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Signaling MSD (Maximum SID Depth) using OSPF
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Abstract

This document defines a way for an Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) Router to advertise multiple types of supported Maximum SID(Segment Identifier) Depths (MSDs) at node and/or link granularity. Such advertisements allow entities (e.g., centralized controllers) to determine whether a particular SID stack can be supported in a given network. This document defines only one type of MSD, but defines an encoding that can support other MSD types. Here the term OSPF means both OSPFv2 and OSPFv3.

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[1.](#) Introduction

When Segment Routing (SR) paths are computed by a centralized controller, it is critical that the controller learns the Maximum SID (Segment Identifier) Depth (MSD) that can be imposed at each node/link on a given SR path to ensure that the Segment Identifier (SID) stack depth of a computed path doesn't exceed the number of SIDs the node is capable of imposing.

[I-D.ietf-pce-segment-routing] defines how to signal MSD in the Path Computation Element communication Protocol (PCEP). However, if PCEP is not supported/configured on the head-end of an SR tunnel or a Binding-SID anchor node and controller does not participate in IGP routing, it has no way to learn the MSD of nodes and links. BGP-LS (Distribution of Link-State and TE Information using Border Gateway Protocol) [[RFC7752](#)] defines a way to expose topology and associated attributes and capabilities of the nodes in that topology to a centralized controller. MSD signaling by BGP-LS has been defined in [[I-D.ietf-idr-bgp-ls-segment-routing-msd](#)]. Typically, BGP-LS is configured on a small number of nodes that do not necessarily act as

head-ends. In order for BGP-LS to signal MSD for all the nodes and links in the network MSD is relevant, MSD capabilities SHOULD be advertised by every OSPF router in the network.

Other types of MSD are known to be useful. For example, [\[I-D.ietf-ospf-mpls-elc\]](#) defines Readable Label Depth Capability (RLDC) that is used by a head-end to insert an Entropy Label (EL) at a depth that could be read by transit nodes.

This document defines an extension to OSPF used to advertise one or more types of MSD at node and/or link granularity. In the future it is expected, that new MSD-types will be defined to signal additional capabilities e.g., entropy labels, SIDs that can be imposed through recirculation, or SIDs associated with another dataplane e.g., IPv6.

MSD advertisements MAY be useful even if Segment Routing itself is not enabled. For example, in a non-SR MPLS network, MSD defines the maximum label depth.

1.1. Terminology

This memo makes use of the terms defined in [\[RFC7770\]](#)

BGP-LS: Distribution of Link-State and TE Information using Border Gateway Protocol

OSPF: Open Shortest Path First

MSD: Maximum SID Depth - the number of SIDs supported by a node or a link on a node

SID: Segment Identifier as defined in [\[RFC8402\]](#)

Label Imposition: Imposition is the act of modifying and/or adding labels to the outgoing label stack associated with a packet. This includes:

- o replacing the label at the top of the label stack with a new label
- o pushing one or more new labels onto the label stack

The number of labels imposed is then the sum of the number of labels which are replaced and the number of labels which are pushed. See [\[RFC3031\]](#) for further details.

PCC: Path Computation Client

PCE: Path Computation Element

For OSPFv2, the Link level MSD-Value is advertised as an optional Sub-TLV of the OSPFv2 Extended Link TLV as defined in [[RFC7684](#)], and has a type of TBD2.

For OSPFv3, the Link level MSD-Value is advertised as an optional Sub-TLV of the E-Router-LSA TLV as defined in [[RFC8362](#)], and has a type of TBD3.

Length: variable and same as defined in [Section 2](#).

Value: consists of one or more pairs of a 1 octet MSD-type and 1 octet MSD-Value.

MSD-Type: one of the values defined in the MSD Types registry defined in [[I-D.ietf-isis-segment-routing-msd](#)].

MSD-Value field contains Link MSD of the router originating the corresponding LSA as specified for OSPFv2 and OSPFv3. Link MSD is a number in the range of 0-255. For all MSD-Types, 0 represents lack of the ability to impose MSD stack of any depth; any other value represents that of the particular link when used as an outgoing interface.

If this sub-TLV is advertised multiple times in the same OSPFv2 Extended Link Opaque LSA/E-Router-LSA, only the first instance of the TLV MUST be used by receiving OSPF routers. This situation SHOULD be logged as an error.

If this sub-TLV is advertised multiple times for the same link in different OSPF Extended Link Opaque LSAs/E-Router-LSAs originated by the same OSPF router, the OSPFv2 Extended Link TLV in the OSPFv2 Extended Link Opaque LSA with the smallest Opaque ID or in the OSPFv3 E-Router-LSA with the smallest Link State ID MUST be used by receiving OSPF routers. This situation MAY be logged as a warning.

4. Procedures for Defining and Using Node and Link MSD Advertisements

When Link MSD is present for a given MSD-type, the value of the Link MSD MUST take precedence over the Node MSD. When a Link MSD-type is not signaled but the Node MSD-type is, then the Node MSD-type value MUST be considered as the MSD value for that link.

In order to increase flooding efficiency, it is RECOMMENDED that routers with homogenous link MSD values advertise just the Node MSD value.

The meaning of the absence of both Node and Link MSD advertisements for a given MSD-type is specific to the MSD-type. Generally it can

only be inferred that the advertising node does not support advertisement of that MSD-type. However, in some cases the lack of advertisement might imply that the functionality associated with the MSD-type is not supported. The correct interpretation MUST be specified when an MSD-type is defined.

5. IANA Considerations

This document requests IANA to allocate TLV type (TBD1) from the OSPF Router Information (RI) TLVs Registry as defined by [\[RFC7770\]](#). IANA has allocated the value 12 through the early assignment process.

Value	Description	Reference
-----	-----	-----
12	Node MSD	This document

Figure 3: RI Node MSD

Also, this document requests IANA to allocate a sub-TLV type (TBD2) from the OSPFv2 Extended Link TLV Sub-TLVs registry. IANA has allocated the value 6 through the early assignment process.

Value	Description	Reference
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6	OSPFv2 Link MSD	This document

Figure 4: OSPFv2 Link MSD

Finally, this document requests IANA to allocate a sub-TLV type (TBD3) from the OSPFv3 Extended-LSA Sub-TLV registry.

Value	Description	Reference
-----	-----	-----
TBD3	OSPFv3 Link MSD	This document

Figure 5: OSPFv3 Link MSD

6. Security Considerations

Security concerns for OSPF are addressed in [\[RFC7474\]](#), [\[RFC4552\]](#) and [\[RFC7166\]](#). Further security analysis for OSPF protocol is done in

[[RFC6863](#)]. Security considerations, as specified by [[RFC7770](#)], [[RFC7684](#)] and [[RFC8362](#)] are applicable to this document.

Implementations MUST assure that malformed TLV and Sub-TLV defined in this document are detected and do not provide a vulnerability for attackers to crash the OSPF router or routing process. Reception of malformed TLV or Sub-TLV SHOULD be counted and/or logged for further analysis. Logging of malformed TLVs and Sub-TLVs SHOULD be rate-limited to prevent a Denial of Service (DoS) attack (distributed or otherwise) from overloading the OSPF control plane.

Advertisement of an incorrect MSD value may have negative consequences. If the value is smaller than supported, path computation may fail to compute a viable path. If the value is larger than supported, an attempt to instantiate a path that can't be supported by the head-end (the node performing the SID imposition) may occur.

The presence of this information also may inform an attacker of how to induce any of the aforementioned conditions.

There's no Denial of Service risk specific to this extension, and it is not vulnerable to replay attacks.

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8. Acknowledgments

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