

# The Effects of the Forwarding Address on Type 5 LSA Path Selection

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## Introduction

### Prerequisites

Requirements

Conventions

Components Used

### How Type 5 LSA Forwarding Addresses Can Affect Path Selection

Forwarding Addresses Not Set for Both LSAs

Forwarding Address Set for One LSA But Not for the Other

### Related Information

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## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate the Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) path selection behavior when a router receives two type 5 link-state advertisement (LSAs) for a given external network. In this example, one LSA has the forwarding address set to zero (0.0.0.0), and the other has the forwarding address set to non-zero.

## Prerequisites

### Requirements

Readers of this document should be knowledgeable of the following:

- General IP routing
- OSPF routing protocol concepts and terms

### Conventions

For more information on document conventions, see the Cisco Technical Tips Conventions.

### Components Used

The information in this document is based on the software and hardware versions below.

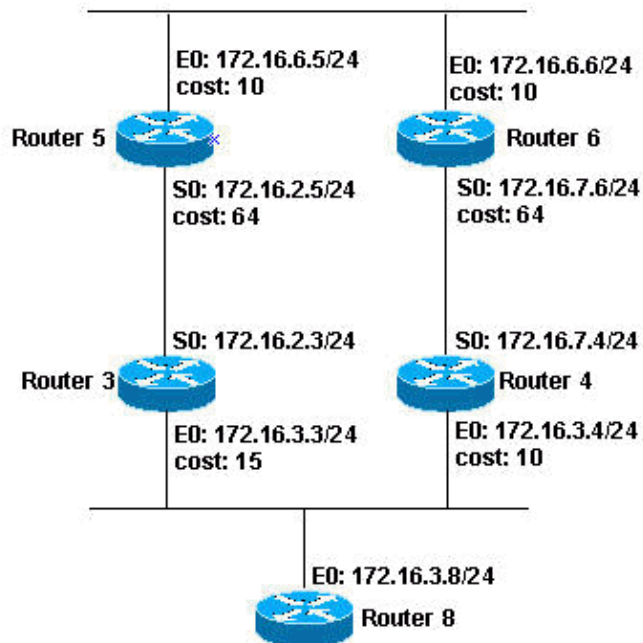
- Cisco 2503 routers
- Cisco IOS® Software Release 12.2(24a) running on all the routers

The information presented in this document was created from devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If you are working in a live network, ensure that you understand the potential impact of any command before using it.

## How Type 5 LSA Forwarding Addresses Can Affect Path Selection

## Forwarding Addresses Not Set for Both LSAs

The topology shown below is used to demonstrate how the forwarding address in an OSPF type 5 LSA can affect the path selection of the type 5 LSA.



In the diagram above, all routers, other than Router 8, are running OSPF in area 0. For the purpose of this document, the configurations of Router 3 and Router 4 are most important because they are the autonomous system boundary router (ASBRs) generating the type 5 LSAs. As shown below, Router 3 and Router 4 have a static route to network 200.200.200.0 255.255.255.0, which is being redistributed into OSPF.

```
Router 3
interface Ethernet0
 ip address 172.16.3.3 255.255.255.0
 ip ospf cost 15
!
interface Serial0
 ip address 172.16.2.3 255.255.255.0
!
router ospf 7
 redistribute static subnets
 network 172.16.2.0 0.0.0.255 area 0
!
ip route 200.200.200.0 255.255.255.0 172.16.3.8
```

```
Router 4
interface Ethernet0
 ip address 172.16.3.4 255.255.255.0
!
interface Serial0
 ip address 172.16.7.4 255.255.255.0
!
router ospf 7
 redistribute static subnets
 network 172.16.7.0 0.0.0.255 area 0
!
ip route 200.200.200.0 255.255.255.0 172.16.3.8
```

**Note:** Router 3 and Router 4 do not include network 172.16.3.0 255.255.255.0 in the OSPF process; therefore, the type 5 LSAs generated by both routers have the forwarding addresses set to 0.0.0.0

