

Workgroup: SPRING

Internet-Draft:

draft-ietf-lsr-flex-algo-bw-con-10

Published: 19 April 2024

Intended Status: Standards Track

Expires: 21 October 2024

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Flexible Algorithms: Bandwidth, Delay, Metrics and Constraints

Abstract

Many networks configure the link metric relative to the link capacity. High bandwidth traffic gets routed as per the link capacity. Flexible algorithms provide mechanisms to create constraint based paths in an IGP. This draft documents a generic metric type and set of bandwidth related constraints to be used in Flexible Algorithms.

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](#)].

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

High bandwidth traffic such as residential Internet traffic and machine-to-machine elephant flows benefit from using high capacity links. Accordingly, many network operators define a link's metric relative to its capacity to help direct traffic to higher bandwidth links, but this is no guarantee that lower bandwidth links will be avoided, especially in failure scenarios. To ensure that elephant flows are only placed on high capacity links, it would be useful to explicitly exclude the high bandwidth traffic from utilizing links below a certain capacity. A Flex-Algorithm [[RFC9350](#)] is defined as a set of parameters consisting of calculation-type, metric-type, and a set of constraints to allow operators to have more control over the network path computation. In this document, we define further extensions to Flex-Algorithm that will allow operators additional control over their traffic flows, especially with respect to bandwidth constraints.

Historically, IGP's have done path computation by minimizing the sum of the link metrics along the path from source to destination. While the metric has been administratively defined, implementations have defaulted to a metric that is inversely proportional to link bandwidth. This has driven traffic to higher bandwidth links and has required manual metric manipulation to achieve the desired loading of the network.

Over time, with the addition of different traffic types, the need for alternate types of metrics has evolved. Flex-Algorithm already supports using the minimum link delay and the administratively assigned traffic-engineering metrics in path computation. However, it is clear that additional metrics may be of interest in different situations. A network operator may seek to minimize their operational costs and thus may want a metric that reflects the actual fiscal costs of using a link. Other traffic may require low jitter, leading to an entirely different set of metrics. With Flex-Algorithm, all of these different metrics, and more, could be used concurrently on the same network.

In some circumstances, path computation constraints, such as administrative groups, can be used to ensure that traffic avoids particular portions of the network. These strict constraints are appropriate when there is an absolute requirement to avoid parts of the topology, even in failure conditions. If, however, the requirement is less strict, then using a high metric in a portion of the topology may be more appropriate.

This document defines a family of generic metrics that can advertise various types of administratively assigned metrics. This document proposes standard metric-types which have specific semantics and require to be standardized. This document also proposes user defined metric-types where specifics are not defined, so that administrators are free to assign semantics as they see fit.

In [Section 4](#), this document specifies a new bandwidth based metric type to be used with Flex-Algorithm and other applications. [Section 3](#) defines additional Flexible Algorithm Definition (FAD) constraints that allow the network administrator to preclude the use of low bandwidth links or high delay links.

[Section 4.1](#) defines mechanisms to automatically calculate link metrics based on the parameters defined in the FAD and the advertised Maximum Link Bandwidth of each link. This is advantageous because administrators can change their criteria for metric assignment centrally, without individual modification of each link metric throughout the network. The procedures described in this document are intended to assign a metric to a link based on the total link capacity and they are not intended to update the metric based on actual traffic flow. Thus, the procedures described in this document are not a replacement to the capability of a PCE which has a dynamic view of the network and provides real-time bandwidth management or a distributed bandwidth management protocol.

2. Generic Metric Advertisement

IS-IS and OSPF advertise a metric for each link in their respective link state advertisements. Multiple metric types are already supported. Administratively assigned metrics are described in the original OSPF and IS-IS specifications. The Traffic Engineering Default Metric is defined in [\[RFC5305\]](#) and [\[RFC3630\]](#) and the Min Unidirectional delay metric is defined in [\[RFC8570\]](#) and [\[RFC7471\]](#). Other metrics, such as jitter, reliability, and fiscal cost may be helpful, depending on the traffic class. Rather than attempt to enumerate all possible metrics of interest, this document specifies a generic mechanism for advertising metrics.

Each generic metric advertisement is on a per-link and per-metric type basis. The metric advertisement consists of a metric type field

and a value for the metric. The metric type field is assigned by the "IGP metric type" IANA registry. Metric types 0-127 are standard metric types as assigned by IANA. This document further specifies a user-defined metric type space of metric types 128-255. These are user defined and can be assigned by an operator for local use.

Implementations MUST support sending and receiving generic metric sub-TLV in ASLA encodings as well as in the TLV 22/extended link LSA/TE-LSAs. The usage of a generic metric by an individual application is subject to the same rules that apply to other link attributes defined in respective standards.

