"BGP based Auto-Discovery Mechanism for Optical VPNs"

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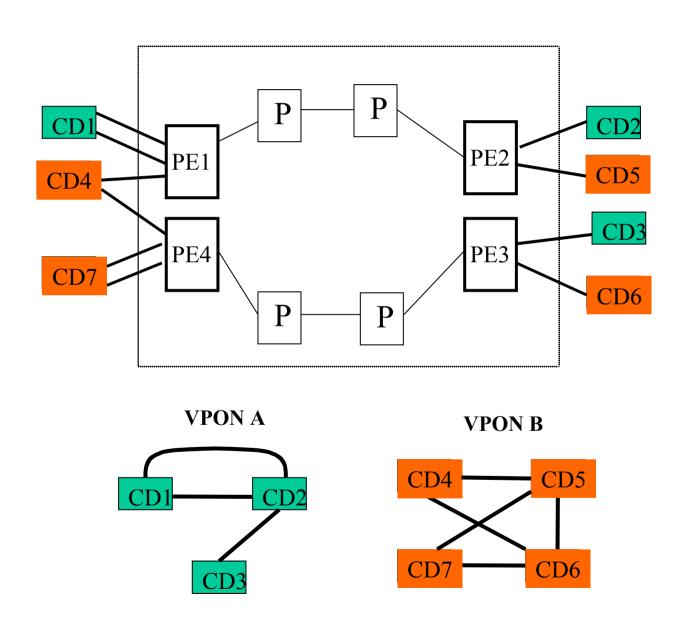
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Motivations/Requirements

- Define a BGP based auto-discovery mechanism which allows client devices (CDs), members of the same VPN to discover themselves and to request CD-to-CD optical connections across a service provider optical infrastructure.
- Optical VPN (OVPN) is defined as a collection of ports that connect the CDs owned by the same organization to the service provider network.
- A given service provider network could support multiple OVPNs.

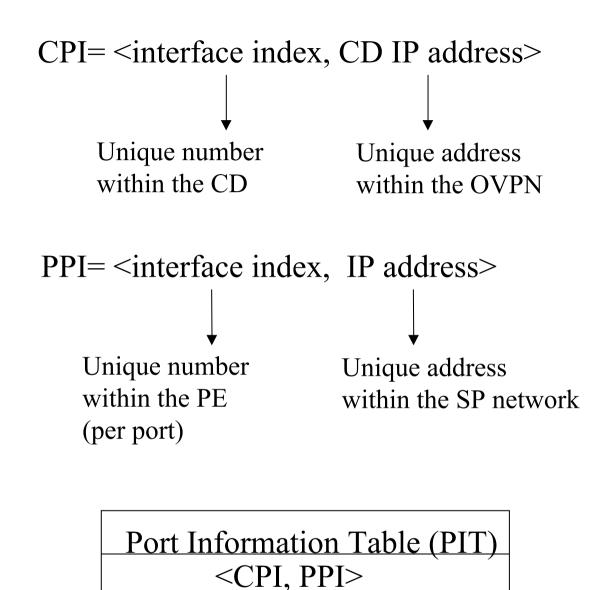
- A port is actually a collection of channels (e.g., lightpath, SDH/SONET circuit).
- Not all ports on a given provider edge optical network element (PE-ONE) that connect that PE ONE to CDs must belong to the same OVPN.
- One important goal of the mechanism is to support single ended provisioning.
- It should be possible to reconfigure OVPN (e.g when CD request to setup a new optical channel trail to another CD within the same VPN) without requiring configuration changes in any of the provider's ONEs.

