

Registration Policy for TCP Header Flags

draft-kuehlewind-tcpm-flags-registry-00

Mirja Kühlewind - tcpm - IETF-106 Singapore - Nov 22, 2019

Background

- [RFC2780](#) specifies the registration policy for reserved TCP header flags as Standards Action.
- [RFC3168](#) created an IANA registry for these header flags and registered bit 8 (CWR) and 9 (ECE).
- [[RFC3540](#)] assigned bit 7 to the experimental ECN Nonce extension
- [[RFC8311](#)] recently declared [RFC3540](#) as historic and changed the assignment to reserved
- [RFC8311](#) does not provide any recommendation of the use of bit 7 and the TCP flags registry.

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- Draft changes the registration policy of the registration to IETF Review
 - New TCP mechanisms that could use the remaining reserved flags will likely be first specified as experimental
 - Not noting any of those experiments in the registry would undermine the purpose of having a registry.
- However, care must be taken!
 - Any experimental extension SHOULD discuss the scope of the experiment and potential failure cases
 - Deployment should be evaluated some years after the assignment to an experimental extension to de-assign or permanently assign

Other options

- Only change registration policy for bit 7 (or one bit at a time)
- Publish more extension as PS -> AccECN as PS
- Temporary assignment (see RFC2780)
- Don't change assignment (keep at reserved) / only add a comment?