2.1. IS-IS Generic Metric Sub-TLV

The IS-IS Generic Metric sub-TLV specifies the link metric for a given metric type. Typically, this metric is assigned by a network administrator. The Generic Metric sub-TLV is advertised in the TLVs/ sub-TLVs below:

TLV-22 (Extended IS reachability) [[RFC5305](#)]

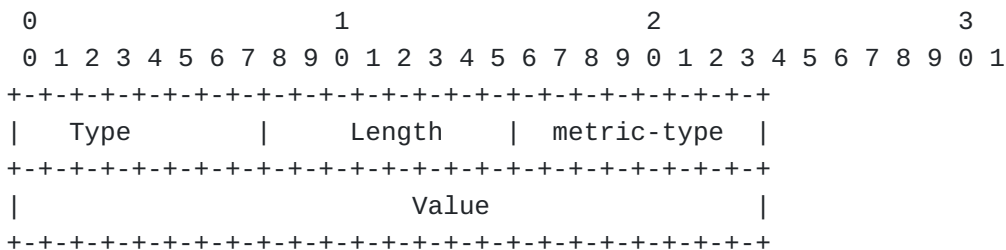
TLV-222 (MT-ISN) [[RFC5120](#)]

TLV-23 (IS Neighbor Attribute) [[RFC5311](#)]

TLV-223 (MT IS Neighbor Attribute) [[RFC5311](#)]

TLV-141 (inter-AS reachability information) [[RFC9346](#)]

sub-TLV 16 (Application-Specific Link Attributes) of TLV 22/222/23/223/141 [[RFC9479](#)]



Type : TBD (To be assigned by IANA)
Length: 4 octets
Metric-type: A value from the IGP metric-type registry
Value : Metric value range (0 - 16,777,215)

Figure 1: IS-IS Generic Metric Sub-TLV

The Generic Metric sub-TLV MAY be advertised multiple times. For a particular metric type, the Generic Metric sub-TLV MUST be advertised only once for a link when advertised in TLV 22, 222, 23, 223 and 141. When Generic metric sub-TLV is advertised in ASLA, each metric type MUST be advertised only once per-application for a link. If there are multiple Generic Metric sub-TLVs advertised for a link for the same metric type (and same application in case of ASLA) in one or more received LSPDUs, advertisement in the lowest numbered fragment MUST be used and the subsequent instances MUST be ignored.

If the metric type indicates a standard metric type for which there are other advertisement mechanisms (e.g., the IGP metric, the Min Unidirectional Link Delay, or the Traffic Engineering Default Metric), the Generic Metric advertisement MUST be ignored.

A metric value of 0xFFFFF is considered as maximum link metric and a link having this metric value MUST be used during Flex-algorithm calculations as a last resort link as described in sec 15.3 of [\[RFC9350\]](#). A link can be made unusable by Flex-algorithm by leaving out Generic metric advertisement of the particular metric-type that the Flex-algorithm uses as described in [\[RFC9350\]](#).

2.2. OSPF Generic Metric Sub-TLV

The OSPF Generic Metric sub-TLV specifies the link metric for a given metric type. Typically, this metric is assigned by a network administrator. The Generic Metric sub-TLV is advertised in the TLVs below:

sub-TLV of the OSPF Link TLV of OSPF extended Link LSA [\[RFC7684\]](#).

sub-TLV of TE Link TLV (2) of OSPF TE LSA [\[RFC3630\]](#).

sub-TLV of the Router-Link TLV in the E-Router-LSA in OSPFv3 [\[RFC8362\]](#).

sub-sub-TLV of Application-Specific Link Attributes sub-TLV [\[RFC9492\]](#).

The Generic Metric sub-TLV is TLV type TBD (IANA), and is eight octets in length.

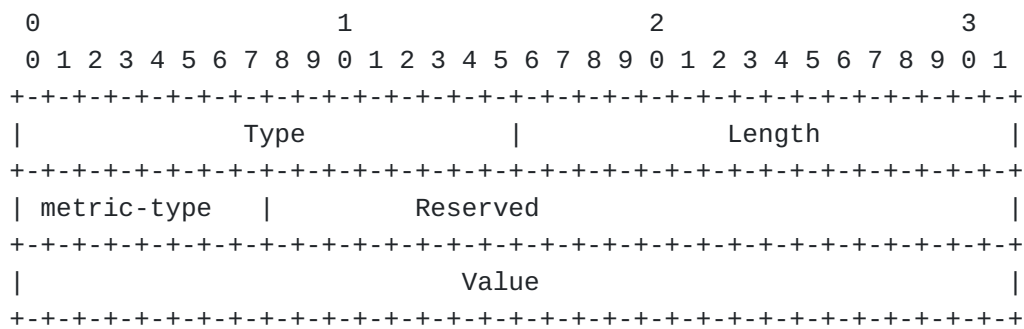


Figure 2: OSPF Generic Metric Sub-TLV

If the metric type indicates a standard metric type for which there are other advertisement mechanisms (e.g., the IGP metric, the Min Unidirectional Link Delay, or the Traffic Engineering Default Metric), the Generic Metric advertisement **MUST** be ignored.

