FreeRADIUS Operator-Name Setting

Work in progress

2025/06/06 09:22

Basic O-N setting

This configuration simply updates the Operator-Name value in the request packets.

RFO O-N Setting

As an RFO you're in a position to rewrite the Operator-Name in the outer RADIUS tunnel. This can be useful if your connected sites aren't setting it themselves, or are setting it wrongly. Ideally each site should set it appropriately because some sites might have multiple O-Ns in use and are in the best position to set them accurately. However, some RADIUS servers (NPS in particular) can't set O-N.

Best case is that all sites everywhere set the correct O-N and it's proxied untouched to Jisc. This requires that all connect sites run appropriate software which is configured correctly.

Second best case is that the RFO sets the missing O-N for sites as the packets are proxied through them.

Next best case is that the RFO sets a single O-N for all packets proxied. (see above section on Basic O-N setting.

Worst case is that the O-N isn't set and proxied packets contain no identification.

So, here we'll deal with the Second best case - setting missing O-N.

First challenge is how to identify which site is which when proxying. Incoming connections can only be identified by their IP address. Fortunately FreeRADIUS provides a way to add attributes internally to incoming connections.

```
client holby-nhs-uk-0 {
ipaddr = server1.holby.nhs.uk
secret = charlieisaseriealkiller
operator = "1holby.nhs.uk" # Add this internal variable
require_message_authenticator = yes
```

1/2

}

Now

```
%{client:operator}
```

is available in the main configuration as a variable containing an O-N for each client.

Now use

To set the O-N for each incoming request. This will overwrite any previous value.

Using

will set the O-N to either the existing O-N, exists, or the client one, if not.

If you want to go all the way:

which will set, in preference, the existing O-N, the client operator and then a default of '1nhs.uk'.

