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**Multi-path Extension for the Optimized Link State Routing Protocol
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Abstract

This document specifies a multi-path extension for the Optimized Link State Routing Protocol version 2 (OLSRv2) to discover multiple disjoint paths, so as to improve reliability of the OLSRv2 protocol. The interoperability with OLSRv2 is retained.

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1. Introduction

The Optimized Link State Routing Protocol version 2 (OLSRv2) [[RFC7181](#)] is a proactive link state protocol designed for use in mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs). It generates routing messages periodically to create and maintain a Routing Set, which contains routing information to all the possible destinations in the routing domain. For each destination, there exists a unique Routing Tuple, which indicates the next hop to reach the destination.

This document specifies an extension of the OLSRV2 protocol [[RFC7181](#)], to provide multiple disjoint paths when appropriate for a source-destination pair. Because of the characteristics of MANETs [[RFC2501](#)], especially the dynamic topology, having multiple paths is helpful for increasing network throughput, improving forwarding reliability and load balancing.

The Multi-path OLSRV2 (MP-OLSRv2) specified in this document uses Multi-path Dijkstra algorithm by default to explore multiple disjoint paths from a source router to a destination router based on the topology information obtained through OLSRV2, and to forward the datagrams in a load-balancing manner using source routing. MP-OLSRv2 is designed to be interoperable with OLSRV2.

1.1. Motivation and Experiments to Be Conducted

This document is an experimental extension of OLSRV2 that can increase the data forwarding reliability in dynamic and high-load MANET scenarios by transmitting datagrams over multiple disjoint paths using source routing. This mechanism is used because:

- o Disjoint paths can avoid single route failures.
- o Transmitting datagrams through parallel paths can increase aggregated throughput.
- o Some scenarios may require some routers must (or must not) be used.
- o Having control of the paths at the source benefits the load balancing and traffic engineering.
- o An application of this extension is in combination with Forward Error Correction (FEC) coding applied across packets (erasure coding) [[WPMC11](#)]. Because the packet drop is normally bursty in a path (for example, due to route failure), erasure coding is less effective in single path routing protocols. By providing multiple disjoint paths, the application of erasure coding with multi-path

protocol is more resilient to routing failures.

While in existing deployments, running code and simulations have proven the interest of multi-path extension for OLSRv2 in certain networks, more experiments and experiences are still needed to understand the effects of the protocol. The multi-path extension for OLSRv2 is expected to be revised and improved to the Standard Track, once sufficient operational experience is obtained. Other than general experiences including the protocol specification and interoperability with base OLSRv2 implementations, the experiences in the following aspects are highly appreciated:

- o Optimal values for the number of multiple paths (`NUMBER_OF_PATHS`, [Section 5](#)) to be used. This depends on the network topology and router density.
- o Optimal values used in the metric functions. Metric functions are applied to increase the metric of used links and nodes so as to obtain disjoint paths. What kind of disjointness is desired (node-disjoint or link-disjoint) may depend on the layer 2 protocol used, and can be achieved by setting different sets of metric functions.
- o Use of different metric types. This multi-path extension can be used with metric types that meet the requirement of OLSRv2, such as [\[RFC7779\]](#). The metric type used has also impact to the choice of metric functions as indicated in the previous bullet point.
- o The impact of partial topology information to the multi-path calculation. OLSRv2 maintains a partial topology information base to reduce protocol overhead. Although with existing experience, multiple paths can be obtained even with such partial information, the calculation might be impacted, depending on the MPR selection algorithm used.
- o Use of IPv6 loose source routing. In the current specification, only strict source routing is used for IPv6 based on [\[RFC6554\]](#). In [\[I-D.ietf-6man-segment-routing-header\]](#), the use of loose source routing is also proposed in IPv6. In scenarios where the length of the source routing header is critical, the loose source routing can be considered.
- o Optimal choice of "key" routers for loose source routing. In some cases, loose source routing is used to reduce overhead or for interoperability with OLSRv2 routers. Other than the basic rules defined in the following of this document, optimal choices of routers to put in the loose source routing header can be further studied.

