Improving resilience of BGP system ./. implementation bugs

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observed bugs + problem pattern

- handling of certain attribute types/values will **blow up** on a router:
  - classified as malformed (old school: session reset)
  - crash routing process
  - generate malformed update on propagation
  - trigger can be injected several eBGP or iBGP hops away
• several major vendors have contributed such bugs in recent years (often - but not limited to optional transitive attributes)

• handling of this error class is “security problem with DoS vulnerability” - usually implies that policies about restricted disclosure are applied

• usually emergency software upgrades required - often delay for development of patch
• DoS threat is largely due to old BGP error handling rule: only way to deal with bad update is session reset - IDR is working on improved error handling

• filtering tools to stop propagation of recognized triggers is desired

• when such tools are generally available and widely deployed reasoning about restricted disclosure can change
some simple filtering primitives could help

- strip attribute (by type number) on ingress BEFORE update processing

- classify updates to be treated as malformed (and handled as withdrawal under new error handling without session reset) if specified attributes (type number) occur

- add generic “attribute type number n present” as criterium in router policy language (so we can reject routes)
logging + monitoring

• for all filtering actions adequate logging is required

• also figure out ways to monitor and query the interesting attributes
smarter people might ...

- ... have ideas how to specify more general “signatures” for dangerous BGP updates
- “generic attribute type” helps with some of the observed bugs - clearly not with all we had
- operators will have to take the responsibility for not doing harm by the filtering
- guidance on using filters will be expected like support and guidance on selecting patches and upgrades