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L. Andersson, Ed.  
Ericsson  
L. Berger, Ed.  
LabN  
L. Fang, Ed.  
Cisco  
N. Bitar, Ed.  
Verizon  
E. Gray, Ed.  
Ericsson  
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## **MPLS Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) Control Plane Framework**

### **Abstract**

The MPLS Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) supports static provisioning of transport paths via a Network Management System (NMS) and dynamic provisioning of transport paths via a control plane. This document provides the framework for MPLS-TP dynamic provisioning and covers control-plane addressing, routing, path computation, signaling, traffic engineering, and path recovery. MPLS-TP uses GMPLS as the control plane for MPLS-TP Label Switched Paths (LSPs). MPLS-TP also uses the pseudowire (PW) control plane for pseudowires. Management-plane functions are out of scope of this document.

This document is a product of a joint Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) / International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) effort to include an MPLS Transport Profile within the IETF MPLS and Pseudowire Emulation Edge-to-Edge (PWE3) architectures to support the capabilities and functionalities of a packet transport network as defined by the ITU-T.

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## 1. Introduction

The Multiprotocol Label Switching Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) is defined as a joint effort between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the IETF. The requirements for MPLS-TP are defined in the requirements document, see [[RFC5654](#)]. These requirements state that "A solution MUST be defined to support dynamic provisioning of MPLS-TP transport paths via a control plane". This document provides the framework for such dynamic provisioning. This document is a product of a joint Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) / International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) effort to include an MPLS Transport Profile within the IETF MPLS and Pseudowire Emulation Edge-to-Edge (PWE3) architectures to support the capabilities and functions of a packet transport network as defined by the ITU-T.



### 1.1. Scope

This document covers the control-plane functions involved in establishing MPLS-TP Label Switched Paths (LSPs) and pseudowires (PWs). The control-plane requirements for MPLS-TP are defined in the MPLS-TP requirements document [RFC5654]. These requirements define the role of the control plane in MPLS-TP. In particular, [Section 2.4 of \[RFC5654\]](#) and portions of the remainder of [Section 2 of \[RFC5654\]](#) provide specific control-plane requirements.

The LSPs provided by MPLS-TP are used as a server layer for IP, MPLS, and PWs, as well as other tunneled MPLS-TP LSPs. The PWs are used to carry client signals other than IP or MPLS. The relationship between PWs and MPLS-TP LSPs is exactly the same as between PWs and MPLS LSPs in an MPLS Packet Switched Network (PSN). The PW encapsulation over MPLS-TP LSPs used in MPLS-TP networks is also the same as for PWs over MPLS in an MPLS network. MPLS-TP also defines protection and restoration (or, collectively, recovery) functions; see [RFC5654] and [RFC4427]. The MPLS-TP control plane provides methods to establish, remove, and control MPLS-TP LSPs and PWs. This includes control of Operations, Administration, and Maintenance (OAM), data-plane, and recovery functions.

A general framework for MPLS-TP has been defined in [RFC5921], and a survivability framework for MPLS-TP has been defined in [RFC6372]. These documents scope the approaches and protocols that are the foundation of MPLS-TP. Notably, [Section 3.5 of \[RFC5921\]](#) scopes the IETF protocols that serve as the foundation of the MPLS-TP control plane. The PW control plane is based on the existing PW control plane (see [RFC4447]) and the PWE3 architecture (see [RFC3985]). The LSP control plane is based on GMPLS (see [RFC3945]), which is built on MPLS Traffic Engineering (TE) and its numerous extensions. [RFC6372] focuses on the recovery functions that must be supported within MPLS-TP. It does not specify which control-plane mechanisms are to be used.

The remainder of this document discusses the impact of the MPLS-TP requirements on the GMPLS signaling and routing protocols that are used to control MPLS-TP LSPs, and on the control of PWs as specified in [RFC4447], [RFC6073], and [MS-PW-DYNAMIC].

### 1.2. Basic Approach

The basic approach taken in defining the MPLS-TP control-plane framework includes the following:

- 1) MPLS technology as defined by the IETF is the foundation for the MPLS Transport Profile.



- 2) The data plane for MPLS-TP is a standard MPLS data plane [[RFC3031](#)] as profiled in [[RFC5960](#)].
- 3) MPLS PWs are used by MPLS-TP including the use of targeted Label Distribution Protocol (LDP) as the foundation for PW signaling [[RFC4447](#)]. This also includes the use of Open Shortest Path First with Traffic Engineering (OSPF-TE), Intermediate System to Intermediate System (IS-IS) with Traffic Engineering (ISIS-TE), or Multiprotocol Border Gateway Protocol (MP-BGP) as they apply for Multi-Segment Pseudowire (MS-PW) routing. However, the PW can be encapsulated over an MPLS-TP LSP (established using methods and procedures for MPLS-TP LSP establishment) in addition to the presently defined methods of carrying PWs over LSP-based PSNs. That is, the MPLS-TP domain is a PSN from a PWE3 architecture perspective [[RFC3985](#)].
- 4) The MPLS-TP LSP control plane builds on the GMPLS control plane as defined by the IETF for transport LSPs. The protocols within scope are Resource Reservation Protocol with Traffic Engineering (RSVP-TE) [[RFC3473](#)], OSPF-TE [[RFC4203](#)] [[RFC5392](#)], and ISIS-TE [[RFC5307](#)] [[RFC5316](#)]. Automatically Switched Optical Network (ASON) signaling and routing requirements in the context of GMPLS can be found in [[RFC4139](#)] and [[RFC4258](#)].
- 5) Existing IETF MPLS and GMPLS RFCs and evolving Working Group Internet-Drafts should be reused wherever possible.
- 6) If needed, extensions for the MPLS-TP control plane should first be based on the existing and evolving IETF work, and secondly be based on work by other standard bodies only when IETF decides that the work is out of the IETF's scope. New extensions may be defined otherwise.
- 7) Extensions to the control plane may be required in order to fully automate functions related to MPLS-TP LSPs and PWs.
- 8) Control-plane software upgrades to existing equipment are acceptable and expected.
- 9) It is permissible for functions present in the GMPLS and PW control planes to not be used in MPLS-TP networks.
- 10) One possible use of the control plane is to configure, enable, and generally control OAM functionality. This will require extensions to existing control-plane specifications that will be usable in MPLS-TP as well as MPLS networks.





- 11) The foundation for MPLS-TP control-plane requirements is primarily found in [Section 2.4 of \[RFC5654\]](#) and relevant portions of the remainder of [Section 2 of \[RFC5654\]](#).

### 1.3. Reference Model

The control-plane reference model is based on the general MPLS-TP reference model as defined in the MPLS-TP framework [\[RFC5921\]](#) and further refined in [\[RFC6215\]](#) on the MPLS-TP User-to-Network and Network-to-Network Interfaces (UNI and NNI, respectively). Per the MPLS-TP framework [\[RFC5921\]](#), the MPLS-TP control plane is based on GMPLS with RSVP-TE for LSP signaling and targeted LDP for PW signaling. In both cases, OSPF-TE or ISIS-TE with GMPLS extensions is used for dynamic routing within an MPLS-TP domain.

Note that in this context, "targeted LDP" (or T-LDP) means LDP as defined in [RFC 5036](#), using Targeted Hello messages. See [Section 2.4.2](#) ("Extended Discovery Mechanism") of [\[RFC5036\]](#). Use of the extended discovery mechanism is specified in [Section 5](#) ("LDP") of [\[RFC4447\]](#).

From a service perspective, MPLS-TP client services may be supported via both PWs and LSPs. PW client interfaces, or adaptations, are defined on an interface-technology basis, e.g., Ethernet over PW [\[RFC4448\]](#). In the context of MPLS-TP LSP, the client interface is provided at the network layer and may be controlled via a GMPLS-based UNI, see [\[RFC4208\]](#), or statically provisioned. As discussed in [\[RFC5921\]](#) and [\[RFC6215\]](#), MPLS-TP also presumes an NNI reference point.

The MPLS-TP end-to-end control-plane reference model is shown in Figure 1. The figure shows the control-plane protocols used by MPLS-TP, as well as the UNI and NNI reference points, in the case of a Single-Segment PW supported by an end-to-end LSP without any hierarchical LSPs. (The MS-PW case is not shown.) Each service provider node's participation in routing and signaling (both GMPLS RSVP-TE and PW LDP) is represented. Note that only the service end points participate in PW LDP signaling, while all service provider nodes participate in GMPLS TE LSP routing and signaling.



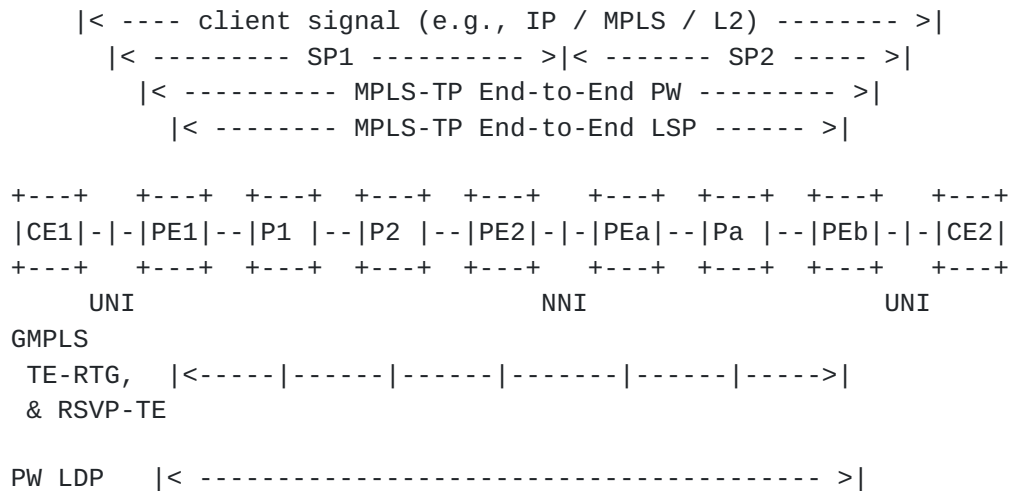


Figure 1. End-to-End MPLS-TP Control-Plane Reference Model

## Legend:

CE: Customer Edge  
 Client signal: defined in MPLS-TP Requirements  
 L2: Any layer 2 signal that may be carried over a PW, e.g., Ethernet  
 NNI: Network-to-Network Interface  
 P: Provider  
 PE: Provider Edge  
 SP: Service Provider  
 TE-RTG: GMPLS OSPF-TE or ISIS-TE  
 UNI: User-to-Network Interface

Note: The MS-PW case is not shown.

Figure 2 adds three hierarchical LSP segments, labeled as "H-LSPs". These segments are present to support scaling, OAM, and Maintenance Entity Group End Points (MEPs), see [RFC6371], within each provider domain and across the inter-provider NNI. (H-LSPs are used to implement Sub-Path Maintenance Elements (SPMEs) as defined in [RFC5921].) The MEPs are used to collect performance information, support diagnostic and fault management functions, and support OAM triggered survivability schemes as discussed in [RFC6372]. Each H-LSP may be protected or restored using any of the schemes discussed in [RFC6372]. End-to-end monitoring is supported via MEPs at the end-to-end LSP and PW end points. Note that segment MEPs may be co-located with MIPs of the next higher-layer (e.g., end-to-end) LSPs. (The MS-PW case is not shown.)