- o Different path-selection schedulers. By default, Round-Robin scheduling is used to select a path to be used for datagrams. In some scenarios, weighted scheduling can be considered: for example, the paths with lower metrics (i.e., higher quality) can transfer more datagrams compared to paths with higher metrics.
- o The impacts of the delay variation due to multi-path routing. [\[RFC2991\]](#) brings out some concerns of multi-path routing, especially variable latencies. Although current experiment results show that multi-path routing can reduce the jitter in dynamic scenarios, some transport protocols or applications may be sensitive to the datagram re-ordering.
- o The disjoint multi-path protocol has interesting application with erasure coding, especially for services like video/audio streaming [\[WPMC11\]](#). The combination of erasure coding mechanisms and this extension is thus encouraged.
- o Different algorithms to obtain multiple paths, other than the default Multi-path Dijkstra algorithm introduced in this specification.
- o The use of multi-topology information. By using [\[RFC7722\]](#), multiple topologies using different metric types can be obtained. Although there is no work defining how this extension can make use of the multi-topology information base yet, it is encouraged to experiment with the use of multiple metrics for building multiple paths.

2. Terminology

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 [\[RFC2119\]](#).

This document uses the terminology and notation defined in [\[RFC5444\]](#), [\[RFC6130\]](#), [\[RFC7181\]](#). Additionally, it defines the following terminology:

OLSRV2 Routing Process - A routing process based on [\[RFC7181\]](#), without multi-path extension specified in this document.

MP-OLSRV2 Routing Process - A multi-path routing process based on this specification as an extension to [\[RFC7181\]](#).

SR-OLSRV2 Routing Process - A OLSRV2 Routing Process that supports source routing, or an MP-OLSRV2 Routing Process.

3. Applicability Statement

As an extension of OLSRV2, this specification is applicable to MANETs for which OLSRV2 is applicable (see [[RFC7181](#)]). It can operate on single, or multiple interfaces, to discover multiple disjoint paths from a source router to a destination router. MP-OLSRV2 is designed for networks with dynamic topology by avoiding single route failure. It can also provide higher aggregated throughput and load balancing.

In a router supporting MP-OLSRV2, MP-OLSRV2 does not necessarily replace OLSRV2 completely. The extension can be applied for certain applications that are suitable for multi-path routing (mainly video or audio streams), based on the information such as DiffServ Code Point [[RFC2474](#)].

Compared to OLSRV2, this extension does not introduce new message type. A new Message TLV Type is introduced to identify the routers that support forwarding based on source routing header. It is interoperable with OLSRV2 implementations that do not have this extension: as the MP-OLSRV2 uses source routing, in IPv4 networks the interoperability is achieved by using loose source routing header; in IPv6 networks, it is achieved by eliminating routers that do not support IPv6 strict source routing.

MP-OLSRV2 supports two different, but interoperable multi-path calculation approaches: proactive and reactive. In the proactive calculation, the paths to all the destinations are calculated before needed. In the reactive calculation, only the paths to desired destination(s) are calculated on demand. The proactive approach requires more computational resources than the reactive one. The reactive approach requires the IP forwarding plane to trigger the multi-path calculation.

MP-OLSRV2 forwards datagrams using the source routing header. As there are multiple paths to each destination, MP-OLSRV2 requires the IP forwarding plane to be able to choose which source route to be put in the source routing header based on the path scheduler defined by MP-OLSRV2. For IPv4 networks, implementation of loose source routing is required following [[RFC0791](#)]. For IPv6 networks, implementation of strict source routing is required following the source routing header generation and processing defined in [[RFC6554](#)].

4. Protocol Overview and Functioning

This specification uses OLSRV2 [[RFC7181](#)] to:

- o Identify all the reachable routers in the network.
- o Identify a sufficient subset of links in the networks, so that routes can be calculated to all reachable destinations.
- o Provide a Routing Set containing shortest routes from this router to all destinations.

In addition, the MP-OLSRV2 Routing Process identifies the routers that support source routing by adding a new Message TLV in HELLO and TC messages. Based on the above information acquired, every MP-OLSRV2 Routing Process is aware of a reduced topology map of the network and the routers supporting source routing.

A Multi-path Routing Set containing the multi-path information is maintained. It may either be proactively calculated or reactively calculated:

- o In the proactive approach, multiple paths to all possible destinations are calculated and updated based on control message exchange. The routes are thus available before they are actually needed.
- o In the reactive approach, a multi-path algorithm is invoked on demand, i.e., only when there is a datagram to be sent from the source to the destination, and there is no available Routing Tuple in the Multi-path Routing Set. This requires the IP forwarding information base to trigger the multi-path calculation specified in [Section 8.5](#) when no Multi-path Routing Tuple is available. The reactive operation is local in the router and no additional routing control messages exchange is required. When the paths are being calculated, the datagrams SHOULD be buffered unless the router does not have enough memory.

