IPv6 UDP Checksum Considerations

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OUTLINE

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- Updates to the draft
- Summary of analysis
- Constraints

Introduction

- The basis of the issue is the removal of the IP header checksum in IPv6
- Thus UDP checksum was mandated for UDP in IPv6
- This creates issues for a number of tunnel ingresses
- As the discussion has gone on more potential users have been identified: AMT, LISP, Softwires, etc.
- This document is an analysis of issues and comparisons of the properties of potential solutions
- Intended for you to help decide if we should update RFC 2460 in some way

Updates

- The document has been massively changed
  - Restructured
  - Improved introductions and conclusions
- Changed the considerations
  - Removed 2 considerations
  - Rewrote some considerations
- Clearer analysis of the benefits and downsides of the different proposals
- One new proposal analyzed:
  - Set Random and Ignore the UDP checksum on reception

Document Conclusions

- There is no perfect solution only different sets of compromises
- Zero-Checksum properties are:
  - Low complexity encapsulation
  - Good multiplexing support
  - Limited middlebox traversal that could improve over time
  - Good load balancing support
  - In most cases requiring application-level negotiation and validation
- If low complexity is a requirement among the choices, zero checksum appears so far the best choice

Document Conclusions

- Zero-Checksum is recommended to be allowed under constraints
- The quicker one agrees to change, the fewer IPv6 middleboxes that will not support new behavior will exist
  - Hopefully the middlebox issue will not be a major one
  - Actual data / facts for IPv6 middlebox behavior needed
- Applications using Zero-checksum will need to be careful
  - Potential for higher rate of corrupted packets than in IPv4
- Recursive Tunneling with fragmentation is worrying
  - Don’t ignore this issue or it will bite down the road

Going Forward

- We think we are mostly done with the material in this document:
  - Comments are appreciated
- Aim at WG last call after next version
- Actual change of RFC 2460 is handed over to the next speaker