Workgroup: MPLS Working Group
Internet-Draft:
draft-ietf-mpls-bfd-directed-19
Published: 14 February 2022
Intended Status: Standards Track
Expires: 18 August 2022
Authors: G. Mirsky (Ericsson) J. Tantsura (Juniper Networks) I. Varlashkin (Google) M. Chen (Huawei)

Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) Directed Return Path for MPLS Label Switched Paths (LSPs)

Abstract

Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) is expected to be able to monitor a wide variety of encapsulations of paths between systems. When a BFD session monitors an explicitly routed unidirectional path there may be a need to direct egress BFD peer to use a specific path for the reverse direction of the BFD session.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-Drafts is at https://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

This Internet-Draft will expire on 18 August 2022.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2022 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to BCP 78 and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents (https://trustee.ietf.org/license-info) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Revised BSD License text as described in

Section 4.e of the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Revised BSD License.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

[RFC5880], [RFC5881], and [RFC5883] established the BFD protocol for IP networks. [RFC5884] and [RFC7726] set rules for using BFD asynchronous mode over IP/MPLS LSPs, while not defining means to control the path an egress BFD system uses to send BFD control packets towards the ingress BFD system.

For the case when BFD is used to detect defects of the traffic engineered LSP the path the BFD control packets transmitted by the egress BFD system toward the ingress may be disjoint from the LSP in the forward direction. The fact that BFD control packets are not guaranteed to follow the same links and nodes in both forward and reverse directions may be one of the factors contributing to producing false positive defect notifications, i.e., false alarms, at the ingress BFD peer. Ensuring that both directions of the BFD session use co-routed paths may, in some environments, improve the determinism of the failure detection and localization.

This document defines the BFD Reverse Path TLV as an extension to LSP Ping [RFC8029] and proposes that it is to be used to instruct the egress BFD system to use an explicit path for its BFD control packets associated with a particular BFD session. The TLV will be allocated from the TLV and sub-TLV registry defined in [RFC8029]. As a special case, forward and reverse directions of the BFD session can form a bi-directional co-routed associated channel.

1.1. Conventions used in this document

1.1.1. 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.

2. Problem Statement

When BFD is used to monitor explicitly routed unidirectional path, e.g., MPLS-TE LSP, BFD control packets in forward direction would be in-band using the mechanism defined in [RFC5884]. But the reverse direction of the BFD session would follow the shortest path route and that might lead to the problem in detecting failures on an explicit unidirectional path, as described below:

* detection by an ingress node of a failure on the reverse path may not be unambiguously interpreted as the failure of the path in the forward direction.

To address this scenario, the egress BFD peer would be instructed to use a specific path for BFD control packets.

3. Control of the Reverse BFD Path

To bootstrap a BFD session over an MPLS LSP, LSP ping, defined in [RFC8029], MUST be used with BFD Discriminator TLV [RFC5884]. This document defines a new TLV, BFD Reverse Path TLV, that MAY contain none, one or more sub-TLVs that can be used to carry information about the reverse path for the BFD session that is specified by the value in BFD Discriminator TLV.

3.1. BFD Reverse Path TLV

The BFD Reverse Path TLV is an optional TLV within the LSP ping [RFC8029]. However, if used, the BFD Discriminator TLV MUST be included in an Echo Request message as well. If the BFD Discriminator TLV is not present when the BFD Reverse Path TLV is included; then it MUST be treated as malformed Echo Request, as described in [RFC8029].

The BFD Reverse Path TLV carries information about the path onto which the egress BFD peer of the BFD session referenced by the BFD Discriminator TLV MUST transmit BFD control packets. The format of the BFD Reverse Path TLV is as presented in Figure 1.

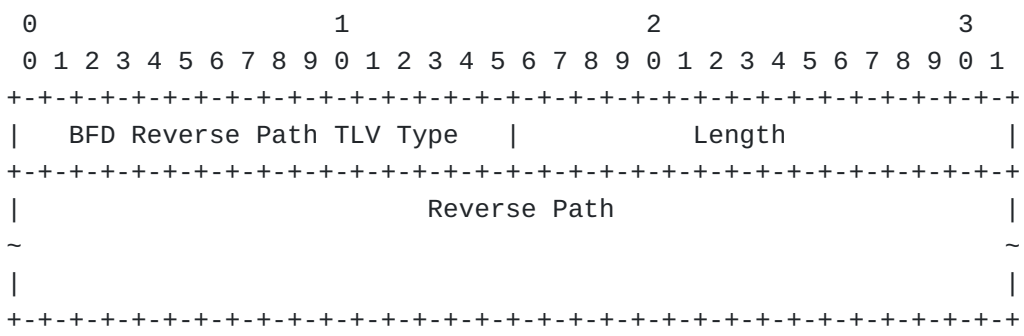

Figure 1: BFD Reverse Path TLV

BFD Reverse Path TLV Type is two octets in length and has a value of TBD1 (to be assigned by IANA as requested in Section 6).

