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Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) Directed Return Path
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Abstract

Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) is expected to monitor bi-directional paths. When a BFD session monitors in its forward direction an explicitly routed path there is a need to be able to direct egress BFD peer to use specific path as reverse direction of the BFD session.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

RFC 5880 [RFC5880], RFC 5881 [RFC5881], and RFC 5883 [RFC5883] established the BFD protocol for IP networks and RFC 5884 [RFC5884] set rules of using BFD asynchronous mode over IP/MPLS LSPs. All standards implicitly assume that the egress BFD peer will use the shortest path route regardless of route being used to send BFD control packets towards it. As result, if the ingress BFD peer sends its BFD control packets over explicit path that is diverging from the best route, then reverse direction of the BFD session is likely not to be on co-routed bi-directional path with the forward direction of the BFD session. And because BFD control packets are not guaranteed to cross the same links and nodes in both directions detection of Loss of Continuity (LoC) defect in forward direction may demonstrate positive negatives.

This document defines the extension to LSP Ping [RFC4379], BFD Reverse Path TLV, and proposes that it to be used to instruct the

egress BFD peer to use explicit path for its BFD control packets associated with the particular BFD session. The TLV will be allocated from the TLV and sub-TLV registry defined by RFC 4379 [RFC4379]. As a special case, forward and reverse directions of the BFD session can form bi-directional co-routed associated channel.

1.1. Conventions used in this document

1.1.1. Terminology

BFD: Bidirectional Forwarding Detection

MPLS: Multiprotocol Label Switching

LSP: Label Switching Path

LoC: Loss of Continuity

1.1.2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

2. Problem Statement

BFD is best suited to monitor bi-directional co-routed paths. In most cases, given stable environments, the forward and reverse direction between two nodes is likely to be co-routed, this fulfilling the implicit BFD requirements. If BFD is used to monitor unidirectional explicitly routed paths, e.g. MPLS-TE LSPs, its control packets in forward direction would be in-band using the mechanism defined in [RFC5884] and [RFC5586]. But the reverse direction of the BFD session would still follow the shortest path route and that might lead to the following problems detecting failures on the unidirectional explicit path:

- failure detection on the reverse path cannot be interpreted as bi-directional failure and thus trigger, for example, protection switchover of the forward direction;
- if reverse direction is in Down state, the head-end node would not receive indication of forward direction failure from its egress peer.

To address these challenges the egress BFD peer should be instructed to use specific path for its control packets.

3. Direct Reverse BFD Path

3.1. Case of MPLS Data Plane

LSP ping, defined in [RFC4379], uses BFD Discriminator TLV [RFC5884] to bootstrap a BFD session over an MPLS LSP. This document defines a new TLV, BFD Reverse Path TLV, that MUST contain a single sub-TLV that can be used to carry information about reverse path for the specified in BFD Discriminator TLV session.

3.1.1. BFD Reverse Path TLV

The BFD Reverse Path TLV is an optional TLV within the LSP ping protocol. However, if used, the BFD Discriminator TLV MUST be included in an Echo Request message as well. If the BFD Discriminator TLV is not present when the BFD Reverse Path TLV is included, then it MUST be treated as malformed Echo Request, as described in [RFC4379].

The BFD Reverse Path TLV carries the specified path that BFD control packets of the BFD session referenced in the BFD Discriminator TLV are required to follow. The format of the BFD Reverse Path TLV is as presented in Figure 1.

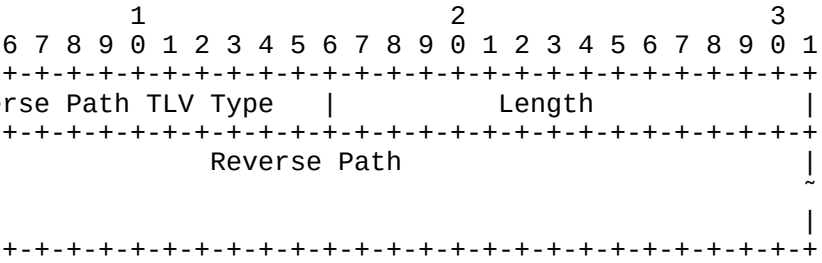

Figure 1: BFD Reverse Path TLV

BFD Reverse Path TLV Type is 2 octets in length and value to be assigned by IANA.

Length is 2 octets in length and defines the length in octets of the Reverse Path field.

