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Color Operation with BGP Label Unicast  
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## Abstract

This document specifies how to carry colored path advertisement via an end-to-end to the existing protocol BGP Label Unicast. It would allow backward compatibility with [RFC8277](#).

The targeted solution is to use stack of labels advertised via BGP Label Unicast 2.0 for end-to-end traffic steering across multiple IGP domains. The operation is similar to Segment Routing.

This proposed protocol will convey the necessary reachability information from ingress PE node to construct an end-to-end path.

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## 1. Introduction

The proposed protocol is aimed to solve interdomain traffic steering, with different transport services in mind. One application is low latency service across multiple IGP domains, which could scale up to 100k routers network.

BGP is a flexible protocol. With additional of color attribute to BGP Label Unicast, a path with specific color would be given a meaning in application: latency path, a fully protected path, or a path for diversity.

The stack of labels would mean an end to end path across domains through ABR or ASBR. Each ABR or ASBR will take one label from the stack, and hence provide forwarding path to next ABR, ASBR, or the final destination.

And the label in the stack may be derived from any of the below

- Prefix SID

- Binding SID for RSVP LSP
- Binding SID for SR-TE LSP
- Local assigned label

The enhancement to the original [RFC8277](#) is to add color extended community multiple advertisement allowed. The result is similar to multi-topology BGP with different colors.

A new [\[BGP-CAP\]](#) should be required to enable such slicing.

On the other hand, to enable the service prefixes to be mapped according to L3VPN, L2VPN, EVPN and prefix with BGP signaling, the color extended community

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also added there. In the PE node, the service prefixes with color will be mapped to a transport tunnel with the same color.

The following is an example. Between PE1 and PE2, there is a VPN service with label 16, which is associated with color 100.

PE1----ABR1-----ABR2-----PE2

PE1 will send the following labels with a color 100 path plus VPN label

[2001 13001 801 16], where

2001 - SR label to reach ABR1

13001 - a Binding-SID label for ABR1-ABR2 tunnel. Underlying tunnel type is

801 - a Binding-SID label for ABR2-PE2 tunnel. Underlying tunnel type is

16 - a VPN label, which is signaled via other means

[2001 13001 801] denotes the label stack for this color 100 path to reach

The document here is going to describe how PE1 gains enough information to reach PE2 with this label stack across routing domains.

If PE1 wants to reach PE2 with another colored path, say color 200, the label stack could be different.

At the same time, this architecture is also controller friendly, since all the signaling notation is Segment Routing compatible, like use of Binding-SID.

## 2. Conventions used in this document

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

In this document, these words will appear with that interpretation only in ALL CAPS. Lower case uses of these words are not to be interpreted as having the same significance described in [RFC 2119](#).

## 3. Carrying Label Mapping Information with Color and Label Stack

### 3.1. Color extended community for BGP Labeled Unicast

The addition of Color Extended Community is an opaque extended community defined in [RFC4360](#) and [RFC5512](#). The draft allows multiple color values advertisement

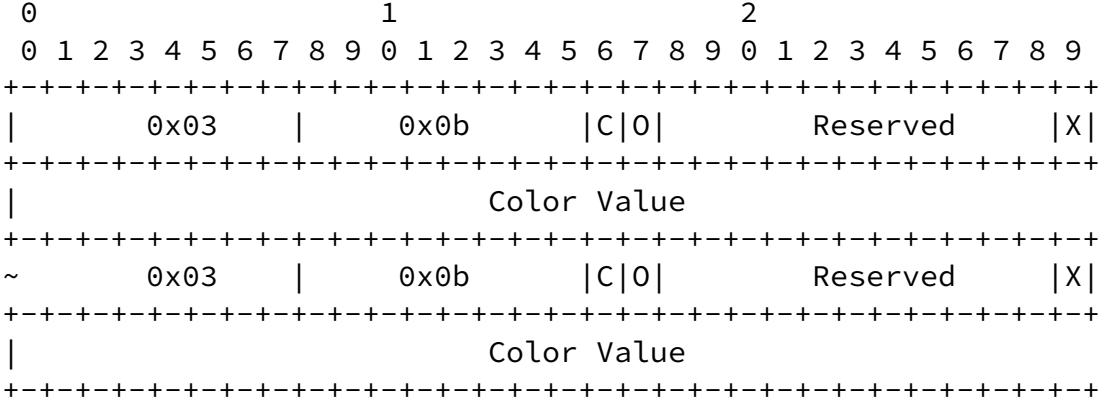


Figure 1: Color value advertisement format

Both in BGP update and MP\_UNREACH\_NLRI message, multiple color extended community could be included. It means that multiple colors, indicating different ki... services, could share the same label stack.

