Network Working Group
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: October 28, 2017

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April 26, 2017

Dual-Homing Coordination for MPLS Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) Pseudowires Protection
draft-ietf-pals-mpls-tp-dual-homing-coordination-06

Abstract

In some scenarios, MPLS Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) Pseudowires (PWs) (RFC 5921) may be statically configured, when a dynamic control plane is not available. A fast protection mechanism for MPLS-TP PWs is needed to protect against the failure of an Attachment Circuit (AC), the failure of a Provider Edge (PE), or a failure in the Packet Switched Network (PSN). The framework and typical scenarios of dual-homing PW local protection are described in [draft-ietf-pals-mpls-tp-dual-homing-protection]. This document proposes a dual-homing coordination mechanism for MPLS-TP PWs, which is used for state exchange and switchover coordination between the dual-homing PEs for dual-homing PW local protection.

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

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

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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 October 28, 2017.

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1. Introduction

[RFC6372], [RFC6378] and [RFC7771] describe the framework and mechanism of MPLS Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) linear protection, which can provide protection for the MPLS Label Switched Path (LSP) and Pseudowires (PWs) between the edge nodes. These mechanisms cannot protect the failure of the Attachment Circuit (AC) or the edge nodes. [RFC6718] and [RFC6870] specifies the PW redundancy framework and mechanism for protecting the AC or edge node failure by adding one or more edge nodes, but it requires PW switchover in case of an AC failure, also PW redundancy relies on Packet Switched Network (PSN) protection mechanisms to protect the failure of PW.

In some scenarios such as mobile backhauling, the MPLS PWs are provisioned with dual-homing topology, in which at least the CE node on one side is dual-homed to two Provider Edge (PE) nodes. If a failure occurs in the primary AC, operators usually prefer to perform local switchover in the dual-homing PE side and keep the working pseudowire unchanged if possible. This is to avoid massive PW switchover in the mobile backhaul network due to the AC failure in the mobile core site, which may in turn lead to congestion due to the migration of traffic from the paths preferred by the network planners. Similarly, as multiple PWs share the physical AC in the mobile core site, it is preferable to keep using the working AC when one working PW fails in the PSN network, which could avoid unnecessary switchover for other PWs. A fast dual-homing PW protection mechanism is needed to protect the failure in AC, the PE node and the PSN network to meet the above requirements.

[I-D.ietf-pals-mpls-tp-dual-homing-protection] describes a framework and several scenarios of dual-homing PW local protection. This document proposes a dual-homing coordination mechanism for static MPLS-TP PWs, which is used for information exchange and switchover coordination between the dual-homing PEs for the dual-homing PW local protection. The proposed mechanism has been implemented and deployed in several mobile backhaul networks which use static MPLS-TP PWs for the backhauling of mobile traffic from the radio access sites to the core site.

2. Overview of the Proposed Solution

Linear protection mechanisms for MPLS-TP network are defined in [RFC6378], [RFC7271] and [RFC7324]. When such mechanisms are applied to PW linear protection [RFC7771], both the working PW and the protection PW are terminated on the same PE node. In order to provide dual-homing protection for MPLS-TP PWs, some additional mechanisms are needed.

In MPLS-TP PW dual-homing protection, the linear protection mechanism as defined in [RFC6378] [RFC7271] and [RFC7324] on the single-homing PE (e.g. PE3 in Figure 1) is not changed, while on the dual-homing side, the working PW and protection PW are terminated on two dual-homing PEs (e.g. PE1 and PE2 in Figure 1) respectively to protect a failure occuring in a PE or a connected AC. As described in [I-D.ietf-pals-mpls-tp-dual-homing-protection], a dedicated Dual-Node Interconnection (DNI) PW is used between the two dual-homing PE nodes to forward the traffic. In order to utilize the linear protection mechanism [RFC7771] in the dual-homing PEs scenario, coordination between the dual-homing PE nodes is needed, so that the dual-homing PEs can switch the connection between the AC, the service PW and the DNI-PW properly in a coordinated fashion by the forwarder.

