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**Extensions to Resource Reservation Protocol For Fast Reroute of  
Traffic Engineering GMPLS LSPs  
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Abstract

This document defines Resource Reservation Protocol - Traffic Engineering (RSVP-TE) signaling extensions to support Fast Reroute (FRR) of Packet Switched Capable (PSC) Generalized Multi-Protocol Label Switching (GMPLS) Label Switched Paths (LSPs). These signaling extensions allow the coordination of bidirectional bypass tunnel assignment protecting a common facility in both forward and reverse directions of a co-routed bidirectional LSP. In addition, these extensions enable the re-direction of bidirectional traffic and signaling onto bypass tunnels that ensure co-routedness of data and signaling paths in the forward and reverse directions after FRR to avoid RSVP soft-state timeout.

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## **1. Introduction**

Packet Switched Capable (PSC) Traffic Engineering (TE) tunnels are signaled using Generalized Multi-Protocol Label Switching (GMPLS) signaling procedures specified in [\[RFC3473\]](#) for both unidirectional and bidirectional LSPs. Fast Reroute (FRR) [\[RFC4090\]](#) has been widely deployed in the packet TE networks today and is preferred for TE GMPLS tunnels. Using FRR methods also allows to leverage existing mechanisms for failure detection and restoration in the deployed networks.

FRR procedures defined in [\[RFC4090\]](#) describe the behavior of the Point of Local Repair (PLR) to reroute traffic and signaling onto the bypass tunnel in the event of a failure for unidirectional LSPs. These procedures are applicable to unidirectional protected LSPs signaled using either RSVP-TE [\[RFC3209\]](#) or GMPLS procedures [\[RFC3473\]](#), however don't address issues that arise when employing FRR for bidirectional co-routed GMPLS Label Switched Paths (LSPs).

When bidirectional bypass tunnels are used to locally protect bidirectional co-routed GMPLS LSPs, the upstream and downstream PLRs may independently assign different bidirectional bypass tunnels in the forward and reverse directions. There is no mechanism in FRR procedures defined in [\[RFC4090\]](#) to coordinate the bidirectional bypass tunnel selection between the downstream and upstream PLRs.

When using FRR procedures with bidirectional co-routed GMPLS LSPs, it is possible in some cases (e.g. when using node protection bypass tunnels post a link failure event and when RSVP signaling is sent in-fiber and in-band with data), the RSVP signaling refreshes may stop reaching some nodes along the primary bidirectional LSP path after the PLRs complete rerouting traffic and signaling onto the bypass tunnels. This is caused by the asymmetry of paths that may be taken by the bidirectional LSP's signaling in the forward and reverse directions after FRR reroute. In such cases, the RSVP soft-state timeout eventually causes the protected bidirectional LSP to be destroyed, and consequently impacts protected traffic flow after FRR.

Protection State Coordination Protocol [\[RFC6378\]](#) is applicable to FRR [\[RFC4090\]](#) for local protection of bidirectional co-routed LSPs in order to minimize traffic disruptions in both directions. However, this does not address the above mentioned problem of RSVP soft-state timeout in control plane.



This document proposes solutions to the above mentioned problems by providing mechanisms in the control plane to complement FRR procedures of [[RFC4090](#)] in order to maintain the RSVP soft-state for bidirectional co-routed protected GMPLS LSPs and achieve symmetry in the paths followed by the traffic and signaling in the forward and reverse directions post FRR. The document further extends RSVP signaling so that the bidirectional bypass tunnel selected by the upstream PLR matches the one selected by the downstream PLR node for a bidirectional co-routed LSP.

Unless otherwise specified in this document, fast reroute procedures defined in [[RFC4090](#)] are not modified for GMPLS signaled tunnels.

## **2. Conventions Used in This Document**

### **2.1. Key Word Definitions**

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](#)].

### **2.2. Terminology**

The reader is assumed to be familiar with the terminology in [[RFC2205](#)] and [[RFC3209](#)].

LSR: An MPLS Label-Switch Router.

LSP: An MPLS Label-Switched Path.

Local Repair: Techniques used to repair LSP tunnels quickly when a node or link along the LSP's path fails.

PLR: Point of Local Repair. The head-end LSR of a bypass tunnel or a detour LSP.

PSC: Packet Switched Capable.

Protected LSP: An LSP is said to be protected at a given hop if it has one or multiple associated bypass tunnels originating at that hop.

Bypass Tunnel: An LSP that is used to protect a set of LSPs passing over a common facility.