In this example, Router 5 can be used to view the external LSAs. To view the external LSAs, issue the **show ip ospf database external** command on Router 5. The output of this command is shown below.

```
Router 5
router-5# show ip ospf database external

          OSPF Router with ID (172.16.6.5) (Process ID 7)

          Type-5 AS External Link States

Routing Bit Set on this LSA
LS age: 1514
Options: (No TOS-capability, DC)
LS Type: AS External Link
Link State ID: 200.200.200.0 (External Network Number )
Advertising Router: 172.16.3.3
LS Seq Number: 80000030
Checksum: 0x93C0
Length: 36
Network Mask: /24
    Metric Type: 2 (Larger than any link state path)
    TOS: 0
    Metric: 20
    Forward Address: 0.0.0.0
    External Route Tag: 0

Routing Bit Set on this LSA
LS age: 1922
Options: (No TOS-capability, DC)
LS Type: AS External Link
Link State ID: 200.200.200.0 (External Network Number )
Advertising Router: 172.16.7.4
LS Seq Number: 80000027
Checksum: 0x83D4
Length: 36
Network Mask: /24
    Metric Type: 2 (Larger than any link state path)
    TOS: 0
    Metric: 20
    Forward Address: 0.0.0.0
    External Route Tag: 0

router-5#
```

What you can see above is that the forwarding addresses for the type 5 LSAs generated by both Router 3 and Router 4 are set to 0.0.0.0. In this case, the LSA to be installed in the Router 5 routing table is determined by comparing the metrics to the ASBRs generating the LSAs. By issuing the **show ip ospf border-routers** command on Router 5, you can see the metrics that Router 5 has for the ASBRs. The output of this command is shown below.

```
Router 5
router-5# show ip ospf border-routers

OSPF Process 7 internal Routing Table

Codes: i - Intra-area route, I - Inter-area route

i 172.16.7.4 [74] via 172.16.6.6, Ethernet0, ASBR, Area 0, SPF 14
```

```
i 172.16.3.3 [64] via 172.16.2.3, Serial0, ASBR, Area 0, SPF 14
router-5#
```

As shown above, 64 is the Router 5 metric to reach ASBR 172.16.3.3, while the metric to reach ASBR 172.16.7.4 is 74; therefore, Router 5 chooses the LSA generated by ASBR 172.16.3.3 to place in its routing table (shown below).

```
Router 5

router-5#
show ip route

Codes: C - connected, S - static, I - IGRP, R - RIP, M - mobile, B - BGP
       D - EIGRP, EX - EIGRP external, O - OSPF, IA - OSPF inter area
       N1 - OSPF NSSA external type 1, N2 - OSPF NSSA external type 2
       E1 - OSPF external type 1, E2 - OSPF external type 2, E - EGP
       i - IS-IS, L1 - IS-IS level-1, L2 - IS-IS level-2, ia - IS-IS inter area
       * - candidate default, U - per-user static route, o - ODR
       P - periodic downloaded static route

Gateway of last resort is not set

O E2 200.200.200.0/24 [110/20] via 172.16.2.3, 19:59:25, Serial0
    172.16.0.0/24 is subnetted, 3 subnets
C      172.16.6.0 is directly connected, Ethernet0
O      172.16.7.0 [110/74] via 172.16.6.6, 19:59:25, Ethernet0
C      172.16.2.0 is directly connected, Serial0
router-5#
```

## Forwarding Address Set for One LSA But Not for the Other

The same topology as above is used for this portion of the document. The Router 4 configuration also remains unchanged, but the configuration for Router 3 has changed to include network 172.16.3.0 255.255.255.0 in area 0 of the OSPF process. The Router 3 configuration is shown below with the change highlighted in bold.

```
Router 3

interface Ethernet0
 ip address 172.16.3.3 255.255.255.0
 ip ospf cost 15
!
interface Serial0
 ip address 172.16.2.3 255.255.255.0
!
router ospf 7
 redistribute static subnets
 network 172.16.2.0 0.0.0.255 area 0
 network 172.16.3.0 0.0.0.255 area 0
!
 ip route 200.200.200.0 255.255.255.0 172.16.3.8
```

