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TFTP Timeout Interval and Transfer Size Options

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

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Abstract

The Trivial File Transfer Protocol [1] is a simple, lock-step, file transfer protocol which allows a client to get or put a file onto a remote host.

This document describes two TFTP options. The first allows the client and server to negotiate the Timeout Interval. The second allows the side receiving the file to determine the ultimate size of the transfer before it begins. The TFTP Option Extension mechanism is described in [2].

Timeout Interval Option Specification

The TFTP Read Request or Write Request packet is modified to include the timeout option as follows:

```

+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|  opc  |filename|  0  |  mode  |  0  | timeout|  0  |  #secs |  0  |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

opc

2, The opcode field contains either a 1, for Read Requests, or for Write Requests, as defined in [1].

filename
[1]. The name of the file to be read or written, as defined in This is a NULL-terminated field.

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mode
"mail", The mode of the file transfer: "netascii", "octet", or as defined in [1]. This is a NULL-terminated field.

tsize
is The Transfer Size option, "tsize" (case in-sensitive). This is a NULL-terminated field.

size
The size of the file to be transfered. This is a NULL-terminated field.

For example:

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|  2   | foobar | 0   | octet | 0   | tsize | 0   | 673312 | 0   |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

is a Write Request, with the 673312-octet file named "foobar", in octet (binary) transfer mode.

In Read Request packets, a size of "0" is specified in the request and the size of the file, in octets, is returned in the OACK. If the file is too large for the client to handle, it may abort the transfer with an Error packet (error code 3). In Write Request packets, the size of the file, in octets, is specified in the request and echoed back in the OACK. If the file is too large for the server to handle, it may abort the transfer with an Error packet (error code 3).

Security Considerations

The basic TFTP protocol has no security mechanism. This is why it has no rename, delete, or file overwrite capabilities. This document

does not add any security to TFTP; however, the specified extensions do not add any additional security risks.

References

- [1] Sollins, K., "The TFTP Protocol (Revision 2)", STD 33, RFC 1350, October 92.
- [2] Malkin, G., and A. Harkin, "TFTP Option Extension", RFC 2347, May 1998.

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