NHOP Bypass Tunnel: Next-Hop Bypass Tunnel. A bypass tunnel that bypasses a single link of the protected LSP.



NNHOP Bypass Tunnel: Next-Next-Hop Bypass Tunnel. A bypass tunnel that bypasses a single node of the protected LSP.

MP: Merge Point. The LSR where one or more bypass tunnels rejoin the path of the protected LSP downstream of the potential failure. The same LSR may be both an MP and a PLR simultaneously.

Downstream PLR: A PLR that locally detects a fault and reroutes traffic in the same direction of the protected bidirectional LSP RSVP Path signaling. A downstream PLR has a corresponding downstream MP.

Upstream PLR: A PLR that locally detects a fault and reroutes traffic in the opposite direction of the protected bidirectional LSP RSVP Path signaling. An upstream PLR has a corresponding upstream MP.

Point of Remote Repair (PRR): An upstream PLR that triggers reroute of traffic and signaling based on procedures described in this document.

### **3. Fast Reroute For Unidirectional GMPLS LSPs**

FRR procedures defined in [[RFC4090](#)] are applicable to unidirectional protected LSPs signaled using either RSVP-TE or GMPLS procedures and are not modified by the extensions defined in this document. These FRR procedures also apply to bidirectional associated GMPLS LSPs where two unidirectional GMPLS LSPs are bound together by using association signaling [[RFC7551](#)].

### **4. Bypass Tunnel Assignment for Bidirectional GMPLS LSPs**

This section describes signaling procedures for bidirectional bypass tunnel assignment for GMPLS signaled PSC bidirectional co-routed TE LSPs.

#### **4.1. Merge Point Labels**

To correctly reroute data traffic over a node protection bypass tunnel, the downstream and upstream PLRs have to know, in advance, the downstream and upstream Merge Point (MP) labels so that data in the forward and reverse directions can be tunneled through the bypass tunnel post FRR respectively.

[RFC4090] defines procedures for the downstream PLR to obtain the protected LSP's downstream MP label from recorded labels in the RRO of the RSVP Resv message received at the downstream PLR.

To obtain the upstream MP label, existing methods [[RFC4090](#)] to record



upstream MP label are used in the RRO of the RSVP Path message. The upstream PLR can obtain the upstream MP label from the recorded label in the RRO of the received RSVP Path message.

#### **4.2. Merge Point Addresses**

To correctly assign a bidirectional bypass tunnel, the downstream and upstream PLRs have to know, in advance, the downstream and upstream Merge Point (MP) addresses. [RFC4561] defines procedures for the PLR to obtain the protected LSP's merge point address in multi-domain routing networks where a domain is defined as an Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP) area or an Autonomous System (AS).

[RFC4561] defines procedures for the downstream PLR to obtain the protected LSP's downstream merge point address from the recorded node-IDs in the RRO of the RSVP Resv message received at the downstream PLR.

To obtain the upstream MP address, existing methods [RFC4561] to record upstream MP node-ID are used in the RRO of the RSVP Path message. The upstream PLR can obtain the upstream MP address from the recorded node-IDs in the RRO of the received RSVP Path message.

#### **4.3. RRO IPv4/IPv6 Subobject Flags**

RRO IPv4/IPv6 subobject flags are defined in [RFC4090], Section 4.4 and are applicable to the FRR procedure for the bidirectional GMPLS tunnels.

[RFC4090] defined procedure is used by the downstream PLR independently to signal the Ipv4/IPv6 subobject flags in the RRO of the RSVP Path message. Similarly, this procedure is used by the upstream PLR independently to signal the IPv4/IPv6 subobject flags in the RRO of the RSVP Resv message.

#### **4.4. Bypass Tunnel Assignment Co-ordination**

This document defines signaling procedure and a new BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject in RSVP RECORD\_ROUTE object used to co-ordinate the bidirectional bypass tunnel selection between the downstream and upstream PLRs.

##### **4.4.1. Bypass Tunnel Assignment Signaling Procedure**

It is desirable to coordinate the bidirectional bypass tunnel selected at the downstream and upstream PLRs so that rerouted traffic and signaling flow on co-routed paths post FRR. To achieve this, a new RSVP subobject is defined for RECORD\_ROUTE object (RRO) that



identifies a bidirectional bypass tunnel that is assigned at a downstream PLR to protect a bidirectional LSP.

The BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject is added by each downstream PLR in the RSVP Path RECORD\_ROUTE message of the GMPLS signaled bidirectional primary LSP to record the downstream bidirectional bypass tunnel assignment. This subobject is sent in the RSVP Path RECORD\_ROUTE message every time the downstream PLR assigns or updates the bypass tunnel assignment so the upstream PLR may reflect the assignment too.

