Updates to the Fast Reroute Procedures for Co-routed Associated Bidirectional Label Switched Paths (LSPs)
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Abstract

Resource Reservation Protocol (RSVP) association signaling can be used to bind two unidirectional LSPs into an associated bidirectional LSP. When an associated bidirectional LSP is co-routed, the reverse LSP follows the same path as its forward LSP. This document updates the Fast Reroute (FRR) procedures defined in RFC 4090 to support both single-sided and double-sided provisioned associated bidirectional LSPs. This document also updates the procedure for associating two reverse LSPs defined in RFC 7551 to support co-routed bidirectional LSPs. The FRR procedures can ensure that for the co-routed LSPs, traffic flows on co-routed paths in the forward and reverse directions after a failure event.

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1. Conventions Used in This Document

1.1. Key Word Definitions

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 BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

1.2. Terminology

The reader is assumed to be familiar with the terminology defined in [RFC2205], [RFC3209], [RFC4090], [RFC7551], and [RFC8271].

1.2.1. Forward Unidirectional LSPs

Two reverse unidirectional point-to-point (P2P) LSPs are setup in the opposite directions between a pair of source and destination nodes to form an associated bidirectional Label Switched Path (LSP). In the case of single-sided provisioned LSP, the originating LSP with REVERSE_LSP Object [RFC7551] is identified as a forward unidirectional LSP. In the case of double-sided provisioned LSP, the LSP originating from the higher node address (as source) and terminating on the lower node address (as destination) is identified as a forward unidirectional LSP.

1.2.2. Reverse Co-routed Unidirectional LSPs

Two reverse unidirectional point-to-point (P2P) LSPs are setup in the opposite directions between a pair of source and destination nodes to form an associated bidirectional Label Switched Path (LSP). A reverse unidirectional LSP originates on the same node where the forward unidirectional LSP terminates, and it terminates on the same node where the forward unidirectional LSP originates. A reverse co-routed unidirectional LSP traverses along the same path as the forward direction unidirectional LSP in the opposite direction.

2. Introduction

The Resource Reservation Protocol (RSVP) (Extended) ASSOCIATION Object is specified in [RFC6780] which can be used generically to associate Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) and Generalized MPLS (GMPLS) Traffic Engineering (TE) Label Switched Paths (LSPs). [RFC7551] defines mechanisms for binding two point-to-point unidirectional LSPs [RFC3209] into an associated bidirectional LSP. There are two models described in [RFC7551] for provisioning an
associated bidirectional LSP, single-sided and double-sided. In both models, the reverse LSP of the bidirectional LSP may or may not be co-routed and follow the same path as its forward LSP.

In packet transport networks, there are requirements where the reverse LSP of a bidirectional LSP needs to follow the same path as its forward LSP [RFC6373]. The MPLS Transport Profile (TP) [RFC6370] architecture facilitates the co-routed bidirectional LSP by using the GMPLS extensions [RFC3473] to achieve congruent paths. However, the RSVP association signaling allows to enable co-routed bidirectional LSPs without having to deploy GMPLS extensions in the existing networks. The association signaling also allows to take advantage of the existing TE and Fast Reroute (FRR) mechanisms in the network.

[RFC4090] defines FRR extensions for MPLS TE LSPs and those are also applicable to the associated bidirectional LSPs. [RFC8271] defines FRR procedure for GMPLS signaled bidirectional LSPs, such as, coordinate bypass tunnel assignments in the forward and reverse directions of the LSP. The mechanisms defined in [RFC8271] are also useful for the FRR of associated bidirectional LSPs.

This document updates the FRR procedures defined in [RFC4090] to support both single-sided and double-sided provisioned associated bidirectional LSPs. This document also updates the procedure for associating two reverse LSPs defined in [RFC7551] to support co-routed bidirectional LSPs. The FRR procedures can ensure that for the co-routed LSPs, traffic flows on co-routed paths in the forward and reverse directions after fast reroute.

2.1. Assumptions and Considerations

The following assumptions and considerations apply to this document:

- The FRR procedure for the unidirectional LSPs is defined in [RFC4090] and is not modified by this document.
- The FRR procedure when using the unidirectional bypass tunnels is defined in [RFC4090] and is not modified by this document.
- This document assumes that the FRR bypass tunnels used for protected associated bidirectional LSPs are also associated bidirectional.
- The FRR bypass tunnels used for protected co-routed associated bidirectional LSPs are assumed to be co-routed associated bidirectional.
- The FRR procedure to coordinate the bypass tunnel assignment
defined in this document may be used for protected non-corouted
associated bidirectional LSPs but requires that the downstream
Point of Local Repair (PLR) and Merge Point (MP) pair of the
forward LSP matches the upstream MP and PLR pair of the reverse
LSP.

