

Network Working Group  
Request for Comments: 3584  
BCP: 74  
Obsoletes: 2576  
Category: Best Current Practice

R. Frye  
Vibrant Solutions  
D. Levi  
Nortel Networks  
S. Routhier  
Wind River Systems, Inc.  
B. Wijnen  
Lucent Technologies  
August 2003

Coexistence between Version 1, Version 2, and Version 3  
of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet Best Current Practices for the Internet Community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (C) The Internet Society (2003). All Rights Reserved.

Abstract

The purpose of this document is to describe coexistence between version 3 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework, (SNMPv3), version 2 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework (SNMPv2), and the original Internet-standard Network Management Framework (SNMPv1). This document also describes how to convert MIB modules from SMIV1 format to SMIV2 format. This document obsoletes RFC 2576.

## Table Of Contents

1.	Overview . . . . .	3
1.1.	SNMPv1 . . . . .	4
1.2.	SNMPv2 . . . . .	4
1.3.	SNMPv3 . . . . .	5
2.	SMI and Management Information Mappings. . . . .	5
2.1.	MIB Modules. . . . .	6
2.1.1.	Object Definitions . . . . .	6
2.1.2.	Trap and Notification Definitions . . . . .	8
2.2.	Compliance Statements. . . . .	9
2.3.	Capabilities Statements. . . . .	9
3.	Translating Notification Parameters. . . . .	10
3.1.	Translating SNMPv1 Notification Parameters to SNMPv2 Notification Parameters . . . . .	11
3.2.	Translating SNMPv2 Notification Parameters to SNMPv1 Notification Parameters . . . . .	12
4.	Approaches to Coexistence in a Multi-lingual Network . . . . .	14
4.1.	SNMPv1 and SNMPv2 Access to MIB Data . . . . .	14
4.2.	Multi-lingual implementations. . . . .	15
4.2.1.	Command Generator. . . . .	15
4.2.2.	Command Responder. . . . .	16
4.2.2.1.	Handling Counter64 . . . . .	16
4.2.2.2.	Mapping SNMPv2 Exceptions. . . . .	17
4.2.2.2.1.	Mapping noSuchObject and noSuchInstance. . . . .	18
4.2.2.2.2.	Mapping endOfMibView. . . . .	18
4.2.2.3.	Processing An SNMPv1 GetReques . . . . .	18
4.2.2.4.	Processing An SNMPv1 GetNextRequest. . . . .	19
4.2.2.5.	Processing An SNMPv1 SetRequest. . . . .	20
4.2.3.	Notification Originator. . . . .	21
4.2.4.	Notification Receiver. . . . .	21
4.3.	Proxy Implementations. . . . .	22
4.3.1.	Upstream Version Greater Than Downstream Version. . . . .	22
4.3.2.	Upstream Version Less Than Downstream Version. . . . .	23
4.4.	Error Status Mappings. . . . .	25
5.	Message Processing Models and Security Models. . . . .	26
5.1.	Mappings . . . . .	26
5.2.	The SNMPv1 MP Model and SNMPv1 Community-based Security Model . . . . .	26
5.2.1.	Processing An Incoming Request . . . . .	27
5.2.2.	Generating An Outgoing Response. . . . .	29
5.2.3.	Generating An Outgoing Notification. . . . .	29
5.2.4.	Proxy Forwarding Of Requests . . . . .	30
5.3.	The SNMP Community MIB Module. . . . .	30
6.	Intellectual Property Statement. . . . .	42
7.	Acknowledgments. . . . .	43

8. Security Considerations . . . . .	43
9. References . . . . .	44
9.1. Normative References . . . . .	44
9.2. Informative References . . . . .	46
Appendix A. Change Log . . . . .	47
A.1. Changes From RFC 2576 . . . . .	47
A.2. Changes Between RFC 1908 and RFC 2576 . . . . .	49
Editors' Addresses . . . . .	50
Full Copyright Statement . . . . .	51

## 1. Overview

The purpose of this document is to describe coexistence between version 3 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework, termed the SNMP version 3 framework (SNMPv3), version 2 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework, termed the SNMP version 2 framework (SNMPv2), and the original Internet-standard Network Management Framework (SNMPv1).

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

There are four general aspects of coexistence described in this document. Each of these is described in a separate section:

- Conversion of MIB documents between SMIV1 and SMIV2 formats is documented in section 2.
- Mapping of notification parameters is documented in section 3.
- Approaches to coexistence between entities which support the various versions of SNMP in a multi-lingual network is documented in section 4. This section addresses the processing of protocol operations in multi-lingual implementations, as well as behaviour of proxy implementations.
- The SNMPv1 Message Processing Model and Community-Based Security Model, which provides mechanisms for adapting SNMPv1 into the View-Based Access Control Model (VACM) [20], is documented in section 5 (this section also addresses the SNMPv2c Message Processing Model and Community-Based Security Model).

### 1.1. SNMPv1

SNMPv1 is defined by these documents:

- STD 15, RFC 1157 [RFC1157] which defines the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv1), the protocol used for network access to managed objects.
- STD 16, RFC 1155 [RFC1155] which defines the Structure of Management Information (SMIv1), the mechanisms used for describing and naming objects for the purpose of management.
- STD 16, RFC 1212 [RFC1212] which defines a more concise description mechanism, which is wholly consistent with the SMIv1.
- RFC 1215 [RFC1215] which defines a convention for defining Traps for use with the SMIv1.

Note that throughout this document, the term 'SMIv1' is used. This term generally refers to the information presented in RFC 1155, RFC 1212, and RFC 1215.

### 1.2. SNMPv2

SNMPv2 is defined by these documents:

- STD 58, RFC 2578 which defines Version 2 of the Structure of Management Information (SMIv2) [RFC2578].
- STD 58, RFC 2579 which defines common MIB "Textual Conventions" [RFC2579].
- STD 58, RFC 2580 which defines Conformance Statements and requirements for defining agent and manager capabilities [RFC2580].
- STD 62, RFC 3416 which defines the Protocol Operations used in processing [RFC3416].
- STD 62, RFC 3417 which defines the Transport Mappings used "on the wire" [RFC3417].
- STD 62, RFC 3418 which defines the basic Management Information Base for monitoring and controlling some basic common functions of SNMP entities [RFC3418].

Note that SMIv2 as used throughout this document refers to the first three documents listed above (RFCs 2578, 2579, and 2580).

The following document augments the definition of SNMPv2:

- RFC 1901 [RFC1901] is an Experimental definition for using SNMPv2 PDUs within a community-based message wrapper. This is referred to throughout this document as SNMPv2c.

### 1.3. SNMPv3

SNMPv3 is defined by these documents:

- STD 62, RFC 3411 which defines an Architecture for Describing SNMP Management Frameworks [RFC3411].
- STD 62, RFC 3412 which defines Message Processing and Dispatching [RFC3412].
- STD 62, RFC 3413 which defines various SNMP Applications [RFC3413].
- STD 62, RFC 3414 which defines the User-based Security Model (USM), providing for both Authenticated and Private (encrypted) SNMP messages [RFC3414].
- STD 62, RFC 3415 which defines the View-based Access Control Model (VACM), providing the ability to limit access to different MIB objects on a per-user basis [RFC3415].

SNMPv3 also uses the SNMPv2 definitions of RFCs 3416 through 3418 and the SMIV2 definitions of 2578 through 2580 described above. Note that text throughout this document that refers to SNMPv2 PDU types and protocol operations applies to both SNMPv2c and SNMPv3.

## 2. SMI and Management Information Mappings

The SMIV2 approach towards describing collections of managed objects is nearly a proper superset of the approach defined in the SMIV1. For example, both approaches use an adapted subset of ASN.1 [ASN1] as the basis for a formal descriptive notation. Indeed, one might note that the SMIV2 approach largely codifies the existing practice for defining MIB modules, based on extensive experience with the SMIV1.

The following sections consider the three areas: MIB modules, compliance statements, and capabilities statements.

## 2.1. MIB Modules

MIB modules defined using the SMIV1 may continue to be used with protocol versions which use SNMPv2 PDUs. However, for SMIV1 MIB modules to conform to the SMIV2, the following changes SHALL be made:

### 2.1.1. Object Definitions

In general, conversion of a MIB module does not require the deprecation of the objects contained therein. If the definition of an object is truly inadequate for its intended purpose, the object SHALL be deprecated or obsoleted, otherwise deprecation is not required.

- (1) The IMPORTS statement MUST reference SNMPv2-SMI, instead of RFC1155-SMI and RFC-1212.
- (2) The MODULE-IDENTITY macro MUST be invoked immediately after any IMPORTS statement.
- (3) For any object with a SYNTAX clause value of Counter, the object MUST have the value of its SYNTAX clause changed to Counter32.
- (4) For any object with a SYNTAX clause value of Gauge, the object MUST have the value of its SYNTAX clause changed to Gauge32, or Unsigned32 where appropriate.
- (5) For all objects, the ACCESS clause MUST be replaced by a MAX-ACCESS clause. The value of the MAX-ACCESS clause SHALL be the same as that of the ACCESS clause unless some other value makes "protocol sense" as the maximal level of access for the object. In particular, object types for which instances can be explicitly created by a protocol set operation, SHALL have a MAX-ACCESS clause of "read-create". If the value of the ACCESS clause is "write-only", then the value of the MAX-ACCESS clause MUST be "read-write", and the DESCRIPTION clause SHALL note that reading this object will result in implementation-specific results. Note that in SMIV1, the ACCESS clause specifies the minimal required access, while in SMIV2, the MAX-ACCESS clause specifies the maximum allowed access. This should be considered when converting an ACCESS clause to a MAX-ACCESS clause.
- (6) For all objects, if the value of the STATUS clause is "mandatory" or "optional", the value MUST be replaced with "current", "deprecated", or "obsolete" depending on the current usage of such objects.

