

Guidelines for YANG module authors on using the new Network Management Datastore Architecture (NMDA)

draft-usdt-nmda-guidelines &
draft-ietf-netmod-revised-datastores-03

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Problem definition:

- Operator requirement for devices to clearly differentiate between:
 - What it is being **asked to do** – i.e. the **intended configuration**
 - What it is **actually doing** – i.e. **operational state, including the applied configuration.**
- Different solutions to this problem have been evaluated by IETF.
- The agreed IETF solution defines a new “operational” datastore for operational state:
 - NETCONF/RESTCONF additions to support the operational datastore.
 - Replaces the existing ‘broken’ NETCONF GET operation.
 - This also has implications on the structure of YANG models to be optimized for use with NMDA.

Different YANG model structures

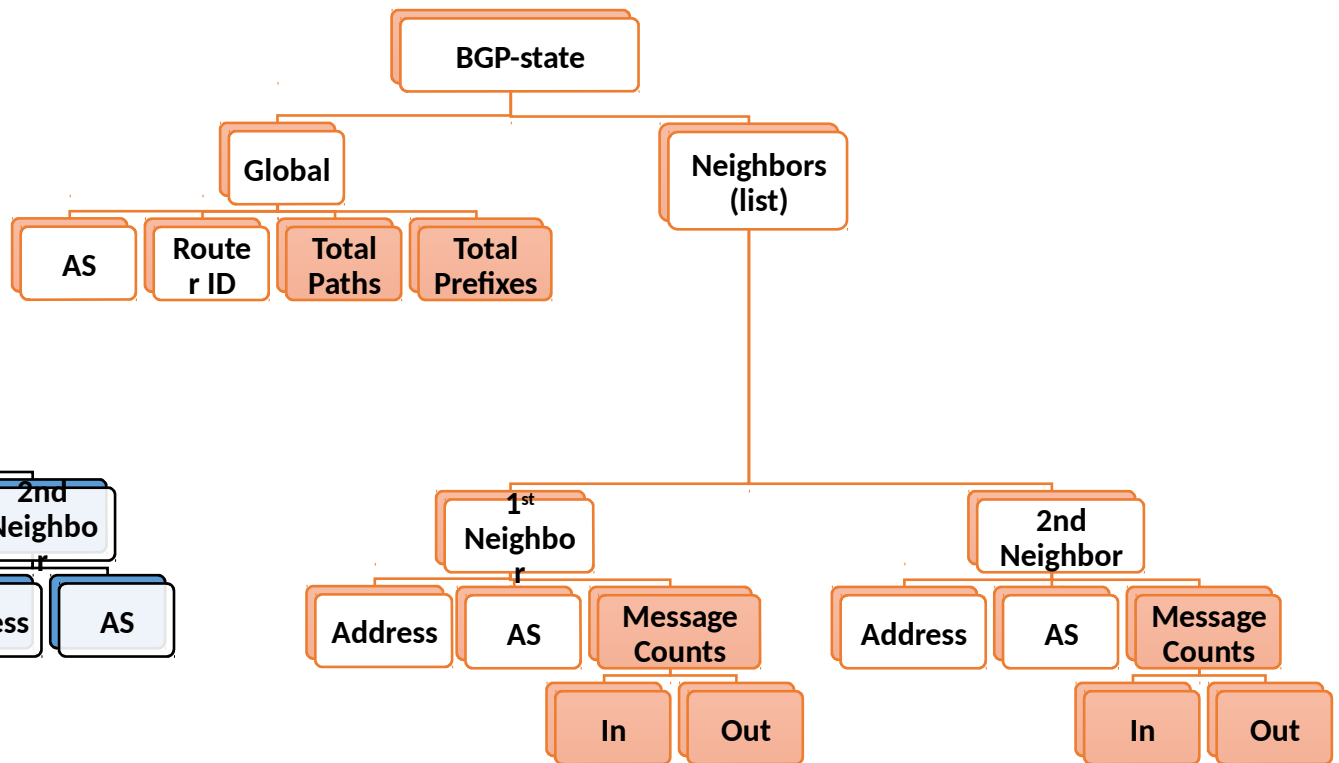
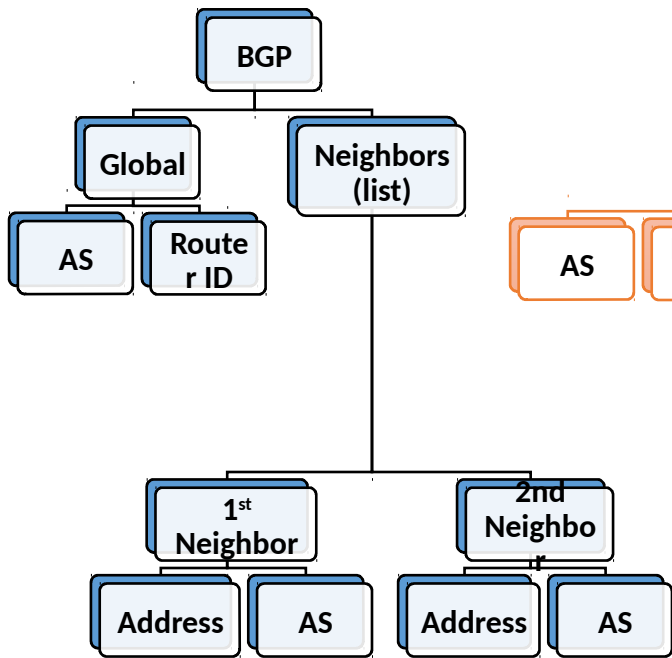
YANG models can be structured in different ways (including):