Length field is two octets long and defines the length in octets of the Reverse Path field.

Reverse Path field contains none, one or more sub-TLVs. Any non-multicast Target FEC Stack sub-TLV (already defined, or to be defined in the future) for TLV Types 1, 16, and 21 of MPLS LSP Ping Parameters registry MAY be used in this field. Multicast Target FEC Stack sub-TLVs, i.e., p2mp and mp2mp, SHOULD NOT be included in Reverse Path field. If the egress LSR finds multicast Target Stack sub-TLV, it MUST send echo reply with the received Reverse Path TLV, BFD Discriminator TLV and set the Return Code to "Inappropriate Target FEC Stack sub-TLV present" Section 3.2. None, one or more sub-TLVs MAY be included in the BFD Reverse Path TLV. If no sub-TLVs are found in the BFD Reverse Path TLV, the egress BFD peer MUST revert to using the local policy-based decision as described in Section 7 [RFC5884], i.e., routed over IP network.

If the egress LSR cannot find the path specified in the Reverse Path TLV it MUST send Echo Reply with the received BFD Discriminator TLV, Reverse Path TLV and set the Return Code to "Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found" Section 3.2. An implementation MAY provide configuration options to define action at the egress BFD peer. For example, if the egress LSR cannot find the path specified in the Reverse Path TLV, it MAY establish the BFD session over an IP network, as defined in [RFC5884].

The BFD Reverse Path TLV MAY be used in the bootstrapping of a BFD session process described in Section 6 [RFC5884]. A system that supports this specification MUST support using the BFD Reverse Path TLV after the BFD session has been established. If a system that supports this specification receives an LSP Ping with the BFD Discriminator TLV and no BFD Reverse Path TLV even though the reverse path for the specified BFD session has been established according to the previously received BFD Reverse Path TLV, the

egress LSR MUST transition to transmitting periodic BFD Control messages as defined in Section 7 [RFC5884].

3.2. Return Codes

This document defines the following Return Codes for MPLS LSP Echo Reply:

*"Inappropriate Target FEC Stack sub-TLV present", (TBD3). When multicast Target FEC Stack sub-TLV found in the received Echo Request by the egress BFD peer, an Echo Reply with the return code set to "Inappropriate Target FEC Stack sub-TLV present" MUST be sent to the ingress BFD peer Section 3.1.

*"Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found", (TBD4). When a specified reverse path is not available at the egress BFD peer, an Echo Reply with the return code set to "Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found" MUST be sent back to the ingress BFD peer Section 3.1.

4. Use Case Scenario

In the network presented in Figure 2 node A monitors two tunnels to node H: A-B-C-D-G-H and A-B-E-F-G-H. To bootstrap a BFD session to monitor the first tunnel, node A MUST include a BFD Discriminator TLV with Discriminator value (e.g., foobar-1) and MAY include a BFD Reverse Path TLV that references H-G-D-C-B-A tunnel. To bootstrap a BFD session to monitor the second tunnel, node A MUST include a BFD Discriminator TLV with a different Discriminator value (e.g., foobar-2) [RFC7726] and MAY include a BFD Reverse Path TLV that references H-G-F-E-B-A tunnel.

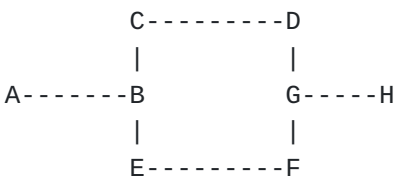

Figure 2: Use Case for BFD Reverse Path TLV

If an operator needs node H to monitor a path to node A, e.g. H-G-D-C-B-A tunnel, then by looking up the list of known Reverse Paths it MAY find and use the existing BFD session.

5. Operational Considerations

When an explicit path is set either as Static or RSVP-TE LSP, corresponding sub-TLVs, defined in [RFC7110], MAY be used to

identify the explicit reverse path for the BFD session. If any of defined in [RFC7110] sub-TLVs used in BFD Reverse Path TLV, then the periodic verification of the control plane against the data plane, as recommended in Section 4 [RFC5884], MUST use the Return Path TLV, as per [RFC7110], with that sub-TLV. By using the LSP Ping with Return Path TLV, an operator monitors whether at the egress BFD node the reverse LSP is mapped to the same FEC as the BFD session. Selection and control of the rate of LSP Ping with Return Path TLV follows the recommendation of [RFC5884]: "The rate of generation of these LSP Ping Echo request messages SHOULD be significantly less than the rate of generation of the BFD Control packets. An implementation MAY provide configuration options to control the rate of generation of the periodic LSP Ping Echo request messages."

