

Network Working Group
Internet Draft
Expiration Date: December 2012
Intended status: Standards Track

Luca Martini (Ed.)
Cisco Systems Inc.

Matthew Bocci (Ed.)
Florin Balus (Ed.)
Alcatel-Lucent

June 20, 2012

Dynamic Placement of Multi Segment Pseudowires

[draft-ietf-pwe3-dynamic-ms-pw-15.txt](#)

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Abstract

There is a requirement for service providers to be able to extend the reach of pseudowires (PW) across multiple Packet Switched Network domains. A Multi-Segment PW is defined as a set of two or more contiguous PW segments that behave and function as a single point-to-point PW. This document describes extensions to the PW control protocol to dynamically place the segments of the multi segment pseudowire among a set of Provider Edge (PE) routers.

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1. Major Co-authors

The editors gratefully acknowledge the following additional co-authors: Mustapha Aissaoui, Nabil Bitar, Mike Loomis, David McDysan, Chris Metz, Andy Malis, Jason Rusmeisel, Himanshu Shah, Jeff Sugimoto.

2. Acknowledgements

The editors also gratefully acknowledge the input of the following people: Mike Duckett, Paul Doolan, Prayson Pate, Ping Pan, Vasile Radoaca, Yeongil Seo, Yetik Serbest, Yuichiro Wada.

3. Introduction

3.1. Scope

[RFC5023] describes the service provider requirements for extending the reach of pseudowires across multiple PSN domains. This is achieved using a Multi-segment Pseudowire (MS-PW). An MS-PW is defined as a set of two or more contiguous PW segments that behave and function as a single point-to-point PW. This architecture is described in [RFC5659].

The procedures for establishing PWs that extend across a single PSN domain are described in [RFC4447], while procedures for setting up PWs across multiple PSN domains, or control plane domains are described in [RFC6073].

The purpose of this document is to specify extensions to the pseudowire control protocol [RFC4447], and [RFC6073] procedures, to enable multi-segment PWs to be dynamically placed. The proposed procedures follow the guidelines defined in [RFC5036] and enable the reuse of existing TLVs, and procedures defined for SS-PWs in [RFC4447].

3.2. Specification of Requirements

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](#).

3.3. Terminology

[RFC5659] provides terminology for multi-segment pseudowires.

This document defines the following additional terms:

- Source Terminating PE (ST-PE). A Terminating PE (T-PE), which assumes the active signaling role and initiates the signaling for multi-segment PW.
- Target Terminating PE (TT-PE). A Terminating PE (T-PE) that assumes the passive signaling role. It waits and responds to the multi-segment PW signaling message in the reverse direction.
- Forward Direction: ST-PE to TT-PE.
- Reverse Direction: TT-PE to ST-PE
- Forwarding Direction: Direction of control plane, signaling flow
- Pseudowire Routing (PW routing). The dynamic placement of the segments that compose an MS-PW, as well as the automatic selection of S-PEs.

3.4. Architecture Overview

The following figure describes the reference models which are derived from [[RFC5659](#)] to support PW emulated services across multi-segment PWs.