If only one color extended community is specified, only prefix with that value is updated or withdrawn.

If a MP\_UNREACH\_NLRI message without any color specified is received for prefix, that prefix with color(s) should not be affected.

If color extended community is not present in a BGP update message, it will be treated as normal BGP-LU without any color.

3 bits of XXX is reserved here for the draft.

The meaning for XXX is interpreted as sub-slice of color, with 0 to 7 in 000b and 111b in binary. These sub-slice could be used in either of the following cases.

a) Primary path and fallback paths in order of preference

0 primary path

1 first and most preferred backup path

7 least preferred backup path

b) ECMP paths up to 8, since all paths should be active in forwarding plane

Color value 0 is reserved for future interoperability purposes.

Color values 1 - 31 are not recommended to use, and this range is reserved for future use.

### 3.2. Color extended community for service prefixes

The same format of color extended community is advertised with service prefixes. The order of the color extended community could be interpreted as

- Order of primary and fallback colors
- Or, ECMP of equal split between color paths

The above would be interpreted by the receiving PE upon its local configuration.

It is optional to enable sub-slice notation.

But if sub-slice bits are used, it will be used to map directly to each sub-slice path. If sub-slice path is not available for mapping, it should just resolve by color.

#### 4. Uniqueness of path entries

a) Use of color can be considered to slice into multiple BGP Label Unicas. Therefore, it should be treated as unique entries for the <color, prefix>

e.g. <color, prefix>, [labels]

<1, 10.1.1.1/32>, [100 200]

<2, 10.1.1.1/32>, [100 200]

<null, 10.1.1.1/32>, [100 200]

All these 3 NLRI are considered different but valid entries for different instances.

b) With sub-slice notation

<color-sub, prefix>, [labels]

<1-0, 10.1.1.1/32>, [100 200]

<1-1, 10.1.1.1/32>, [101 300]

<1-7, 10.1.1.1/32>, [102 400]

These 3 NLRI are distinct, and the second and third NLRI could be used backup or ECMP purpose.

#### 5. AIGP consideration

AIGP ([RFC7311](#)) would be also used in here to embed certain metric across.

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#### 6. Explicit Withdraw of a <color, prefix>

According to [RFC8277](#), MP\_UNREACH\_NLRI can be used to remove binding of a <color, prefix>.

Compatibility is set to 0xC00000 to specify the use of color. Multiple color extended communities could be applied here.

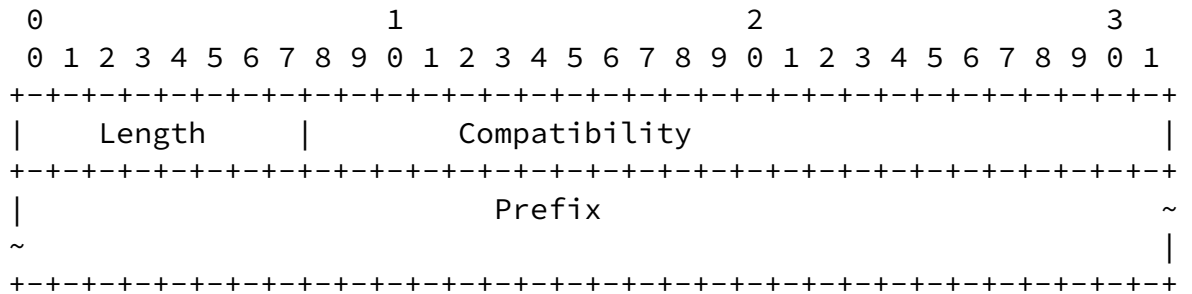


Figure 2: NLRI for Withdrawal

### 7. Error Handling Procedure

If BGP receiver could not handle the NLRI, it should silently discard with logging.

### 8. Controller Compatibility

The proposed architecture is compatible with controller for end to end provisioning. Persistent label, like Binding-SIS is recommended to be used. Controller could learn these labels from the network, and program specific end path.

Controller could also be deployed based on domain by domain perspective. Optimizing latency of a RSVP LSP, or maintain the bandwidth and loading on TE LSPs.

### 9. Security Considerations

### 10. IANA Considerations

TBD. It will require a new BGP capability code to enable such color operation. New SAFI might be required as well.

## 11. References

### 11.1. Normative References

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