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           Autonomic Prefix Management in Large-scale Networks
                 draft-jiang-anima-prefix-management-02

Abstract

   This document describes an autonomic solution for prefix management
   in large-scale networks.

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1. Introduction

   This document proposes an autonomic solution for prefix management in
   large-scale networks. The background to Autonomic Network (AN) is
   described in [RFC7575] and [RFC7576]. A generic autonomic signaling
   protocol (GRASP) is proposed by [I-D.ietf-anima-grasp], which would
   be used by the proposed autonomic prefix management solution.

   This document is dedicated to how to make IPv6 prefix management in
   pure IPv6 large-scale networks as autonomic as possible. This
   document for now is only considering service provider (ISP) networks.
   Although there are similarities with large enterprise networks, the
   requirements are a little different for the two use cases.

   Note in draft: This version is preliminary. In particular, many
   design details may be subject to change until the anima
   specifications become agreed.

2. Problem Statement

   The autonomic networking use case considered here is autonomic IP
   address management in large-scale networks.

   Although DHCPv6 Prefix Delegation [RFC3633] has supported automated
   delegation of IPv6 prefixes, prefix management is still largely
   depending on human planning. In other words, there is no basic
   information or policy to support autonomic decisions on the prefix
   length that each router should request or be delegated, according to
   its role in the network. Roles could be locally defined or could be
   generic (edge router, interior router, etc.). Furthermore, the
   current IPv6 prefix management by humans is rigid and static after
   initial planning.

   The problem to be solved by AN is how to dynamically and
   autonomically manage IPv6 address space in large-scale networks, so
   that IPv6 addresses can be used efficiently. The AN approach
   discussed in this document is based on the assumption that there is a
   generic discovery and negotiation protocol that enables direct
   negotiation between intelligent IP routers. [I-D.ietf-anima-grasp]
   is one of the attempts at such a protocol.

2.1. Intended User and Administrator Experience

   The intended experience is, for the administrator(s) of a large-scale
   network, that the management of IPv6 address space can be run with
   minimum efforts, for both the network and network device initiation
   stage and during running time. In the ideal scenario, the
   administrator(s) only have to configure a single IPv6 prefix for the
   whole network and the initial prefix length for each device role.

   The actual address usage needs to be logged for potential offline
   management operations including audit and security incident tracing.

2.2. Analysis of Parameters and Information Involved

   For specific purposes of address management, a few parameters are
   involved on each device (some of them can be pre-configured before
   they are connected). They include:

   o Identity of this device. It can be verified by the certification
      authority (CA) that is maintained by the network administrator(s).

   o Identity of a trust anchor which is certification authority (CA)
      that is maintained by the network administrator(s).

   o Role of this device.

o An IPv6 prefix length for this device.

o An IPv6 prefix that is assigned to this device and its downstream
   devices.

A few parameters are involved in the network as a whole. They are:

o Identity of a trust anchor which is a certification authority (CA)
   that is maintained by the network administrator(s).

o Total IPv6 address space. It is one (or several) IPv6 prefix(es).

o The initial prefix length for each device role.

2.2.1. Parameters each device can decide for itself

This section identifies those of the above parameters that do not
need external information in order for the devices concerned to set
them to a reasonable value after bootstrap or after a network
disruption. There are few of these:

o Role of this device.

o Default IPv6 prefix length for this device.

o Identity of this device.

The device may be shipped from the manufacture with pre-configured
role and default prefix length.

2.2.2. Information needed from policy intent

This section identifies those parameters that need external
information about policy intent in order for the devices concerned to
set them to a non-default value.

o Non-default value for the IPv6 prefix length for this device.
   This needs to be decided based on the role of this device.

o The initial prefix length for each device role.

o Identity of a trust anchor.

o Whether to allow the device request more address space.

o The policy when to request more address space, for example, the
   address usage reaches a certain limit or percentage.

2.2.3. Comparison with current solutions

   This section briefly compares the above use case with current
   solutions. Currently, the address management is still largely
   depending on human planning. It is rigid and static after initial
   planning. The address requests will fail if the configured address
   space is used up.

