

OSPF Working Group  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: April 24, 2014

A. Atlas  
S. Hegde  
C. Bowers  
Juniper Networks  
J. Tantsura  
Ericsson  
October 21, 2013

**OSPF Extensions to Support Maximally Redundant Trees  
draft-atlas-ospf-mrt-01**

**Abstract**

This document specifies extensions to OSPF to support the distributed computation of Maximally Redundant Trees (MRT). Some example uses of the MRTs include IP/LDP Fast-Reroute and global protection or live-live for multicast traffic. The extensions indicate what MRT profile(s) each router supports. Different MRT profiles can be defined to support different uses and to allow transitioning of capabilities. An extension is introduced to flood MRT-Ineligible links, due to administrative policy.

The need for a mechanism to allow routers to advertise a worst-case FIB compute/install time is well understood for controlling convergence. This specification introduces the Controlled Convergence TLV to be carried in the Router Information LSA.

**Status of This Memo**

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

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## [1.](#) Introduction

This document describes the OSPF extensions necessary to support the architecture that defines how IP/LDP Fast-Reroute can use MRTs [[I-D.ietf-rtgwg-mrt-frr-architecture](#)]. At least one common standardized algorithm (such as the lowpoint algorithm explained and fully documented in [[I-D.enyedi-rtgwg-mrt-frr-algorithm](#)]) is required so that the routers supporting MRT computation consistently compute the same MRTs. MRT can also be used to protect multicast traffic via



either global protection or local protection. [[I-D.atlas-rtgwg-mrt-mc-arch](#)]

IP/LDP Fast-Reroute using MRTs can provide 100% coverage for link and node failures in an arbitrary network topology where the failure doesn't split the network. It can also be deployed incrementally inside an OSPF area; an MRT Island is formed of connected supporting routers and the MRTs are computed inside that island.

In the default MRT profile, a supporting router both computes the MRTs and creates the necessary transit forwarding state necessary to provide the two additional forwarding topologies, known as MRT-Blue and MRT-Red.

## 2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)]

## 3. Terminology

For ease of reading, some of the terminology defined in [[I-D.ietf-rtgwg-mrt-frr-architecture](#)] is repeated here.

**network graph:** A graph that reflects the network topology where all links connect exactly two nodes and broadcast links have been transformed into the standard pseudo-node representation.

**Redundant Trees (RT):** A pair of trees where the path from any node X to the root R along the first tree is node-disjoint with the path from the same node X to the root along the second tree. These can be computed in 2-connected graphs.

**Maximally Redundant Trees (MRT):** A pair of trees where the path from any node X to the root R along the first tree and the path from the same node X to the root along the second tree share the minimum number of nodes and the minimum number of links. Each such shared node is a cut-vertex. Any shared links are cut-links. Any RT is an MRT but many MRTs are not RTs.

**MRT Island:** From the computing router, the set of routers that support a particular MRT profile and are connected via MRT-eligible links.

**GADAG:** Generalized Almost Directed Acyclic Graph - a graph that is the combination of the ADAGs of all blocks. Transforming a network graph into a GADAG is part of the MRT algorithm.



**MRT-Red:** MRT-Red is used to describe one of the two MRTs; it is used to describe the associated forwarding topology and MT-ID. Specifically, MRT-Red is the decreasing MRT where links in the GADAG are taken in the direction from a higher topologically ordered node to a lower one.

**MRT-Blue:** MRT-Blue is used to describe one of the two MRTs; it is used to describe the associated forwarding topology and MT-ID. Specifically, MRT-Blue is the increasing MRT where links in the GADAG are taken in the direction from a lower topologically ordered node to a higher one.

#### **4. Overview of OSPF Extensions for MRT**

There are two separate aspects that need to be advertised in OSPF. Both derive from the need for all routers supporting an MRT profile to compute the same pair of MRTs to each destination. By executing the same algorithm on the same network graph, distributed routers will compute the same MRTs. Convergence considerations are discussed in [[I-D.ietf-rtgwg-mrt-frr-architecture](#)].

The first aspect that must be advertised is which MRT profile(s) are supported and the associated GADAG Root Selection Priority. The second aspect that must be advertised is any links that are not eligible, due to administrative policy, to be part of the MRTs. This must be advertised consistently across the area so that all routers in the MRT Island use the same network graph.