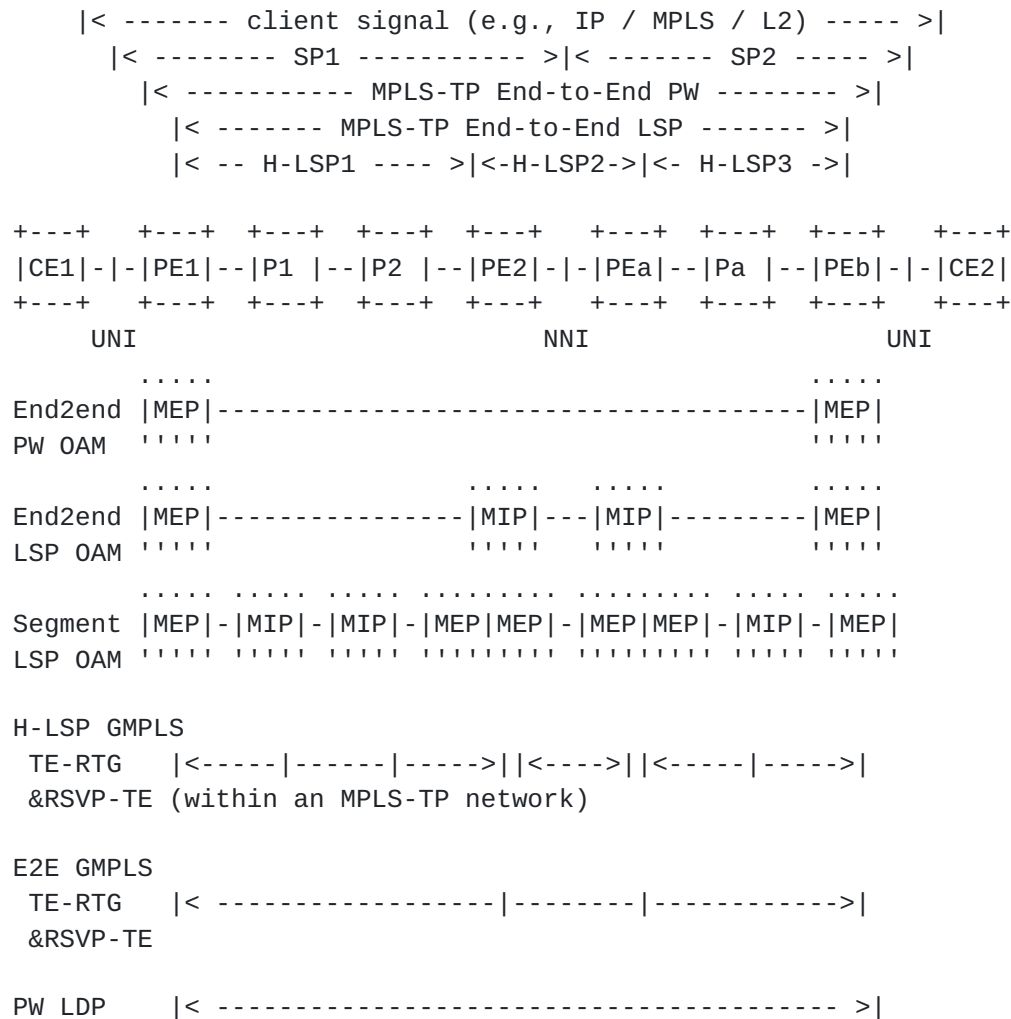


Figure 2. MPLS-TP Control-Plane Reference Model with OAM

## Legend:

CE:	Customer Edge
Client signal:	defined in MPLS-TP Requirements
E2E:	End-to-End
L2:	Any layer 2 signal that may be carried over a PW, e.g., Ethernet
H-LSP:	Hierarchical LSP
MEP:	Maintenance Entity Group End Point
MIP:	Maintenance Entity Group Intermediate Point
NNI:	Network-to-Network Interface
P:	Provider
PE:	Provider Edge
SP:	Service Provider
TE-RTG:	GMPLS OSPF-TE or ISIS-TE

Note: The MS-PW case is not shown.



While not shown in the figures above, the MPLS-TP control plane must support the addressing separation and independence between the data, control, and management planes. Address separation between the planes is already included in GMPLS. Such separation is also already included in LDP as LDP session end point addresses are never automatically associated with forwarding.

## 2. Control-Plane Requirements

The requirements for the MPLS-TP control plane are derived from the MPLS-TP requirements and framework documents, specifically [RFC5654], [RFC5921], [RFC5860], [RFC6371], and [RFC6372]. The requirements are summarized in this section, but do not replace those documents. If there are differences between this section and those documents, those documents shall be considered authoritative.

### 2.1. Primary Requirements

These requirements are based on [Section 2 of \[RFC5654\]](#):

1. Any new functionality that is defined to fulfill the requirements for MPLS-TP must be agreed within the IETF through the IETF consensus process as per [RFC4929] and [Section 1](#), paragraph 15 of [RFC5654].
2. The MPLS-TP control-plane design should as far as reasonably possible reuse existing MPLS standards ([RFC5654], requirement 2).
3. The MPLS-TP control plane must be able to interoperate with existing IETF MPLS and PWE3 control planes where appropriate ([RFC5654], requirement 3).
4. The MPLS-TP control plane must be sufficiently well-defined to ensure that the interworking between equipment supplied by multiple vendors will be possible both within a single domain and between domains ([RFC5654], requirement 4).
5. The MPLS-TP control plane must support a connection-oriented packet switching model with traffic engineering capabilities that allow deterministic control of the use of network resources ([RFC5654], requirement 5).
6. The MPLS-TP control plane must support traffic-engineered point-to-point (P2P) and point-to-multipoint (P2MP) transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 6).





7. The MPLS-TP control plane must support unidirectional, associated bidirectional and co-routed bidirectional point-to-point transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 7).
8. The MPLS-TP control plane must support unidirectional point-to-multipoint transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 8).
9. The MPLS-TP control plane must enable all nodes (i.e., ingress, egress, and intermediate) to be aware about the pairing relationship of the forward and the backward directions belonging to the same co-routed bidirectional transport path ([RFC5654], requirement 10).
10. The MPLS-TP control plane must enable edge nodes (i.e., ingress and egress) to be aware of the pairing relationship of the forward and the backward directions belonging to the same associated bidirectional transport path ([RFC5654], requirement 11).
11. The MPLS-TP control plane should enable common transit nodes to be aware of the pairing relationship of the forward and the backward directions belonging to the same associated bidirectional transport path ([RFC5654], requirement 12).
12. The MPLS-TP control plane must support bidirectional transport paths with symmetric bandwidth requirements, i.e., the amount of reserved bandwidth is the same in the forward and backward directions ([RFC5654], requirement 13).
13. The MPLS-TP control plane must support bidirectional transport paths with asymmetric bandwidth requirements, i.e., the amount of reserved bandwidth differs in the forward and backward directions ([RFC5654], requirement 14).
14. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the logical separation of the control plane from the management and data planes ([RFC5654], requirement 15). Note that this implies that the addresses used in the control plane are independent from the addresses used in the management and data planes.
15. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the physical separation of the control plane from the management and data plane, and no assumptions should be made about the state of the data-plane channels from information about the control- or management-plane channels when they are running out-of-band ([RFC5654], requirement 16).



16. A control plane must be defined to support dynamic provisioning and restoration of MPLS-TP transport paths, but its use is a network operator's choice ([RFC5654], requirement 18).
17. The presence of a control plane must not be required for static provisioning of MPLS-TP transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 19).
18. The MPLS-TP control plane must permit the coexistence of statically and dynamically provisioned/managed MPLS-TP transport paths within the same layer network or domain ([RFC5654], requirement 20).
19. The MPLS-TP control plane should be operable in a way that is similar to the way the control plane operates in other transport-layer technologies ([RFC5654], requirement 21).
20. The MPLS-TP control plane must avoid or minimize traffic impact (e.g., packet delay, reordering, and loss) during network reconfiguration ([RFC5654], requirement 24).
21. The MPLS-TP control plane must work across multiple homogeneous domains ([RFC5654], requirement 25), i.e., all domains use the same MPLS-TP control plane.
22. The MPLS-TP control plane should work across multiple non-homogeneous domains ([RFC5654], requirement 26), i.e., some domains use the same control plane and other domains use static provisioning at the domain boundary.
23. The MPLS-TP control plane must not dictate any particular physical or logical topology ([RFC5654], requirement 27).
24. The MPLS-TP control plane must include support of ring topologies that may be deployed with arbitrary interconnection and support of rings of at least 16 nodes ([RFC5654], requirements 27.A, 27.B, and 27.C).
25. The MPLS-TP control plane must scale gracefully to support a large number of transport paths, nodes, and links. That is, it must be able to scale at least as well as control planes in existing transport technologies with growing and increasingly complex network topologies as well as with increasing bandwidth demands, number of customers, and number of services ([RFC5654], requirements 53 and 28).
26. The MPLS-TP control plane should not provision transport paths that contain forwarding loops ([RFC5654], requirement 29).



27. The MPLS-TP control plane must support multiple client layers (e.g., MPLS-TP, IP, MPLS, Ethernet, ATM, Frame Relay, etc.) ([RFC5654], requirement 30).
28. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide a generic and extensible solution to support the transport of MPLS-TP transport paths over one or more server-layer networks (such as MPLS-TP, Ethernet, Synchronous Optical Network / Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SONET/SDH), Optical Transport Network (OTN), etc.). Requirements for bandwidth management within a server-layer network are outside the scope of this document ([RFC5654], requirement 31).
29. In an environment where an MPLS-TP layer network is supporting a client-layer network, and the MPLS-TP layer network is supported by a server-layer network, then the control-plane operation of the MPLS-TP layer network must be possible without any dependencies on the server or client-layer network ([RFC5654], requirement 32).
30. The MPLS-TP control plane must allow for the transport of a client MPLS or MPLS-TP layer network over a server MPLS or MPLS-TP layer network ([RFC5654], requirement 33).
31. The MPLS-TP control plane must allow the autonomous operation of the layers of a multi-layer network that includes an MPLS-TP layer ([RFC5654], requirement 34).
32. The MPLS-TP control plane must allow the hiding of MPLS-TP layer network addressing and other information (e.g., topology) from client-layer networks. However, it should be possible, at the option of the operator, to leak a limited amount of summarized information, such as Shared Risk Link Groups (SRLGs) or reachability, between layers ([RFC5654], requirement 35).
33. The MPLS-TP control plane must allow for the identification of a transport path on each link within and at the destination (egress) of the transport network ([RFC5654], requirements 38 and 39).
34. The MPLS-TP control plane must allow for the use of P2MP server (sub-)layer capabilities as well as P2P server (sub-)layer capabilities when supporting P2MP MPLS-TP transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 40).
35. The MPLS-TP control plane must be extensible in order to accommodate new types of client-layer networks and services ([RFC5654], requirement 41).



