

**NAME**

**ieee80211\_radiotap** - 802.11 device packet capture support

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <net80211/ieee80211_var.h>
```

*void*

```
ieee80211_radiotap_attach(struct ieee80211com *, struct ieee80211_radiotap_header *th, int tlen,  
uint32_t tx_radiotap, struct ieee80211_radiotap_header *rh, int rlen, uint32_t rx_radiotap);
```

*int*

```
ieee80211_radiotap_active_vap(struct ieee80211vap *);
```

*int*

```
ieee80211_radiotap_active(struct ieee80211com *);
```

*void*

```
ieee80211_radiotap_tx(struct ieee80211vap *, struct mbuf *);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **net80211** layer used by 802.11 drivers includes support for a device-independent packet capture format called **radiotap** that is understood by tools such as `tcpdump(1)`. This facility is designed for capturing 802.11 traffic, including information that is not part of the normal 802.11 frame structure.

Radiotap was designed to balance the desire for a hardware-independent, extensible capture format against the need to conserve CPU and memory bandwidth on embedded systems. These considerations led to a format consisting of a standard preamble followed by an extensible bitmap indicating the presence of optional capture fields. A **net80211** device driver supporting *radiotap* defines two packed structures that it shares with **net80211**. These structures embed an instance of a *ieee80211\_radiotap\_header* structure at the beginning, with subsequent fields in the appropriate order, and macros to set the bits of the *it\_present* bitmap to indicate which fields exist and are filled in by the driver. This information is then supplied through the **ieee80211\_radiotap\_attach()** call after a successful **ieee80211\_ifattach()** request.

With radiotap setup, drivers just need to fill in per-packet capture state for frames sent/received and dispatch capture state in the transmit path (since control is not returned to the **net80211** layer before the packet is handed to the device). To minimize overhead this work should be done only when one or more processes are actively capturing data; this is checked with one of **ieee80211\_radiotap\_active\_vap()** and **ieee80211\_radiotap\_active()**. In the transmit path capture work looks like this:

```

if (ieee80211_radiotap_active_vap(vap)) {
    ... /* record transmit state */
    ieee80211_radiotap_tx(vap, m); /* capture transmit event */
}

```

While in the receive path capture is handled in **net80211** but state must be captured before dispatching a frame:

```

if (ieee80211_radiotap_active(ic)) {
    ... /* record receive state */
}
...
ieee80211_input(...); /* packet capture handled in net80211 */

```

The following fields are defined for *radiotap*, in the order in which they should appear in the buffer supplied to **net80211**.

#### IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_TSFT

This field contains the unsigned 64-bit value, in microseconds, of the MAC's 802.11 Time Synchronization Function (TSF). In theory, for each received frame, this value is recorded when the first bit of the MPDU arrived at the MAC. In practice, hardware snapshots the TSF otherwise and one cannot assume this data is accurate without driver adjustment.

#### IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_FLAGS

This field contains a single unsigned 8-bit value, containing one or more of these bit flags:

##### IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_CFP

Frame was sent/received during the Contention Free Period (CFP).

##### IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_SHORTPRE

Frame was sent/received with short preamble.

##### IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_WEP

Frame was encrypted.

##### IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_FRAG

Frame was an 802.11 fragment.

##### IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_FCS

Frame contents includes the FCS.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_DATAPAD**

Frame contents potentially has padding between the 802.11 header and the data payload to align the payload to a 32-bit boundary.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_BADFCS**

Frame was received with an invalid FCS.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_F\_SHORTGI**

Frame was sent/received with Short Guard Interval.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_RATE**

This field contains a single unsigned 8-bit value that is the data rate. Legacy rates are in units of 500Kbps. MCS rates (used on 802.11n/HT channels) have the high bit set and the MCS in the low 7 bits.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_CHANNEL**

This field contains two unsigned 16-bit values. The first value is the center frequency for the channel the frame was sent/received on. The second value is a bitmap containing flags that specify channel properties.

This field is deprecated in favor of **IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_XCHANNEL** but may be used to save space in the capture file for legacy devices.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_DBM\_ANT SIGNAL**

This field contains a single signed 8-bit value that indicates the RF signal power at the antenna, in decibels difference from 1mW.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_DBM\_ANT NOISE**

This field contains a single signed 8-bit value that indicates the RF noise power at the antenna, in decibels difference from 1mW.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_DBM\_TX\_POWER**

Transmit power expressed as decibels from a 1mW reference. This field is a single signed 8-bit value. This is the absolute power level measured at the antenna port.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_ ANTENNA**

This field contains a single unsigned 8-bit value that specifies which antenna was used to transmit or receive the frame. Antenna numbering is device-specific but typically the primary antenna has the lowest number. On transmit a value of zero may be seen which typically means antenna selection is left to the device.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_DB\_ANT SIGNAL**

This field contains a single unsigned 8-bit value that indicates the RF signal power at the antenna, in decibels difference from an arbitrary, fixed reference.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_DB\_ANT NOISE**

This field contains a single unsigned 8-bit value that indicates the RF noise power at the antenna, in decibels difference from an arbitrary, fixed reference.

**IEEE80211\_RADIOTAP\_XCHANNEL**

This field contains four values: a 32-bit unsigned bitmap of flags that describe the channel attributes, a 16-bit unsigned frequency in MHz (typically the channel center), an 8-bit unsigned IEEE channel number, and a signed 8-bit value that holds the maximum regulatory transmit power cap in .5 dBm (8 bytes total). Channel flags are defined in: `<net80211/ieee80211.h>` (only a subset are found in `<net80211/ieee80211_radiotap.h>`). This property supersedes `IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_CHANNEL` and is the only way to completely express all channel attributes and the mapping between channel frequency and IEEE channel number.

**EXAMPLES**

Radiotap receive definitions for the Intersil Prism driver:

```
#define WI_RX_RADIOTAP_PRESENT \
    ((1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_TSFT) \
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_FLAGS) |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_RATE) |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_CHANNEL) |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_DB_ANT SIGNAL) |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_DB_ANT NOISE))

struct wi_rx_radiotap_header {
    struct ieee80211_radiotap_header wr_ihdr;
    uint64_t    wr_tsf;
    uint8_t     wr_flags;
    uint8_t     wr_rate;
    uint16_t    wr_chan_freq;
    uint16_t    wr_chan_flags;
    uint8_t     wr_ant signal;
    uint8_t     wr_ant noise;
} __packed __aligned(8);
```

and transmit definitions for the Atheros driver:

```
#define ATH_TX_RADIOTAP_PRESENT ( \
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_FLAGS)  |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_RATE)   |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_DBM_TX_POWER) |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_ANTENNA)  |\
    (1 << IEEE80211_RADIOTAP_XCHANNEL) |\
    0)

struct ath_tx_radiotap_header {
    struct ieee80211_radiotap_header wt_ihdr;
    uint8_t    wt_flags;
    uint8_t    wt_rate;
    uint8_t    wt_txpower;
    uint8_t    wt_antenna;
    uint32_t   wt_chan_flags;
    uint16_t   wt_chan_freq;
    uint8_t    wt_chan_ieee;
    int8_t     wt_chan_maxpow;
} __packed;
```

## SEE ALSO

tcpdump(1), bpf(4), ieee80211(9)

## HISTORY

The **ieee80211\_radiotap** definitions first appeared in NetBSD 1.5.

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