When the BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject is added in the RECORD\_ROUTE object:

- o The BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject MUST be added prior to the node-ID subobject containing the node's address.
- o The Node-ID subobject MUST also be added.
- o The IPv4 or IPv6 subobject MUST also be added.

In the absence of BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject, the upstream PLR SHOULD NOT assign a bypass tunnel in the reverse direction. This allows the downstream PLR to always initiate the bypass assignment and upstream PLR to simply reflect the bypass assignment.

The upstream PLR (downstream MP) that detects a BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject, whose bypass tunnel and the node-ID subobject when used as a "bypass tunnel source" terminates locally, assigns the matching bidirectional bypass tunnel in the reverse direction, and forwards the RSVP Path message downstream. Otherwise, the bypass tunnel assignment subobject is simply forwarded downstream along in the RSVP Path message.

Bypass assignment co-ordination procedure described above can be used for both one-to-one backup described in [Section 3.1 of \[RFC4090\]](#) and facility backup described in [Section 3.2 of \[RFC4090\]](#).

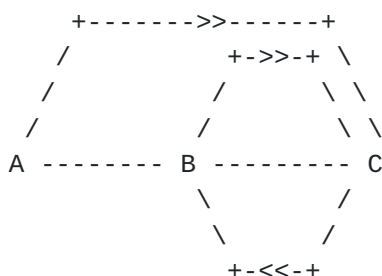
#### **4.4.2. Bypass Tunnel Assignment Policy**

In the case of upstream PLR receiving multiple BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobjects from multiple downstream PLRs, the decision of selecting a bypass tunnel in the reverse direction can be based on a local policy, for example, prefer link protection versus node protection bypass tunnel, or prefer the most upstream versus least upstream node protection bypass tunnel. However, it is recommended that nodes along the LSP path employ identical policy for bypass tunnel assignment.



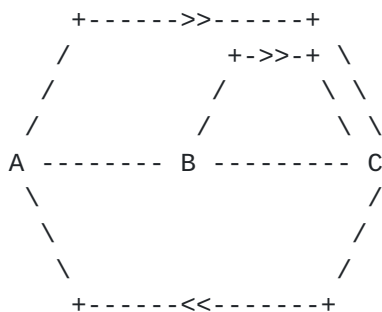
When different policies are used for bypass tunnel assignment on the LSP path, it may result in some links in the reverse direction not assigned bypass protection as shown in examples below.

As shown in Example 1, node A assigns a node protection bypass tunnel in the forward direction but node C does not assign a node protection bypass tunnel in the reverse direction for a protected bidirectional GMPLS LSP. Both nodes B and C assign a link protection bypass tunnel. As a result, there is no fast reroute protection available in the reverse direction for link A-B for this LSP.



Example 1: An example of different bypass assignment policy

As shown in Example 2, nodes A and C assign a node protection bypass tunnel for a protected bidirectional GMPLS LSP. Node B assigns a link protection bypass tunnel but node C does not assign a reverse link protection bypass tunnel. As a result, there is no fast reroute protection available in the reverse direction for link A-B for this LSP.



Example 2: An example of different bypass assignment policy

#### [4.4.3.](#) BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT Subobject

The BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject is used to inform the MP of the



bypass tunnel being assigned by the PLR. This can be used to coordinate the bypass tunnel assignment for the protected LSP by the downstream and upstream PLRs in the forward and reverse directions respectively prior or post the failure occurrence. This subobject **SHOULD** only be inserted into the RSVP Path message by the downstream PLR and **MUST NOT** be changed by downstream LSRs.

The BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject in RRO has the following format:

```

      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
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
|           Type           |      Length      | Bypass Tunnel ID      |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+

```

Type

Downstream Bypass Assignment.

Length

The Length contains the total length of the subobject in bytes, including the Type and Length fields.

Bypass Tunnel ID

The bypass tunnel identifier (16 bits).

