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IEEE Standard for Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments—Security Services for Applications and Management Messages

IEEE Vehicular Technology Society

Sponsored by the
Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee

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(Revision of
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Abstract: This standard defines secure message formats and processing for use by Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) devices, including methods to secure WAVE management messages and methods to secure application messages. It also describes administrative functions necessary to support the core security functions.

Keywords: cryptography, IEEE 1609.2™, security, wireless access in vehicular environments (WAVE)

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 1609.2™-2016, IEEE Standard for Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments—Security Services for Applications and Management Messages.

5.9 GHz Dedicated Short Range Communications for Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (DSRC/WAVE, hereafter simply WAVE), as specified in a range of standards including those generated by the IEEE P1609 working group, enables vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) wireless communications. This connectivity makes possible a range of applications that rely on communications between road users and road operators, including vehicle safety, public service, commercial fleet management, tolling, and other operations.

With improved communications come increased risks, and the safety-critical nature of many WAVE applications makes it vital that services be specified that can be used to protect messages from attacks such as eavesdropping, spoofing, alteration, and replay. Additionally, the fact that the wireless technology will be deployed in personal vehicles, whose owners have a right to privacy, means that in as much as possible the security services should respect that right and not leak personal, identifying, or linkable information to unauthorized parties.

With this in mind, at the time that IEEE P1609 was established to develop the standards for the WAVE wireless networking protocols, the IEEE also established IEEE P1556 (later renumbered as IEEE Std 1609.2) to develop standards for the security techniques that will be used to protect the services that use these protocols. These applications face unique constraints. Many of them, particularly safety applications, are time-critical: the processing and bandwidth overhead due to security must be kept to a minimum, to improve responsiveness and decrease the likelihood of packet loss. For many applications, the potential audience consists of all vehicles on the road in North America; therefore, the mechanism used to authenticate messages must be as flexible and scalable as possible, and must accommodate the smooth removal of compromised WAVE devices from the system. Additionally, as mentioned above, the privacy of privately owned and operated vehicles, and potentially other personal devices within the WAVE system, must be respected as far as technically and administratively feasible.

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1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This standard defines secure message formats and processing for use by Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) devices, including methods to secure WAVE management messages and methods to secure application messages. It also describes administrative functions necessary to support the core security functions.

1.2 Purpose

The safety-critical nature of many Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) applications makes it vital that services be specified that can be used to protect messages from attacks such as eavesdropping, spoofing, alteration, and replay. Additionally, the fact that the wireless technology will be deployed in communication devices in personal vehicles as well as other portable devices, whose owners have an expectation of privacy, means that in as much as possible the security services must be designed to respect privacy and not leak personal, identifying, or linkable information to unauthorized parties. This standard describes security services for WAVE management messages and application messages designed to meet these goals.