Benchmarking Methodology for MPLS Segment Routing

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Recap of Draft’s Target

• There is no standard method to compare the foundational SR packet forwarding capabilities of network devices.
• Segment Routing [RFC8402], leverages the source routing paradigm.
  – The headend node steers a packet through an SR Policy [I-D.ietf-spring-segment-routing-policy], instantiated as an ordered list of segments.
  – A segment is referred to by its Segment Identifier (SID).
  – SR supports per-flow explicit routing while maintaining per-flow state only at the ingress nodes to the SR domain.
• This document aims to extend the efforts of [RFC1242], [RFC2544] and [RFC5695] to SR network.
• The SR architecture can be instantiated on two data-plane:
  – SR over MPLS (SR-MPLS), and
  – SR over IPv6 (SRv6).
• This document is limited to SR-MPLS.
SR-MPLS Forwarding Benchmarking Tests

• An SR Policy is instantiated through the MPLS Label Stack: the Segment IDs (SIDs) of a Segment List are inserted as MPLS Labels.
• The forwarding functions available for MPLS networks allow implementing the SR operations. SR-MPLS applies three operations on the forwarding plane:
  – PUSH [Label Push]. One or more MPLS labels are pushed on top of an incoming packet, before the packet is sent out of a physical/virtual interface.
  – NEXT [Label Pop]. The topmost label is removed. The next action depends on the instruction associated with the active SID. It equals to Penultimate Hop Popping (PHP).
  – CONTINUE [Label Swap]. It associates an incoming label with an outgoing interface and outgoing label. The packet is forwarded to the outgoing interface. It is equivalent to Ultimate Hop Popping (UHP).
• The benchmark procedure can be similar to RFC5695 with some extensions:
  – Test SID list longer than 1 SID (2 are recommended, many are optional).
  – Different Reporting Format.
  – At least one protocol for the SID population is recommended (ISIS or OSPF or SR Policy).
• The tests (throughput, buffer size, latency, etc.) are repeated for every operation.
Draft’s History

• Version -00 submitted on March 2022
• Version -01 presented at IETF 113 – Initial test methodology discussed
• Version -02 presented at IETF 114 – Incorporated comments from the chairs and the list:
  – Revised Test Setup and Methodology
  – Added new sections on Protocol Addresses, Trial Duration and Traffic Verification
  – Included additional consideration on the relationship with RFC5695 and RFC2544
  – Traffic Engineering and Services (VPNs) have been put out of the scope
  – References to RFC9004 and ETSI GR NFV TST 007.
• Versions -03 and -04 submitted in October 2022, -04 presented at IETF 115 – Included further comments from Gabor and Boris:
  – Buffer’s size test
  – Reference to RFC 4814 for L2 links with staffing and address randomization for equalization of link’s load balancing
  – Reference to RFC 8219 on how to improve latency measurement, and others.
• Version -05 submitted on February 2023 – Included comments from Bruno. Bruno also joined as coauthor.
  – Longer list of SID as an optional test
  – Editorial changes.
• Version -06 uploaded on March to address few comments from Gabor and to align with SRv6 draft.
Next Steps

• The document looks stable.

We are asking for BMWG draft adoption.

• A WG adopted document would help the draft to get more attention from companies doing tests.
• 3rd party tests are also desired before it would become RFC.

Thank you