## 5. Link Protection Bypass Tunnels for Bidirectional GMPLS LSPs

When a bidirectional link protection bypass tunnel is used, after a link failure, downstream PLR reroutes RSVP Path and traffic over bypass tunnel using procedures defined in [RFC4090]. Upstream PLR may reroute traffic and RSVP Resv upon detecting the link failure or upon receiving RSVP Path message over a bidirectional bypass tunnel. This allows both traffic and RSVP signaling to flow on symmetric paths in the forward and reverse directions of a bidirectional tunnel.

```

                                     <-RESV
[R1]---[R2]----[R3]-----x-----[R4]-----[R5]
  -> PATH      \                      /
                +<----->+
                  T3
                -> PATH
                  RESV <-

```



Protected LSP: {R1-R2-R3-R4-R5}  
 R3's Bypass T3: {R3-R4}

Figure 1: Flow of RSVP signaling post FRR after link failure

Consider the Traffic Engineered (TE) network shown in Figure 1. Assume every link in the network is protected with a link protection bypass tunnel (e.g. bypass tunnel T3). For the protected bidirectional co-routed LSP whose (active) head-end is on router R1 and (passive) tail-end is on router R5, each traversed router (a potential PLR) assigns a link protection bidirectional co-routed bypass tunnel.

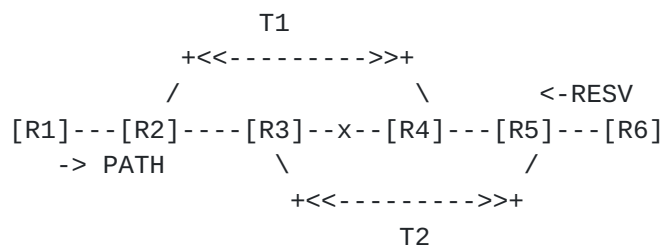
### 5.1. Behavior Post Link Failure After FRR

Consider a link R3-R4 on the protected LSP path fails. The downstream PLR R3 and upstream PLR R4 independently trigger fast reroute procedures to redirect traffic onto bypass tunnels T3 in the forward and reverse directions. The downstream PLR R3 also reroutes RSVP Path state onto the bypass tunnel T3 using procedures described in [RFC4090]. The upstream PLR R4 reroutes RSVP Resv onto the reverse bypass tunnel T3 upon receiving RSVP Path message over bypass tunnel T3.

### 5.2. Revertive Behavior Post Link Failure After FRR

Revertive behavior as defined in [RFC4090], Section 6.5.2, is applicable to the link protection of GMPLS bidirectional LSPs. When using the local revertive mode, when downstream MP receives Path messages over the restored path, it starts sending Resv over the restored path and stops sending Resv over the reverse bypass tunnel. No additional procedure other than that specified in [RFC4090] is introduced for revertive behavior by this document.

## 6. Node Protection Bypass Tunnels for Bidirectional GMPLS LSPs



Protected LSP: {R1-R2-R3-R4-R5-R6}



R3's Bypass T2: {R3-R5}  
R4's Bypass T1: {R4-R2}

Figure 2: Flow of RSVP signaling post FRR after link failure

Consider the Traffic Engineered (TE) network shown in Figure 2. Assume every link in the network is protected with a node protection bypass tunnel. For the protected bidirectional co-routed LSP whose (active) head-end is on router R1 and (passive) tail-end is on router R6, each traversed router (a potential PLR) assigns a node protection bidirectional co-routed bypass tunnel.

The proposed solution introduces two phases to invoking FRR procedures by the PLR post the link failure. The first phase comprises of FRR procedures to fast reroute data traffic onto bypass tunnels in the forward and reverse directions. The second phase re-coroutes the data and signaling in the forward and reverse directions after the first phase.

#### **6.1. Behavior Post Link Failure After FRR**

Consider a link R3-R4 on the protected LSP path fails. The downstream PLR R3 and upstream PLR R4 independently trigger fast reroute procedures to redirect traffic onto respective bypass tunnels T2 and T1 in the forward and reverse directions. The downstream PLR R3 also reroutes RSVP Path state onto the bypass tunnel T2 using procedures described in [RFC4090]. Note, at this point, router R4 stops receiving RSVP Path refreshes for the protected bidirectional LSP while primary protected traffic continues to flow over bypass tunnels.

#### **6.2. Behavior Post Link Failure To Re-coroute**

The downstream Merge Point (MP) R5 that receives rerouted protected LSP RSVP Path message through the bypass tunnel, in addition to the regular MP processing defined in [RFC4090], gets promoted to a Point of Remote Repair (PRR role) and performs the following actions to re-coroute signaling and data traffic over the same path in both directions:

- o Finds the bypass tunnel in the reverse direction that terminates on the Downstream PLR R3. Note: the Downstream PLR R3's address is extracted from the "IPv4 tunnel sender address" in the SENDER\_TEMPLATE object.
- o If reverse bypass tunnel is found and the primary LSP traffic and signaling are not already rerouted over the found bypass tunnel, the PRR R5 activates FRR reroute procedures to direct



traffic and RSVP Resv over the found bypass tunnel T2 in the reverse direction.

