Source: Ericsson

Title: IETF Status Report for Security Mechanism Agreement

Document for: Informative

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1   Scope and objectives

Ericsson, Nokia and Nortel Networks have been involved in submitting draft "Security Mechanism Agreement for SIP Sessions" [Sec-Agree] to the IETF. The draft version submitted to IETF has also been sent to the SA3 mailing list. The status of the draft is as follows:

- Working group last call was passed successfully.

- The document is currently in IETF last call.

- The draft was discussed in IETF SIP interim meeting May 6-7. 2002. A number of problems were found:

    - The scope, end-to-middle -case and proxy handling might be too ambitious. For example, SIP forking behaviour might cause problems. Also To- and From headers could be difficult to define because of possible different routes in different directions. Suggestion is to concentrate on choosing security for the UE's outbound proxy.

    - To be in line with SIP's message flow, the solution should be a challenge-response based mechanism. The proxy responses to the UE with a 4xx message indicating security is needed and sends its list of security mechanisms to the UE. UE responses with the same list.

    - The syntax needs to be revised; it does not fulfill all requirements of SIP.

    - Some other, minor problems:

        - Formatting and re-wording some parts of text is needed.

        - A section explaining normative UE and proxy behavior is needed.

        - A call flow should be included in the draft.

- Ericsson is updating the draft with SIP the help of SIP experts. We are working to update the draft to comply with the presented comments, and to preserve the plan of having this ready in bundle 3 delivery from IETF to 3GPP.

- However, at this time we can't say for certain that our resolutions of the issues will be accepted, and we are still lacking some additional comments that were promised to be sent to us after the Las Vegas meeting. We will report on the progress as soon as there is new information.

References

[Sec-Agree] Arkko et al, "Security Mechanism Agreement for SIP Sessions", IETF, Work in progress, April 2002, draft-ietf-sip-sec-agree-00.txt