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Benchmarks and Methods for Multihomed EVPN
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Abstract

Fundamental Benchmarking Methodologies for Network Interconnect Devices of interest to the IETF are defined in [RFC 2544](#). Key benchmarks applicable to restoration and multi-homed sites are in [RFC 6894](#). This memo applies these methods to Multihomed nodes implemented on Ethernet Virtual Private Networks (EVPN).

Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

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[1.](#) Introduction

The IETF's fundamental Benchmarking Methodologies are defined in[RFC2544], supported by the terms and definitions in [[RFC1242](#)], and [[RFC2544](#)] actually obsoletes an earlier specification, [[RFC1944](#)].

This memo recognizes the importance of Ethernet Virtual Private Network (EVPN) Multihoming connectivity scenarios, where a CE device is connected to 2 or more PEs using an instance of an Ethernet Segment.

In an all-active or Active-Active scenario, CE-PE traffic is load-balanced across two or more PEs.

Mass-withdrawal of routes may take place when an autodiscovery route is used on a per Ethernet Segment basis, and there is a link failure on one of the Ethernet Segment links (or when configuration changes take place).

Although EVPN depends on address-learning in the control-plane, the Ethernet Segment Instance is permitted to use "the method best suited to the CE: data-plane learning, IEEE 802.1x, the Link Layer Discovery Protocol (LLDP), IEEE 802.1aq, Address Resolution Protocol (ARP), management plane, or other protocols" [[RFC7432](#)].

This memo seeks to benchmark these important cases (and others).

2. Scope and Goals

The scope of this memo is to define a method to unambiguously perform tests, measure the benchmark(s), and report the results for Capacity of EVPN Multihoming connectivity scenarios, and other key restoration activities (such as address withdrawal) covering link failure in the Active-Active scenario.

The goal is to provide more efficient test procedures where possible, and to expand reporting with additional interpretation of the results. The tests described in this memo address some key multihoming scenarios implemented on a Device Under Test (DUT) or System Under Test (SUT).

3. Motivation

The Multihoming scenarios described in this memo emphasize features with practical value to the industry that have seen deployment. Therefore, these scenarios deserve further attention that follows from benchmarking activities and further study.

4. Test Setups

For simple Capacity/Throughput Benchmarks, the Test Setup MUST be consistent with Figure 1 of [[RFC2544](#)], or Figure 2 when the tester's sender and receiver are different devices.

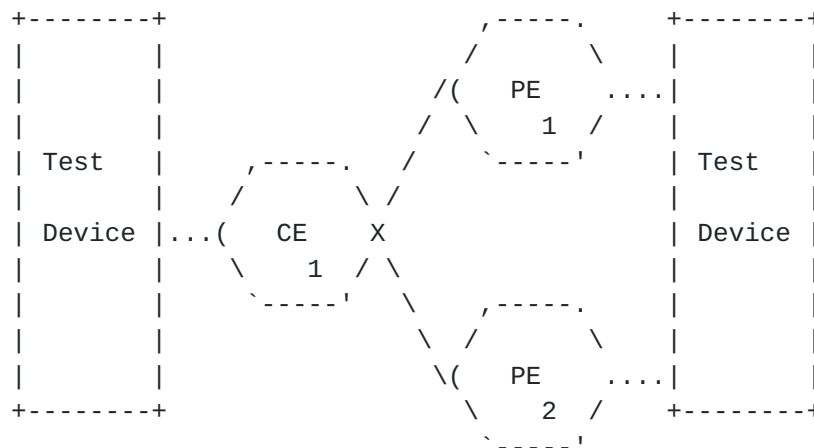


Figure 1 SUT for Throughput and other Ethernet Segment Tests

In this case, the System Under Test (SUT) is comprised of a single CE device and two or more PE devices. The tester SHALL be connected to all CE and PE, and be capable of simultaneously sending and receiving frames on all ports in use. The tester SHALL be capable of generating multiple flows (according to a 5-tuple definition, or any sub-set of the 5-tuple). The tester SHALL be able to control the IP capacity of sets of individual flows, and the presence of sets of flows on specific interface ports.

Other mandatory testing aspects described in [\[RFC2544\]](#) MUST be included, unless explicitly modified in the next section.

The ingress and egress link speeds and link layer protocols MUST be specified and used to compute the maximum theoretical frame rate when respecting the minimum inter-frame gap.

A second test case is where a BGP backbone implements MPLS-LDP to provide connectivity between multiple PE - ESI - CE locations.

