

14 September, 2001

Sophia Antipolis, France

3GPP TSG SA WG3 Security — S3#20

S3-010410

16 - 19 October, 2001

Sydney, Australia

3GPP TSG CN WG1#18

10-12 July, 2001

Dresden, Germany

Tdoc N1-011052

Title: Reply LS on “Using a generic authentication scheme for SIP”

Source: TSG CN WG1

To: TSG SA WG3

CC;

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Attachments: None

CN1 thanks SA3 for their LS contained in S3-010287 (N1-010977) on using a generic authentication scheme for SIP and also would like to thank Krister Boman from Ericsson for kindly attending part of the CN1 meeting to present an overview of the IMS work within SA3.

CN1 notes that in their LS SA3 state that in the proposed security architecture the “407 Proxy Authentication Required” response is used, however in the presentation by Krister Boman it was indicated that a “401 Unauthorized” is now assumed to be used by SA3 based on their most recent meeting.

It is the view of CN1 that except where there is a specific security problem involved with the use of a specific SIP response or SIP message header that SA3 should keep the security architecture and flows at an information flow level and avoid specifying particular SIP responses and headers since these are SIP protocol issues which may have protocol impacts and as such are in the scope of the stage 3 work of CN1. It is the assumption of CN1 that the choice of either 401 or 407 response does not from a security problem point of view matter and therefore would prefer to see an information level label such as “Authentication Challenge Response” in the flows and documentation from SA3. CN1 does not yet have an agreed position regarding 401 vs 407 response but as indicated would like to make this particular decision which does have potential protocol impacts on the behaviour of the S-CSCF at a latter date.

CN1 also notes SA3’s proposed use of the “WWW-Authenticate” and “Authorization” headers and has no problem at this time with this assumption at this time but would like to continue to be regularly informed and consulted by SA3 concerning proposed SIP header useage for security. CN1 continues to study the matter further.

CN1 also notes the recommendation of SA3 that EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol) be used in the SIP security related headers. Unfortunately the referenced S3 document (S3-010263) was not attached to the LS and was not available to CN1 at their meeting so it is not possible to make detailed comments at this time. CN1 members will study S3-010263 and the related internet drafts and will provide SA3 with any comments later but suggest that SA3 continue with their working assumption on the use of EAP.

CN1 appreciates SA3 keeping them informed of their SIP protocol security assumptions and would also like to be kept well informed of any internet drafts that SA3 is depending on for SIP security mechanisms as CN1 is tracking all the SIP related IETF internet drafts that 3GPP is dependent on.

CN1 looks forward to very close cooperation with SA3 on SIP security for Rel 5.

CN1 has their next meeting in Helsinki Finland on the week of 27th August.