

Network Working Group  
Request for Comments: 1444

J. Case  
SNMP Research, Inc.  
K. McCloghrie  
Hughes LAN Systems  
M. Rose  
Dover Beach Consulting, Inc.  
S. Waldbusser  
Carnegie Mellon University  
April 1993

Conformance Statements  
for version 2 of the  
Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)

Status of this Memo

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

Table of Contents

1 Introduction .....	2
1.1 A Note on Terminology .....	2
2 Definitions .....	3
3.1 The OBJECT-GROUP macro .....	3
3.2 The MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro .....	4
3.3 The AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro .....	7
3 Mapping of the OBJECT-GROUP macro .....	10
3.1 Mapping of the OBJECTS clause .....	10
3.2 Mapping of the STATUS clause .....	10
3.3 Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause .....	10
3.4 Mapping of the REFERENCE clause .....	11
3.5 Mapping of the OBJECT-GROUP value .....	11
3.6 Usage Example .....	12
4 Mapping of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro .....	13
4.1 Mapping of the STATUS clause .....	13
4.2 Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause .....	13
4.3 Mapping of the REFERENCE clause .....	13
4.4 Mapping of the MODULE clause .....	13
4.4.1 Mapping of the MANDATORY-GROUPS clause .....	14
4.4.2 Mapping of the GROUP clause .....	14
4.4.3 Mapping of the OBJECT clause .....	14

4.4.3.1 Mapping of the SYNTAX clause .....	15
4.4.3.2 Mapping of the WRITE-SYNTAX clause .....	15
4.4.3.3 Mapping of the MIN-ACCESS clause .....	15
4.4.3.4 Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause .....	16
4.5 Mapping of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE value .....	16
4.6 Usage Example .....	17
5 Mapping of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro .....	19
5.1 Mapping of the PRODUCT-RELEASE clause .....	20
5.2 Mapping of the STATUS clause .....	20
5.3 Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause .....	20
5.4 Mapping of the REFERENCE clause .....	20
5.5 Mapping of the SUPPORTS clause .....	20
5.5.1 Mapping of the INCLUDES clause .....	21
5.5.2 Mapping of the VARIATION clause .....	21
5.5.2.1 Mapping of the SYNTAX clause .....	21
5.5.2.2 Mapping of the WRITE-SYNTAX clause .....	21
5.5.2.3 Mapping of the ACCESS clause .....	22
5.5.2.4 Mapping of the CREATION-REQUIRES clause .....	22
5.5.2.5 Mapping of the DEFVAL clause .....	23
5.5.2.6 Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause .....	23
5.6 Mapping of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES value .....	23
5.7 Usage Example .....	24
6 Extending an Information Module .....	26
6.1 Conformance Groups .....	26
6.2 Compliance Definitions .....	26
6.3 Capabilities Definitions .....	26
7 Acknowledgements .....	27
8 References .....	31
9 Security Considerations .....	32
10 Authors' Addresses .....	32

## 1. Introduction

A network management system contains: several (potentially many) nodes, each with a processing entity, termed an agent, which has access to management instrumentation; at least one management station; and, a management protocol, used to convey management information between the agents and management stations. Operations of the protocol are carried out under an administrative framework which defines both authentication and authorization policies.

Network management stations execute management applications which monitor and control network elements. Network elements are devices such as hosts, routers, terminal servers, etc., which are monitored and controlled through access to their management information.

Management information is viewed as a collection of managed objects, residing in a virtual information store, termed the Management Information Base (MIB). Collections of related objects are defined in MIB modules. These modules are written using a subset of OSI's Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) [1], termed the Structure of Management Information (SMI) [2].

It may be useful to define the acceptable lower-bounds of implementation, along with the actual level of implementation achieved. It is the purpose of this document to define the notation used for these purposes.

### 1.1. A Note on Terminology

For the purpose of exposition, the original Internet-standard Network Management Framework, as described in RFCs 1155, 1157, and 1212, is termed the SNMP version 1 framework (SNMPv1). The current framework is termed the SNMP version 2 framework (SNMPv2).

