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RSVP-TE Signaling Extensions in support of Flexible Grid

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Abstract

This memo describes the extensions to RSVP-TE signaling to support Label Switched Paths in a GMPLS-controlled network that includes devices using the new flexible optical grid.

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1. Introduction

[G.694.1] defines the Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) frequency grids for Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) applications. A frequency grid is a reference set of frequencies used to denote allowed nominal central frequencies that may be used for defining applications. The channel spacing is the frequency spacing between two allowed nominal central frequencies. All of the wavelengths on a fiber use different central frequencies and occupy a fixed bandwidth of frequency.

Fixed grid channel spacing is selected from 12.5 GHz, 25 GHz, 50 GHz, 100 GHz and integer multiples of 100 GHz. But [G.694.1] also defines "flexible grids", known as "flexi-grid". The terms "frequency slot (i.e. the frequency range allocated to a specific channel and unavailable to other channels within a flexible grid)" and "slot width" (i.e. the full width of a frequency slot in a flexible grid) are introduced to define a flexible grid.

[FLEX-FWK] defines a framework and the associated control plane requirements for the GMPLS based control of flexi-grid DWDM networks.

[RFC6163] provides a framework for GMPLS and Path Computation Element (PCE) control of Wavelength Switched Optical Networks (WSONs), and [WSON-SIG] describes the requirements and protocol extensions for signaling to set up Label Switched Paths (LSPs) in WSONs.

This document describes the additional requirements and protocol extensions for signaling to set up LSPs in networks that support the flexi-grid.

2. Terminology

For terminology related to flexi-grid, please refer to [FLEX-FWK] and [G.694.1].

2.1. Conventions used in this document

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].

3. Requirements for Flexible Grid Signaling

The architecture for establishing LSPs in a flexi-grid network is described in [FLEX-FWK].

A optical spectrum LSP occupies a specific frequency slot, i.e. a range of frequencies. The process of computing a route and the allocation of a frequency slot is referred to as RSA (Routing and Spectrum Assignment). [FLEX-FWK] describes three types of architecture approaches to RSA: combined RSA, separated RSA and distributed SA. The first two approaches are referred to as "centralized SA", because both routing and spectrum (frequency slot) assignment are performed by centralized entity before the signaling procedure.

In the case of centralized SA, the assigned frequency slot is specified in the Path message during LSP setup. In the case of distributed SA, the slot width of the flexi-grid LSP is specified in the Path message, allowing the involved network elements to select the frequency slot to be used.

If the capability of switching or converting the whole optical spectrum allocated to an optical spectrum LSP is not available at nodes along the path of the LSP, the LSP is subject to the Optical "Spectrum Continuity Constraint", as described in [FLEX-FWK].

The remainder of this section states the additional requirements for signaling in a flexi-grid network.

3.1. Slot Width

The slot width is an end-to-end parameter representing how much frequency resource is requested for a flexi-grid LSP. It is equivalent of optical bandwidth, although the amount of bandwidth associated with a slot width will depend on the encoding.

Different LSPs may request different amounts of frequency resource in flexible grid networks, so the slot width needs to be carried in the signaling message during LSP establishment. This enables the nodes along the LSP to know how much frequency resource has been requested (in a Path message) and has been allocated (by a Resv message) for the LSP.

3.2. Frequency Slot

The frequency slot information identifies which part of the frequency spectrum is allocated on each link for a flexi-LSP.

This information is required in Resv message to indicate, hop-by-hop, the central frequency of the allocated resource. In combination with the slot width indicated in a Resv message (see Section 3.1) the central frequency carried in a Resv message identifies the resources reserved for the LSP (known as the frequency slot).

The frequency slot can be represented by the two parameters as follows:

```
Frequency slot = [(central frequency) - (slot width)/2] ~
                 [(central frequency) + (slot width)/2]
```

As is common with other resource identifiers (i.e., labels) in GMPLS signaling, it must be possible for the head-end LSP to suggest or require the central frequency to be used for the LSP. Furthermore, for bidirectional LSPs, the Path message must be able to specify the central frequency to be used for reverse direction traffic.

As described in [G.694.1], the allowed frequency slots for the flexible DWDM grid have a nominal central frequency (in THz) defined by:

193.1 + n * 0.00625

where n is zero or a positive or negative integer.

The slot width (in GHz) is defined as:

12.5 * m

where m is a positive integer.