36. The MPLS-TP control plane should support the reserved bandwidth associated with a transport path to be increased without impacting the existing traffic on that transport path, provided enough resources are available ([RFC5654], requirement 42)).
37. The MPLS-TP control plane should support the reserved bandwidth of a transport path being decreased without impacting the existing traffic on that transport path, provided that the level of existing traffic is smaller than the reserved bandwidth following the decrease ([RFC5654], requirement 43).
38. The control plane for MPLS-TP must fit within the ASON (control-plane) architecture. The ITU-T has defined an architecture for ASONs in G.8080 [ITU.G8080.2006] and G.8080 Amendment 1 [ITU.G8080.2008]. An interpretation of the ASON signaling and routing requirements in the context of GMPLS can be found in [RFC4139], [RFC4258], and Section 2.4, paragraphs 2 and 3 of [RFC5654].
39. The MPLS-TP control plane must support control-plane topology and data-plane topology independence ([RFC5654], requirement 47).
40. A failure of the MPLS-TP control plane must not interfere with the delivery of service or recovery of established transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 47).
41. The MPLS-TP control plane must be able to operate independent of any particular client- or server-layer control plane ([RFC5654], requirement 48).
42. The MPLS-TP control plane should support, but not require, an integrated control plane encompassing MPLS-TP together with its server- and client-layer networks when these layer networks belong to the same administrative domain ([RFC5654], requirement 49).
43. The MPLS-TP control plane must support configuration of protection functions and any associated maintenance (OAM) functions ([RFC5654], requirements 50 and 7).
44. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the configuration and modification of OAM maintenance points as well as the activation/deactivation of OAM when the transport path or transport service is established or modified ([RFC5654], requirement 51).





45. The MPLS-TP control plane must be capable of restarting and relearning its previous state without impacting forwarding ([RFC5654], requirement 54).
46. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide a mechanism for dynamic ownership transfer of the control of MPLS-TP transport paths from the management plane to the control plane and vice versa. The number of reconfigurations required in the data plane must be minimized; preferably no data-plane reconfiguration will be required ([RFC5654], requirement 55). Note, such transfers cover all transport path control functions including control of recovery and OAM.
47. The MPLS-TP control plane must support protection and restoration mechanisms, i.e., recovery ([RFC5654], requirement 52).

Note that the MPLS-TP survivability framework document [RFC6372] provides additional useful information related to recovery.

48. The MPLS-TP control-plane mechanisms should be identical (or as similar as possible) to those already used in existing transport networks to simplify implementation and operations. However, this must not override any other requirement ([RFC5654], requirement 56 A).
49. The MPLS-TP control-plane mechanisms used for P2P and P2MP recovery should be identical to simplify implementation and operation. However, this must not override any other requirement ([RFC5654], requirement 56 B).
50. The MPLS-TP control plane must support recovery mechanisms that are applicable at various levels throughout the network including support for link, transport path, segment, concatenated segment, and end-to-end recovery ([RFC5654], requirement 57).
51. The MPLS-TP control plane must support recovery paths that meet the Service Level Agreement (SLA) protection objectives of the service ([RFC5654], requirement 58). These include:
  - a. Guarantee 50-ms recovery times from the moment of fault detection in networks with spans less than 1200 km.
  - b. Protection of 100% of the traffic on the protected path.
  - c. Recovery must meet SLA requirements over multiple domains.



52. The MPLS-TP control plane should support per-transport-path recovery objectives ([RFC5654], requirement 59).
53. The MPLS-TP control plane must support recovery mechanisms that are applicable to any topology ([RFC5654], requirement 60).
54. The MPLS-TP control plane must operate in synergy with (including coordination of timing/timer settings) the recovery mechanisms present in any client or server transport networks (for example, Ethernet, SDH, OTN, Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM)) to avoid race conditions between the layers ([RFC5654], requirement 61).
55. The MPLS-TP control plane must support recovery and reversion mechanisms that prevent frequent operation of recovery in the event of an intermittent defect ([RFC5654], requirement 62).
56. The MPLS-TP control plane must support revertive and non-revertive protection behavior ([RFC5654], requirement 64).
57. The MPLS-TP control plane must support 1+1 bidirectional protection for P2P transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 65 A).
58. The MPLS-TP control plane must support 1+1 unidirectional protection for P2P transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 65 B).
59. The MPLS-TP control plane must support 1+1 unidirectional protection for P2MP transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 65 C).
60. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the ability to share protection resources amongst a number of transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 66).
61. The MPLS-TP control plane must support 1:n bidirectional protection for P2P transport paths. Bidirectional 1:n protection should be the default for 1:n protection ([RFC5654], requirement 67 A).
62. The MPLS-TP control plane must support 1:n unidirectional protection for P2MP transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 67 B).
63. The MPLS-TP control plane may support 1:n unidirectional protection for P2P transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 65 C).



64. The MPLS-TP control plane may support the control of extra-traffic type traffic ([RFC5654], note after requirement 67).
65. The MPLS-TP control plane should support 1:n (including 1:1) shared mesh recovery ([RFC5654], requirement 68).
66. The MPLS-TP control plane must support sharing of protection resources such that protection paths that are known not to be required concurrently can share the same resources ([RFC5654], requirement 69).
67. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the sharing of resources between a restoration transport path and the transport path being replaced ([RFC5654], requirement 70).
68. The MPLS-TP control plane must support restoration priority so that an implementation can determine the order in which transport paths should be restored ([RFC5654], requirement 71).
69. The MPLS-TP control plane must support preemption priority in order to allow restoration to displace other transport paths in the event of resource constraints ([RFC5654], requirements 72 and 86).
70. The MPLS-TP control plane must support revertive and non-revertive restoration behavior ([RFC5654], requirement 73).
71. The MPLS-TP control plane must support recovery being triggered by physical (lower) layer fault indications ([RFC5654], requirement 74).
72. The MPLS-TP control plane must support recovery being triggered by OAM ([RFC5654], requirement 75).
73. The MPLS-TP control plane must support management-plane recovery triggers (e.g., forced switch, etc.) ([RFC5654], requirement 76).
74. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the differentiation of administrative recovery actions from recovery actions initiated by other triggers ([RFC5654], requirement 77).
75. The MPLS-TP control plane should support control-plane restoration triggers (e.g., forced switch, etc.) ([RFC5654], requirement 78).



76. The MPLS-TP control plane must support priority logic to negotiate and accommodate coexisting requests (i.e., multiple requests) for protection switching (e.g., administrative requests and requests due to link/node failures) ([RFC5654], requirement 79).
77. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the association of protection paths and working paths (sometimes known as protection groups) ([RFC5654], requirement 80).
78. The MPLS-TP control plane must support pre-calculation of recovery paths ([RFC5654], requirement 81).
79. The MPLS-TP control plane must support pre-provisioning of recovery paths ([RFC5654], requirement 82).
80. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the external commands defined in [RFC4427]. External controls overruled by higher priority requests (e.g., administrative requests and requests due to link/node failures) or unable to be signaled to the remote end (e.g., because of a protection state coordination fail) must be ignored/dropped ([RFC5654], requirement 83).
81. The MPLS-TP control plane must permit the testing and validation of the integrity of the protection/recovery transport path ([RFC5654], requirement 84 A).
82. The MPLS-TP control plane must permit the testing and validation of protection/restoration mechanisms without triggering the actual protection/restoration ([RFC5654], requirement 84 B).
83. The MPLS-TP control plane must permit the testing and validation of protection/restoration mechanisms while the working path is in service ([RFC5654], requirement 84 C).
84. The MPLS-TP control plane must permit the testing and validation of protection/restoration mechanisms while the working path is out of service ([RFC5654], requirement 84 D).
85. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the establishment and maintenance of all recovery entities and functions ([RFC5654], requirement 89 A).
86. The MPLS-TP control plane must support signaling of recovery administrative control ([RFC5654], requirement 89 B).





87. The MPLS-TP control plane must support protection state coordination. Since control-plane network topology is independent from the data-plane network topology, the protection state coordination supported by the MPLS-TP control plane may run on resources different than the data-plane resources handled within the recovery mechanism (e.g., backup) ([RFC5654], requirement 89 C).
88. When present, the MPLS-TP control plane must support recovery mechanisms that are optimized for specific network topologies. These mechanisms must be interoperable with the mechanisms defined for arbitrary topology (mesh) networks to enable protection of end-to-end transport paths ([RFC5654], requirement 91).
89. When present, the MPLS-TP control plane must support the control of ring-topology-specific recovery mechanisms ([RFC5654], Section 2.5.6.1).
90. The MPLS-TP control plane must include support for differentiated services and different traffic types with traffic class separation associated with different traffic ([RFC5654], requirement 110).
91. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the provisioning of services that provide guaranteed Service Level Specifications (SLs), with support for hard ([RFC3209] style) and relative ([RFC3270] style) end-to-end bandwidth guarantees ([RFC5654], requirement 111).
92. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the provisioning of services that are sensitive to jitter and delay ([RFC5654], requirement 112).

## **2.2. Requirements Derived from the MPLS-TP Framework**

The following additional requirements are based on [RFC5921], [TP-P2MP-FWK], and [RFC5960]:

93. Per-packet Equal Cost Multi-Path (ECMP) load balancing is currently outside the scope of MPLS-TP ([RFC5960], Section 3.1.1, paragraph 6).
94. Penultimate Hop Popping (PHP) must be disabled on MPLS-TP LSPs by default ([RFC5960], Section 3.1.1, paragraph 7).



95. The MPLS-TP control plane must support both E-LSP (Explicitly TC-encoded-PSC LSP) and L-LSP (Label-Only-Inferred-PSC LSP) MPLS Diffserv modes as specified in [\[RFC3270\]](#), [\[RFC5462\]](#), and [Section 3.3.2](#), paragraph 12 of [\[RFC5960\]](#).
96. Both Single-Segment PWs (see [\[RFC3985\]](#)) and Multi-Segment PWs (see [\[RFC5659\]](#)) shall be supported by the MPLS-TP control plane. MPLS-TP shall use the definition of Multi-Segment PWs as defined by the IETF ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.4.4](#)).
97. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the control of PWs and their associated labels ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.4.4](#)).
98. The MPLS-TP control plane must support network-layer clients, i.e., clients whose traffic is transported over an MPLS-TP network without the use of PWs ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.4.5](#)).
  - a. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the use of network-layer protocol-specific LSPs and labels ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.4.5](#)).
  - b. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the use of a client-service-specific LSPs and labels ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.4.5](#)).
99. The MPLS-TP control plane for LSPs must be based on the GMPLS control plane. More specifically, GMPLS RSVP-TE [\[RFC3473\]](#) and related extensions are used for LSP signaling, and GMPLS OSPF-TE [\[RFC5392\]](#) and ISIS-TE [\[RFC5316\]](#) are used for routing ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.9](#)).
100. The MPLS-TP control plane for PWs must be based on the MPLS control plane for PWs, and more specifically, targeted LDP (T-LDP) [\[RFC4447\]](#) is used for PW signaling ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.9](#), paragraph 5).
101. The MPLS-TP control plane must ensure its own survivability and be able to recover gracefully from failures and degradations. These include graceful restart and hot redundant configurations ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.9](#), paragraph 16).
102. The MPLS-TP control plane must support linear, ring, and meshed protection schemes ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.12](#), paragraph 3).
103. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the control of SPMEs (hierarchical LSPs) for new or existing end-to-end LSPs ([\[RFC5921\]](#), [Section 3.12](#), paragraph 7).



