Running MPLS on an IPv6-only Network

Wes George (operator asking for it)
Vishwas Manral
Rajiv Asati
Rajiv Papneja
Carlos Pignataro
IPv6-only Network Realization: Use case

Service Providers, Cable Companies, Mobile Operators, WiFi providers

• Thousands (or millions) of devices that need to be IP-addressable
  – Set Top boxes, macro/micro/femto/picocell devices, WiFi APs, M2M/IoT
  – Today: Massive overlap/reuse of RFC1918, squat, little public IPv4 space available
  – ASAP: Endpoints **only** get IPv6 addresses, *preserve IPv4 for customers*

• What happens when I need to extend my MPLS infrastructure/features/services to/through these IPv6-only nodes?
  – Does everything still work?
  – And don’t assume we can put IPv4 addresses on upstream PE or P routers either
MPLS IPv6 network: Use case time-line

• But isn’t IPv6-only networking a long way off?
  – Deploying IPv6-only devices **TODAY**
• MPLS/LDP on IPv6-only networks isn’t needed yet, but let’s assume it will be within ~5 years:
  – IETF protocol dev process = 2+ years
  – Vendor Implementation and test = 1-2 years
  – Carrier test and roll-out = 1-2 years
• Get IPv6-only support on MPLS ahead of when we need it
• MUST NOT require IPv4 for proper and complete function (RFC6540)
Proposal: A Gap Analysis

• Assuming a network of IPv6-only PE/P routers
• Assuming all services defined for MPLS Today
Gap Analysis: Possible impact on IPv6 only MPLS networks

Assuming a network of IPv6-only PE/P routers
• L2VPN/VPLS/MPLS-TP
• L3VPN (4PE/4VPE??)
• NG-MVPN (v4 and v6 multicast)
• Control plane, LDP, TE
• OAM
• Both classical LDP and GRE/L2TPv3 over IPv6 transport (non-MPLS core)
• Ensure that user data address family is agnostic of transport network address family
• Some ongoing efforts in IETF to address known gaps
  – Updates to LDP for IPv6: draft-ietf-mpls-ldp-ipv6-08
  – Router-Alert : draft-manral-mpls-rsvpte-ipv6
  – Definitions of Textual Conventions (TCs) for Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) Management : draft-manral-mpls-rfc3811bis-01