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B. Varga, Ed.  
J. Farkas  
Ericsson  
L. Berger  
LabN Consulting, L.L.C.  
A. Malis  
Malis Consulting  
S. Bryant  
Futurewei Technologies  
May 6, 2020

DetNet Data Plane: MPLS over UDP/IP  
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## Abstract

This document specifies the MPLS Deterministic Networking data plane operation and encapsulation over an IP network. The approach is modeled on the operation of MPLS and over UDP/IP packet switched networks.

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## [1.](#) Introduction

Deterministic Networking (DetNet) is a service that can be offered by a network to DetNet flows. DetNet provides these flows extremely low packet loss rates and assured maximum end-to-end delivery latency. General background and concepts of DetNet can be found in [[RFC8655](#)].

This document specifies use of the MPLS DetNet encapsulation over an IP network. The approach is modeled on the operation of MPLS over an IP Packet Switched Network (PSN) [[RFC7510](#)]. It maps the MPLS data plane encapsulation described in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-mpls](#)] to the DetNet IP data plane defined in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-ip](#)].

To carry DetNet MPLS flows with full functionality at the DetNet layer over an IP network, the following components are required (these are a subset of the requirements for MPLS encapsulation listed in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-mpls](#)]):

1. A method for identifying DetNet flows to the processing element.
2. A method for carrying the DetNet sequence number.

3. A method for distinguishing DetNet OAM packets from DetNet data packets.
4. A method for carrying queuing and forwarding indication.

These requirements are satisfied by the DetNet over MPLS Encapsulation described in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-mpls](#)] and they are partly satisfied (i.e., IP flows can be identified however no DetNet sequence number is carried) by the DetNet IP data plane defined in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-ip](#)]

## [2.](#) Terminology

### [2.1.](#) Terms Used in This Document

This document uses the terminology established in the DetNet architecture [[RFC8655](#)], and the reader is assumed to be familiar with that document and its terminology.

### [2.2.](#) Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this document:

d-CW	A DetNet Control Word (d-CW) is used for sequencing and identifying duplicate packets of a DetNet flow at the DetNet service sub-layer.
DetNet	Deterministic Networking.
A-Label	A special case of an S-Label, whose properties are known only at the aggregation and deaggregation end-points.
F-Label	A Detnet "forwarding" label that identifies the LSP used to forward a DetNet flow across an MPLS PSN, e.g., a hop-by-hop label used between label switching

routers.

MPLS	Multiprotocol Label Switching.
OAM	Operations, Administration, and Maintenance.
PEF	Packet Elimination Function.
POF	Packet Ordering Function.
PREOF	Packet Replication, Elimination and Ordering Functions.

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PRF	Packet Replication Function.
PSN	Packet Switched Network.
S-Label	A DetNet "service" label that is used between DetNet nodes that also implement the DetNet service sub-layer functions. An S-Label is also used to identify a DetNet flow at DetNet service sub-layer.

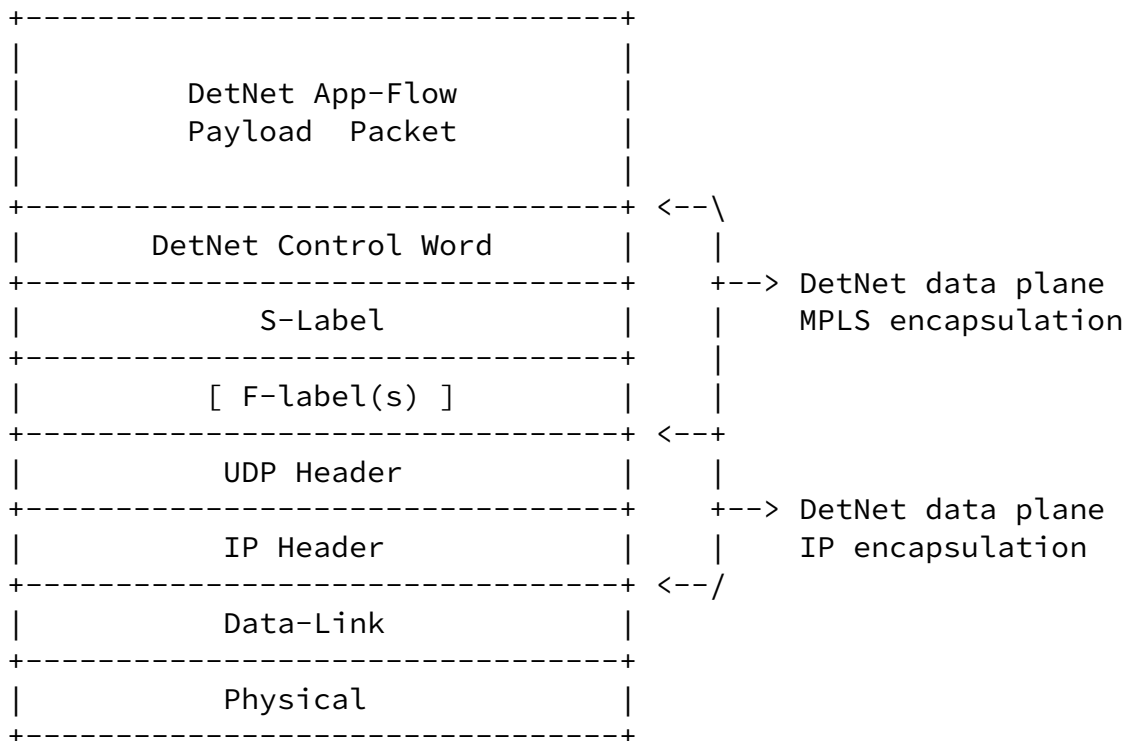
### [2.3.](#) Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