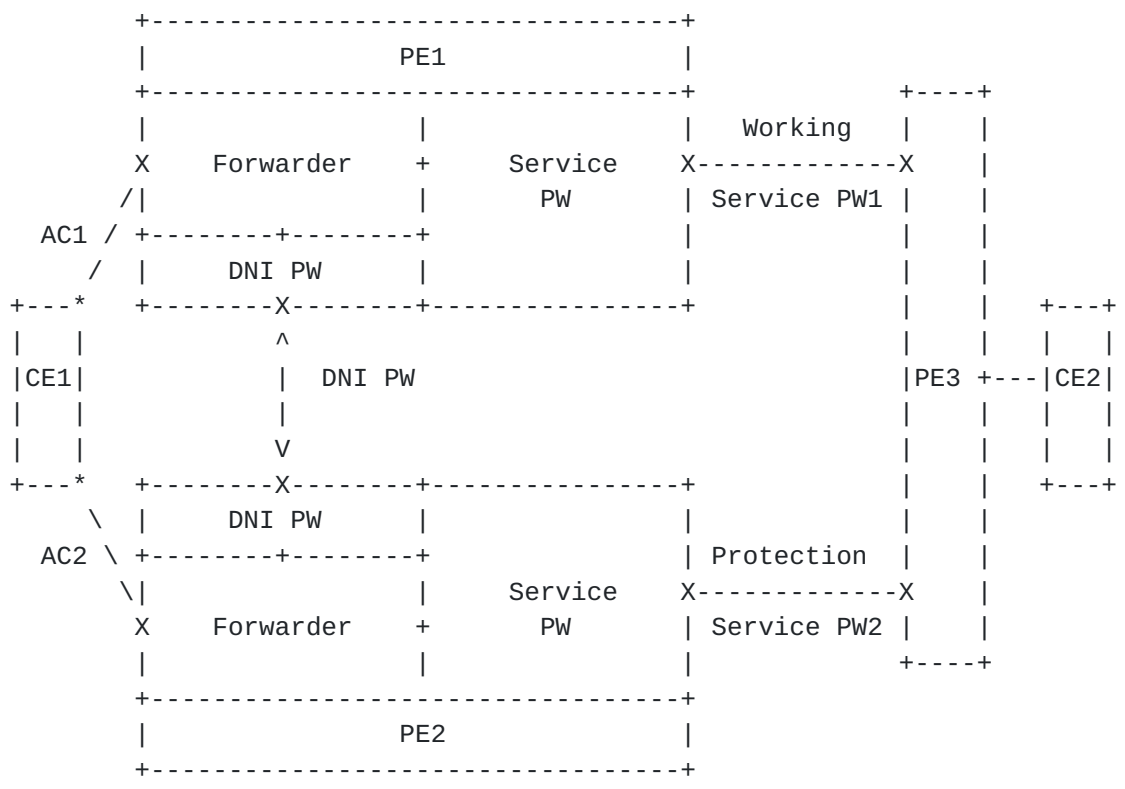

Figure 1. Dual-homing Protection with DNI-PW

3. Protocol Extensions for Dual-Homing MPLS-TP PW Protection

In dual-homing MPLS-TP PW local protection, the forwarding state of the dual-homing PEs are determined by the forwarding state machine in Table 1.

Service PW	AC	DNI PW	Forwarding Behavior
Active	Active	Up	Service PW <-> AC
Active	Standby	Up	Service PW <-> DNI PW
Standby	Active	Up	DNI PW <-> AC
Standby	Standby	Up	Drop all packets
Active	Active	Down	Service PW <-> AC
Active	Standby	Down	Drop all packets
Standby	Active	Down	Drop all packets
Standby	Standby	Down	Drop all packets

Table 1. Dual-homing PE Forwarding State Machine

In order to achieve the dual-homing MPLS-TP PW protection, coordination between the dual-homing PE nodes is needed to exchange the PW status and protection coordination requests.

3.1. Information Exchange Between Dual-Homing PEs

The coordination information will be sent on the DNI PW over the Generic Associated Channel (G-ACh) as described in [RFC5586]. A new G-ACh channel type is defined for the dual-homing coordination between the dual-homing PEs of MPLS-TP PWs. This channel type can be used for the exchange of different types of information between the dual-homing PEs. This document uses this channel type for the exchange of PW status and switchover coordination between the dual-homing PEs. Other potential usages of this channel type are for further study and are out of the scope of this document.