## 2. Definitions

```
SNMPv2-CONF DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

-- definitions for conformance groups

OBJECT-GROUP MACRO ::=
BEGIN
    TYPE NOTATION ::=
        ObjectsPart
        "STATUS" Status
        "DESCRIPTION" Text
        ReferPart

    VALUE NOTATION ::=
        value(VALUE OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

    ObjectsPart ::=
        "OBJECTS" "{" Objects "}"
    Objects ::=
        Object
        | Objects "," Object
    Object ::=
        value(Name ObjectName)

    Status ::=
        "current"
        | "obsolete"

    ReferPart ::=
        "REFERENCE" Text
        | empty

    -- uses the NVT ASCII character set
    Text ::= "" string ""
END
```

```
-- definitions for compliance statements

MODULE-COMPLIANCE MACRO ::=
BEGIN
    TYPE NOTATION ::=
        "STATUS" Status
        "DESCRIPTION" Text
        ReferPart
        ModulePart

    VALUE NOTATION ::=
        value(VALUE OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

    Status ::=
        "current"
        | "obsolete"

    ReferPart ::=
        "REFERENCE" Text
        | empty

    ModulePart ::=
        Modules
        | empty
    Modules ::=
        Module
        | Modules Module
    Module ::=
        -- name of module --
        "MODULE" ModuleName
        MandatoryPart
        CompliancePart

    ModuleName ::=
        modulereference ModuleIdentifier
        -- must not be empty unless contained
        -- in MIB Module
        | empty
    ModuleIdentifier ::=
        value(ModuleID OBJECT IDENTIFIER)
        | empty

    MandatoryPart ::=
        "MANDATORY-GROUPS" "{" Groups "}"
        | empty
```

```
Groups ::=
    Group
  | Groups "," Group
Group ::=
    value(Group OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

CompliancePart ::=
    Compliances
  | empty

Compliances ::=
    Compliance
  | Compliances Compliance
Compliance ::=
    ComplianceGroup
  | Object

ComplianceGroup ::=
    "GROUP" value(Name OBJECT IDENTIFIER)
    "DESCRIPTION" Text

Object ::=
    "OBJECT" value(Name ObjectName)
    SyntaxPart
    WriteSyntaxPart
    AccessPart
    "DESCRIPTION" Text

-- must be a refinement for object's SYNTAX clause
SyntaxPart ::=
    "SYNTAX" type(SYNTAX)
  | empty

-- must be a refinement for object's SYNTAX clause
WriteSyntaxPart ::=
    "WRITE-SYNTAX" type(WriteSYNTAX)
  | empty

AccessPart ::=
    "MIN-ACCESS" Access
  | empty
Access ::=
    "not-accessible"
  | "read-only"
  | "read-write"
```

```
        | "read-create"  
-- uses the NVT ASCII character set  
Text ::= "" string ""  
END
```

-- definitions for capabilities statements

AGENT-CAPABILITIES MACRO ::=

BEGIN

TYPE NOTATION ::=

"PRODUCT-RELEASE" Text

"STATUS" Status

"DESCRIPTION" Text

ReferPart

ModulePart

VALUE NOTATION ::=

-- agent's sysObjectID [3] or snmpORID [4]

value(VALUE OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

Status ::=

"current"

| "obsolete"

ReferPart ::=

"REFERENCE" Text

| empty

ModulePart ::=

Modules

| empty

Modules ::=

Module

| Modules Module

Module ::=

-- name of module --

"SUPPORTS" ModuleName

"INCLUDES" "{" Groups "}"

VariationPart

ModuleName ::=

identifier ModuleIdentifier

ModuleIdentifier ::=

value(ModuleID OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

| empty

Groups ::=

Group

| Groups "," Group

Group ::=



```
                                value(Name OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

VariationPart ::=
    Variations
    | empty
Variations ::=
    Variation
    | Variations Variation

Variation ::=
    "VARIATION" value(Name ObjectName)
    SyntaxPart
    WriteSyntaxPart
    AccessPart
    CreationPart
    DefValPart
    "DESCRIPTION" Text

-- must be a refinement for object's SYNTAX clause
SyntaxPart ::=
    "SYNTAX" type(SYNTAX)
    | empty

-- must be a refinement for object's SYNTAX clause
WriteSyntaxPart ::=
    "WRITE-SYNTAX" type(WriteSYNTAX)
    | empty

AccessPart ::=
    "ACCESS" Access
    | empty

Access ::=
    "not-implemented"
    | "read-only"
    | "read-write"
    | "read-create"
    -- following is for backward-compatibility only
    | "write-only"

CreationPart ::=
    "CREATION-REQUIRES" "{" Cells "}"
    | empty

Cells ::=
```

```

        Cell
    | Cells ", " Cell

Cell ::=
    value(Cell ObjectName)

DefValPart ::=
    "DEFVAL" "{" value(Defval ObjectSyntax) "}"
    | empty

-- uses the NVT ASCII character set
Text ::= "" string ""

END

END
```

### 3. Mapping of the OBJECT-GROUP macro

For conformance purposes, it is useful to define a collection of related managed objects. The OBJECT-GROUP macro is used to define each such collection of related objects. It should be noted that the expansion of the OBJECT-GROUP macro is something which conceptually happens during implementation and not during run-time.

