MPLS Segment Routing in IP Networks

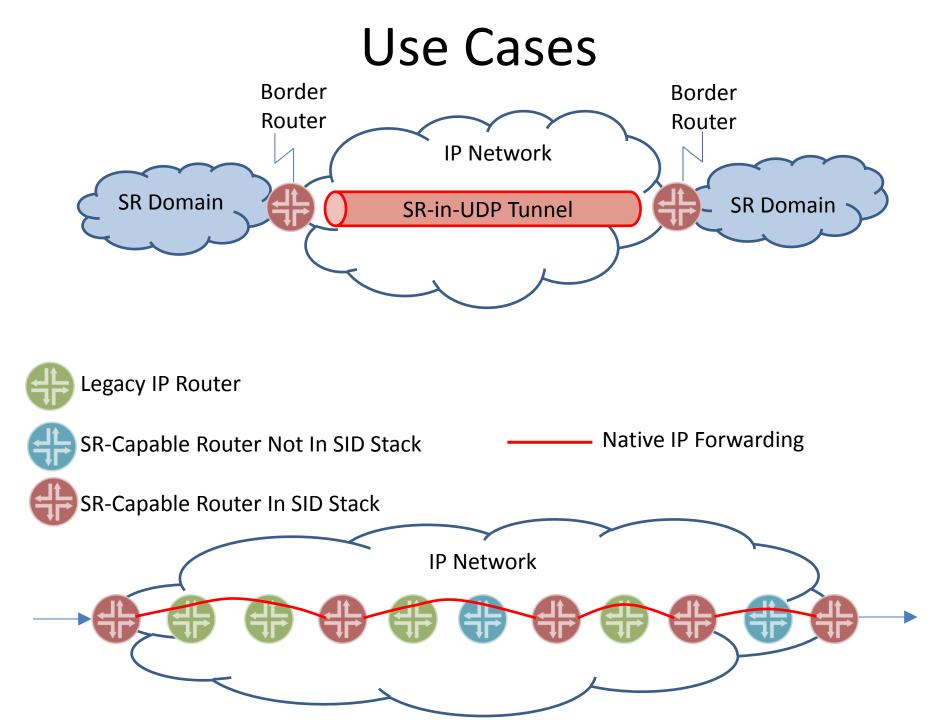
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Objective

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- 1. Tunnel MPLS-SR over an IP network
 - To connect two MPLS-SR networks (e.g., data centres)
- 2. Enable SR in legacy networks by tactically introducing SR-capable nodes at strategic points in the network.
- 3. It is not a specific objective, but the approach is IPv4/v6 neutral.



Technical Summary

Overview

• In summary, this is MPLS-over-UDP as RFC 7510

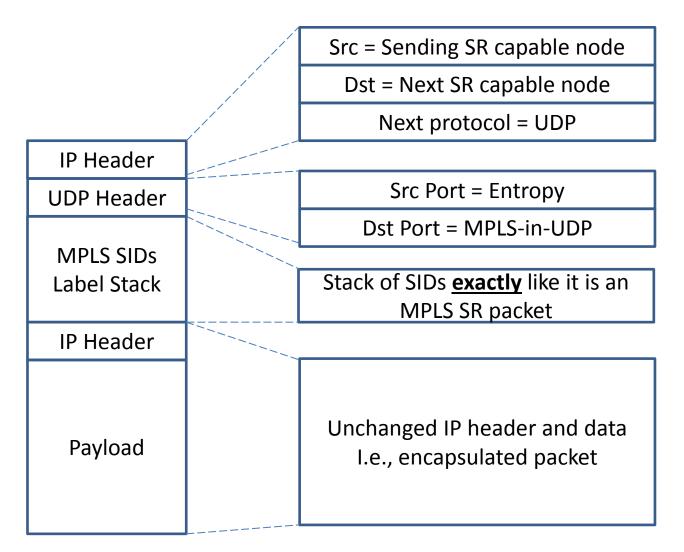
| | 1 |
|----------|---|
| IP | |
| Header | |
| UDP | |
| Header | |
| MPLS | |
| SID | |
| Stack | |
| | |
| Payload | |
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| | |

- Encapsulate a "normal" MPLS SID stack in UDP in IP
- Address to next SR-capable node in the SR path
- UDP destination port indicates "MPLS below"

MPLS-SR-in-UDP Processing

- IGP and control plane just like MPLS-SR
- Source processing is just like MPLS-SR
 - But encapsulate in UDP and IP to first router identified by first SID
- Legacy transit nodes
 - It is just an IP packet, so simply forward it
- SR-capable transit nodes
 - Process MPLS-SID stack as normal
 - Encapsulate in UDP and IP and send to router identified by next SID
- Final hop just strips outer header and forwards payload packet

A Little More Detail



Advertising SIDs

- Advertisements are just like for MPLS SR
 - IGP or BGP advertises
 - Address of node or link
 - Associated SID
 - All SID types are supported
- Need to add advertisements in routing protocol to specify
 - Encapsulation Type
 - PHP behaviour

Source Processing

- Build and impose MPLS-SR stack
- Encapsulate in UDP
 - Dst Port = MPLS-in-UDP
 - Src Port = Entropy
- Encapsulate in IP with
 - Source as this node
 - Destination address of first hop in SR stack
 - Requires look-up to match SID to address
 - At source, this lookup can use RIB, etc.
- FIB lookup and send
- (This all looks a lot like RFC 7510)

Transit Non-SR Processing

- Important that this mechanism can traverse nodes that are not SR-capable
 - Also, no special processing by SR nodes to which the packet is not addressed
- It's just an IP packet, so forward it
- ECMP entropy is achieved through the UDP source port value set by source

- Established technique (RFC 7510)

• TTL decrements as usual

Transit SR Processing

- If the packet is addressed to me
 - Otherwise just forward the packet as normal IP
- Find UDP inside
- Find UDP Dst port is "MPLS-in-UDP"
- Look at top of MPLS SR stack
 - Extract SID and look up "next hop" IP address
 - Pop label stack entry
- Re-encapsulate packet as MPLS-in-UDP-in-IP (just as source did)
 - IP Src = this node
 - IP Dst = next address as found from label lookup
 - UDP Src Port = Entropy (ideally from received packet)
 - UDP Dst Port = MPLS-in-UDP
 - (SID stack is "shorter")
- FIB lookup and send

Key Changes from -00

- Forwarding clarifications
 - Transit node elements of procedure.
 - Entropy handling.
 - PHP processing described in detail.
 - Clarification of egress processing.
 - Processing of an erroneously received packet described.
- Control Plane
 - A summary of the existing control planes and extension required to support PHP is provided.

Moving Forward

Additional Encapsulation Technologies

- This draft describes the use of UDP as the encapsulation.
- There may be a need for other encapsulations (VXLAN, GRE, IPSEC etc.)
- If there is such a need, the right approach is to write up a data-plane specific solution for each of these cases in separate RFCs as and when there is an established need for that encapsulation type.

Control Plane Separation

- The control plane solutions should be written up independently of the data-plane.
- The description of each control plane should specify the encapsulation technology as a parameter and thus be usable in configuring future encapsulation technologies as and when they become important and are documented.

Proposal

- This is a simple solution to a simple problem.
- It would be useful to have the problem discussed in the SPRING WG and have experts there flag up concerns and missing functions.
- In our view the solution to this problem belongs in the MPLS WG.
- The authors request that this draft is adopted in MPLS as description of the data-plane aspects of this problem.