### 2.3. Requirements Derived from the OAM Framework

The following additional requirements are based on [\[RFC5860\]](#) and [\[RFC6371\]](#):

104. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the capability to enable/disable OAM functions as part of service establishment ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.1.6](#), paragraph 1. Note that OAM functions are applicable regardless of the label stack depth (i.e., level of LSP hierarchy or PW) ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.1.1](#), paragraph 3).
105. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the capability to enable/disable OAM functions after service establishment. In such cases, the customer must not perceive service degradation as a result of OAM enabling/disabling ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.1.6](#), paragraphs 1 and 2).
106. The MPLS-TP control plane must support dynamic control of any of the existing IP/MPLS and PW OAM protocols, e.g., LSP-Ping [\[RFC4379\]](#), MPLS-BFD [\[RFC5884\]](#), VCCV [\[RFC5085\]](#), and VCCV-BFD [\[RFC5885\]](#) ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.1.4](#), paragraph 2).
107. The MPLS-TP control plane must allow for the ability to support experimental OAM functions. These functions must be disabled by default ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2](#), paragraph 2).
108. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the choice of which (if any) OAM function(s) to use and to which PW, LSP or Section it applies ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2](#), paragraph 3).
109. The MPLS-TP control plane must allow (e.g., enable/disable) mechanisms that support the localization of faults and the notification of appropriate nodes ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.1](#), paragraph 1).
110. The MPLS-TP control plane may support mechanisms that permit the service provider to be informed of a fault or defect affecting the service(s) it provides, even if the fault or defect is located outside of his domain ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.1](#), paragraph 2).
111. Information exchange between various nodes involved in the MPLS-TP control plane should be reliable such that, for example, defects or faults are properly detected or that state changes are effectively known by the appropriate nodes ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.1](#), paragraph 3).



112. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to control an end point's ability to monitor the liveness of a PW, LSP, or Section ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.2](#), paragraph 1).
113. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to control an end point's ability to determine whether or not it is connected to specific end point(s) by means of the expected PW, LSP, or Section ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.3](#), paragraph 1).
  - a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control an end point's ability to perform this function proactively ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.3](#), paragraph 2).
  - b. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control an end point's ability to perform this function on-demand ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.3](#), paragraph 3).
114. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to control diagnostic testing on a PW, LSP or Section ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.5](#), paragraph 1).
  - a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function on-demand ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.5](#), paragraph 2).
115. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to enable an end point to discover the Intermediate Point(s) (if any) and end point(s) along a PW, LSP, or Section, and more generally to trace (record) the route of a PW, LSP, or Section ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.4](#), paragraph 1).
  - a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function on-demand ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.4](#), paragraph 2).
116. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to enable an end point of a PW, LSP, or Section to instruct its associated end point(s) to lock the PW, LSP, or Section ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.6](#), paragraph 1).
  - a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function on-demand ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.6](#), paragraph 2).





117. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to enable an Intermediate Point of a PW or LSP to report, to an end point of that same PW or LSP, a lock condition indirectly affecting that PW or LSP ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.7](#), paragraph 1).

- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function proactively ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.7](#), paragraph 2).

118. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to enable an Intermediate Point of a PW or LSP to report, to an end point of that same PW or LSP, a fault or defect condition affecting that PW or LSP ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.8](#), paragraph 1).

- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function proactively ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.8](#), paragraph 2).

119. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to enable an end point to report, to its associated end point, a fault or defect condition that it detects on a PW, LSP, or Section for which they are the end points ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.9](#), paragraph 1).

- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function proactively ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.9](#), paragraph 2).

120. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to enable the propagation, across an MPLS-TP network, of information pertaining to a client defect or fault condition detected at an end point of a PW or LSP, if the client-layer mechanisms do not provide an alarm notification/propagation mechanism ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.10](#), paragraph 1).

- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function proactively ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.10](#), paragraph 2).

121. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to enable the control of quantification of packet loss ratio over a PW, LSP, or Section ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.11](#), paragraph 1).

- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function proactively and on-demand ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.11](#), paragraph 4).



122. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide functionality to control the quantification and reporting of the one-way, and if appropriate, the two-way, delay of a PW, LSP, or Section ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.12](#), paragraph 1).
- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to control the performance of this function proactively and on-demand ([\[RFC5860\]](#), [Section 2.2.12](#), paragraph 6).
123. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the configuration of OAM functional components that include Maintenance Entities (MEs) and Maintenance Entity Groups (MEGs) as instantiated in MEPs, MIPs, and SPMEs ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 3.6](#)).
124. For dynamically established transport paths, the control plane must support the configuration of OAM operations ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5](#)).
- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure proactive monitoring for a MEG at, or after, transport path creation time.
- b. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the operational characteristics of in-band measurement transactions (e.g., Connectivity Verification (CV), Loss Measurement (LM), etc.) at MEPs (associated with a transport path).
- c. The MPLS-TP control plane may provide mechanisms to configure server-layer event reporting by intermediate nodes.
- d. The MPLS-TP control plane may provide mechanisms to configure the reporting of measurements resulting from proactive monitoring.
125. The MPLS-TP control plane must support the control of the loss of continuity (LOC) traffic block consequent action ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5.1.2](#), paragraph 4).
126. For dynamically established transport paths that have a proactive Continuity Check and Connectivity Verification (CC-V) function enabled, the control plane must support the signaling of the following MEP configuration information ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5.1.3](#)):
- a. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the MEG identifier to which the MEP belongs.



- b. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure a MEP's own identity inside a MEG.
  - c. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the list of the other MEPs in the MEG.
  - d. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the CC-V transmission rate / reception period (covering all application types).
127. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the generation of Alarm Indication Signal (AIS) packets for each MEG ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5.3](#), paragraph 9).
128. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the generation of Lock Report (LKR) packets for each MEG ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5.4](#), paragraph 9).
129. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the use of proactive Packet Loss Measurement (LM), and the transmission rate and Per-Hop Behavior (PHB) class associated with the LM OAM packets originating from a MEP ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5.5.1](#), paragraph 1).
130. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the use of proactive Packet Delay Measurement (DM), and the transmission rate and PHB class associated with the DM OAM packets originating from a MEP ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5.6.1](#), paragraph 1).
131. The MPLS-TP control plane must provide mechanisms to configure the use of Client Failure Indication (CFI), and the transmission rate and PHB class associated with the CFI OAM packets originating from a MEP ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 5.7.1](#), paragraph 1).
132. The MPLS-TP control plane should provide mechanisms to control the use of on-demand CV packets ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 6.1](#)).
- a. The MPLS-TP control plane should provide mechanisms to configure the number of packets to be transmitted/received in each burst of on-demand CV packets and their packet size ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 6.1.1](#), paragraph 1).
  - b. When an on-demand CV packet is used to check connectivity toward a target MIP, the MPLS-TP control plane should provide mechanisms to configure the number of hops to reach the target MIP ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 6.1.1](#), paragraph 2).



- c. The MPLS-TP control plane should provide mechanisms to configure the PHB of on-demand CV packets ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 6.1.1](#), paragraph 3).
133. The MPLS-TP control plane should provide mechanisms to control the use of on-demand LM, including configuration of the beginning and duration of the LM procedures, the transmission rate, and PHB associated with the LM OAM packets originating from a MEP ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 6.2.1](#)).
134. The MPLS-TP control plane should provide mechanisms to control the use of throughput estimation ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 6.3.1](#)).
135. The MPLS-TP control plane should provide mechanisms to control the use of on-demand DM, including configuration of the beginning and duration of the DM procedures, the transmission rate, and PHB associated with the DM OAM packets originating from a MEP ([\[RFC6371\]](#), [Section 6.5.1](#)).

## 2.4. Security Requirements

There are no specific MPLS-TP control-plane security requirements. The existing framework for MPLS and GMPLS security is documented in [\[RFC5920\]](#), and that document applies equally to MPLS-TP.

## 2.5. Identifier Requirements

The following are requirements based on [\[RFC6370\]](#):

136. The MPLS-TP control plane must support MPLS-TP point-to-point tunnel identifiers of the forms defined in [Section 5.1 of \[RFC6370\]](#).
137. The MPLS-TP control plane must support MPLS-TP LSP identifiers of the forms defined in [Section 5.2 of \[RFC6370\]](#), and the mappings to GMPLS as defined in [Section 5.3 of \[RFC6370\]](#).
138. The MPLS-TP control plane must support pseudowire path identifiers of the form defined in [Section 6 of \[RFC6370\]](#).
139. The MPLS-TP control plane must support MEG\_IDs for LSPs and PWs as defined in [Section 7.1.1 of \[RFC6370\]](#).
140. The MPLS-TP control plane must support IP-compatible MEG\_IDs for LSPs and PWs as defined in [Section 7.1.2 of \[RFC6370\]](#).
141. The MPLS-TP control plane must support MEP\_IDs for LSPs and PWs of the forms defined in [Section 7.2.1 of \[RFC6370\]](#).





142. The MPLS-TP control plane must support IP-based MEP\_IDs for MPLS-TP LSP of the forms defined in [Section 7.2.2.1 of \[RFC6370\]](#).

143. The MPLS-TP control plane must support IP-based MEP\_IDs for Pseudowires of the form defined in [Section 7.2.2.2 of \[RFC6370\]](#).

### 3. Relationship of PWs and TE LSPs

The data-plane relationship between PWs and LSPs is inherited from standard MPLS and is reviewed in the MPLS-TP framework [\[RFC5921\]](#). Likewise, the control-plane relationship between PWs and LSPs is inherited from standard MPLS. This relationship is reviewed in this document. The relationship between the PW and LSP control planes in MPLS-TP is the same as the relationship found in the PWE3 Maintenance Reference Model as presented in the PWE3 architecture; see Figure 6 of [\[RFC3985\]](#). The PWE3 architecture [\[RFC3985\]](#) states: "The PWE3 protocol-layering model is intended to minimize the differences between PWs operating over different PSN types". Additionally, PW control (maintenance) takes place separately from LSP signaling. [\[RFC4447\]](#) and [\[MS-PW-DYNAMIC\]](#) provide such extensions for the use of LDP as the control plane for PWs. This control can provide PW control without providing LSP control.