The result of the above configuration change is that the type 5 LSA generated by Router 3 now has the forwarding address set to the IP address of Router 8, as shown in the database output taken from Router 5 below.

```
Router 5

router-5# show ip ospf database external

                OSPF Router with ID (172.16.6.5) (Process ID 7)
```

```

Type-5 AS External Link States

Routing Bit Set on this LSA
LS age: 270
Options: (No TOS-capability, DC)
LS Type: AS External Link
Link State ID: 200.200.200.0 (External Network Number )
Advertising Router: 172.16.3.3
LS Seq Number: 80000033
Checksum: 0x5138
Length: 36
Network Mask: /24
    Metric Type: 2 (Larger than any link state path)
    TOS: 0
    Metric: 20
    Forward Address: 172.16.3.8
    External Route Tag: 0

Routing Bit Set on this LSA
LS age: 258
Options: (No TOS-capability, DC)
LS Type: AS External Link
Link State ID: 200.200.200.0 (External Network Number )
Advertising Router: 172.16.7.4
LS Seq Number: 80000029
Checksum: 0x7FD6
Length: 36
Network Mask: /24
    Metric Type: 2 (Larger than any link state path)
    TOS: 0
    Metric: 20
    Forward Address: 0.0.0.0
    External Route Tag: 0

router-5#

```

You can see above that the type 5 LSA generated by Router 3 now has the forwarding address set to 172.16.3.8, while the type 5 LSA generated by Router 4 still has a forwarding address of 0.0.0.0.

In this case, the LSA to be installed in the Router 5 routing table is determined by comparing the Router 5 metric to the ASBR (Router 4) that generated the LSA with a forwarding address of 0.0.0.0 to the Router 5 metric to reach the forwarding address of 172.16.3.8, which was set for the LSA generated by the ASBR (Router 3).

To see the metrics to the ASBRs, issue the **show ip ospf border** command in Router 5. The output is shown below.

```

Router 5
router-5# show ip ospf border-routers

OSPF Process 7 internal Routing Table

Codes: i - Intra-area route, I - Inter-area route

i 172.16.7.4 [74] via 172.16.6.6, Ethernet0, ASBR, Area 0, SPF 15
i 172.16.3.3 [64] via 172.16.2.3, Serial0, ASBR, Area 0, SPF 15
router-5#

```

In the above output, the metric to Router 4 is 74. This is compared to the Router 5 metric to reach the forwarding address of 172.16.3.8, which can be seen using the **show ip route 172.16.3.8** command. The output of this command is below.

```
Router 5
router-5# show ip route 172.16.3.8
Routing entry for 172.16.3.0/24
  Known via "ospf 7", distance 110, metric 79, type intra area
  Last update from 172.16.2.3 on Serial0, 00:30:49 ago
  Routing Descriptor Blocks:
    * 172.16.2.3, from 172.16.3.3, 00:30:49 ago, via Serial0
      Route metric is 79, traffic share count is 1
router-5#
```

So, the metric to reach the ASBR Router 4, which is 74, is compared to the metric to reach the forwarding address of 172.16.3.8 (generated by Router 3), which is 79. Therefore, the LSA installed in the routing table is the LSA generated by Router 4, as shown in the Router 5 output of **show ip route** below.

```
Router 5
router-5# show ip route
Codes: C - connected, S - static, I - IGRP, R - RIP, M - mobile, B - BGP
       D - EIGRP, EX - EIGRP external, O - OSPF, IA - OSPF inter area
       N1 - OSPF NSSA external type 1, N2 - OSPF NSSA external type 2
       E1 - OSPF external type 1, E2 - OSPF external type 2, E - EGP
       i - IS-IS, L1 - IS-IS level-1, L2 - IS-IS level-2, ia - IS-IS inter area
       * - candidate default, U - per-user static route, o - ODR
       P - periodic downloaded static route

Gateway of last resort is not set

O E2 200.200.200.0/24 [110/20] via 172.16.6.6, 00:35:14, Ethernet0
  172.16.0.0/24 is subnetted, 4 subnets
C    172.16.6.0 is directly connected, Ethernet0
O    172.16.7.0 [110/74] via 172.16.6.6, 00:35:14, Ethernet0
C    172.16.2.0 is directly connected, Serial0
O    172.16.3.0 [110/79] via 172.16.2.3, 00:35:14, Serial0
router-5#
```

When the metric of the redistributed route from multiple ASBRs are equal as illustrated in the document, the forwarding address changes the behavior of the type 5 LSA path selection. When a router receives two type 5 LSAs to the same destination with the forwarding addresses set on both LSAs, the router makes a comparison based on the metric to the forwarding addresses. The LSA with a forwarding address that offers the smaller metric is placed into the routing table.

If the metric of the redistributed routes are different, the routers prefer the route with the lowest metric and not the lowest metric to the forwarding address.

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## Related Information

- [Common Routing Problem with OSPF Forwarding Address](#)
- [OSPF Support Page](#)
- [Technical Support – Cisco Systems](#)

