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**Default IPv4 and IPv6 Unicast EBGP Route Propagation Behavior Without
Policies
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Abstract

This document defines the default behavior of a BGP speaker when there is no import or export policy associated with a BGP session for the IPv4 or IPv6 Unicast Address Family.

Requirements Language

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

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1. Introduction

BGP [[RFC4271](#)] speakers have many default settings which need to be revisited as part of improving the routing ecosystem. There is a need to provide guidance to BGP implementers for the default behaviors of a well functioning Internet ecosystem. Routing leaks [[RFC7908](#)] are part of the problem, but software defects and operator misconfigurations are just a few of the attacks on Internet stability we aim to address.

Many BGP speakers send and accept all routes from a peer by default. This practice dates back to the early days of the Internet, where operators were permissive in offering routing information to allow all networks to reach each other. As the Internet has become more densely interconnected, the risk of a misbehaving BGP speaker poses significant risks to Internet routing.

This specification intends to improve this situation by requiring the explicit configuration of a BGP import and export policy for any EBGp speaking session such as customers, peers, or confederation boundaries in a base router or VPN instances. When this solution is implemented, BGP speakers do not accept or send routes without policies configured on EBGp sessions.

2. Solution Requirements

The following requirements for the IPv4 and IPv6 Unicast Address Family apply to the solution described in this document:

- o Software **MUST** consider any routes from an EBGPeer invalid, if no import policy was configured.
- o Software **MUST NOT** advertise any routes to an EBGPeer, if no export policy was configured.
- o Software **SHOULD** provide protection from internal failures preventing the advertisement and acceptance of routes.
- o Software **MUST** operate in this mode by default.
- o Software **MAY** provide a configuration option to disable this security capability.

3. Acknowledgments

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4. Security Considerations

This document addresses the basic security behavior of how a BGP speaker propagates routes in a default configuration without policies. Operators have a need for implementers to address the problem through a behavior change to mitigate against possible attacks from a permissive security behavior. Attacks and inadvertent advertisements cause business impact that can be mitigated by a secure default behavior.

5. IANA Considerations

This document has no actions for IANA.

6. Contributors

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7. References

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[RFC7908] Sriram, K., Montgomery, D., McPherson, D., Osterweil, E., and B. Dickson, "Problem Definition and Classification of BGP Route Leaks", [RFC 7908](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7908, June 2016, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7908>>.

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