The MPLS-TP Dual-Homing Coordination (DHC) message is sent on the DNI PW between the dual-homing PEs. The format of the MPLS-TP DHC message is shown below:

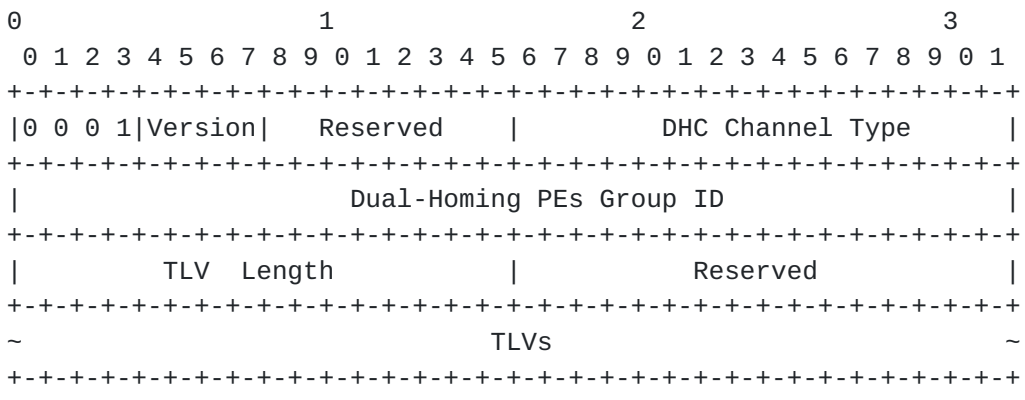

Figure 2. MPLS-TP Dual-Homing Coordination Message

The first 4-octets is the common G-ACh header as specified in [RFC5586]. The DHC Channel Type is the G-ACh channel type code point to be assigned by IANA.

The Dual-Homing Group ID is a 4-octet unsigned integer to identify the dual-homing group which the dual-homing PEs belong to. It MUST be the same at both PEs in the same group.

The TLV Length field specifies the total length in octets of the subsequent TLVs.

In this document, two TLVs are defined in MPLS-TP Dual-Homing Coordination message for dual-homing MPLS-TP PW protection:

Type	Description	Length
1	PW Status	20 Bytes
2	Dual-Node Switching	16 Bytes

The PW Status TLV is used by a dual-homing PE to report its service PW status to the other dual-homing PE in the same dual-homing group.

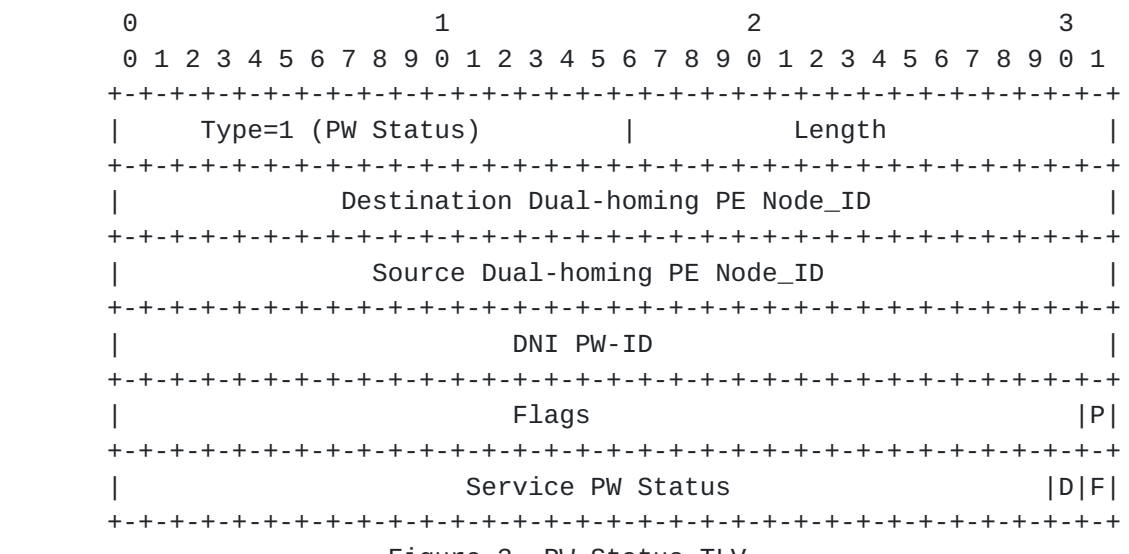

Figure 3. PW Status TLV

- The Length field specifies the length in octets of the value field of the TLV.