##### **4.1. Supporting MRT Profiles**

An MRT Profile defines the exact MRT Algorithm, the MRT-Red MT-ID, the MRT-Blue MT-ID, and the forwarding mechanisms supported for the transit MRT-Red and MRT-Blue forwarding topologies. Finally, the MRT Profile defines exact behavioral rules such as:

- o how reconvergence is handled,
- o inter-area forwarding behavior,

A router that advertises support for an MRT Profile MUST provide the specified forwarding mechanism for its MRT-Red and MRT-Blue forwarding topologies. A router that advertises support for an MRT Profile MUST implement an algorithm that produces the same set of MRT-Red and MRT-Blue next-hops for its MRT-Red and MRT-Blue topologies as is provided by the algorithm specified in the MRT Profile.



A router MAY indicate support for multiple MRT Profiles. A router computes its local MRT Island for each separate MRT Profile that the router supports. The MT-IDs used in one supported MRT Profile MUST NOT overlap with those MT-IDs used in a different supported MRT Profile. Supporting multiple MRT Profiles provides a mechanism for transitioning from one profile to another. Different uses of MRT forwarding topologies may behave better on different MRT profiles.

The default MRT Profile is defined in [\[I-D.ietf-rtgwg-mrt-frr-architecture\]](#). Its behavior is intended to support IP/LDP unicast and multicast fast-reroute.

#### **4.2. GADAG Root Selection**

One aspect of the MRT algorithms is that the selection of the GADAG root can affect the alternates and the traffic through that GADAG root. Therefore, it is important to provide an operator with control over which router will play the role of GADAG root. A measure of the centrality of a node may help determine how good a choice a particular node is.

GADAG Root selection is done using the GADAG Root Selection Priority advertised in the MRT Profile TLV of the Router Information LSA. When the MRTs need to be recalculated, the MRT Island is determined. Inside the set of routers identified as in the MRT Island, routers that are marked as unusable or overloaded (e.g. [\[RFC3137\]](#)) are removed from consideration. Among the remaining routers, the router with the highest GADAG Root Selection Priority is picked to be the GADAG Root. If there are multiple at the same priority, then the router with the highest Router ID is selected.

#### **4.3. Triggering an MRT Computation**

When an MRT Computation is triggered, it is triggered for a given MRT Profile in a given area. First, the associated MRT Island is determined. Then, the GADAG Root is selected. Finally, the actual MRT algorithm is run to compute the transit MRT-Red and MRT-Blue topologies. Additionally, the router MAY choose to compute MRT-FRR alternates or make other use of the MRT computation results.

Prefixes can be attached and detached and have their associated MRT-Red and MRT-Blue next-hops computed without requiring a new MRT computation.

### **5. MRT Capability Advertisement**

A router that supports MRT indicates this by setting a newly defined M bit in the Router LSA. If the router provides no other information





via a separate MRT Profile TLV, then the router supports the default MRT Profile with a GADAG Root Selection Priority of 100.

In addition, a router can advertise a newly defined MRT Profile TLV within the scope of the OSPF router information LSA [[RFC4970](#)]. This TLV also includes the GADAG Root Selection Priority.

### 5.1. Advertising MRT Capability in OSPFv2

A new M-bit is defined in the Router-LSA (defined in [[RFC2328](#)] and updated in [[RFC4915](#)]), as pictured below.

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               LS age                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Link State ID                       |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Advertising Router                   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               LS sequence number                   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               LS checksum                           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| *|*|M|N|W|V|E|B|           0           |           # links       |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Link ID                             |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Link Data                           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Type      |      # MT-ID      |      metric      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      MT-ID      |      0           |      MT-ID metric      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               ...                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      MT-ID      |      0           |      MT-ID metric      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Link ID                             |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               Link Data                           |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               ...                               |

```

M-bit in OSPFv2 Router LSA



## M-bit in OSPFv3 Router LSA



If a link is marked by administrative policy as MRT-Ineligible, then a router **MUST** flood that link in either the MRT-Ineligible TLV or OSPFv3 MRT-Ineligible TLV in the Router Information LSA.



[illegible]





```

|                               Neighbor Router ID                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

#### MRT Profile TLV in Router Information LSA

Multiple links can be flooded as MRT-ineligible by listing them inside the same TLV. The ordering of the links in the TLV is not relevant. Multiple appearances of this TLV is not an error.