In the context of MPLS-TP, LSP tunnel signaling is provided via GMPLS RSVP-TE. While RSVP-TE could be extended to support PW control much as LDP was extended in [\[RFC4447\]](#), such extensions are out of scope of this document. This means that the control of PWs and LSPs will operate largely independently. The main coordination between LSP and PW control will occur within the nodes that terminate PWs or PW segments. See [Section 5.3.2](#) for an additional discussion on such coordination.

It is worth noting that the control planes for PWs and LSPs may be used independently, and that one may be employed without the other. This translates into four possible scenarios: (1) no control plane is employed; (2) a control plane is used for both LSPs and PWs; (3) a control plane is used for LSPs, but not PWs; (4) a control plane is used for PWs, but not LSPs.

The PW and LSP control planes, collectively, must satisfy the MPLS-TP control-plane requirements reviewed in this document. When client services are provided directly via LSPs, all requirements must be satisfied by the LSP control plane. When client services are provided via PWs, the PW and LSP control planes can operate in combination, and some functions may be satisfied via the PW control plane while others are provided to PWs by the LSP control plane. For



example, to support the recovery functions described in [RFC6372], this document focuses on the control of the recovery functions at the LSP layer. PW-based recovery is under development at this time and may be used once defined.

#### **4. TE LSPs**

MPLS-TP uses Generalized MPLS (GMPLS) signaling and routing, see [RFC3945], as the control plane for LSPs. The GMPLS control plane is based on the MPLS control plane. GMPLS includes support for MPLS labeled data and transport data planes. GMPLS includes most of the transport-centric features required to support MPLS-TP LSPs. This section will first review the features of GMPLS relevant to MPLS-TP LSPs, then identify how specific requirements can be met using existing GMPLS functions, and will conclude with extensions that are anticipated to support the remaining MPLS-TP control-plane requirements.

##### **4.1. GMPLS Functions and MPLS-TP LSPs**

This section reviews how existing GMPLS functions can be applied to MPLS-TP.

###### **4.1.1. In-Band and Out-of-Band Control**

GMPLS supports both in-band and out-of-band control. The terms "in-band" and "out-of-band", in the context of this document, refer to the relationship of the control plane relative to the management and data planes. The terms may be used to refer to the control plane independent of the management plane, or to both of them in concert. The remainder of this section describes the relationship of the control plane to the management and data planes.

There are multiple uses of both terms "in-band" and "out-of-band". The terms may relate to a channel, a path, or a network. Each of these can be used independently or in combination. Briefly, some typical usage of the terms is as follows:

- o In-band

This term is used to refer to cases where control-plane traffic is sent in the same communication channel used to transport associated user data or management traffic. IP, MPLS, and Ethernet networks are all examples where control traffic is typically sent in-band with the data traffic. An example of this case in the context of MPLS-TP is where control-plane traffic is sent via the MPLS Generic Associated Channel (G-ACh), see [RFC5586], using the same LSP as controlled user traffic.



- o Out-of-band, in-fiber (same physical connection)  
This term is used to refer to cases where control-plane traffic is sent using a different communication channel from the associated data or management traffic, and the control communication channel resides in the same fiber as either the management or data traffic. An example of this case in the context of MPLS-TP is where control-plane traffic is sent via the G-ACh using a dedicated LSP on the same link (interface) that carries controlled user traffic.
- o Out-of-band, aligned topology  
This term is used to refer to the cases where control-plane traffic is sent using a different communication channel from the associated data or management traffic, and the control traffic follows the same node-to-node path as either the data or management traffic.

Such topologies are usually supported using a parallel fiber or other configurations where multiple data channels are available and one is (dynamically) selected as the control channel. An example of this case in the context of MPLS-TP is where control-plane traffic is sent along the same nodal path, but not necessarily the same links (interfaces), as the corresponding controlled user traffic.

- o Out-of-band, independent topology  
This term is used to refer to the cases where control-plane traffic is sent using a different communication channel from the associated data or management traffic, and the control traffic may follow a path that is completely independent of the data traffic.

Such configurations are a superset of the other cases and do not preclude the use of in-fiber or aligned topology links, but alignment is not required. An example of this case in the context of MPLS-TP is where control-plane traffic is sent between controlling nodes using any available path and links, completely without regard for the path(s) taken by corresponding management or user traffic.

In the context of MPLS-TP requirements, requirement 14 (see [Section 2](#) above) can be met using out-of-band in-fiber or aligned topology types of control. Requirement 15 can only be met by using out-of-band, independent topology. G-ACh is likely to be used extensively in MPLS-TP networks to support the MPLS-TP control (and management) planes.



#### **4.1.2. Addressing**

MPLS-TP reuses and supports the addressing mechanisms supported by MPLS. The MPLS-TP identifiers document (see [RFC6370]) provides additional context on how IP addresses are used within MPLS-TP. MPLS, and consequently MPLS-TP, uses the IPv4 and IPv6 address families to identify MPLS-TP nodes by default for network management and signaling purposes. The address spaces and neighbor adjacencies in the control, management, and data planes used in an MPLS-TP network may be completely separated or combined at the discretion of an MPLS-TP operator and based on the equipment capabilities of a vendor. The separation of the control and management planes from the data plane allows each plane to be independently addressable. Each plane may use addresses that are not mutually reachable, e.g., it is likely that the data plane will not be able to reach an address from the management or control planes and vice versa. Each plane may also use a different address family. It is even possible to reuse addresses in each plane, but this is not recommended as it may lead to operational confusion. As previously mentioned, the G-ACH mechanism defined in [RFC5586] is expected to be used extensively in MPLS-TP networks to support the MPLS-TP control (and management) planes.

#### **4.1.3. Routing**

Routing support for MPLS-TP LSPs is based on GMPLS routing. GMPLS routing builds on TE routing and has been extended to support multiple switching technologies per [RFC3945] and [RFC4202] as well as multiple levels of packet switching within a single network. IS-IS extensions for GMPLS are defined in [RFC5307] and [RFC5316], which build on the TE extensions to IS-IS defined in [RFC5305]. OSPF extensions for GMPLS are defined in [RFC4203] and [RFC5392], which build on the TE extensions to OSPF defined in [RFC3630]. The listed RFCs should be viewed as a starting point rather than a comprehensive list as there are other IS-IS and OSPF extensions, as defined in IETF RFCs, that can be used within an MPLS-TP network.

#### **4.1.4. TE LSPs and Constraint-Based Path Computation**

Both MPLS and GMPLS allow for traffic engineering and constraint-based path computation. MPLS path computation provides paths for MPLS-TE unidirectional P2P and P2MP LSPs. GMPLS path computation adds bidirectional LSPs, explicit recovery path computation, as well as support for the other functions discussed in this section.

Both MPLS and GMPLS path computation allow for the restriction of path selection based on the use of Explicit Route Objects (EROs) and other LSP attributes; see [RFC3209] and [RFC3473]. In all cases, no





specific algorithm is standardized by the IETF. This is anticipated to continue to be the case for MPLS-TP LSPs.

#### **4.1.4.1. Relation to PCE**

Path Computation Element (PCE)-based approaches, see [RFC4655], may be used for path computation of a GMPLS LSP, and consequently an MPLS-TP LSP, across domains and in a single domain. In cases where PCE is used, the PCE Communication Protocol (PCEP), see [RFC5440], will be used to communicate PCE-related requests and responses. MPLS-TP-specific extensions to PCEP are currently out of scope of the MPLS-TP project and this document.

#### **4.1.5. Signaling**

GMPLS signaling is defined in [RFC3471] and [RFC3473] and is based on RSVP-TE [RFC3209]. Constraint-based Routed LDP (CR-LDP) GMPLS (see [RFC3472]) is no longer under active development within the IETF, i.e., it is deprecated (see [RFC3468]) and must not be used for MPLS nor MPLS-TP consequently. In general, all RSVP-TE extensions that apply to MPLS may also be used for GMPLS and consequently MPLS-TP. Most notably, this includes support for P2MP signaling as defined in [RFC4875].

GMPLS signaling includes a number of MPLS-TP required functions -- notably, support for out-of-band control, bidirectional LSPs, and independent control- and data-plane fault management. There are also numerous other GMPLS and MPLS extensions that can be used to provide specific functions in MPLS-TP networks. Specific references are provided below.

#### **4.1.6. Unnumbered Links**

Support for unnumbered links (i.e., links that do not have IP addresses) is permitted in MPLS-TP and its usage is at the discretion of the network operator. Support for unnumbered links is included for routing using OSPF [RFC4203] and IS-IS [RFC5307], and for signaling in [RFC3477].

#### **4.1.7. Link Bundling**

Link bundling provides a local construct that can be used to improve scaling of TE routing when multiple data links are shared between node pairs. Link bundling for MPLS and GMPLS networks is defined in [RFC4201]. Link bundling may be used in MPLS-TP networks, and its use is at the discretion of the network operator.



#### **4.1.8. Hierarchical LSPs**

This section reuses text from [\[RFC6107\]](#).

[\[RFC3031\]](#) describes how MPLS labels may be stacked so that LSPs may be nested with one LSP running through another. This concept of hierarchical LSPs (H-LSPs) is formalized in [\[RFC4206\]](#) with a set of protocol mechanisms for the establishment of a hierarchical LSP that can carry one or more other LSPs.

[\[RFC4206\]](#) goes on to explain that a hierarchical LSP may carry other LSPs only according to their switching types. This is a function of the way labels are carried. In a packet switch capable network, the hierarchical LSP can carry other packet switch capable LSPs using the MPLS label stack.

Signaling mechanisms defined in [\[RFC4206\]](#) allow a hierarchical LSP to be treated as a single hop in the path of another LSP. This mechanism is also sometimes known as "non-adjacent signaling", see [\[RFC4208\]](#).

A Forwarding Adjacency (FA) is defined in [\[RFC4206\]](#) as a data link created from an LSP and advertised in the same instance of the control plane that advertises the TE links from which the LSP is constructed. The LSP itself is called an FA-LSP. FA-LSPs are analogous to MPLS-TP Sections as discussed in [\[RFC5960\]](#).

Thus, a hierarchical LSP may form an FA such that it is advertised as a TE link in the same instance of the routing protocol as was used to advertise the TE links that the LSP traverses.

As observed in [\[RFC4206\]](#), the nodes at the ends of an FA would not usually have a routing adjacency.

LSP hierarchy is expected to play an important role in MPLS-TP networks, particularly in the context of scaling and recovery as well as supporting SPMEs.

#### **4.1.9. LSP Recovery**

GMPLS defines RSVP-TE extensions in support for end-to-end GMPLS LSPs recovery in [\[RFC4872\]](#) and segment recovery in [\[RFC4873\]](#). GMPLS segment recovery provides a superset of the function in end-to-end recovery. End-to-end recovery can be viewed as a special case of segment recovery where there is a single recovery domain whose borders coincide with the ingress and egress of the LSP, although specific procedures are defined.