- (7) For any object not containing a DESCRIPTION clause, the object MUST have a DESCRIPTION clause defined.
- (8) For any object corresponding to a conceptual row which does not have an INDEX clause, the object MUST have either an INDEX clause or an AUGMENTS clause defined.
- (9) If any INDEX clause contains a reference to an object with a syntax of NetworkAddress, then a new object MUST be created and placed in this INDEX clause immediately preceding the object whose syntax is NetworkAddress. This new object MUST have a syntax of INTEGER, it MUST be not-accessible, and its value MUST always be 1. The effect of this, and the preceding bullet, is to allow one to convert a MIB module in SMIV1 format to one in SMIV2 format, and then use it with the SNMPv1 protocol with no impact to existing SNMPv1 agents and managers.
- (10) For any object with a SYNTAX of NetworkAddress, the SYNTAX MUST be changed to IPAddress. Note that the use of NetworkAddress in new MIB documents is strongly discouraged (in fact, new MIB documents should be written using SMIV2, which does not define NetworkAddress).
- (11) For any object containing a DEFVAL clause with an OBJECT IDENTIFIER value which is expressed as a collection of sub-identifiers, the value MUST be changed to reference a single ASN.1 identifier. This may require defining a series of new administrative assignments (OBJECT IDENTIFIERS) in order to define the single ASN.1 identifier.
- (12) One or more OBJECT-GROUPS MUST be defined, and related objects MUST be collected into appropriate groups. Note that SMIV2 requires all OBJECT-TYPES to be a member of at least one OBJECT-GROUP.
- (13) For any non-columnar object that is instanced as if it were immediately subordinate to a conceptual row, the value of the STATUS clause of that object MUST be changed to "obsolete".
- (14) For any conceptual row object that is not immediately subordinate to a conceptual table, the value of the STATUS clause of that object (and all subordinate objects) MUST be changed to "obsolete".

Other changes are desirable, but not necessary:

- (1) Creation and deletion of conceptual rows is inconsistent using the SMIV1. The SMIV2 corrects this. As such, if the MIB module undergoes review early in its lifetime, and it contains conceptual tables which allow creation and deletion of conceptual rows, then the objects relating to those tables MAY be deprecated and replaced with objects defined using the new approach. The approach based on SMIV2 can be found in section 7 of RFC 2578 [RFC2578], and the RowStatus and StorageType TEXTUAL-CONVENTIONS are described in section 2 of RFC 2579 [RFC2579].
- (2) For any object with an integer-valued SYNTAX clause, in which the corresponding INTEGER does not have a range restriction (i.e., the INTEGER has neither a defined set of named-number enumerations nor an assignment of lower- and upper-bounds on its value), the object SHOULD have the value of its SYNTAX clause changed to Integer32, or have an appropriate range specified.
- (3) For any object with a string-valued SYNTAX clause, in which the corresponding OCTET STRING does not have a size restriction (i.e., the OCTET STRING has no assignment of lower- and upper-bounds on its length), the bounds for the size of the object SHOULD be defined.
- (4) All textual conventions informally defined in the MIB module SHOULD be redefined using the TEXTUAL-CONVENTION macro. Such a change would not necessitate deprecating objects previously defined using an informal textual convention.
- (5) For any object which represents a measurement in some kind of units, a UNITS clause SHOULD be added to the definition of that object.
- (6) For any conceptual row which is an extension of another conceptual row, i.e., for which subordinate columnar objects both exist and are identified via the same semantics as the other conceptual row, an AUGMENTS clause SHOULD be used in place of the INDEX clause for the object corresponding to the conceptual row which is an extension.

#### 2.1.2. Trap and Notification Definitions

If a MIB module is changed to conform to the SMIV2, then each occurrence of the TRAP-TYPE macro MUST be changed to a corresponding invocation of the NOTIFICATION-TYPE macro:



- (1) The IMPORTS statement MUST NOT reference RFC-1215 [RFC1215], and MUST reference SNMPv2-SMI instead.
- (2) The ENTERPRISE clause MUST be removed.
- (3) The VARIABLES clause MUST be renamed to the OBJECTS clause.
- (4) A STATUS clause MUST be added, with an appropriate value. Normally the value should be 'current', although 'deprecated' or 'obsolete' may be used as needed.
- (5) The value of an invocation of the NOTIFICATION-TYPE macro is an OBJECT IDENTIFIER, not an INTEGER, and MUST be changed accordingly. Specifically, if the value of the ENTERPRISE clause is not 'snmp' then the value of the invocation SHALL be the value of the ENTERPRISE clause extended with two sub-identifiers, the first of which has the value 0, and the second has the value of the invocation of the TRAP-TYPE. If the value of the ENTERPRISE clause is 'snmp', then the value of the invocation of the NOTIFICATION-TYPE macro SHALL be mapped in the same manner as described in section 3.1 in this document.
- (6) A DESCRIPTION clause MUST be added, if not already present.
- (7) One or more NOTIFICATION-GROUPS MUST be defined, and related notifications MUST be collected into those groups. Note that SMIV2 requires that all NOTIFICATION-TYPES be a member of at least one NOTIFICATION-GROUP.

## 2.2. Compliance Statements

For those information modules which are "standards track", a corresponding invocation of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro and related OBJECT-GROUP and/or NOTIFICATION-GROUP macros MUST be included within the information module (or in a companion information module), and any commentary text in the information module which relates to compliance SHOULD be removed. Typically this editing can occur when the information module undergoes review.

Note that a MODULE-COMPLIANCE statement is not required for a MIB document that is not on the standards track (for example, an enterprise MIB), though it may be useful in some circumstances to define a MODULE-COMPLIANCE statement for such a MIB document.

## 2.3. Capabilities Statements

RFC 1303 [RFC1303] uses the MODULE-CONFORMANCE macro to describe an agent's capabilities with respect to one or more MIB modules.

Converting such a description for use with the SMIV2 requires these changes:

- (1) The macro name AGENT-CAPABILITIES MUST be used instead of MODULE-CONFORMANCE.
- (2) The STATUS clause MUST be added, with a value of 'current'.
- (3) All occurrences of the CREATION-REQUIRES clause MUST either be omitted if appropriate, or be changed such that the semantics are consistent with RFC 2580 [RFC2580].

In order to ease coexistence, object groups defined in an SMIV1 compliant MIB module may be referenced by the INCLUDES clause of an invocation of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro: upon encountering a reference to an OBJECT IDENTIFIER subtree defined in an SMIV1 MIB module, all leaf objects which are subordinate to the subtree and have a STATUS clause value of mandatory are deemed to be INCLUDED. (Note that this method is ambiguous when different revisions of an SMIV1 MIB have different sets of mandatory objects under the same subtree; in such cases, the only solution is to rewrite the MIB using the SMIV2 in order to define the object groups unambiguously.)

### 3. Translating Notification Parameters

This section describes how parameters used for generating notifications are translated between the format used for SNMPv1 notification protocol operations and the format used for SNMPv2 notification protocol operations. The parameters used to generate a notification are called 'notification parameters'. The format of parameters used for SNMPv1 notification protocol operations is referred to in this document as 'SNMPv1 notification parameters'. The format of parameters used for SNMPv2 notification protocol operations is referred to in this document as 'SNMPv2 notification parameters'.

The situations where notification parameters MUST be translated are:

- When an entity generates a set of notification parameters in a particular format, and the configuration of the entity indicates that the notification must be sent using an SNMP message version that requires the other format for notification parameters.
- When a proxy receives a notification that was sent using an SNMP message version that requires one format of notification parameters, and must forward the notification using an SNMP message version that requires the other format of notification parameters.

In addition, it MAY be desirable to translate notification parameters in a notification receiver application in order to present notifications to the end user in a consistent format.

Note that for the purposes of this section, the set of notification parameters is independent of whether the notification is to be sent as a trap or an inform.

SNMPv1 notification parameters consist of:

- An enterprise parameter (OBJECT IDENTIFIER).
- An agent-addr parameter (NetworkAddress).
- A generic-trap parameter (INTEGER).
- A specific-trap parameter (INTEGER).
- A time-stamp parameter (TimeTicks).
- A list of variable-bindings (VarBindList).

SNMPv2 notification parameters consist of:

- A sysUpTime parameter (TimeTicks). This appears in the first variable-binding in an SNMPv2-Trap-PDU or InformRequest-PDU.
- An snmpTrapOID parameter (OBJECT IDENTIFIER). This appears in the second variable-binding in an SNMPv2-Trap-PDU or InformRequest-PDU, and is equal to the value portion of that variable-binding (not the name portion, as both the name and value are OBJECT IDENTIFIERS).
- A list of variable-bindings (VarBindList). This refers to all but the first two variable-bindings in an SNMPv2-Trap-PDU or InformRequest-PDU.

### 3.1. Translating SNMPv1 Notification Parameters to SNMPv2 Notification Parameters

The following procedure describes how to translate SNMPv1 notification parameters into SNMPv2 notification parameters:

- (1) The SNMPv2 sysUpTime parameter SHALL be taken directly from the SNMPv1 time-stamp parameter.

- (2) If the SNMPv1 generic-trap parameter is 'enterpriseSpecific(6)', the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter SHALL be the concatenation of the SNMPv1 enterprise parameter and two additional sub-identifiers, '0', and the SNMPv1 specific-trap parameter.
- (3) If the SNMPv1 generic-trap parameter is not 'enterpriseSpecific(6)', the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter SHALL be the corresponding trap as defined in section 2 of RFC 3418 [RFC3418]:

generic-trap parameter	snmpTrapOID.0
=====	=====
0	1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.1 (coldStart)
1	1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.2 (warmStart)
2	1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.3 (linkDown)
3	1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.4 (linkUp)
4	1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.5 (authenticationFailure)
5	1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.6 (egpNeighborLoss)

- (4) The SNMPv2 variable-bindings SHALL be the SNMPv1 variable-bindings. In addition, if the translation is being performed by a proxy in order to forward a received trap, three additional variable-bindings will be appended, if these three additional variable-bindings do not already exist in the SNMPv1 variable-bindings. The name portion of the first additional variable binding SHALL contain snmpTrapAddress.0, and the value SHALL contain the SNMPv1 agent-addr parameter. The name portion of the second additional variable binding SHALL contain snmpTrapCommunity.0, and the value SHALL contain the value of the community-string field from the received SNMPv1 message which contained the SNMPv1 Trap-PDU. The name portion of the third additional variable binding SHALL contain snmpTrapEnterprise.0 [RFC3418], and the value SHALL be the SNMPv1 enterprise parameter.

### 3.2. Translating SNMPv2 Notification Parameters to SNMPv1 Notification Parameters

The following procedure describes how to translate SNMPv2 notification parameters into SNMPv1 notification parameters:

- (1) The SNMPv1 enterprise parameter SHALL be determined as follows:
- If the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter is one of the standard traps as defined in RFC 3418 [RFC3418], then the SNMPv1 enterprise parameter SHALL be set to the value of the variable-binding in the SNMPv2 variable-bindings whose name is

snmpTrapEnterprise.0 if that variable-binding exists. If it does not exist, the SNMPv1 enterprise parameter SHALL be set to the value 'snmpTraps' as defined in RFC 3418 [RFC3418].