To "implement" an object, a SNMPv2 entity acting in an agent role must return a reasonably accurate value for management protocol retrieval operations; similarly, if the object is writable, then in response to a management protocol set operation, a SNMPv2 entity must accordingly be able to reasonably influence the underlying managed entity. If a SNMPv2 entity acting in an agent role can not implement an object, the management protocol provides for the SNMPv2 entity to return an exception or error, e.g, noSuchObject [6]. Under no circumstances shall a SNMPv2 entity return a value for objects which it does not implement -- it must always return the appropriate exception or error, as described in the protocol specification [6].

#### 3.1. Mapping of the OBJECTS clause

The OBJECTS clause which must be present, is used to name each object contained in the conformance group. Each of the named objects must be defined in the same information module as the OBJECT-GROUP macro appears, and must have a MAX-ACCESS clause value of "read-only", "read-write", or "read-create".

#### 3.2. Mapping of the STATUS clause

The STATUS clause, which must be present, indicates whether this definition is current or historic.

The values "current", and "obsolete" are self-explanatory.

#### 3.3. Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause

The DESCRIPTION clause, which must be present, contains a textual definition of that group, along with a description of

any relations to other groups. Note that generic compliance requirements should not be stated in this clause. However, implementation relationships between this group and other groups may be defined in this clause.

#### 3.4. Mapping of the REFERENCE clause

The REFERENCE clause, which need not be present, contains a textual cross-reference to a group defined in some other information module. This is useful when de-osifying a MIB module produced by some other organization.

#### 3.5. Mapping of the OBJECT-GROUP value

The value of an invocation of the OBJECT-GROUP macro is the name of the group, which is an OBJECT IDENTIFIER, an administratively assigned name.

### 3.6. Usage Example

Consider how the system group from MIB-II [3] might be described:

```
systemGroup OBJECT-GROUP
  OBJECTS      { sysDescr, sysObjectID, sysUpTime,
                  sysContact, sysName, sysLocation,
                  sysServices }
  STATUS      current
  DESCRIPTION
    "The system group defines objects which are common
     to all managed systems."
  ::= { mibIIGroups 1 }
```

According to this invocation, the conformance group named

```
{ mibIIGroups 1 }
```

contains 7 objects.

#### 4. Mapping of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro

The MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro is used to convey a minimum set of requirements with respect to implementation of one or more MIB modules. It should be noted that the expansion of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro is something which conceptually happens during implementation and not during run-time.

A requirement on all "standard" MIB modules is that a corresponding MODULE-COMPLIANCE specification is also defined, either in the same information module or in a companion information module.

##### 4.1. Mapping of the STATUS clause

The STATUS clause, which must be present, indicates whether this definition is current or historic.

The values "current", and "obsolete" are self-explanatory. The "deprecated" value indicates that that object is obsolete, but that an implementor may wish to support that object to foster interoperability with older implementations.

##### 4.2. Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause

The DESCRIPTION clause, which must be present, contains a textual definition of this compliance statement and should embody any information which would otherwise be communicated in any ASN.1 commentary annotations associated with the statement.

##### 4.3. Mapping of the REFERENCE clause

The REFERENCE clause, which need not be present, contains a textual cross-reference to a compliance statement defined in some other information module.

##### 4.4. Mapping of the MODULE clause

The MODULE clause, which must be present, is repeatedly used to name each MIB module for which compliance requirements are

being specified. Each MIB module is named by its module name, and optionally, by its associated OBJECT IDENTIFIER as well. The module name can be omitted when the MODULE-COMPLIANCE invocation occurs inside a MIB module, to refer to the encompassing MIB module.

#### 4.4.1. Mapping of the MANDATORY-GROUPS clause

The MANDATORY-GROUPS clause, which need not be present, names the one or more groups within the correspondent MIB module which are unconditionally mandatory for implementation. If a SNMPv2 entity acting in an agent role claims compliance to the MIB module, then it must implement each and every object within each conformance group listed. That is, if a SNMPv2 entity returns a noSuchObject exception in response to a management protocol get operation [5] for any object within any mandatory conformance group for every MIB view, then that SNMPv2 entity is not a conformant implementation of the MIB module.

#### 4.4.2. Mapping of the GROUP clause

The GROUP clause which need not be present, is repeatedly used to name each MIB group which is conditionally mandatory or unconditionally optional for compliance to the MIB module. A MIB group named in a GROUP clause must be absent from the correspondent MANDATORY-GROUPS clause.

Conditionally mandatory groups include those which are mandatory only if a particular protocol is implemented, or only if another group is implemented. A GROUP clause's DESCRIPTION specifies the conditions under which the group is conditionally mandatory.

