

PCE Working Group
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: August 23, 2019

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February 19, 2019

**Conveying Vendor-Specific Information in the Path Computation Element
(PCE) Communication Protocol (PCEP) extensions for stateful PCE.
draft-dhody-pce-stateful-pce-vendor-06**

Abstract

A Stateful Path Computation Element (PCE) maintains information on the current network state, including: computed Label Switched Path (LSPs), reserved resources within the network, and pending path computation requests. This information may then be considered when computing new traffic engineered LSPs, and for associated and dependent LSPs, received from Path Computation Clients (PCCs).

[RFC 7470](#) defines a facility to carry vendor-specific information in PCEP.

This document extends this capability for the stateful PCE model.

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1. Introduction

The Path Computation Element communication Protocol (PCEP) [[RFC5440](#)] provides mechanisms for Path Computation Elements (PCEs) to perform path computations in response to Path Computation Clients' (PCCs) requests.

A stateful PCE is capable of considering, for the purposes of path computation, not only the network state in terms of links and nodes (referred to as the Traffic Engineering Database or TED) but also the status of active services (previously computed paths, and currently reserved resources, stored in the Label Switched Paths Database (LSPDB). [[RFC8051](#)] describes general considerations for a stateful PCE deployment and examines its applicability and benefits, as well as its challenges and limitations through a number of use cases.

[[RFC8231](#)] describes a set of extensions to PCEP to provide stateful control. A stateful PCE has access to not only the information carried by the network's Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP), but also the set of active paths and their reserved resources for its computations. The additional state allows the PCE to compute constrained paths while considering individual LSPs and their interactions. [[RFC8281](#)] describes the setup, maintenance and

teardown of PCE-initiated LSPs under the stateful PCE model. These extensions added new messages in PCEP.

[RFC7470] defined Vendor Information object that can be used to carry arbitrary, proprietary information such as vendor-specific constraints. It also defined VENDOR-INFORMATION-TLV that can be used to carry arbitrary information within any existing or future PCEP object that supports TLVs.

This document extend the usage of Vendor Information Object and VENDOR-INFORMATION-TLV to stateful PCE. The VENDOR-INFORMATION-TLV can be carried inside any of the new objects added in PCEP for stateful PCE as per [RFC7470], this document extend the PCEP messages to also include the Vendor Information Object too.

1.1. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

2. Procedures for the Vendor Information Object

A Path Computation LSP State Report message [RFC8231] (also referred to as PCRpt message) is a PCEP message sent by a PCC to a PCE to report the current state of an LSP. A PCC that wants to convey proprietary or vendor-specific information or metrics to a PCE does so by including a Vendor Information object in the PCRpt message. The contents and format of the object are described in [Section 4 of \[RFC7470\]](#). The PCE determines how to interpret the information in the Vendor Information object by examining the Enterprise Number it contains.

The Vendor Information object is OPTIONAL in a PCRpt message. Multiple instances of the object MAY be used on a single PCRpt message. Different instances of the object can have different Enterprise Numbers.

The format of the PCRpt message (with [RFC8231] as base) is updated as follows


```
<PCRpt Message> ::= <Common Header>
                        <state-report-list>
```

Where:

```
<state-report-list> ::= <state-report>[<state-report-list>]

<state-report> ::= [<SRP>]
                  <LSP>
                  <path>
                  [<vendor-info-list>]
```

Where:

```
<vendor-info-list> ::= <VENDOR-INFORMATION>
                        [<vendor-info-list>]
```

<path> is defined in [[RFC8231](#)].

A Path Computation LSP Update Request message (also referred to as PCUpd message) is a PCEP message sent by a PCE to a PCC to update attributes of an LSP. The Vendor Information object can be included in a PCUpd message to convey proprietary or vendor-specific information.

The format of the PCUpd message (with [[RFC8231](#)] as base) is updated as follows

```
<PCUpd Message> ::= <Common Header>
                        <update-request-list>
```

Where:

```
<update-request-list> ::= <update-request>
                          [<update-request-list>]

<update-request> ::= <SRP>
                    <LSP>
                    <path>
                    [<vendor-info-list>]
```

Where:

```
<vendor-info-list> ::= <VENDOR-INFORMATION>
                        [<vendor-info-list>]
```

<path> is defined in [[RFC8231](#)].

A Path Computation LSP Initiate Message (also referred to as PCInitiate message) is a PCEP message sent by a PCE to a PCC to trigger LSP instantiation or deletion. The Vendor Information object can be included in a PCInitiate message to convey proprietary or vendor-specific information.

The format of the PCInitiate message (with [\[RFC8281\]](#) as base) is updated as follows

```
<PCInitiate Message> ::= <Common Header>
                           <PCE-initiated-lsp-list>
```

Where:

```
<PCE-initiated-lsp-list> ::= <PCE-initiated-lsp-request>
                              [<PCE-initiated-lsp-list>]
```

```
<PCE-initiated-lsp-request> ::=
    (<PCE-initiated-lsp-instantiation>|
     <PCE-initiated-lsp-deletion>)
```

```
<PCE-initiated-lsp-instantiation> ::= <SRP>
                                         <LSP>
                                         [<END-POINTS>]
                                         <ERO>
                                         [<attribute-list>]
                                         [<vendor-info-list>]
```

Where:

```
<vendor-info-list> ::= <VENDOR-INFORMATION>
                        [<vendor-info-list>]
```

<PCE-initiated-lsp-deletion> and <attribute-list> is as per [\[RFC8281\]](#).

A legacy implementation that does not recognize the Vendor Information object will act according to the procedures set out in [\[RFC8231\]](#) and [\[RFC8281\]](#). An implementation that supports the Vendor Information object, but receives one carrying an Enterprise Number that it does not support, SHOULD ignore the object as per [\[RFC7470\]](#).

3. Procedures for the Vendor Information TLV

The Vendor Information TLV can be used to carry vendor-specific information that applies to a specific PCEP object by including the TLV in the object. This includes objects used in stateful PCE extension such as SRP and LSP object. All the procedures as per [section 3 of \[RFC7470\]](#).

4. Vendor Information Object and TLV

[\[RFC7470\]](#) specify the format of VENDOR-INFORMATION Object and VENDOR-INFORMATION-TLV.

5. IANA Considerations

There are no IANA consideration in this document.

6. Security Considerations

The protocol extensions defined in this document do not change the nature of PCEP. Therefore, the security considerations set out in [RFC5440], [RFC7470], [RFC8231] and [RFC8281] apply unchanged.

As stated in [RFC6952], PCEP implementations SHOULD support the TCP-AO [RFC5925] and not use TCP MD5 because of TCP MD5's known vulnerabilities and weakness. PCEP also support Transport Layer Security (TLS) [RFC8253] as per the recommendations and best current practices in [RFC7525].

7. Acknowledgments

Thanks to Avantika, Mahendra Singh Negi, Udayasree Palle and Swapna K for their suggestions.

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