- If the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter is not one of the standard traps as defined in RFC 3418 [RFC3418], then the SNMPv1 enterprise parameter SHALL be determined from the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter as follows:
    - If the next-to-last sub-identifier of the snmpTrapOID value is zero, then the SNMPv1 enterprise SHALL be the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID value with the last 2 sub-identifiers removed, otherwise
    - If the next-to-last sub-identifier of the snmpTrapOID value is non-zero, then the SNMPv1 enterprise SHALL be the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID value with the last sub-identifier removed.
- (2) The SNMPv1 agent-addr parameter SHALL be determined based on the situation in which the translation occurs.
- If the translation occurs within a notification originator application, and the notification is to be sent over IP, the SNMPv1 agent-addr parameter SHALL be set to the IP address of the SNMP entity in which the notification originator resides. If the notification is to be sent over some other transport, the SNMPv1 agent-addr parameter SHALL be set to 0.0.0.0.
  - If the translation occurs within a proxy application, the proxy must attempt to extract the original source of the notification from the variable-bindings. If the SNMPv2 variable-bindings contains a variable binding whose name is snmpTrapAddress.0, the agent-addr parameter SHALL be set to the value of that variable binding. Otherwise, the SNMPv1 agent-addr parameter SHALL be set to 0.0.0.0.
- (3) If the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter is one of the standard traps as defined in RFC 3418 [RFC3418], the SNMPv1 generic-trap parameter SHALL be set as follows:

snmpTrapOID.0 parameter	generic-trap
=====	=====
1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.1 (coldStart)	0
1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.2 (warmStart)	1
1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.3 (linkDown)	2
1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.4 (linkUp)	3
1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.5 (authenticationFailure)	4
1.3.6.1.6.3.1.1.5.6 (egpNeighborLoss)	5

Otherwise, the SNMPv1 generic-trap parameter SHALL be set to 6.

- (4) If the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter is one of the standard traps as defined in RFC 3418 [RFC3418], the SNMPv1 specific-trap parameter SHALL be set to zero. Otherwise, the SNMPv1 specific-trap parameter SHALL be set to the last sub-identifier of the SNMPv2 snmpTrapOID parameter.
- (5) The SNMPv1 time-stamp parameter SHALL be taken directly from the SNMPv2 sysUpTime parameter.
- (6) The SNMPv1 variable-bindings SHALL be the SNMPv2 variable-bindings (and note that the SNMPv2 variable-bindings do not include the variable-bindings containing sysUpTime.0, snmpTrapOID.0). Note, however, that if the SNMPv2 variable-bindings contain any objects whose type is Counter64, the translation to SNMPv1 notification parameters cannot be performed. In this case, the notification cannot be encoded in an SNMPv1 packet (and so the notification cannot be sent using SNMPv1, see section 4.2.3 and section 4.3).

#### 4. Approaches to Coexistence in a Multi-lingual Network

There are two basic approaches to coexistence in a multi-lingual network, multi-lingual implementations and proxy implementations. Multi-lingual implementations allow elements in a network to communicate with each other using an SNMP version which both elements support. This allows a multi-lingual implementation to communicate with any mono-lingual implementation, regardless of the SNMP version supported by the mono-lingual implementation.

Proxy implementations provide a mechanism for translating between SNMP versions using a third party network element. This allows network elements which support only a single, but different, SNMP version to communicate with each other. Proxy implementations are also useful for securing communications over an insecure link between two locally secure networks.

##### 4.1. SNMPv1 and SNMPv2 Access to MIB Data

Throughout section 4., this document refers to 'SNMPv1 Access to MIB Data' and 'SNMPv2 Access to MIB Data'. These terms refer to the part of an SNMP agent which actually accesses instances of MIB objects, and which actually initiates generation of notifications. Differences between the two types of access to MIB data are:

- Error-status values generated.

- Generation of exception codes.
- Use of the Counter64 data type.
- The format of parameters provided when a notification is generated.

SNMPv1 access to MIB data may generate SNMPv1 error-status values, will never generate exception codes nor use the Counter64 data type, and will provide SNMPv1 format parameters for generating notifications. Note also that SNMPv1 access to MIB data will actually never generate a readOnly error (a noSuchName error would always occur in the situation where one would expect a readOnly error).

SNMPv2 access to MIB data may generate SNMPv2 error-status values, may generate exception codes, may use the Counter64 data type, and will provide SNMPv2 format parameters for generating notifications. Note that SNMPv2 access to MIB data will never generate readOnly, noSuchName, or badValue errors.

Note that a particular multi-lingual implementation may choose to implement all access to MIB data as SNMPv2 access to MIB data, and perform the translations described herein for SNMPv1-based transactions.

Further, note that there is no mention of 'SNMPv3 access to MIB data' in this document, as SNMPv3 uses SNMPv2 PDU types and protocol operations.

#### 4.2. Multi-lingual implementations

This approach requires an entity to support multiple SNMP message versions. Typically this means supporting SNMPv1, SNMPv2c, and SNMPv3 message versions. The behaviour of various types of SNMP applications which support multiple message versions is described in the following sections. This approach allows entities which support multiple SNMP message versions to coexist with and communicate with entities which support only a single SNMP message version.

##### 4.2.1. Command Generator

A command generator must select an appropriate message version when sending requests to another entity. One way to achieve this is to consult a local database to select the appropriate message version.

In addition, a command generator MUST 'downgrade' GetBulk requests to GetNext requests when selecting SNMPv1 as the message version for an

outgoing request. This is done by simply changing the operation type to GetNext, ignoring any non-repeaters and max-repetitions values, and setting error-status and error-index to zero.

#### 4.2.2. Command Responder

A command responder must be able to deal with both SNMPv1 and SNMPv2 access to MIB data. There are three aspects to dealing with this. A command responder must:

- Deal correctly with SNMPv2 access to MIB data that returns a Counter64 value while processing an SNMPv1 message,
- Deal correctly with SNMPv2 access to MIB data that returns one of the three exception values while processing an SNMPv1 message, and
- Map SNMPv2 error codes returned from SNMPv2 access to MIB data into SNMPv1 error codes when processing an SNMPv1 message.

Note that SNMPv1 error codes SHOULD NOT be used without any change when processing SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 messages, except in the case of proxy forwarding. Also, SNMPv1 access to MIB data SHOULD NOT be used when processing SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 messages. In the case of proxy forwarding, for backwards compatibility, SNMPv1 error codes may be used without any change in a forwarded SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 message.

The following sections describe the behaviour of a command responder application which supports multiple SNMP message versions, and which uses SNMPv2 access to MIB data when processing an SNMPv1 message.

##### 4.2.2.1. Handling Counter64

The SMIV2 [RFC2578] defines one new syntax that is incompatible with SMIV1. This syntax is Counter64. All other syntaxes defined by SMIV2 are compatible with SMIV1.

The impact on multi-lingual command responders is that they MUST NOT ever return a variable binding containing a Counter64 value in a response to a request that was received using the SNMPv1 message version.

Multi-lingual command responders SHALL take the approach that object instances whose type is Counter64 are implicitly excluded from view when processing an SNMPv1 message. So:

- On receipt of an SNMPv1 GetRequest-PDU containing a variable binding whose name field points to an object instance of type Counter64, a GetResponsePDU SHALL be returned, with an error-



status of noSuchName and the error-index set to the variable binding that caused this error.

- On an SNMPv1 GetNextRequest-PDU, any object instance which contains a syntax of Counter64 SHALL be skipped, and the next accessible object instance that does not have the syntax of Counter64 SHALL be retrieved. If no such object instance exists, then an error-status of noSuchName SHALL be returned, and the error-index SHALL be set to the variable binding that caused this error.
- Any SNMPv1 request which contains a variable binding with a Counter64 value is ill-formed, so the foregoing rules do not apply. If that error is detected, a response SHALL NOT be returned, since it would contain a copy of the ill-formed variable binding. Instead, the offending PDU SHALL be discarded and the counter snmpInASNParseErrs SHALL be incremented.

#### 4.2.2.2. Mapping SNMPv2 Exceptions

SNMPv2 provides a feature called exceptions, which allow an SNMPv2 Response PDU to return as much management information as possible, even when an error occurs. However, SNMPv1 does not support exceptions, and so an SNMPv1 Response PDU cannot return any management information, and can only return an error-status and an error-index value.

When an SNMPv1 request is received, a command responder MUST check any variable bindings returned using SNMPv2 access to MIB data for exception values, and convert these exception values into SNMPv1 error codes.

The type of exception that can be returned when accessing MIB data and the action taken depends on the type of SNMP request.

- For a GetRequest, a noSuchObject or noSuchInstance exception may be returned.
- For a GetNextRequest, an endOfMibView exception may be returned.
- No exceptions will be returned for a SetRequest, and a GetBulkRequest should only be received in an SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 message, so these request types may be ignored when mapping exceptions.

Note that when a response contains multiple exceptions, it is an implementation choice as to which variable binding the error-index should reference.

#### 4.2.2.2.1. Mapping noSuchObject and noSuchInstance

A noSuchObject or noSuchInstance exception generated by an SNMPv2 access to MIB data indicates that the requested object instance can not be returned. The SNMPv1 error code for this condition is noSuchName, and so the error-status field of the response PDU SHALL be set to noSuchName. Also, the error-index field SHALL be set to the index of the variable binding for which an exception occurred (if there is more than one then it is an implementation decision as to which is used), and the variable binding list from the original request SHALL be returned with the response PDU.

#### 4.2.2.2.2. Mapping endOfMibView

When an SNMPv2 access to MIB data returns a variable binding containing an endOfMibView exception, it indicates that there are no object instances available which lexicographically follow the object in the request. In an SNMPv1 agent, this condition normally results in a noSuchName error, and so the error-status field of the response PDU SHALL be set to noSuchName. Also, the error-index field SHALL be set to the index of the variable binding for which an exception occurred (if there is more than one then it is an implementation decision as to which is used), and the variable binding list from the original request SHALL be returned with the response PDU.

#### 4.2.2.3. Processing An SNMPv1 GetRequest

When processing an SNMPv1 GetRequest, the following procedures MUST be followed when using an SNMPv2 access to MIB data.

When such an access to MIB data returns response data using SNMPv2 syntax and error-status values, then:

- (1) If the error-status is anything other than noError,
  - The error status SHALL be translated to an SNMPv1 error-status using the table in section 4.4, "Error Status Mappings".
  - The error-index SHALL be set to the position (in the original request) of the variable binding that caused the error-status.
  - The variable binding list of the response PDU SHALL be made exactly the same as the variable binding list that was received in the original request.

- (2) If the error-status is noError, the variable bindings SHALL be checked for any SNMPv2 exception (noSuchObject or noSuchInstance) or an SNMPv2 syntax that is unknown to SNMPv1 (Counter64). If there are any such variable bindings, one of those variable bindings SHALL be selected (it is an implementation choice as to which is selected), and:
  - The error-status SHALL be set to noSuchName,
  - The error-index SHALL be set to the position (in the variable binding list of the original request) of the selected variable binding, and
  - The variable binding list of the response PDU SHALL be exactly the same as the variable binding list that was received in the original request.
- (3) If there are no such variable bindings, then:
  - The error-status SHALL be set to noError,
  - The error-index SHALL be set to zero, and
  - The variable binding list of the response SHALL be composed from the data as it is returned by the access to MIB data.

