

IBM AIX RADIUS server



Highlights

- *Provides AAA (authentication, authorization, accounting) services within the IBM AIX 5L® V5.3 operating system*
- *Offers realm-based proxy management features to support roaming access*
- *Supports multiple user authentication data stores*
- *Allows administrators to set authorization policies per user and per server*

The IBM AIX RADIUS server, included with the AIX 5L operating system, offers an AAA system designed to provide centralized user authentication to network resources. By enabling authentication of users and passwords, authorization of services and accounting of user activity on the network, the AIX RADIUS server can help companies deliver secure network access for local and remote users.

The RADIUS protocol is the de facto standard for providing secure remote access into networks. It allows off-site workers to dial in to corporate networks, helping to increase productivity, add convenience and save office

space. RADIUS can be configured so that all systems connecting to any network—internal or external—can be authenticated and authorized, and companies can capture valuable user information such as network usage patterns, the amount of data accessed and session connection and termination information.

RADIUS servers enable several key activities: providing secure authentication to the network, controlling how specific users access the network, configuring authorization policies and return attributes, assigning IP addresses per user, providing remote or dial-in access and authentication capabilities to employees and generating reports on user network activity.

RADIUS gives companies flexibility by allowing access into corporate networks using different access methods—not just dial-in. In addition, RADIUS can enforce authentication and policy information per user. RADIUS can be configured to not only authenticate users to the corporate network, but also to define factors such as IP address assignment, netmask and MTU size.



RADIUS servers help protect business-critical networks with secure remote access

By providing one centralized server for all network authentication, either remote or within a company's network, the IBM AIX RADIUS server helps safeguard critical systems with enterprise-class security. With RADIUS configured, access to systems and network is controlled

through a centralized authentication mechanism. Without a proper user ID and password, users cannot obtain either remote or local access. The solution also supports several password hiding algorithms—including Password Authentication Protocol (PAP), Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP) and Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP)—to give companies the flexibility to use the one that best matches their security standards and policies.

Centralized administration of network authentication helps enhance manageability

The IBM AIX RADIUS server gives companies multiple options for managing user data: they can define a centralized user database using LDAP as the back end or deploy RADIUS quickly by authenticating against existing users defined under the AIX 5L operating system. SMIT panels can help ease administration. In addition, the system can help simplify management of network resources by supporting a single point of authorization for dial-in remote access.

Scalability features help accommodate any number of users

The AIX 5L operating system allows administrators to adjust the number of active RADIUS servers based on workload demands—meaning that the solution can scale up or down to match a company's network access management needs as they change. LDAP also can scale to support thousands of users, allowing businesses to continue using the solution as they grow.

Standards-based design provides flexibility

Designed to be interoperable with any hardware client that uses the RADIUS protocol, this solution can help companies protect their technology investments by providing flexibility to use any standards-based hardware. Support for vendor-specific attributes also enables customers to use any RADIUS client and define attributes specific to that hardware.

Key features

- Adheres to RFC standards 2865, 2866, 2284 (EAP), partial 2869, partial 2882
- Supports PAP, CHAP and EAP password authentication methods
- Can store user information to three types of databases:
 - AIX 5L V5.3 (allows RADIUS to use the local system authentication method to authenticate the user)
 - A local flat file
 - LDAP (allows companies to access a single user database from all RADIUS servers, obtain lists of



- active users, set a maximum number of logins per user ID, set EAP types that can be configured per user and set password expiration dates)*
- Offers easy-to-use SMIT (systems management interface) or command line for installation and configuration
- Includes advanced proxy features through which a RADIUS server can process packets at a different location from the user's entry point, enabling it to act as a proxy client to other RADIUS servers when advanced proxy information is configured
- Offers national language support (NLS) for localized interfaces

- Enables system administrators to change the number of active RADIUS servers based on workload requirements and run multiple daemon processes simultaneously by configuring them on different ports
- Allows vendor-defined attributes to support multiple client-specific configurations

For more information

To learn more about the IBM AIX RADIUS server, please visit <http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/pseries/index.jsp?topic=com.ibm.aix.doc/infocenter/base/aix53.htm> or ibm.com/servers/eserver/pseries/security/.



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January 2005
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PSD00869-USEN-00