A MIB group which is named in neither a MANDATORY-GROUPS clause nor a GROUP clause, is unconditionally optional for compliance to the MIB module.

#### 4.4.3. Mapping of the OBJECT clause

The OBJECT clause which need not be present, is repeatedly used to name each MIB object for which compliance has a

refined requirement with respect to the MIB module definition. The MIB object must be present in one of the conformance groups named in the correspondent MANDATORY-GROUPS clause or GROUP clauses.

#### 4.4.3.1. Mapping of the SYNTAX clause

The SYNTAX clause, which need not be present, is used to provide a refined SYNTAX for the object named in the correspondent OBJECT clause. Note that if this clause and a WRITE-SYNTAX clause are both present, then this clause only applies when instances of the object named in the correspondent OBJECT clause are read.

Consult Section 10 of [2] for more information on refined syntax.

#### 4.4.3.2. Mapping of the WRITE-SYNTAX clause

The WRITE-SYNTAX clause, which need not be present, is used to provide a refined SYNTAX for the object named in the correspondent OBJECT clause when instances of that object are written.

Consult Section 10 of [2] for more information on refined syntax.

#### 4.4.3.3. Mapping of the MIN-ACCESS clause

The MIN-ACCESS clause, which need not be present, is used to define the minimal level of access for the object named in the correspondent OBJECT clause. If this clause is absent, the minimal level of access is the same as the maximal level specified in the correspondent invocation of the OBJECT-TYPE macro. If present, this clause must not specify a greater level of access than is specified in the correspondent invocation of the OBJECT-TYPE macro.

The level of access for certain types of objects is fixed according to their syntax definition. These types are: conceptual tables and rows, auxiliary objects, and objects with the syntax of Counter32, Counter64, or certain types of



textual conventions (e.g., RowStatus [6]). A MIN-ACCESS clause should not be present for such objects.

An implementation is compliant if the level of access it provides is greater or equal to the minimal level in the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro and less or equal to the maximal level in the OBJECT-TYPE macro.

#### 4.4.3.4. Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause

The DESCRIPTION clause must be present for each use of the GROUP or OBJECT clause. For an OBJECT clause, it contains a textual description of the refined compliance requirement. For a GROUP clause, it contains a textual description of the conditions under which the group is conditionally mandatory or unconditionally optional.

#### 4.5. Mapping of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE value

The value of an invocation of the MODULE-COMPLIANCE macro is an OBJECT IDENTIFIER. As such, this value may be authoritatively used when referring to the compliance statement embodied by that invocation of the macro.

#### 4.6. Usage Example

Consider how a compliance statement might be included at the end of the MIB-II document [3], assuming that conformance groups were defined therein:

```
mibIICompliances
    OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { mibIIConformance 1 }
mibIIGroups      OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { mibIIConformance 2 }

mibIICompliance MODULE-COMPLIANCE
    STATUS      current
    DESCRIPTION
        "The compliance statement for SNMPv2 entities
        residing on systems which implement the Internet
        suite of protocols."
    MODULE      -- compliance to the containing MIB module
        MANDATORY-GROUPS { systemGroup, snmpGroup }

        GROUP      interfacesGroup
        DESCRIPTION
            "The interfaces group is mandatory for systems
            with network interfaces."

        GROUP      ipGroup
        DESCRIPTION
            "The ip group is mandatory for systems which
            implement IP."

        GROUP      icmpGroup
        DESCRIPTION
            "The icmp group is mandatory for systems which
            implement ICMP."

        GROUP      tcpGroup
        DESCRIPTION
            "The tcp group is mandatory for systems which
            implement TCP."
        OBJECT      tcpConnState
        MIN-ACCESS  read-only
        DESCRIPTION
            "A compliant system need not allow
            write-access to this object."

        GROUP      udpGroup
```

## DESCRIPTION

"The udp group is mandatory for systems which implement UDP."

GROUP           egpGroup

## DESCRIPTION

"The egp group is mandatory for systems which implement EGP."

::= { mibIICompliances 1 }

According to this invocation, to claim alignment with the compliance statement named

{ mibIICompliances 1 }

a system must implement RFC1213's systemGroup and snmpGroup conformance groups. If the system implements any network interfaces, then RFC1213's interfacesGroup conformance group must be implemented. Further, if the system implements any of the IP, ICMP, TCP, UDP, or EGP protocols, then the correspondent conformance group in RFC1213 must be implemented, if compliance is to be claimed. Finally, although RFC1213 specifies that it makes "protocol sense" for the tcpConnState object to be writable, this specification allows the system to permit only read-only access and still claim compliance.

