

Network Working Group	P. Francis	
Internet-Draft	MPI-SWS	
Intended status: BCP	X. Xu	
Expires: August 15, 2009	Huawei	
	February 11, 2009	

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## **MPLS Tunnels for Virtual Aggregation** **draft-francis-va-tunnels-mpls-00.txt**

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### **Abstract**

The document "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation" [[I-D.francis-intra-va](#)] (Francis, P., Xu, X., and H. Ballani, "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation," February 2009.) describes how FIB size may be reduced. The latest revision of that draft refers generically to tunnels, and leaves it to other documents to define the usage and signaling methods for specific tunnel types. This document

provides those definitions for MPLS Label Switched Paths (LSP), without tag stacking.

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## 1. Introduction

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This document specifies how to use and signal the tunnels required by [\[I-D.francis-intra-va\]](#) (Francis, P., Xu, X., and H. Ballani, "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation," February 2009.), "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation", for MPLS. This document is limited to MPLS without tag stacking. This document adopts the terminology of [\[I-D.francis-intra-va\]](#) (Francis, P., Xu, X., and H. Ballani, "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation," February 2009.). This document covers the behavior for both VA routers and legacy routers.

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### 1.1. Requirements notation

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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 [\[RFC2119\]](#) (Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels," March 1997.).

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## 2. Tunneling Requirements

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According to [\[I-D.francis-intra-va\]](#) (Francis, P., Xu, X., and H. Ballani, "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation," February 2009.), VA has the following tunnel-related requirements. The requirement

numbers here (R1 - R5) are cited by [\[I-D.francis-intra-val\] \(Francis, P., Xu, X., and H. Ballani, "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation," February 2009.\)](#).

- R1:** Legacy routers and APRs must be able to detunnel packets addressed to themselves at their BGP NEXT\_HOP address. They must be able to signal the tunnel information needed by other routers to initiate these tunneled packets.
- R2:** Border VA routers must be able to detunnel packets targeted to neighboring remote ASBRs. They must be able to forward these packets to the targeted remote ASBR without doing a FIB lookup. They must be able to signal the tunnel information needed by other routers to initiate these tunneled packets.
- R3:** VA routers must be able to initiate tunneled packets targeted to any BGP NEXT\_HOP address (i.e. those for APRs, legacy routers, or remote ASBRs).
- R4:** Legacy routers may optionally be able to initiate tunneled packets targeted to any BGP NEXT\_HOP address (i.e. those for APRs, legacy routers, or remote ASBRs). The MPLS tunnels defined in this document allow this capability.
- R5:** All routers must be able to forward all tunneled packets.

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### 3. Tunneling Specification for MPLS

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VA utilizes a straight-forward application of MPLS. The tunnels are MPLS Label Switched Paths (LSP), and are signaled using either the Label Distribution Protocol (LDP) [\[RFC5036\] \(Andersson, L., Minei, I., and B. Thomas, "LDP Specification," October 2007.\)](#). (Note that usage of RSVP-TE [\[RFC3209\] \(Awduche, D., Berger, L., Gan, D., Li, T., Srinivasan, V., and G. Swallow, "RSVP-TE: Extensions to RSVP for LSP Tunnels," December 2001.\)](#) to signal these tunnels, in particular the scalability of configuring so many tunnels, is for further study.) All routers (VA and legacy alike) must run LDP, as required by R5. A legacy router that cannot run LDP and initiate LSPs terminating at itself cannot participate in a VA domain.

Requirements R1 and R2 require that routers initiate tunnels. This is done by importing the full BGP NEXT\_HOP address (/32 if IPv4, /128 if IPv6) into the IGP (i.e. OSPF [\[RFC2328\] \(Moy, J., "OSPF Version 2," April 1998.\)](#)), and initiating Downstream Unsolicited tunnels to all IGP neighbors with the full BGP NEXT\_HOP address as the Forwarding Equivalence Class (FEC).

Note that in the case of requirement R2, the BGP NEXT\_HOP address is that of the remote ASBR, not that of the router that is initiating the LSP (i.e. the local ASBR VA router). Strictly speaking, this is non-standard behavior---normally it is the router owning the FEC address that initiates signaling. Nevertheless routers can employ existing Penultimate Hop Popping (PHP) mechanisms in the data plane for forwarding packets to remote ASBRs.

Requirements R3 and R4 should naturally be satisfied through normal MPLS usage. In other words, the LSP to the BGP NEXT\_HOP address should automatically be the preferred method to routing the packet towards the BGP NEXT\_HOP address.

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#### 4. IANA Considerations

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There are no IANA considerations.

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#### 5. Security Considerations

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Because this document describes a (near) standard application of intra-domain MPLS, there are no new security considerations beyond those already described in [\[I-D.francis-intra-va\] \(Francis, P., Xu, X., and H. Ballani, "FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation," February 2009.\)](#).

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#### 6. Normative References

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[I-D.francis-intra-va]	Francis, P., Xu, X., and H. Ballani, " <a href="#">FIB Suppression with Virtual Aggregation</a> ," draft-francis-intra-va-00 (work in progress), February 2009 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ).
[RFC2119]	<a href="#">Bradner, S.</a> , " <a href="#">Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels</a> ," BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> , <a href="#">HTML</a> , <a href="#">XML</a> ).
[RFC2328]	<a href="#">Moy, J.</a> , " <a href="#">OSPF Version 2</a> ," STD 54, RFC 2328, April 1998 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> , <a href="#">XML</a> ).
[RFC3209]	Awduche, D., Berger, L., Gan, D., Li, T., Srinivasan, V., and G. Swallow, " <a href="#">RSVP-TE: Extensions to RSVP for LSP Tunnels</a> ," RFC 3209, December 2001 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ).
[RFC5036]	Andersson, L., Minei, I., and B. Thomas, " <a href="#">LDP Specification</a> ," RFC 5036, October 2007 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ).

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