Routers in the same network may choose either proactive or reactive multi-path calculation independently according to their computation resources. The Multi-path Dijkstra algorithm (defined in [Section 8.5](#)) is introduced as the default algorithm to generate multiple disjoint paths from a source to a destination, and such information is kept in the Multi-path Routing Set.

The datagram is forwarded based on source routing. When there is a datagram to be sent to a destination, the source router acquires a path from the Multi-path Routing Set (MAY be Round-Robin, or other

scheduling algorithms). The path information is stored in the datagram header as source routing header.

5. Parameters and Constants

In addition to the parameters and constants defined in [\[RFC7181\]](#), this specification uses the parameters and constants described in this section.

5.1. Router Parameters

NUMBER_OF_PATHS The number of paths desired by the router.

MAX_SRC_HOPS The maximum number of hops allowed to be put in the source routing header. A value set zero means there is no limitation on the maximum number of hops. In an IPv6 network, it MUST be set to 0 because [\[RFC6554\]](#) supports only strict source routing. All the intermediate routers MUST be included in the source routing header, which makes the number of hops to be kept a variable. In an IPv4 network, it MUST be strictly less than 11 and greater than 0 due to the limit of the IPv4 header.

CUTOFF_RATIO The ratio that defines the maximum metric of a path compared to the shortest path kept in the OLSRv2 Routing Set. For example, the metric to a destination is R_metric based on the Routing Set. Then the maximum metric allowed for a path is $CUTOFF_RATIO * R_metric$. **CUTOFF_RATIO** MUST be greater than or equal to 1. Note that setting the value to 1 means looking for equal length paths, which may not be possible in some networks.

SR_TC_INTERVAL The maximum time between the transmission of two successive TC messages by a MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process.

SR_HOLD_TIME_MULTIPLIER The multiplier to calculate the minimal time that a SR-OLSRv2 Router Tuple SHOULD be kept in the SR-OLSRv2 Router Set. It is the value of the Message TLV with Type = **SOURCE_ROUTE**.

6. Packets and Messages

This extension employs the routing control messages HELLO and TC (Topology Control) as defined in OLSRv2 [\[RFC7181\]](#) to obtain network topology information. For the datagram, to support source routing, a source routing header is added to each datagram routed by this extension. Depending on the IP version used, the source routing header is defined in this section.

6.1. HELLO and TC messages

HELLO and TC messages used by MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process use the same format as defined in [RFC7181]. In addition, a new Message TLV type is defined, to identify the originator of the HELLO or TC message that supports source route forwarding. The new Message TLV type is introduced for enabling MP-OLSRv2 as an extension of OLSRV2: only the routers supporting source-route forwarding can be used in the source routing header of a datagram, because adding a router that does not understand the source routing header will cause routing failure.

6.1.1. SOURCE_ROUTE TLV

SOURCE_ROUTE TLV is a Message TLV signalling that the message is generated by a router that supports source-route forwarding. It can be an MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process, or an OLSRV2 Routing Process that supports source-route forwarding.

Every HELLO or TC message generated by a MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process MUST have exactly one SOURCE_ROUTE TLV.

Type	Value	Value
	Length	
SOURCE_ROUTE	1 octet	The parameter SR_HOLD_TIME_MULTIPLIER (unsigned integer)

Table 1: SOURCE_ROUTE TLV Definition

Every HELLO or TC message generated by an OLSRV2 Routing Process MUST have exactly one SOURCE_ROUTE TLV, if the OLSRV2 Routing Process supports source-route forwarding, and is willing to join the source route generated by other MP-OLSRv2 Routing Processes. The existence of SOURCE_ROUTE TLV MUST be consistent for a specific OLSRV2 Routing Process, i.e., either it adds SOURCE_ROUTE TLV to all its HELLO/TC messages, or it does not add SOURCE_ROUTE TLV to any HELLO/TC messages.

6.2. Datagram

6.2.1. Source Routing Header in IPv4

In IPv4 [RFC0791] networks, the MP-OLSRv2 routing process employs loose source routing header, as defined in [RFC0791]. It exists as an option header, with option class 0, and option number 3.

The source route information is kept in the "route data" field of the loose source route header.

6.2.2. Source Routing Header in IPv6

In IPv6 [[I-D.ietf-6man-rfc2460bis](#)] networks, the MP-OLSRv2 routing process employs the source routing header as defined in [section 3 of \[RFC6554\]](#), but with IPv6 Routing Type 254 (experimental).

