

Source: TSG SA WG3
Title: Using a generic authentication scheme for SIP
To: N1, N4
CC: S2

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The SA3 is working on the IP multimedia security architecture in its technical specification TS 33.203. The proposed architecture handles the authentication of SIP registrations from the users within the SIP protocol. The “*407 Proxy Authentication Required*” error response and the “*WWW-Authenticate*” and “*Authorization*” SIP headers are used in this process.

The SA3 recommends that these responses and headers carry EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol) [1]. EAP provides several authentication schemes. In 3GPP systems, it will be mandatory to support AKA within EAP [2]. The attached SA3 contribution #263 describes in section 3.2 an outline on how this can be done [3].

The SA3 also observes that the DIAMETER protocol already has an extension for carrying EAP authentication [4], which might ease the definition of the Cx interface between the S-CSCF and the HSS¹, as discussed in section 3.3 of #263.

The SA3 would like to kindly ask the N1 and N4 if they have an opinion on this matter.

References

- [1] IETF RFC 2284: Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP); March, 1998.
- [2] J. Arkko, H. Haverinen. EAP AKA Authentication. draft-arkko-eap-aka-00.txt, IETF, May 2001.
- [3] Ericsson, Proposal to use a generic authentication scheme for SIP, SA3 contribution #263.
- [4] P. Calhoun et al. DIAMETER NASREQ Extensions, draft-ietf-aaa-diameter-nasreq-01.txt, IETF, March 2001.

¹ The SA3 has made a decision that S-CSCF will perform the authentication of users.