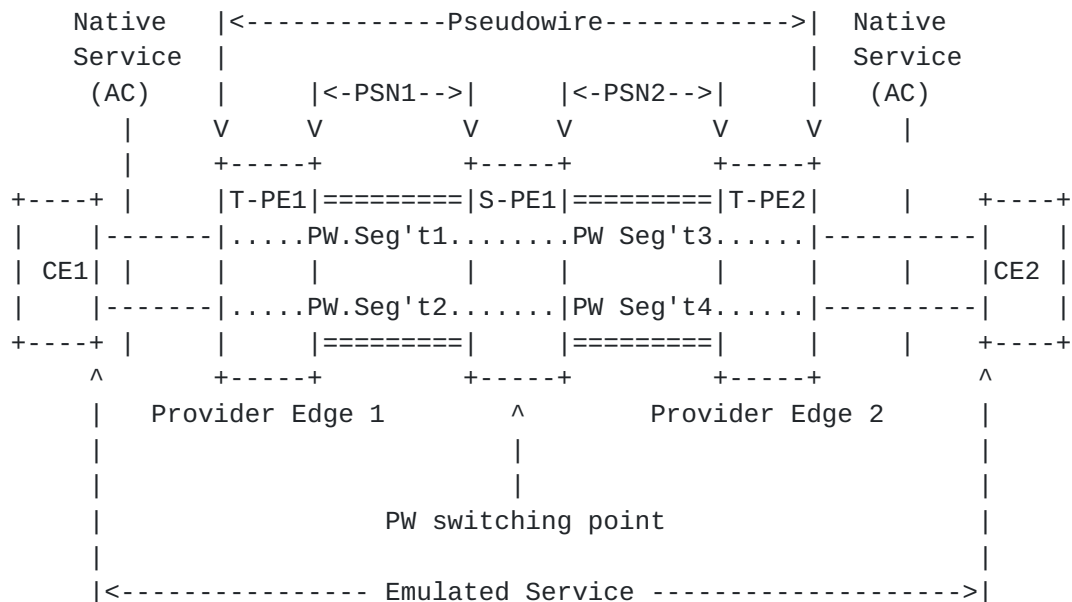


Figure 1: PW switching Reference Model

Figure 1 shows the architecture for a simple multi-segment case. T-PE1 and T-PE2 provide an emulated service to CE1 and CE2. These PEs reside in different PSNs. A PSN tunnel extends from T-PE1 to S-PE1 across PSN1, and a second PSN tunnel extends from S-PE1 to T-PE2 across PSN2. PWs are used to connect the attachment circuits (ACs) attached to T-PE1 to the corresponding AC attached to T-PE2. A PW on the tunnel across PSN1 is connected to a PW in the tunnel across PSN2 at S-PE1 to complete the multi-segment PW (MS-PW) between T-PE1 and T-PE2. S-PE1 is therefore the PW switching point and is referred to as the switching provider edge (S-PE). PW Segment 1 and PW Segment 3 are segments of the same MS-PW while PW Segment 2 and PW Segment 4 are segments of another MS-PW. PW segments of the same MS-PW (e.g., PW segment 1 and PW segment 3) MUST be of the same PW type, and PSN tunnels (e.g., PSN1 and PSN2) can be the same or different technology. An S-PE switches an MS-PW from one segment to another based on the PW identifiers. (PWid , or AII) How the PW PDUs are switched at the S-PE depends on the PSN tunnel technology: in case of an MPLS PSN to another MPLS PSN PW switching the operation is a standard MPLS label switch operation.

Note that although Figure 1 only shows a single S-PE, a PW may transit more one S-PE along its path. For instance, in the multi-provider case, there can be an S-PE at the border of one provider domain and another S-PE at the border of the other provider domain.

4. Applicability

In this document we describe the case where the PSNs carrying the SS-PW are only MPLS PSNs using the generalized FEC 129. Interactions with an IP PSN using L2TPv3 as described in [\[RFC6073\] section 7.4](#) are left for further study.

4.1. Changes to Existing PW Signaling

The procedures described in this document make use of existing LDP TLVs and related PW signaling procedures described in [\[RFC4447\]](#) and [\[RFC6073\]](#). The following OPTIONAL TLVs are also defined:

- A Bandwidth TLV to address QoS Signaling requirements (see "MS-PW Next Hop Bandwidth Signaling" section for details).

5. PW Layer 2 Addressing

Single segment pseudowires on an MPLS PSN can use attachment circuit identifiers for a PW using FEC 129. In the case of a dynamically placed MS-PW, there is a requirement for the identifiers for the attachment circuits to be globally unique, for the purposes of reachability and manageability of the PW. Referencing figure 1 above, individual globally unique addresses MUST be allocated to all the ACs and S-PEs composing an MS-PW.