The five defined types of recovery defined in GMPLS are:

- 1+1 bidirectional protection for P2P LSPs
- 1+1 unidirectional protection for P2MP LSPs
- 1:n (including 1:1) protection with or without extra traffic
- Rerouting without extra traffic (sometimes known as soft rerouting), including shared mesh restoration
- Full LSP rerouting

Recovery for MPLS-TP LSPs, as discussed in [RFC6372], is signaled using the mechanism defined in [RFC4872] and [RFC4873]. Note that when MEPs are required for the OAM CC function and the MEPs exist at LSP transit nodes, each MEP is instantiated at a hierarchical LSP end point, and protection is provided end-to-end for the hierarchical LSP. (Protection can be signaled using either [RFC4872] or [RFC4873] defined procedures.) The use of Notify messages to trigger protection switching and recovery is not required in MPLS-TP, as this function is expected to be supported via OAM. However, its use is not precluded.

#### **4.1.10. Control-Plane Reference Points (E-NNI, I-NNI, UNI)**

The majority of RFCs about the GMPLS control plane define the control plane from the context of an internal Network-to-Network Interface (I-NNI). In the MPLS-TP context, some operators may choose to deploy signaled interfaces across User-to-Network Interfaces (UNIs) and across inter-provider, external Network-to-Network Interfaces (E-NNIs). Such support is embodied in [RFC4208] for UNIs and in [RFC5787] for routing areas in support of E-NNIs. This work may require extensions in order to meet the specific needs of an MPLS-TP UNI and E-NNI.

#### **4.2. OAM, MEP (Hierarchy), MIP Configuration and Control**

MPLS-TP is defined to support a comprehensive set of MPLS-TP OAM functions. The MPLS-TP control plane will not itself provide OAM functions, but it will be used to instantiate and otherwise control MPLS-TP OAM functions.

Specific OAM requirements for MPLS-TP are documented in [RFC5860]. This document also states that it is required that the control plane be able to configure and control OAM entities. This requirement is not yet addressed by the existing RFCs, but such work is now under way, e.g., [CCAMP-OAM-FWK] and [CCAMP-OAM-EXT].

Many OAM functions occur on a per-LSP basis, are typically in-band, and are initiated immediately after LSP establishment. Hence, it is desirable that such functions be established and activated via the



same control-plane signaling used to set up the LSP, as this effectively synchronizes OAM with the LSP lifetime and avoids the extra overhead and potential errors associated with separate OAM configuration mechanisms.

#### **4.2.1. Management-Plane Support**

There is no MPLS-TP requirement for a standardized management interface to the MPLS-TP control plane. That said, MPLS and GMPLS support a number of standardized management functions. These include the MPLS-TE/GMPLS TE Database Management Information Base [[TE-MIB](#)]; the MPLS-TE MIB [[RFC3812](#)]; the MPLS LSR MIB [[RFC3813](#)]; the GMPLS TE MIB [[RFC4802](#)]; and the GMPLS LSR MIB [[RFC4803](#)]. These MIB modules may be used in MPLS-TP networks. A general overview of MPLS-TP related MIB modules can be found in [[TP-MIB](#)]. Network management requirements for MPLS-based transport networks are provided in [[RFC5951](#)].

##### **4.2.1.1. Recovery Triggers**

The GMPLS control plane allows for management-plane recovery triggers and directly supports control-plane recovery triggers. Support for control-plane recovery triggers is defined in [[RFC4872](#)], which refers to the triggers as "Recovery Commands". These commands can be used with both end-to-end and segment recovery, but are always controlled on an end-to-end basis. The recovery triggers/commands defined in [[RFC4872](#)] are:

- a. Lockout of recovery LSP
- b. Lockout of normal traffic
- c. Forced switch for normal traffic
- d. Requested switch for normal traffic
- e. Requested switch for recovery LSP

Note that control-plane triggers are typically invoked in response to a management-plane request at the ingress.

##### **4.2.1.2. Management-Plane / Control-Plane Ownership Transfer**

In networks where both the control plane and management plane are provided, LSP provisioning can be done either by the control plane or management plane. As mentioned in the requirements section above, it must be possible to transfer, or handover, a management-plane-created LSP to the control-plane domain and vice versa. [[RFC5493](#)] defines





the specific requirements for an LSP ownership handover procedure. It must be possible for the control plane to provide the management plane, in a reliable manner, with the status or result of an operation performed by the management plane. This notification may be either synchronous or asynchronous with respect to the operation. Moreover, it must be possible for the management plane to monitor the status of the control plane, for example, the status of a TE link, its available resources, etc. This monitoring may be based on queries initiated by the management plane or on notifications generated by the control plane. A mechanism must be made available by the control plane to the management plane to log operation of a control-plane LSP; that is, it must be possible from the NMS to have a clear view of the life (traffic hit, action performed, signaling, etc.) of a given LSP. The LSP handover procedure for MPLS-TP LSPs is supported via [RFC5852].

#### 4.3. GMPLS and MPLS-TP Requirements Table

The following table shows how the MPLS-TP control-plane requirements can be met using the existing GMPLS control plane (which builds on the MPLS control plane). Areas where additional specifications are required are also identified. The table lists references based on the control-plane requirements as identified and numbered above in [Section 2](#).

=====+		
Req #	References	
+-----+		
1	Generic requirement met by using Standards Track RFCs	
2	[RFC3945], [RFC4202], [RFC3473], [RFC4203], [RFC5307]	
3	[RFC5145] + Formal Definition (See <a href="#">Section 4.4.1</a> )	
4	Generic requirement met by using Standards Track RFCs	
5	[RFC3945], [RFC4202], [RFC3473], [RFC4203], [RFC5307]	
6	[RFC3471], [RFC3473], [RFC4875]	
7	[RFC3471], [RFC3473] +	
	Associated bidirectional LSPs (See <a href="#">Section 4.4.2</a> )	
8	[RFC4875]	
9	[RFC3473]	
10	Associated bidirectional LSPs (See <a href="#">Section 4.4.2</a> )	
11	Associated bidirectional LSPs (See <a href="#">Section 4.4.2</a> )	
12	[RFC3473]	
13	[RFC5467] (Currently Experimental; See <a href="#">Section 4.4.3</a> )	
14	[RFC3945], [RFC3473], [RFC4202], [RFC4203], [RFC5307]	
15	[RFC3945], [RFC3473], [RFC4202], [RFC4203], [RFC5307]	
16	[RFC3945], [RFC4202], [RFC3473], [RFC4203], [RFC5307]	
17	[RFC3945], [RFC4202] + proper vendor implementation	
18	[RFC3945], [RFC4202] + proper vendor implementation	
19	[RFC3945], [RFC4202]	



20 | [[RFC3473](#)]  
 21 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)],  
 | [[RFC5151](#)]  
 22 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)],  
 | [[RFC5151](#)]  
 23 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)]  
 24 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)]  
 25 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)],  
 | [[RFC6107](#)]  
 26 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4875](#)]  
 27 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4875](#)]  
 28 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC3471](#)], [[RFC4202](#)]  
 29 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)]  
 30 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC3471](#)], [[RFC4202](#)]  
 31 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC3471](#)], [[RFC4202](#)]  
 32 | [[RFC4208](#)], [[RFC4974](#)], [[RFC5787](#)], [[RFC6001](#)]  
 33 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4875](#)]  
 34 | [[RFC4875](#)]  
 35 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)]  
 36 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC3209](#)] (Make-before-break)  
 37 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC3209](#)] (Make-before-break)  
 38 | [[RFC4139](#)], [[RFC4258](#)], [[RFC5787](#)]  
 39 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)]  
 40 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC5063](#)]  
 41 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC3471](#)], [[RFC4202](#)], [[RFC4208](#)]  
 42 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC3471](#)], [[RFC4202](#)]  
 43 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)], [[CCAMP-OAM-FWK](#)], [[CCAMP-OAM-EXT](#)]  
 44 | [[RFC6107](#)], [[CCAMP-OAM-FWK](#)], [[CCAMP-OAM-EXT](#)]  
 45 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4203](#)], [[RFC5307](#)], [[RFC5063](#)]  
 46 | [[RFC5493](#)]  
 47 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)]  
 48 | [[RFC3945](#)], [[RFC3471](#)], [[RFC4202](#)]  
 49 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)] + Recovery for P2MP (see Sec. 4.4.4)  
 50 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)]  
 51 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)] + proper vendor implementation  
 52 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)], [[GMPLS-PS](#)]  
 53 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)]  
 54 | [[RFC3473](#)], [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)], [[GMPLS-PS](#)]  
 | Timers are a local implementation matter  
 55 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)], [[GMPLS-PS](#)] +  
 | implementation of timers  
 56 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)], [[GMPLS-PS](#)]  
 57 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)]  
 58 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)]  
 59 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)]  
 60 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)], [[RFC6107](#)]  
 61 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)]  
 62 | [[RFC4872](#)], [[RFC4873](#)] + Recovery for P2MP (see Sec. 4.4.4)



63	[RFC4872], [RFC4873]
64	[RFC4872], [RFC4873]
65	[RFC4872], [RFC4873]
66	[RFC4872], [RFC4873], [RFC6107]
67	[RFC4872], [RFC4873]
68	[RFC3473], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
69	[RFC3473]
70	[RFC3473], [RFC4872], [GMPLS-PS]
71	[RFC3473], [RFC4872]
72	[RFC4872], [RFC4873], [CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT]
73	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
74	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
75	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
76	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
77	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
78	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873] + vendor implementation
79	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
80	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]
81	[RFC4872], [RFC4873] + Testing control (See Sec. 4.4.5)
82	[RFC4872], [RFC4873] + Testing control (See Sec. 4.4.5)
83	[RFC4872], [RFC4873] + Testing control (See Sec. 4.4.5)
84	[RFC4872], [RFC4873] + Testing control (See Sec. 4.4.5)
85	[RFC4872], [RFC4873], [CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT]
86	[RFC4872], [RFC4873]
87	[RFC4872], [RFC4873]
88	[RFC4872], [RFC4873], [TP-RING]
89	[RFC4872], [RFC4873], [TP-RING]
90	[RFC3270], [RFC3473], [RFC4124] + GMPLS Usage (See 4.4.6)
91	[RFC3945], [RFC4202], [RFC3473], [RFC4203], [RFC5307]
92	[RFC3945], [RFC3473], [RFC2210], [RFC2211], [RFC2212]
93	Generic requirement on data plane (correct implementation)
94	[RFC3473], [NO-PHP]
95	[RFC3270], [RFC3473], [RFC4124] + GMPLS Usage (See 4.4.6)
96	PW only requirement; see PW Requirements Table (5.2)
97	PW only requirement; see PW Requirements Table (5.2)
98	[RFC3945], [RFC3473], [RFC6107]
99	[RFC3945], [RFC4202], [RFC3473], [RFC4203], [RFC5307] + [RFC5392] and [RFC5316]
100	PW only requirement; see PW Requirements Table (5.2)
101	[RFC3473], [RFC4203], [RFC5307], [RFC5063]
102	[RFC4872], [RFC4873], [TP-RING]
103	[RFC3945], [RFC3473], [RFC6107]
104	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT]
105	[RFC3473], [CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT]
106	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT]
107	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] + (See Sec. 4.4.5)
108	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT]
109	[RFC3473], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]



110	[RFC3473], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]	
111	[RFC3473], [RFC4783]	
112	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT]	
113	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] + (See Sec. 4.4.5)	
114	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] + (See Sec. 4.4.5)	
115	[RFC3473]	
116	[RFC4426], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]	
117	[RFC3473], [RFC4872], [RFC4873]	
118	[RFC3473], [RFC4783]	
119	[RFC3473]	
120	[RFC3473], [RFC4783]	
121	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] + (See Sec. 4.4.5)	
122	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] + (See Sec. 4.4.5)	
123	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT], [RFC6107]	
124 -		
135	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] + (See Sec. 4.4.5)	
136a	[RFC3473]	
136b	[RFC3473] + (See Sec. 4.4.7)	
137a	[RFC3473]	
137b	[RFC3473] + (See Sec. 4.4.7)	
138	PW only requirement; see PW Requirements Table (5.2)	
139 -		
143	[CCAMP-OAM-FWK], [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] + (See Sec. 4.4.8)	
+=====+		

Table 1: GMPLS and MPLS-TP Requirements Table

#### 4.4. Anticipated MPLS-TP-Related Extensions and Definitions

This section identifies the extensions and other documents that have been identified as likely to be needed to support the full set of MPLS-TP control-plane requirements.

