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Export BGP community information in IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX) draft-ietf-opsawg-ipfix-bgp-community-02

Abstract

This draft introduces several information elements in IPFIX information model [RFC7012] to enable IPFIX [RFC7011] to export the BGP community information, including standard community defined in [RFC1997], extended community defined in [RFC4360], large community defined in [RFC8092], community container defined in [I-D.ietf-idr-wide-bgp-communities].

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1. Introduction

IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX) [RFC7011] provides network administrators with traffic flow information using the information elements (IEs) defined in [IANA-IPFIX] registries. Based on the traffic flow information, network administrators know the amount and direction of the traffic in their network, then they can optimize their network when needed. For example, they can steer some flows from the congested links to the low utilized links.

[IANA-IPFIX] has already defined the following IEs for traffic flow information exporting in different grain: sourceIPv4Address, sourceIPv4Prefix, destinationIPv4Address, destinationIPv4Prefix, bgpSourceAsNumber, bgpDestinationAsNumber, bgpNextHopIPv4Address, etc. In some circumstances, however, especially when traffic

engineering and optimization are used in the Tier 1 or Tier 2 operators' backbone networks, traffic flow information based on these IEs is not suitable. Flow information based on IP address or IP prefix is much more mediculous. On the contrary, flow information based on AS number is too coarse. BGP community [RFC1997], which describes a group of routes sharing some common properties, is preferably used for fine granularity traffic engineering [Community-TE] [RFC4384]. Unfortunately, [IANA-IPFIX] has no IE defined for BGP community information, yet.

Flow information based on BGP community can be collected by a mediator defined in [RFC6183]. Mediator is responsible for the correlation between flow information and BGP community. However no IEs are defined in [RFC6183] for exporting BGP community information in IPFIX. Furthermore, to correlate the BGP community with the flow information, mediator needs to learn BGP routes and lookup in the BGP routing table to get the matching entry for the specific flow. Neither BGP route learning nor routing table lookup is trivial for a mediator. Mediator is mainly introduced to release the performance requirement for the exporter [RFC5982]. In fact, to obtain the information for BGP related IEs that have already been defined, such as bgpSourceAsNumber, bgpDestinationAsNumber, and bgpNextHopIPv4Address, etc, exporter has to hold the up-to-date BGP routing table and look up in the BGP routing table. The exporter can get the community information in the same procedure. So, getting BGP community information adds no more requirement for exporter. Some vendors have already implemented this feature in their exporters using private IEs. So, exporter is RECOMMENDED to export the BGP community information in IPFIX directly, other than the mediator.

This draft introduces new IEs to extend the IPFIX information model defined in [RFC7012] to export the BGP community information, including standard community defined in [RFC1997], extended community defined in [RFC4360], large community defined in [RFC8092], and community container defined in [I-D.ietf-idr-wide-bgp-communities]. Flow information, such as packetDeltaCount, octetDeltaCount [RFC7012] etc, can then be accumulated and analysed by the collector or other applications based on BGP community.

The IEs introduced in this document are applicable for both IPv4 and IPv6 traffic. Both exporter and mediator can use these IEs to export BGP community information in IPFIX.

2. Terminology

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 [RFC2119].

3. IEs for BGP Standard Community

[RFC1997] defines the BGP Communities attribute, called BGP Standard Community in this document, which describes a group of routes sharing some common properties. BGP Standard Communities are treated as 32 bit values as stated in in [RFC1997].

In order to export BGP standard community information along with other flow information defined by IPFIX, three new IEs are introduced. One is bgpCommunity, which is used to identify that the value in this IE is a BGP standard community. The other two are bgpSourceCommunityList and bgpDestinationCommunityList, which are both basicList [RFC6313] of bgpCommunity, and are used to export BGP standard community information corresponding to a specific flow's source IP and destination IP respectively.

The detailed information of the three new IEs are shown in the following sections.