It is possible that implementing a subset of the possible slot widths and central frequencies are supported. For example, an implementation could built where the nominal central frequency granularity is 12.5 GHz (by only requiring values of n that are even) and that only supports slot widths as a multiple of 25 GHz (by only allowing values of m that are even).

Further details can be found in [FLEX-FWK].

4. Protocol Extensions

This section defines the extensions to RSVP-TE signaling for GMPLS [RFC3473] to support flexible grid networks.

4.1. Traffic Parameters

In RSVP-TE, the SENDER_TSPEC object in the Path message indicates the requested resource reservation. The FLOWSPEC object in the Resv message indicates the actual resource reservation.

As described in Section 3.1, the slot width represents how much frequency resource is requested for a flexi-grid LSP. That is, it describes the end-to-end traffic profile of the LSP. Therefore, the traffic parameters for a flexi-grid LSP encode the slot width.

This document defines new C-Types for the SENDER_TSPEC and FLOWSPEC objects to carry Spectrum Switched Optical Network (SSON) traffic parameters:

SSON SENDER_TSPEC: Class = 12, C-Type = TBD1.

SSON FLOWSPEC: Class = 9, C-Type = TBD2.

The SSON traffic parameters carried in both objects have the same format as shown in Figure 1.

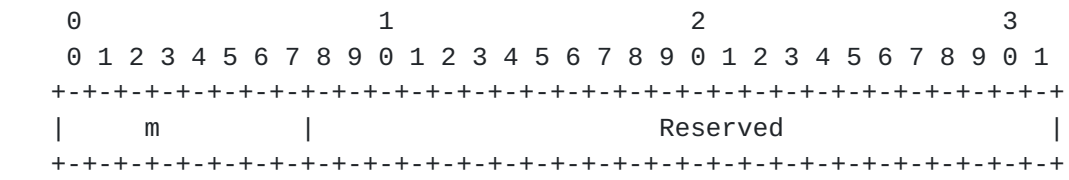

Figure 1: The SSON Traffic Parameters

m (8 bits): the slot width is specified by m*12.5 GHz.

The Reserved bits MUST be set to zero and ignored upon receipt.

4.1.1. Applicability to Fixed Grid Networks

Note that the slot width (i.e., traffic parameters) of a fixed grid defined in [G.694.1] can also be specified by using the SSON traffic parameters. The fixed grid channel spacings (12.5 GHz, 25 GHz, 50 GHz, 100 GHz and integer multiples of 100 GHz) are also the multiple of 12.5 GHz, so the m parameter can be used to represent these slot widths.

Therefore, it is possible to consider using the new traffic parameter object types in common signaling messages for flexi-grid and legacy DWDM networks.

4.2. Generalized Label

In the case of a flexible grid network, the labels that have been requested or allocated as signaled in the RSVP-TE objects are encoded as described in [FLEX-LBL]. This new label encoding can appear in any RSVP-TE object or sub-object that can carry a label.

As noted in Section 4.2 of [FLEX-LBL], the m parameter forms part of the label as well as part of the traffic parameters.

4.3. Signaling Procedures

There are no differences between the signaling procedure described for LSP control in [FLEX-FWK] and those required for use in a fixed-grid network [WSON-SIG]. Obviously, the TSpec, FlowSpec and label formats described in Section 3 are used. The signaling procedures for distributed SA and centralized SA can be applied.

5. IANA Considerations

5.1. RSVP Objects Class Types

This document introduces two new Class Types for existing RSVP objects. IANA is requested to make allocations from the "Resource ReSerVation Protocol (RSVP) Parameters" registry using the "Class Names, Class Numbers, and Class Types" sub-registry.

Class Number	Class Name	Reference
9	FLOWSPEC	[RFC2205]
	Class Type (C-Type):	
	(TBD2) SSON FLOWSPEC	[This.I-D]

Class Number	Class Name	Reference
12	SENDER_TSPEC	[RFC2205]
	Class Type (C-Type):	
	(TBD1) SSON SENDER_TSPEC	[This.I-D]

IANA is requested to assign the same value for TBD1 and TBD2, and a value of 8 is suggested.

6. Manageability Considerations

This document makes minor modifications to GMPLS signaling, but does not change the manageability considerations for such networks. Clearly, protocol analysis tools and other diagnostic aids (including logging systems and MIB modules) will need to be enhanced to support the new traffic parameters and label formats.

7. Acknowledgments

This work was supported in part by the FP-7 IDEALIST project under grant agreement number 317999.

8. Security Considerations

This document introduces no new security considerations to [RFC3473].

9. References

9.1. Normative References

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9.2. Informative References

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