

Authenticator

An entity at one end of a point-to-point LAN segment that facilitates authentication of the entity to the other end of the link.

Authentication exchange

The two-party conversation between systems performing an authentication process.

Authentication process

The cryptographic operations and supporting data frames that perform the actual authentication.

Authentication server (AS)

An entity that provides an authentication service to an authenticator. This service determines, from the credentials provided by supplicant, whether the supplicant is authorized to access the services provided by the system in which the authenticator resides.

Authentication transport

The datagram session that actively transfers the authentication exchange between two systems.

Bridge port

A port of an IEEE 802.1D or 802.1Q bridge.

Edge port

A bridge port attached to a LAN that has no other bridges attached to it.

Network access port

A point of attachment of a system to a LAN. It can be a physical port, such as a single LAN MAC attached to a physical LAN segment, or a logical port, for example, an IEEE 802.11 association between a station and an access point.

Port access entity (PAE)

The protocol entity associated with a port. It can support the protocol functionality associated with the authenticator, the supplicant, or both.

Supplicant

An entity at one end of a point-to-point LAN segment that seeks to be authenticated by an authenticator attached to the other end of that link.