## 5. Mapping of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro

The AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro is used to convey the capabilities present in a SNMPv2 entity acting in an agent role. It should be noted that the expansion of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro is something which conceptually happens during implementation and not during run-time.

When a MIB module is written, it is divided into units of conformance termed groups. If a SNMPv2 entity acting in an agent role claims to implement a group, then it must implement each and every object within that group. Of course, for whatever reason, a SNMPv2 entity might implement only a subset of the groups within a MIB module. In addition, the definition of some MIB objects leave some aspects of the definition to the discretion of an implementor.

Practical experience has demonstrated a need for concisely describing the capabilities of an agent with respect to one or more MIB modules. The AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro allows an agent implementor to describe the precise level of support which an agent claims in regards to a MIB group, and to bind that description to the value of sysObjectID [3] associated with the agent, or to the value of an instance of the snmpORID object in the snmpORTable [4]. In particular, some objects may have restricted or augmented syntax or access-levels.

If the AGENT-CAPABILITIES invocation is given to a management-station implementor, then that implementor can build management applications which optimize themselves when communicating with a particular agent. For example, the management-station can maintain a database of these invocations. When a management-station interacts with an agent, it retrieves the agent's sysObjectID [3]. Based on this, it consults the database. If an entry is found, then the management application can optimize its behavior accordingly.

Note that this binding to sysObjectID may not always suffice to define all MIB objects to which an agent can provide access. In particular, this situation occurs where the agent dynamically learns of the objects it supports. In these cases, the snmpORID column of snmpORTable [4] contains information which should be used in addition to sysObjectID.

Note that the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro specifies refinements or variations with respect to OBJECT-TYPE macros in MIB modules, NOT with respect to MODULE-COMPLIANCE macros in compliance statements.

#### 5.1. Mapping of the PRODUCT-RELEASE clause

The PRODUCT-RELEASE clause, which must be present, contains a textual description of the product release which includes this agent.

#### 5.2. Mapping of the STATUS clause

The STATUS clause, which must be present, indicates whether this definition is current or historic.

The values "current", and "obsolete" are self-explanatory. The "deprecated" value indicates that that object is obsolete, but that an implementor may wish to support that object to foster interoperability with older implementations.

#### 5.3. Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause

The DESCRIPTION clause, which must be present, contains a textual description of this agent.

#### 5.4. Mapping of the REFERENCE clause

The REFERENCE clause, which need not be present, contains a textual cross-reference to a capability statement defined in some other information module.

#### 5.5. Mapping of the SUPPORTS clause

The SUPPORTS clause, which need not be present, is repeatedly used to name each MIB module for which the agent claims a complete or partial implementation. Each MIB module is named by its module name, and optionally, by its associated OBJECT IDENTIFIER as well.

#### 5.5.1. Mapping of the INCLUDES clause

The INCLUDES clause, which must be present for each use of the SUPPORTS clause, is used to name each MIB group associated with the SUPPORT clause, which the agent claims to implement.

#### 5.5.2. Mapping of the VARIATION clause

The VARIATION clause, which need not be present, is repeatedly used to name each MIB object which the agent implements in some variant or refined fashion with respect to the correspondent invocation of the OBJECT-TYPE macro.

Note that the variation concept is meant for generic implementation restrictions, e.g., if the variation for an object depends on the values of other objects, then this should be noted in the appropriate DESCRIPTION clause.

##### 5.5.2.1. Mapping of the SYNTAX clause

The SYNTAX clause, which need not be present, is used to provide a refined SYNTAX for the object named in the correspondent VARIATION clause. Note that if this clause and a WRITE-SYNTAX clause are both present, then this clause only applies when instances of the object named in the correspondent VARIATION clause are read.

Consult Section 10 of [2] for more information on refined syntax.

##### 5.5.2.2. Mapping of the WRITE-SYNTAX clause

The WRITE-SYNTAX clause, which need not be present, is used to provide a refined SYNTAX for the object named in the correspondent VARIATION clause when instances of that object are written.

Consult Section 10 of [2] for more information on refined syntax.

#### 5.5.2.3. Mapping of the ACCESS clause

The ACCESS clause, which need not be present, is used to indicate the agent provides less than the maximal level of access to the object named in the correspondent VARIATION clause.

The value "not-implemented" indicates the agent does not implement the object, and in the ordering of possible values is equivalent to "not-accessible".

The value "write-only" is provided solely for backward compatibility, and shall not be used for newly-defined object types. In the ordering of possible values, "write-only" is less than "not-accessible".

#### 5.5.2.4. Mapping of the CREATION-REQUIRES clause

The CREATION-REQUIRES clause, which need not be present, is used to name the columnar objects of a conceptual row to which values must be explicitly assigned, by a management protocol set operation, before the agent will allow the instance of the status column of that row to be set to 'active'. (Consult the definition of RowStatus [6].)