#### 4.2.2.4. Processing An SNMPv1 GetNextRequest

When processing an SNMPv1 GetNextRequest, the following procedures MUST be followed when SNMPv2 access to MIB data is used as part of processing the request. There may be repetitive accesses to MIB data to try to find the first object which lexicographically follows each of the objects in the request. This is implementation specific. These procedures are followed only for data returned when using SNMPv2 access to MIB data. Data returned using SNMPv1 access to MIB data may be treated in the normal manner for an SNMPv1 request.

First, if the access to MIB data returns an error-status of anything other than noError:

- (1) The error status SHALL be translated to an SNMPv1 error-status using the table in section 4.4, "Error Status Mappings".
- (2) The error-index SHALL be set to the position (in the original request) of the variable binding that caused the error-status.

- (3) The variable binding list of the response PDU SHALL be exactly the same as the variable binding list that was received in the original request.

Otherwise, if the access to MIB data returns an error-status of noError:

- (1) Any variable bindings containing an SNMPv2 syntax of Counter64 SHALL be considered to be not in view, and MIB data SHALL be accessed as many times as is required until either a value other than Counter64 is returned, or an error or endOfMibView exception occurs.
- (2) If there is any variable binding that contains an SNMPv2 exception endOfMibView (if there is more than one then it is an implementation decision as to which is chosen):
  - The error-status SHALL be set to noSuchName,
  - The error-index SHALL be set to the position (in the variable binding list of the original request) of the variable binding that returned such an SNMPv2 exception, and
  - The variable binding list of the response PDU SHALL be exactly the same as the variable binding list that was received in the original request.
- (3) If there are no such variable bindings, then:
  - The error-status SHALL be set to noError,
  - The error-index SHALL be set to zero, and
  - The variable binding list of the response SHALL be composed from the data as it is returned by the access to MIB data.

#### 4.2.2.5. Processing An SNMPv1 SetRequest

When processing an SNMPv1 SetRequest, the following procedures MUST be followed when using SNMPv2 access to MIB data.

When such MIB access returns response data using SNMPv2 syntax and error-status values, and the error-status is anything other than noError, then:

- The error status SHALL be translated to an SNMPv1 error-status using the table in section 4.4, "Error Status Mappings".

- The error-index SHALL be set to the position (in the original request) of the variable binding that caused the error-status.
- The variable binding list of the response PDU SHALL be made exactly the same as the variable binding list that was received in the original request.

#### 4.2.3. Notification Originator

A notification originator must be able to translate between SNMPv1 notification parameters and SNMPv2 notification parameters in order to send a notification using a particular SNMP message version. If a notification is generated using SNMPv1 notification parameters, and configuration information specifies that notifications be sent using SNMPv2c or SNMPv3, the notification parameters must be translated to SNMPv2 notification parameters. Likewise, if a notification is generated using SNMPv2 notification parameters, and configuration information specifies that notifications be sent using SNMPv1, the notification parameters must be translated to SNMPv1 notification parameters. In this case, if the notification cannot be translated (due to the presence of a Counter64 type), it will not be sent using SNMPv1.

When a notification originator generates a notification, using parameters obtained from the SNMP-TARGET-MIB and SNMP-NOTIFICATION-MIB, if the SNMP version used to generate the notification is SNMPv1, the PDU type used will always be a TrapPDU, regardless of whether the value of `snmpNotifyType` is `trap(1)` or `inform(2)`.

Note also that access control and notification filtering are performed in the usual manner for notifications, regardless of the SNMP message version to be used when sending a notification. The parameters for performing access control are found in the usual manner (i.e., from inspecting the SNMP-TARGET-MIB and SNMP-NOTIFICATION-MIB). In particular, when generating an SNMPv1 Trap, in order to perform the access check specified in [RFC3413], section 3.3, bullet (3), the notification originator may need to generate a value for `snmpTrapOID.0` as described in section 3.1, bullets (2) and (3) of this document. If the SNMPv1 notification parameters being used were previously translated from a set of SNMPv2 notification parameters, this value may already be known, in which case it need not be generated.

#### 4.2.4. Notification Receiver

There are no special requirements of a notification receiver. However, an implementation may find it useful to allow a higher level application to request whether notifications should be delivered to a

higher level application using SNMPv1 notification parameter or SNMPv2 notification parameters. The notification receiver would then translate notification parameters when required in order to present a notification using the desired set of parameters.

#### 4.3. Proxy Implementations

A proxy implementation may be used to enable communication between entities which support different SNMP message versions. This is accomplished in a proxy forwarder application by performing translations on PDUs. These translations depend on the PDU type, the SNMP version of the packet containing a received PDU, and the SNMP version to be used to forward a received PDU. The following sections describe these translations. In all cases other than those described below, the proxy SHALL forward a received PDU without change, subject to size constraints as defined in section 5.3 (Community MIB) of this document. Note that in the following sections, the 'Upstream Version' refers to the version used between the command generator or notification receiver and the proxy, and the 'Downstream Version' refers to the version used between the proxy and the command responder or notification originator, regardless of the PDU type or direction.

##### 4.3.1. Upstream Version Greater Than Downstream Version

- If a GetBulkRequest-PDU is received and must be forwarded using the SNMPv1 message version, the proxy forwarder SHALL act as if the non-repeaters and max-repetitions fields were both set to 0, and SHALL set the tag of the PDU to GetNextRequest-PDU.
- If a GetResponse-PDU is received whose error-status field has a value of 'tooBig', and the message will be forwarded using the SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 message version, and the original request received by the proxy was not a GetBulkRequest-PDU, the proxy forwarder SHALL remove the contents of the variable-bindings field and ensure that the error-index field is set to 0 before forwarding the response.
- If a GetResponse-PDU is received whose error-status field has a value of 'tooBig', and the message will be forwarded using the SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 message version, and the original request received by the proxy was a GetBulkRequest-PDU, the proxy forwarder SHALL re-send the forwarded request (which would have been altered to be a GetNextRequest-PDU) with all but the first variable-binding removed. The proxy forwarder SHALL only re-send such a request a single time. If the resulting GetResponse-PDU also contains an error-status field with a value of 'tooBig', then the proxy forwarder SHALL remove the contents of the variable-

bindings field, and change the error-status field to 'noError', and ensure that the error-index field is set to 0 before forwarding the response. Note that if the original request only contained a single variable-binding, the proxy may skip re-sending the request and simply remove the variable-bindings and change the error-status to 'noError'. Further note that, while it might have been possible to fit more variable bindings if the proxy only re-sent the request multiple times, and stripped only a single variable binding from the request at a time, this is deemed too expensive. The approach described here preserves the behaviour of a GetBulkRequest as closely as possible, without incurring the cost of re-sending the request multiple times.

- If a Trap-PDU is received, and will be forwarded using the SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 message version, the proxy SHALL apply the translation rules described in section 3, and SHALL forward the notification as an SNMPv2-Trap-PDU.

Note that when an SNMPv1 agent generates a message containing a Trap-PDU which is subsequently forwarded by one or more proxy forwarders using SNMP versions other than SNMPv1, the community string and agent-addr fields from the original message generated by the SNMPv1 agent will be preserved through the use of the `snmpTrapAddress` and `snmpTrapCommunity` objects.

#### 4.3.2. Upstream Version Less Than Downstream Version

- If a GetResponse-PDU is received in response to a GetRequest-PDU (previously generated by the proxy) which contains variable-bindings of type Counter64 or which contain an SNMPv2 exception code, and the message would be forwarded using the SNMPv1 message version, the proxy MUST generate an alternate response PDU consisting of the request-id and variable bindings from the original SNMPv1 request, containing a `noSuchName` error-status value, and containing an error-index value indicating the position of the variable-binding containing the Counter64 type or exception code.
- If a GetResponse-PDU is received in response to a GetNextRequest-PDU (previously generated by the proxy) which contains variable-bindings that contain an SNMPv2 exception code, and the message would be forwarded using the SNMPv1 message version, the proxy MUST generate an alternate response PDU consisting of the request-id and variable bindings from the original SNMPv1 request, containing a `noSuchName` error-status value, and containing an error-index value indicating the position of the variable-binding containing the exception code.

- If a GetResponse-PDU is received in response to a GetNextRequest-PDU (previously generated by the proxy) which contains variable-bindings of type Counter64, the proxy MUST re-send the entire GetNextRequest-PDU, with the following modifications. For any variable bindings in the received GetResponse which contained Counter64 types, the proxy substitutes the object names of these variable bindings for the corresponding object names in the previously-sent GetNextRequest. The proxy MUST repeat this process until no Counter64 objects are returned. Note that an implementation may attempt to optimize this process of skipping Counter64 objects. One approach to such an optimization would be to replace the last sub-identifier of the object names of varbinds containing a Counter64 type with 65535 if that sub-identifier is less than 65535, or with 4294967295 if that sub-identifier is greater than 65535. This approach should skip multiple instances of the same Counter64 object, while maintaining compatibility with some broken agent implementations (which only use 16-bit integers for sub-identifiers).

Deployment Hint: The process of repeated GetNext requests used by a proxy when Counter64 types are returned can be expensive. When deploying a proxy, this can be avoided by configuring the target agents to which the proxy forwards requests in a manner such that any objects of type Counter64 are in fact not-in-view for the principal that the proxy is using when communicating with these agents. However, when using such a configuration, one should be careful to use a different principal for communicating with the target agent when an incoming SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 request is received, to ensure that objects of type Counter64 are properly returned.

- If a GetResponse-PDU is received which contains an SNMPv2 error-status value of wrongValue, wrongEncoding, wrongType, wrongLength, inconsistentValue, noAccess, notWritable, noCreation, inconsistentName, resourceUnavailable, commitFailed, undoFailed, or authorizationError, and the message would be forwarded using the SNMPv1 message version, the error-status value is modified using the mappings in section 4.4.
- If an SNMPv2-Trap-PDU is received, and will be forwarded using the SNMPv1 message version, the proxy SHALL apply the translation rules described in section 3, and SHALL forward the notification as a Trap-PDU. Note that if the translation fails due to the existence of a Counter64 data-type in the received SNMPv2-Trap-PDU, the trap cannot be forwarded using SNMPv1.