A link can be made unusable by Flex-algorithm by leaving out Generic metric advertisement of the particular metric-type that the Flex-algorithm uses as described in [\[RFC9350\]](#).

Generic Metric can be used by Flex-Algorithms by specifying the metric type in the Flexible Algorithm Definitions. When Flex-Algorithms is used in a multi-area network, [RFC9350] defines the

FAPM sub-TLV that carries the Flexible-Algorithm-specific metric. Metrics carried in FAPM will be equal to the metric to reach the prefix for that Flex-Algorithm in its source area or domain. When Flex-Algorithm uses Generic metric, the same procedures as described in section 13 of [[RFC9350](#)] are used to send and process FAPM sub-TLV.

3. FAD constraint Sub-TLVs

In networks that carry elephant flows, directing an elephant flow down a low-bandwidth link would be catastrophic. Thus, in the context of Flex-Algorithm, it would be useful to be able to constrain the topology to only those links capable of supporting a minimum amount of bandwidth.

If the capacity of a link is constant, this can already be achieved through the use of administrative groups. However, when a layer-3 link is actually a collection of layer-2 links (LAG/layer-2 Bundle), the link bandwidth will vary based on the set of active constituent links. This could be automated by having an implementation vary the advertised administrative groups based on bandwidth, but this seems unnecessarily complex and expressing this requirement as a direct constraint on the topology seems simpler. This is also advantageous if the minimum required bandwidth changes, as this constraint would provide a single centralized, coordinated point of control.

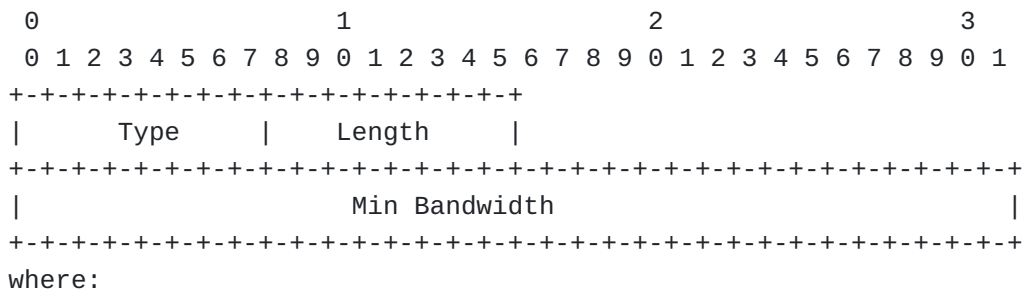
To satisfy this requirement, this document defines an Exclude Minimum Bandwidth constraint. When this constraint is advertised in a FAD, a link will be pruned from the Flex-Algorithm topology if the link's advertised Maximum Link Bandwidth is below the advertised Minimum Bandwidth value.

Similarly, this document defines an Exclude Maximum Link Delay constraint. Delay is an important consideration in High Frequency Trading applications, networks with transparent L2 link recovery, or in satellite networks, where link delay may fluctuate. Mechanisms already exist to measure the link delay dynamically and advertise it in the IGP. Networks that employ dynamic link-delay measurement, may want to exclude links that have a delay over a given threshold.

3.1. IS-IS FAD constraint Sub-TLVs

3.1.1. IS-IS Exclude Minimum Bandwidth sub-TLV

IS-IS Flex-Algorithm Exclude Minimum Bandwidth sub-TLV (FAEMB) is a sub-TLV of the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV. It has the following format:



Type: TBA

Length: 4 octets.

Min Bandwidth: The link bandwidth is encoded in IEEE floating point format (32 bits). The units are bytes-per-second.

Figure 3: IS-IS FAEMB Sub-TLV

The FAEMB sub-TLV MUST appear at most once in the FAD sub-TLV. If it appears more than once, the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV MUST be ignored by the receiver.

The Minimum bandwidth advertised in FAEMB sub-TLV MUST be compared with Maximum Link Bandwidth advertised in sub-sub-TLV 9 of ASLA sub-TLV [RFC9479]. If L-Flag is set in the ASLA sub-TLV, the Minimum bandwidth advertised in FAEMB sub-TLV MUST be compared with Maximum Link Bandwidth as advertised in the sub-TLV 9 of the TLV 22/222/23/223/141 [RFC5305] as defined in [RFC9479] Section 4.2.

If the Maximum Link Bandwidth is lower than the Minimum link bandwidth advertised in FAEMB sub-TLV, the link MUST be excluded from the Flex-Algorithm topology. If a link does not have the Maximum Link Bandwidth advertised but the FAD contains this sub-TLV, then that link MUST NOT be excluded from the topology based on the Minimum Bandwidth constraint.

