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IEEE Std 802.15.9™-2021
(Revision of IEEE Std 802.15-9-2016)

IEEE Standard for Transport of Key Management Protocol (KMP) Datagrams

Developed by the

LAN/MAN Standards Committee
of the
IEEE Computer Society

Approved 16 June 2021

IEEE SA Standards Board

Abstract: A message exchange framework based on information elements as a transport method for key management protocol (KMP) datagrams and guidelines for the use of some existing KMPs with IEEE Std 802.15.4™ is defined in this standard. A new KMP is not created in this standard. In support of KMP transmission and reception, a generic multiplexed data service layer that can be used to transmit large packets from the upper KMP to another peer and that provides for protocol discrimination is also provided in this standard. The multiplexed data service provides a fragmentation and multiplexing layer for those packets so they can be delivered over smaller MAC layer frames and multiplexed on the recipient end to the right processing service. The multiplexing provides for EtherType protocol discrimination.

Keywords: EtherType, fragmentation, IE, IEEE 802.15.9™, information element, key management protocol, KMP, multiplexed data service, security

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 802.15.9™-2021, IEEE Standard for Transport of Key Management Protocol (KMP) Datagrams.

Key management has been recognized as critical component for network security, but IEEE Std 802.15.4™ does not provide any methods for key management and leaves it out of scope. So this standard was created to provide a methodology to enable key management by providing a transport for key management protocols (KMPs) outside the application layers.

The first revision of the 802.15.9-2016 was a Recommended Practice, and this revision of the 802.15.9 will change it to an IEEE Standard.

The scope of the 2016 version of IEEE Std 802.15.9 was as follows:

This Recommended Practice defines a message exchange framework based on Information Elements as a transport method for key management protocol (KMP) datagrams and guidelines for the use of some existing KMPs with IEEE Std 802.15.4. This Recommended Practice does not create a new KMP.

The current scope of IEEE Std 802.15.9-2021 is as follows:

This standard defines security key management extensions to address session key generation (both 128-bit and 256-bit key lengths), the creation and/or transport of broadcast/multicast keys, and security algorithm agility. This standard maintains backwards compatibility with IEEE Std 802.15.9-2016.

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IEEE Standard for Transport Key Management Protocol (KMP) Datagrams

1. Overview

1.1 General

This document defines a standard for the transport of key management protocols (KMP) for WPANs.

1.2 Scope

This standard defines security key management extensions to address session key generation (both 128-bit and 256-bit key lengths), the creation and/or transport of broadcast/multicast keys, and security algorithm agility. This standard maintains backwards compatibility with IEEE Std 802.15.9-2016.

1.3 Purpose

This standard describes support for transporting KMP datagrams to support the security functionality present in IEEE Std 802.15.4™.[1] Significant in support of KMP transport is the definition of a general purpose multiplexed (MPX) data service supporting fragmentation, re-assembly, and protocol dispatch for payloads unable to fit in a single media access control (MAC) frame.

1.4 Deprecated features

This standard deprecates the use of PANA KMP defined in the Clause D.

1.5 Word usage

The word *shall* indicates mandatory requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard and from which no deviation is permitted (*shall* equals is *required to*).[2,3]

The word *should* indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others; or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required (*should* equals is *recommended that*).

[1]Information on references can be found in Clause 2.
[2]The use of the word *must* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements, *must* is used only to describe unavoidable situations.
[3]The use of *will* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements, *will* is only used in statements of fact.

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IEEE Std 802.15.4™, IEEE Standard for Low-Rate Wireless Networks.[4, 5]

3. Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. The *IEEE Standards Dictionary Online* should be consulted for terms not defined in this clause.[6]

extended address: The address as specified in 7.1 of IEEE Std 802.15.4-2020.

key management protocol (KMP): A collection of data transactions that provide the mechanism to manage cryptographic keys. This includes dealing with the generation, exchange, storage, use, and replacement of keys.

3.2 Acronyms and abbreviations

4WH	4-Way Handshake
ACL	access control list
AAA	authentication, authorization and accounting
AP	access point
AS	authentication server
BEX	base exchange
CAK	connectivity association key
DEX	diet exchange
EAP	extensible authentication protocol
EAPOL	EAP over LAN
GKH	Gate Key Handshake
HI	host identity

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