1. IETF style split 'config' and 'state' top level trees (***deprecated by NMDA***):
E.g. this is the structure currently used by ietf-interfaces.yang (RFC 7223)
2. Open Config style 'config' and 'state' containers immediately above config true leaves:
E.g. this is the structure consistently used by all Open Config YANG models (<https://github.com/openconfig/public>)
The expired BGP YANG model draft also currently has this structure: draft-ietf-idr-bgp-model-02
3. IETF combined config/state tree (***NMDA style - the future of IETF YANG models***):
Various draft modules are now following this convention:
I2RS topology model: draft-ietf-i2rs-yang-network-topo-14
TE topology model: draft-ietf-teas-yang-te-topo-11

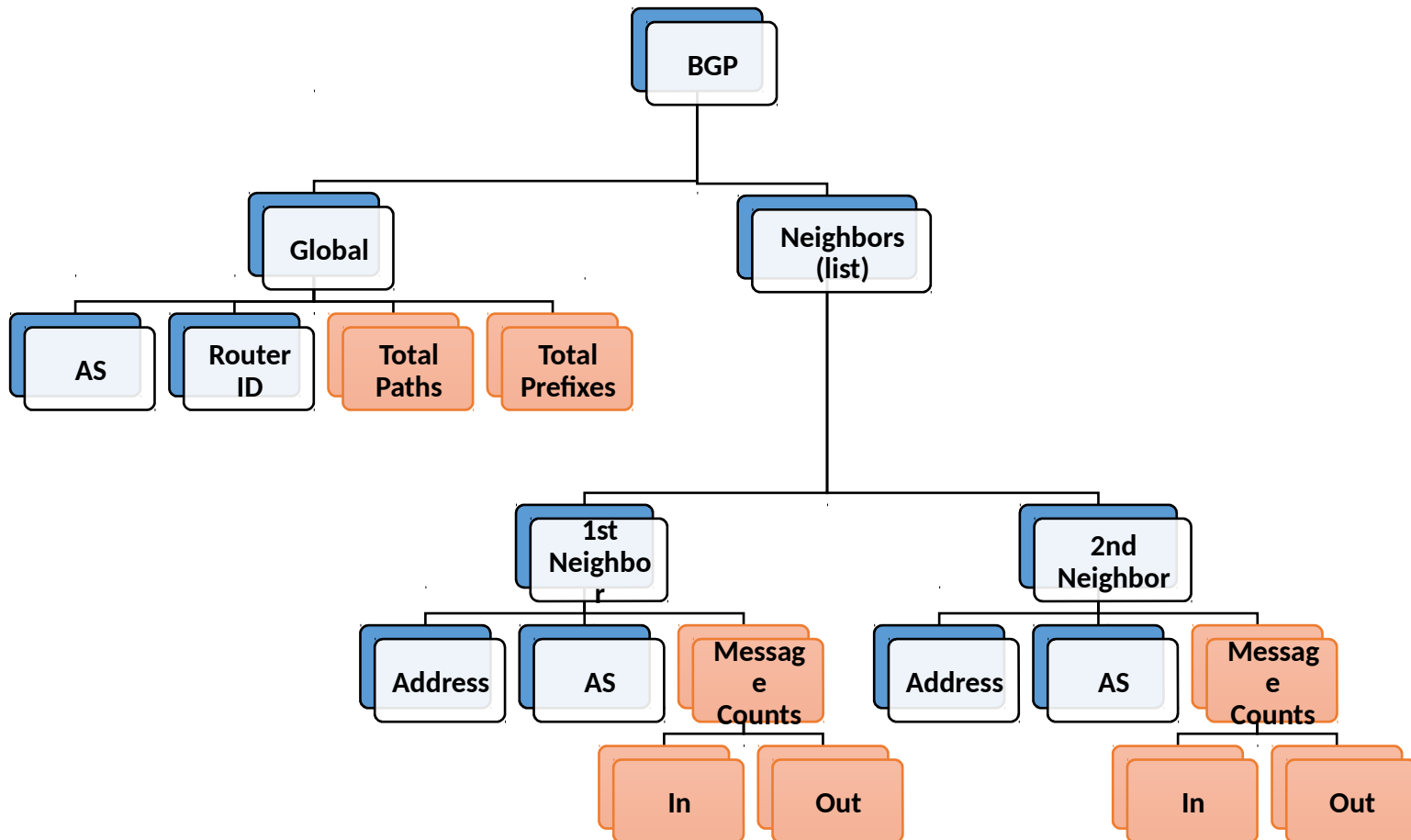
From the BGP YANG model, consider:

- 4 Global Leaves:
 - AS number (**configurable**)
 - Router Id (**configurable**)
 - Total paths (**state only**)
 - Total prefixes (**state only**)
- 4 Per Neighbor Leaves:
 - Neighbor address (**configurable**)
 - Peer AS (**configurable**)
 - Messages: **Container with 'In' and 'Out' state leaves**

