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BGP Link-State extensions for BIER
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Abstract

Bit Index Explicit Replication (BIER) is an architecture that provides optimal multicast forwarding through a "BIER domain" without requiring intermediate routers to maintain any multicast related per-flow state. BIER also does not require any explicit tree-building protocol for its operation. A multicast data packet enters a BIER domain at a "Bit-Forwarding Ingress Router" (BFIR), and leaves the BIER domain at one or more "Bit-Forwarding Egress Routers" (BFERs). The BFIR router adds a BIER header to the packet. The BIER header contains a bitstring in which each bit represents exactly one BFER to forward the packet to. The set of BFERs to which the multicast packet needs to be forwarded is expressed by setting the bits that correspond to those routers in the BIER header.

This document specifies extensions to the BGP Link-state address-family in order to advertise BIER information.

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[1. Introduction](#)

Bit Index Explicit Replication (BIER) is an architecture that provides optimal multicast forwarding through a "BIER domain" without requiring intermediate routers to maintain any multicast related per-flow state. BIER also does not require any explicit tree-building protocol for its operation. A multicast data packet enters a BIER domain at a "Bit-Forwarding Ingress Router" (BFIR), and leaves the BIER domain at one or more "Bit-Forwarding Egress Routers" (BFERs). The BFIR router adds a BIER header to the packet. The BIER header contains a bitstring in which each bit represents exactly one BFER to forward the packet to. The set of BFERs to which the multicast packet needs to be forwarded is expressed by setting the bits that correspond to those routers in the BIER header.

When BIER is enabled in an IGP domain, BIER-related information will be advertised via IGP link-state routing protocols. IGP extensions

are described in: ISIS[[[RFC8401](#)]], OSPFv2[[[RFC8444](#)]] and OSPFv3[[[I-D.ietf-bier-ospfv3-extensions](#)]]. The contents of a Link State Database (LSDB) or of an IGP's Traffic Engineering Database (TED) has the scope of an IGP area and therefore, by using the IGP alone it is not enough to construct segments across multiple IGP Area or AS boundaries.

In order to satisfy the need for applications that require topological visibility across one area or Autonomous System (AS). This document specifies extensions to the BGP Link-state address-family in order to advertise BIER-specific. An external component (e.g., a controller) then can collect BIER information in the "northbound" direction within the BIER domain.

2. Conventions used in this document

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. BGP-LS Extensions for BIER

[RFC8279] defines the BFR - A router that supports BIER is known as a "Bit-Forwarding Router"(BFR), and each BFR MUST be assigned a "BFR-Prefix". A BFR's BFR-Prefix MUST be an IP address (either IPv4 or IPv6) of the BFR, and MUST be unique and routable within the BIER domain as described in [section 2 of \[RFC8279\]](#), and then external component (e.g., a controller) need to collect BIER information of BIER routers are associated with the BFR-Prefix in the "northbound" direction within the BIER domain.

Given that the BIER information is associated with the prefix, the Prefix Attribute TLV [[RFC7752](#)] can be used to carry the BIER information. A new Prefix Attribute TLVs are defined for the encoding of BIER information.

3.1. Prefix Attributes TLVs

The following Prefix Attribute TLVs are defined:

Type	Description	Section
TBD	BIER information	Section 3.1.1
TBD	BIER MPLS Encapsulation	Section 3.1.2

Table 1: The new Prefix Attribute TLVs

[3.1.1](#). The BIER information TLV

A new Prefix Attribute TLV (defined in [\[RFC7752\]](#) is defined for distributing BIER information. The new TLV is called the BIER TLV. The BIER information TLVs may appear multiple times.

