DistinguishedName ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"A Distinguished Name represented in accordance with
RFC 1779 [8]."
SYNTAX DisplayString

-- Uniform Resource Locators are stored in URLStrings.

URLString ::= TEXTUAL-CONVENTION
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"A Uniform Resource Locator represented in accordance
with RFC 1738 [10]."
SYNTAX DisplayString

-- The basic applTable contains a list of the application
-- entities.

applTable OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF ApplEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The table holding objects which apply to all different
kinds of applications providing network services.
Each network service application capable of being
monitored should have a single entry in this table."
::= {application 1}

applEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX ApplEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"An entry associated with a single network service application."
INDEX {applIndex}
 ::= {applTable 1}

ApplEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
   applIndex
      INTEGER,
   applName
      DisplayString,
   applDirectoryName
      DistinguishedName,
   applVersion
      DisplayString,
   applUptime
      TimeStamp,
   applOperStatus
      INTEGER,
   applLastChange
      TimeStamp,
   applInboundAssociations
      Gauge32,
   applOutboundAssociations
      Gauge32,
   applAccumulatedInboundAssociations
      Counter32,
   applAccumulatedOutboundAssociations
      Counter32,
   applLastInboundActivity
      TimeStamp,
   applLastOutboundActivity
      TimeStamp,
   applRejectedInboundAssociations
      Counter32,
   applFailedOutboundAssociations
      Counter32,
   applDescription
      DisplayString,
   applURL
      URLString
}

applIndex OBJECT-TYPE
   SYNTAX INTEGER (1..2147483647)
   MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
   STATUS current
   DESCRIPTION
      "An index to uniquely identify the network service"
application. This attribute is the index used for lexicographic ordering of the table.

 ::= {applEntry 1}

applName OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The name the network service application chooses to be known by."
 ::= {applEntry 2}

applDirectoryName OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DistinguishedName
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The Distinguished Name of the directory entry where static information about this application is stored. An empty string indicates that no information about the application is available in the directory."
 ::= {applEntry 3}

applVersion OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The version of network service application software. This field is usually defined by the vendor of the network service application software."
 ::= {applEntry 4}

applUptime OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX TimeStamp
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The value of sysUpTime at the time the network service application was last initialized. If the application was last initialized prior to the last initialization of the network management subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."
 ::= {applEntry 5}
applOperStatus OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX INTEGER {
  up(1),
  down(2),
  halted(3),
  congested(4),
  restarting(5),
  quiescing(6)
}
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"Indicates the operational status of the network service application. 'down' indicates that the network service is not available. 'up' indicates that the network service is operational and available. 'halted' indicates that the service is operational but not available. 'congested' indicates that the service is operational but no additional inbound associations can be accommodated. 'restarting' indicates that the service is currently unavailable but is in the process of restarting and will be available soon. 'quiescing' indicates that service is currently operational but is in the process of shutting down. Additional inbound associations may be rejected by applications in the 'quiescing' state."
::= {applEntry 6}

applLastChange OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX TimeStamp
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The value of sysUpTime at the time the network service application entered its current operational state. If the current state was entered prior to the last initialization of the local network management subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."
::= {applEntry 7}

applInboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Gauge32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The number of current associations to the network service application, where it is the responder. An inbound association occurs when another application successfully connects to this one."
applOutboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE
   SYNTAX Gauge32
   MAX-ACCESS read-only
   STATUS current
   DESCRIPTION
   "The number of current associations to the network service
   application, where it is the initiator. An outbound
   association occurs when this application successfully
   connects to another one."
   ::= (applEntry 8)

applAccumulatedInboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE
   SYNTAX Counter32
   MAX-ACCESS read-only
   STATUS current
   DESCRIPTION
   "The total number of associations to the application entity
   since application initialization, where it was the responder."
   ::= (applEntry 9)

applAccumulatedOutboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE
   SYNTAX Counter32
   MAX-ACCESS read-only
   STATUS current
   DESCRIPTION
   "The total number of associations to the application entity
   since application initialization, where it was the initiator."
   ::= (applEntry 10)

applLastInboundActivity OBJECT-TYPE
   SYNTAX TimeStamp
   MAX-ACCESS read-only
   STATUS current
   DESCRIPTION
   "The value of sysUpTime at the time this application last
   had an inbound association. If the last association
   occurred prior to the last initialization of the network
   subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."
   ::= (applEntry 11)

applLastOutboundActivity OBJECT-TYPE
   SYNTAX TimeStamp
   MAX-ACCESS read-only
   STATUS current
   DESCRIPTION
   "The value of sysUpTime at the time this application last
had an outbound association. If the last association occurred prior to the last initialization of the network subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."

::= {applEntry 13}

applRejectedInboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The total number of inbound associations the application entity has rejected, since application initialization. Rejected associations are not counted in the accumulated association totals. Note that this only counts associations the application entity has rejected itself; it does not count rejections that occur at lower layers of the network. Thus, this counter may not reflect the true number of failed inbound associations."

::= {applEntry 14}

applFailedOutboundAssociations OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The total number associations where the application entity is initiator and association establishment has failed, since application initialization. Failed associations are not counted in the accumulated association totals."

::= {applEntry 15}

applDescription OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"A text description of the application. This information is intended to identify and briefly describe the application in a status display."

