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LISP Control-Plane Multicast Signaling
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Abstract

This document describes an alternate method to signal multicast tree building among xTRs in multicast capable LISP sites. This approach avoids the need to run a multicast routing protocol on the LISP overlay.

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

2. Introduction

The Locator/ID Separation Architecture [[RFC6830](#)] provides a mechanism

to separate out Identification and Location semantics from the current definition of an IP address. By creating two namespaces, an Endpoint ID (EID) namespace used by sites and a Routing Locator (RLOC) namespace used by core routing, the core routing infrastructure can scale by doing topological aggregation of routing information.

Since LISP creates a new namespace, a mapping function must exist to map a site's EID prefixes to its associated locators. For unicast packets, both the source address and destination address must be mapped. For multicast packets, only the source address needs to be mapped. The destination group address doesn't need to be mapped because the semantics of an IPv4 or IPv6 group address are logical in nature and not topology-dependent. Therefore, this specification focuses on the procedures of how to map a source EID address and destination group address of a multicast flow during distribution tree setup and packet delivery.

The LISP Multicast specification [[RFC6831](#)] addresses the following procedures:

1. How a multicast source host in a LISP site sends multicast packets to receivers inside of its site as well as to receivers in other sites that are LISP enabled.
2. How inter-domain (or inter-LISP sites) multicast distribution trees are built and how forwarding of multicast packets leaving a source site toward receivers sites is performed.
3. What protocols are affected and what changes are required to such multicast protocols.
4. How ASM-mode (Any Source Multicast), SSM-mode (Single Source Multicast), and Bidir-mode (Bidirectional Shared Trees) service models will operate.
5. How multicast packet flow will occur for multiple combinations of LISP and non-LISP capable source and receiver sites.

The distribution tree mechanism in [[RFC6831](#)] specifies the use of the PIM multicast routing protocol and how PIM is used between xTRs connecting multicast capable source sites and receiver sites together.

This specification will describe an alternate method for connecting

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multicast capable sites together by using Map-Requests instead of the PIM protocol. The advantages this brings is a single LISP control-plane mechanism used for both unicast and multicast packet flow.

This specification does not describe how (S-EID,G) multicast distribution tree state is built in multicast receiver sites and in multicast source sites. This specification also does not describe how (S-RLOC,G) or (S-RLOC,DG) multicast distribution tree state is built in the core network. This specification defines how (S-EID,G) state is propagated from multicast receiver site resident ETRs to multicast ITRs. This signaling is needed so the (S-EID,G) state can be propagated from the ITR to the source host in the multicast source site.

3. Definition of Terms

Note that all the definitions that apply in [[RFC6831](#)] apply in this specification as well. And the following definitions are specific to this specification.

Join-Request: This is a reference to a Map-Request that allows the joining to a multicast tree by an ETR to an ITR (or PITR) for a given (S-EID,G) entry.

Leave-Request: This is a reference to a Map-Request that allows the leaving from a multicast tree by an ETR to an ITR (or PITR) for a given (S-EID,G) entry.

LISP-RE: RE stands for "Replication Engineering" which is a term used to design algorithms, protocols, and networks to optimize where multicast packet replication is performed in the network.

Unicast Replication: Is the notion of replicating a multicast packet at an ITR (or PITR) by encapsulating it into a unicast packet. That is, the oif-list of a multicast routing table entry can not only have interfaces present for link-layer replication and for multicast encapsulation but also for unicast encapsulation.

Delivery Group: This is the outer packet's (or encapsulating header's) destination address when encapsulating a multicast packet inside of a multicast packet. There is a one-to-one and one-to-many relationship between the inner header's destination group address and the outer header's destination group address. Notation for a delivery group entry is (S-RLOC,DG).

(S-EID,G): This is multicast state notation which is signaled from ETR to ITR in Map-Request messages. 'G' is the group address multicast hosts send and/or join to. 'S-EID' can be a host EID that sends multicast packets. 'S-EID' can be a Rendezvous Point (RP) that resides in the LISP multicast site so (*,G) state can be signaled from ETR to ITR. All of PIM (S,G), (*,G), and (S,G,RP-bit) state can be conveyed via the Multicast Info Type format [[LISP-LCAF](#)] in Map-Request messages.

(S-RLOC,DG): This is multicast state notation which is kept by the multicast core network. An (S-EID,G) packet originated by a multicast source is encapsulated by an ITR (or PITR) which maps the source EID (S-EID) to a source RLOC (S-RLOC) and the destination group address G to a Delivery Group address (DG).

