

TEAS Working Group
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Experimental
Expires: December 3, 2020

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June 1, 2020

**PCE in Native IP Network
draft-ietf-teas-pce-native-ip-07**

Abstract

This document defines the framework for traffic engineering within native IP network, using multiple BGP sessions strategy and PCE-based central control architecture.

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[1.](#) Introduction

[RFC8735] describes the scenarios and simulation results for traffic engineering in native IP network. To meet the requirements of various scenarios, the solution for traffic engineering in native IP network should have the following criteria:

- o No complex signaling procedures among network nodes like MPLS-TE.
- o End to End traffic assurance, determined QoS behavior.
- o Same deployment method for intra-domain and inter-domain.
- o No upgrade to forwarding behavior of the router.
- o Support native IPv4 and IPv6 traffic in the same solution.
- o Can exploit the power of centrally control and flexibility/robustness of distributed control protocol.
- o Coping with the differentiation requirements for large amount traffic and prefixes.
- o Flexible deployment and automation control.

This document defines the framework for traffic engineering within native IP network, using multiple BGP session strategy, to meet the above requirements in dynamical and centrally control mode. The framework is referred as Central Control Dynamic Routing (CCDR) framework. It depends on the central control (PCE) element to compute the optimal path for selected traffic, and utilizes the dynamic routing behavior of traditional IGP/BGP protocols to forward such traffic.

The control messages between PCE and underlying network node are transmitted via Path Computation Element Communications Protocol (PCEP) protocol. The related PCEP extensions are provided in draft [[I-D.ietf-pce-pcep-extension-native-ip](#)].

2. Terminology

This document uses the following terms defined in [[RFC5440](#)]: PCE, PCEP

The following terms are used in this document:

- o CCDR: Central Control Dynamic Routing
- o E2E: End to End
- o ECMP: Equal Cost Multi Path
- o RR: Route Reflector
- o SDN: Software Defined Network

3. CCDR Framework in Simple Topology

Figure 1 illustrates the CCDR framework for traffic engineering in simple topology. The topology is comprised by four devices which are SW1, SW2, R1, R2. There are multiple physical links between R1 and R2. Traffic between prefix PF11(on SW1) and prefix PF21(on SW2) is normal traffic, traffic between prefix PF12(on SW1) and prefix PF22(on SW2) is priority traffic that should be treated differently.

In Intra-AS scenario, IGP and BGP are deployed between R1 and R2. In inter-AS scenario, only native BGP protocol is deployed. The traffic between each address pair may change in real time and the corresponding source/destination addresses of the traffic may also change dynamically.

The key ideas of the CCDR framework for this simple topology are the followings:

- o Build two BGP sessions between R1 and R2, via the different loopback addresses on these routers.
- o Send different prefixes via the established BGP sessions. For example, PF11/PF21 via the BGP session 1 and PF12/PF22 via the BGP session 2.
- o Set the explicit peer route on R1 and R2 respectively for BGP next hop to different physical link addresses between R1 and R2. Such explicit peer route can be set in the format of static route to BGP peer address, which is different from the route learned from the IGP protocol.

After the above actions, the traffic between the PF11 and PF21, and the traffic between PF12 and PF22 will go through different physical links between R1 and R2, each set of traffic pass through different dedicated physical links.

If there is more traffic between PF12 and PF22 that needs to be assured , one can add more physical links between R1 and R2 to reach the the next hop for BGP session 2. In this cases the prefixes that advertised by the BGP peers need not be changed.

If, for example, there is traffic from another address pair that needs to be assured (for example prefix PF13/PF23), and the total volume of assured traffic does not exceed the capacity of the previously provisioned physical links, one need only to advertise the newly added source/destination prefixes via the BGP session 2. The traffic between PF13/PF23 will go through the assigned dedicated physical links as the traffic between PF12/PF22.

Such decouple philosophy gives network operator flexible control capability on the network traffic, achieve the determined QoS assurance effect to meet the application's requirement. No complex signaling procedures like MPLS are introduced, the router needs only support native IP and multiple BGP sessions setup via different loopback addresses.