5.1. Attachment Circuit Addressing

The attachment circuit addressing is derived from [\[RFC5003\]](#) AII type 2 shown here:

```

      0              1              2              3
    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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| AII Type=02 | Length | Global ID |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Global ID (contd.) | Prefix |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| Prefix (contd.) | AC ID |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| AC ID |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

AII type 2 based addressing schemes permit varying levels of AII

summarization, thus reducing the scaling burden on PW routing. AII Type 2 based PW addressing is suitable for point-to-point provisioning models where it is not required to auto-discover address at Target T-PE (knows the address in priori by provisioning).

Implementations of the following procedure MUST interpret the AII type to determine the meaning of the address format of the AII, irrespective of the number of segments in the MS-PW. All segments of the PW MUST be signaled with same AII Type.

A unique combination of Global ID, Prefix, and AC ID parts of the AII type 2 are assigned to each AC. In general, the same global ID and prefix are be assigned for all ACs belonging to the same T-PE. This is not a strict requirement, however. A particular T-PE might have more than one prefix assigned to it, and likewise a fully qualified AII with the same Global ID/Prefix but different AC IDs might belong to different T-PEs.

For the purpose of MS-PWs, the AII MUST be globally unique across all interconnected PW domains.

6. Dynamic Placement of MS-PWs

[RFC6073] describes a procedure for concatenating multiple pseudowires together. This procedure requires each S-PE to be manually configured with the information required for each segment of the MS-PW. The procedures in the following sections describe a method to extend [[RFC6073](#)] by allowing the automatic selection of pre-defined S-PEs, and dynamically establishing a MS-PW between two T-PEs.

6.1. Pseudowire Routing Procedures

The AII type 2 described above contains a Global ID, Prefix, and AC ID. The TAIID is used by S-PEs to determine the next SS-PW destination for LDP signaling.

Once an S-PE receives a MS-PW label mapping message containing a TAIID with an AII that is not locally present, the S-PE performs a lookup in a PW AII routing table. If this lookup results in an IP address for the next-hop PE with reachability information for the AII in question, then the S-PE will initiate the necessary LDP messaging procedure to set-up the next PW segment. If the PW AII routing table lookup does not result in a IP address for a next-hop PE, the destination AII has become unreachable, and the PW setup MUST fail. In this case the next PW segment is considered un-provisioned, and a

label release MUST be returned to the T-PE with a status message of "AII Unreachable".

If the TAI of a MS-PW label mapping message received by a PE contains the prefix matching a locally-provisioned prefix on that PE, but an AC ID that is not provisioned, then the LDP liberal label retention procedures apply, and the label mapping message is retained.

To allow for dynamic end-to-end signaling of MS-PWs, information must be present in S-PEs to support the determination of the next PW signaling hop. Such information can be provisioned (equivalent to a static route) on each S-PE, or disseminated via regular routing protocols (e.g. BGP).

6.1.1. AII PW Routing Table Lookup Aggregation Rules

All PEs capable of dynamic MS-PW path selection MUST build a PW AII routing table to be used for PW next-hop selection.

The PW addressing scheme (AII type 2 in [[RFC5003](#)]) consists of a Global ID, a 32 bit prefix and a 32 bit Attachment Circuit ID.

An aggregation scheme similar to that used for classless IPv4 addresses can be employed. An (8 bits) length mask is specified as a number ranging from 0 to 96 that indicates which Most Significant Bits (MSB) are relevant in the address field when performing the PW address matching algorithm.

```

0          31 32      63 64      95 (bits)
+-----+-----+-----+
| Global ID | Prefix | AC ID  |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

During the signaling phase, the content of the (fully qualified) TAI type 2 field from the FEC129 TLV is compared against routes from the PW Routing table. Similar with the IPv4 case, the route with the longest match is selected, determining the next signaling hop and implicitly the next PW Segment to be signaled.

6.1.2. PW Static Route

For the purpose of determining the next signaling hop for a segment of the pseudowire, the PEs MAY be provisioned with fixed route entries in the PW next hop routing table. The static PW entries will follow all the addressing rules and aggregation rules described in

the previous sections. The most common use of PW static provisioned routes is this example of the "default" route entry as follows:

Global ID = 0 Prefix = 0 AC ID = 0 , Prefix Length = 0 Next Signaling Hop = S-PE1

6.1.3. Dynamic Advertisement with BGP

Any suitable routing protocol capable of carrying external routing information may be used to propagate MS-PW path information among S-PEs and T-PEs. However, T-PE, and S-PEs, MAY choose to use Boundary Gateway Protocol (BGP) [[RFC4760](#)] to propagate PW address information throughout the PSN.

Contrary to other l2vpn signaling methods that use BGP [[RFC6074](#)], in the case of the dynamically placed MS-PW, the source T-PE knows a-priori (by provisioning) the AC ID on the terminating T-PE to use in signaling. Hence there is no need to advertise a "fully qualified" 96 bit address on a per PW Attachment Circuit basis. Only the T-PE Global ID, Prefix, and prefix length needs to be advertised as part of well known BGP procedures - see [[RFC4760](#)].