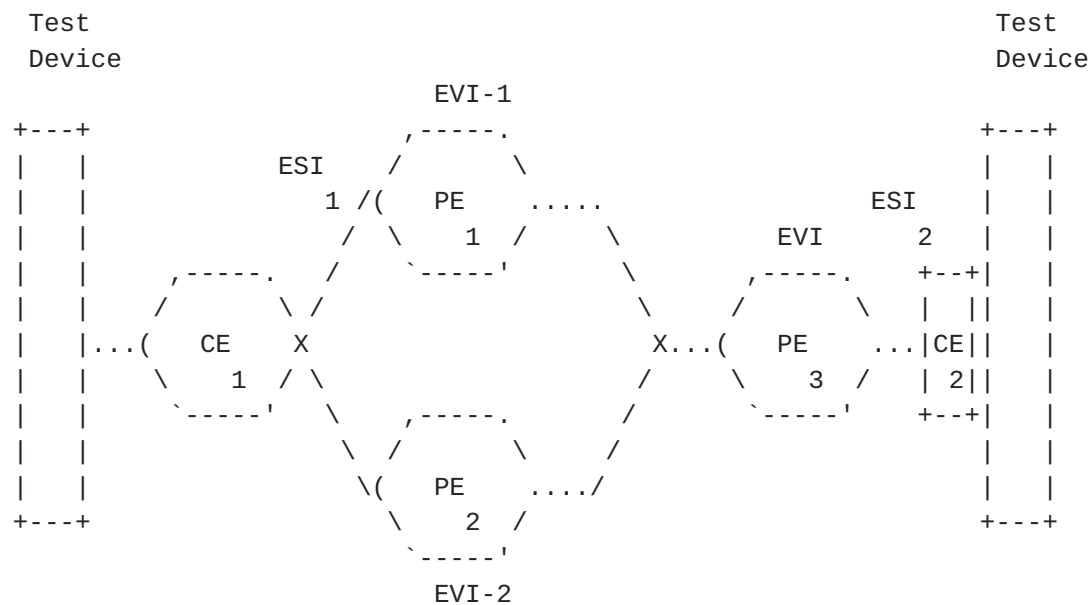


Figure 2 SUT with BGP & MPLS interconnecting multiple PE-ESI-CE locations

All Link speeds MUST be reported, along with complete device configurations in the SUT and Test Device(s).

Additional Test Setups and configurations will be provided in this section, after review.

One capacity benchmark pertains to the number of ESI that a network with multiple PE - ESI - CE locations can support.

5. Procedure for Throughput Characterization

Objective: To characterize the ability of a DUT/SUT to process frames between CE and one or more PEs in a multihomed connectivity scenario. Figure 1 gives the test setup.

The Procedure follows.

5.1. Address Learning Phase

"For every address, learning frames MUST be sent to the DUT/SUT to allow the DUT/SUT to update its address tables properly." [[RFC2889](#)]

5.2. Test for a Single Frame Size and Number of Flows

Each trial in the test requires configuring a number of flows (from 100 to 100k) and a fixed frame size (64 octets to 128, 256, 512, 1024, 1280 and 1518 bytes, as per [[RFC2544](#)]).

The Procedure SHALL follow [section 5.1 of \[RFC2889\]](#).

5.3. Test Repetition

The test MUST be repeated N times for each frame size in the subset list, and each Throughput value made available for further processing (below).

5.4. Benchmark Calculations

For each Frame size, calculate the following summary statistics for Throughput values over the N tests:

- o Average (Benchmark)
- o Minimum
- o Maximum
- o Standard Deviation

Comparison will determine how the load was balanced among PEs.

6. Procedure for Mass Withdrawal Characterization

Objective: To characterize the ability of a DUT/SUT to process frames between CE and one or more PE in a multihomed connectivity scenario when a mass withdrawal takes place. Figure 2 gives the test setup.

The Procedure follows.

6.1. Address Learning Phase

"For every address, learning frames MUST be sent to the DUT/SUT to allow the DUT/SUT update its address tables properly." [\[RFC2889\]](#)

6.2. Test for a Single Frame Size and Number of Flows

Each trial in the test requires Configuring a number of flows (from 100 to 100k) and a fixed frame size (64 octets to 128, 256, 512, 1024, 1280 and 1518 bytes, as per [\[RFC2544\]](#)).

The Offered Load SHALL be transmitted at the Throughput level corresponding to previously determined for the selected Frame size and number of Flows in use.

The Procedure SHALL follow [section 5.1 of \[RFC2889\]](#) (except there is no need to search for the Throughput level).

When traffic has been sent for 5 seconds one of the CE-PE links on the ESI SHALL be disabled, and the time of this action SHALL be recorded for further calculations. For example, if the CE1 link to PE1 is disabled, this should trigger a Mass withdrawal of EVI-1 addresses, and the subsequent re-routing of traffic to PE2.

Frame losses are expected to be recorded during the restoration time. Time for restoration may be estimated as described in [section 3.5](#) of[RFC6412].

6.3. Test Repetition

The test MUST be repeated N times for each frame size in the subset list, and each restoration time value made available for further processing (below).

6.4. Benchmark Calculations

For each Frame size and number of flows, calculate the following summary statistics for Loss (or Time to return to Throughput level after restoration) values over the N tests:

- o Average (Benchmark)
- o Minimum
- o Maximum
- o Standard Deviation

7. Reporting

The results SHOULD be reported in the format of a table with a row for each of the tested frame sizes and Number of Flows. There SHOULD be columns for the frame size with number of flows, and for the resultant average frame count (or time) for each type of data stream tested.

The number of tests Averaged for the Benchmark, N, MUST be reported.

The Minimum, Maximum, and Standard Deviation across all complete tests SHOULD also be reported.

The Corrected DUT Restoration Time SHOULD also be reported, as applicable.

Frame Size, octets + # Flows	Ave Benchmark, fps, frames or time	Min,Max,StdDev	Calculated Time, Sec
64,100	26000	25500,27000,20	0.00004

Throughput or Loss/Restoration Time Results

Static and configuration parameters:

Number of test repetitions, N

Minimum Step Size (during searches), in frames.

8. Security Considerations

Benchmarking activities as described in this memo are limited to technology characterization using controlled stimuli in a laboratory environment, with dedicated address space and the other constraints [[RFC2544](#)].

The benchmarking network topology will be an independent test setup and MUST NOT be connected to devices that may forward the test traffic into a production network, or misroute traffic to the test management network. See [[RFC6815](#)].

Further, benchmarking is performed on a "black-box" basis, relying solely on measurements observable external to the DUT/SUT.

Special capabilities SHOULD NOT exist in the DUT/SUT specifically for benchmarking purposes. Any implications for network security arising from the DUT/SUT SHOULD be identical in the lab and in production networks.

9. IANA Considerations

This memo makes no requests of IANA.

10. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Aman Shaikh for sharing his comments on the draft directly with the authors.

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