   Some functions, for autonomic and dynamic address management, may be
   achievable by extending the existing protocols, for example,
   extending DHCPv6-PD to request IPv6 address according to the device
   role. However, defining uniform device roles may not be a practical
   task. Some functions are not suitable to be achieved by any existing
   protocols.

   However, using a generic autonomic discovery and negotiation protocol
   instead of specific solutions has the advantage that additional
   parameters can be included in the autonomic solution without creating
   new mechanisms. This is the principal argument for a generic
   approach.

2.3. Interaction with other devices

2.3.1. Information needed from other devices

   This section identifies those of the above parameters that need
   external information from neighbor devices (including the upstream
   devices). In many cases, two-way dialogue with neighbor devices is
   needed to set or optimize them.

   o Identity of a trust anchor.

   o The device will need to discover a device, from which it can
      acquire IPv6 address space.

   o The initial prefix length for each device role, particularly for
      its own downstream devices.

   o The default value of the IPv6 prefix length may be overridden by a
      non-default value.

   o The device will need to request and acquire IPv6 prefix that is
      assigned to this device and its downstream devices.

   o The device may respond to prefix delegation request from its
      downstream devices.

   o The device may require to be assigned more IPv6 address space, if
      it used up its assigned IPv6 address space.

2.3.2. Monitoring, diagnostics and reporting

   This section discusses what role devices should play in monitoring,
   fault diagnosis, and reporting.

   o The actual address assignments need to be logged for the potential
      offline management operations.

   o In general, the usage situation of address space should be
      reported to the network administrators, in an abstract way, for
      example, statistics or visualized report.

   o A forecast of address exhaustion should be reported.

3. Autonomic Prefix Management Solution

   This section introduces an autonomic prefix management solution. It
   extends the generic discovery and negotiation protocol defined by
   [I-D.ietf-anima-grasp]. The relevant options are defined in
   Section 4.

3.1. Behaviors to discover prefix providing device

   A device should decide the length of request prefix by the intent-
   based mechanism, described in Section 5. If it used up its current
   address resource, it could request more, which is not necessary to be
   on the same scale as its initial resource.

   A prefix requesting device that needs new or more address space
   should firstly discover peer devices that may be able to provide
   extra address space. The device should send out a GRASP Discovery
   message that contains a Prefix Objective option Section 4.1, in which
   the device also indicates whether it supports the DHCPv6 Prefix
   Delegation (PD) [RFC3633] function and the length of requested
   prefix.

3.2. Behaviors on prefix providing device

   A peer device receiving a Discovery message with a Prefix Objective
   option, if it is able to provide such a prefix, should respond with a
   GRASP Response message. The Response message also carries a Prefix
   Objective option, which also indicate whether the peer device
   supports the PD function and the available prefix length matching the
   request. If the peer device does not have enough resource, it may
   silently drop the Discovery message or return a GRASP Response

message, which contains a longer prefix length (smaller address space) that it can provide. A divert option may also be added into the GRASP Response message. This divert option indicates another device that may provide the prefix. The diverted device is typically an upstream gateway router, but it could in theory be any device that might have unused prefix space.

A gateway router in a hierarchical network topology is normally responsible to provide prefixes for routers within its subnet. In the case that it does not have enough resource for the downstream requesting router, it should return a GRASP Response message, which contains a longer prefix length (smaller address space) that this gateway router may provide. In this case too, a divert option may be added into the GRASP Response message. The diverted device is typically another upstream gateway router.

A resource shortage may cause the gateway router to request more resource from its upstream device. This would be another independent GND discovery and negotiation process. During the processing time, the gateway router should send a Confirm-waiting Message to the initial requesting router. When the new resource becomes available, the gateway router responds with a GRASP Response message with the prefix length matching the request.

The algorithm to choose which prefixes to assign on the prefix providing devices is an implementation choice out of document scope.

3.3. Prefix Requests Behaviors

Upon receiving the GRASP Response message that indicates the requesting prefix length is accepted, the requesting device may request the prefix using DHCPv6 PD, if both itself and the response device support PD.

Upon receiving the GRASP Response message that indicates the requesting prefix length is not possible, but a longer prefix length is available, the requesting device may request the longer prefix using DHCPv6 PD, if both itself and the response device support PD.