The source route information is kept in the "Addresses" field of the routing header.

7. Information Bases

Each MP-OLSRv2 routing process maintains the information bases as defined in [[RFC7181](#)]. Additionally, a Multipath Information Base is used for this specification. It includes the protocol sets as defined below.

7.1. SR-OLSRv2 Router Set

The SR-OLSRv2 Router Set records the routers that support source-route forwarding. This includes routers that run MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process, or OLSRv2 Routing Process with source-route forwarding support. The set consists of SR-OLSRv2 Router Tuples:

(SR_addr, SR_time)

where:

SR_addr - is the network address of the router that supports source-route forwarding;

SR_time - is the time until which the SR-OLSRv2 Router Tuple is considered valid.

7.2. Multi-path Routing Set

The Multi-path Routing Set records the full path information of different paths to the destination. It consists of Multi-path Routing Tuples:

(MR_dest_addr, MR_path_set)

where:

MR_dest_addr - is the network address of the destination, either the network address of an interface of a destination router or the network address of an attached network;

MP_path_set - contains the multiple paths to the destination. It consists of a set of Path Tuples.

Each Path Tuple is defined as:

(PT_metric, PT_address[1], PT_address[2], ..., PT_address[n])

where:

PT_metric - is the metric of the path to the destination, measured in LINK_METRIC_TYPE defined in [\[RFC7181\]](#);

PT_address[1, ..., n-1] - are the addresses of intermediate routers to be visited numbered from 1 to n-1, where n is the number of routers in the path, i.e., the hop count.

8. Protocol Details

This protocol is based on OLSRv2, and extended to discover multiple disjoint paths from a source router to a destination router. It retains the basic routing control packets formats and processing of OLSRv2 to obtain topology information of the network. The main differences between OLSRv2 routing process are the datagram processing at the source router and datagram forwarding.

8.1. HELLO and TC Message Generation

HELLO messages are generated according to [Section 15.1 of \[RFC7181\]](#), plus a single message TLV with Type := SOURCE_ROUTE included.

TC message are generated according to [Section 16.1 of \[RFC7181\]](#) plus a single message TLV with Type := SOURCE_ROUTE included. At least one TC message MUST be generated by an MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process during SR_TC_INTERVAL ([Section 5](#)). The TC message generation based on SR_TC_INTERVAL does not replace the ordinary TC message generation specified in [\[RFC7181\]](#) and MUST not carry any advertised neighbor addresses. This is due to the fact that not all routers will generate TC messages based on OLSRv2. The TC generation based on SR_TC_INTERVAL serves for those routers to advertise SOURCE_ROUTE TLV so that the other routers can be aware of the source-route enabled routers so as to be used as destinations of multipath routing. The SR_TC_INTERVAL is set to a longer value than TC_INTERVAL.

8.2. HELLO and TC Message Processing

HELLO and TC messages are processed according to [section 15.3](#) and 16.3 of [\[RFC7181\]](#).

In addition to the reasons specified in [\[RFC7181\]](#) for discarding a HELLO message or a TC message on reception, a HELLO or TC message received MUST be discarded if it has more than one Message TLV with Type = SOURCE_ROUTE.

For every HELLO or TC message received, if there is a Message TLV with Type := SOURCE_ROUTE, create or update (if the Tuple exists already) the SR-OLSR Router Tuple with

- o SR_addr := originator address of the HELLO or TC message
- o SR_time := current_time + SR_HOLD_TIME_MULTIPLIER * validity time of the TC or HELLO message defined in [\[RFC7181\]](#), unless the existing SR_time is greater than the newly calculated the SR_time.

8.3. MPR Selection

Each MP-OLSRV2 Routing Process selects routing MPRs and flooding MPRs following [Section 18 of \[RFC7181\]](#). In a mixed network with OLSRV2-only routers, the following considerations apply when calculating MPRs:

- o MP-OLSRV2 routers SHOULD be preferred as routing MPRs to increase the possibility of finding disjoint paths using MP-OLSRV2 routers.
- o The number of routing MPRs that run MP-OLSRV2 Routing Process MUST be equal or greater than NUMBER_OF_PATHS if there are enough MP-OLSRV2 symmetric neighbors. Or else, all the MP-OLSRV2 routers are selected as routing MPRs.