### [3.](#) DetNet MPLS Operation over DetNet IP PSNs

This document builds on the specification of MPLS over UDP defined in [[RFC7510](#)]. It may replace partly or entirely the F-Label(s) used in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-mpls](#)] with UDP and IP headers. The UDP and IP header information is used to identify DetNet flows, including member flows, per [[I-D.ietf-detnet-ip](#)]. The resulting encapsulation is shown in Figure 1. There may be zero or more F-label(s) between the S-label and the UDP header.

Note that this encapsulation works equally well with IPv4, IPv6, and IPv6-based Segment Routing [[I-D.ietf-6man-segment-routing-header](#)].



## Figure 1: UDP/IP Encapsulation of DetNet MPLS

S-Labels, A-Labels (when present), d-CW and zero or more F-Labels are used as defined in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-mpls](#)] and are not modified by this document.

### 4. DetNet Data Plane Procedures

To support outgoing DetNet MPLS over UDP/IP encapsulation, an implementation MUST support the provisioning of UDP and IP header information in addition or in place of F-Label(s). Note, when PRF is performed at the MPLS service sub-layer, there will be multiple member flows, and each member flow will require the provisioning of their own UDP and IP header information. The headers for each outgoing packet MUST be formatted according to the configuration information and as defined in [[RFC7510](#)], and the UDP Source Port value MUST be set to uniquely identify the DetNet flow. The packet MUST then be handled as a DetNet IP packet, per [[I-D.ietf-detnet-ip](#)]. This includes QoS related traffic treatment.

To support the receive processing defined in this document, an implementation MUST also support the provisioning of received UDP and IP header information. The provisioned information MUST be used to identify incoming app-flows based on the combination of S-Label and incoming encapsulation header information. Normal receive processing

as defined in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-mpls](#)], including PEF and POF, can then take place.

As specified in [[RFC7510](#)]: "MPLS-in-UDP MUST NOT be used over the general Internet, or over non-cooperating network operators, to carry traffic that is not congestion controlled."

### 5. Management and Control Information Summary

The following summarizes the set of information that is needed to configure DetNet MPLS over UDP/IP:

- o Label information (A-labels, S-labels and F-labels) to be mapped to UDP/IP flow. Note that for example, a single S-Label can map to multiple sets of UDP/IP information when PREOF is used.

- o IPv4 or IPv6 source address field.
- o IPv4 or IPv6 destination address field.
- o DSCP Field in either IPv4 Type of Service or IPv6 Traffic Class Fields.
- o UDP Source Port.
- o UDP Destination Port.

This information MUST be provisioned per DetNet flow via configuration, e.g., via the controller [[RFC8655](#)] or management plane.

It is the responsibility of the DetNet controller plane to properly provision both flow identification information and the flow specific resources needed to provide the traffic treatment needed to meet each flow's service requirements. This applies for aggregated and individual flows.

## [6.](#) Security Considerations

The solution defined in this document reuses mechanisms specified in other documents, and the security considerations in those documents apply equally to this document. Notably [[RFC7510](#)], as this document is primarily an application of MPLS-in-UDP. Additionally, the security considerations of DetNet in general are discussed in [[RFC8655](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-detnet-security](#)]. Finally, MPLS and IP specific security considerations are described in [[I-D.ietf-detnet-mpls](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-detnet-ip](#)]. This draft does not have additional security considerations.

## [7.](#) IANA Considerations

This document makes no IANA requests.

## [8.](#) Acknowledgements

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## 9. Contributors

This document is derived from an earlier draft that was edited by Jouni Korhonen (jouni.nospam@gmail.com) and as such, he contributed to and authored text in this document.

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#### Authors' Addresses

Balazs Varga (editor)  
Ericsson  
Magyar Tudosok krt. 11.  
Budapest 1117  
Hungary

Email: [balazs.a.varga@ericsson.com](mailto:balazs.a.varga@ericsson.com)

Janos Farkas  
Ericsson  
Magyar Tudosok krt. 11.  
Budapest 1117  
Hungary

Email: [janos.farkas@ericsson.com](mailto:janos.farkas@ericsson.com)

Lou Berger  
LabN Consulting, L.L.C.

Email: [lberger@labn.net](mailto:lberger@labn.net)

Andrew G. Malis  
Malis Consulting

Email: [agmalis@gmail.com](mailto:agmalis@gmail.com)

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Stewart Bryant  
Futurewei Technologies

Email: [stewart.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:stewart.bryant@gmail.com)