- If an InformRequest-PDU is received, any configuration information indicating that it would be forwarded using the SNMPv1 message version SHALL be ignored. An InformRequest-PDU can only be forwarded using the SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 message version. The InformRequest-PDU may still be forwarded if there is other configuration information indicating that it should be forwarded using SNMPv2c or SNMPv3.

#### 4.4. Error Status Mappings

The following tables shows the mappings of SNMPv1 error-status values into SNMPv2 error-status values, and the mappings of SNMPv2 error-status values into SNMPv1 error-status values.

SNMPv1 error-status =====	SNMPv2 error-status =====
noError	noError
tooBig	tooBig
noSuchName	noSuchName
badValue	badValue
genErr	genErr

SNMPv2 error-status =====	SNMPv1 error-status =====
noError	noError
tooBig	tooBig
genErr	genErr
wrongValue	badValue
wrongEncoding	badValue
wrongType	badValue
wrongLength	badValue
inconsistentValue	badValue
noAccess	noSuchName
notWritable	noSuchName
noCreation	noSuchName
inconsistentName	noSuchName
resourceUnavailable	genErr
commitFailed	genErr
undoFailed	genErr
authorizationError	noSuchName

Whenever the SNMPv2 error-status value of authorizationError is translated to an SNMPv1 error-status value of noSuchName, the value of snmpInBadCommunityUses MUST be incremented.

## 5. Message Processing Models and Security Models

In order to adapt SNMPv1 (and SNMPv2c) into the SNMP architecture, the following Message Processing (MP) models are defined in this document:

- The SNMPv1 Message Processing Model
- The SNMPv1 Community-Based Security Model
- The SNMPv2c Message Processing Model
- The SNMPv2c Community-Based Security Model

In most respects, the SNMPv1 Message Processing Model and the SNMPv2c Message Processing Model are identical, and so these are not discussed independently in this document. Differences between the two models are described as required.

Similarly, the SNMPv1 Community-Based Security Model and the SNMPv2c Community-Based Security Model are nearly identical, and so are not discussed independently. Differences between these two models are also described as required.

### 5.1. Mappings

The SNMPv1 (and SNMPv2c) Message Processing Model and Security Model require mappings between parameters used in SNMPv1 (and SNMPv2c) messages, and the version independent parameters used in the SNMP architecture [RFC3411]. The parameters which MUST be mapped consist of the SNMPv1 (and SNMPv2c) community name, and the SNMP securityName and contextEngineID/contextName pair. A MIB module (the SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB) is provided in this document in order to perform these mappings. This MIB provides mappings in both directions, that is, a community name may be mapped to a securityName, contextEngineID, and contextName, or the combination of securityName, contextEngineID, and contextName may be mapped to a community name.

### 5.2. The SNMPv1 MP Model and SNMPv1 Community-based Security Model

The SNMPv1 Message Processing Model handles processing of SNMPv1 messages. The processing of messages is handled generally in the same manner as described in RFC 1157 [RFC1157], with differences and clarifications as described in the following sections. The SnmpMessageProcessingModel value for SNMPv1 is 0 (the value for SNMPv2c is 1).

### 5.2.1. Processing An Incoming Request

In RFC 1157 [RFC1157], section 4.1, item (3) for an entity which receives a message, states that various parameters are passed to the "desired authentication scheme". The desired authentication scheme in this case is the SNMPv1 Community-Based Security Model, which will be called using the processIncomingMsg ASI. The parameters passed to this ASI are:

- The messageProcessingModel, which will be 0 (or 1 for SNMPv2c).
- The maxMessageSize, which should be the maximum size of a message that the receiving entity can generate (since there is no such value in the received message).
- The securityParameters, which consist of the community string and the message's source and destination transport domains and addresses.
- The securityModel, which will be 1 (or 2 for SNMPv2c).
- The securityLevel, which will be noAuthNoPriv.
- The wholeMsg and wholeMsgLength.

The Community-Based Security Model will attempt to select a row in the snmpCommunityTable. This is done by performing a search through the snmpCommunityTable in lexicographic order. The first entry for which the following matching criteria are satisfied will be selected:

- The community string is equal to the snmpCommunityName value.
- If the snmpCommunityTransportTag is an empty string, it is ignored for the purpose of matching. If the snmpCommunityTransportTag is not an empty string, the transportDomain and transportAddress from which the message was received must match one of the entries in the snmpTargetAddrTable selected by the snmpCommunityTransportTag value. The snmpTargetAddrTMask object is used as described in section 5.3 when checking whether the transportDomain and transportAddress matches a entry in the snmpTargetAddrTable.

If no such entry can be found, an authentication failure occurs as described in RFC 1157 [RFC1157], and the snmpInBadCommunityNames counter is incremented.

The parameters returned from the Community-Based Security Model are:

- The securityEngineID, which will always be the local value of snmpEngineID.0.
- The securityName, which will be the value of snmpCommunitySecurityName from the selected row in the snmpCommunityTable.
- The scopedPDU. Note that this parameter will actually consist of three values, the contextSnmpEngineID (which will be the value of snmpCommunityContextEngineID from the selected entry in the snmpCommunityTable), the contextName (which will be the value of snmpCommunityContextName from the selected entry in the snmpCommunityTable), and the PDU. These must be separate values, since the first two do not actually appear in the message.
- The maxSizeResponseScopedPDU, which will be derived using the minimum of the maxMessageSize above, and the value of snmpTargetAddrMMS of the selected row in the snmpTargetAddrTable. If no such entry was selected, then this value will be derived from the maxMessageSize only.
- The securityStateReference, which MUST contain the community string from the original request.

The appropriate SNMP application will then be called (depending on the value of the contextEngineID and the request type in the PDU) using the processPdu ASI. The parameters passed to this ASI are:

- The messageProcessingModel, which will be 0 (or 1 for SNMPv2c).
- The securityModel, which will be 1 (or 2 for SNMPv2c).
- The securityName, which was returned from the call to processIncomingMsg.
- The securityLevel, which is noAuthNoPriv.
- The contextEngineID, which was returned as part of the ScopedPDU from the call to processIncomingMsg.
- The contextName, which was returned as part of the ScopedPDU from the call to processIncomingMsg.
- The pduVersion, which should indicate an SNMPv1 version PDU (if the message version was SNMPv2c, this would be an SNMPv2 version PDU).

- The PDU, which was returned as part of the ScopedPDU from the call to processIncomingMsg.
- The maxSizeResponseScopedPDU which was returned from the call to processIncomingMsg.
- The stateReference which was returned from the call to processIncomingMsg.

The SNMP application should process the request as described previously in this document. Note that access control is applied by an SNMPv3 command responder application as usual. The parameters as passed to the processPdu ASI will be used in calls to the isAccessAllowed ASI.

#### 5.2.2. Generating An Outgoing Response

There is no special processing required for generating an outgoing response. However, the community string used in an outgoing response must be the same as the community string from the original request. The original community string **MUST** be present in the securityStateReference information of the original request.

#### 5.2.3. Generating An Outgoing Notification

In a multi-lingual SNMP entity, the parameters used for generating notifications will be obtained by examining the SNMP-TARGET-MIB and SNMP-NOTIFICATION-MIB. These parameters will be passed to the SNMPv1 Message Processing Model using the sendPdu ASI. The SNMPv1 Message Processing Model will attempt to locate an appropriate community string in the snmpCommunityTable based on the parameters passed to the sendPdu ASI. This is done by performing a search through the snmpCommunityTable in lexicographic order. The first entry for which the following matching criteria are satisfied will be selected:

- The securityName must be equal to the snmpCommunitySecurityName value.
- The contextEngineID must be equal to the snmpCommunityContextEngineID value.
- The contextName must be equal to the snmpCommunityContextName value.

- If the `snmpCommunityTransportTag` is an empty string, it is ignored for the purpose of matching. If the `snmpCommunityTransportTag` is not an empty string, the `transportDomain` and `transportAddress` must match one of the entries in the `snmpTargetAddrTable` selected by the `snmpCommunityTransportTag` value.

If no such entry can be found, the notification is not sent. Otherwise, the community string used in the outgoing notification will be the value of the `snmpCommunityName` column of the selected row.

#### 5.2.4. Proxy Forwarding Of Requests

In a proxy forwarding application, when a received request is to be forwarded using the SNMPv1 Message Processing Model, the parameters used for forwarding will be obtained by examining the SNMP-PROXY-MIB and the SNMP-TARGET-MIB. These parameters will be passed to the SNMPv1 Message Processing Model using the `sendPdu` ASI. The SNMPv1 Message Processing Model will attempt to locate an appropriate community string in the `snmpCommunityTable` based on the parameters passed to the `sendPdu` ASI. This is done by performing a search through the `snmpCommunityTable` in lexicographic order. The first entry for which the following matching criteria are satisfied will be selected:

- The `securityName` must be equal to the `snmpCommunitySecurityName` value.
- The `contextEngineID` must be equal to the `snmpCommunityContextEngineID` value.
- The `contextName` must be equal to the `snmpCommunityContextName` value.

If no such entry can be found, the proxy forwarding application should follow the procedure described in RFC 3413 [RFC3413], section 3.5.1.1, item (2). This procedure states that the `snmpProxyDrops` counter [RFC3418] is incremented, and that a Response-PDU is generated by calling the Dispatcher using the `returnResponsePdu` abstract service interface.

#### 5.3. The SNMP Community MIB Module

The SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB contains objects for mapping between community strings and version-independent SNMP message parameters. In addition, this MIB provides a mechanism for performing source address validation on incoming requests, and for selecting community strings based on target addresses for outgoing notifications. These two

features are accomplished by providing a tag in the `snmpCommunityTable` which selects sets of entries in the `snmpTargetAddrTable` [RFC3413]. In addition, the SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB augments the `snmpTargetAddrTable` with a transport address mask value and a maximum message size value. These values are used only where explicitly stated. In cases where the `snmpTargetAddrTable` is used without mention of these augmenting values, the augmenting values should be ignored.

The mask value, `snmpTargetAddrTMask`, allows selected entries in the `snmpTargetAddrTable` to specify multiple addresses (rather than just a single address per entry). This would typically be used to specify a subnet in an `snmpTargetAddrTable` rather than just a single address. The mask value is used to select which bits of a transport address must match bits of the corresponding instance of `snmpTargetAddrTAddress`, in order for the transport address to match a particular entry in the `snmpTargetAddrTable`. The value of an instance of `snmpTargetAddrTMask` must always be an OCTET STRING whose length is either zero or the same as that of the corresponding instance of `snmpTargetAddrTAddress`.

Note that the `snmpTargetAddrTMask` object is only used where explicitly stated. In particular, it is not used when generating notifications (i.e., when generating notifications, entries in the `snmpTargetAddrTable` only specify individual addresses). If use of the `snmpTargetAddrTMask` object is not mentioned in text describing matching addresses in the `snmpTargetAddrTable`, then its value MUST be ignored.