As PW Endpoints are provisioned in the T-PEs. The ST-PE will use this information to obtain the first S-PE hop (i.e., first BGP next hop) to where the first PW segment will be established. Any subsequent S-PEs will use the same information (i.e. the next BGP next-hop(s)) to obtain the next-signaling-hop(s) on the path to the TT-PE.

The PW dynamic path NLRI is advertised in BGP UPDATE messages using the MP_REACH_NLRI and MP_UNREACH_NLRI attributes [[RFC4760](#)]. The [AFI, SAFI] value pair used to identify this NLRI is (AFI=25, SAFI=6 (pending IANA allocation)).

The Next Hop field of MP_REACH_NLRI attribute shall be interpreted as an IPv4 address, whenever the length of the NextHop address is 4 octets, and as a IPv6 address, whenever the length of the NextHop address is 16 octets.

The NLRI field in the MP_REACH_NLRI and MP_UNREACH_NLRI is a prefix comprising an 8-octet Route Distinguisher, the Global ID, the Prefix, and the AC-ID, and encoded as defined in [section 4 of \[RFC4760\]](#).

This NLRI is structured as follows:


```

Bit
0      7 8          71 72      103 104  135 136    167
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|Length|  Route Dist   | Global ID | Prefix | AC ID  |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

The Length field is the prefix length of the Route Distinguisher + Global ID + Prefix + AC-ID in bits.

Except for the default PW route, which is encoded as a 0 length prefix, the minimum value of the length field is 96 bits. Lengths of 128 bits to 159 bits are invalid as the AC ID field cannot be aggregated. The maximum value of the Length field is 160 bits. BGP advertisements received with invalid prefix lengths MUST be rejected as having a bad packet format.

6.2. LDP Signaling

The LDP signaling procedures are described in [RFC4447] and expanded in [RFC6073]. No new LDP Signaling components are required for setting up a dynamically placed MS-PW. However some optional signaling extensions are described below.

6.2.1. MS-PW Bandwidth Signaling

In the SS-PW case the PW QoS requirements may easily be met by selecting a MPLS PSN tunnel at the S-PE that meets the PW QoS requirements. However in the case of an automatically placed MS-PW the QoS requirements for a SS-PW not initiating on a T-PE MAY need to be indicated along with the MS-PW addressing. This is accomplished by including an OPTIONAL PW Bandwidth TLV. The PW Bandwidth TLV is specified as follows:

```

0      1      2      3
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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|1|0|      PW BW  TLV  (0x096E)  |      TLV  Length      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                Forward SENDER_TSPEC      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|                                Reverse SENDER_TSPEC      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

The complete definitions of the content of the SENDER_TSPEC objects

are found in [TSPEC] [section 3.1](#). The forward SENDER_TSPEC refers to the data path in the direction of ST-PE to TT-PE. The reverse SENDER_TSPEC refers to the data path in the direction TT-PE to ST-PE.

In the forward direction, after a next hop selection is determined, a T/S-PE SHOULD reference the forward SENDER_TSPEC object to determine an appropriate PSN tunnel towards the next signaling hop. If such a tunnel exists, the MS-PW signaling procedures are invoked with the inclusion of the PW Bandwidth TLV. When the PE searches for a PSN tunnel, any tunnel which points to a next hop equivalent to the next hop selected will be included in the search. (The LDP address TLV is used to determine the next hop equivalence)

When an S/T-PE receives a PW Bandwidth TLV, once the PW next hop is selected, the S/T-PE MUST request the appropriate resources from the PSN. The resources described in the reverse SENDER_TSPEC are allocated from the PSN toward the originator of the message or previous hop. When resources are allocated from the PSN for a specific PW, then the PSN SHOULD account for the PW usage of the resources.

In the case where PSN resources towards the previous hop are not available the following procedure MUST be followed:

- i. The PSN MAY allocate more QoS resources, e.g. Bandwidth, to the PSN tunnel.
- ii. The S-PE MAY attempt to setup another PSN tunnel to accommodate the new PW QoS requirements.
- iii. If the S-PE cannot get enough resources to setup the segment in the MS-PW a label release MUST be returned to the previous hop with a status message of "Bandwidth resources unavailable"

In the latter case, the T-PE receiving the status message MUST also withdraw the corresponding PW label mapping for the opposite direction if it has already been successfully setup.