##### 4.4.1. MPLS-TE to MPLS-TP LSP Control-Plane Interworking

While no interworking function is expected in the data plane to support the interconnection of MPLS-TE and MPLS-TP networking, this is not the case for the control plane. MPLS-TE networks typically use LSP signaling based on [RFC3209], while MPLS-TP LSPs will be signaled using GMPLS RSVP-TE, i.e., [RFC3473]. [RFC5145] identifies a set of solutions that are aimed to aid in the interworking of MPLS-TE and GMPLS control planes. [RFC5145] work will serve as the foundation for a formal definition of MPLS to MPLS-TP control-plane interworking.





#### **4.4.2. Associated Bidirectional LSPs**

GMPLS signaling, [RFC3473], supports unidirectional and co-routed, bidirectional point-to-point LSPs. MPLS-TP also requires support for associated bidirectional point-to-point LSPs. Such support will require an extension or a formal definition of how the LSP end points supporting an associated bidirectional service will coordinate the two LSPs used to provide such a service. Per requirement 11, transit nodes that support an associated bidirectional service should be aware of the association of the LSPs used to support the service when both LSPs are supported on that transit node. There are several existing protocol mechanisms on which to base such support, including, but not limited to:

- o GMPLS calls [RFC4974].
- o The ASSOCIATION object [RFC4872].
- o The LSP\_TUNNEL\_INTERFACE\_ID object [RFC6107].

#### **4.4.3. Asymmetric Bandwidth LSPs**

[RFC5467] defines support for bidirectional LSPs that have different (asymmetric) bandwidth requirements for each direction. That RFC can be used to meet the related MPLS-TP technical requirement, but it is currently an Experimental RFC. To fully satisfy the MPLS-TP requirement, RFC 5467 will need to become a Standards Track RFC.

#### **4.4.4. Recovery for P2MP LSPs**

The definitions of P2MP, [RFC4875], and GMPLS recovery, [RFC4872] and [RFC4873], do not explicitly cover their interactions. MPLS-TP requires a formal definition of recovery techniques for P2MP LSPs. Such a formal definition will be based on existing RFCs and may not require any new protocol mechanisms but, nonetheless, must be documented.

#### **4.4.5. Test Traffic Control and Other OAM Functions**

[CCAMP-OAM-FWK] and [CCAMP-OAM-EXT] are examples of OAM-related control extensions to GMPLS. These extensions cover a portion of, but not all, OAM-related control functions that have been identified in the context of MPLS-TP. As discussed above, the MPLS-TP control plane must support the selection of which OAM function(s) (if any) to use (including support to select experimental OAM functions) and what OAM functionality to run, including Continuity Check (CC),



Connectivity Verification (CV), packet loss, delay quantification, and diagnostic testing of a service. Such support may be included in the listed documents or in other documents.

#### **4.4.6. Diffserv Object Usage in GMPLS**

[RFC3270] and [RFC4124] define support for Diffserv-enabled MPLS LSPs. While [RFC4124] references GMPLS signaling, there is no explicit discussion on the use of the Diffserv-related objects in GMPLS signaling. A (possibly Informational) document on how GMPLS supports Diffserv LSPs is likely to prove useful in the context of MPLS-TP.

#### **4.4.7. Support for MPLS-TP LSP Identifiers**

MPLS-TP uses two forms of LSP identifiers, see [RFC6370]. One form is based on existing GMPLS fields. The other form is based on either the globally unique Attachment Interface Identifier (AII) defined in [RFC5003] or the ITU Carrier Code (ICC) defined in ITU-T Recommendation M.1400. Neither form is currently supported in GMPLS, and such extensions will need to be documented.

#### **4.4.8. Support for MPLS-TP Maintenance Identifiers**

MPLS-TP defines several forms of maintenance-entity-related identifiers. Both node-unique and global forms are defined. Extensions will be required to GMPLS to support these identifiers. These extensions may be added to existing works in progress, such as [CCAMP-OAM-FWK] and [CCAMP-OAM-EXT], or may be defined in independent documents.

### **5. Pseudowires**

#### **5.1. LDP Functions and Pseudowires**

MPLS PWs are defined in [RFC3985] and [RFC5659], and provide for emulated services over an MPLS Packet Switched Network (PSN). Several types of PWs have been defined: (1) Ethernet PWs providing for Ethernet port or Ethernet VLAN transport over MPLS [RFC4448], (2) High-Level Data Link Control (HDLC) / PPP PW providing for HDLC/PPP leased line transport over MPLS [RFC4618], (3) ATM PWs [RFC4816], (4) Frame Relay PWs [RFC4619], and (5) circuit Emulation PWs [RFC4553].

Today's transport networks based on Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy (PDH), WDM, or SONET/SDH provide transport for PDH or SONET (e.g., ATM over SONET or Packet PPP over SONET) client signals with no payload awareness. Implementing PW capability allows for the use of an existing technology to substitute the Time-Division Multiplexing



(TDM) transport with packet-based transport, using well-defined PW encapsulation methods for carrying various packet services over MPLS, and providing for potentially better bandwidth utilization.

There are two general classes of PWs: (1) Single-Segment Pseudowires (SS-PWs) [[RFC3985](#)] and (2) Multi-segment Pseudowires (MS-PWs) [[RFC5659](#)]. An MPLS-TP network domain may transparently transport a PW whose end points are within a client network. Alternatively, an MPLS-TP edge node may be the Terminating PE (T-PE) for a PW, performing adaptation from the native attachment circuit technology (e.g., Ethernet 802.1Q) to an MPLS PW that is then transported in an LSP over an MPLS-TP network. In this way, the PW is analogous to a transport channel in a TDM network, and the LSP is equivalent to a container of multiple non-concatenated channels, albeit they are packet containers. An MPLS-TP network may also contain Switching PEs (S-PEs) for a Multi-Segment PW whereby the T-PEs may be at the edge of an MPLS-TP network or in a client network. In the latter case, a T-PE in a client network performs the adaptation of the native service to MPLS and the MPLS-TP network performs pseudowire switching.

The SS-PW signaling control plane is based on targeted LDP (T-LDP) with specific procedures defined in [[RFC4447](#)]. The MS-PW signaling control plane is also based on T-LDP as allowed for in [[RFC5659](#)], [[RFC6073](#)], and [[MS-PW-DYNAMIC](#)]. An MPLS-TP network shall use the same PW signaling protocols and procedures for placing SS-PWs and MS-PWs. This will leverage existing technology as well as facilitate interoperability with client networks with native attachment circuits or PW segments that are switched across an MPLS-TP network.

#### **5.1.1. Management-Plane Support**

There is no MPLS-TP requirement for a standardized management interface to the MPLS-TP control plane. A general overview of MPLS-TP-related MIB modules can be found in [[TP-MIB](#)]. Network management requirements for MPLS-based transport networks are provided in [[RFC5951](#)].

#### **5.2. PW Control (LDP) and MPLS-TP Requirements Table**

The following table shows how the MPLS-TP control-plane requirements can be met using the existing LDP control plane for pseudowires (targeted LDP). Areas where additional specifications are required are also identified. The table lists references based on the control-plane requirements as identified and numbered above in [Section 2](#).



In the table below, several of the requirements shown are addressed -- in part or in full -- by the use of MPLS-TP LSPs to carry pseudowires. This is reflected by including "TP-LSPs" as a reference for those requirements. [Section 5.3.2](#) provides additional context for the binding of PWs to TP-LSPs.



+=====+	
Req #	References
+-----+	
1	Generic requirement met by using Standards Track RFCs
2	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], Together with TP-LSPs (Sec. 4.3)
3	[RFC3985], [RFC4447]
4	Generic requirement met by using Standards Track RFCs
5	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], Together with TP-LSPs
6	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], [PW-P2MPR], [PW-P2MPE] + TP-LSPs
7	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], + TP-LSPs
8	[PW-P2MPR], [PW-P2MPE]
9	[RFC3985], end-node only involvement for PW
10	[RFC3985], proper vendor implementation
11	[RFC3985], end-node only involvement for PW
12-13	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], See <a href="#">Section 5.3.4</a>
14	[RFC3985], [RFC4447]
15	[RFC4447], [RFC3478], proper vendor implementation
16	[RFC3985], [RFC4447]
17-18	[RFC3985], proper vendor implementation
19-26	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], [RFC5659], implementation
27	[RFC4448], [RFC4816], [RFC4618], [RFC4619], [RFC4553] [RFC4842], [RFC5287]
28	[RFC3985]
29-31	[RFC3985], [RFC4447]
32	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], [RFC5659], See <a href="#">Section 5.3.6</a>
33	[RFC4385], [RFC4447], [RFC5586]
34	[PW-P2MPR], [PW-P2MPE]
35	[RFC4863]
36-37	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], See <a href="#">Section 5.3.4</a>
38	Provided by TP-LSPs
39	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], + TP-LSPs
40	[RFC3478]
41-42	[RFC3985], [RFC4447]
43-44	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], + TP-LSPs - See <a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
45	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], [RFC5659] + TP-LSPs
46	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], + TP-LSPs - See <a href="#">Section 5.3.3</a>
47	[PW-RED], [PW-REDB]
48-49	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], + TP-LSPs, implementation
50-52	Provided by TP-LSPs, and <a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
53-55	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], See <a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
56	[PW-RED], [PW-REDB] revertive/non-revertive behavior is a local matter for PW
57-58	[PW-RED], [PW-REDB]
59-81	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], [PW-RED], [PW-REDB], <a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
82-83	[RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
84-89	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], [PW-RED], [PW-REDB], <a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
90-95	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], + TP-LSPs, implementation
96	[RFC4447], [MS-PW-DYNAMIC]



