

Inter-Domain Routing  
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**Flexible Algorithm Definition Advertisement with BGP Link-State**  
**draft-ietf-idr-bgp-ls-flex-algo-00**

**Abstract**

Flexible Algorithm is a solution that allows routing protocols (viz. OSPF and IS-IS) to compute paths over a network based on user-defined (and hence, flexible) constraints and metrics. The computation is performed by routers participating in the specific network in a distribute manner using a Flex Algorithm definition. This definition provisioned on one or more routers and propagated (viz. OSPF and IS-IS flooding) through the network.

BGP Link-State (BGP-LS) enables the collection of various topology information from the network. This draft defines extensions to BGP-LS address-family to advertise the Flexible Algorithm Definition as a part of the topology information from the network.

**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.

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## [1.](#) Introduction

IGP protocols (OSPF and IS-IS) traditionally compute best paths over the network based on the IGP metric assigned to the links. Many network deployments use RSVP-TE [[RFC3209](#)] based or Segment Routing (SR) Policy [[I-D.ietf-spring-segment-routing-policy](#)] based solutions to enforce traffic over a path that is computed using different metrics or constraints than the shortest IGP path. [[I-D.ietf-lsr-flex-algo](#)] defines the Flexible Algorithm solution that



allows IGP themselves to compute constraint based paths over the network.

Flexible Algorithm is called so as it allows a user the flexibility to define

- o the type of calculation to be used (e.g. shortest path)
- o the metric type to be used (e.g. IGP metric or TE metric)
- o the set of constraints to be used (e.g. inclusion or exclusion of certain links using affinities)

The operations of the flexible algorithm solution is described in detail in [[I-D.ietf-lsr-flex-algo](#)] and a high level summary of the same is described here for clarity. The network operator enables the participation of specific nodes in the network for a specific algorithm and then provisions the definition of that flexible algorithm on one or more of these nodes. The nodes where the flexible algorithm definition is advertised then flood these definitions via respective IGP (IS-IS and OSPFv2/v3) mechanisms to all other nodes in the network. The nodes select the definition for each algorithm based on the flooded information in a deterministic manner and thus all nodes participating in a flexible algorithm computation arrive at a common understanding of the type of calculation that they need to use.

When using Segment Routing (SR) [[RFC8402](#)] forwarding plane, the result of a flex algorithm computation is the provisioning of the Prefix SIDs associated with that algorithm with paths based on the topology computed based on that algorithm. This flex algorithm computation is within an IGP area or level similar to the default shortest path tree (SPT) algorithm.

The BGP-LS extensions for SR are defined in [[I-D.ietf-idr-bgp-ls-segment-routing-ext](#)] and includes the

- o SR Algorithm TLV to indicate the participation of a node in a flex algorithm computation
- o Prefix SID TLV to indicate the association of the Prefix-SIDs to a specific flex algorithm

Thus a controller or a Path Computation Engine (PCE) is aware of the IGP topology across multiple domains which includes the above information related to the flexible algorithm. This draft defines extensions to BGP-LS for carrying the Flexible Algorithm Definition information so that it enables the controller/PCE to learn the



mapping of the flex algorithm number to its definition in each area/domain of the underlying IGP. The controller/PCE also learns the type of computation used and the constraints for the same. This information can then be leveraged by it for setting up SR Policy paths end to end across domains by leveraging the appropriate Flex Algorithm specific Prefix SIDs in its Segment List [[I-D.ietf-spring-segment-routing-policy](#)]. e.g. picking the Flex Algorithm Prefix SID or ABRs/ASBRs corresponding to a definition that optimizes on the delay metric enables the PCE/controller to build an end to end low latency path across IGP domains with minimal Prefix-SIDs in the SID list.

## 2. BGP-LS Extensions for Flex Algo Definition

The BGP-LS [[RFC7752](#)] specifies the Node NLRI for advertisement of nodes and their attributes using the BGP-LS Attribute. The Flexible Algorithm Definition (FAD) advertised by a node are considered as its node level attributes and advertised as such.

