

Table of Contents

MTU and Suprema devices	1
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BioStar 1, MTU

MTU and Suprema devices

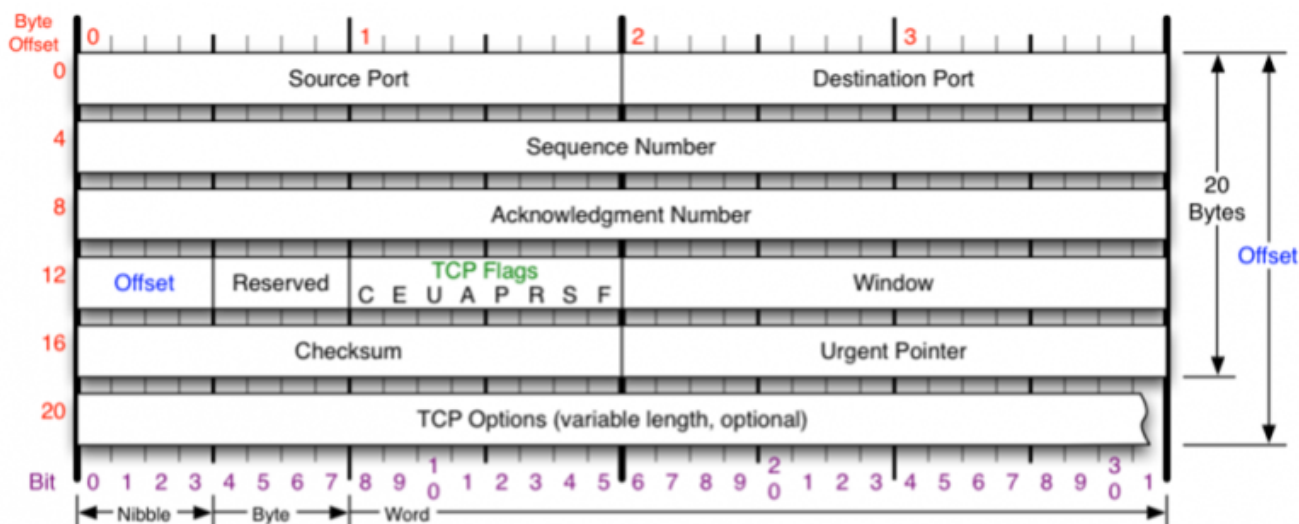
When Suprema devices communicate with BioStar, the packet comes and goes through the network devices like routers. The MTU (maximum transmission unit) is the largest packet unit in bytes that can be passed onwards through the network layers. The value for the MTU is set by operating systems or network devices like routers. When you go to the menu of a router, you can change the value as shown in the figure below:

The screenshot shows the Linksys Basic Setup page. The 'Internet Setup' section is active, showing 'Internet Connection Type' set to 'Obtain an IP automatically'. Below this, there are fields for 'Host Name', 'Domain Name', and 'MTU'. The 'MTU' section has two radio buttons: 'Auto' and 'Manual'. The 'Manual' radio button is selected. A yellow arrow points to the 'Manual' radio button with the text 'Select Manual.'. Another yellow arrow points to the 'Manual Size' input field with the text 'Enter the proper MTU size.'. The 'Basic Setup' sidebar on the right contains text explaining that some ISPs require DNS settings.

Operating systems and network devices automatically negotiate the MTU size. However, the operating system built on some of our Suprema models including BioLite Net, BioEntry Plus, Xpass, and Xpass Slim does not support the auto-negotiation feature. We can only control the MSS (maximum segment size) in the TCP header. The MSS set in the TCP header should be lower than the MTU of other network devices. When Suprema devices and the BioStar application are on the same network, the MTU size is usually not an issue. But when they are on different networks, especially on the VPN network, the MTU size plays a critical role in the transmission of packets from Suprema devices to the BioStar application. We highly recommend that you set the MTU of your network devices such as VPN devices and routers to be set greater than 1620.

However, some of our clients should stick to a certain size for some reason. To deal with those cases, we provide firmware with the smaller MSS (maximum segment size), because the MTU should be dealt on an operating system level and we cannot control it.

The TCP protocol provides an option field (MSS, maximum segment size) to control the MTU size of the packet, as shown in the figure below:



TCP Flags	Congestion Notification	TCP Options	Offset																											
<div>C E U A P R S F</div> <div>Congestion Window</div> <div>C 0x80 Reduced (CWR)</div> <div>E 0x40 ECN Echo (ECE)</div> <div>U 0x20 Urgent</div> <div>A 0x10 Ack</div> <div>P 0x08 Push</div> <div>R 0x04 Reset</div> <div>S 0x02 Syn</div> <div>F 0x01 Fin</div>	<div>ECN (Explicit Congestion Notification). See RFC 3168 for full details, valid states below.</div> <table><thead><tr><th>Packet State</th><th>DSB</th><th>ECN bits</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Syn</td><td>0 0</td><td>1 1</td></tr><tr><td>Syn-Ack</td><td>0 0</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Ack</td><td>0 1</td><td>0 0</td></tr><tr><td>No Congestion</td><td>0 1</td><td>0 0</td></tr><tr><td>No Congestion</td><td>1 0</td><td>0 0</td></tr><tr><td>Congestion</td><td>1 1</td><td>0 0</td></tr><tr><td>Receiver Response</td><td>1 1</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Sender Response</td><td>1 1</td><td>1 1</td></tr></tbody></table>	Packet State	DSB	ECN bits	Syn	0 0	1 1	Syn-Ack	0 0	0 1	Ack	0 1	0 0	No Congestion	0 1	0 0	No Congestion	1 0	0 0	Congestion	1 1	0 0	Receiver Response	1 1	0 1	Sender Response	1 1	1 1	<div>0 End of Options List</div> <div>1 No Operation (NOP, Pad)</div> <div>2 Maximum segment size</div> <div>3 Window Scale</div> <div>4 Selective ACK ok</div> <div>8 Timestamp</div> <div>Checksum</div> <div>Checksum of entire TCP segment and pseudo header (parts of IP header)</div>	<div>Number of 32-bit words in TCP header, minimum value of 5. Multiply by 4 to get byte count.</div> <div>RFC 793</div> <div>Please refer to RFC 793 for the complete Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) Specification.</div>
Packet State	DSB	ECN bits																												
Syn	0 0	1 1																												
Syn-Ack	0 0	0 1																												
Ack	0 1	0 0																												
No Congestion	0 1	0 0																												
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Congestion	1 1	0 0																												
Receiver Response	1 1	0 1																												
Sender Response	1 1	1 1																												

Let's say we have firmware with the MSS of 1024 bytes, which means that its MTU size will be greater than 1090 bytes. You can add the size of the TCP header (20 bytes), the IP header (20 bytes) and the Ethernet header (26 bytes) to get the MTU size from the MSS. The packet size can become larger as it goes through network devices, depending on the device types. In addition, VPN network devices encapsulate the original IP packets with its IPsec headers. Therefore, we recommend taking this into account when you set the MTU size of your network.

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