Suppose an operator planned network maintenance activity that possibly affects FEC used in the BFD Reverse Path TLV. In that case, the operator MUST avoid the unnecessary disruption using the LSP Ping with a new FEC in the BFD Reverse Path TLV. But in some scenarios, proactive measures cannot be taken. Because the frequency of LSP Ping messages will be lower than the defect detection time provided by the BFD session. As a result, a change in the reverse-path FEC will first be detected as the BFD session's failure. In such a case, the ingress BFD node SHOULD immediately transmit the LSP Ping Echo request with Return Path TLV to verify whether the FEC is still valid. If the failure was caused by the change in the FEC used for the reverse direction of the BFD session, the ingress BFD node SHOULD bootstrap a new BFD session using another FEC in BFD Reverse Path TLV.

6. IANA Considerations

6.1. BFD Reverse Path TLV

The IANA is requested to assign a new value for BFD Reverse Path TLV from the "Multiprotocol Label Switching Architecture (MPLS) Label Switched Paths (LSPs) Ping Parameters - TLVs" registry, "TLVs and sub-TLVs" sub-registry.

Value	Description	Reference
(TBD1)	BFD Reverse Path TLV	This document

Table 1: New BFD Reverse Type TLV

6.2. Return Code

The IANA is requested to assign a new Return Code value from the "Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Label Switched Paths (LSPs) Ping Parameters" registry, "Return Codes" sub-registry, as follows using a Standards Action value.

Value	Description	Reference
(TBD3)	Inappropriate Target FEC Stack sub-TLV present.	This document
(TBD4)	Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found.	This document

Table 2: New Return Code

7. Implementation Status

- The organization responsible for the implementation: ZTE Corporation.

- The implementation's name ROSng empowers traditional routers, e.g., ZXCTN 6000.

- A brief general description: A Return Path can be specified for a BFD session over RSVP tunnel or LSP. The same can be specified for a backup RSVP tunnel/LSP.

The implementation's level of maturity: production.

- Coverage: RSVP LSP (no support for Static LSP)

- Version compatibility: draft-ietf-mpls-bfd-directed-10.

- Licensing: proprietary.

- Implementation experience: simple once you support RFC 7110.

- Contact information: Qian Xin qian.xin2@zte.com.cn

- The date when information about this particular implementation was last updated: 12/16/2019

Note to RFC Editor: This section MUST be removed before publication of the document.

8. Security Considerations

Security considerations discussed in [RFC5880], [RFC5884], [RFC7726], [RFC8029], and [RFC7110] apply to this document.

9. Normative References

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>.

[RFC5880] Katz, D. and D. Ward, "Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD)", RFC 5880, DOI 10.17487/RFC5880, June 2010, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5880>.

[RFC5881] Katz, D. and D. Ward, "Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) for IPv4 and IPv6 (Single Hop)", RFC 5881, DOI 10.17487/RFC5881, June 2010, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5881>.

[RFC5883] Katz, D. and D. Ward, "Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) for Multihop Paths", RFC 5883, DOI 10.17487/RFC5883, June 2010, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5883>.

[RFC5884] Aggarwal, R., Kompella, K., Nadeau, T., and G. Swallow, "Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) for MPLS Label Switched Paths (LSPs)", RFC 5884, DOI 10.17487/RFC5884, June 2010, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5884>.

[RFC7110] Chen, M., Cao, W., Ning, S., Jounay, F., and S. Delord, "Return Path Specified Label Switched Path (LSP) Ping", RFC 7110, DOI 10.17487/RFC7110, January 2014, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7110>.

[RFC7726] Govindan, V., Rajaraman, K., Mirsky, G., Akiya, N., and S. Aldrin, "Clarifying Procedures for Establishing BFD Sessions for MPLS Label Switched Paths (LSPs)", RFC 7726, DOI 10.17487/RFC7726, January 2016, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7726>.

[RFC8029] Kompella, K., Swallow, G., Pignataro, C., Ed., Kumar, N., Aldrin, S., and M. Chen, "Detecting Multiprotocol Label Switched (MPLS) Data-Plane Failures", RFC 8029, DOI 10.17487/RFC8029, March 2017, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8029>.

[RFC8174] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words", BCP 14, RFC 8174, DOI 10.17487/RFC8174, May 2017, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8174>.

Appendix A. Acknowledgments

The authors greatly appreciate a thorough review and the most helpful comments from Eric Gray and Carlos Pignataro. The authors much appreciate the help of Qian Xin, who provided information about the implementation of this specification.

Authors' Addresses

Greg Mirsky
Ericsson

Email: gregimirsky@gmail.com

Jeff Tantsura
Juniper Networks

Email: jefftant.ietf@gmail.com

Ilya Varlashkin
Google

Email: Ilya@nobulus.com

Mach(Guoyi) Chen
Huawei

Email: mach.chen@huawei.com