4. Overview

In [RFC6831], there is a two step approach for an ETR to join the distribution tree (S-EID,G) at an ITR where that distribution tree connects to a core distribution tree. In the first step, the ETR must look up which ITR is associated with S-EID. That is performed with a mapping database lookup and having the ETR select an ITR from the list of high priority RLOCs. In the second step, a unicast PIM join must be sent by the ETR to the ITR.

In the design here within, we transmit the join and leave semantic in a Map-Request message. In this case, both the S-EID lookup and the fact the ETR wants to join the distribution tree S-EID for a particular multicast group can be conveyed in one message exchange. The advantages of this are:

1. Less message overhead used for signaling.
2. State signaling comes together in a single message. If an ETR has a map-cache entry for the S-EID, it also knows that the Join for (S-EID,G) reliably made it to the ITR. If there is message loss both pieces of state fate-share the loss.
3. The Map-Reply is used as an acknowledgement where as with unicast PIM Join-Prune messages, they must be sent periodically which may create scalability problems in networks with a lot of multicast state.

Here is the basic procedure that a multicast ETR or multicast PETR uses to convey (S-EID,G) join state to a multicast ITR or multicast PITR:

1. When an ETR creates (S-EID,G) from a site based PIM Join message and the oif-list goes non-empty, a Join-Request is sent. If a map-cache entry exists for S-EID, then the Map-Request is sent to the highest multicast priority RLOC. If a map-cache entry does not exist, the Map-Request is sent to the mapping database system.
2. When a Map-Reply is not returned, the Map-Request is retransmitted. When a Map-Reply is returned, the ETR can be assured that the ITR will replicate packets to the ETR.
3. When unicast replication is performed, no additional action needs to be performed by the ETR.
4. When multicast replication is performed, the ETR must send a PIM

Join message for (S-RL0C,G) or (S-RL0C,DG) into the core as

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specified in [[RFC6831](#)]. See [Section 6](#) for details when ITR unicast and/or multicast replication is done and how it is decided.

An ETR must detect when an ITR has reloaded or cleared its state so that the ETR can resend Join-Requests for all the (S-EID,G) state it has cached. Procedures for how to achieve this will be discussed in future versions of this specification.

Here is the basic procedure a multicast ETR or multicast PETR uses to convey (S-EID,G) leave state to a multicast ITR or multicast PITR:

1. When an ETR (S-EID,G) oif-list state goes empty, a Leave-Request is sent. If a map-cache entry exists for S-EID, then the Map-Request is sent to the highest multicast priority RLOC. If a map-cache entry does not exist, the Map-Request is sent to the mapping database system.
2. When a Map-Reply is not returned, the Map-Request is retransmitted. When a Map-Reply is returned, the ETR can be assured that the ITR will no longer replicate packets to the ETR.
3. When unicast replication is performed, no additional action needs to be performed by the ETR.
4. When multicast replication is performed, the ETR must send a PIM Leave message for (S-RLOC,G) or (S-RLOC,DG) into the core network as specified in [[RFC6831](#)].

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5. Join-Request/Leave-Request Encoding Formats

A Join-Request and Leave-Request are encoded as follows:

- o (S-EID,G) is encoded in the destination EID-prefix field of a Map-Request [[RFC6830](#)].
- o The encoding format of the destination EID-prefix is in LCAF format Type 'Multicast Info' [[LISP-LCAF](#)]. The J-bit and L-bit indicate if the Map-Request is a Join-Request or a Leave-Request, respectively.
- o (S-RLOC,DG) is encoded in the Source EID Address field of the Map-Request. It is also encoded in the same LCAF Type 'Multicast Info'.
- o If S-RLOC is not known, then AFI=0 is encoded in the Source Address field of the LCAF type.
- o If S-RLOC is known, then the RLOC of the ITR is encoded in the Source Address field of the LCAF type.
- o If a Delivery Group is being requested by the ETR, then DG is encoded in the Group Address field of the LCAF type.
- o If a unicast replication is being requested by the ETR, then ETR encodes a unicast RLOC address in the Group Address field of the LCAF type.