If an ST-PE receives a label mapping message the following procedure MUST be followed:

If the ST-PE has already sent a label mapping message for this PW then the ST-PE must check that this label mapping message originated from the same LDP peer to which the corresponding label mapping message for this particular PW was sent. If it is the same peer, the PW is established. If it is a different peer, then ST-PE MUST send a label release message, with a status code of "Duplicate AII" to the PE that originate the LDP label mapping message.

If the PE has not yet sent a label mapping message for this

particular PW , then it MUST send the label mapping message to this same LDP peer, regardless of what the PW TAIL routing lookup result is.

6.2.2. Equal Cost Multi Path (ECMP) in PW Routing

A specific PW may find match with a PW route that may have multiple next-hops associated with it. Multiple next-hops may be either configured explicitly as static routes or may be learned through BGP routing procedures. Implementations at and S-PE or T-PE MAY use selection algorithms, such as CRC32 on the FEC TLV, for load balancing of PWs across multiple next-hops. The details of such selection algorithms are outside the scope of this document.

6.2.3. Active/Passive T-PE Election Procedure

When a MS-PW is signaled, each T-PE might independently initiate signaling the MS-PW. This could result in a different path being used in each direction of the PW. To avoid this situation one of the T-PE MUST start the PW signaling (active role), while the other T-PE waits to receive the LDP label mapping message before sending the LDP label mapping message for the reverse direction of the PW (passive role). The Active T-PE (the ST-PE) and the passive T-PE (the TT-PE) MUST be identified before signaling begins for a given MS-PW.

The determination of which T-PE assume the active role SHOULD be done as follows: the SAIL and TAIL are compared as unsigned integers, if the SAIL is bigger then the T-PE assumes the active role.

6.2.4. Detailed Signaling Procedures

On receiving a label mapping message, the S-PE MUST inspect the FEC TLV. If the receiving node has no local AIL matching the TAIL for that label mapping then the signaling should be forwarded on to another S-PE or T-PE. The S-PE will check if the FEC is already installed for the forward direction:

- If it is already installed, and the received mapping was received from the same LDP peer where the forward LDP label mapping was sent, then this label mapping represents signaling in the reverse direction for this MS-PW segment.
- If it is already installed, and the received mapping was received from a different LDP peer where the forward LDP label mapping was sent, then the received label mapping MUST be released with status code as "PW_LOOP_DETECTED". If the already installed PW

segment has not signaled explicit intent for active role then installed PW segment MUST be released with status code "PW_LOOP_DETECTED".

- If the FEC is not already installed, then this represents signaling in the forward direction.

For the forward direction:

- i. Determine the next hop S-PE or T-PE according to the procedures above. If next-hop reachability is not found in the PW AII routing table in the S-PE then label release MUST be sent with status code "AII_UNREACHABLE". If the next-hop S-PE or T-PE is found and is the same LDP Peer that has sent the label mapping message then a label Release MUST be returned with the status code "PW_LOOP_DETECTED". If the SAI in the received label mapping is local to the S-PE then a label released MUST be returned with status code "PW_LOOP_DETECTED".
- ii. Check that a PSN tunnel exists to the next hop S-PE or T-PE. If no tunnel exists to the next hop S-PE or T-PE the S-PE MAY attempt to setup a PSN tunnel.
- iii. Check that a PSN tunnel exists to the previous hop. If no tunnel exists to the previous hop S-PE or T-PE the S-PE MAY attempt to setup a PSN tunnel.
- iv. If the S-PE cannot get enough PSN resources to setup the segment to the next or previous S-PE or T-PE, a label release MUST be returned to the T-PE with a status message of "Resources Unavailable".
- v. If the label mapping message contains a Bandwidth TLV, allocate the required resources on the PSN tunnels in the forward and reverse directions according to the procedures above.
- vi. Allocate a new PW label for the forward direction.
- vii. Install the FEC for the forward direction.
- viii. Send the label mapping message with the new forward label and the FEC to the next hop S-PE/T-PE.

For the reverse direction:

- i. Install the received FEC for the reverse direction.
- ii. Determine the next signaling hop by referencing the LDP sessions used to setup the PW in the Forward direction.
- iii. Allocate a new PW label for the reverse direction.
- iv. Install the FEC for the reverse direction.
- v. Send the label mapping message with a new label and the FEC to the next hop S-PE/ST-PE.

