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Transferring Opportunistic Wireless Encryption to the IEEE 802.11 Working Group

Abstract

RFC 8110 describes Opportunistic Wireless Encryption (OWE), a mode that allows unauthenticated clients to connect to a network using encrypted traffic. This document transfers the ongoing maintenance and further development of the protocol to the IEEE 802.11 Working Group.

This document updates RFC 8110 by noting that future work on the protocol described therein will occur in the IEEE 802.11 Working Group.

Status of This Memo

This document is not an Internet Standards Track specification; it is published for informational purposes.

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1. Introduction

Opportunistic Wireless Encryption (OWE) [RFC8110] is a mode of opportunistic security [RFC7435] for IEEE Std 802.11 that provides encryption of the wireless medium without authentication.

Since publication, [RFC8110] (also known as "[Wi-Fi_Enhanced_Open]") has been widely implemented and deployed.

The IEEE 802.11 Working Group [IEEE_802.11] has requested the ability to maintain and develop OWE (see [IEEE_LS]) to ensure that the protocol remains in sync with the IEEE protocols. This document represents concurrence that future work on OWE [RFC8110] will now occur in the IEEE 802.11 Working Group.

2. Transfer of Maintenance

This document represents concurrence that future work on OWE [RFC8110] will now occur in the IEEE 802.11 Working Group [IEEE_802.11] to ensure that the protocol remains in sync with the IEEE protocols.

The OWE protocol [RFC8110] will be duplicated by the IEEE 802.11 Working Group [IEEE_802.11] such that the document alone will be enough to implement, maintain, and modify the protocol within the IEEE under its policies and procedures.

3. Security Considerations

This document simply notes that future work on the protocol described in [RFC8110] will now occur in the IEEE. As such, it does not introduce any new security considerations.

4. IANA Considerations

This document has no IANA actions.

5. References

5.1. Normative References

- [RFC8110] Harkins, D., Ed. and W. Kumari, Ed., "Opportunistic Wireless Encryption", RFC 8110, DOI 10.17487/RFC8110, March 2017, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8110>>.

5.2. Informative References

- [IEEE_802.11] IEEE, IEEE 802.11 Working Group, <<https://www.ieee802.org/11/>>.
- [IEEE_LS] "Liaison statement: OWE (RFC8110) now in 802.11", IETF Liaison Statement, May 2024, <<https://datatracker.ietf.org/liaison/1929/>>.
- [RFC7435] Dukhovni, V., "Opportunistic Security: Some Protection Most of the Time", RFC 7435, DOI 10.17487/RFC7435, December 2014, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7435>>.
- [Wi-Fi_Enhanced_Open] Harkins, D., "Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Enhanced Open: Transparent Wi-Fi protections without complexity", Wi-Fi Alliance, The Beacon Blog, <<https://www.wi-fi.org/beacon/dan-harkins/wi-fi-certified-enhanced-open-transparent-wi-fi-protections-without-complexity>>.

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