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To: TSG-N WG4

Title: Liaison statement to TSG-N WG4 on Security Policy for MAP Security

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At the MAP Security Ad-hoc meeting, TSG-S WG3 has been revisiting the MAP Security Layer III specification. Especially the use of Protection Mode 0 was discussed. The need for the definition of the following requirement was then identified.

TSG-S WG3 has identified a possible security risk at MAP Security Layer III level if the receiving entity of a MAP message processes the message only based on the Protection Mode indicated in the received message. The problem is that an active attacker might modify the Protection Mode from 1 to 0 and remove the TVP and Integrity Check Value, so that further modifications in other parts of the message would not be detected.

This implies that a policy mechanism shall be in place in order to allow the receiving entity to compare the protection mode (if any) indicated in the message received with the protection mode expected of the message according to the applicable Security Policy. This will allow the receiving entity to reject a received message with an unexpected protection mode.

TSG-S WG3 expects to provide more detailed requirements to TSG-N WG4 during the S3/CN joint meeting in June.

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