## 7. Worst-Case Network Convergence Time

As part of converging the network after a single failure, Section 11.2 of [[I-D.ietf-rtgwg-mrt-frr-architecture](#)] describes the need to wait for a configured or advertised period for all routers to be using their new SPTs. Similarly, any work on avoiding micro-forwarding loops during convergence[RFC5715] requires determining the maximum among all routers in the area of the worst-case route computation and FIB installation time. More details on the specific reasoning and need for flooding it are given in [[I-D.atlas-bryant-shand-lf-timers](#)].

TYPE: To Be Allocated by IANA; experimental is 32775

LENGTH: 4

VALUE:

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|   Reserved                   | FIB compute/install time   |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

FIB compute/install time: This is the worst-case time the router may take to compute and install all OSPF routes in the area after a change to a stable network. The value is in milliseconds.

#### Controlled Convergence TLV in Router Information LSA

The Controlled Convergence TLV is carried in the Router Information LSA and flooded with area-wide scope. A router MUST compute the maximum FIB compute/install time from those flooded in the area. A router MAY use a configured maximum time instead of using and flooding the Controlled Convergence TLV.

## 8. Backwards Compatibility



The MRT capability bit, the MRT Profile, the MRT-Ineligible Link, and the OSPFv3 MRT-Ineligible Link TLVs are defined in this document. They should not introduce any interoperability issues. Routers that do not support the MRT capability bit in the router LSA SHOULD silently ignore it. Routers that do not support the new MRT-related TLVs SHOULD silently ignore them.

### **8.1. Handling MRT Capability Changes**

When a router changes from supporting MRT to not supporting MRT, it is possible that Router Information LSAs with MRT-related TLVs remain in the neighbors' database briefly. Such MRT-related TLVs SHOULD be ignored when the associated Router LSA from that router does not have the MRT capability set in its Router LSA.

When a router changes from not supporting MRT to supporting MRT, it will flood its Router LSA(s) with the M-bit set and may send an updated Router Information LSA. If a Router LSA is received with the M-bit newly set, an MRT computation SHOULD be scheduled but MAY be delayed up to 60 seconds to allow reception of updated related Router Information LSAs. In general, when changes in MRT-related information is received, an MRT computation SHOULD be triggered.

The rationale behind using the M bit in router LSA is to handle the MRT capability changes gracefully in case of version upgrade/downgrade. The M bit in router LSA ensures the latest "MRT capability" information is available for computation when there is a downgrade to the version that doesn't support MRT and RI LSA.

## **9. Security Considerations**

This OSPF extension is not believed to introduce new security concerns. It relies upon the security architecture already provided for Router LSAs and Router Information LSAs.

## **10. IANA Considerations**

Please allocate a value from the OSPF Router Information TLV Types [[RFC4970](#)] for the MRT Profile TLV, for the MRT-Ineligible Link TLV, and for the OSPFv3 MRT-Ineligible Link TLV.

Please create an MRT Profile registry for the MRT Profile TLV. The range is 0 to 255. The default MRT Profile has value 0. Values 1-200 are by Standards Action. Values 201-220 are for experimentation. Values 221-255 are for vendor private use.

## **11. References**



### **11.1. Normative References**

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Authors' Addresses

Alia Atlas  
Juniper Networks  
10 Technology Park Drive  
Westford, MA 01886  
USA

Email: [akatlas@juniper.net](mailto:akatlas@juniper.net)

Shraddha Hegde  
Juniper Networks

Email: [shraddha@juniper.net](mailto:shraddha@juniper.net)

Chris Bowers  
Juniper Networks

Email: [cbowers@juniper.net](mailto:cbowers@juniper.net)

Jeff Tantsura  
Ericsson  
300 Holger Way  
San Jose, CA 95134  
USA

Email: [jeff.tantsura@ericsson.com](mailto:jeff.tantsura@ericsson.com)