8.4. Datagram Processing at the MP-OLSRV2 Originator

If datagrams without source routing header need to be forwarded using multiple paths (for example, based on the information of DiffServ Code Point [\[RFC2474\]](#)), the MP-OLSRV2 routing process will try to find the Multi-path Routing Tuple where:

- o MR_dest_addr = destination of the datagram

If no matching Multi-path Routing Tuple is found and the Multi-path Routing Set is maintained proactively, it indicates that there is no route available to the desired destination. The datagram is discarded.

If no matching Multi-path Routing Tuple is found and the Multi-path Routing Set is maintained reactively, the multi-path algorithm defined in [Section 8.5](#) is invoked, to calculate the Multi-path Routing Tuple to the destination. If the calculation does not return any Multi-path Routing Tuple, the following steps are aborted and the datagram is forwarded following OLSRv2 routing process.

If a matching Multi-path Routing Tuple is obtained, the Path Tuples of the Multi-path Routing Tuple are applied to the datagrams using Round-robin scheduling. For example, there are 2 path Tuples (Path-1, Path-2) for destination router D. A series of datagrams (Packet-1, Packet-2, Packet-3, ... etc.) are to be sent router D. Path-1 is then chosen for Packet-1, Path-2 for Packet-2, Path-1 for Packet 3, etc. Other path scheduling mechanisms are also possible and will not impact the interoperability of different implementations.

The addresses in PT_address[1, ..., n-1] of the chosen Path Tuple are thus added to the datagram header as the source routing header. For IPv6 networks, strict source routing is used, thus all the intermediate routers in the path are stored in the source routing header following format defined in [section 3 of \[RFC6554\]](#) with Routing Type set to 3.

For IPv4 networks, loose source routing is used, with following rules:

- o Only the addresses that exist in SR-OLSR Router Set can be added to the source routing header.
- o If the length of the path (n) is greater than MAX_SRC_HOPS ([Section 5](#)), only the "key" routers in the path are kept. By default, the key routers are uniformly chosen in the path. If further information such as capacity of the routers (e.g., battery life) or the routers' willingness in forwarding data is available, the routers with higher capacity and willingness are preferred.
- o The routers that are considered not appropriate for forwarding indicated by external policies should be avoided.

It is RECOMMENDED to use MTU sizes considering the source routing header to avoid fragmentation. Depending on the size of the routing domain, the MTU should be at least 1280 + 40 (for outer IP header) + 16 * diameter of the network in number of hops (for source routing header). If the links in the network have different MTU sizes, by using technologies like Path MTU Discovery, the routers are able to be aware of the MTU along the path. The size of the datagram plus the size of IP headers (including the source routing header) SHOULD

NOT exceed the minimum MTU along the path.

8.5. Multi-path Calculation

8.5.1. Requirements of Multi-path Calculation

The Multi-path Routing Set maintains the information of multiple paths to the destination. The Path Tuples of the Multi-path Routing Set ([Section 7.2](#)) are generated based on a multi-path algorithm.

For each path to a destination, the algorithm must provide:

- o The metric of the path to the destination,
- o The list of intermediate routers on the path.

For IPv6 networks, as strict source routing is used, only the routers that exist in SR-OLSRv2 Router Set are considered in the path calculation, i.e., only the source-routing supported routers can exist in the path.

After the calculation of multiple paths, the metric of paths (denoted c_i for path i) to the destination is compared to the R_metric of the OLSRv2 Routing Tuple ([\[RFC7181\]](#)) to the same destination. If the metric c_i is greater than $R_metric * CUTOFF_RATIO$ ([Section 5](#)), the corresponding path i SHOULD NOT be used. If less than 2 paths are found with metrics less than $R_metric * CUTOFF_RATIO$, the router SHOULD fall back to OLSRv2 Routing Process without using multipath routing. This can happen if there are too much OLSRv2-only routers in the network, and requiring multipath routing may result in inferior paths.

By invoking the multi-path algorithm, `NUMBER_OF_PATHS` paths are obtained and added to the Multi-path Routing Set, by creating a Multi-path Routing Tuple with:

- o `MR_dest_addr` := destination of the datagram
- o A `MP_path_set` with calculated Path Tuples. Each Path Tuple corresponds to a path obtained in Multi-path Dijkstra algorithm, with `PT_metric` := metric of the calculated path and `PT_address[1, ..., n-1]` := list of intermediate routers.

