

IS-IS Flooding Reduction in MSDC

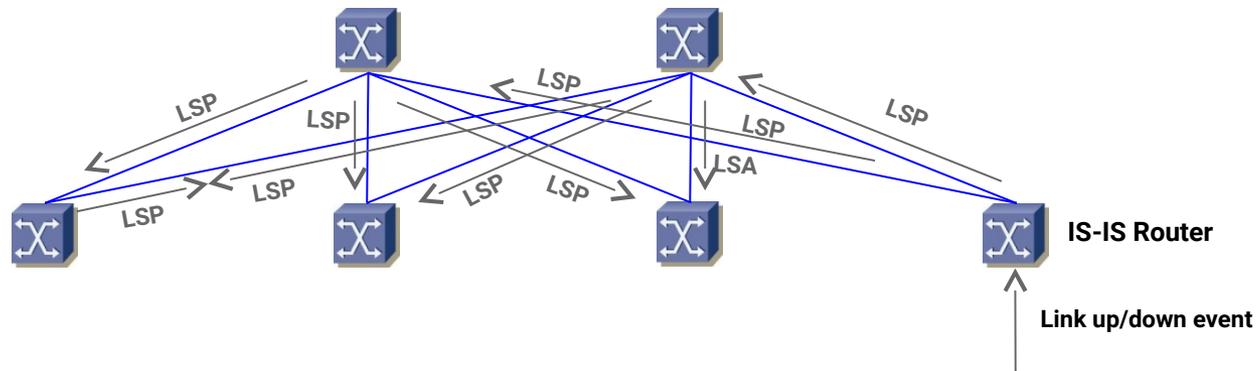
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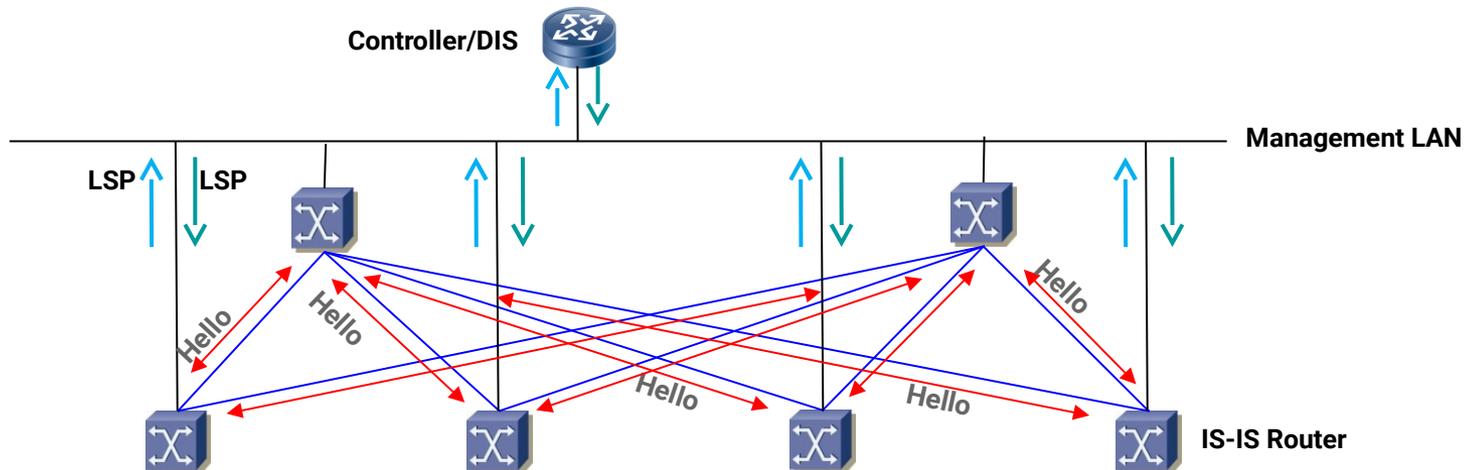
Problem Statement

- IS-IS is commonly used as a underlay routing protocol for Massively Scalable Data Center (MSDC) networks where CLOS is the most popular topology.
- Within the CLOS topology, a given IS-IS router would receive multiple copies of exactly the same LSP from multiple IS-IS neighbors. The unnecessary link-state information flooding wastes the precious process resource of IS-IS routers greatly and therefore IS-IS could not scale very well in MSDC networks.



Solution Overview

- **Mix of centralized link-state information distribution and distributed SPF calculation.**
 - All IS-IS routers within the CLOS network are connected with controllers via a management LAN.
 - IS-IS routers within the MSDC network just need to exchange IS-IS Hello packet among them so as to discover IS-IS neighbors.
 - The link-state information is only required to be exchanged between IS-IS routers and controller which is elected as IS-IS DIS for the management LAN.



Solution Details

- **To avoid the data traffic from being forwarded across the management LAN, the cost of all IS-IS routers' interfaces to the management LAN SHOULD be set to the maximum value.**
- **When a given IS-IS router lost its connection to the management LAN, it SHOULD actively establish adjacency with at least one of its IS-IS neighbors within the CLOS network.**
 - **As such, it could obtain the full LSDB of the CLOS network while flooding its self-originated LSPs to the remaining part of the whole network through that IS-IS neighbor.**

Solution Details (con't)

- **To further reduce the flood of multicast IS-IS PDUs over the management LAN, IS-IS routers SHOULD send IS-IS PDUs as unicasts.**
 - **IS-IS routers SHOULD send unicast IS-IS Hello packets periodically to the controller being elected as IS-IS DIS. In other words, IS-IS routers would not send any IS-IS Hello packet over the management LAN until they have found IS-IS DIS for the management LAN.**
 - **IS-IS routers SHOULD send other types of IS-IS PDUs to the controller being elected as IS-IS DIS as unicasts as well.**

Next Steps

- Gauge interests on this hybrid approach (i.e., a mix of centralized link-state distribution and distributed SPF calculation).
- Further considerations on details and verifications are needed.
- Any comments and suggestions are welcome.