

RTGWG
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Informational
Expires: May 3, 2018

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October 30, 2017

**Requirements for the DataCenter Routing
draft-dt-rtgwg-dcrouting-requirements-00**

Abstract

This document describes list of functional requirments towards a Routing Protocol for Data Center Networks.

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[1.](#) Introduction

It is common to host and build a network of more than tens of thousands of end points inside a data center. Data Center Networks of such size have unique set of requirements with emphasis on scale, convergence, network stability and operational simplicity. Existing or new set of protocols and routing infrastructure needs to be augmented to support higher scale, faster convergence with increased optional simplicity in order to address the requirements of these networks.

This document describes list of functional requirements that are required towards addressing scale, convergence and operational maintenance of such scaled networks. The requirements described in this document can be used to augment existing solutions or used to design a new set of solutions.

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 [\[RFC2119\]](#) only when they appear in all upper case. They may also appear in lower or mixed case as English words, without any normative meaning.

3. Recommended Reading

This document assumes knowledge of existing data center networks and data center network topologies [\[CLOS\]](#), [\[RFC7938\]](#). This document also assumes knowledge of data center routing protocols like BGP [\[RFC4271\]](#), OSPF [\[RFC2328\]](#) and BFD [\[RFC5880\]](#) as well as data center layer 2 link layer protocols like LLDP [\[RFC4957\]](#).

4. Goals and Requirements

Following are general requirements for the Data Center Network Fabric and its Routing Protocols:

- o The Fabric provides basic connectivity, with possibility to carry one or more overlays.
The Fabric provides no domain separation, if needed, to be handled by an overlay.
The Fabric MAY provide interconnect facility for other fabrics.
The Fabric MUST support non equidistant end-points.
- o The Fabric MUST support Spine and Leaf [\[CLOS\]](#) + isomorphic topologies within its network.
The Fabric MAY support non Spine and Leaf topologies
- o The KPI's below are single-dimensional and expected to be changed, as the document progresses, based on more feedback, we ask community to communicate their views. Combination of # of routes vs # of paths vs desired convergence time will be discussed in a later version.

The Fabric SHOULD support 250k routes @ 5k fabric nodes with convergence time below 250ms.
The Fabric SHOULD support 500k routes @ 7.5k fabric nodes with convergence time below 500ms.
The Fabric SHOULD support 1M routes @ 10k fabric nodes with convergence time below 1s.
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST support load balancing using ECMP, wECMP and UCMP.

The Fabric routing protocol MAY support any custom or adaptive load balancing algorithms.

The Fabric routing protocol MUST support and provide facility for topology-specific algorithms that enable correct operations in that specific topology.

- o The Fabric routing protocol SHOULD support route scale and convergence times of a Fabric mentioned above.
The Fabric routing protocol SHOULD support ECMP as wide as 256 paths.
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST support various address families that covers IP as well as MPLS forwarding.
The Fabric routing protocol MUST support extensions to carry 3rd party data and Opaque data.
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST support Traffic Engineering paths that are host and/or router based paths.
The Fabric routing protocol MUST provide facility to address constituents in an ECMP bundle.
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST support inband as well as out of band management.
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST support Zero Touch Provisioning (ZTP).
The Fabric routing protocol MUST support Neighbor Discovery to facilitate ZTP.
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST be able to leverage BFD [[RFC5880](#)] for neighbor state.
The Fabric routing protocol SHOULD be capable of bootstrapping a BFD session [[RFC5882](#)].
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST be able to support real time state notifications of routes and its neighbors state to facilitate control plane telemetry.
The Fabric routing protocol MUST be able to support on-demand snapshots of protocol state and real time state notifications of routes and its neighbors state to remote node(s) to facilitate control plane telemetry.
- o The Fabric routing protocol MUST be able handle commission/decommission of a node as well as any node restart with a minimal data plane impact.

5. For further study

Following topics have been identified to be studied at a later time:

- o gRPC/THRIFT/similar encodings.
- o Ability to function as an overlay.
- o Flowlets signaling.
- o Multicast.
- o State representation NB.
- o Integration with PCE/SDNc.

6. Network Topologies

7. IANA Considerations

8. Security Considerations

This document describes list of functional requirements towards a routing protocol for Data Center Networks. It does not raise any security concerns or issues in addition to ones common to a routing protocol for Data Center Networks.

9. Acknowledgements

10. Change Log

Initial Version: October 31 2017

11. References

11.1. Normative References

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