The following BIER information TLV is defined:

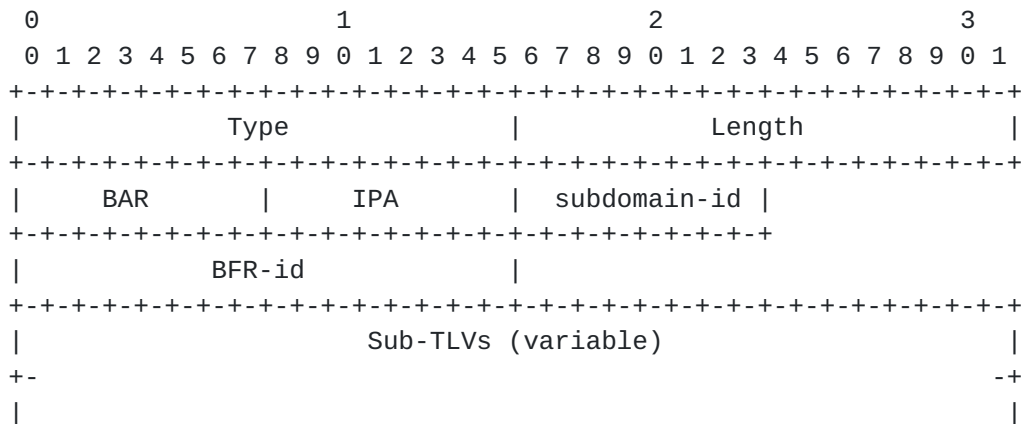


Figure 2: The BIER information TLV

Type: 2 octet field with value TBD, see IANA Considerations section.

Length: 2 octet.

Reserved: MUST be 0 on transmission, ignored on reception. May be used in future versions.

BAR: A 1 octet field encoding the BIER Algorithm, used to calculate underlay paths to reach BFERs. Values are allocated from the "BIER Algorithms" registry which is defined in [\[RFC8401\]](#).

IPA: A 1 octet field encoding the IGP Algorithm, used to either modify, enhance, or replace the calculation of underlay paths to reach

BFRs as defined by the BAR value. Values are from the IGP Algorithm registry.

Subdomain-id: Unique value identifying the BIER sub-domain, 1 octet.

MT-ID: Multi-Topology ID that identifies the topology that is associated with the BIER sub-domain. 1 octet.

BFR-id: A 2 octet field encoding the BFR-id, as documented in [\[RFC8279\]](#). If the BFR-id is zero, it means, the advertising router is not advertising any BIER-id. In some environment, BFR-id can be configured by NMS, The BFR-id should be sent to a controller.

BS Length: A 1 octet field encoding the Bitstring length as per [\[RFC8296\]](#).

If the MT-ID value is outside of the values specified in [\[RFC4915\]](#), the BIER Sub-TLV MUST be ignored.

3.1.2. The BIER MPLS Encapsulation TLV

The BIER MPLS Encapsulation TLV is used in order to advertise MPLS specific information used for BIER. It MAY appear multiple times.

In some environment, each router allocates its labels, and advertises it to the controller. That solution is simpler as the controller does not need to deal with label allocation. If the controller has to deal with Label allocation, there needs to be a (global) range carved out such there are no conflicts. We can avoid all that by having the router allocate the BIER Label range and advertise it to the controller.

The following the BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-TLV is defined:

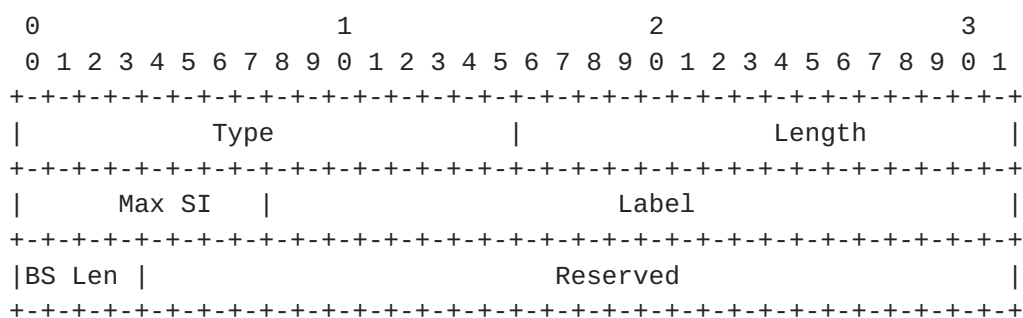


Figure 3: The BIER MPLS Encapsulation TLV

Type: 2 octet field with value TBD, see IANA Considerations section.