Reverse Path field contains a sub-TLV. Any Target FEC sub-TLV, already or in the future defined, from IANA sub-registry Sub-TLVs for TLV Types 1, 16, and 21 of MPLS LSP Ping Parameters registry MAY be used in this field. Only one sub-TLV MUST be included in the Reverse Path TLV. If more than one sub-TLVs are present in the Reverse Path

TLV, then only the first sub-TLV MUST be used and the rest MUST be silently discarded.

If the egress LSR fails to establish the BFD session because path specified in the Reverse Path TLV is not known, the egress MAY establish the BFD session over IP network [RFC5884] and MAY send Echo Reply with the Reverse Path TLV received and the return code set to "Failed to establish the BFD session". The specified reverse path was not found" (TBD4) Section 3.4. If the egress LSR cannot find path specified in the Reverse Path TLV and does not establish BFD session per RFC 5884, it MUST send Echo Reply with the Reverse Path TLV received and the return code set to "Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found".

3.1.2. Segment Routing Tunnel sub-TLV

With MPLS data plane explicit path can be either Static or RSVP-TE LSP, or Segment Routing tunnel. In case of Static or RSVP-TE LSP [RFC7110] defined sub-TLVs to identify explicit return path. For the Segment Routing with MPLS data plane case a new sub-TLV is defined in this document as presented in Figure 2.

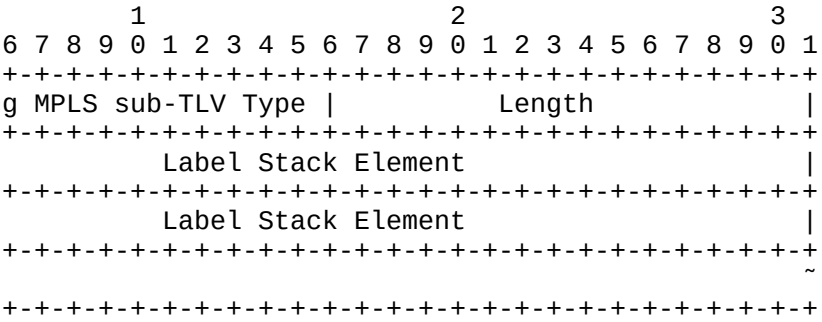

Figure 2: Segment Routing MPLS Tunnel sub-TLV

The Segment Routing Tunnel sub-TLV Type is two octets in length, and will be allocated by IANA.

The Segment Routing Tunnel sub-TLV MAY be used in Reply Path TLV defined in [RFC7110]

3.2. Case of IPv6 Data Plane

IPv6 can be data plane of choice for Segment Routed tunnels [I-D.previdi-6man-segment-routing-header]. In such networks the BFD Reverse Path TLV described in Section 3.1.1 can be used as well. IP networks, unlike IP/MPLS, do not require use of LSP ping with BFD

Discriminator TLV[RFC4379] to bootstrap BFD session. But to specify reverse path of a BFD session in IPv6 environment the BFD Discriminator TLV MUST be used along with the BFD Reverse Path TLV. The BFD Reverse Path TLV in IPv6 network MUST include sub-TLV.

