Trusted Network Connect Specification Updates FAQ
February 2007

Q. What are the new Trusted Network Connect (TNC) specifications?
A. TCG has announced the release of updates to four existing specifications. The new specification names are IF-IMC 1.2, IF-IMV 1.2, IF-TNCCS 1.1, and IF-PEP for RADIUS 1.1. These updated specifications provide valuable enhancements to the original versions, adding features requested by customers and incorporating fixes in response to feedback from implementers.

Q. What features do these specifications provide?
A. The following new features are provided:

- Java Platform Binding to IF-IMC (integrity measurement collector) and IF-IMV (integrity measurement verifier)
- Support allowing each IMV to give a human-readable, localized reason string explaining its recommendation (in IF-IMV and IF-TNCCS)
- Support for VLAN-aware endpoints (in IF-PEP (policy enforcement point))

The main benefits of these features are:

- TNC client software can be deployed more quickly and easily since it can be dynamically downloaded over the network as Java code.
- TNC client and server software can be developed to run on any system that supports Java 2 Standard Edition version 1.4.2 or later.
- In case of problems, messages can be presented in the user's native language.
- Endpoints can employ multiple VLANs for applications like telephony.

Q. Are there any other changes?
A. Yes, we have clarified the licensing for the IF-IMC and IF-IMV header files. A modified BSD license is used. This is a widely used and very flexible open source license, which should make things easier for open source implementers.

Q. Do these specs change the TNC architecture?
A. No, the TNC architecture remains the same.

Q. Who has implemented these specifications?
A. Many vendors have implemented the original versions of these specifications: Consentry Networks, Extreme Networks, Fujitsu, IBM, Juniper Networks, Q1 Labs, PatchLink, ProCurve Networking by HP, StillSecure, Symantec, Trapeze, Vernier Networks, and Wave Systems. Several open-source implementations of these specifications have also been done. While these latest specification revisions are brand new, several of our implementers are working to add support for the features contained in the latest specification revisions.

Q. Are there any open source implementations of the TNC specifications?
Yes. At recent Interop events, for example, the show's iLabs team put together a broad, multi-vendor TNC demonstration that included an open source 802.1x supplicant and the open source-based Radiator Radius server. The TCG supports the development of open source efforts to support TNC; currently, there are several organizations that have developed open source implementations. These include the University of Applied Arts and Sciences in Hannover, Germany (FHH, http://www.inform.fh-hannover.de/de/forschung/forschungsprojekte/tnc) and the Open Systems Consultants (https://sourceforge.net/projects/libtnc).

Open source and other TNC implementation information from InteropLabs are available at http://www.opus1.com/nac/.

Q. What else is happening with TNC?
A. TCG plans to extend the TNC architecture to add important new features and standards while supporting vendors who are already shipping products. The bottom line for us is to maximize security and interoperability and to reduce time-to-market for products supporting the architecture.

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