If the conceptual row does not have a status column (i.e., the objects corresponding to the conceptual table were defined using the mechanisms in [7,8]), then the CREATION-REQUIRES clause, which need not be present, is used to name the columnar objects of a conceptual row to which values must be explicitly assigned, by a management protocol set operation, before the agent will create new instances of objects in that row.

This clause must not present unless the object named in the correspondent VARIATION clause is a conceptual row, i.e., has a syntax which resolves to a SEQUENCE containing columnar objects. The objects named in the value of this clause usually will refer to columnar objects in that row. However, objects unrelated to the conceptual row may also be specified.

All objects which are named in the CREATION-REQUIRES clause for a conceptual row, and which are columnar objects of that row, must have an access level of "read-create".

#### 5.5.2.5. Mapping of the DEFVAL clause

The DEFVAL clause, which need not be present, is used to provide a refined DEFVAL value for the object named in the correspondent VARIATION clause. The semantics of this value are identical to those of the OBJECT-TYPE macro's DEFVAL clause.

#### 5.5.2.6. Mapping of the DESCRIPTION clause

The DESCRIPTION clause, which must be present for each use of the VARIATION clause, contains a textual description of the variant or refined implementation.

#### 5.6. Mapping of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES value

The value of an invocation of the AGENT-CAPABILITIES macro is an OBJECT IDENTIFIER, which names the value of sysObjectID [3] or snmpORID [4] for which this capabilities statement is valid.



### 5.7. Usage Example

Consider how a capabilities statement for an agent might be described:

```
exampleAgent AGENT-CAPABILITIES
  PRODUCT-RELEASE      "ACME Agent release 1.1 for 4BSD"
  STATUS               current
  DESCRIPTION          "ACME agent for 4BSD"

  SUPPORTS             RFC1213-MIB
    INCLUDES           { systemGroup, interfacesGroup,
                        atGroup, ipGroup, icmpGroup,
                        tcpGroup, udpGroup, snmpGroup }

    VARIATION          ifAdminStatus
      SYNTAX           INTEGER { up(1), down(2) }
      DESCRIPTION      "Unable to set test mode on 4BSD"

    VARIATION          ifOperStatus
      SYNTAX           INTEGER { up(1), down(2) }
      DESCRIPTION      "Information limited on 4BSD"

    VARIATION          atEntry
      CREATION-REQUIRES { atPhysAddress }
      DESCRIPTION      "Address mappings on 4BSD require
                        both protocol and media addresses"

    VARIATION          ipDefaultTTL
      SYNTAX           INTEGER (255..255)
      DESCRIPTION      "Hard-wired on 4BSD"

    VARIATION          ipInAddrErrors
      ACCESS           not-implemented
      DESCRIPTION      "Information not available on 4BSD"

    VARIATION          ipRouteType
      SYNTAX           INTEGER { direct(3), indirect(4) }
      WRITE-SYNTAX     INTEGER { invalid(2), direct(3),
                                indirect(4) }
      DESCRIPTION      "Information limited on 4BSD"

    VARIATION          tcpConnState
      ACCESS           read-only
      DESCRIPTION      "Unable to set this on 4BSD"
```

```
SUPPORTS          EVAL-MIB
  INCLUDES        { functionsGroup, expressionsGroup }
  VARIATION        exprEntry
    CREATION-REQUIRES { evalString }
    DESCRIPTION "Conceptual row creation supported"

 ::= { acmeAgents 1 }
```

According to this invocation, an agent with a sysObjectID (or snmpORID) value of

```
{ acmeAgents 1 }
```

supports two MIB modules.

From MIB-II, all conformance groups except the egpGroup conformance group are supported. However, the object ipInAddrErrors is not implemented, whilst the objects

```
ifAdminStatus
ifOperStatus
ipDefaultTTL
ipRouteType
```

have a restricted syntax, and the object

```
tcpConnState
```

is available only for reading. Note that in the case of the object ipRouteType the set of values which may be read is different than the set of values which may be written. Finally, when creating a new instance in the atTable, the set-request must create an instance of atPhysAddress.

From the EVAL-MIB, all the objects contained in the functionsGroup and expressionsGroup conformance groups are supported, without variation. In addition, creation of new instances in the expr table is supported.

## 6. Extending an Information Module

As experience is gained with a published information module, it may be desirable to revise that information module.

Section 10 of [2] defines the rules for extending an information module. The remainder of this section defines how conformance groups, compliance statements, and capabilities statements may be extended.