3.1.2. IS-IS Exclude Maximum Delay Sub-TLV

IS-IS Flex-Algorithm Exclude Maximum Delay sub-TLV (FAEMD) is a sub-TLV of the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV. It has the following format.

bandwidth metric using the Generic Metric sub-TLV overrides this automatic computation. The automatic bandwidth metric calculation sub-TLVs are advertised in the FAD TLV and these parameters are applicable to applications such as Flex-algorithm that make use of the FAD TLV.

4.1. Automatic Metric Calculation

Networks which are designed to be highly regular and follow uniform metric assignment may want to simplify their operations by automatically calculating the bandwidth metric. When a FAD advertises the metric type as Bandwidth Metric and the link does not have the Bandwidth Metric advertised, automatic metric derivation can be used with additional FAD constraint advertisement as described in this section.

If a link's bandwidth changes, then the delay in learning about the change may create the possibility of micro-loops in the topology. This is no different from the IGP's susceptibility to micro-loops during a metric change. The micro-loop avoidance procedures described in [[I-D.bashandy-rtgwg-segment-routing-uloop](#)] or any other mechanism as described in the framework [[RFC5715](#)] can be used to avoid micro-loops when the automatic metric calculation is deployed.

Computing the metric between adjacent systems based on bandwidth becomes more complex in the face of parallel adjacencies. If there are parallel adjacencies between systems, then the bandwidth between the systems is the sum of the bandwidth of the parallel links. This is somewhat more complex to deal with, so there is an optional mode for computing the aggregate bandwidth.

4.1.1. Automatic Metric Calculation Modes

4.1.1.1. Simple Mode

In simple mode, the Maximum Link Bandwidth of a single layer-3 link is used to derive the metric. This mode is suitable for deployments that do not use parallel layer-3 links. In this case, the computation of the metric is straightforward. If a layer-3 link is composed of a layer-2 bundle, then the link bandwidth is the sum of the bandwidths of the working components and may vary with layer-2 link failures.

4.1.1.2. Interface Group Mode

The simple mode of metric calculation may not work well when there are multiple parallel layer-3 interfaces between two nodes. Ideally, the metric between two systems should be the same given the same bandwidth, whether the bandwidth is provided by parallel layer-2 links or parallel layer-3 links. To address this, in Interface Group

Mode, nodes MUST compute the aggregate bandwidth of all parallel adjacencies, MUST derive the metric based on the aggregate bandwidth, and MUST apply the resulting metric to each of the parallel adjacencies. Note that a single elephant flow is normally pinned to a single layer-3 interface. If the single layer-3 link bandwidth is not sufficient for any single elephant flow, the mechanisms to solve this issue are outside the scope of this document.

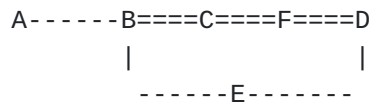


Figure 7: Parallel interfaces

For example, in the above diagram, there are two parallel links between B->C, C->F, F->D. Let us assume the link bandwidth is uniform 10Gbps on all links and the metric for each link will be the same. Traffic from B to D will be forwarded B->E->D. Since the bandwidth is higher on the B->C->F->D path, the metric for that path should be lower, and that path should be selected. Interface Group Mode is preferred in cases where there are parallel layer-3 links.

In the interface group mode, every node MUST identify the set of parallel links between a pair of nodes based on IGP link advertisements and MUST consider cumulative bandwidth of the parallel links while arriving at the metric of each link.

The parallel layer-3 links between two nodes may not have the same bandwidth. In such cases the method described in interface group mode will result in same metric being used for all the parallel links which may cause undesired load-balancing on the links. In such cases, a device may locally apply load-balancing factor relative to the link bandwidth on the ECMP nexthops.

4.1.2. Automatic Metric Calculation Methods

In automatic metric calculation for simple and interface group mode, Maximum Link Bandwidth of the links is used to derive the metric. There are two types of automatic metric derivation methods.

1. Reference bandwidth method
2. Bandwidth thresholds method

4.1.2.1. Reference Bandwidth method

In many networks, the metric is inversely proportional to the link bandwidth. The administrator or implementation selects a reference

bandwidth and the metric is derived by dividing the reference bandwidth by the advertised Maximum Link Bandwidth. Advertising the reference bandwidth in the FAD constraints allows the metric computation to be done on every node for each link. The metric is computed using reference bandwidth and the advertised link bandwidth. Centralized control of this reference bandwidth simplifies management in the case that the reference bandwidth changes. In order to ensure that small bandwidth changes do not change the link metric, it is useful to define the granularity of the bandwidth that is of interest. The link bandwidth will be truncated to this granularity before deriving the metric.

