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**Supporting BIER with RIFT**  
**draft-zzhang-bier-rift-00**

Abstract

This document specifies extensions to RIFT protocol to support BIER.

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 [RFC2119](#).

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## 1. Terminologies

Familiarity with BIER and RIFT protocols and procedures is assumed. Some terminologies are listed below for convenience.

[To be added.]

## 2. Introduction

BIER [[RFC8279](#)] ... (to be expanded)

RIFT [[I-D.przygienda-rift](#)] is a new protocol specifically designed for CLOS and fat-tree network topologies. As a hybrid between Link State Routing and Distance Vector Routing, it does LSR in northbound (towards the spine) and DVR in southbound (towards the leaves).

[I-D.ietf-bier-isis-extensions] and [[I-D.ietf-bier-ospf-bier-extensions](#)] specify ISIS/OSPF extensions to support BIER in an ISIS/OSPF domain. The same approach applies to RIFT in the northbound LSR.

[I-D.zwzw-bier-prefix-redistribute] specifies methods to advertise BIER information via default or summary/aggregate routes advertised



from one IGP area/domain to another. Similar approach applies to RIFT in the southbound DVR.

BIER encapsulation, whether it is based on MPLS or not, is covered in [\[RFC8296\]](#). However, the OSPF/ISIS extensions for BIER only covers signaling needed for MPLS encapsulation. RIFT is targeted at DC deployments, where MPLS may not be used. This document covers signaling for both BIER MPLS and non-MPLS encapsulation with RIFT.

The details are provided in following sections.

### **3. Advertising BIER Information For non-MPLS Encapsulation**

In the BIER architecture, a BIER sub-domain may have multiple BitStringLengths (BSLs) and multiple Encapsulations (Encaps). A single multicast packet coming from outside the BIER sub-domain may be sent as multiple BIER packets, one for each set that is identified by a SetID (SI). An incoming BIER packet is forwarded according to a BIFT for the <SD,Encap,BSL,SI> tuple. Each BIFT is identified by a 20-bit opaque number (BIFT-ID) in the packet.

With MPLS encapsulation, the BIFT-ID for an incoming BIER packet is simply an MPLS label allocated by the receiving BFR for the BIFT. For each <SD,BSL> tuple, OSPF/ISIS advertises a block of contiguous labels, one label for each SI needed for the tuple, in the MPLS Encapsulation sub-sub-TLV as part of the BIER sub-TLV, which is attached to the Extended Reachability TLV (ISIS case) or the Extended Prefix TLV (OSPF case) for the BFR's BIER Prefix.

With non-MPLS encapsulation, the BIFT-ID in the packet is at the same position as the label in MPLS encapsulation case. Its semantics is no different from the MPLS case in that as an 20-bit opaque value, it leads to the BIFT according to which the BIER packet is forwarded. Beyond the semantics, there are two differences from the MPLS case though:

- o MPLS infrastructure is not needed.
- o While each BFR could allocate local BIFT-IDs independently and advertise them just like in MPLS case, for the same <SD,Encap,BSL,SI> tuple all BFRs could optionally auto-derive or be provisioned with the same BIFT-ID and no signaling is needed in that case.

One may consider that if MPLS would allow to use consistently provisioned BIER labels on all BFRs, then the second difference listed above does not exist anymore.



In this specification, if locally significant BIFT-IDs are to be used with non-MPLS encapsulation, the BIFT-IDs are advertised the same way as in the MPLS case - by a BIFT-ID block, which is a block of contiguous labels in MPLS case or a block of contiguous opaque 20-bit values in non-MPLS case. The only difference is the type of encapsulation.

If consistently provisioned or auto-derived BIFT-IDs are used with non-MPLS encapsulation, then no BIFT-ID block is signaled. Just the encapsulation type is signaled.

#### **4. Advertising BIER Information Northbound**

Nothing special here compared to OSPF/ISIS. A node's local BIER information as described in the previous section is attached to a local BIER Prefix. Details to be added.

#### **5. Advertising BIER Information Southbound**

##### **5.1. Local BIER Information**

Similar to the northbound case, a node's local BIER information is attached to a local BIER prefix that is advertised southbound.

##### **5.2. Proxied BFR-ID Ranges**

On the southbound, a node advertises a default route, plus certain prefixes to prevent blackholing or suboptimal routing upon link failures. Those prefixes and default route are like the summary routes and default route in [[I-D.zwzw-bier-prefix-redistribute](#)], and similarly they carry BFR-IDs corresponding to the covered BIER Prefixes.

Consider a RIFT network with a BIER sub-domain of 200 BFIR/BFERS. Each non-leaf node is provisioned that BFR-ID 1-200 are used. Suppose a node X advertise southbound a default route RT1 and disaggregation routes RT2/RT3. RT2 and RT3 MUST advertise BFR-IDs covered by them (e.g. BFR-ID 100/102/150 covered by RT2 and BFR-ID 101/103 covered by RT3), while the default route RT1 can always advertise that all BFR-ID 1~200 are covered by it and does not need to exclude BFR-ID 100/102/150 and 101/103 that are covered by RT2/RT3. When a southern node receives RT1 and RT2/RT3, it installs BFR-ID 100/102/150 in its BIFT according to RT2, 101/103 in its BIFT according to RT3, and installs other BFR-IDs (or just a default route) in its BIFT according to RT1.



## 6. Information Elements Schema

This document introduces a bier.thrift schema with definitions to be used in RIFT encoding.thrift.

### 6.1. bier.thrift

```
typedef i8      SubdomainIdType
typedef i16     BfrIdType
typedef i8      BARType
typedef i8      IPAType
typedef i16     BSLType      /* Number of bits */
typedef i32     BiftIdType   /* Only the most significant 20 bits are used
*/

enum EncapsulationType {
    mpls          = 0;
    non-mpls      = 1;
}

/* Similar to the label range in OSPF/ISIS extensions for BIER */
struct BiftIdBlock {
    1: required BiftIdType      bift_id_base;
    2: required i8              bift_id_range;
}

/* Similar to the MPLS Encapsulation sub-sub-TLV in OSPF/ISIS */
struct EncapStruct {
    1: required EncapsulationType      encap_type;
    2: required BSLType                bsl;
    3: optional BiftIdBlock             bift_id_block;
}

/*BIER node information. Similar to BIER sub-TLV in OSPF/ISIS. */
struct BierInfo {
    1: required SubdomainIdType      subdomain_id;
    2: required BfrIdType             bfr_id;
    3: required BARType              bar;
    4: required IPAType              ipa;
    5: required EncapStruct           encaps;          /* one or more */
}

struct ProxyBfrIdRange {
    1: required SubdomainIdType      subdomain_id;
    2: required BfrIdType             bfr_id_base;
    3: required BSLType              bfr_id_range;
}
```





## **6.2. Additions to encoding.thrift**

The PrefixAttributes in encoding.rift now has two optional elements:

```
struct PrefixAttributes {  
    ...  
    2: optional BierInfo      bier_info;    /* BIER info for a  
                                           * local BIER Prefix */  
    3: optional ProxyBfrIdRange proxy_bfr_id; /* one or more proxy  
                                           * BFR-ID ranges covered  
                                           * by this prefix */  
}
```

## **7. IANA Considerations**

## **8. Acknowledgements**

## **9. References**

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