### 6.1. Conformance Groups

If any non-editorial change is made to any clause of an object group then the OBJECT IDENTIFIER value associated with that object group must also be changed, along with its associated descriptor.

### 6.2. Compliance Definitions

If any non-editorial change is made to any clause of a compliance definition, then the OBJECT IDENTIFIER value associated with that compliance definition must also be changed, along with its associated descriptor.

### 6.3. Capabilities Definitions

If any non-editorial change is made to any clause of a capabilities definition, then the OBJECT IDENTIFIER value associated with that capabilities definition must also be changed, along with its associated descriptor.

## 7. Acknowledgements

The section on compliance statements is based, in part, on a conversation with James R. Davin in December, 1990.

The section on capabilities statements is based, in part, on RFC 1303.

Finally, the comments of the SNMP version 2 working group are gratefully acknowledged:

Beth Adams, Network Management Forum  
Steve Alexander, INTERACTIVE Systems Corporation  
David Arneson, Cabletron Systems  
Toshiya Asaba  
Fred Baker, ACC  
Jim Barnes, Xylogics, Inc.  
Brian Bataille  
Andy Bierman, SynOptics Communications, Inc.  
Uri Blumenthal, IBM Corporation  
Fred Bohle, Interlink  
Jack Brown  
Theodore Brunner, Bellcore  
Stephen F. Bush, GE Information Services  
Jeffrey D. Case, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
John Chang, IBM Corporation  
Szusin Chen, Sun Microsystems  
Robert Ching  
Chris Chiotasso, Ungermann-Bass  
Bobby A. Clay, NASA/Boeing  
John Cooke, Chipcom  
Tracy Cox, Bellcore  
Juan Cruz, Datability, Inc.  
David Cullerot, Cabletron Systems  
Cathy Cunningham, Microcom  
James R. (Chuck) Davin, Bellcore  
Michael Davis, Clearpoint  
Mike Davison, FiberCom  
Cynthia DellaTorre, MITRE  
Taso N. Devetzis, Bellcore  
Manual Diaz, DAVID Systems, Inc.  
Jon Dreyer, Sun Microsystems  
David Engel, Optical Data Systems  
Mike Erlinger, Lexcel  
Roger Fajman, NIH

Daniel Fauvarque, Sun Microsystems  
Karen Frisa, CMU  
Shari Galitzer, MITRE  
Shawn Gallagher, Digital Equipment Corporation  
Richard Graveman, Bellcore  
Maria Greene, Xyplex, Inc.  
Michel Guittet, Apple  
Robert Gutierrez, NASA  
Bill Hagerty, Cabletron Systems  
Gary W. Haney, Martin Marietta Energy Systems  
Patrick Hanil, Nokia Telecommunications  
Matt Hecht, SNMP Research, Inc.  
Edward A. Heiner, Jr., Synernetics Inc.  
Susan E. Hicks, Martin Marietta Energy Systems  
Gerald Holzhauser, Apple  
John Hopprich, DAVID Systems, Inc.  
Jeff Hughes, Hewlett-Packard  
Robin Iddon, Axon Networks, Inc.  
David Itusak  
Kevin M. Jackson, Concord Communications, Inc.  
Ole J. Jacobsen, Interop Company  
Ronald Jacoby, Silicon Graphics, Inc.  
Satish Joshi, SynOptics Communications, Inc.  
Frank Kastenholz, FTP Software  
Mark Kepke, Hewlett-Packard  
Ken Key, SNMP Research, Inc.  
Zbiginew Kielczewski, Eicon  
Jongyeoi Kim  
Andrew Knutsen, The Santa Cruz Operation  
Michael L. Kornegay, VisiSoft  
Deirdre C. Kostik, Bellcore  
Cheryl Krupczak, Georgia Tech  
Mark S. Lewis, Telebit  
David Lin  
David Lindemulder, AT&T/NCR  
Ben Lisowski, Sprint  
David Liu, Bell-Northern Research  
John Lunny, The Wollongong Group  
Robert C. Lushbaugh Martin, Marietta Energy Systems  
Michael Luufer, BBN  
Carl Madison, Star-Tek, Inc.  
Keith McCloghrie, Hughes LAN Systems  
Evan McGinnis, 3Com Corporation  
Bill McKenzie, IBM Corporation  
Donna McMaster, SynOptics Communications, Inc.