When checking whether a transport address matches an entry in the `snmpTargetAddrTable`, if the value of `snmpTargetAddrTMask` is a zero-length OCTET STRING, the mask value is ignored, and the value of `snmpTargetAddrTAddress` must exactly match a transport address. Otherwise, each bit of each octet in the `snmpTargetAddrTMask` value corresponds to the same bit of the same octet in the `snmpTargetAddrTAddress` value. For bits that are set in the `snmpTargetAddrTMask` value (i.e., bits equal to 1), the corresponding bits in the `snmpTargetAddrTAddress` value must match the bits in a transport address. If all such bits match, the transport address is matched by that `snmpTargetAddrTable` entry. Otherwise, the transport address is not matched.

The maximum message size value, `snmpTargetAddrMMS`, is used to determine the maximum message size acceptable to another SNMP entity when the value cannot be determined from the protocol.

```
SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

IMPORTS
    IPAddress,
    MODULE-IDENTITY,
    OBJECT-TYPE,
    Integer32,
    snmpModules
        FROM SNMPv2-SMI
    RowStatus,
    StorageType
        FROM SNMPv2-TC
    SnmpAdminString,
    SnmpEngineID
        FROM SNMP-FRAMEWORK-MIB
    SnmpTagValue,
    snmpTargetAddrEntry
        FROM SNMP-TARGET-MIB
    MODULE-COMPLIANCE,
    OBJECT-GROUP
        FROM SNMPv2-CONF;

snmpCommunityMIB MODULE-IDENTITY
    LAST-UPDATED "200308060000Z"           -- 06 Aug 2003, midnight
    ORGANIZATION "SNMPv3 Working Group"
    CONTACT-INFO "WG-email:   snmpv3@lists.tislabs.com
                  Subscribe:  majordomo@lists.tislabs.com
                  In msg body: subscribe snmpv3

                  Co-Chair:   Russ Mundy
                              SPARTA, Inc
                  Postal:      7075 Samuel Morse Drive
                              Columbia, MD 21045
                              USA
                  EMail:       mundy@tislabs.com
                  Phone:       +1 410-872-1515

                  Co-Chair:   David Harrington
                              Enterasys Networks
                  Postal:      35 Industrial Way
                              P. O. Box 5005
                              Rochester, New Hampshire 03866-5005
                              USA
                  EMail:       dbh@enterasys.com
                  Phone:       +1 603-337-2614

                  Co-editor:   Rob Frye
                              Vibrant Solutions
```



Postal: 2711 Prosperity Ave  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031  
USA  
E-mail: rfrye@vibrant-1.com  
Phone: +1-703-270-2000

Co-editor: David B. Levi  
Nortel Networks  
Postal: 3505 Kesterwood Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918  
E-mail: dlevi@nortelnetworks.com  
Phone: +1 865 686 0432

Co-editor: Shawn A. Routhier  
Wind River Systems, Inc.  
Postal: 500 Wind River Way  
Alameda, CA 94501  
E-mail: sar@epilogue.com  
Phone: +1 510 749 2095

Co-editor: Bert Wijnen  
Lucent Technologies  
Postal: Schagen 33  
3461 GL Linschoten  
Netherlands  
Email: bwijnen@lucent.com  
Phone: +31-348-407-775

"

#### DESCRIPTION

"This MIB module defines objects to help support coexistence between SNMPv1, SNMPv2c, and SNMPv3.

Copyright (C) The Internet Society (2003) This version of this MIB module is part of RFC 3584; see the RFC itself for full legal notices."

REVISION "200308060000Z" -- 06 Aug 2003

#### DESCRIPTION

"Updated the LAST-UPDATED, CONTACT-INFO, and REVISION clauses and added a copyright notice to the DESCRIPTION clause of the MIB module's MODULE-IDENTITY invocation.

Updated the description of snmpCommunityTransportTag to make it consistent with the rest of the document.

Updated the description of 'snmpTargetAddrMMS' to

clarify that a value of 0 means that the maximum message size is unknown.

Changed the name of 'snmpCommunityGroup' to snmpCommunityTableGroup to avoid a name conflict with the SNMPv2-MIB.

Updated DESCRIPTION of snmpCommunityName.

Updated DESCRIPTION of snmpTrapCommunity.

Added snmpCommunityMIBFullCompliance.

This version published as RFC 3584."

REVISION "200003060000Z" -- 6 Mar 2000

DESCRIPTION "This version published as RFC 2576."

```
::= { snmpModules 18 }
```

```
-- Administrative assignments *****
```

```
snmpCommunityMIBObjects
```

```
    OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpCommunityMIB 1 }
```

```
snmpCommunityMIBConformance
```

```
    OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { snmpCommunityMIB 2 }
```

```
--
```

```
-- The snmpCommunityTable contains a database of community
-- strings. This table provides mappings between community
-- strings, and the parameters required for View-based Access
-- Control.
--
```

```
snmpCommunityTable OBJECT-TYPE
```

```
    SYNTAX          SEQUENCE OF SnmpCommunityEntry
```

```
    MAX-ACCESS      not-accessible
```

```
    STATUS          current
```

```
    DESCRIPTION
```

```
        "The table of community strings configured in the SNMP
        engine's Local Configuration Datastore (LCD)."
```

```
    ::= { snmpCommunityMIBObjects 1 }
```

```
snmpCommunityEntry OBJECT-TYPE
```

```
    SYNTAX          SnmpCommunityEntry
```

```
    MAX-ACCESS      not-accessible
```

```
    STATUS          current
```

## DESCRIPTION

"Information about a particular community string."

INDEX { IMPLIED snmpCommunityIndex }

::= { snmpCommunityTable 1 }

```
SnmpCommunityEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
    snmpCommunityIndex          SnmpAdminString,
    snmpCommunityName           OCTET STRING,
    snmpCommunitySecurityName   SnmpAdminString,
    snmpCommunityContextEngineID SnmpEngineID,
    snmpCommunityContextName    SnmpAdminString,
    snmpCommunityTransportTag   SnmpTagValue,
    snmpCommunityStorageType    StorageType,
    snmpCommunityStatus         RowStatus
}
```

snmpCommunityIndex OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX SnmpAdminString (SIZE(1..32))

MAX-ACCESS not-accessible

STATUS current

## DESCRIPTION

"The unique index value of a row in this table."

::= { snmpCommunityEntry 1 }

snmpCommunityName OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX OCTET STRING

MAX-ACCESS read-create

STATUS current

## DESCRIPTION

"The community string for which a row in this table represents a configuration. There is no SIZE constraint specified for this object because RFC 1157 does not impose any explicit limitation on the length of community strings (their size is constrained indirectly by the SNMP message size)."

::= { snmpCommunityEntry 2 }

snmpCommunitySecurityName OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX SnmpAdminString (SIZE(1..32))

MAX-ACCESS read-create

STATUS current

## DESCRIPTION

"A human readable string representing the corresponding value of snmpCommunityName in a Security Model independent format."

::= { snmpCommunityEntry 3 }

snmpCommunityContextEngineID OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX            SnmpEngineID  
 MAX-ACCESS       read-create  
 STATUS           current  
 DESCRIPTION

"The contextEngineID indicating the location of the context in which management information is accessed when using the community string specified by the corresponding instance of snmpCommunityName.

The default value is the snmpEngineID of the entity in which this object is instantiated."

::= { snmpCommunityEntry 4 }

snmpCommunityContextName OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX            SnmpAdminString (SIZE(0..32))  
 MAX-ACCESS       read-create  
 STATUS           current  
 DESCRIPTION

"The context in which management information is accessed when using the community string specified by the corresponding instance of snmpCommunityName."

DEFVAL           { ''H }    -- the empty string

::= { snmpCommunityEntry 5 }

snmpCommunityTransportTag OBJECT-TYPE

SYNTAX            SnmpTagValue  
 MAX-ACCESS       read-create  
 STATUS           current  
 DESCRIPTION

"This object specifies a set of transport endpoints which are used in two ways:

- to specify the transport endpoints from which an SNMP entity will accept management requests, and
- to specify the transport endpoints to which a notification may be sent using the community string matching the corresponding instance of snmpCommunityName.

In either case, if the value of this object has zero-length, transport endpoints are not checked when either authenticating messages containing this community string, nor when generating notifications.

The transports identified by this object are specified in the snmpTargetAddrTable. Entries in that table whose snmpTargetAddrTagList contains this tag value are identified.

If a management request containing a community string

that matches the corresponding instance of `snmpCommunityName` is received on a transport endpoint other than the transport endpoints identified by this object the request is deemed unauthentic.

When a notification is to be sent using an entry in this table, if the destination transport endpoint of the notification does not match one of the transport endpoints selected by this object, the notification is not sent."

```
DEFVAL      { ''H }    -- the empty string
 ::= { snmpCommunityEntry 6 }
```

`snmpCommunityStorageType` OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX      StorageType
MAX-ACCESS  read-create
STATUS      current
DESCRIPTION
```

"The storage type for this conceptual row in the `snmpCommunityTable`. Conceptual rows having the value 'permanent' need not allow write-access to any columnar object in the row."

```
::= { snmpCommunityEntry 7 }
```

`snmpCommunityStatus` OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX      RowStatus
MAX-ACCESS  read-create
STATUS      current
DESCRIPTION
```

"The status of this conceptual row in the `snmpCommunityTable`.

An entry in this table is not qualified for activation until instances of all corresponding columns have been initialized, either through default values, or through Set operations. The `snmpCommunityName` and `snmpCommunitySecurityName` objects must be explicitly set.