For example,

reference bandwidth = 1000G

Granularity = 20G

The derived metric is 10 for link bandwidth in the range 100G to 119G

4.1.2.2. Bandwidth Thresholds method

The reference bandwidth approach described above provides a uniform metric value for a range of link bandwidths. In certain cases there may be a need to define non-proportional metric values for the varying ranges of link bandwidth. For example, bandwidths from 10G to 30G are assigned metric value 100, bandwidth from 30G to 70G get a metric value of 50, and bandwidths greater than 70G have a metric of 10. In order to support this, a staircase mapping based on bandwidth thresholds is supported in the FAD. This advertisement contains a set of threshold values and associated metrics.

4.1.3. IS-IS FAD constraint Sub-TLVs for automatic metric calculation

4.1.3.1. Reference Bandwidth Sub-TLV

This section provides FAD constraint advertisement details for the reference bandwidth method of metric calculation as described in [Section 4.1.2.1](#). The Flexible Algorithm Definition Reference Bandwidth sub-TLV (FADRB sub-TLV) is a sub-TLV of the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV. It has the following format:

The Granularity Bandwidth value ensures that the metric does not change when there is a small change in the link bandwidth. The IS-IS FADRB sub-TLV MUST NOT appear more than once in an IS-IS FAD sub-TLV. If it appears more than once, the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV MUST be ignored by the receiver. If a Generic Metric sub-TLV with Bandwidth metric type is advertised for a link, the Flex-Algorithm calculation MUST use the advertised Bandwidth Metric, and MUST NOT use the

automatically derived metric for that link. In case of Interface Group Mode, if all the parallel links have been advertised with the Bandwidth Metric, The individual link Bandwidth Metric MUST be used. If only some links among the parallel links have the Bandwidth Metric advertisement, the Bandwidth Metric for such links MUST be ignored and automatic Metric calculation MUST be used to derive link metric.

4.1.3.2. Bandwidth Thresholds Sub-TLV

This section provides FAD constraint advertisement details for the Bandwidth Thresholds method of metric calculation as described in [Section 4.1.2.2](#). The Flexible Algorithm Definition Bandwidth Threshold sub-TLV (FADBT sub-TLV) is a sub-TLV of the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV. It has the following format:

Threshold Metric n : Metric value range (1 - 4,261,412,8

Figure 9: IS-IS FADBT Sub-TLV

When G-flag is set, the cumulative bandwidth of the parallel links is computed as described in section [Section 4.1.1.2](#). If G-flag is not set, the advertised Maximum Link Bandwidth is used.

When the computed link bandwidth is less than Bandwidth Threshold 1, the MAX_METRIC value of 4,261,412,864 MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

When the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold 1 and less than Bandwidth Threshold 2, Threshold Metric 1 MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

Similarly, when the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold 2 and less than Bandwidth Threshold 3, Threshold Metric 2 MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

In general, when the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold X AND less than Bandwidth Threshold X+1, Threshold Metric X MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

Finally, when the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold N, then Threshold Metric N MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

The IS-IS FADBT sub-TLV MUST NOT appear more than once in an IS-IS FAD sub-TLV. If it appears more than once, the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV MUST stop participating in such flex-algorithm.

A FAD MUST NOT contain both the FADBT sub-TLV and the FADRB sub-TLV. If both these sub-TLVs are advertised in the same FAD for a Flexible Algorithm, the FAD MUST be ignored by the receiver.

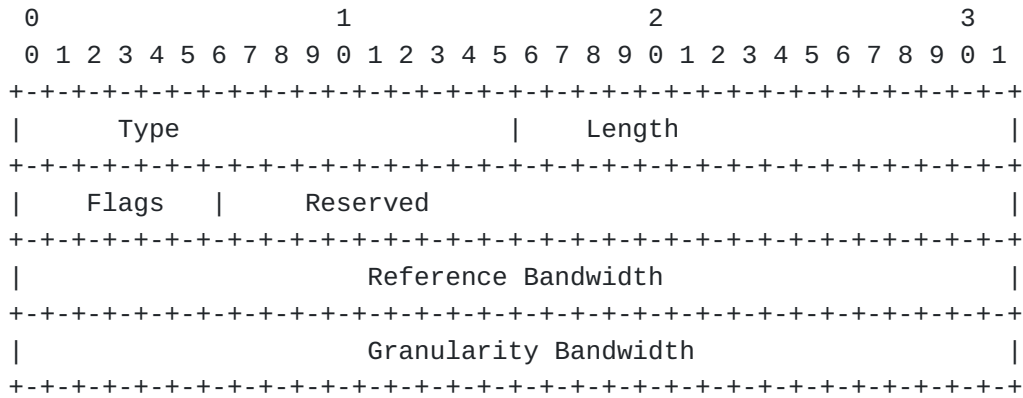
If a Generic Metric sub-TLV with Bandwidth metric type is advertised for a link, the Flex-Algorithm calculation MUST use the Bandwidth Metric advertised on the link, and MUST NOT use the automatically derived metric for that link.