If the GRASP Response message carries a divert option, the requesting device may sent an unicast GRASP Discovery message to the diverted device to find out whether that device can provide the requested length prefix.

[Author's note: undecided whether we should support prefix delegation using the GRASP protocol. This would have some partial overlap with DHCPv6 PD. But it seems more consistent as a solution.]

3.4. Prefix log

   Within the autonomic prefix management, all the prefix assignment is
   done by devices without human intervention. It is even more
   important to record all the prefix assignment history. However, the
   logging and reporting process is out of document scope.

4. Autonomic Prefix Management Options

   This section defines the GRASP options that are used to support
   autonomic prefix management.

4.1. Prefix Objective option

   The Prefix Objective option carries the PD support flag and the
   prefix length. The format of the Prefix Objective option is
   described 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
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|      Prefix_Obj_Option        |         option-len            |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
|PD_Support_Flag| Prefix_Length |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

   option-code   Prefix_Obj_Option (TBA1).

   option-len   2, length of option content in octets.

   PD_Support_Flag Indicates whether the message sender supports
                   DHCPv6 Prefix Delegation function, 1 for support,
                   0 for no support, as client or server accordingly.
                   This flag must not be set to any other values.

   Prefix_Length   Indicate the prefix length that the message sender
                   requests or is willing to provide.

5. Prefix Management Intent

   With in a single administrative domain, the network operator could
   manage all their devices with role set. If so, there is possibility
   to configure/manage the prefix length for every device in a simple
   way.

   The network operator could only manage the default prefix length for
   each type of role. A prefix management intent, which contains all
   mapping information of device roles and their default prefix lengths,

should be flooded in the network, through the Autonomic Control Plane
(ACP) [I-D.ietf-anima-autonomic-control-plane]. The intent flooding
mechanism is out of document scope.

Upon receiving the prefix management intent, every device can decide
its default prefix length by matching its own role.

5.1. Example of Prefix Management Intent

The prefix management intent in this document is used to carry
mapping information of device roles and their default prefix lengths
in an autonomic domain. For example, an IPRAN operator wants to
configure the prefix length of RNC Site Gateway (RSG) as 34, the
prefix length of Aggregation Site Gateway (ASG) as 44, and the prefix
length of Cell Site Gateway (CSG) as 56. She/he may input the
following intent into the autonomic network:

```
{"autonomic_intent":
[
   {"model_version": "1.0"},
   {"intent_type": "Network management"},
   {"autonomic_domain": "Customer_X_intranet"},
   {"intent_name": "Prefix management"},
   {"intent_version": 73},
   {"Timestamp": "20150606 00:00:00"},
   {"Lifetime": "Permanent"},
   {"signature": "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX"},
   {"content":
   [
      {"role": [{"role_name": "RSG"},
         {"role_characteristic":
            [{"prefix_length": "34"}]]}
         ]},
      {"role": [{"role_name": "ASG"},
         {"role_characteristic":
            [{"prefix_length": "44"}]]}
         ]},
      {"role": [{"role_name": "CSG"},
         {"role_characteristic":
            [{"prefix_length": "56"}]]}
         ]}
   ]
   }
]
}
```

6. Security Considerations

Relevant security issues are discussed in [I-D.ietf-anima-grasp].
The security mechanism in this document is established on a Public
Key Infrastructure (PKI) system [RFC3647] that is maintained by the
network administrator(s).

It is RECOMMENDED that DHCPv6 PD, if used, should be operated using
DHCPv6 authentication or Secure DHCPv6.

7. IANA Considerations

This document defines one new GRASP option. The IANA is requested to
assign a value for this option from the GRASP Option Codes table of
the GRASP Parameters registry as defined by [I-D.ietf-anima-grasp]
(if approved).

o The Prefix Objective option (TBA1), described in Section 4.1.

8. Acknowledgements

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This document was produced using the xml2rfc tool [RFC2629].

9. Change log [RFC Editor: Please remove]

draft-jiang-anima-prefix-management-00: original version, 2014-10-25.

draft-jiang-anima-prefix-management-01: add intent example and
coauthor Zongpeng Du, 2015-05-04.

draft-jiang-anima-prefix-management-02: update references and the
format of the prefix management intent, 2015-10-14.

10. References

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