7. Failure Handling Procedures

7.1. PSN Failures

Failures of the PSN tunnel MUST be handled by PSN mechanisms. If the PSN is unable to re-establish the PSN tunnel, then the S-PE SHOULD follow the procedures defined in [Section 8 of \[RFC6073\]](#).

7.2. S-PE Specific Failures

For defects in an S-PE, the procedures defined in [\[RFC6073\]](#) SHOULD be followed. A T-PE or S-PE may receive an unsolicited label release message from another S-PE or T-PE with various failure codes such "LOOP_DETECTED", "PW_LOOP_DETECTED", "RESOURCE_UNAVAILBALE", "BAD_STRICT_HOP", "AII_UNREACHABLE" etc. All these failure codes indicate a generic class of PW failures at an S-PE or T-PE.

When an unsolicited label release message with such a failure status code is received at T-PE then the T-PE MUST re-attempt to establish the PW immediately. However the T-PE MUST throttle its PW setup message retry attempts with an exponential backoff in situations where PW setup messages are being constantly released. It is also recommended that a T-PE detecting such a situation take action to notify an operator.

S-PEs that receive an unsolicited label release message with a failure status code should follow the following procedures:

- i. If label release is received from an S-PE or T-PE in the forward signaling direction then S-PE MUST tear down both segments of the PW. The status code received in label release SHOULD be propagated while sending label release for the next-segment.
- ii. If the label release is received from an S-PE or T-PE in the reverse Signaling direction do as follows:

If the PW is set-up at S-PE with an Explicit Intent of Role then label release MUST be sent to the next PW segment with same status code. The forward signaling path SHOULD NOT be tear down in such case.

If the PW is set-up at S-PE without an Explicit Intent of Role then tear down both segments of the PW as described in i.

7.3. PW

In general an established MS-PW will not be affected by next-hop changes in L2 PW reachability information.

If there is a change in next-hop of the L2 PW reachability information in the forward direction, the T-PE MAY elect to tear down the MS-PW by sending a label withdraw message to downstream S-PE or T-PE. The teardown MUST be also accompanied by a unsolicited label release message, and will be followed by an attempt to re-establish of the MS-PW by T-PE.

If there is a change in the L2 PW reachability information in the forward direction at S-PE, the S-PE MAY elect to tear down the MS-PW in both directions. A label withdrawal is sent on each direction followed by a unsolicited label release. The unsolicited label releases MUST be accompanied by the Status code "AII_UNREACHABLE". This procedure is OPTIONAL.

A change in L2 reachability information in the reverse direction has no effect on an MS-PW.

8. Operations and Maintenance (OAM)

The OAM procedures defined in [[RFC6073](#)] may be used also for MS-PWs. A PW switching point TLV is used [[RFC6073](#)] to record the switching points that the PW traverses.

In the case of a MS-PW where the PW Endpoints are identified though using a globally unique, FEC 129-based AII addresses, there is no PWID defined on a per segment basis. Each individual PW segment is identified by the address of adjacent S-PE(s) in conjunction with the SAI and TAI. In this case, the following type MUST be used in place of type 0x01 in the PW switching point TLV:

Type	Length	Description
0x06	14	L2 PW address of PW Switching Point

The above field MUST be included together with type 0x02 in the TLV once per individual PW Switching Point following the same rules and procedures as described in [[RFC6073](#)]. A more detailed description of this field is also in section 7.4.1 of [[RFC6073](#)]

9. Security Considerations

This document specifies only extensions to the protocols already defined in [[RFC4447](#)], and [[RFC6073](#)]. Each such protocol may have its own set of security issues, but those issues are not affected by the extensions specified herein. Note that the protocols for dynamically distributing PW Layer 2 reachability information may have their own security issues, however those protocols specifications are outside the scope of this document.

10. IANA Considerations

IANA needs to correct a minor error in the registry "Pseudowire Switching Point PE sub-TLV Type". The entry 0x06 "L2 PW address of the PW Switching Point" should have Length 14.