3.1. bgpCommunity

	ElementID		to be assigned by IANA
	Name		bgpCommunity
	Data Type		unsigned32
	Data Type Semantics		identifier
	Description	I	BGP community as defined in [RFC1997]
	Units		none
- 1			

Figure 1: bgpCommunity

3.2. bgpSourceCommunityList

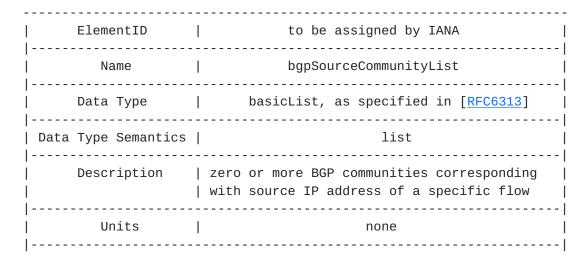


Figure 2: bgpSourceCommunityList

3.3. bgpDestinationCommunityList

	ElementID	to be assigned by IANA
	Name	bgpDestinationCommunityList
	Data Type	basicList, as specified in [RFC6313]
	Data Type Semantics	list
	Description	zero or more BGP communities corresponding with destination IP address of a specific flow
	Units	none
- 1		

Figure 3: bgpDestinationCommunityList

4. IEs for BGP Extended Community

[RFC4360] defines the BGP Extended Communities attribute, which provides a mechanism for labeling information carried in BGP. Each Extended Community is encoded as an 8-octet quantity with the format defined in [RFC4360].

In order to export BGP Extended Community information together with other flow information by IPFIX, three new IEs are introduced. The first one is bgpExtendedCommunity, which is used to identify that the value in this IE is a BGP Extended Community. The other two are bgpSourceExtendedCommunityList and

bgpDestinationExtendedCommunityList, which are both basicList [RFC6313] of bgpExtendedCommunity, and are used to export the BGP Extended Community information corresponding to a specific flow's source IP and destination IP respectively.

The detailed information of the three new IEs are shown in the following sections.

4.1. bgpExtendedCommunity

ElementID	to be assigned by IANA
Name	bgpExtendedCommunity
Data Type	octetArray
Data Type Semantics	
Description	BGP Extended Community as defined in [RFC4360] The size of this Information Element is 8 octets.
Units	none

Figure 4: bgpExtendedCommunity

4.2. bgpSourceExtendedCommunityList

_				_
	ElementID		to be assigned by IANA	
	Name		bgpSourceExtendedCommunityList	
	Data Type		basicList, as specified in [RFC6313]	
	Data Type Semantics		list	
	Description	 	zero or more BGP Extended Communities corresponding with source IP address of a specific flow	
	Units	 	none	
- 1				ı

Figure 5: bgpSourceExtendedCommunityList

4.3. bgpDestinationExtendedCommunityList

_			
	ElementID	l	to be assigned by IANA
	Name		bgpDestinationExtendedCommunityList
	Data Type		basicList, as specified in [RFC6313]
	Data Type Semantics		list
	Description	 	zero or more BGP Extended communities corresponding with destination IP address of a specific flow
	Units		none
ı			

Figure 6: bgpDestinationExtendedCommunityList

5. IEs for BGP Large Community

[RFC8092] defines the BGP Large Communities attribute, which is suitable for use with all Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs) including four-octet ASNs. Each BGP Large Community is encoded as a 12-octet quantity with the format defined in [RFC8092].

In order to export BGP Large Community information together with other flow information by IPFIX, three new IEs are introduced. The first one is bgpLargeCommunity, which is used to identify that the value in this IE is a BGP Large Community. The other two are bgpSourceLargeCommunityList and bgpDestinationLargeCommunityList, which are both basicList [RFC6313] of bgpLargeCommunity, and are used to export the BGP Large Community information corresponding to a specific flow's source IP and destination IP respectively.

The detailed information of the three new IEs are shown in the following sections.