::= {applEntry 16}

applURL OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX URLString
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"A URL pointing to a description of the application. This information is intended to identify and describe
the application in a status display.
::= {applEntry 17}

-- The assocTable augments the information in the applTable
-- with information about associations. Note that two levels
-- of compliance are specified below, depending on whether
-- association monitoring is mandated.

assocTable OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF AssocEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The table holding a set of all active application
associations."
::= {application 2}

assocEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX AssocEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"An entry associated with an association for a network
service application."
INDEX {applIndex, assocIndex}
::= {assocTable 1}

AssocEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
  assocIndex
    INTEGER,
  assocRemoteApplication
    DisplayString,
  assocApplicationProtocol
    OBJECT IDENTIFIER,
  assocApplicationType
    INTEGER,
  assocDuration
    TimeStamp
}

assocIndex OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX INTEGER (1..2147483647)
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"An index to uniquely identify each association for a network
service application. This attribute is the index that is
used for lexicographic ordering of the table. Note that the
table is also indexed by the applIndex."
::= {assocEntry 1}

assocRemoteApplication OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The name of the system running remote network service
application. For an IP-based application this should be
either a domain name or IP address. For an OSI application
it should be the string encoded distinguished name of the
managed object. For X.400(1984) MTAs which do not have a
Distinguished Name, the RFC 1327 [9] syntax
‘mta in globalid’ should be used. Note, however, that not
all connections an MTA are necessarily to another MTA."
::= {assocEntry 2}

assocApplicationProtocol OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX OBJECT IDENTIFIER
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"An identification of the protocol being used for the
application. For an OSI Application, this will be the
Application Context. For Internet applications, the IANA
maintains a registry of the OIDs which correspond to
well-known applications. If the application protocol is
not listed in the registry, an OID value of the form
{applTCPProtoID port} or {applUDProtoID port} are used for
TCP-based and UDP-based protocols, respectively. In either
case ‘port’ corresponds to the primary port number being
used by the protocol."
::= {assocEntry 3}

assocApplicationType OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX INTEGER {
    ua-initiator(1),
    ua-responder(2),
    peer-initiator(3),
    peer-responder(4)}
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"This indicates whether the remote application is some type of
client making use of this network service (e.g. a Mail User
Agent) or a server acting as a peer. Also indicated is whether
the remote end initiated an incoming connection to the network service or responded to an outgoing connection made by the local application. MTAs and messaging gateways are considered to be peers for the purposes of this variable."

::= {assocEntry 4}

assocDuration OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX TimeStamp
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The value of sysUpTime at the time this association was started. If this association started prior to the last initialization of the network subsystem, then this object contains a zero value."

::= {assocEntry 5}

-- Conformance information

applConformance OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {application 3}
applGroups OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {applConformance 1}
applCompliances OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {applConformance 2}

-- Compliance statements

applCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The compliance statement for SNMPv2 entities which implement the Network Services Monitoring MIB for basic monitoring of network service applications."
MODULE -- this module
MANDATORY-GROUPS {applGroup}
::= {applCompliances 1}

assocCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The compliance statement for SNMPv2 entities which implement the Network Services Monitoring MIB for basic monitoring of network service applications and their associations."
MODULE -- this module
MANDATORY-GROUPS {applGroup, assocGroup}
::= {applCompliances 2}
-- Units of conformance

applGroup OBJECT-GROUP

OBJECTS {
    applName, applVersion, applUptime, applOperStatus,
    applLastChange, applInboundAssociations,
    applOutboundAssociations, applAccumulatedInboundAssociations,
    applAccumulatedOutboundAssociations, applLastInboundActivity,
    applLastOutboundActivity, applRejectedInboundAssociations,
    applFailedOutboundAssociations, applDescription, applURL
}

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION
"A collection of objects providing basic monitoring of
    network service applications."

::= {applGroups 1}

assocGroup OBJECT-GROUP

OBJECTS {
    assocRemoteApplication, assocApplicationProtocol,
    assocApplicationType, assocDuration
}

STATUS current

DESCRIPTION
"A collection of objects providing basic monitoring of
    network service applications' associations."

::= {applGroups 2}

-- OIDs of the form {applTCPProtoID port} are intended to be used
-- for TCP-based protocols that don’t have OIDs assigned by other
-- means. {applUDPProtoID port} serves the same purpose for
-- UDP-based protocols. In either case 'port' corresponds to
-- the primary port number being used by the protocol. For example,
-- assuming no other OID is assigned for SMTP, an OID of
-- {applTCPProtoID 25} could be used, since SMTP is a TCP-based
-- protocol that uses port 25 as its primary port.

applTCPProtoID OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {application 4}
applUDPProtoID OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {application 5}

END
7. Changes made since RFC 1565

The only changes made to this document since it was issued as RFC 1565 [11] are the following:

(1) applDescription and applURL fields have been added. These fields are intended to identify and describe the application.

(2) A number of DESCRIPTION fields have been reworded, hopefully making them clearer.

(3) The new "quiescing" state has been added to applOperStatus.

(4) The prose about "dynamic single threaded processes" has been removed -- it was simply too confusing.

(5) Various RFC references have been updated to refer to more recent versions.

(6) The MIB has been renamed from APPLICATION-MIB to NETWORK-SERVICES-MIB. This was done because an application MIB is now under development within the IETF that provides very different functionality from this MIB.

8. Acknowledgements

This document is a product of the Mail and Directory Management (MADMAN) Working Group. It is based on an earlier MIB designed by S. Kille, T. Lenggenhager, D. Partain, and W. Yeong. The Electronic Mail Association’s TSC committee was instrumental in providing feedback on and suggesting enhancements to RFC 1565 [11] that have led to the present document.

9. References


10. Security Considerations

This MIB does not offer write access, and as such cannot be used to actively attack a system. However, this MIB does provide passive information about the existence, type, and configuration of applications on a given host that could potentially indicate some sort of vulnerability. Finally, the information MIB provides about network usage could be used to analyze network traffic patterns.
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