- The Destination Dual-homing PE Node_ID is the 32-bit identifier of the receiver PE [RFC6370] which supports both IPv4 and IPv6 environments. Usually it is the same as the LSR-ID of the receiver PE.

- The Source Dual-homing PE Node_ID is the 32-bit identifier of the sending PE [RFC6370] which supports both IPv4 and IPv6 environments. Usually it is the same as the LSR-ID of the sending PE.

- The DNI PW-ID field contains the 32-bit PW ID [RFC4447] of the DNI PW.

- The Flags field contains 32 bit flags, in which:

o The P (Protection) bit indicates whether the Source Dual-homing PE is the working PE (P=0) or the protection PE (P=1).

o Other bits are reserved for future use, which MUST be set to 0 on transmission and MUST be ignored upon receipt.

- The Service PW Status field indicates the status of the Service PW between the sending PE and the remote PE. Currently two bits are defined in the Service PW Status field:

o F bit: If set, it indicates Signal Fail (SF) [RFC6378] on the service PW. It can be either a local request generated by the PE itself or a remote request received from the remote PE.

- D bit: If set, it indicates Signal Degrade (SD) [RFC6378] on the service PW. It can be either a local request or a remote request received from the remote PE.

- Other bits are reserved for future use, which MUST be set to 0 on transmission and MUST be ignored upon receipt.

The Dual-Node Switching TLV is used by one dual-homing PE to send protection state coordination to the other PE in the same dual-homing group.

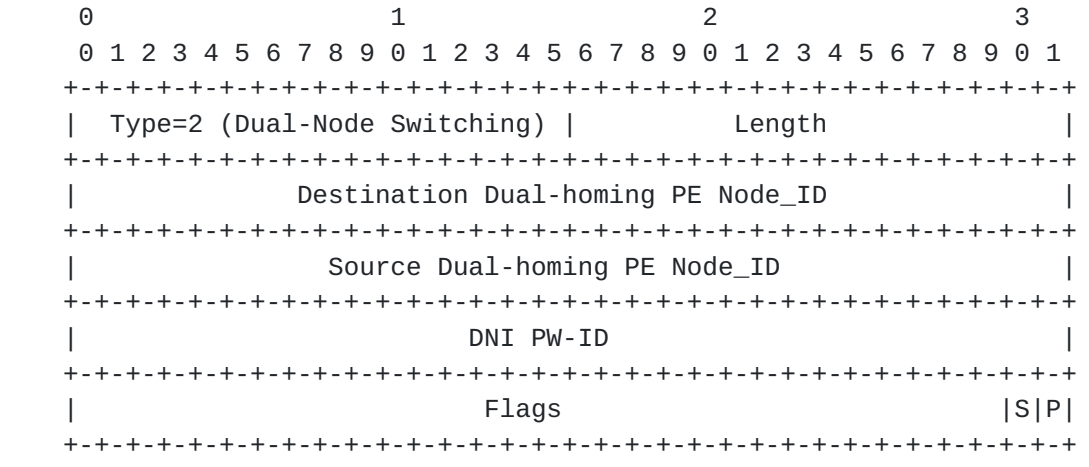

Figure 4. Dual-Node Switching TLV

- The Length field specifies the length in octets of the value field of the TLV.

- The Destination Dual-homing PE Node_ID is the 32-bit identifier of the receiver PE [RFC6370]. Usually it is the same as the LSR-ID of the receiver PE.

- The Source Dual-homing PE Node_ID is the 32-bit identifier of the sending PE [RFC6370]. Usually it is the same as the LSR-ID of the sending PE.

- The DNI PW-ID field contains the 32-bit PW-ID [RFC4447] of the DNI PW.

- The Flags field contains 32 bit flags, in which:

- The P (Protection) bit indicates whether the Source Dual-homing PE is the working PE or the protection PE. It is set to 1 when the Source PE of the dual-node switching request is the protection PE.