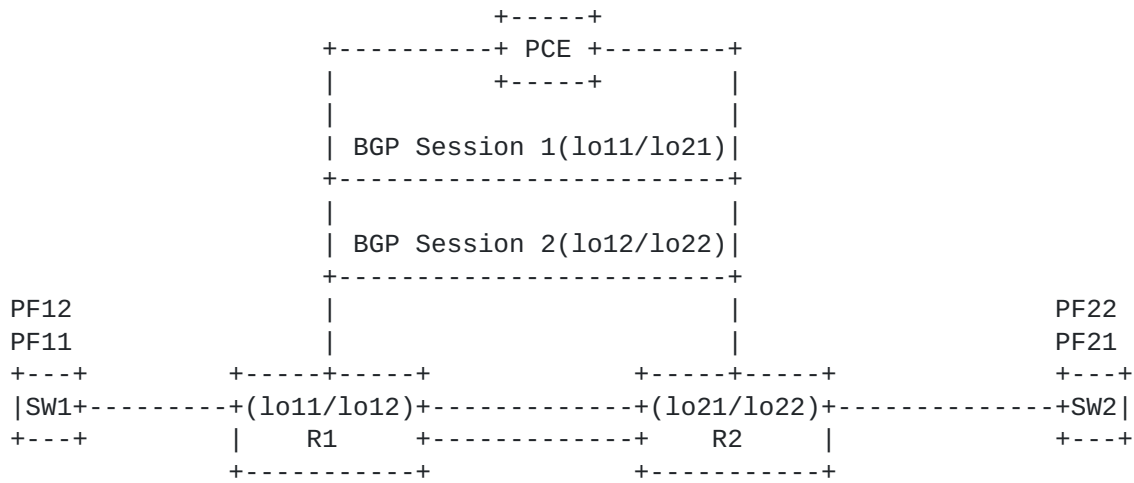


Figure 1: CCDR framework in simple topology

4. CCDR Framework in Large Scale Topology

When the assured traffic spans across the large scale network, as that illustrated in Figure 2, the multiple BGP sessions cannot be established hop by hop, especially for the iBGP within one AS.

For such scenario, we should consider to use the Route Reflector (RR) [RFC4456] to achieve the similar effect. Every edge router will establish two BGP sessions with the RR via different loopback addresses respectively. The other steps for traffic differentiation are same as that described in the CCDR framework for simple topology.

As shown in Figure 2, if we select R3 as the RR, every edge router(R1 and R7 in this example) will build two BGP session with the RR. If the PCE selects the dedicated path as R1-R2-R4-R7, then the operator should set the explicit peer routes via PCEP protocol on these routers respectively, pointing to the BGP next hop (loopback addresses of R1 and R7, which are used to send the prefix of the assured traffic) to the selected forwarding address.

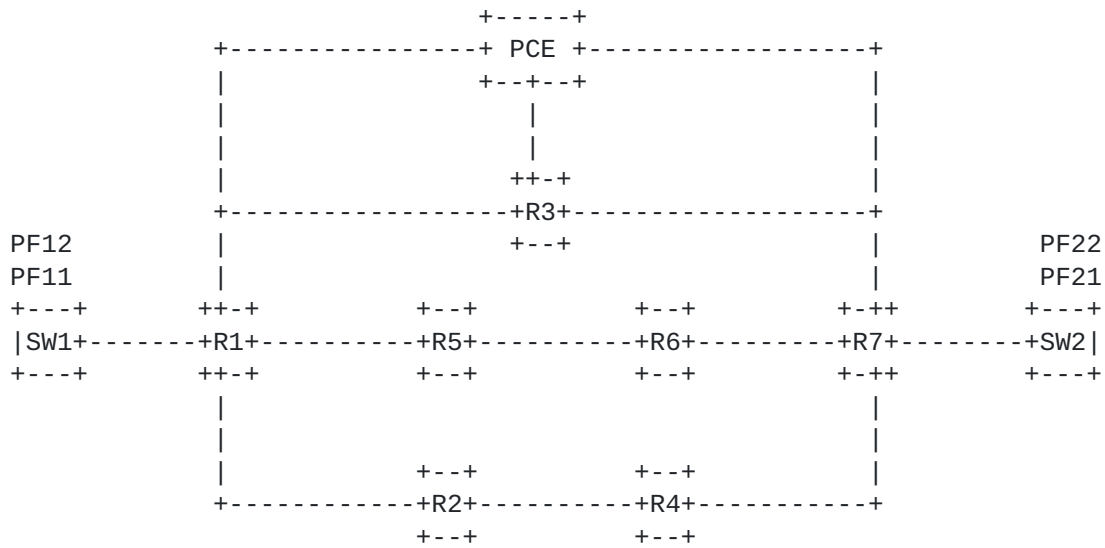


Figure 2: CCDR framework in large scale network

5. CCDR Multiple BGP Sessions Strategy

In general situation, different applications may require different QoS criteria, which may include:

- o Traffic that requires low latency and is not sensitive to packet loss.
- o Traffic that requires low packet loss and can endure higher latency.
- o Traffic that requires low jitter.