8.5.2. Multi-path Dijkstra Algorithm

This section introduces Multi-path Dijkstra Algorithm as a default algorithm. It tries to obtain disjoint paths when appropriate, but does not guarantee strict disjoint paths. The use of other

algorithms is not prohibited, as long as the requirements described in [Section 8.5.1](#) are met. Using different multi-path algorithms will not impact the interoperability.

The general principle of the Multi-path Dijkstra Algorithm [[ADHOC11](#)] is using Dijkstra algorithm for multiple iterations, and at iteration i to look for the shortest path $P[i]$ to the destination d . After each iteration, the cost of used links is increased. Compared to the original Dijkstra algorithm, the main modification consists in adding two incremental functions named metric functions fp and fe in order to prevent the next steps resulting in similar paths:

- o $fp(c)$ is used to increase metrics of arcs belonging to the previous path $P[i-1]$ (with $i > 1$), where c is the value of the previous metric. This encourages future paths to use different arcs but not different vertices.
- o $fe(c)$ is used to increase metrics of the arcs that lead to intermediate vertices of the previous path $P[i-1]$ (with $i > 1$), where c is the value of the previous metric. The "lead to" means that only one vertex of the arc belongs to the previous path $P[i-1]$, while the other vertex is not. The "intermediate" means that the source and destination vertices are not considered.

Considering the simple example in Figure 1: a path $P[i]$ S--A--D is obtained at step i . For the next step, the metric of link S--A and A--D are to be increased using $fp(c)$, because they belong to the path $P[i]$. A--B is to be increased using $fe(c)$, because A is an intermediate vertex of path $P[i]$, and B is not part of $P[i]$. B--D is unchanged.

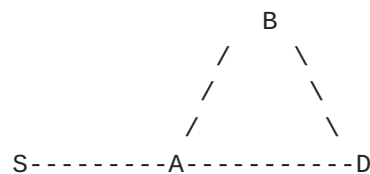


Figure 1

It is possible to choose different fp and fe to get link-disjoint paths or node-disjoint paths as desired. A recommendation of configuration of fp and fe is given in [Section 9](#).

To get `NUMBER_OF_PATHS` different paths, for each path $P[i]$ ($i = 1, \dots, \text{NUMBER_OF_PATHS}$) do:

1. Run Dijkstra algorithm to get the shortest path $P[i]$ for the destination d .
2. Apply metric function fp to the metric of links (in both directions) in $P[i]$.
3. Apply metric function fe to the metric of links (in both directions) that lead to routers used in $P[i]$.

A simple example of Multi-path Dijkstra Algorithm is illustrated in [Appendix A](#).

8.6. Multi-path Routing Set Updates

The Multi-path Routing Set MUST be updated when the Local Information Base, the Neighborhood Information Base, or the Topology Information Base indicate a change (including of any potentially used outgoing neighbor metric values) of the known symmetric links and/or attached networks in the MANET, hence changing the Topology Graph, as described in [section 17.7 of \[RFC7181\]](#). How the Multi-path Routing Set is updated depends on the set is maintained reactively or proactively:

- o In reactive mode, all the Tuples in the Multi-path Routing Set are removed. The new arriving datagrams will be processed as specified in [Section 8.4](#);
- o In proactive mode, the route to all the destinations are updated according to [Section 8.5](#).

8.7. Datagram Forwarding

In IPv4 networks, datagrams are forwarded using loose source routing as specified in [Section 3.1 of \[RFC0791\]](#).

In IPv6 networks, datagrams are forwarded using strict source routing as specified in [Section 4.2 of \[RFC6554\]](#), except the applied routers are MP-OLSRv2 routers rather than RPL routers. The last hop of the source route MUST remove the source routing header.

9. Configuration Parameters

This section gives default values and guideline for setting parameters defined in [Section 5](#). Network administrators may wish to change certain, or all the parameters for different network scenarios. As an experimental protocol, the users of this protocol are also encouraged to explore different parameter setting in various

network environments, and provide feedback.

- o `NUMBER_OF_PATHS := 3`. This parameter defines the number of parallel paths used in datagram forwarding. Setting it to one makes the specification identical to OLSRv2. Setting it to too large values may lead to unnecessary computational overhead and inferior paths.
- o `MAX_SRC_HOPS := 10`, for IPv4 networks. For IPv6 networks, it MUST be set to 0, i.e., no constraint on maximum number of hops.
- o `CUTOFF_RATIO := 1.5`. It MUST be strictly greater than 1.
- o `SR_TC_INTERVAL := 10 x TC_INTERVAL`. It SHOULD be significantly greater than `TC_INTERVAL` to reduce unnecessary TC message generations.
- o `SR_HOLD_TIME_MULTIPLIER := 32`. It MUST be greater than 1 and less than 255. It SHOULD be greater than 30.