- The S (PW Switching) bit indicates which service PW is used for forwarding traffic. It is set to 0 when traffic will be

transported on the working PW, and is set to 1 if traffic will be transported on the protection PW. The value of the S bit is determined by the protection coordination mechanism between the dual-homing PEs and the remote PE.

- Other bits are reserved for future use, which MUST be set to 0 on transmission and MUST be ignored upon receipt.

When a change of the service PW status is detected by one of the dual-homing PEs, it MUST be reflected in the PW Status TLV and sent to the other dual-homing PE as quickly as possible to allow for fast protection switching using 3 consecutive DHC messages. This set of three messages allows for fast protection switching even if one or two of these packets are lost or corrupted. After the transmission of the three rapid messages, the dual-homing PE MUST send the most recently transmitted service PW status periodically to the other dual-homing PE on a continual basis using the DHC message.

When one dual-homing PE determines that the active service PW needs to be switched from the working PW to the protection PW, It MUST send the Dual-Node Switching TLV to the other dual-homing PE as quickly as possible to allow for fast protection switching using 3 consecutive DHC messages. After the transmission of the three messages, the protection PW would become the active service PW, and the dual-homing PE MUST send the most recently transmitted Dual-Node Switching TLV periodically to the other dual-homing PE on a continual basis using the DHC message.

It is RECOMMENDED that the default interval of the first three rapid DHC messages is 3.3 ms similar to [RFC6378], and the default interval of the subsequent messages is 1 second. Both the default interval of the three consecutive messages as well as the default interval of the periodical messages SHALL be configurable by the operator.

3.2. Protection Procedures

The dual-homing MPLS-TP PW protection mechanism can be deployed with the existing AC redundancy mechanisms. On the PSN network side, PSN tunnel protection mechanism is not required, as the dual-homing PW protection can also protect if a failure occurs in the PSN network.

This section uses the one-side dual-homing scenario as an example to describe the dual-homing PW protection procedures, the procedures for two-side dual-homing scenario would be similar.

On the dual-homing PE side, the role of working and protection PE are set by the management system or local configuration. The service PW

connecting to the working PE is the working PW, and the service PW connecting to the protection PE is called the protection PW.

On the single-homing PE side, it treats the working PW and protection PW as if they terminate on the same remote PE node, thus normal MPLS-TP protection coordination procedures still apply on the single-homing PE.

The forwarding behavior of the dual-homing PEs is determined by the components shown in the figure below:

