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Authors: S. Boutros, Ed. A. Sajassi J. Drake
 Ciena Cisco Systems Juniper Networks
 J. Rabadan S. Aldrin
 Nokia Google
EVPN control plane for Geneve

Abstract

This document describes how Ethernet VPN (EVPN) control plane can be used with Network Virtualization Overlay over Layer 3 (NV03) Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation (Geneve) encapsulation for NV03 solutions.

EVPN control plane can also be used by Network Virtualization Edges (NVEs) to express Geneve tunnel option TLV(s) supported in the transmission and/or reception of Geneve encapsulated data packets.

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1. Introduction

The Network Virtualization over Layer 3 (NV03) solutions for network virtualization in data center (DC) environment are based on an IP-based underlay. An NV03 solution provides layer 2 and/or layer 3 overlay services for virtual networks enabling multi-tenancy and workload mobility. The NV03 working group has evaluated different dataplane encapsulations. The Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation [[RFC8926](#)] has been recently recommended to be the proposed standard for NV03 encapsulation.

This document describes how the EVPN control plane can signal Geneve encapsulation type in the BGP Tunnel Encapsulation Extended Community defined in [[RFC9012](#)]. In addition, this document defines how to communicate the Geneve tunnel option types in a new BGP Tunnel Encapsulation Attribute sub-TLV. The Geneve tunnel options are encapsulated as TLVs after the Geneve base header in the Geneve packet as described in [[RFC8926](#)].

[[I-D.ietf-nvo3-encap](#)] recommends that a control plane determine how Network Virtualization Edges (NVEs) use the Geneve option TLVs when sending/receiving packets. In particular, the control plane negotiates the subset of option TLVs supported, their order and the total number of option TLVs allowed in the packets. This negotiation capability allows, for example, interoperability with hardware-based NVEs that can process fewer options than software-based NVEs.

This EVPN control plane extension will allow an NVE to express what Geneve option TLV types it is capable of receiving, or sending over the Geneve tunnel with its peers.

In the datapath, a transmitting NVE MUST NOT encapsulate a packet destined to another NVE with any option TLV(s) the receiving NVE is not capable of processing.

2. Terminology

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](#)].

3. Abbreviations and Terminology

NV03: Network Virtualization Overlays over Layer 3

Geneve: Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation.

NVE: Network Virtualization Edge.

VNI: Virtual Network Identifier.

MAC: Media Access Control.

OAM: Operations, Administration and Maintenance.

PE: Provide Edge Node.

CE: Customer Edge device e.g., host or router or switch.

EVPN: Ethernet VPN.

ES: Ethernet segment.

ESI: Ethernet Segment Identifier.

EVI: An EVPN instance spanning the Provider Edge (PE) devices participating in that EVPN.

MAC-VRF: A Virtual Routing and Forwarding table for Media Access Control (MAC) addresses on a PE.

4. Geneve extension

This document adds an extension to the [[RFC8926](#)] encapsulation that is relevant to the operation of EVPN.

4.1. Ethernet option TLV

[RFC8365] describes when an ingress NVE uses ingress replication to flood unknown unicast traffic to the egress NVEs, the ingress NVE needs to indicate to the egress NVE that the Encapsulated packet is a BUM packet. This is required to avoid transient packet duplication in all-active multi-homing scenarios. For Geneve, we need a bit for this purpose.

[RFC8317] uses MPLS label for leaf indication of BUM traffic originated from a leaf attachment circuit (AC) in an ingress NVE so that the egress NVEs can filter BUM traffic toward their leaf ACs. For Geneve, we need a bit for this purpose.

Although the default mechanism for split-horizon filtering of BUM traffic on an Ethernet segment for IP-based encapsulations such as VxLAN, GPE, NVGRE, and Geneve, is local-bias as defined in section 8.3.1 of [RFC8365], there can be an incentive to leverage the same split-horizon filtering mechanism of [RFC7432] that uses a 20-bit MPLS label so that a) the a single filtering mechanism is used for all encapsulation types and b) the same PE can participate in a mix of MPLS and IP encapsulations. For this purpose a 20-bit label field MAY be defined for Geneve encapsulation. The support for this label is optional.

If an NVE wants to use local-bias procedure, then it sends the new option TLV without ESI-label (e.g., length=4):

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Option Class=Ethernet      |Typ=EVPN-OPTION|B|L|R| Len=0x1 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
```

Figure 1: Ethernet Option TLV without ESI label

If an NVE wants to use ESI-label, then it sends the new option TLV with ESI-label (e.g., length=8)