In case of Interface Group Mode, if all the parallel links have been advertised with the Bandwidth Metric, The individual link Bandwidth Metric MUST be used. If only some links among the parallel links have the Bandwidth Metric advertisement, the Bandwidth Metric for such links MUST be ignored and automatic Metric calculation MUST be used to derive link metric.

4.1.4. OSPF FAD constraint Sub-TLVs for automatic metric calculation

4.1.4.1. Reference Bandwidth Sub-TLV

The Flexible Algorithm Definition Reference Bandwidth sub-TLV (FADRB sub-TLV) is a sub-TLV of the OSPF FAD TLV. It has the following format:



where:

Type: TBD

Length: 14 octets.

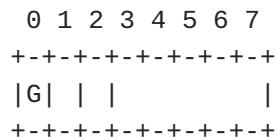
Reference Bandwidth: Bandwidth encoded in 32 bits in IEEE floating point format.

The units are in bytes per second.

Granularity Bandwidth: Bandwidth encoded in 32 bits in IEEE floating point format.

The units are in bytes per second.

Flags:



G-flag: When set, Interface Group Mode MUST be used to derive total link bandwidth.

Metric calculation: $(\text{Reference_bandwidth}) / (\text{Total_link_bandwidth} - (\text{Modulus of } (\text{Total_link_bandwidth},$

Granu

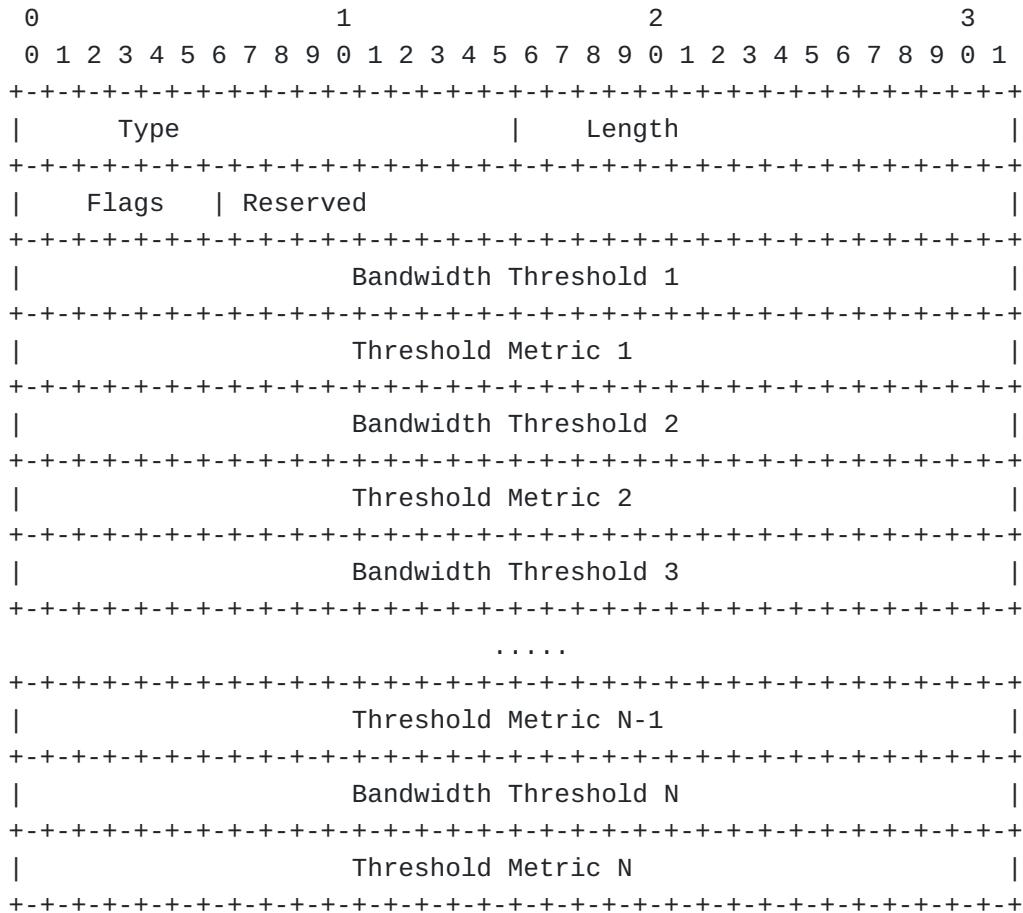
Figure 10: OSPF FADRB Sub-TLV

The Granularity Bandwidth value is used to ensure that the metric does not change when there is a small change in the link bandwidth. The OSPF FADRB sub-TLV MUST NOT appear more than once in an OSPF FAD TLV. If it appears more than once, the OSPF FAD TLV MUST be ignored

by the receiver. If a Generic Metric sub-TLV with Bandwidth metric type is advertised for a link, the Flex-Algorithm calculation MUST use the advertised Bandwidth Metric on the link, and MUST NOT use the automatically derived metric for that link. In case of Interface Group Mode, if all the parallel links have been advertised with the Bandwidth Metric, The individual link Bandwidth Metric MUST be used. If only some links among the parallel links have the Bandwidth Metric advertisement, the Bandwidth Metric for such links MUST be ignored and automatic Metric calculation MUST be used to derive link metric.

