

OSPF  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: August 24, 2018

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February 20, 2018

**OSPF Extensions for BIER**  
**draft-ietf-bier-ospf-bier-extensions-13.txt**

**Abstract**

Bit Index Explicit Replication (BIER) is an architecture that provides multicast forwarding through a "BIER domain" without requiring intermediate routers to maintain multicast related per-flow state. Neither does BIER require an 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. Such header contains a bit-string 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 the according set of bits set in BIER packet header.

This document describes the OSPF [[RFC2328](#)] protocol extension required for BIER with MPLS encapsulation.

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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. Neither does BIER explicitly require a 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 bit-string 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.



Type: 9



Length: Variable, dependent on sub-TLVs.

Sub-domain-ID: Unique value identifying the BIER sub-domain within the BIER domain, as described in [section 1 of \[RFC8279\]](#).

MT-ID: Multi-Topology ID (as defined in [\[RFC4915\]](#)) that identifies the topology that is associated with the BIER sub-domain.

BFR-id: A 2 octet field encoding the BFR-id, as documented in [section 2 of \[RFC8279\]](#). If the BFR is not locally configured with a valid BFR-id, the value of this field is set to invalid BFR-id per [\[RFC8279\]](#).

BAR: Single octet BIER Algorithm. 0 is the only supported value defined in this document and represents Shortest Path First (SPF) algorithm based on IGP link metric. This is the standard shortest path algorithm as computed by the OSPF protocol. Other values may be defined in the future.

Each BFR sub-domain MUST be associated with one and only one OSPF topology that is identified by the MT-ID. If the association between BIER sub-domain and OSPF topology advertised in the BIER sub-TLV by other BFRs is in conflict with the association locally configured on the receiving router, the BIER Sub-TLV MUST be ignored.

If a BFR advertises the same Sub-domain-ID in multiple BIER sub-TLVs, the BRF MUST be treated as if it did not advertise a BIER sub-TLV for such sub-domain.

All BFRs MUST detect advertisement of duplicate valid BFR-IDs for a given MT-ID and Sub-domain-ID. When such duplication is detected all BFRs advertising duplicates MUST be treated as if they did not advertise a valid BFR-id.

The supported algorithm MUST be consistent for all routers supporting a given BFR sub-domain. A router receiving BIER Sub-TLV advertisement with a BAR which does not match the locally configured value MUST report a misconfiguration for the given BIER sub-domain and MUST ignore such BIER sub-TLV.

## **[2.2.](#) BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-TLV**

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

The BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-TLV has the following format:









### 2.3. Flooding scope of BIER Information

The flooding scope of the OSPF Extended Prefix Opaque LSA [RFC7684] that is used for advertising the BIER Sub-TLV is set to area-local. To allow BIER deployment in a multi-area environment, OSPF must propagate BIER information between areas.

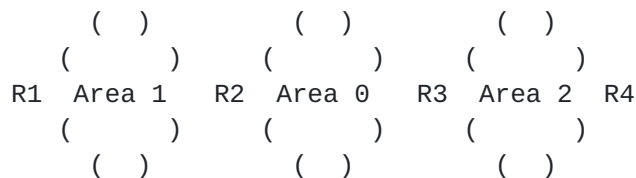


Figure 1: BIER propagation between areas

The following procedure is used in order to propagate BIER related information between areas:

When an OSPF Area Border Router (ABR) advertises a Type-3 Summary LSA from an intra-area or inter-area prefix to all its attached areas, it will also originate an Extended Prefix Opaque LSA, as described in [RFC7684]. The flooding scope of the Extended Prefix Opaque LSA type will be set to area-local. The route-type in the OSPF Extended Prefix TLV is set to inter-area. When determining whether a BIER Sub-TLV should be included in this LSA, an OSPF ABR will:

- Examine its best path to the prefix in the source area and find the advertising router associated with the best path to that prefix.
- Determine if such advertising router advertised a BIER Sub-TLV for the prefix. If yes, the ABR will copy the information from such BIER Sub-TLV when advertising BIER Sub-TLV to each attached area.

In the Figure 1, R1 advertises a prefix 192.0.2.1/32 in Area 1. It also advertises Extended Prefix Opaque LSA for prefix 192.0.2.1/32 and includes BIER Sub-TLV in it. Area Border Router (ABR) R2 calculates the reachability for prefix 192.0.2.1/32 inside Area 1 and propagates it to Area 0. When doing so, it copies the entire BIER Sub-TLV (including all its Sub-TLVs) it received from R1 in Area 1 and includes it in the Extended Prefix Opaque LSA it generates for 192.0.2.1/32 in Area 0. ABR R3 calculates the reachability for prefix 192.0.2.1/32 inside Area 0 and propagates it to Area 2. When doing so, it copies the entire



BIER Sub-TLV (including all its Sub-TLVs) it received from R2 in Area 0 and includes it in the Extended Prefix Opaque LSA it generates for 192.0.2.1/32 in Area 2.

### **3. Security Considerations**

This document introduces new sub-TLVs for existing OSPF Extended Prefix TLV. It does not introduce any new security risks to OSPF. Existing security extensions as described in [RFC2328] and [RFC7684] apply.

It is assumed that both BIER and OSPF layer is under a single administrative domain. There can be deployments where potential attackers have access to one or more networks in the OSPF routing domain. In these deployments, stronger authentication mechanisms such as those specified in [RFC7474] SHOULD be used.

Implementations MUST assure that malformed TLV and Sub-TLV defined in this document are detected and do not provide a vulnerability for attackers to crash the OSPF router or routing process. Reception of malformed TLV or Sub-TLV SHOULD be counted and/or logged for further analysis. Logging of malformed TLVs and Sub-TLVs SHOULD be rate-limited to prevent a Denial of Service (DoS) attack (distributed or otherwise) from overloading the OSPF control plane.

### **4. IANA Considerations**

The document requests three new allocations from the OSPF Extended Prefix sub-TLV registry as defined in [RFC7684].

BIER Sub-TLV: 9

BIER MPLS Encapsulation Sub-TLV: 10

### **5. Acknowledgments**

The authors would like to thank Rajiv Asati, Christian Martin, Greg Shepherd and Eric Rosen for their contribution.

### **6. Normative References**

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