- o If reverse bypass tunnel is not found, the PRR R5 signals a new reverse bypass tunnel that terminates on the downstream PLR R3 and activates FRR reroute procedures over the new bypass tunnel to direct traffic and RSVP Resv in the reverse direction.
- o If reverse bypass tunnel can not be successfully signaled, the PRR R5 immediately tears down the primary LSP.

If downstream MP R5 receives multiple RSVP Path messages through multiple bypass tunnels (e.g. as a result of multiple failures), the PRR SHOULD identify a bypass tunnel that terminates on the farthest downstream PLR along the protected LSP path (closest to the primary bidirectional tunnel head-end) and activate the reroute procedures mentioned above.

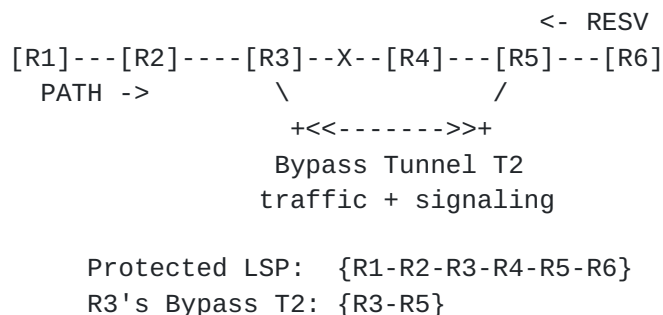


Figure 3: Flow of RSVP signaling post FRR after re-corouted

Figure 3 describes the path taken by the traffic and signaling after completing re-coroute of data and signaling in the forward and reverse paths described earlier.

The downstream MP MAY optionally support re-corouting in data plane as follows. If the downstream MP is pre-configured with bidirectional bypass tunnel, as soon as the MP node receives the primary tunnel packets on this bypass tunnel, it MAY switch the upstream traffic on to this bypass tunnel. In order to identify the primary tunnel packets through this bypass tunnel, Penultimate Hop Popping (PHP) of the bypass tunnel MUST be disabled. The signaling procedure described above in this Section will still apply, and MP checks whether the primary tunnel traffic and signaling is already rerouted over the found bypass tunnel, if not, perform the above signaling procedure.



### 6.3. Revertive Behavior Post Link Failure

Revertive behavior as defined in [\[RFC4090\], Section 6.5.2](#), is applicable to node protection of GMPLS bidirectional LSPs. When using the local revertive mode, when downstream MP (R4) (before re-corouting) and PRR (R5) (after re-corouting) receive Path messages over the restored path, they start sending Resv over the restored path and stop sending Resv over the reverse bypass tunnel. No additional procedure other than that specified in [\[RFC4090\]](#) is introduced for revertive behavior by this document.

## 7. Compatibility

New RSVP subobject BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT is defined for RECORD\_ROUTE Object in this document. Per [\[RFC2205\]](#), nodes not supporting this subobject will ignore the subobject but forward it without modification.

## 8. Security Considerations

This document introduces one new RSVP subobject that is carried in a signaling message. Thus in the event of the interception of a signaling message, slightly more information about the state of the network could be deduced than was previously the case. This is judged to be a very minor security risk as this information is already available by other means.

Otherwise, this document introduces no additional security considerations. For general discussion on MPLS and GMPLS related security issues, see the MPLS/GMPLS security framework [\[RFC5920\]](#).

## 9. IANA Considerations

IANA manages the "RSVP PARAMETERS" registry located at <http://www.iana.org/assignments/rsvp-parameters>. IANA is requested to assign a value for the new BYPASS\_ASSIGNMENT subobject in the "Class Type 21 ROUTE\_RECORD - Type 1 Route Record" registry.

This document introduces a new RECORD\_ROUTE subobject:

Value	Description	Carried in Path	Carried in Resv	Reference
TBA By IANA	BYPASS_ASSIGNMENT subobject	Yes	No	This document



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### **10.1. Normative References**

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- [RFC3473] Berger, L., Ed., "Generalized Multi-Protocol Label Switching (GMPLS) Signaling Resource ReserVation Protocol-Traffic Engineering (RSVP-TE) Extensions", [RFC 3473](#), January 2003.
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- [RFC7551] Zhang, F., Ed., Jing, R., and Gandhi, R., Ed., "RSVP-TE Extensions for Associated Bidirectional LSPs", [RFC 7551](#), May 2015.

### **10.2. Informative References**

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