4.1.4.2. Bandwidth Threshold Sub-TLV

The Flexible Algorithm Definition Bandwidth Thresholds sub-TLV (FADBT sub-TLV) is a sub-TLV of the OSPF FAD TLV. It has the following format:



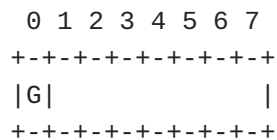
where:

Type: TBD

Length: $2 + N \times 8$ octets. Here n is equal to number of Threshold Metrics specified.

N MUST be greater than or equal to 1.

Flags:



G-flag: when set, interface group Mode MUST be used to derive total link bandwidth.

Staircase bandwidth threshold and associated metric values.
Bandwidth Threshold 1: Minimum Link Bandwidth is

encoded in IEEE

floating point format (32 bits).

The units are bytes per second.

Threshold Metric 1 : Metric value range (1 - 4,294,967,

Bandwidth Threshold N: Maximum Link Bandwidth is encoded

in IEEE floating point format (3

The units are bytes per second.

Threshold Metric N : Metric value range (1 - 4,294,967,

Figure 11: OSPF FADBT Sub-TLV

When G-flag is set, the cumulative bandwidth of the parallel links is computed as described in section [Section 4.1.1.2](#). If G-flag is not set, the advertised Maximum Link Bandwidth is used.

When the computed link bandwidth is less than Bandwidth Threshold 1, the MAX_METRIC value of 4,294,967,296 MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

When the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold 1 and less than Bandwidth Threshold 2, Threshold Metric 1 MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

Similarly, when the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold 2 and less than Bandwidth Threshold 3, Threshold Metric 2 MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

In general, when the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold X AND less than Bandwidth Threshold X+1, Threshold Metric X MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

Finally, when the computed link bandwidth is greater than or equal to Bandwidth Threshold N, then Threshold Metric N MUST be assigned as the Bandwidth Metric on the link during the Flex-Algorithm SPF calculation.

The IS-IS FADBT sub-TLV MUST NOT appear more than once in an IS-IS FAD sub-TLV. If it appears more than once, the IS-IS FAD sub-TLV MUST stop participating in such flex-algorithm.

A FAD MUST NOT contain both the FADBT sub-TLV and the FADRB sub-TLV. If both these sub-TLVs are advertised in the same FAD for a Flexible Algorithm, the FAD MUST be ignored by the receiver.

If a Generic Metric sub-TLV with Bandwidth metric type is advertised for a link, the Flex-Algorithm calculation MUST use the Bandwidth Metric advertised on the link, and MUST NOT use the automatically derived metric for that link.

In case of Interface Group Mode, if all the parallel links have been advertised with the Bandwidth Metric, The individual link Bandwidth Metric MUST be used. If only some links among the parallel links have the Bandwidth Metric advertisement, the Bandwidth Metric for such links MUST be ignored and automatic Metric calculation MUST be used to derive link metric.

5. Bandwidth metric considerations

This section specifies the rules of deriving the Bandwidth Metric if and only if the winning FAD for the Flex-Algorithm specifies the metric-type as "Bandwidth Metric".

1. If the Generic Metric sub-TLV with Bandwidth metric type is advertised for the link as described in [Section 4](#), it MUST be used during the Flex-Algorithm calculation.
2. If the Generic Metric sub-TLV with Bandwidth metric type is not advertised for the link and the winning FAD for the Flex-Algorithm does not specify the automatic bandwidth metric calculation (as defined in [Section 4.1](#)), the link is treated as if the Bandwidth Metric is not available for the link.
3. If the Generic Metric sub-TLV with Bandwidth metric type is not advertised for the link and the winning FAD for the Flex-Algorithm specifies the automatic bandwidth metric calculation (as defined in [Section 4.1](#)), the Bandwidth Metric metric MUST be automatically calculated as per the procedures defined in [Section 4.1](#). If the Link Bandwidth is not advertised for a link, the link MUST be pruned for the Flex-Algorithm calculations.
4. In ISIS the Link Bandwidth for Flex-Algorithm purposes is advertised as a sub-sub-TLV 9 of the Flex-algorithm specific ASLA sub-TLV. It is also possible to advertise the link bandwidth or Flex-Algorithm, in sub-TLV 9 of TLV 22/222/23/223/141 [RFC5305], together with the L-Flag set in the Flex-Algorithm specific ASLA advertisement. In the absence of both of these advertisements, the bandwidth of the link is not available for Flex-Algorithm purposes.

