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 proposals 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.