- Unless otherwise specified in this document, the fast reroute
procedures defined in [RFC4090] are used for associated
bidirectional LSPs.

3. Problem Statement

As specified in [RFC7551], in the single-sided provisioning case, the
RSVP TE tunnel is configured only on one endpoint node of the
bidirectional LSP. An LSP for this tunnel is initiated by the
originating endpoint with (Extended) ASSOCIATION Object containing
Association Type set to "single-sided associated bidirectional LSP"
and REVERSE_LSP Object inserted in the RSVP Path message. The remote
endpoint then creates the corresponding reverse TE tunnel and signals
the reverse LSP in response using the information from the
REVERSE_LSP Object and other objects present in the received RSVP
Path message. As specified in [RFC7551], in the double-sided
provisioning case, the RSVP TE tunnel is configured on both endpoint
nodes of the bidirectional LSP. Both forward and reverse LSPs are
initiated independently by the two endpoints with (Extended)
ASSOCIATION Object containing Association Type set to "double-sided
associated bidirectional LSP". With both single-sided and double-
sided provisioned bidirectional LSPs, the reverse LSP may or may not
be congruent (i.e. co-routed) and follow the same path as its forward
LSP.

Both single-sided and double-sided associated bidirectional LSPs
require solutions to the following issues for fast reroute to ensure
cor-routing after a failure event.

3.1. Fast Reroute Bypass Tunnel Assignment

In order to ensure that the traffic flows on a co-routed path after a
link or node failure on the protected co-routed LSP path, the mid-
point Point of Local Repair (PLR) nodes need to assign matching
bidirectional bypass tunnels for fast reroute. Such bypass
assignment requires coordination between the forward and reverse
direction PLR nodes when more than one bypass tunnels are present on
a PLR node.

<-- Bypass N -->

+-----+     +-----+
As shown in Figure 1, there are two bypass tunnels available, Bypass tunnel N (on path B-H-I-C) and Bypass tunnel S (on path B-F-G-C). The mid-point PLR nodes B and C need to coordinate bypass tunnel assignment to ensure that traffic in both directions flow through either on the Bypass tunnel N or the Bypass tunnel S, after the link B-C failure.

3.2. Node Protection Bypass Tunnels

When using a node protection bypass tunnel with a protected associated bidirectional LSP, after a link failure, the forward and reverse LSP traffic can flow on different node protection bypass tunnels in the upstream and downstream directions.
As shown in Figure 2, after the link B-C failure, the downstream PLR node B reroutes the protected forward LSP1 traffic over the bypass tunnel S (on path B-F-G-D) to reach downstream MP node D whereas the upstream PLR node C reroutes the protected reverse LSP2 traffic over the bypass tunnel N (on path C-I-H-A) to reach the upstream MP node A. As a result, the traffic in the forward and reverse directions flows on different bypass tunnels and this can cause the co-routed associated bidirectional LSP to become non-corouted. However, unlike GMPLS LSPs, the asymmetry of paths in the forward and reverse directions does not result in RSVP soft-state timeout with the associated bidirectional LSPs.

### 3.3. Bidirectional LSP Association At Mid-Points

In packet transport networks, a restoration LSP is signaled after a link failure on the protected LSP path and the protected LSP may or may not be torn down [RFC8131]. In this case, multiple forward and reverse LSPs of a co-routed associated bidirectional LSP may be present at mid-point nodes with identical (Extended) ASSOCIATION Objects. This creates an ambiguity at mid-point nodes to identify the correct associated LSP pair for fast reroute bypass assignment (e.g. during the recovery phase of RSVP graceful restart procedure).
As shown in Figure 3, the protected LSPs LSP1 and LSP2 are an
associated LSP pair, similarly the restoration LSPs LSP3 and LSP4 are
an associated LSP pair, both pairs belong to the same associated
bidirectional LSP and carry identical (Extended) ASSOCIATION Objects.

In this example, the mid-point node D may mistakenly associate LSP1
with the reverse LSP4 instead of the reverse LSP3 due to the matching
(Extended) ASSOCIATION Objects. This may cause the co-routed
associated bidirectional LSP to become non-corouted after fast
eroute. Since the bypass assignment needs to be coordinated between
the forward and reverse LSPs, this can also lead to undesired bypass
tunnel assignments.

4. Signaling Procedure

4.1. Associated Bidirectional LSP Fast Reroute

For both single-sided and double-sided associated bidirectional LSPs,
the fast reroute procedure specified in [RFC4090] is used. In
addition, the mechanisms defined in [RFC8271] are used as following.