These different traffic requirements can be summarized in the following table:

Prefix Set No.	Latency	Packet Loss	Jitter
1	Low	Normal	Don't care
2	Normal	Low	Dont't care
3	Normal	Normal	Low

Table 1. Traffic Requirement Criteria

For Prefix Set No.1, we can select the shortest distance path to carry the traffic; for Prefix Set No.2, we can select the path that

is comprised by under loading links from end to end; For Prefix Set No.3, we can let all assured traffic pass the determined single path, no Equal Cost Multipath (ECMP) distribution on the parallel links is desired.

It is almost impossible to provide an End-to-End (E2E) path with latency, jitter, packet loss constraints to meet the above requirements in large scale IP-based network via the distributed routing protocol, but these requirements can be solved with the assistance of PCE, as that described in [[RFC4655](#)] and [[RFC8283](#)] because the PCE has the overall network view, can collect real network topology and network performance information about the underlying network, select the appropriate path to meet various network performance requirements of different traffics.

The framework to implement the CCDR Multiple BGP sessions strategy are the followings. Here PCE is the main component of the Software Definition Network (SDN) controller and is responsible for optimal path computation for priority traffic.

- o SDN controller gets topology via BGP-LS[[RFC7752](#)] and link utilization information via existing Network Monitor System (NMS) from the underlying network.
- o PCE calculates the appropriate path upon application's requirements, sends the key parameters to edge/RR routers(R1, R7 and R3 in Fig.3) to establish multiple BGP sessions and advertises different prefixes via them. The loopback addresses used for BGP sessions should be planned in advance and distributed in the domain.
- o PCE sends the route information to the routers (R1,R2,R4,R7 in Fig.3) on forwarding path via PCEP [[I-D.ietf-pce-pcep-extension-native-ip](#)], to build the path to the BGP next-hop of the advertised prefixes.
- o If the assured traffic prefixes were changed but the total volume of assured traffic does not exceed the physical capacity of the previous E2E path, PCE needs only change the prefixed advertised via the edge routers (R1,R7 in Fig.3).
- o If the volume of assured traffic exceeds the capacity of previous calculated path, PCE can recalculate and add the appropriate paths to accommodate the exceeding traffic. After that, PCE needs to update on-path routers to build the forwarding path hop by hop.