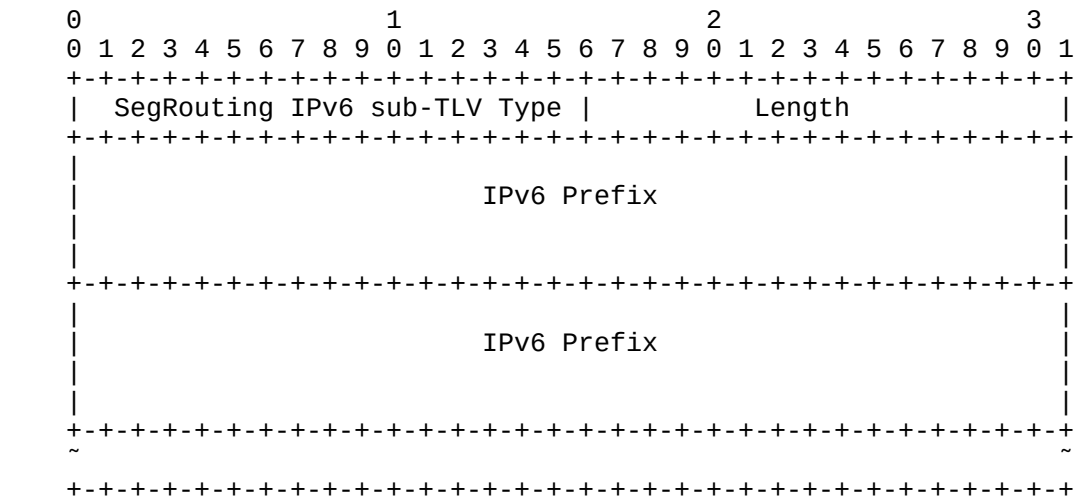

Figure 3: Segment Routing IPv6 Tunnel sub-TLV

3.3. Bootstrapping BFD session with BFD Reverse Path over Segment Routed tunnel

As discussed in [I-D.kumarkini-mpls-spring-lsp-ping] introduction of Segment Routing network domains with MPLS dataplane adds three new sub-TLVs that may be used with Target FEC TLV. Section 6.1 addresses use of new sub-TLVs in Target FEC TLV in LSP ping and LSP traceroute. For the case of LSP ping the [I-D.kumarkini-mpls-spring-lsp-ping] states that:

"Initiator MUST include FEC(s) corresponding to the destination segment.

Initiator MAY include FECs corresponding to some or all of segments imposed in the label stack by the initiator to communicate the segments traversed. "

When LSP ping is used to bootstrap BFD session this document updates this and defines that LSP Ping MUST include the FEC corresponding to the destination segment and SHOULD NOT include FECs corresponding to some or all of segment imposed by the initiator. Operationally such restriction would not cause any problem or uncertainty as LSP ping

with FECs corresponding to some or all segments or traceroute may preceed the LSP ping that bootstraps the BFD session.

3.4. Return Codes

This document defines the following Return Codes:

- Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found, (TBD4) - the specified reverse path was not found, failed to establish the BFD session. When a specified reverse path is not available at the egress LSR, an Echo Reply with the return code set to "Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found." MAY be sent back to the initiator . (Section 3.1.1)

4. Use Case Scenario

In network presented in Figure 4 node A monitors two tunnels to node H: A-B-C-D-G-H and A-B-E-F-G-H. To bootstrap BFD session to monitor the first tunnel, node A MUST include BFD Discriminator TLV with Discriminator value N and MAY include BFD Reverse Path TLV that references H-G-D-C-B-A tunnel. To bootstrap BFD session to monitor the second tunnel, node A MUST include BFD Discriminator TLV with Discriminator value M and MAY include BFD Reverse Path TLV that references H-G-F-E-B-A tunnel.

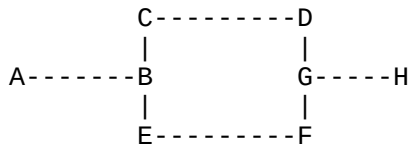

Figure 4: Use Case for BFD Reverse Path TLV

If an operator needs node H to monitor path to node A, e.g. H-G-D-C-B-A tunnel, then by looking up list of known Reverse Paths it MAY find and use existing BFD sessions.

5. IANA Considerations

5.1. TLV

The IANA is requested to assign a new value for BFD Reverse Path TLV from the "Multiprotocol Label Switching Architecture (MPLS) Label Switched Paths (LSPs) Ping Parameters - TLVs" registry, "TLVs and sub-TLVs" sub-registry.

Value	Description	Reference
X (TBD1)	BFD Reverse Path TLV	This document

Table 1: New BFD Reverse Type TLV

5.2. Sub-TLV

The IANA is requested to assign two new sub-TLV types from "Multiprotocol Label Switching Architecture (MPLS) Label Switched Paths (LSPs) Ping Parameters - TLVs" registry, "Sub-TLVs for TLV Types 1, 16, and 21" sub-registry.

Value	Description	Reference
X (TBD2)	Segment Routing MPLS Tunnel sub-TLV	This document
X (TBD3)	Segment Routing IPv6 Tunnel sub-TLV	This document

Table 2: New Segment Routing Tunnel sub-TLV

5.3. Return Codes

The IANA is requested to assign a new Return Code value from the "Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Label Switched Paths (LSPs) Ping Parameters" registry, "Return Codes" sub-registry, as follows using a Standards Action value.

Value	Description	Reference
X (TBD4)	Failed to establish the BFD session. The specified reverse path was not found.	This document

Table 3: New Return Code

6. Security Considerations

Secuirity considerations discussed in [RFC5880], [RFC5884], and [RFC4379], apply to this document.

7. Acknowledgements

8. Normative References

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