A Map-Reply is returned for a Join-Request or a Leave-Request with the following format encoding:

1. The destination EID-prefix encoded in the Map-Request is copied to the EID-record field of the Map-Reply. The address encoding is (S-EID,G). The nonce field is used to match replies with requests.
2. The RLOC-record for the (S-EID,G) EID-record in the Map-Reply is multicast specific replication information the ITR is conveying to the ETR. It can be (ITR-RLOC,DG) or (ITR-RLOC,ETR-RLOC). It is encoded as a "Multicast Info" LCAF [[LISP-LCAF](#)] as well.
3. When the ETR requested unicast replication, then the returned RLOC-record contains (ITR-RLOC,ETR-RLOC)
4. When the ETR requested a DG for multicast replication, then the returned RLOC-record contains (ITR-RLOC,DG).

5. When the ITR overrides a requested (ITR-RLOC,ETR-RLOC) with a returned (ITR-RLOC,DG), then the ETR must send a join (or leave) for (ITR-RLOC,DG) into the core network.
6. When the ITR overrides a join-requested (ITR-RLOC,DG1) with a returned value of (ITR-RLOC,DG2), then the ETR must send a Join-Request for (ITR-RLOC,DG2) and send a Leave-Request for (ITR-RLOC,DG1) into the core network.
7. When the ITR with RLOC 'RLOC-ITR1' returns (RLOC-ITR2,DG) in a Map-Reply, the ETR must send a Join-Request to RLOC-ITR2 and send
a Leave-Request to RLOC-ITR1 for (RLOC-ITR1,DG). Same action is performed when (RLOC-ITR2,ETR-RLOC) is returned for a join-requested value of (RLOC-ITR1,ETR-RLOC).

6. Replication Considerations

When an ITR processes a received multicast packet sourced by a host in its site, the oif-list for the (S-EID,G) entry it maintains can have the following entries:

1. An interface entry that leads to multicast receivers inside of the site.
2. An encapsulation entry that can be targeted to a Delivery Group or a unicast RLOC. The Delivery Group can either be the same or map from the group address of the packet originated by the multicast source host.

The oif-list entries can be created by the signaling mechanisms defined in [[RFC6831](#)] using the PIM protocol or by the signaling mechanisms in this specification using Map-Requests.

Another option is to have an external orchestration system program the mapping database explicitly so ETR signaling to the ITR can be reduced or even eliminated. Also by the use of Explicit-Locator-Paths (ELPs) [[LISP-TE](#)], LISP-RE capabilities can be explored. For more details see [[LISP-RE](#)].

Since an oif-list can contain either a Delivery Group or a unicast RLOC as a destination address for the outer header, a question is raised where the decision is made to use one or the other, or both.

It is desirable to use multicast routing in the core network where it is available. However, if ETRs are attached to a multicast capable core network, the ITR may not be. In this case, unicast RLOC encapsulation will be necessary to deliver multicast packets directly to the ETR. It will left to the network administrator to configure the decision on Delivery Group versus unicast RLOCs is done by the ETRs, the ITR, or an orchestration system directly programming the mapping database. This specification allows and permits for the ETR to request the encapsulation destination address as well as allowing the ITR to override it.

7. Interworking Considerations

The Map-Request multicast signaling between ETR(s) and an ITR described in this specification is also used by ETR(s) to multicast PITRs which are deployed to support non-LISP multicast source sites. This is true for multicast PETRs that signal to an ITR or mPITR which support non-LISP multicast receiver sites.

8. Security Considerations

The security concerns for LISP multicast are mainly the same as for the base LISP specification [[RFC6830](#)] and the LISP multicast specification [[RFC6831](#)], including PIM-ASM [[RFC4601](#)].

Where there are security concerns with respect to unicast PIM messages, as discussed in [[RFC6831](#)], the same may also be true for multicast signaling with Map-Request messages.

9. IANA Considerations

At this time there are no requests for IANA.

10. References

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[Appendix A](#). Acknowledgments

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Appendix B. Document Change Log

B.1. Changes to [draft-farinacci-lisp-mr-signaling-04.txt](#)

- o Posted March 2014.
- o Fixed titled "Join-Request/Leave-Request Encoding Formats" based on comments from Florin.

B.2. Changes to [draft-farinacci-lisp-mr-signaling-03.txt](#)

- o Posted September 2013.
- o Add clarificaiton text through out to reflect comments from Noel Chiappa.

B.3. Changes to [draft-farinacci-lisp-mr-signaling-02.txt](#)

- o Refreshing references and document timer.

B.4. Changes to [draft-farinacci-lisp-mr-signaling-01.txt](#)

- o Refreshing references and document timer.

B.5. Changes to [draft-farinacci-lisp-mr-signaling-00.txt](#)

- o Initial draft posted July 2012.

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