6. Calculation of Flex-Algorithm paths

Two new additional rules are added to the existing rules in the Flex-Algorithm calculations specified in sec 13 of [\[RFC9350\]](#).

6. Check if any exclude FAEMB rule is part of the Flex-Algorithm definition. If such exclude rule exists and the link has Maximum Link Bandwidth advertised, check if the link bandwidth satisfies the FAEMB rule. If the link does not satisfy the FAEMB rule, the link MUST be pruned from the Flex-Algorithm computation.
7. Check if any exclude FAEMD rule is part of the Flex-Algorithm definition. If such exclude rule exists and the link has Min Unidirectional link delay advertised, check if the link delay satisfies the FAEMD rule. If the link does not satisfy the FAEMD rule, the link MUST be pruned from the Flex-Algorithm computation.

7. Backward Compatibility

This extension brings no new backward-compatibility issues. This document defines new FAD constraints in [Section 3](#) [Section 4.1.3](#) and [Section 4.1.4](#). As described in [RFC9350], any node that does not understand sub-TLVs in a FAD TLV, stops participation in the corresponding Flex-Algorithm. The new extensions can be deployed among the nodes that are upgraded to understand the new extensions without affecting the nodes that are not upgraded. This document also defines a new metric advertisement as described in [Section 2](#). As per Sec 13 of [RFC9350], the links that do not advertise the metric-type specified by the selected FAD, the link is pruned from Flex-Algorithm calculations. The new metric-types and the Flex-Algorithms using new metric-types can be deployed in the network without affecting existing deployment.

8. Security Considerations

This document inherits security considerations from [RFC9350].

9. Operational Considerations

Operational consideration defined in [RFC9350] generally apply to the extensions defined in this document as well. This document defines metric-type range for user defined metrics. When user defined metrics are used in an inter-area or inter-level network, all the domains should assign same meaning to the particular metric-type.

10. IANA Considerations

10.1. IGP Metric-Type Registry

IGP Metric-type Registry is updated to include another column specifying whether the particular metric-type is allowed in the generic-metric sub-TLV or not.

Type	Description	Reference	Allowed in generic-metric
0	IGP Metric	[RFC9350] Section 5.1	No
1	Min Unidirectional Link Delay as defined in [RFC8570, Section 4.2], and [RFC7471, Section 4.2]	[RFC9350] Section 5.1	No
2	Traffic Engineering Default Metric as defined in [RFC5305, Section 3.7], and [RFC3630, Section 2.5.5]	[RFC9350] Section 5.1	No
3(TBA)	Bandwidth Metric	this document	yes
128-255(TBA)	User defined metric	this document	yes

Figure 12: IANA IGP Metric-Type Registry

10.2. IS-IS Sub-Sub-TLVs for Flexible Algorithm Definition Sub-TLV

Type: 6(TBA)

Description: IS-IS Exclude Minimum Bandwidth Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 3.1.1](#)

Type: 7 (TBA)

Description: IS-IS Exclude Maximum Delay Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 3.1.2](#)

Type: 8 (TBA)

Description: IS-IS Reference Bandwidth Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 4.1.3.1](#)

Type: 9(TBA)

Description: IS-IS Threshold Metric Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 4.1.3.2](#)

10.3. OSPF Sub-TLVs for Flexible Algorithm Definition Sub-TLV

Type:6 (TBA)

Description: OSPF Exclude Minimum Bandwidth Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 3.2.1](#)

Type: 7(TBA)

Description: OSPF Exclude Maximum Delay Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 3.2.2](#)

Type: 8(TBA)

Description: OSPF Reference Bandwidth Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 4.1.4.1](#)

Type: 9 (TBA)

Description: OSPF Threshold Metric Sub-TLV

Reference: This document [Section 4.1.4.2](#)

10.4. IS-IS Sub-TLVs for TLVs Advertising Neighbor Information

Type:17 (TBA)

Description: Generic metric

Reference: This document [Section 2.1](#)

10.5. Sub-sub-TLV Codepoints for Application-Specific Link Attributes

Type: 17 (TBA)

Description: Generic metric

Reference: This document [Section 2.1](#)

10.6. OSPFv2 Extended Link TLV Sub-TLVs

Type: 25(TBA)

Description: Generic metric

Reference: This document [Section 2.2](#)

10.7. Types for Sub-TLVs of TE Link TLV (Value 2)

Type: 36 (TBA)

Description: Generic metric

Reference: This document [Section 2.2](#)

10.8. OSPFv3 Extended-LSA Sub-TLVs

Type: 34 (TBA)

Description: Generic metric

Reference: This document [Section 2.2](#)

11. Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Chris Bowers, Krzysztof Szarcowitz, Julian Lucek, Ram Santhanakrishnan, Ketan Talaulikar and Acee Lindem for discussions and inputs.

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