- The BYPASS_ASSIGNMENT IPv4 subobject (value: 38) and IPv6
  subobject (value: 39) defined in [RFC8271] are used to coordinate
  bypass tunnel assignment between the forward and reverse direction
  PLR nodes (see Figure 1). The BYPASS_ASSIGNMENT and Node-ID
  address [RFC4561] subobjects MUST be added by the downstream PLR
  node in the RECORD_ROUTE Object (RRO) of the RSVP Path message of
  the forward LSP to indicate the local bypass tunnel assignment
  using the procedure defined in [RFC8271]. The upstream node uses
  the bypass assignment information (namely, bypass tunnel source
  address, destination address and Tunnel ID) in the received RSVP
  Path message of the protected forward LSP to find the associated
  bypass tunnel in the reverse direction. The upstream PLR node
  MUST NOT add the BYPASS_ASSIGNMENT subobject in the RRO of the
  RSVP Path message of the reverse LSP.

- The downstream PLR node initiates the bypass tunnel assignment for
  the forward LSP. The upstream PLR (forward direction LSP MP) node
  reflects the associated bypass tunnel assignment for the reverse
direction LSP. The upstream PLR node MUST NOT initiate the bypass
tunnel assignment.

- If the indicated forward bypass tunnel or the associated reverse
  bypass tunnel is not found, the upstream PLR SHOULD send a Notify
  message [RFC3473] with Error-code "FRR Bypass Assignment Error"
  (value: 44) and Sub-code "Bypass Tunnel Not Found" (value: 1)
  [RFC8271] to the downstream PLR.
If the bypass tunnel can not be used as described in Section 4.5.3 in [RFC8271], the upstream PLR SHOULD send a Notify message [RFC3473] with Error-code "FRR Bypass Assignment Error" (value: 44) and Sub-code "Bypass Assignment Cannot Be Used" (value: 0) [RFC8271] to the downstream PLR.

After a link or node failure, the PLR nodes in both forward and reverse directions trigger fast reroute independently using the procedures defined in [RFC4090] and send the forward and protected reverse LSP modified RSVP Path messages and traffic over the bypass tunnel. The RSVP Resv signaling of the protected forward and reverse LSPs follows the same procedure as defined in [RFC4090] and is not modified by this document.

4.1.1. Restoring Co-routing with Node Protection Bypass Tunnels

After fast reroute, the downstream MP node assumes the role of upstream PLR and reroutes the reverse LSP RSVP Path messages and traffic over the bypass tunnel on which the forward LSP RSVP Path messages and traffic are received. This procedure is defined as restoring co-routing in [RFC8271]. This procedure is used to ensure that both forward and reverse LSP signaling and traffic flow on the same bidirectional bypass tunnel after fast reroute.

As shown in Figure 2, when using a node protection bypass tunnel with protected co-routed LSPs, asymmetry of paths can occur in the forward and reverse directions after a link failure [RFC8271]. In order to restore co-routing, the downstream MP node D (acting as an upstream PLR) SHOULD trigger the procedure to restore co-routing and reroute the protected reverse LSP2 RSVP Path messages and traffic over the bypass tunnel S (on path D-G-F-B) to the upstream MP node B upon receiving the protected forward LSP modified RSVP Path messages and traffic over the bypass tunnel S (on path D-G-F-B) from node B. The upstream PLR node C stops receiving the RSVP Path messages and traffic for the reverse LSP2 from node D (resulting in RSVP soft-state timeout) and it stops sending the RSVP Path messages for the reverse LSP2 over the bypass tunnel N (on path C-I-H-A) to node A.

4.1.2. Unidirectional Link Failures

The unidirectional link failures can cause co-routed associated bidirectional LSPs to become non-corouted after fast reroute with both link protection and node protection bypass tunnels. However, the unidirectional link failures in the upstream and/or downstream directions do not result in RSVP soft-state timeout with the associated bidirectional LSPs as upstream and downstream PLRs trigger fast reroute independently. The asymmetry of forward and reverse LSP
paths due to the unidirectional link failure in the downstream direction can be corrected by using the procedure to restore co-routing specified in Section 4.1.1.

4.1.3. Revertive Behavior after Fast Reroute

When the revertive behavior is desired for a protected LSP after the link is restored, the procedure defined in [RFC4090], Section 6.5.2, is followed.

- The downstream PLR node starts sending the RSVP Path messages and traffic flow of the protected forward LSP over the restored link and stops sending them over the bypass tunnel [RFC4090].

- The upstream PLR node (when the protected LSP is present) also starts sending the RSVP Path messages and traffic flow of the protected reverse LSPs over the restored link and stops sending them over the bypass tunnel [RFC4090].

- In case of node protection bypass tunnels (see Figure 2), after restoring co-routing, the upstream PLR node D SHOULD start sending RSVP Path messages and traffic for the reverse LSP over the original link (C-D) when it receives the un-modified RSVP Path messages and traffic for the protected forward LSP over it and stops sending them over the bypass tunnel S (on path D-G-F-B).