5.1. bgpLargeCommunity

ļ	ElementID		to be assigned by IANA	
	Name		bgpLargeCommunity	
	Data Type	I	octetArray	
	Data Type Semantics	I	default	
	Description		BGP Large Community as defined in [RFC8092] The size of this Information Element is 12 octets.	
	Units		none	
- 1				-

Figure 7: bgpLargeCommunity

5.2. bgpSourceLargeCommunityList

ElementID	to be assigned by IANA
Name	bgpSourceLargeCommunityList
Data Type	basicList, as specified in [RFC6313]
Data Type Semantics	list
	zero or more BGP Large Communities
Description	corresponding with source IP address
	of a specific flow
Units	none

Figure 8: bgpSourceLargeCommunityList

5.3. bgpDestinationLargeCommunityList

ElementID	to be assigned by IANA
Name	bgpDestinationLargeCommunityList
Data Type	basicList, as specified in [RFC6313]
Data Type Semantics	list
Description 	zero or more BGP Large communities corresponding with destination IP address of a specific flow
Units	none

Figure 9: bgpDestinationLargeCommunityList

$\underline{\mathbf{6}}$. IEs for BGP Community Container

TBD.

7. Message Length Considerations

The maximum length of one IPFIX message is 65535 bytes as per [RFC7011] and 4096 bytes for one BGP message as per [RFC4271]. Since BGP communities, including standard, extended, large and container, are BGP path attributes distributed in update messages, the length of them can not exceed the length of a BGP message, i.e. 4096. So one IPFIX message with maximum length of 65535 has enough space to fit all the communities related to a specific flow, both the source IP and the destination IP related.

[I-D.ietf-idr-bgp-extended-messages], however, extends the maximum update message size of BGP beyond 4096 bytes to 65535 bytes. BGP speakers that support the extended message SHOULD take care to handle the IPFIX message properly, such as only convey as many communities as possible in the IPFIX message. The collector who receives an IPFIX message with maximum length and BGP communities contained in its data set SHOULD be aware of the BGP communities may be truncated due to limited message space. In this case, it is RECOMMENDED to configure export policy on the exporter to limit the BGP communities to be exported, to export only some specific communities, for example, or not to export some communities.

To solve this problem completely, a separate document will be submitted to extend the message length of IPFIX [RFC7011] to 32 bits.

8. Security Considerations

This document only defines three new IEs for IPFIX. So, this document itself does not directly introduce security issues. The same security considerations as for the IPFIX Protocol Specification [RFC7011] and Information Model [RFC7012] apply.

As the BGP community information is deducible by other means, there are no increased privacy concerns, neither.

9. IANA Considerations

This draft specifies the following IPFIX IEs to export BGP community information along with other flow information.

The Element IDs for these IEs are solicited to be assigned by IANA. The following table is for IANA's reference to put in each field in the registry.

ElementID	Name	Da	ta Type Data	Туре	Semantics

TBA1	bgpCommunity	unsigned32	identifier
TBA2	bgpSourceCommunityList	basicList	list
TBA3	bgpDestinationCommunityLis	t basicList	list
TBA4	bgpExtendedCommunity	octetArray	default
TBA5	bgpSourceExtended CommunityList	basicList	list
TBA6	bgpDestinationExtended CommunityList	 basicList	list
TBA7	bgpLargeCommunity	octetArray	default
TBA8	bgpSourceLargeCommunityLis	t basicList	list
TBA9	bgpDestinationLarge CommunityList	basicList	list
ElementID	Descripti	.on	Units
TBA1	BGP community as defin	ed in [<u>RFC1997</u>]]
TBA2	zero or more BGP communi with source IP address o	•	
TBA3	zero or more BGP communi	·	• •
TBA4	BGP Extended Community as The size of this IE is 8 o	_	<u>C4360</u>]
TBA5	zero or more BGP Exten corresponding with source a specific	IP address of	5
TBA6	zero or more BGP Exten corresponding with desti of a specifi	nation IP addre	1
TBA7	BGP Large Community as de The size of this IE is 12	_	9 <u>92</u>]
	zero or more BGP Larg	e Communities	