10.1. LDP TLV TYPE NAME SPACE

This document uses several new LDP TLV types, IANA already maintains a registry of name "TLV TYPE NAME SPACE" defined by [RFC5036](#). The following values are suggested for assignment:

TLV type	Description
0x096E	Bandwidth TLV

10.2. LDP Status Codes

This document uses several new LDP status codes, IANA already maintains a registry of name "STATUS CODE NAME SPACE" defined by [RFC5036](#). The following values have been pre-allocated:

Range/Value	E	Description	Reference
-----	----	-----	-----
0x00000037	0	Bandwidth resources unavailable	RFCxxxx
0x00000038	0	Resources Unavailable	RFCxxxx
0x00000039	0	All Unreachable	RFCxxxx

10.3. BGP SAFI

IANA needs to allocate a new BGP SAFI for "Network Layer Reachability Information used for Dynamic Placement of Multi-Segment Pseudowires" from the IANA "Subsequence Address Family Identifiers (SAFI)" registry. The following value has been pre-allocated:

Value	Description	Reference
-----	-----	-----
6	Network Layer Reachability Information used [RFCxxxx] for Dynamic Placement of Multi-Segment Pseudowires	

11. Normative References

- [RFC6073] Martini et.al. "Segmented Pseudowire", [RFC6073](#), January 2011
- [TSPEC] Wroclawski, J. "The Use of RSVP with IETF Integrated Services", [RFC 2210](#), September 1997
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13. Author's Addresses

Luca Martini
Cisco Systems, Inc.
9155 East Nichols Avenue, Suite 400
Englewood, CO, 80112
e-mail: lmartini@cisco.com

Matthew Bocci
Alcatel-Lucent,
Voyager Place
Shoppenhangers Road
Maidenhead
Berks, UK
e-mail: matthew.bocci@alcatel-lucent.co.uk

Florin Balus
Alcatel-Lucent
701 E. Middlefield Rd.
Mountain View, CA 94043
e-mail: florin.balus@alcatel-lucent.com

Nabil Bitar
Verizon
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02145
e-mail: nabil.bitar@verizon.com

Himanshu Shah
Ciena Corp
35 Nagog Park,
Acton, MA 01720
e-mail: hshah@ciena.com

Mustapha Aissaoui
Alcatel-Lucent
600 March Road
Kanata
ON, Canada
e-mail: mustapha.aissaoui@alcatel-lucent.com

Jason Rusmisl
Alcatel-Lucent
600 March Road
Kanata
ON, Canada
e-mail: Jason.rusmisl@alcatel-lucent.com

Yetik Serbest
SBC Labs
9505 Arboretum Blvd.
Austin, TX 78759
e-mail: Yetik_serbest@labs.sbc.com

Andrew G. Malis
Verizon
117 West St.
Waltham, MA 02451
e-mail: andrew.g.malis@verizon.com

Chris Metz
Cisco Systems, Inc.
3700 Cisco Way
San Jose, Ca. 95134
e-mail: chmetz@cisco.com

David McDysan
Verizon
22001 Loudoun County Pkwy
Ashburn, VA, USA 20147
e-mail: dave.mcdysan@verizon.com

Jeff Sugimoto
Nortel
3500 Carling Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA
e-mail: sugimoto@nortel.com

Mike Duckett
Bellsouth
Lindbergh Center D481
575 Morosgo Dr
Atlanta, GA 30324
e-mail: mduckett@bellsouth.net

Mike Loomis
Nortel
600, Technology Park Dr
Billerica, MA, USA
e-mail: mloomis@nortel.com

Paul Doolan
Mangrove Systems
10 Fairfield Blvd
Wallingford, CT, USA 06492
e-mail: pdoolan@mangrovesystems.com

Ping Pan
Hammerhead Systems
640 Clyde Court
Mountain View, CA, USA 94043
e-mail: ppan@hammerheadsystems.com

Prayson Pate
Overture Networks, Inc.
507 Airport Blvd, Suite 111
Morrisville, NC, USA 27560
e-mail: prayson.pate@overturenetworks.com

Vasile Radoaca
Alcatel-Lucent
Optics Divison, Westford, MA, USA
email: vasile.radoaca@alcatel-lucent.com

Yuichiro Wada
NTT Communications
3-20-2 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 163-1421, Japan
e-mail: yuichiro.wada@ntt.com

Yeongil Seo
Korea Telecom Corp.
463-1 Jeonmin-dong, Yusung-gu
Daejeon, Korea
e-mail: syi1@kt.co.kr

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Expiration Date: December 2012

