

PALS Report IETF 110

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PALS+ Meeting

- Friday 1200 UTC PALS are meeting jointly with DETNET, MPLS, and SPRING to discuss a number of recent proposed changes to the MPLS architecture.
- There are a cluster of proposed MPLS changes
 - A number of proposals to add metadata after the stack
 - A proposal to add metadata in the stack
 - A number of proposal to create new Extended Special Purpose Labels (eSPL) (SPLs used to be called Reserved Labels)
 - A proposal to repurpose some (e)SPLS bits

Why PALS

- PALS was the first WG to deploy metadata below Bottom of Stack. (Pseudowire Control Word)
- DetNet copied this approach (DetNet Control Word)
- New proposals would require more than one set of metadata below the Bottom of Stack.
- PALS needs to make sure that the addition of other metadata does break or change its protocols, OR, if it does, we know:
 - How the behaviour changes
 - What the consequences, costs and mitigations are.

The Architectural View

- None of the proposed changes are large or significant in themselves
- However, in combination:
 - Results in complexity
 - Change the MPLS forwarding model
 - May fundamentally limit MPLS development
- So plan is to get the interested parties together on Friday to:
 - Understand the needs that underpin the proposals
 - Understand the proposals
 - Develop a way forward that deliberately changes the MPLS architecture to a model that meets our needs, rather than discover that we have boxed ourselves into a corner as a result of a set of uncoordinated changes.