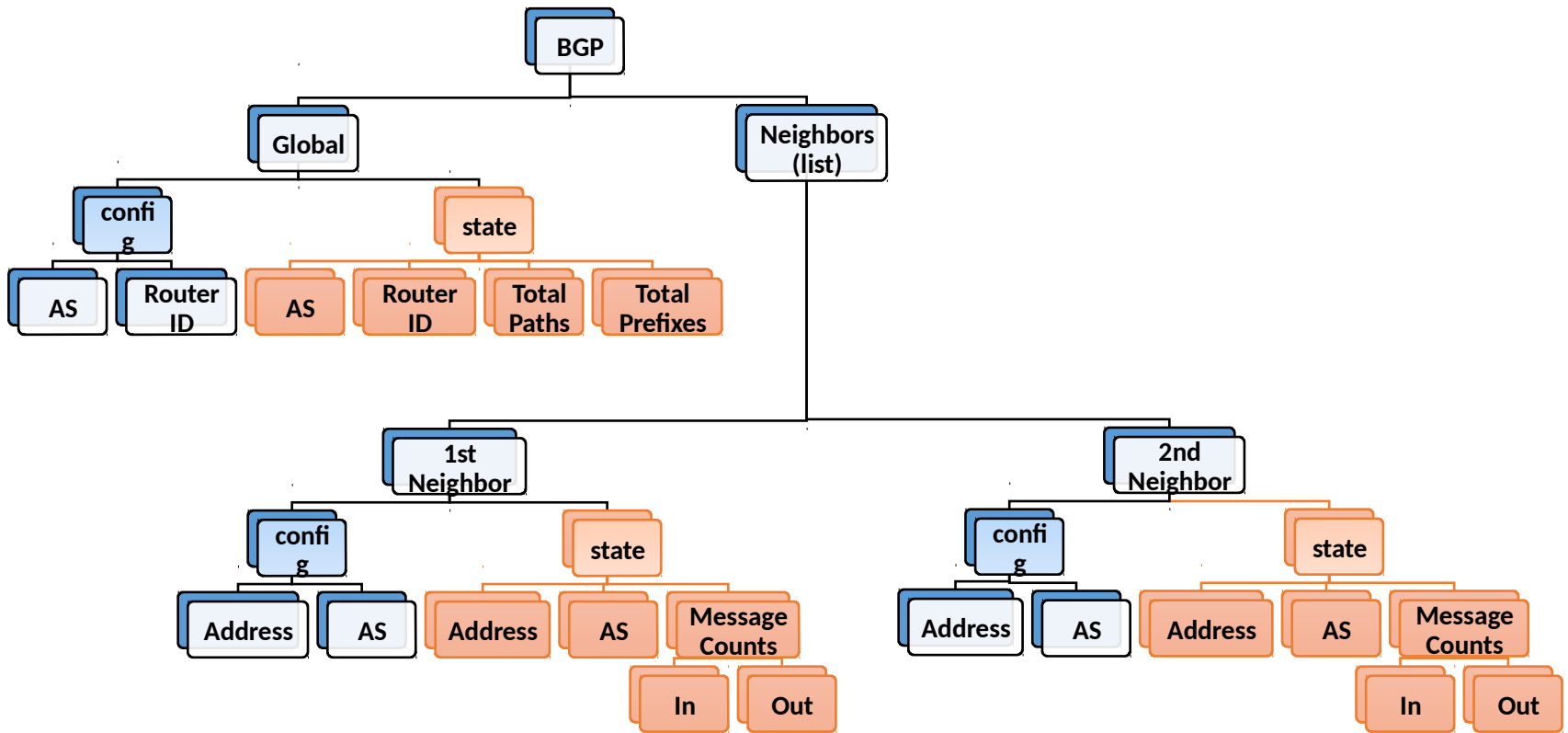
μBGP model as IETF split config/state module: (*deprecated*)



μBGP model as IETF combined config/state YANG Module: (NMDA – the future for IETF YANG models)



μBGP model as OpenConfig style YANG Module: One tree with config/state containers (for reference - not for IETF YANG models)



Advantages of combined (NMDA) YANG module structure

- The module is simpler and shorter to write, and doesn't require extensive use of groupings.
- It is impossible for the configuration and state trees to become inconsistent in either path or value space.
- The modules are fully consistent with existing YANG semantics and all language constructs.
- The proposed structure takes into consideration support for other IETF work such as the I2RS WG.
- Deduplication of leaves means other model styles could be generated by tooling, if required.

How to migrate to NMDA style

- All YANG modules produced by IETF SHOULD conform to the NMDA architecture ...
- All YANG modules already published by IETF should be revised to conform to NMDA:
 - All nodes in any <foo>-state trees are copied into the <foo> (config true) tree, creating it if necessary.
 - The existing state tree is marked as deprecated.
 - Update descriptions as required for semantic consistency.
- Please also update WG draft YANG models to NMDA style
 - As above, but <foo>-state tree is also deleted.

Can we use NMDA style modules on existing NETCONF/RESTCONF?

- Yes, but:
 1. There is no way of reporting the “applied configuration value”.
 2. It cannot report system created configurable objects
(e.g. an interface that always exists even without configuration)
- For most modules/implementations these limitations should not be problem.
- In a small number of cases, where this limitation is a problem:
 - A temporary “config false” “<foo module>-state” module MAY be constructed and put in the draft appendix, for use until NMDA compliant implementations become available.
 - Expected to be obsoleted over time.

Summary

- All unpublished IETF YANG modules SHOULD follow the NMDA style.
- Extra generated “<foo>-state” modules may be added into the draft appendix, when there is a genuine requirement to do so.
- Please email NMDA draft authors, or NETMOD WG alias, if you have questions on how to migrate your drafts:
 - draft-ietf-netmod-revised-datastores@ietf.org
 - netmod@ietf.org
- NMDA work is progressing in both NETCONF and NETMOD WGs.