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RFC 9672
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.

This document is a product of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). It represents the consensus of the IETF community. It has received public review and has been approved for publication by the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG). Not all documents approved by the IESG are candidates for any level of Internet Standard; see Section 2 of RFC 7841.

Information about the current status of this document, any errata, and how to provide feedback on it may be obtained at https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc9672.

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Table of Contents

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.

[IEEE_802.11] has requested [IEEE_LS] that in order to allow for ongoing maintenance and further development of the protocol, and to ensure that the protocol remains in sync with the IEEE protocols, future work on the protocol described in RFC8110 will now occur in [IEEE_802.11]. This document is a concurrence.

2. Transfer of Maintenance

At the request of [IEEE_802.11], in order to allow for ongoing maintenance and further development of the protocol, and to ensure that the protocol remains in sync with the IEEE protocols, this document specifies that future work on the protocol described in RFC8110 will now occur in [IEEE_802.11].

The protocol defined in RFC8110 will be duplicated in [IEEE_802.11] such that that document alone will be enough to implement it and any further maintenance or modification of the protocol will be performed in 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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