This document defines a new BGP-LS Attribute TLV called the Flexible Algorithm Definition (FAD) TLV and its format is as follows:

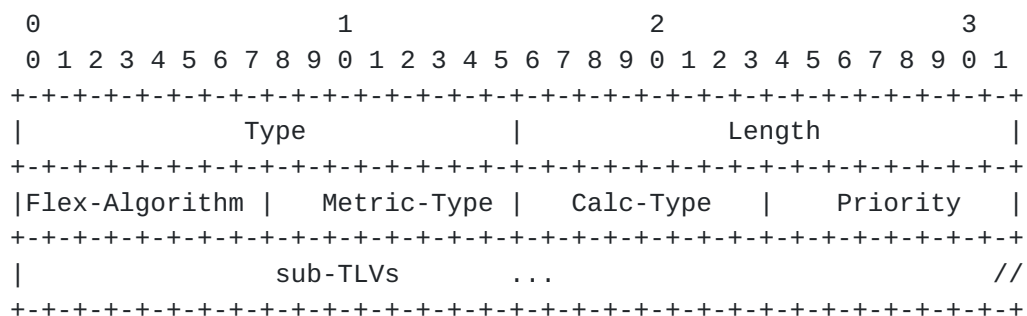


Figure 1: Flex Algorithm Definition TLV

where:

- o Type: TBD (see IANA Considerations [Section 3](#))
- o Length: variable. Minimum of 8 octets.
- o Flex-Algorithm : 1 octet value in the range between 128 and 255 inclusive which is the range defined for Flexible Algorithms in the IANA "IGP Parameters" registries under the "IGP Algorithm Types" registry [[I-D.ietf-lsr-flex-algo](#)].
- o Metric-Type : 1 octet value indicating the type of the metric used in the computation. Values allowed come from the IANA "IGP



where:



The information in the Flex Algo Include Any Affinity sub-TLV is derived from the IS-IS and OSPF protocol specific Flexible Algorithm Include-Any Admin Group sub-TLV as defined in [\[I-D.ietf-lsr-flex-algo\]](#).



### 2.3. Flex Algo Include All Affinity

The Flex Algo Include All Affinity sub-TLV is an optional sub-TLV that is used to carry the affinity constraints [RFC2702] associated with the flex algo definition and enable the inclusion of links carrying all of the specified affinities in the computation of the specific algorithm as described in [I-D.ietf-lsr-flex-algo]. The affinity is expressed in terms of Extended Admin Group (EAG) as defined in [RFC7308].

The TLV has the following format:

```

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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               |                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               |                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                               |                               |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

where:

- o Type: TBD (see IANA Considerations [Section 3](#))
- o Length: variable, dependent on the size of the Extended Admin Group. MUST be a multiple of 4 octets.
- o Include-All EAG : the bitmask used to represent the affinities to be included.

The information in the Flex Algo Include All Affinity sub-TLV is derived from the IS-IS and OSPF protocol specific Flexible Algorithm Include-All Admin Group sub-TLV as defined in [I-D.ietf-lsr-flex-algo].

## 3. IANA Considerations

This document requests assigning code-points from the registry "BGP-LS Node Descriptor, Link Descriptor, Prefix Descriptor, and Attribute TLVs" based on table below. The column "IS-IS TLV/Sub-TLV" defined in the registry does not require any value and should be left empty.



Code Point	Description	Length
TBD	Flex Algorithm Definition TLV	variable
TBD	Flex Algo Exclude Any Affinity sub-TLV	variable
TBD	Flex Algo Include Any Affinity sub-TLV	variable
TBD	Flex Algo Include All Affinity sub-TLV	variable

#### **4. Manageability Considerations**

This section is structured as recommended in [\[RFC5706\]](#).

The new protocol extensions introduced in this document augment the existing IGP topology information that was distributed via [\[RFC7752\]](#). Procedures and protocol extensions defined in this document do not affect the BGP protocol operations and management other than as discussed in the Manageability Considerations section of [\[RFC7752\]](#). Specifically, the malformed NLRIs attribute tests in the Fault Management section of [\[RFC7752\]](#) now encompass the new TLVs for the BGP-LS NLRI in this document.

##### **4.1. Operational Considerations**

No additional operation considerations are defined in this document.

##### **4.2. Management Considerations**

No additional management considerations are defined in this document.

#### **5. Security Considerations**

The new protocol extensions introduced in this document augment the existing IGP topology information that was distributed via [\[RFC7752\]](#). Procedures and protocol extensions defined in this document do not affect the BGP security model other than as discussed in the Security Considerations section of [\[RFC7752\]](#).

#### **6. Acknowledgements**

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