If Multi-path Dijkstra Algorithm is applied:

- o $fp(c) := 4 * c$, where c is the original metric of the link.
- o $fe(c) := 2 * c$, where c is the original metric of the link.

The setting of metric functions fp and fc defines the preference of obtained multiple disjoint paths. If id is the identity function, i.e., $fp(c)=c$, 3 cases are possible:

- o if $id=fe < fp$: only increase the metric of related links;
- o if $id < fe = fp$: apply equal increase to the metric of related nodes and links;
- o if $id < fe < fp$: apply more increase to the metric of related links.

Increasing the metric of related links or nodes means avoiding the use of such links or nodes in the next path to be calculated.

10. Implementation Status

The RFC Editor is advised to remove the entire section before publication, as well as the reference to [RFC 7942](#).

This section records the status of known implementations of the protocol defined by this specification at the time of posting of this

Internet-Draft, and based on a proposal described in [[RFC7942](#)]. The description of implementations in this section is intended to assist the IETF in its decision processes in progressing drafts to RFCs. Please note that the listing of any individual implementation here does not imply endorsement by the IETF. Furthermore, no effort has been spent to verify the information presented here that was supplied by IETF contributors. This is not intended as, and must not be construed to be, a catalog of available implementations or their features. Readers are advised to note that other implementations may exist.

According to [[RFC7942](#)], "this will allow reviewers and working groups to assign due consideration to documents that have the benefit of running code, which may serve as evidence of valuable experimentation and feedback that have made the implemented protocols more mature. It is up to the individual working groups to use this information as they see fit".

Until April 2015, there are 3 open source implementations of the protocol specified in this document, for both testbed and simulation use.

[10.1.](#) Multi-path extension based on nOLSRv2

The implementation is conducted by University of Nantes, France, and is based on Niigata University's nOLSRv2 implementation. It is an open source implementation. The code is available at https://github.com/yijiazi/mpolsr_qualnet and <http://jiiaziyi.com/index.php/research-projects/mp-olsr> .

It can be used for Qualnet simulations, and be exported to run in a testbed. All the specification is implemented in this implementation.

Implementation experience and test data can be found at [[ADHOC11](#)].

[10.2.](#) Multi-path extension based on olsrd

The implementation is conducted under SEREADMO (Securite des Reseaux Ad Hoc & Mojette) project, and supported by French research agency (RNRT2803). It is based on olsrd (<http://www.olsr.org/>) implementation, and is open sourced. The code is available at https://github.com/yijiazi/mpolsr_testbed and <http://jiiaziyi.com/index.php/research-projects/sereadmo> .

The implementation is for testing the specification in the field. All the specification is implemented in this implementation.

Implementation experience and test data can be found at [[ADHOC11](#)] and [[GIIS14](#)].

10.3. Multi-path extension based on umOLSR

The implementation is conducted by University of Nantes, France, and is based on um-olsr implementation (<http://masimum.inf.um.es/fjrm/development/um-olsr/>). The code is available at https://github.com/yijiazi/mpolsr_ns2 and <http://jiiaziyi.com/index.php/research-projects/mp-olsr> under GNU GPL license.

The implementation is for network simulation for NS2 network simulator. All the specification is implemented in this implementation.

Implementation experience and test data can be found at [[WCNC08](#)].

11. Security Considerations

As an extension of [[RFC7181](#)], the security considerations and security architecture illustrated in [[RFC7181](#)] are applicable to this MP-OLSRv2 specification. The implementations without security mechanisms are vulnerable to threats discussed in [[I-D.ietf-manet-olsrv2-sec-threats](#)].

In a mixed network with OLSRv2-only routers, a compromised router can add SOURCE_ROUTE TLVs in its TC and HELLO messages, which will make other MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process believes that it supports source routing. This will increase the possibility of being chosen as MPRs and be put into the source routing header. The former will make it possible to manipulate the flooding of TC messages and the latter will make the datagram pass through the compromised router.

As [[RFC7181](#)], a conformant implementation of MP-OLSRv2 MUST, at minimum, implement the security mechanisms specified in [[RFC7183](#)] to provide integrity and replay protection of routing control messages.