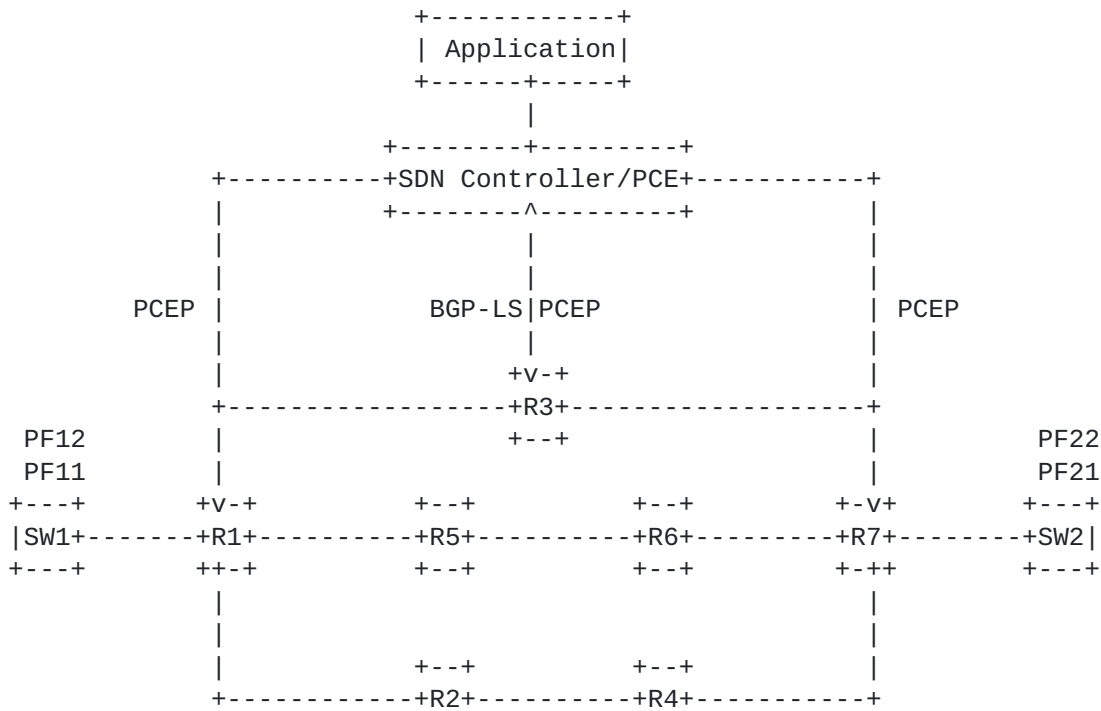


Figure 3: CCDR framework for Multi-BGP deployment

6. PCEP Extension for Key Parameters Delivery

The PCEP protocol needs to be extended to transfer the following key parameters:

- o Peer addresses pair that is used to build the BGP session
- o Advertised prefixes and their associated BGP session.
- o Explicit route information to BGP next hop of advertised prefixes.

Once the router receives such information, it should establish the BGP session with the peer appointed in the PCEP message, advertise the prefixes that contained in the corresponding PCEP message, and build the end to end dedicated path hop by hop.

The explicit route created by PCE has the higher priority than the route information created by other protocols, including the route manually configured.

All above dynamically created states (BGP sessions, Prefix advertised prefix, Explicit route) will be cleared once the connection between the PCE and network devices is interrupted.

Details of communications between PCEP and BGP subsystems in router's control plane are out of scope of this draft and will be described in separate draft [[I-D.ietf-pce-pcep-extension-native-ip](#)] .

The reason that we select PCEP as the southbound protocol instead of OpenFlow, is that PCEP is suitable for the changes in control plane of the network devices, while OpenFlow dramatically changes the forwarding plane. We also think that the level of centralization that required by OpenFlow is hardly achievable in SP networks so hybrid BGP+PCEP approach looks much more interesting.

7. Deployment Consideration

7.1. Scalability

In CCDR framework, PCE needs only influence the edge routers for the prefixes advertisement via the multiple BGP sessions deployment. The route information for these prefixes within the on-path routers were distributed via the BGP protocol.

For multiple domain deployment, the PCE need only control the edge router to build multiple eBGP sessions, all other procedures are the same that in one domain.

Unlike the solution from BGP Flowspec, the on-path router need only keep the specific policy routes to the BGP next-hop of the differentiate prefixes, not the specific routes to the prefixes themselves. This can lessen the burden from the table size of policy based routes for the on-path routers, and has more expandability when comparing with the solution from BGP flowspec or Openflow. For example, if we want to differentiate 1000 prefixes from the normal traffic, CCDR needs only one explicit peer route in every on-path router, but the BGP flowspec or Openflow needs 1000 policy routes on them.

7.2. High Availability

The CCDR framework is based on the distributed IP protocol. If the PCE failed, the forwarding plane will not be impacted, as the BGP session between all devices will not flap, and the forwarding table will remain unchanged.

If one node on the optimal path is failed, the priority traffic will fall over to the best-effort forwarding path. One can even design several assurance paths to load balance/hot-standby the priority traffic to meet the path failure situation.

For high availability of PCE/SDN-controller, operator should rely on existing HA solutions for SDN controller, such as clustering technology and deployment.

7.3. Incremental deployment

Not every router within the network will support the PCEP extension that defined in [[I-D.ietf-pce-pcep-extension-native-ip](#)] simultaneously.

For such situations, router on the edge of domain can be upgraded first, and then the traffic can be assured between different domains. Within each domain, the traffic will be forwarded along the best-effort path. Service provider can selectively upgrade the routers on each domain in sequence.

8. Security Considerations

A PCE assures calculations of E2E path upon the status of network condition and the service requirements in real time.

The PCE need consider the explicit route deployment order (for example, from tail router to head router) to eliminate the possible transient traffic loop.

CCDR framework described in this draft puts more requirements on the function of PCE and its communication with the underlay devices. Service provider should consider more on the protection of PCE and their communication with the underlay devices, which is described in document [[RFC5440](#)] and [[RFC8253](#)]

CCDR framework does not require the change of forward behavior on the underlay devices, then there will no additional security impact on the devices.

9. IANA Considerations

This document does not require any IANA actions.

10. Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank Deborah Brungard, Adrian Farrel, Vishnu Beeram, Lou Berger, Dhruv Dhody, Raghavendra Mallya, Mike Koldychev, Haomian Zheng, Penghui Mi, Shaofu Peng and Jessica Chen for their supports and comments on this draft.

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