TBA8 	corresponding with source IP address of a specific flow
	zero or more BGP Large communities corresponding with destination IP address of a specific flow
 ElementID	Range References Requester Revision date
TBA1	<u>RFC1997</u> this draft 0
TBA2	<u>RFC6313</u> ,RFC1997 this draft 0
TBA3	<u>RFC6313</u> ,RFC1997 this draft 0
TBA4	<u>RFC4360</u> this draft 0
TBA5	<u>RFC6313</u> ,RFC4360 this draft 0
TBA6	<u>RFC6313</u> ,RFC4360 this draft 0
TBA7	<u>RFC8092</u> this draft 0
TBA8	<u>RFC6313</u> ,RFC8092 this draft 0
 TBA9	<u>RFC6313</u> ,RFC8092 this draft 0
ı	

Figure 10: IANA Considerations

10. Acknowledgements

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11. References

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Appendix A. Application Example

In this section, we give an example to show the encoding format for the three new introduced IEs.

Flow information including BGP communities is shown in the below table. Suppose we want all the fields to be reported by IPFIX.

Source ip	Destination ip	Source BGP community	Destination BGP community
1.1.1.1	2.2.2.2	1:1001,1:1002,8:1001	2:1002,8:1001
3.3.3.3	4.4.4.4	3:1001,3:1002,8:1001	4:1001,8:1001

Figure 11: Flow information including BGP communities

A.1. Template Record

```
1
                    2
\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 0 & 1 \\ \end{smallmatrix}
SET ID = 2
               | Length = 24
Template ID = 256
                    Field Count = 4
SourceIPv4Address = 8 | Field length = 4 |
|0| DestinationIPv4Address = 12 | Field length = 4
|0| bgpSourceCommunityList = 459| Field length = 0xFFFF |
|0| bgpDestinationCommunityList | Field length = 0xFFFF |
```

Figure 12: Template Record Encoding Format

In this example, the Template ID is 256, which will be used in the data record. The field length for bgpSourceCommunityList and bgpDestinationCommunityList is 0xFFFF, which means the length of this IE is variable, the actual length of this IE is indicated by the list length field in the basic list format as per [RFC6313].

A.2. Data Set

The data set is represented as follows:

0		1	1							2						3				
0 1 2	3 4 5	6 7	8 9	0 1	L 2 3	4	5 6	7	8	9 6	1	2	3 4	4 5	6	7 8	9	0	1	
+-															-+					
	SET ID = 256												Length = 92							
+-															-+					
SourceIPv4Address = 1.1.1.1																				
+-														-+						
	DestinationIPv4Address = 2.2.2.2																			
+-+-+	H-+-+-+	+-+-	+-+-	+-+	+-+-	+ - +	+-	+-+	+	-+-	+	+ - +	+	-+-	+-+	- + -	+	+-+	-+	
	255				Lis	t 1	eng	th	=	17			:	sem	ant	ic=	a1.	lof		
+-															-+					
	bgpCon	mmun	ity	= 45	8						F:	iel	_d	Len	=	4				
+-															-+					
	BGP	Sou	rce	Comr	nunit	y V	/alu	e 1	L =	1:	100	91								
+-														-+						
	BGP	Sou	rce	Comr	nunit	y V	/alu	e 2	2 =	1:	100	92								
+-+-+	+-														-+					
	BGP	Sou	rce	Comr	nunit	y V	/alu	e 3	3 =	8:	100	91								
+-												-+								

```
List length = 13 |semantic =allof|
  255
bgpCommunity = 458
              Field Len = 4
BGP Destination Community Value 1 = 2:1002
BGP Destination Community Value 2 = 8:1001
SourceIPv4Address = 3.3.3.3
DestinationIPv4Address = 4.4.4.4
255
       List length = 17 | semantic =allof|
bgpCommunity = 458
              Field Len = 4
BGP Source Community Value 1 = 3:1001
BGP Source Community Value 2 = 3:1002
BGP Source Community Value 3 = 8:1001
List length = 13 | semantic =allof|
bgpCommunity = 458 |
              Field Len = 4
BGP Destination Community Value 1 = 4:1001
BGP Destination Community Value 2 = 8:1001
```

Figure 13: Data Set Encoding Format

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