MP-OLSRv2 Routing Process MUST drop datagrams entering or exiting a OLSRv2/MP-OLSRv2 routing domain that contain a source routing header. Compared to OLSRv2, the use of source routing header in this specification introduces vulnerabilities related to source routing attacks, which include bypassing filtering devices, bandwidth exhaustion of certain routers, etc. Those attacks are discussed in [Section 5 of \[\[RFC6554\]\(#\)\]](#) and [[RFC5095](#)]. The influence is limited to the OLSRv2/MP-OLSRv2 routing domain, because the source routing header is used only in the current routing domain.

If the multiple paths are calculated reactively, the datagrams SHOULD be buffered while the paths are being calculated. Because the path calculation is local and no control message is exchanged, the buffering time should be trivial. However, depending on the CPU power and memory of the router, a maximum buffer size SHOULD be set to avoid occupying too much memory of the router. When the buffer is full, the ancient datagrams are dropped. A possible attack that a malicious application could launch is that, it initiates large amount of datagrams to all the other routers in the network, thus triggering path calculation to all the other routers and during which, the datagrams are buffered. This might flush other legitimate datagrams. But the impact of the attack is transient: once the path calculation is finished, the datagrams are forwarded and the buffer goes back to empty.

12. IANA Considerations

This section adds one new Message TLV, allocated as a new Type Extension to an existing Message TLV.

12.1. Expert Review: Evaluation Guidelines

For the registry where an Expert Review is required, the designated expert SHOULD take the same general recommendations into consideration as are specified by [RFC5444].

12.2. Message TLV Types

This specification updates the Message Type 7 by adding the new Type Extension SOURCE_ROUTE, as illustrated in Table 2.

Type	Name	Description	Reference
Extension			
TBD	SOURCE_ROUTE	Indicates that the originator of the message supports source route forwarding. The value is a multiplier for calculating the hold time of SR-OLSRv2 Router Tuples.	This specification

Table 2: SOURCE_ROUTE type for [RFC 5444](#) Type 7 Message TLV Type

Extensions

13. Acknowledgments

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[Appendix A](#). Examples of Multi-path Dijkstra Algorithm

This appendix gives two examples of multi-path Dijkstra algorithm.

A network topology is depicted in Figure 2.

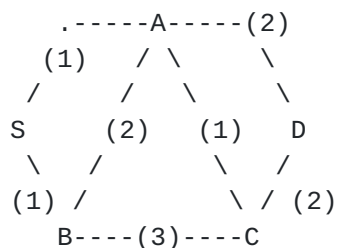


Figure 2

The capital letters are name of routers. An arbitrary metric with value between 1 and 3 is used. The initial metrics of all the links are indicated in the parenthesis. The incremental functions $fp(c)=4c$ and $fe(c)=2c$ are used in this example. Two paths from router S to router D are demanded.

On the first run of the Dijkstra algorithm, the shortest path S->A->D with metric 3 is obtained.

The incremental function fp is applied to increase the metric of the link S-A and A-D. fe is applied to increase the metric of the link A-B and A-C. Figure 3 shows the link metrics after the punishment.

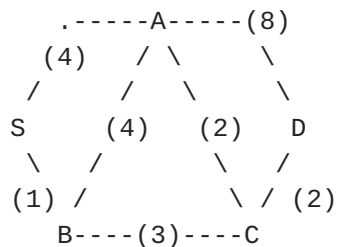


Figure 3

On the second run of the Dijkstra algorithm, the second path S->B->C->D with metric 6 is obtained.

As mentioned in [Section 8.5](#), the Multi-path Dijkstra Algorithm does not guarantee strict disjoint path to avoid choosing inferior paths. For example, given the topology in Figure 4, two paths from node S to D are desired. On the top of the figure, there is a high cost path between S and D.

If a algorithm tries to obtain strict disjoint paths, the two paths obtained will be S--B--D and S--(high cost path)--D, which are extremely unbalanced. It is undesired because it will cause huge delay variance between the paths. By using the Multi-path Dijkstra

algorithm, which is based on the punishing scheme, S--B--D and S--B--C--D will be obtained.

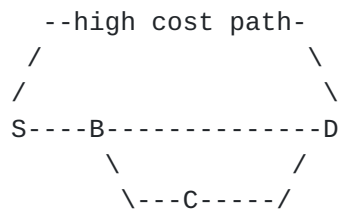


Figure 4

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