A Multi-Path Concurrent Measurement Protocol for IPPM
draft-dang-ippm-multiple-path-measurement-01

Abstract

This test method can test multi-paths concurrently between two edge nodes. This document details Multi-Path Concurrent Measurement Protocol (MPCMP).

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1. Introduction

In load-balancing scenario, there are multiple paths adopted between two edge nodes. The traffic from the Scr node to the Dst node is required to be steered into to the specific path/paths basing on the SLA information of each path. In the traditional method, the paths are measured separately. If you want to ensure that the data obtained by the test is available and accurate, then the test start and end points of this set of Paths must be consistent.

The Multi-Path Concurrent Measurement Protocol (MPCMP) is required, which can be used bi-directionally to concurrently measure multi-paths metrics between two network elements. At the same time, this method also saves the number of test messages and reduces the load on the network.

1.1. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119.

1.2. Terminology & Abbreviations

- Multiple Paths
  - There are multiple paths between two nodes in the network. These paths may be equal-cost multi-path (ECMP) mode or unequal-cost multiple (UCMP) mode. In a real network, they might be one [draft-ietf-spring-segment-routing-policy] or [RFC7348] tunnel.
Concurrent

* In order to ensure comparability between multiple paths, the test start point and the test end point are required to be synchronized.

2. Overview of Multi-Path Concurrent Measurement Protocol

The Multi-Path Concurrent Measurement Protocol (MPCMP) is an open protocol for measurement of multi-paths metrics.

MPCMP can be embedded into a variety of transports such as NSH, Segment Routing, VxLAN, native IPv6 (via extension header), or IPv4.

3. MPCMP-Test Packet Format and Content

This section defines path header and associated data types required for MPCMP.

```
+-----------------------------------------------+
|                             Session ID                      |
+-----------------------------------------------+
|            Path ID            |         Path-E2E-Type         |
+-----------------------------------------------+
|     Flags   |          Transaction ID                         |
+-----------------------------------------------+
```

Figure 1: MPCMP Path header

- **Session ID**: A set of load sharing paths
- **Path ID**: One path of the session.
- **Path-E2E-Type**: A 16-bit identifier which Indicates whether the packet type is a send message or a request message.
- **Flags**: 8-bit field. Identify the query or response type. Following flags are defined:
  - Bit 0 Identify the query type
  - Bit 1 Identify the response type
  - Reserved
Transaction ID: 16-bit identifier of one measurement transaction. The sender and receiver to identify measurement transactions based on Transaction ID.

When a measurement is for a set of paths, each query message is made for each path, but only one unified response message replies. Therefore, the message format is defined as follows.

The measurement packet format of a path is as follows.

```
+---------------------------------------------+
|                                          |
|                E2E PathN Option Header       |
|                                          |
+---------------------------------------------+
```

```
+---------------------------------------------+
|                                          |
|             PathN Edge-to-Edge Option Data  |
|                                          |
+---------------------------------------------+
```

Figure 2: Query message

The field of PathN Edge-to-Edge Option Data can refer to Edge-to-Edge Option Data of [draft-ietf-ippm-ioam-data-04].

The response type message format is as follows. It suppose there are N paths between two points.
Figure 3: Response message

- Long-term measurement
  - The receiver can wait until it receives all measurement requests of a set of path and then responds.

- Short-term measurement
  - The Sender can query once \( t \).
  - The receiver can reply once \( t \).

The overall solution needs to consider two methods of long-period measurement and short-period measurement.
4. Expansion based on various measurement methods

The measurement message format defined by this document can be extended based on various measurement methods.

4.1. IOAM

A new type is added in IOAM-E2E-Type of IOAM Edge-to-Edge Option header[ draft-ietf-ippm-ioam-data-04-section4.4 ] as follow.

- Bit 4: Multiple paths measurement.

This bit is set by the headend node if Multi-Path Concurrent Measurement is activated.

A common registry is maintained for IOAM-Types, see Section 6.

5. Data Export

MPCMP nodes collect information for packets traversing a domain that supports MPCMP. MPCMP process the information further and export the information using e.g., IPFIX. Raw data export of IOAM data using IPFIX is discussed in [draft-spiegel-ippm-ioam-rawexport-00].

6. IANA Considerations

This document requests the following IANA Actions.

- IOAM E2E Type Registry:
  - Bit 4 Multiple ways measurement

7. Security Considerations

The Proof of Transit option (Section Section 4.3 In-situ OAM [ draft-ietf-ippm-ioam-data-04-section4.4 ]) is used for verifying the path of data packets.

8. Acknowledgements

TBD

9. Normative References

[draft-ietf-ippm-ioam-data-04]
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"IOAM Edge-to-Edge Option",

[draft-ietf-spring-segment-routing-policy]
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"In-situ OAM raw data export with IPFIX",

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate
Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119,
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[RFC7348] "Virtual eXtensible Local Area Network (VXLAN)",

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