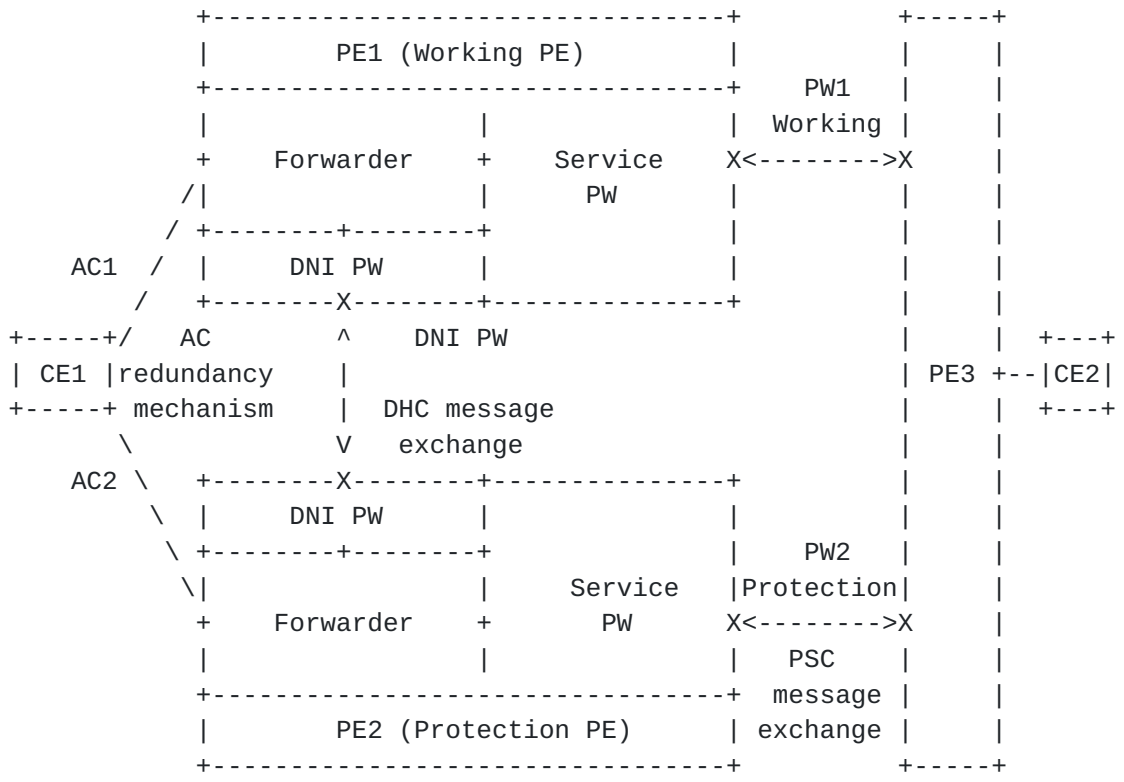

Figure 5. Components of one-side dual-homing PW protection

In Figure 5, for each dual-homing PE, the service PW is the PW used to carry service between the dual-homing PE and the remote PE. The state of the service PW is determined by the Operation Administration and Maintanence (OAM) mechanisms between the dual-homing PEs and the remote PE.

The DNI PW is provisioned between the two dual-homing PE nodes. It is used to bridge traffic when a failure occurs in the PSN network or in the ACs. The state of the DNI PW is determined by the OAM mechanism between the dual-homing PEs. Since the DNI PW is used to carry both the DHC messages and the service traffic during protection switching, it is important to ensure the robustness of the DNI PW. In order to avoid the DNI PW failure due to the failure of a

particular link, it is RECOMMENDED that multiple diverse links be deployed between the dual-homing PEs and the underlay LSP protection mechanism SHOULD be enabled.

The AC is the link which connects a dual-homing PE to the dual-homed CE. The status of AC is determined by the existing AC redundancy mechanisms, this is out of the scope of this document.

In order to perform dual-homing PW local protection, the service PW status and Dual-node switching coordination requests are exchanged between the dual-homing PEs using the DHC message defined in Section 3.1.

Whenever a change of service PW status is detected by a dual-homing PE, it MUST be reflected in the PW Status TLV and sent to the other dual-homing PE immediately using the 3 consecutive DHC messages. After the transmission of the three rapid messages, the dual-homing PE MUST send the most recently transmitted service PW status periodically to the other dual-homing PE on a continual basis using the DHC message. This way, both dual-homing PEs have the status of the working and protection PW consistently.

When there is a switchover request either generated locally or received on the protection PW from the remote PE, based on the status of the working and protection service PW, along with the local and remote request of the protection coordination between the dual-homing PEs and the remote PE, the active/standby state of the service PW can be determined by the dual-homing PEs. As the remote protection coordination request is transmitted over the protection path, in this case the active/standby status of the service PW is determined by the protection PE in the dual-homing group.

If it is determined on one dual-homing PE that switchover of service PW is needed, this dual-homing PE MUST set the S bit in the Dual-Node Switching TLV and send it to the other dual-homing PE immediately using the 3 consecutive DHC messages. With the exchange of service PW status and the switching request, both dual-homing PEs are consistent on the Active/Standby forwarding status of the working and protection service PWs. The status of the DNI PW is determined by PW OAM mechanism as defined in [RFC5085], and the status of ACs are determined by existing AC redundancy mechanisms, both are out of the scope of this document. The forwarding behavior on the dual-homing PE nodes is determined by the forwarding state machine as shown in Table 1 .

Using the topology in Figure 5 as an example, in normal state, the working PW (PW1) is in active state, the protection PW (PW2) is in standby state, the DNI PW is up, and AC1 is in active state according

to the AC redundancy mechanism. According to the forwarding state machine in Table 1, traffic will be forwarded through the working PW (PW1) and the primary AC (AC1). No traffic will go through the protection PE (PE2) or the DNI PW, as both the protection PW (PW2) and the AC connecting to PE2 are in standby state.

If a failure occurs in AC1, the state of AC2 changes to active according to the AC redundancy mechanism, while there is no change in the state of the working and protection PWs. According to the forwarding state machine in Table 1, PE1 starts to forward traffic between the working PW and the DNI PW, and PE2 starts to forward traffic between AC2 and the DNI PW. It should be noted that in this case only AC switchover takes place, in the PSN network traffic is still forwarded using the working PW.