There is no restriction on setting columns in this table when the value of `snmpCommunityStatus` is `active(1)`."

```
::= { snmpCommunityEntry 8 }
```

```
--
```

```
-- The snmpTargetAddrExtTable
```

```
--
```

`snmpTargetAddrExtTable` OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX      SEQUENCE OF SnmpTargetAddrExtEntry
```

MAX-ACCESS not-accessible  
 STATUS current  
 DESCRIPTION

"The table of mask and maximum message size (mms) values associated with the snmpTargetAddrTable.

The snmpTargetAddrExtTable augments the snmpTargetAddrTable with a transport address mask value and a maximum message size value. The transport address mask allows entries in the snmpTargetAddrTable to define a set of addresses instead of just a single address. The maximum message size value allows the maximum message size of another SNMP entity to be configured for use in SNMPv1 (and SNMPv2c) transactions, where the message format does not specify a maximum message size."

::= { snmpCommunityMIBObjects 2 }

snmpTargetAddrExtEntry OBJECT-TYPE  
 SYNTAX SnmpTargetAddrExtEntry  
 MAX-ACCESS not-accessible  
 STATUS current  
 DESCRIPTION

"Information about a particular mask and mms value."

AUGMENTS { snmpTargetAddrEntry }  
 ::= { snmpTargetAddrExtTable 1 }

SnmpTargetAddrExtEntry ::= SEQUENCE {  
   snmpTargetAddrTMask OCTET STRING,  
   snmpTargetAddrMMS Integer32  
 }

snmpTargetAddrTMask OBJECT-TYPE  
 SYNTAX OCTET STRING (SIZE (0..255))  
 MAX-ACCESS read-create  
 STATUS current  
 DESCRIPTION

"The mask value associated with an entry in the snmpTargetAddrTable. The value of this object must have the same length as the corresponding instance of snmpTargetAddrTAddress, or must have length 0. An attempt to set it to any other value will result in an inconsistentValue error.

The value of this object allows an entry in the snmpTargetAddrTable to specify multiple addresses. The mask value is used to select which bits of a transport address must match bits of the corresponding instance of snmpTargetAddrTAddress, in order for the

transport address to match a particular entry in the snmpTargetAddrTable. Bits which are 1 in the mask value indicate bits in the transport address which must match bits in the snmpTargetAddrTAddress value. Bits which are 0 in the mask indicate bits in the transport address which need not match. If the length of the mask is 0, the mask should be treated as if all its bits were 1 and its length were equal to the length of the corresponding value of snmpTargetAddrTable.

This object may not be modified while the value of the corresponding instance of snmpTargetAddrRowStatus is active(1). An attempt to set this object in this case will result in an inconsistentValue error."

```
DEFVAL { ''H }
::= { snmpTargetAddrExtEntry 1 }
```

#### snmpTargetAddrMMS OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX      Integer32 (0|484..2147483647)
MAX-ACCESS  read-create
STATUS      current
DESCRIPTION
    "The maximum message size value associated with an entry
    in the snmpTargetAddrTable. Note that a value of 0 means
    that the maximum message size is unknown."
DEFVAL { 484 }
::= { snmpTargetAddrExtEntry 2 }
```

--

-- The snmpTrapAddress and snmpTrapCommunity objects are included  
 -- in notifications that are forwarded by a proxy, which were  
 -- originally received as SNMPv1 Trap messages.

--

#### snmpTrapAddress OBJECT-TYPE

```
SYNTAX      IpAddress
MAX-ACCESS  accessible-for-notify
STATUS      current
DESCRIPTION
    "The value of the agent-addr field of a Trap PDU which
    is forwarded by a proxy forwarder application using
    an SNMP version other than SNMPv1. The value of this
    object SHOULD contain the value of the agent-addr field
    from the original Trap PDU as generated by an SNMPv1
    agent."
::= { snmpCommunityMIBObjects 3 }
```

```

snmpTrapCommunity OBJECT-TYPE
    SYNTAX      OCTET STRING
    MAX-ACCESS  accessible-for-notify
    STATUS      current
    DESCRIPTION
        "The value of the community string field of an SNMPv1
        message containing a Trap PDU which is forwarded by a
        a proxy forwarder application using an SNMP version
        other than SNMPv1. The value of this object SHOULD
        contain the value of the community string field from
        the original SNMPv1 message containing a Trap PDU as
        generated by an SNMPv1 agent. There is no SIZE
        constraint specified for this object because RFC 1157
        does not impose any explicit limitation on the length
        of community strings (their size is constrained
        indirectly by the SNMP message size)."
    ::= { snmpCommunityMIBObjects 4 }

-- Conformance Information *****

snmpCommunityMIBCompliances OBJECT IDENTIFIER
    ::= { snmpCommunityMIBConformance 1 }
snmpCommunityMIBGroups      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
    ::= { snmpCommunityMIBConformance 2 }

-- Compliance statements

snmpCommunityMIBCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
    STATUS      current
    DESCRIPTION
        "The compliance statement for SNMP engines which
        implement the SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB."

MODULE          -- this module
    MANDATORY-GROUPS { snmpCommunityTableGroup }

    OBJECT      snmpCommunityName
    MIN-ACCESS  read-only
    DESCRIPTION  "Write access is not required."

    OBJECT      snmpCommunitySecurityName
    MIN-ACCESS  read-only
    DESCRIPTION  "Write access is not required."

    OBJECT      snmpCommunityContextEngineID
    MIN-ACCESS  read-only
    DESCRIPTION  "Write access is not required."

```



```

OBJECT      snmpCommunityContextName
MIN-ACCESS  read-only
DESCRIPTION "Write access is not required."

OBJECT      snmpCommunityTransportTag
MIN-ACCESS  read-only
DESCRIPTION "Write access is not required."

OBJECT      snmpCommunityStorageType
MIN-ACCESS  read-only
DESCRIPTION "Write access is not required."

OBJECT      snmpCommunityStatus
MIN-ACCESS  read-only
DESCRIPTION "Write access is not required."

```

```
 ::= { snmpCommunityMIBCompliances 1 }
```

```
snmpProxyTrapForwardCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
```

```
STATUS      current
```

```
DESCRIPTION
```

```
    "The compliance statement for SNMP engines which
    contain a proxy forwarding application which is
    capable of forwarding SNMPv1 traps using SNMPv2c
    or SNMPv3."
```

```
MODULE      -- this module
```

```
MANDATORY-GROUPS { snmpProxyTrapForwardGroup }
```

```
::= { snmpCommunityMIBCompliances 2 }
```

```
snmpCommunityMIBFullCompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
```

```
STATUS      current
```

```
DESCRIPTION
```

```
    "The compliance statement for SNMP engines which
    implement the SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB with full read-create
    access."
```

```
MODULE      -- this module
```

```
MANDATORY-GROUPS { snmpCommunityTableGroup }
```

```
::= { snmpCommunityMIBCompliances 3 }
```

```
snmpCommunityTableGroup OBJECT-GROUP
```

```
OBJECTS {
```

```
    snmpCommunityName,
    snmpCommunitySecurityName,
    snmpCommunityContextEngineID,
    snmpCommunityContextName,
    snmpCommunityTransportTag,
    snmpCommunityStorageType,
```

```
        snmpCommunityStatus,  
        snmpTargetAddrTMask,  
        snmpTargetAddrMMS  
    }  
    STATUS          current  
    DESCRIPTION  
        "A collection of objects providing for configuration  
        of community strings for SNMPv1 (and SNMPv2c) usage."  
    ::= { snmpCommunityMIBGroups 1 }  
  
snmpProxyTrapForwardGroup OBJECT-GROUP  
    OBJECTS {  
        snmpTrapAddress,  
        snmpTrapCommunity  
    }  
    STATUS          current  
    DESCRIPTION  
        "Objects which are used by proxy forwarding applications  
        when translating traps between SNMP versions. These are  
        used to preserve SNMPv1-specific information when  
        translating to SNMPv2c or SNMPv3."  
    ::= { snmpCommunityMIBGroups 3 }  
  
END
```

## 6. Intellectual Property Statement

The IETF takes no position regarding the validity or scope of any intellectual property or other rights that might be claimed to pertain to the implementation or use of the technology described in this document or the extent to which any license under such rights might or might not be available; neither does it represent that it has made any effort to identify any such rights. Information on the IETF's procedures with respect to rights in standards-track and standards-related documentation can be found in BCP-11. Copies of claims of rights made available for publication and any assurances of licenses to be made available, or the result of an attempt made to obtain a general license or permission for the use of such proprietary rights by implementors or users of this specification can be obtained from the IETF Secretariat.

The IETF invites any interested party to bring to its attention any copyrights, patents or patent applications, or other proprietary rights which may cover technology that may be required to practice this standard. Please address the information to the IETF Executive Director.

## 7. Acknowledgments

This document is the result of the efforts of the SNMPv3 Working Group. The design of the SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB incorporates work done by the authors of SNMPv2\*:

Jeff Case (SNMP Research, Inc.)  
David Harrington (Enterasys Networks)  
David Levi (Nortel Networks)  
Brian O'Keefe (Hewlett Packard)  
Jon Saperia (IronBridge Networks, Inc.)  
Steve Waldbusser (International Network Services)

## 8. Security Considerations

Although SNMPv1 and SNMPv2 do not provide any security, allowing community names to be mapped into securityName/contextName provides the ability to use view-based access control to limit the access of unsecured SNMPv1 and SNMPv2 operations. In fact, it is important for network administrators to make use of this capability in order to avoid unauthorized access to MIB data that would otherwise be secure.

When a proxy implementation translates messages between SNMPv1 (or SNMPv2c) and SNMPv3, there may be a loss of security. For example, an SNMPv3 message received using authentication and privacy which is subsequently forwarded using SNMPv1 will lose the security benefits of using authentication and privacy (also known as confidentiality). Careful configuration of proxies is required to address such situations. One approach to deal with such situations might be to use an encrypted tunnel.

There are a number of management objects defined in this MIB module with a MAX-ACCESS clause of read-write and/or read-create. Such objects may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. The support for SET operations in a non-secure environment without proper protection can have a negative effect on network operations. These are the tables and objects and their sensitivity/vulnerability:

- The snmpCommunityTable allows creation and deletion of community strings, which is potentially a serious security hole. Access to this table should be greatly restricted, preferably by only allowing write access using SNMPv3 VACM and USM, with authentication and privacy.
- The snmpTargetAddrExtTable contains write-able objects which may also be considered sensitive, and so access to it should be restricted as well.

Some of the readable objects in this MIB module (i.e., objects with a MAX-ACCESS other than not-accessible) may be considered sensitive or vulnerable in some network environments. It is thus important to control even GET and/or NOTIFY access to these objects and possibly to even encrypt the values of these objects when sending them over the network via SNMP. These are the tables and objects and their sensitivity/vulnerability:

- The `snmpCommunityTable` has the potential to expose community strings which provide access to more information than that which is available using the usual 'public' community string. For this reason, a security administrator may wish to limit accessibility to objects in the `snmpCommunityTable`, and in particular, to make it inaccessible when using the 'public' community string.

SNMP versions prior to SNMPv3 did not include adequate security. Even if the network itself is secure (for example by using IPSec), even then, there is no control as to who on the secure network is allowed to access and GET/SET (read/change/create/delete) the objects in this MIB module.

It is RECOMMENDED that implementers consider the security features as provided by the SNMPv3 framework (see [RFC3410], section 8), including full support for the SNMPv3 cryptographic mechanisms (for authentication and privacy).

Further, deployment of SNMP versions prior to SNMPv3 is NOT RECOMMENDED. Instead, it is RECOMMENDED to deploy SNMPv3 and to enable cryptographic security. It is then a customer/operator responsibility to ensure that the SNMP entity giving access to an instance of this MIB module is properly configured to give access to the objects only to those principals (users) that have legitimate rights to indeed GET or SET (change/create/delete) them.