97	[RFC4447]
98	-
99	Not Applicable to PW
100	[RFC4447]
101	[RFC3478]
102	[RFC3985], + TP-LSPs
103	Not Applicable to PW
104	[PW-OAM]
105	[PW-OAM]
106	-
108	[RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
109	[RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
	fault reporting and protection triggering is a local
	matter for PW
110	[RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
	fault reporting and protection triggering is a local
	matter for PW
111	[RFC4447]
112	[RFC4447], [RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
113	[RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
114	[RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
115	path traversed by PW is determined by LSP path; see
	GMPLS and MPLS-TP Requirements Table, <a href="#">Section 4.3</a>
116	[PW-RED], [PW-REDB], administrative control of redundant
	PW is a local matter at the PW head-end
117	[PW-RED], [PW-REDB], [RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
118	[RFC3985], [RFC4447], [PW-RED], [PW-REDB], <a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
119	[RFC4447]
120	-
125	[RFC5085], [RFC5586], [RFC5885]
126	-
130	[PW-OAM]
131	<a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
132	[PW-OAM]
133	[PW-OAM]
134	<a href="#">Section 5.3.5</a>
135	[PW-OAM]
136	Not Applicable to PW
137	Not Applicable to PW
138	[RFC4447], [RFC5003], [MS-PW-DYNAMIC]
139	-
143	[PW-OAM]

Table 2: PW Control (LDP) and MPLS-TP Requirements Table



### 5.3. Anticipated MPLS-TP-Related Extensions

Existing control protocol and procedures will be reused as much as possible to support MPLS-TP. However, when using PWs in MPLS-TP, a set of new requirements is defined that may require extensions of the existing control mechanisms. This section clarifies the areas where extensions are needed based on the requirements that are related to the PW control plane and documented in [RFC5654].

Table 2 lists how requirements defined in [RFC5654] are expected to be addressed.

The baseline requirement for extensions to support transport applications is that any new mechanisms and capabilities must be able to interoperate with existing IETF MPLS [RFC3031] and IETF PWE3 [RFC3985] control and data planes where appropriate. Hence, extensions of the PW control plane must be in-line with the procedures defined in [RFC4447], [RFC6073], and [MS-PW-DYNAMIC].

#### 5.3.1. Extensions to Support Out-of-Band PW Control

For MPLS-TP, it is required that the data and control planes can be both logically and physically separated. That is, the PW control plane must be able to operate out-of-band (OOB). This separation ensures, among other things, that in the case of control-plane failures the data plane is not affected and can continue to operate normally. This was not a design requirement for the current PW control plane. However, due to the PW concept, i.e., PWs are connecting logical entities ('forwarders'), and the operation of the PW control protocol, i.e., only edge PE nodes (T-PE, S-PE) take part in the signaling exchanges: moving T-LDP out-of-band seems to be, theoretically, a straightforward exercise.

In fact, as a strictly local matter, ensuring that targeted LDP (T-LDP) uses out-of-band signaling requires only that the local implementation is configured in such a way that reachability for a target LSR address is via the out-of-band channel.

More precisely, if IP addressing is used in the MPLS-TP control plane, then T-LDP addressing can be maintained, although all addresses will refer to control-plane entities. Both the Pwid Forwarding Equivalence Class (FEC) and Generalized Pwid FEC Elements can possibly be used in an OOB case as well. (Detailed evaluation is outside the scope of this document.) The PW label allocation and exchange mechanisms should be reused without change.



### **5.3.2. Support for Explicit Control of PW-to-LSP Binding**

Binding a PW to an LSP, or PW segments to LSPs, is left to nodes acting as T-PEs and S-PEs or a control-plane entity that may be the same one signaling the PW. However, an extension of the PW signaling protocol is required to allow the LSR at the signal initiation end to inform the targeted LSR (at the signal termination end) to which LSP the resulting PW is to be bound, in the event that more than one such LSP exists and the choice of LSPs is important to the service being setup (for example, if the service requires co-routed bidirectional paths). This is also particularly important to support transport path (symmetric and asymmetric) bandwidth requirements.

For transport services, MPLS-TP requires support for bidirectional traffic that follows congruent paths. Currently, each direction of a PW or a PW segment is bound to a unidirectional LSP that extends between two T-PEs, two S-PEs, or a T-PE and an S-PE. The unidirectional LSPs in both directions are not required to follow congruent paths, and therefore both directions of a PW may not follow congruent paths, i.e., they are associated bidirectional paths. The only requirement in [RFC5659] is that a PW or a PW segment shares the same T-PEs in both directions and the same S-PEs in both directions.

MPLS-TP imposes new requirements on the PW control plane, in requiring that both end points map the PW or PW segment to the same transport path for the case where this is an objective of the service. When a bidirectional LSP is selected on one end to transport the PW, a mechanism is needed that signals to the remote end which LSP has been selected locally to transport the PW. This would be accomplished by adding a new TLV to PW signaling.

Note that this coincides with the gap identified for OOB support: a new mechanism is needed to allow explicit binding of a PW to the supporting transport LSP.

The case of unidirectional transport paths may also require additional protocol mechanisms, as today's PWs are always bidirectional. One potential approach for providing a unidirectional PW-based transport path is for the PW to associate different (asymmetric) bandwidths in each direction, with a zero or minimal bandwidth for the return path. This approach is consistent with [Section 3.8.2 of \[RFC5921\]](#) but does not address P2MP paths.

### **5.3.3. Support for Dynamic Transfer of PW Control/Ownership**

In order to satisfy requirement 47 (as defined in [Section 2](#)), it will be necessary to specify methods for transfer of PW ownership from the management to the control plane (and vice versa).





#### 5.3.4. Interoperable Support for PW/LSP Resource Allocation

Transport applications may require resource guarantees. For such transport LSPs, resource reservation mechanisms are provided via RSVP-TE and the use of Diffserv. If multiple PWs are multiplexed into the same transport LSP resources, contention may occur. However, local policy at PEs should ensure proper resource sharing among PWs mapped into a resource-guaranteed LSP. In the case of MS-PWs, signaling carries the PW traffic parameters [[MS-PW-DYNAMIC](#)] to enable admission control of a PW segment over a resource-guaranteed LSP.

In conjunction with explicit PW-to-LSP binding, existing mechanisms may be sufficient; however, this needs to be verified in detailed evaluation.

#### 5.3.5. Support for PW Protection and PW OAM Configuration

Many of the requirements listed in [Section 2](#) are intended to support connectivity and performance monitoring (grouped together as OAM), as well as protection conformant with the transport services model.

In general, protection of MPLS-TP transported services is provided by way of protection of transport LSPs. PW protection requires that mechanisms be defined to support redundant pseudowires, including a mechanism already described above for associating such pseudowires with specific protected ("working" and "protection") LSPs. Also required are definitions of local protection control functions, to include test/verification operations, and protection status signals needed to ensure that PW termination points are in agreement as to which of a set of redundant pseudowires are in use for which transport services at any given point in time.

Much of this work is currently being done in documents [[PW-RED](#)] and [[PW-REDB](#)] that define, respectively, how to establish redundant pseudowires and how to indicate which is in use. Additional work may be required.

Protection switching may be triggered manually by the operator, or as a result of loss of connectivity (detected using the mechanisms of [[RFC5085](#)] and [[RFC5586](#)]), or service degradation (detected using mechanisms yet to be defined).

Automated protection switching is just one of the functions for which a transport service requires OAM. OAM is generally referred to as either "proactive" or "on-demand", where the distinction is whether a specific OAM tool is being used continuously over time (for the purpose of detecting a need for protection switching, for example) or



is only used -- either a limited number of times or over a short period of time -- when explicitly enabled (for diagnostics, for example).

PW OAM currently consists of connectivity verification defined by [RFC5085]. Work is currently in progress to extend PW OAM to include bidirectional forwarding detection (BFD) in [RFC5885], and work has begun on extending BFD to include performance-related monitor functions.

#### **5.3.6. Client-Layer and Cross-Provider Interfaces to PW Control**

Additional work is likely to be required to define consistent access by a client-layer network, as well as between provider networks, to control information available to each type of network, for example, about the topology of an MS-PW. This information may be required by the client-layer network in order to provide hints that may help to avoid establishment of fate-sharing alternate paths. Such work will need to fit within the ASON architecture; see requirement 38 above.

#### **5.4. ASON Architecture Considerations**

MPLS-TP PWs are always transported using LSPs, and these LSPs will either have been statically provisioned or signaled using GMPLS.

For LSPs signaled using the MPLS-TP LSP control plane (GMPLS), conformance with the ASON architecture is as described in [Section 1.2](#) ("Basic Approach"), bullet 4, of this framework document.

As discussed above in [Section 5.3](#), there are anticipated extensions in the following areas that may be related to ASON architecture:

- PW-to-LSP binding ([Section 5.3.2](#))
- PW/LSP resource allocation ([Section 5.3.4](#))
- PW protection and OAM configuration ([Section 5.3.5](#))
- Client-layer interfaces for PW control ([Section 5.3.6](#))

This work is expected to be consistent with ASON architecture and may require additional specification in order to achieve this goal.

### **6. Security Considerations**

This document primarily describes how existing mechanisms can be used to meet the MPLS-TP control-plane requirements. The documents that describe each mechanism contain their own security considerations sections. For a general discussion on MPLS- and GMPLS-related



security issues, see the MPLS/GMPLS security framework [[RFC5920](#)]. As mentioned above in [Section 2.4](#), there are no specific MPLS-TP control-plane security requirements.

This document also identifies a number of needed control-plane extensions. It is expected that the documents that define such extensions will also include any appropriate security considerations.

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## 9. Contributing Authors

Attila Takacs  
Ericsson  
1. Laborc u.  
Budapest 1037  
HUNGARY  
EMail: attila.takacs@ericsson.com

Martin Vigoureux  
Alcatel-Lucent  
EMail: martin.vigoureux@alcatel-lucent.fr



Elisa Bellagamba  
Ericsson  
Farogatan, 6  
164 40, Kista, Stockholm  
SWEDEN  
EMail: elisa.bellagamba@ericsson.com

#### Authors' Addresses

Loa Andersson (editor)  
Ericsson  
Phone: +46 10 717 52 13  
EMail: loa.andersson@ericsson.com

Lou Berger (editor)  
LabN Consulting, L.L.C.  
Phone: +1-301-468-9228  
EMail: lberger@labn.net

Luyuan Fang (editor)  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
111 Wood Avenue South  
Iselin, NJ 08830  
USA  
EMail: lufang@cisco.com

Nabil Bitar (editor)  
Verizon  
60 Sylvan Road  
Waltham, MA 02451  
USA  
EMail: nabil.n.bitar@verizon.com

Eric Gray (editor)  
Ericsson  
900 Chelmsford Street  
Lowell, MA 01851  
USA  
Phone: +1 978 275 7470  
EMail: Eric.Gray@Ericsson.com