If a failure in the PSN network brings PW1 down, the failure can be detected by PE1 or PE3 using existing OAM mechanisms. If PE1 detects the failure of PW1, it MUST inform PE2 the state of working PW using the PW Status TLV in the DHC messages and change the forwarding status of PW1 to standby. On receipt of the DHC message, PE2 SHOULD change the forwarding status of PW2 to active. Then according to the forwarding state machine in Table 1, PE1 SHOULD set up the connection between the DNI PW and AC1, and PE2 SHOULD set up the connection between PW2 and the DNI PW. According to the linear protection mechanism [RFC6378], PE2 also sends an appropriate protection coordination message [RFC6378] over the protection PW (PW2) to PE3 for the remote side to switchover from PW1 to PW2. If PE3 detects the failure of PW1, according to linear protection mechanism [RFC6378], it sends a protection coordination message on the protection PW (PW2) to inform PE2 of the failure on the working PW. Upon receipt of the message, PE2 SHOULD change the forwarding status of PW2 to active and set up the connection according to the forwarding state machine in Table 1. PE2 SHOULD send a DHC message to PE1 with the S bit set in the Dual-Node Switching TLV to coordinate the switchover on PE1 and PE2. This is useful for a unidirectional failure which cannot be detected by PE1.

If a failure brings the working PE (PE1) down, the failure can be detected by both PE2 and PE3 using existing OAM mechanisms. Both PE2 and PE3 SHOULD change the forwarding status of PW2 to active, and send a protection coordination message [RFC6378] on the protection PW (PW2) to inform the remote side to switchover. According to the existing AC redundancy mechanisms, the status of AC1 changes to standby, and the state of AC2 changes to active. According to the forwarding state machine in Table 1, PE2 starts to forward traffic between the PW2 and AC2.

4. IANA Considerations

This document requests that IANA assigns one new channel type for "MPLS-TP Dual-Homing Coordination message" from the "MPLS Generalized Associated Channel (G-ACh) Types (including Pseudowire Associated Channel Types)" registry of the "Generic Associated Channel (G-ACh) Parameters" registry.

Value	Description	Reference
TBD	MPLS-TP Dual-Homing Coordination message	[This document]

This document requests that IANA creates a new sub-registry called "MPLS-TP DHC TLVs" in the "Generic Associated Channel (G-ACh) Parameters" registry, with fields and initial allocations as follows:

Type	Description	Length	Reference
0x00	Reserved		
0x01	PW Status	20 Bytes	[this document]
0x02	Dual-Node Switching	16 Bytes	[this document]

The allocation policy for this registry is IETF Review as specified in [RFC5226].

5. Security Considerations

MPLS-TP is a subset of MPLS and so builds upon many of the aspects of the security model of MPLS. Please refer to [RFC5920] for generic MPLS security issues and methods for securing traffic privacy and integrity.

The DHC message defined in this document contains control information, if it is injected or modified by an attacker, the dual-homing PEs might not agree on which PE should be used to deliver the CE traffic, and this could be used as a denial of service attack against the CE. It is important that the DHC message is used within a trusted MPLS-TP network domain as described in [RFC6941].

The DHC message is carried in the G-ACh [RFC5586], so it is dependent on the security of the G-ACh itself. The G-ACh is a generalization of the Associated Channel defined in [RFC4385]. Thus, this document relies on the security mechanisms provided for the Associated Channel as described in those two documents.

As described in the security considerations of [RFC6378], the G-ACh is essentially connection oriented so injection or modification of control messages requires the subversion of a transit node. Such subversion is generally considered hard in connection oriented MPLS networks and impossible to protect against at the protocol level.

Management level techniques are more appropriate. The procedures and protocol extensions defined in this document do not affect the security model of MPLS-TP linear protection as defined in [RFC6378].

Uniqueness of the identifiers defined in this document is guaranteed by the assigner (e.g. the operator). Failure by an assigner to use unique values within the specified scoping for any of the identifiers defined herein could result in operational problems. Please refer to [RFC6370] for more details about the uniqueness of the identifiers.

6. Contributors

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