

# Multipath extension for QUIC

## Draft-ietf-quic-multipath

### Explicit Path ID Proposal

QUIC meeting @ IETF-119 Brisbane

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# Agenda

- ❖ Background: Key issue that Explicit Path ID want to solve
- ❖ How Explicit Path ID works
- ❖ Pros and Cons
- ❖ Interop reports
- ❖ Open issues

# Key issue (ietf 118)

Problem: The implicit approach (-06) is using an Identifier which doesn't have the same life time as the network path

Proposal: separate Path IDs from Connection IDs: [#214](#) (see also [#179](#))

- Introduce an explicit path ID that stays constant even if the CID on a “path” changes
- Needs new frames for CID management (NEW\_CONNECTION\_ID, RETIRE\_CONNECTION\_ID) and more per-path state

# How Explicit Path ID works (PR [#292](#))

- ❖ Explicit Path Identifier used to identify a path in the connection; idea proposed by Marten (issue [#214](#))

	Explicit Path ID (PR#292)	Draft-06
Path Management	Explicit Path Identifier to identify a path in a connection	CID Sequence Number as Path Identifier
CID Management (Control Frames)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MP_NEW_CID frame ties CID to Path ID and CID Sequence number per Path-ID</li><li>• MP_RETIRE_CONNECTION_ID frame specifies both Path ID and Sequence number</li></ul>	RFC9000 CID management
Packet Number Space	Packet Number Space is bound to Path ID and remains stable when CID rotation happens	Packet Number Space changes with CID rotation

# Pros and Cons

	Explicit Path ID (PR#292)	Draft-06
Path management	<b>Pro:</b> Link between incoming packet and path is unambiguous	<b>Con:</b> Need to treat situations when CID rotation / NAT rebinding happens
CID management	<b>Con:</b> Increases complexity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● maintain CIDs per path</li><li>● manage CID/Path-ID lifetime</li></ul>	<b>Pro:</b> Same as RFC 9000
PN state: loss recovery and congestion control	<b>Pro:</b> Loss recovery and congestion control can rely on single sequence number space for the duration of the path	<b>Con:</b> CID Renewal triggers use of a new number space which makes loss recovery potentially more complex

# Hackathon Interop reports (PR [#292](#))

<i>server</i>				
<i>client</i> ↓	<b>xquic</b>	<b>picoquic</b>	<b>Rask</b>	<b>quiche</b>
<b>xquic</b>	HVDCISUAR	HVDCUA	HVDCISUAR	HVDSA
<b>picoquic</b>	HVDCA	HVDCA	HVDCA	H
<b>Rask</b>	HVDCSUA	HVDUA	HVDCSUA	HVDSUA
<b>quiche</b>	HVDCSA			HVDCISA

- ❖ Explicit Path ID management works well
- ❖ Clear logic reduces code

Core Features Tested		
Feature	code	details
Handshake	H	The handshake completes with successful negotiation of enable_multipath transport parameter
Path Validation	V	Client sends PATH_CHALLENGE frame to open a new path and server replies with PATH_RESPONSE
Send data	D	Stream data (of one of more streams) is send on all paths; ACK_MP frames are sent and processed
Path Close	C	Client closes a path with PATH_ABANDON frame. Should include also a subsequent Retire Connection ID after an PTO.
Optional Features Tested		
Feature	code	details
CID change	I	A server offers new CIDs to a client in advance. Upon some events, the client starts using a new server CID on one path
Path status	S	Client sends PATH_AVAILABE and PATH_STANDBY frames
Key Update	U	One endpoint updates keys and sends at least one packet with the new key on all active paths
Multipath ACK	A	One endpoint sends data and the other endpoints sends ACK (randomly) on all path independent of where data is received
CID retirement	R	One endpoint send an RETIRE_CONNECTION_ID for an active path

Do we want to merge PR #292 (Explicit Path ID)?

# Open Issue that have a proposed solution

[#297](#). Path ID should not be reused.

- Path ID is generated monotonically increasing. It's limited by MAX\_PATHS.
- Once a path is abandoned. The Path ID MUST NOT be reused in any other paths.

PR: [PR #315](#)

[#317](#) Should server preferred address have its own path ID?

- Yes, use Path ID 1

[#294](#). "Path ID" needs to be clarified. Do both endpoints use the same path ID, or independently choose which path ID to use?

- Yes, use the same Path ID for both sides
- Two options to coordinate use of numbers:
  - Only allow the client to initiate paths
  - Divide path ID space between client and server -> see next slides



## Issue [#47](#): Should servers be allowed to open new paths?

If we want to support server-oriented paths with explicit Path ID:

- Need to use even / odd Path IDs to distinguish between client-initiated / server-initiated (like bidi streams)
- Transport Parameters: Initial\_max\_paths
  - Client sends Initial\_max\_paths to indicate the initial max odd Path ID which is allowed to initialize by the server side
  - Server sends Initial\_max\_paths to indicate the initial max even Path ID which is allowed to initialize by the client side
- MAX\_PATHS frames
  - Client sends MAX\_PATHS frame to inform the max odd Path ID which is allowed to initialize by the server side
  - Server sends MAX\_PATHS frame to inform the max even Path ID which is allowed to initialize by the client side
  - Need to add a type field(“client-initiated / server-initiated”) for MAX\_PATHS frames

# Open Issues: How do we retire CID of all paths?

Issue: [#295](#) / [#313](#)

How to retire a Path ID?

- Endpoint sends PATH\_ABANDON frame to request the peer to stop sending packets with the specific Path ID
- The peer SHOULD also send PATH\_ABANDON frame for that Path ID once it received the PATH\_ABANDON frame

How do we retire all CIDs of the corresponding path?

- PATH\_ABANDON also triggers the CID retirement of all the CIDs allocated for the corresponding Path ID
- Endpoints SHOULD send MP\_RETIRE\_CONN\_ID after 3 PTOs

# AEAD and Hardware offloading

## AEAD Decryption / Encryption

- The nonce of AEAD is calculated by combining the packet protection IV with the packet number and with **the least significant 32 bits of the path identifier** pre-allocated for the Destination Connection ID.

## Hardware Offloads ([Issue #25](#))

- In order to not change the hardware and still support multipath, the QUIC kernel module and/or driver must XOR in the destination connID sequence number to the IV.

- **Explicit Path ID or Sequence of DCID?**  
From a hardware perspective it doesn't matter. The nonce construction would be the same as I detailed above with the driver XOR'ing in the connid\_seq\_num or the path\_id into the IV before offloading the flow. (comments by Eric)

### Example in Multi-path Draft

```
IV: 0x6b26114b9cba2b63a9e8dd4f
Connection ID Sequence Number: 0x3
Packet Number = 0xaead
New IV passed in flow offload = (IV XOR (connid_seq_num << 64))
0x6b26114b9cba2b63a9e8dd4f (IV)
XOR 0x000000030000000000000000 (connid_seq_num << 64)
-----
0x6b2611489cba2b63a9e8dd4f
Nonce (hardware): (IV XOR pkt_num)
0x6b2611489cba2b63a9e8dd4f (offloaded IV)
XOR 0x000000000000000000000000aead (pkt_num)
-----
0x6b2611489cba2b63a9e873e2
```