## 9. References

### 9.1. Normative References

- [RFC1155] Rose, M. and K. McCloghrie, "Structure and Identification of Management Information for TCP/IP-based internets", STD 16, RFC 1155, May 1990.
- [RFC1157] Case, J., Fedor, M., Schoffstall, M. and C. Davin, "Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)", STD 15, RFC 1157, May 1990.
- [RFC1212] Rose, M. and K. McCloghrie, Eds., "Concise MIB Definitions", STD 16, RFC 1212, March 1991.

- [RFC1215] Rose, M., "A Convention for Defining Traps for use with the SNMP", RFC 1215, March 1991.
- [RFC1303] McCloghrie, K. and M. Rose, "A Convention for Describing SNMP-based Agents", RFC 1303, February 1992.
- [RFC1901] Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M. and S. Waldbusser, "Introduction to Community-based SNMPv2", RFC 1901, January 1996.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.
- [RFC2578] McCloghrie, K., Perkins, D. and J. Schoenwaelder, "Structure of Management Information Version 2 (SMIv2)", RFC 2578, STD 58, April 1999.
- [RFC2579] McCloghrie, K., Perkins, D. and J. Schoenwaelder, "Textual Conventions for SMIv2", STD 58, RFC 2579, April 1999.
- [RFC2580] McCloghrie, K., Perkins, D. and J. Schoenwaelder, "Conformance Statements for SMIv2", STD 58, RFC 2580, April 1999.
- [RFC3411] Harrington, D., Presuhn, R. and B. Wijnen, "An Architecture for Describing Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) Management Frameworks", STD 62, RFC 3411, December 2002.
- [RFC3412] Case, J., Harrington, D., Presuhn, R. and B. Wijnen, "Message Processing and Dispatching for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)", STD 62, RFC 3412, December 2002.
- [RFC3413] Levi, D., Meyer, P. and B. Stewart, "Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) Applications", STD 62, RFC 3413, December 2002.
- [RFC3414] Blumenthal, U. and B. Wijnen, "The User-Based Security Model (USM) for Version 3 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)", STD 62, RFC 3414, December 2002.
- [RFC3415] Wijnen, B., Presuhn, R. and K. McCloghrie, "View-based Access Control Model (VACM) for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)", STD 62, RFC 3415, December 2002.

- [RFC3416] Presuhn, R., Ed., "Version 2 of the Protocol Operations for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", STD 62, RFC 3416, December 2002.
- [RFC3417] Presuhn, R., Ed., "Transport Mappings for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", STD 62, RFC 3417, December 2002.
- [RFC3418] Presuhn, R., Ed., "Management Information Base (MIB) for Version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)", STD 62, RFC 3418, December 2002.
- [ASN1] Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Specification of Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1), International Organization for Standardization. International Standard 8824, (December, 1987).

## 9.2. Informative References

- [RFC1908] Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M. and S. Waldbusser, "Coexistence between Version 1 and Version 2 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework", RFC 1908, January 1996.
- [RFC2089] Levi, D. and B. Wijnen, "Mapping SNMPv2 onto SNMPv1 within a bilingual SNMP agent", RFC 2089, January 1997.
- [RFC2576] Frye, R., Levi, D., Routhier, S. and B. Wijnen, "Coexistence between Version 1, Version 2, and Version 3 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework", RFC 2576, March 2000.
- [RFC3410] Case, J., Mundy, R., Partain, D. and B. Stewart, "Introduction and Applicability Statements for Internet-Standard Management Framework", RFC 3410, December 2002.

## Appendix A. Change Log

### A.1. Changes From RFC 2576

Section numbers below refer to the old section numbers from RFC 2576. Some section numbers have changed since RFC 2576.

- Added text to abstract about conversion of MIBs from SMIV1 to SMIV2.
- Added note at end of section 1.3 that all discussion of SNMPv2 PDU types and protocol operations applies to both SNMPv2c and SNMPv3.
- Added text at end of section 1.4 to clarify that there is no such thing as 'SNMPv3 access to MIB data', as SNMPv3 just uses SNMPv2 PDU types and protocol operations.
- Moved section 1.4 to the beginning of section 4.
- Changed "MUST" to "SHOULD" in item (3) of the first list in Section 2.1.1 to since unconstrained INTEGER is not actually illegal in SMIV2.
- Changed "SHOULD" to "MUST" in item (13) of the first list in Section 2.1.1 to clarify that collecting related objects into groups is required when translating a MIB module from SMIV1 to SMIV2.
- Re-organized bullets in section 2.1.1 to improve clarity.
- Changed "SHOULD" to "MUST" in items (1) and (2) of Section 2.3 since those updates are indeed required when translating a capabilities statement from the language defined by RFC 1303 into SMIV2.
- In the second bullet of the last part of Section 3 listing the SNMPv2 notification parameters, clarified that the snmpTrapOID parameter refers to the value portion (not the name portion) of the second variable-binding, and changed the wording in the text under bullet (1) of Section 3.2 from "the snmpTrapOID" to "the snmpTrapOID value" to emphasize this point.
- In bullet (6) of Section 3.2 emphasized that the SNMPv2 variable-bindings do not include sysUpTime.0 an snmpTrapOID.0.
- In Section 4.2 clarified that the 'Upstream Version' refers to the version used between the command generator or notification receiver and the proxy, and the 'Downstream Version' refers to the

version used between the proxy and the command responder or notification originator. RFC 2576 neglected to mention the notification receiver and notification originator.

- In Section 4.1.2 added text noting that SNMPv1 access to MIB data SHOULD NOT be used when processing SNMPv2c or SNMPv3 messages and re-worded final paragraph to note that the sub-sections that follow are concerned solely with command responders that use SNMPv2 access to MIB data while processing an SNMPv1 request.
- Re-worded first bullet, section 4.2.1, to make it more readable.
- In Section 4.2.1 clarified that the error-index field must be set to zero in a translated GetResponse-PDU with an error-status of 'tooBig' and made explicit the rationale for retrying a GetBulkRequest-PDU only once.
- Added text to the Deployment Hint in Section 4.2.2 to clarify that different principals should be used for SNMPv1 requests and SNMPv2/v3c requests if for SNMPv1 requests a principal for which Counter64 objects are not-in-view is used.
- In Section 5.2.1 clarified that the securityName value and the scopedPDU's contextSnmEngineID and contextName values come from the selected entry in the snmpCommunityTable. Also clarified how maxSizeResponseScopedPDU is determined and that securityStateReference must contain the community string of the original request.
- Added Section 5.2.4 on Proxy Forwarding Of Requests.
- In Section 5.3 clarified that snmpTargetAddrTMask is to be ignored whenever its use is not explicitly called for.
- Updated the LAST-UPDATED, CONTACT-INFO, and REVISION clauses and added a copyright notice to the DESCRIPTION clause of the MIB module's MODULE-IDENTITY invocation.
- Added text to DESCRIPTION of snmpCommunityName and snmpTrapCommunity to clarify why the object has no size restriction.
- Updated the description of snmpCommunityTransportTag to make it consistent with the rest of the document.
- Updated the description of 'snmpTargetAddrMMS' to clarify that a value of 0 means that the maximum message size is unknown.



- Changed the name of 'snmpCommunityGroup' to 'snmpCommunityTableGroup' in order to resolve a name conflict with the SNMPv2-MIB.
- Added compliance statement to SNMP-COMMUNITY-MIB for full read-create compliance.
- Divided references into Normative References and Informative Reference and updated them to point to current documents.
- Inserted current year into all copyright notices.
- Corrected various typographical and grammatical errors.

#### A.2. Changes Between RFC 1908 and RFC 2576

- Editorial changes to comply with current RFC requirements.
- Added/updated copyright statements.
- Added Intellectual Property section.
- Replaced old introduction with complete new introduction/overview.
- Added content for the Security Considerations Section.
- Updated References to current documents.
- Updated text to use current SNMP terminology.
- Added coexistence for/with SNMPv3.
- Added description for SNMPv1 and SNMPv2c Message Processing Models and SNMPv1 and SNMPv2c Community-based Security Models.
- Added snmpCommunityMIB so that SNMPv1 and SNMPv2 community strings can be mapped into the SNMP Version Independent parameters which can then be used for access control using the standard SNMPv3 View-based Access Control Model and the snmpVacmMIB.
- Added two MIB objects such that when an SNMPv1 notification (trap) must be converted into an SNMPv2 notification we add those two objects in order to preserve information about the address and community of the originating SNMPv1 agent.
- Included (and extended) from RFC 2089 the SNMPv2 to SNMPv1 mapping within a multi-lingual SNMP Engine.

- Use keywords from RFC 2119 to describe requirements for compliance.
- Changed/added some rules for converting a MIB module from SMIV1 to SMIV2.
- Extended and improved the description of Proxy Forwarder behaviour when multiple SNMP versions are involved.

#### Editors' Addresses

Rob Frye  
Vibrant Solutions  
2711 Prosperity Ave  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031  
U.S.A.

Phone: +1 703 270 2000  
EMail: rfrye@vibrant-1.com

David B. Levi  
Nortel Networks  
3505 Kesterwood Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
U.S.A.

Phone: +1 865 686 0432  
EMail: dlevi@nortelnetworks.com

Shawn A. Routhier  
Wind River Systems, Inc.  
500 Wind River Way  
Alameda, CA 94501  
U.S.A.

Phone: + 1 510 749 2095  
EMail: sar@epilogue.com

Bert Wijnen  
Lucent Technologies  
Schagen 33  
3461 GL Linschoten  
Netherlands

Phone: +31 348 407 775  
EMail: bwijnen@lucent.com

## Full Copyright Statement

Copyright (C) The Internet Society (2003). All Rights Reserved.

This document and translations of it may be copied and furnished to others, and derivative works that comment on or otherwise explain it or assist in its implementation may be prepared, copied, published and distributed, in whole or in part, without restriction of any kind, provided that the above copyright notice and this paragraph are included on all such copies and derivative works. However, this document itself may not be modified in any way, such as by removing the copyright notice or references to the Internet Society or other Internet organizations, except as needed for the purpose of developing Internet standards in which case the procedures for copyrights defined in the Internet Standards process must be followed, or as required to translate it into languages other than English.

The limited permissions granted above are perpetual and will not be revoked by the Internet Society or its successors or assignees.

This document and the information contained herein is provided on an "AS IS" basis and THE INTERNET SOCIETY AND THE INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY THAT THE USE OF THE INFORMATION HEREIN WILL NOT INFRINGE ANY RIGHTS OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

## Acknowledgement

Funding for the RFC Editor function is currently provided by the Internet Society.