4.1.4. Bypass Tunnel Provisioning

Fast reroute bidirectional bypass tunnels can be single-sided or double-sided associated tunnels. For both single-sided and double-sided associated bypass tunnels, the fast reroute assignment policies need to be configured on the downstream PLR nodes of the protected LSPs that initiate the bypass tunnel assignments. For single-sided associated bypass tunnels, these nodes are the originating endpoints of their signaling.

4.1.5. One-to-One Bypass Tunnel

The fast reroute signaling procedure defined in this document can be used for both facility backup described in Section 3.2 of [RFC4090] and one-to-one backup described in Section 3.1 of [RFC4090]. As described in Section 5.4.2 of [RFC8271], in one-to-one backup method, if the associated bidirectional bypass tunnel is already in-use at the upstream PLR, it SHOULD send a Notify message [RFC3473] with Error-code "FRR Bypass Assignment Error" (value: 44) and Sub-code "One-to-One Bypass Already in Use" (value: 2) to the downstream PLR.
4.2. Bidirectional LSP Association At Mid-points

In order to associate the LSPs unambiguously at a mid-point node (see Figure 3), the endpoint node MUST signal Extended ASSOCIATION Object and add unique Extended Association ID for each associated forward and reverse LSP pair forming the bidirectional LSP. An endpoint node MAY set the Extended Association ID to the value shown in Appendix A.

- For single-sided provisioned bidirectional LSPs [RFC7551], the originating endpoint signals the Extended ASSOCIATION Object with a unique Extended Association ID. The remote endpoint copies the contents of the received Extended ASSOCIATION Object including the Extended Association ID in the RSVP Path message of the reverse LSP’s Extended ASSOCIATION Object.

- For double-sided provisioned bidirectional LSPs [RFC7551], both endpoints need to ensure that the bidirectional LSP has a unique Extended ASSOCIATION Object for each forward and reverse LSP pair by selecting appropriate unique Extended Association IDs signaled by them.

5. Compatibility

This document updates the procedures for fast reroute for associated bidirectional LSPs defined in [RFC4090] and for associating bidirectional LSPs defined in [RFC7551]. The procedures use the signaling messages defined in [RFC8271] and no new signaling messages are defined in this document. The procedures ensure that for the co-routed LSPs, traffic flows on co-routed paths in the forward and reverse directions after fast reroute. Operators wishing to use this function SHOULD ensure that it is supported on all the nodes on the LSP path. The nodes not supporting this function can cause the traffic to flow on asymmetric paths in the forward and reverse directions of the associated bidirectional LSPs after fast reroute.

6. Security Considerations

This document updates the signaling mechanisms defined in [RFC4090] and [RFC7551]; and does not introduce any additional security considerations other than those already covered in [RFC4090], [RFC7551], [RFC8271], and the MPLS/GMPLS security framework [RFC5920].

7. IANA Considerations
This document does not require any IANA actions.

Appendix A.  Extended ASSOCIATION ID

Extended Association ID in the Extended ASSOCIATION Object [RFC6780] can be set to the value shown in the following example to uniquely identify associated forward and reverse LSP pair of an associated bidirectional LSP.

An example of IPv4 Extended Association ID format is shown below:

```
+-----------------------------+-----------------------------+
|                          |                             |
+-----------------------------+-----------------------------+
| IPv4 LSP Source Address     |
+-----------------------------+-----------------------------+
| Reserved                    |
| LSP-ID                      |
| Variable Length ID          |
+-----------------------------+-----------------------------+
```

Figure 4: IPv4 Extended Association ID Format Example

LSP Source Address

IPv4 source address of the forward LSP [RFC3209].

LSP-ID

16-bits LSP-ID of the forward LSP [RFC3209].

Variable Length ID

Variable length ID inserted by the endpoint node of the associated bidirectional LSP [RFC6780].

An example of IPv6 Extended Association ID format is shown below:

```
+---------------------------------+---------------------------------+
|                                   |                                   |
+---------------------------------+---------------------------------+
| IPv6 LSP Source Address          |
+---------------------------------+---------------------------------+
| Reserved                         |
| LSP-ID                           |
+---------------------------------+---------------------------------+
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPv6 LSP Source Address</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(16 bytes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserved</th>
<th>LSP-ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Figure 5: IPv6 Extended Association ID Format Example

LSP Source Address

IPv6 source address of the forward LSP [RFC3209].

LSP-ID

16-bits LSP-ID of the forward LSP [RFC3209].

Variable Length ID

Variable length ID inserted by the endpoint node of the associated bidirectional LSP [RFC6780].
8. References

8.1. Normative References


8.2. Informative References


Acknowledgments

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