

Network Working Group
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: October 17, 2011

K. Patel
Cisco Systems
D. Ward
Juniper Networks
R. Bush
Internet Initiative Japan
April 15, 2011

Extended Message support for BGP
draft-ymbk-bgp-extended-messages-02

Abstract

The current BGP specification mandates a maximum BGP message size of 4096 octets. As BGP is extended to support newer AFI/SAFIs, there is a need to extend the maximum message size beyond 4096 octets. This draft provides an extension for BGP to extend its current message size for BGP messages from 4096 octets to 65535 octets.

Requirements Language

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](#)].

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1. Introduction

The current BGP specification [[RFC4271](#)] mandates a maximum BGP message size of 4096 octets. As BGP is extended to support newer AFI/SAFIs and newer capabilities (e.g., [[I-D.lepinski-bgpsec-overview](#)], there is a need to extend the maximum message size beyond 4096 octets. This draft provides an extension for BGP to extend its current message size for BGP messages from 4096 octets to 65535 octets.

2. Extended message Capability for BGP

To advertise BGP Extended Message Capability to a peer, a BGP speaker uses BGP Capabilities Advertisement [[RFC3392](#)]. By advertising the BGP Extended message Capability to a peer, a BGP speaker conveys to that peer that the speaker may send, and is capable of receiving and properly handling, BGP Extended Messages.

The BGP Extended Message Capability is a new BGP Capability [[RFC3392](#)] defined with Capability code TBD and Capability length 0.

3. Operation

A BGP speaker that is willing to send and receive BGP Extended Messages from its peer should advertise the BGP Extended Message Capability to its peer using BGP Capabilities Advertisement [[RFC3392](#)]. A BGP speaker may send extended messages to its peer only if it has received the Extended Message Capability from its peer.

All BGP extended messages have maximum message size of 65535 octets. The smallest message that may be sent consists of a BGP header without a data portion (19 octets). All multi-octet fields are in network byte order.

Applications generating messages which might be encapsulated within BGP messages MUST limit the size of their payload to take into account the maximum message size and all encapsulation overheads on the path the encapsulated data are expected to traverse.

4. Acknowledgements

The authors thank John Scudder for his input.

5. IANA Considerations

This document defines the Extended Message Capability for BGP. The new Capability code needs to be assigned by IANA.

6. Security Considerations

This extension to BGP does not change BGP's underlying security issues.

7. References

7.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC3392] Chandra, R. and J. Scudder, "Capabilities Advertisement with BGP-4", [RFC 3392](#), November 2002.
- [RFC4271] Rekhter, Y., Li, T., and S. Hares, "A Border Gateway Protocol 4 (BGP-4)", [RFC 4271](#), January 2006.

7.2. Informative References

- [I-D.lepinski-bgpsec-overview]
Lepinski, M. and S. Turner, "An Overview of BGPSEC",
[draft-lepinski-bgpsec-overview-00](#) (work in progress),
March 2011.

Authors' Addresses

Keyur Patel
Cisco Systems
170 W. Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134
USA

Email: keyupate@cisco.com

Dave Ward
Juniper Networks
1194 N. Mathilda Ave
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
USA

Email: dward@juniper.net

Randy Bush
Internet Initiative Japan
5147 Crystal Springs
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110
US

Phone: +1 206 780 0431 x1
Email: randy@psg.com