```

0                               1                               2                               3
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Option Class=Ethernet      |Typ=EVPN-OPTION|B|L|R| Len=0x2 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|      Rsvd      |      Source-ID      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
```

Figure 2: Ethernet Option TLV with ESI label

Where:

- Option Class is set to Ethernet (new Option Class requested to IANA)
- Type is set to EVPN-OPTION (new type requested to IANA) and C bit must be set.
- B bit is set to 1 for BUM traffic.
- L bit is set to 1 for Leaf-Indication.
- R bit is set to 1 for Root-Indication.
- Source-ID is a 24-bit value that encodes the ESI-label value signaled on the EVPN Autodiscovery per-ES routes, as described in [\[RFC7432\]](#) for multi-homing and [\[RFC8317\]](#) for leaf-to-leaf BUM filtering. The ESI-label value is encoded in the high-order 20 bits of the Source-ID field.

The egress NVEs that make use of ESIs in the data path because they have a local multi-homed ES or support [\[RFC8317\]](#) SHOULD advertise their Ethernet A-D per-ES routes along with the Geneve tunnel sub-TLV in addition to the ESI-label Extended Community. The ingress NVE can then use the Ethernet option-TLV when sending Geneve packets based on the [\[RFC7432\]](#) and [\[RFC8317\]](#) procedures. The egress NVE will use the Source-ID field in the received packets to make filtering decisions.

Note that [\[RFC8365\]](#) modifies the [\[RFC7432\]](#) split-horizon procedures for NVO3 tunnels using the "local-bias" procedure. "Local-bias" relies on tunnel IP source address checks (instead of ESI-labels) to determine whether a packet can be forwarded to a local ES.

While "local-bias" MUST be supported along with Geneve encapsulation, the use of the Ethernet option-TLV is RECOMMENDED to follow the same procedures used by EVPN MPLS.

An ingress NVE using ingress replication to flood BUM traffic MUST send B=1 in all the Geneve packets that encapsulate BUM frames. An egress NVE SHOULD determine whether a received packet encapsulates a BUM frame based on the B bit. The use of the B bit is only relevant to Geneve packets with Protocol Type 0x6558 (Bridged Ethernet).

5. BGP Extensions

As per [\[RFC8365\]](#) the BGP Encapsulation extended community defined in [\[RFC9012\]](#) is included with all EVPN routes advertised by an egress NVE.

This document specifies a new BGP Tunnel Encapsulation Type for Geneve and a new Geneve tunnel option types sub-TLV as described below.

5.1. Geneve Tunnel Option Types sub-TLV

The Geneve tunnel option types is a new BGP Tunnel Encapsulation Attribute Sub-TLV.

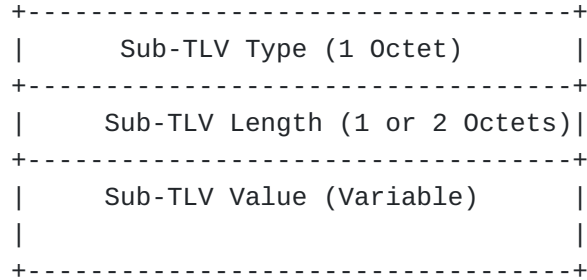


Figure 3: Geneve tunnel option types sub-TLV

The Sub-TLV Type field contains a value in the range from 192-252. To be allocated by IANA.

Sub-TLV value MUST match exactly the first 4-octets of the option TLV format. For instance, if we need to signal support for two option TLVs:

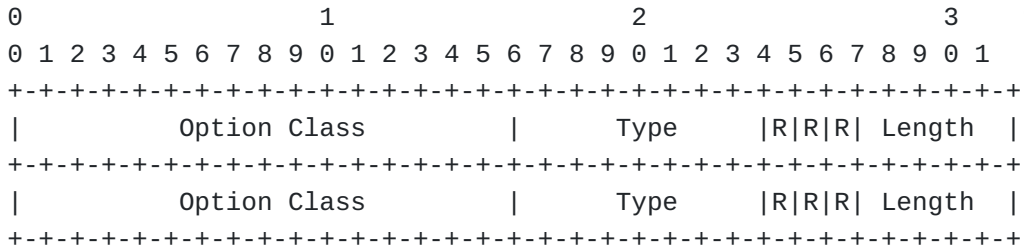


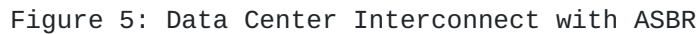
Figure 4: Geneve Option TLVs

An NVE receiving the above sub-TLV, MUST send Geneve packets to the originator NVE with only the option TLVs the receiver NVE is capable of receiving, and following the same order.

The above sub-TLV(s) MAY be included with only Ethernet A-D per-ES routes.

6. Operation

The following figure shows an example of an NV03 deployment with EVPN.



The mechanisms in this document use EVPN control plane as defined in [RFC7432]. Security considerations described in [RFC7432] are equally applicable.

This document uses IP-based tunnel technologies to support data plane transport. Security considerations described in [RFC7432] and in [RFC8365] are equally applicable.

8. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to allocate the following:

BGP Tunnel Encapsulation Attribute
Tunnel Type:

XX Geneve Encapsulation

BGP Tunnel Encapsulation Attribute Sub-TLVs a Code point from the range of 192-252 for Geneve tunnel option types sub-TLV.

IANA is requested to assign a new option class from the "Geneve Option Class" registry for the Ethernet option TLV.

Option Class	Description
-----	-----
XXXX	Ethernet option

IANA is requested to allocate a new option type EVPN-OPTION for the Etherne option Class.

9. Acknowledgements

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Authors' Addresses

Sami Boutros (editor)
Ciena
United States of America

Email: sboutros@ciena.com

Ali Sajassi
Cisco Systems
United States of America

Email: sajassi@cisco.com

John Drake
Juniper Networks
United States of America

Email: jdrake@juniper.net

Jorge Rabadan
Nokia
United States of America

Email: jorge.rabadan@nokia.com

Sam Aldrin
Google
United States of America

Email: aldrin.ietf@gmail.com