Reference Model

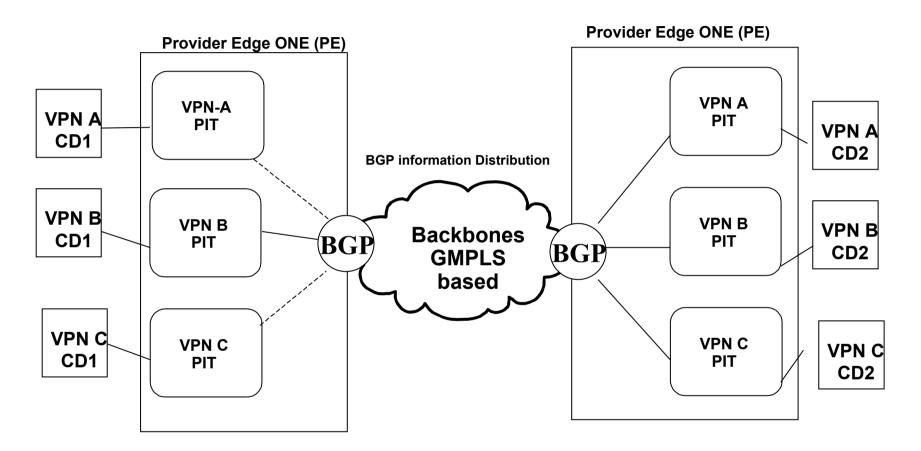


Mode of Operations

- Within a given OVPN, each port has an identifier unique only within that OVPN called the Customer Port Identifier (CPI).
- Within a service provider network, each port on a PE ONE has an identifier that is unique within that service provider network. We refer to this identifier as Provider Port Identifier (PPI).
- Each PE ONE maintains a Port Information Table (PIT) for each OVPN that has at least one port on that PE ONE. A PIT contains a list of <CPI, PPI> tuples for all the ports within its OVPN.

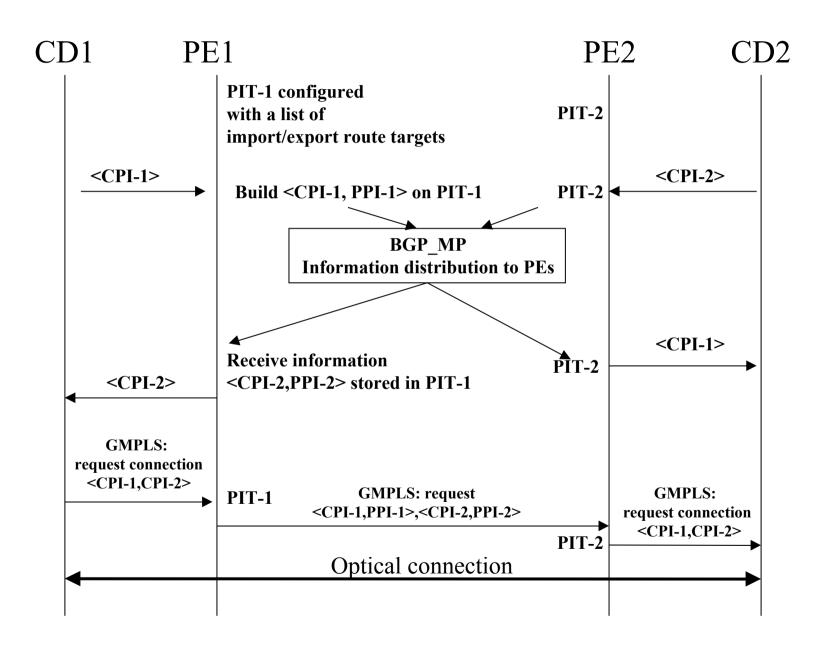


OVPN Components



A PIT on a given PE ONE is populated from two sources: the information received from the CDs attached to the ports on that PE ONEs, and the information received from other PE ONEs (received through BGP).

How the mechanism works?



- A CD need not establish an optical connection to every target port that CD knows about. Therefore the VPON topology is controlled by the CDs.
- A port, in addition to its CPI and PPI may also have other information associated with it (e.g., characteristics of the channels within that port like encoding, bandwidth, total unreserved bandwidth within the port, etc).
- The connectivity between CDs is established at the granularity of channels

Others

- The mechanism applies also to a situation where the service provider network consists of SONET/SDH cross connects and ports are connected via SONET/SDH sub-channels with each other.
- Since the protocol used to populate a PIT with remote information is BGP, and since GMPLS signaling isn't restricted to a single routing domain, it follows that this mechanism could support an environment that consists of multiple routing domains.