Length: 2 octet.

Max SI: A 1 octet field encoding the maximum Set Identifier(as defined in [[RFC8279](#)]), used in the encapsulation for this BIER subdomain for this BitString length.

Label: A 3 octet field, where the 20 rightmost bits represent the first label in the label range.

BS Length: A 1 octet field encoding the Bitstring length as per [[RFC8296](#)]

BS length in multiple BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-TLV inside the same BIER Sub-TLV MUST NOT repeat, otherwise only the first BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-TLV with such BS length MUST be used and any subsequent BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-TLVs with the same BS length MUST be ignored.

4. Equivalent IS-IS BIER TLVs/Sub-TLVs

This section illustrate the BIER TLVs mapped to the ones defined in this document.

The following table, illustrates for each BGP-LS TLV, its equivalence in IS-IS.

+-----+-----+-----		
+ +-----+-----+-----	Description	IS-IS TLV /Sub-TLV
		Reference
+ +-----+-----+-----	BIER information	BIER Info Sub-TLV [RFC8401]
+ +-----+-----+-----	BIER MPLS Encapsulation	BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-Sub-TLV [RFC8401]
+ +-----+-----+-----		

Table 2: IS-IS BIER Sub-TLVs/Sub-Sub-TLVs

5. Equivalent OSPFv2/OSPFV3 BIER TLVs/Sub-TLVs

This section illustrate the BIER TLVs mapped to the ones defined in this document.

The following table, illustrates for each BGP-LS TLV, its equivalence in OSPFv2/OSPFV3.

+-----+-----+-----+		
+ Descriptio OSPFv2/OSPFV3 sub-TLV Reference		
+ n /Sub-Sub-TLV		
+-----+-----+-----+		
+ BIER BIER Sub-TLV [RFC8444] &		
+ information [I-D. ietf-bier-ospfv3-extensions		
+		
+ BIER MPLS BIER MPLS Encapsulation [RFC8444]&		
+ Encapsulation Sub-TLV [I-D. ietf-bier-ospfv3-extensions		
+-----+-----+-----+		
+		

Table 3: OSPFv2/OSPFV3 BIER TLVs/Sub-TLVs

6. IANA Considerations

This document requests assigning code-points from the registry for the new Prefix Attribute TLVs.

+-----+-----+-----+			
+ TLV Code Point Description Value defined			
+-----+-----+-----+			
+ TBD BIER information this document			
+-----+-----+-----+			
+ TBD BIER MPLS Encapsulation this document			
+-----+-----+-----+			

Table 4: The new Prefix Attribute TLV

7. Security Considerations

Procedures and protocol extensions defined in this document do not affect the BGP security model. See the "Security Considerations" section of [[RFC4271](#)] for a discussion of BGP security. Also, refer to [[RFC4272](#)] and [[RFC6952](#)] for analyses of security issues for BGP. Security considerations for acquiring and distributing BGP-LS information are discussed in [[RFC7752](#)].

The TLVs introduced in this document are used to propagate the Bit Index Explicit Replication (BIER) defined in [\[\[RFC8401\]\]](#), [\[\[RFC8444\]\]](#) and [\[\[I-D.ietf-bier-ospfv3-extensions\]\]](#). These TLVs represent the bier information associated with the prefix. It is assumed that the IGP instances originating these TLVs will support all the required security and authentication mechanisms in [\[\[RFC8401\]\]](#), [\[\[RFC8444\]\]](#) and [\[\[I-D.ietf-bier-ospfv3-extensions\]\]](#) in order to prevent any security issues when propagating the TLVs into BGP-LS. The

advertisement of the link attribute information defined in this document presents no additional risk beyond that associated with the existing link attribute information already supported in [[RFC7752](#)].

8. Acknowledgements

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