A string encoding of Presentation Address

Status of this Memo
This memo provides information for the Internet community. It
does not specify an Internet standard. Distribution of this memo
is unlimited.

Abstract
There are a number of environments where a simple string encoding
of Presentation Address is desirable. This specification defines
such a representation.

RFC 1278 String encoded P-Address November 1991

1 Introduction

OSI Application Entities use presentation addresses to address other
Application Entities. The model for this is defined in [ISO87b].
Presentation addresses are stored in the OSI Directory using an ASN.1
representation defined by the OSI Directory [CCI88]. Logically, a
presentation address consists of:

- A presentation selector
- A session selector
- A transport selector
- A set of network addresses

The selectors are all octet strings, but often have IA5 character
representations. The format of network addresses is defined in
[ISO87a].
There is a need to represent presentation addresses as strings in a number of different contexts. This Internet Draft defines a format for use on the Internet. It is for display to human users, and its use is recommended whenever this needs to be done. Typically, this will be for system managers rather than for end users. It is not intended for internal storage.

This Internet Draft was originally published as UCL Research Note RN/89/14 [Kil89]. It was agreed as a unified syntax for the THORN and ISODE projects. It is used throughout ISODE. Christian Huitema of Inria and Marshall Rose of PSI Inc. gave much useful input to this document.

2 Requirements

The main requirements are:

- Must be able to specify any legal value.
- Should be clean in the common case of the presentation address containing network addresses and no selectors.
- Must deal with selectors in the following encodings:
  - IA5
  - Decimal digits encoded as IA5 (this is the most common syntax in Europe, as it is required by X.400(84) and should receive a straightforward encoding)
  - Numeric encoded as a 16 bit unsigned integer (US GOSIP). This is mapped onto two octets, with the first octet being the high order byte of the integer.
  - General Hexadecimal
- Should give special encodings for the ad hoc encoding proposed in "An interim approach to use of Network Addresses" [HK91].
  - X.25(80) Networks
  - TCP/IP Networks
- Should be extensible for additional forms.
- Should provide a reasonably compact representation.

3 Format
The BNF is given in figure 1.

\[\begin{align*}
\text{<digit>} & ::= [0-9] \\
\text{<other>} & ::= [0-9a-zA-Z+-.] \\
\text{<domainchar>} & ::= [0-9a-zA-Z-.] \\
\text{<hexdigit>} & ::= [0-9a-fA-F] \\
\text{<hexoctet>} & ::= \text{<hexdigit>} \text{<hexdigit>} \\
\text{<decimaloctet>} & ::= \text{<digit>} | \text{<digit>} \text{<digit>} | \text{<digit>} \text{<digit>} \text{<digit>} \\
\text{<digitstring>} & ::= \text{<digit>} \text{<digitstring>} | \text{<digit>} \\
\text{<otherstring>} & ::= \text{<other>} \text{<otherstring>} | \text{<other>} \\
\text{<domainstring>} & ::= \text{<domainchar>} \text{<otherstring>} | \text{<domainchar>} \\
\text{<hexstring>} & ::= \text{<hexoctet>} \text{<hexstring>} | \text{<hexoctet>} \\
\text{<dotstring>} & ::= \text{<decimaloctet>} \cdot \text{<dotstring>} | \text{<decimaloctet>} \cdot \text{<decimaloctet>} \\
\text{<dothexstring>} & ::= \text{<dotstring>} | \text{<hexstring>} \\
\text{<presentation-address>} & ::= \quad [[ \text{<psel>} / \text{<ssel>} / \text{<tsel>} / ] \text{<network-address-list>} \\
\text{<network-address-list>} & ::= \text{<network-address>} \_ \text{<network-address-list>} | \text{<network-address>} \\
\text{<psel>} & ::= \text{<selector>} \\
\text{<ssel>} & ::= \text{<selector>} \\
\text{<tsel>} & ::= \text{<selector>} \\
\text{<selector>} & ::= \'\'\' \text{<otherstring>} \'\'\' \quad -- \text{IA5} \\
& \quad -- \text{For chars not in this} \\
& \quad -- \text{string use hex} \\
& \quad -- \text{US GOSIP} \\
& \quad -- \text{Hex} \\
& \quad -- \text{Empty but present} \\
\text{<network-address>} & ::= \quad "\text{NS}" \_+ \text{<dothexstring>} \\
& \quad -- \text{Concrete Binary Representation} \\
& \quad -- \text{This is the compact encoding} \\
& \quad -- \text{A user oriented form} \\
\end{align*}\]
Four examples:

"256"/NS+a433bb93c1_NS+aa3106

#63/#41/#12/X121+234219200300

'3a'H/TELEX+00728722+X.25(80)+02+00002340555+CUDF+"892796"

TELEX+00728722+RFC-1006+03+10.0.0.6

Note that the RFC 1006 encoding permits use of either a DNS Domain Name or an IP address. The former is primarily for ease of entry. If this DNS Domain Name maps onto multiple IP addresses, then multiple network addresses should be generated. The DNS Domain Name form is
for convenient input. When mapping from an encoded address to string form, the IP address form should always be used.

4 Encoding

Selectors are represented in a manner which can be easily encoded. In the NS notation, the concrete binary form of network address is given. Otherwise, this string notation provides a mechanism for representing the Abstract Syntax of a Network Address. This must be encoded according to Addendum 2 of ISO 8348 [ISO87a].

5 Macros

There are often common addresses, for which a cleaner representation is desired. This is achieved by use of Macros. If a \texttt{<network-address>} can be parsed as:

\begin{verbatim}
<otherstring> "=" *( any )
\end{verbatim}

Then the leading string is taken as a Macro, which is substituted. This may be applied recursively. When presenting Network Address to humans, the longest available substitution should be used. For example:

\begin{verbatim}
|_Macro_ | Value________ | | UK.AC  | DCC+826+d110000 | |_Leeds_ | UK.AC=120_____ |
\end{verbatim}

Then ```Leeds=22``` would be expanded to ```DCC+826+d11000012022```.

6 Standard Macros

No Macros should ever be relied on. However, the following are suggested as standard.
References


Security Considerations

Security considerations are not discussed in this memo.

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String encoded P-Address

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