

Link State Routing  
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Update to OSPF Terminology  
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## Abstract

This document updates some OSPF terminology to be in line with inclusive language used in the industry.

This document updates [RFC2328](#) and [RFC5340](#).

## Status of This Memo

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## [1.](#) Introduction

This document updates some OSPF terminology to be in line with inclusive language used in the industry.

This document updates [[RFC2328](#)] and [[RFC5340](#)].

## [2.](#) Update to [RFC2328](#)

The base OSPFv2 specification [[RFC2328](#)] defines the synchronization of databases as two routers forming a "master/slave relationship". All instances of these terms are replaced by leader/follower, respectively.

The Master (MS) bit in the database description packet is renamed the Leader (L) bit.

The operation of OSPFv2 is not modified. The Leader/Follower terminology and Leader (L) Bit definition changes impact the following sections: 7.2 "The Synchronization of Databases", 10 "The

Neighbor Data Structures", 10.1 "Neighbor states", 10.2 "Events causing neighbor state changes", 10.6 "Receiving Database Description Packets", 10.8 "Sending Database Description Packets", 10.10 "An Example", and A.3.3 "The Database Description packet".

### [3.](#) Update to [RFC5340](#)

The base OSPFv3 specification [[RFC5340](#)] defines the database description process between two routers as one being "designated to be the master and the other is the slave". All instances of these terms are replaced by leader/follower, respectively.

The Master/Slave (MS) bit in the database description packet is renamed the Leader (L) bit.

The operation of OSPFv3 is not modified. The Leader/Follower terminology and Leader (L) Bit definition changes impact section A.3.3 "The Database Description packet".

### [4.](#) Other RFCs With References

The following OSPF RFCs also have references to the legacy terminology.

- \* [RFC 4222](#) - Prioritized Treatment of Specific OSPF Version 2 Packets and Congestion Avoidance (BCP) [[RFC4222](#)]
- \* [RFC 5243](#) - OSPF Database Exchange Summary List Optimization (Informational) [[RFC5243](#)]
- \* [RFC 4811](#) - OSPF Out-of-Band Link State Database (LSDB) Resynchronization (Experimental) [[RFC4811](#)]
- \* [RFC 5243](#) - OSPF Database Exchange Summary List Optimization (Informational) [[RFC5243](#)]
- \* [RFC 5614](#) - Mobile Ad Hoc Network (MANET) Extension of OSPF Using Connected Dominating Set (CDS) Flooding (Experimental) [[RFC5614](#)]
- \* [RFC 5838](#) - Support of Address Families in OSPFv3 (Standards Track) [[RFC5838](#)]

Some of these will be updated by this document. The final set is TBD.

## 5. Acknowledgements

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## 6. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to rename bit 0x01 in the "Database Description (DD) Packet Flags" registry to "Leader (L-bit)" and to add a reference to this document.

## 7. Security Considerations

This document updates the terminology used in OSPFv2 [[RFC2328](#)] and OSPFv3 [[RFC5340](#)] without any modification to the specification of the protocol. As such, the security characteristics of OSPF do not change.

## 8. References

### 8.1. Normative References

[RFC2328] Moy, J., "OSPF Version 2", STD 54, [RFC 2328](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC2328, April 1998, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2328>>.

[RFC5340] Coltun, R., Ferguson, D., Moy, J., and A. Lindem, "OSPF for IPv6", [RFC 5340](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5340, July 2008, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5340>>.

### 8.2. Informative References

[RFC4222] Choudhury, G., Ed., "Prioritized Treatment of Specific OSPF Version 2 Packets and Congestion Avoidance", [BCP 112](#),

[RFC 4222](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4222, October 2005,  
<<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4222>>.

[RFC4811] Nguyen, L., Roy, A., and A. Zinin, "OSPF Out-of-Band Link State Database (LSDB) Resynchronization", [RFC 4811](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4811, March 2007,  
<<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4811>>.

[RFC5243] Ogier, R., "OSPF Database Exchange Summary List Optimization", [RFC 5243](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5243, May 2008,  
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[RFC5614] Ogier, R. and P. Spagnolo, "Mobile Ad Hoc Network (MANET) Extension of OSPF Using Connected Dominating Set (CDS) Flooding", [RFC 5614](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5614, August 2009,  
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[RFC5838] Lindem, A., Ed., Mirtorabi, S., Roy, A., Barnes, M., and R. Aggarwal, "Support of Address Families in OSPFv3", [RFC 5838](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5838, April 2010,  
<<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5838>>.

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