John Medicke, IBM Corporation  
Doug Miller, Telebit  
Dave Minnich, FiberCom  
Mohammad Mirhakkak, MITRE  
Rohit Mital, Protools  
George Mouradian, AT&T Bell Labs  
Patrick Mullaney, Cabletron Systems  
Dan Myers, 3Com Corporation  
Rina Nathaniel, Rad Network Devices Ltd.  
Hien V. Nguyen, Sprint  
Mo Nikain  
Tom Nisbet  
William B. Norton, MERIT  
Steve Onishi, Wellfleet Communications, Inc.  
David T. Perkins, SynOptics Communications, Inc.  
Carl Powell, BBN  
Ilan Raab, SynOptics Communications, Inc.  
Richard Ramons, AT&T  
Venkat D. Rangan, Metric Network Systems, Inc.  
Louise Reingold, Sprint  
Sam Roberts, Farallon Computing, Inc.  
Kary Robertson, Concord Communications, Inc.  
Dan Romascanu, Lannet Data Communications Ltd.  
Marshall T. Rose, Dover Beach Consulting, Inc.  
Shawn A. Routhier, Epilogue Technology Corporation  
Chris Rozman  
Asaf Rubissa, Fibronics  
Jon Saperia, Digital Equipment Corporation  
Michael Sapich  
Mike Scanlon, Interlan  
Sam Schaen, MITRE  
John Seligson, Ultra Network Technologies  
Paul A. Serice, Corporation for Open Systems  
Chris Shaw, Banyan Systems  
Timon Sloane  
Robert Snyder, Cisco Systems  
Joo Young Song  
Roy Spitier, Sprint  
Einar Stefferud, Network Management Associates  
John Stephens, Cayman Systems, Inc.  
Robert L. Stewart, Xyplex, Inc. (chair)  
Kaj Tesink, Bellcore  
Dean Throop, Data General  
Ahmet Tuncay, France Telecom-CNET  
Maurice Turcotte, Racal Datacom

Warren Vik, INTERACTIVE Systems Corporation  
Yannis Viniotis  
Steven L. Waldbusser, Carnegie Mellon University  
Timothy M. Walden, ACC  
Alice Wang, Sun Microsystems  
James Watt, Newbridge  
Luanne Waul, Timeplex  
Donald E. Westlake III, Digital Equipment Corporation  
Gerry White  
Bert Wijnen, IBM Corporation  
Peter Wilson, 3Com Corporation  
Steven Wong, Digital Equipment Corporation  
Randy Worzella, IBM Corporation  
Daniel Woycke, MITRE  
Honda Wu  
Jeff Yarnell, Protools  
Chris Young, Cabletron  
Kiho Yum, 3Com Corporation

## 8. References

- [1] Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Specification of Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1), International Organization for Standardization. International Standard 8824, (December, 1987).
- [2] Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and Waldbusser, S., "Structure of Management Information for version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", RFC 1442, SNMP Research, Inc., Hughes LAN Systems, Dover Beach Consulting, Inc., Carnegie Mellon University, April 1993.
- [3] McCloghrie, K., and Rose, M., "Management Information Base for Network Management of TCP/IP-based internets: MIB-II", STD 17, RFC 1213, March 1991.
- [4] Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and Waldbusser, S., "Management Information Base for version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", RFC 1450, SNMP Research, Inc., Hughes LAN Systems, Dover Beach Consulting, Inc., Carnegie Mellon University, April 1993.
- [5] Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and Waldbusser, S., "Protocol Operations for version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", RFC 1448, SNMP Research, Inc., Hughes LAN Systems, Dover Beach Consulting, Inc., Carnegie Mellon University, April 1993.
- [6] Case, J., McCloghrie, K., Rose, M., and Waldbusser, S., "Textual Conventions for version 2 of the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMPv2)", RFC 1443, SNMP Research, Inc., Hughes LAN Systems, Dover Beach Consulting, Inc., Carnegie Mellon University, April 1993.
- [7] Rose, M., and McCloghrie, K., "Structure and Identification of Management Information for TCP/IP-based internets", STD 16, RFC 1155, May 1990.
- [8] Rose, M., and McCloghrie, K., "Concise MIB Definitions", STD 16, RFC 1212, March 1991.



## 9. Security Considerations

Security issues are not discussed in this memo.

## 10. Authors' Addresses

Jeffrey D. Case  
SNMP Research, Inc.  
3001 Kimberlin Heights Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37920-9716  
US

Phone: +1 615 573 1434  
Email: case@snmp.com

Keith McCloghrie  
Hughes LAN Systems  
1225 Charleston Road  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
US

Phone: +1 415 966 7934  
Email: kzm@hls.com

Marshall T. Rose  
Dover Beach Consulting, Inc.  
420 Whisman Court  
Mountain View, CA 94043-2186  
US

Phone: +1 415 968 1052  
Email: mrose@dbc.mtview.ca.us

Steven Waldbusser  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4910 Forbes Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
US

Phone: +1 412 268 6628  
Email: waldbusser@cmu.edu

