Implementing MPLS Traffic Engineering

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Implementing MPLS Traffic Engineering

Traditional IP routing emphasizes on forwarding traffic to the destination as fast as possible. As a result, the routing protocols find out the least-cost route according to its metric to each destination in the network and every router forwards the packet based on the destination IP address and packets are forwarded hop-by-hop. Thus, traditional IP routing does not consider the available bandwidth of the link. This can cause some links to be over-utilized compared to others and bandwidth is not efficiently utilized. Traffic Engineering (TE) is used when the problems result from inefficient mapping of traffic streams onto the network resources. Traffic engineering allows you to control the path that data packets follow and moves traffic flows from congested links to non-congested links that would not be possible by the automatically computed destination-based shortest path.

Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) with its label switching capabilities, eliminates the need for an IP route look-up and creates a virtual circuit (VC) switching function, allowing enterprises the same performance on their IP-based network services as with those delivered over traditional networks such as Frame Relay or Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM). MPLS traffic engineering (MPLS-TE) relies on the MPLS backbone to replicate and expand upon the TE capabilities of Layer 2 ATM and Frame Relay networks.

MPLS-TE learns the topology and resources available in a network and then maps traffic flows to particular paths based on resource requirements and network resources such as bandwidth. MPLS-TE builds a unidirectional tunnel from a source to a destination in the form of a label switched path (LSP), which is then used to forward traffic. The point where the tunnel begins is called the tunnel headend or tunnel source, and the node where the tunnel ends is called the tunnel tailend or tunnel destination. A router through which the tunnel passes is called the mid-point of the tunnel.

MPLS uses extensions to a link-state based Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP), such as Intermediate System-to-Intermediate System (IS-IS) or Open Shortest Path First (OSPF). MPLS calculates TE tunnels at the LSP head based on required and available resources (constraint-based routing). If configured, the IGP automatically routes the traffic onto these LSPs. Typically, a packet that crosses the MPLS-TE backbone travels on a single LSP that connects the ingress point to the egress point. MPLS TE automatically establishes and maintains the LSPs across the MPLS network by using the Resource Reservation Protocol (RSVP).

Overview of MPLS-TE Features

In MPLS traffic engineering, IGP extensions flood the TE information across the network. Once the IGP distributes the link attributes and bandwidth information, the headend router calculates the best path from head to tail for the MPLS-TE tunnel. This path can also be configured explicitly. Once the path is calculated, RSVP-TE is used to set up the TE LSP (Labeled Switch Path).

To forward the traffic, you can configure autoroute, forward adjacency, or static routing. The autoroute feature announces the routes assigned by the tailend router and its downstream routes to the routing table of the headend router and the tunnel is considered as a directly connected link to the tunnel.

If forward adjacency is enabled, MPLS-TE tunnel is advertised as a link in an IGP network with the link's cost associated with it. Routers outside of the TE domain can see the TE tunnel and use it to compute the shortest path for routing traffic throughout the network.

MPLS-TE provides protection mechanism known as fast reroute to minimize packet loss during a failure. For fast reroute, you need to create back up tunnels. The autotunnel backup feature enables a router to dynamically build backup tunnels when they are needed instead of pre-configuring each backup tunnel and then assign the backup tunnel to the protected interfaces.

DiffServ Aware Traffic Engineering (DS-TE) enables you to configure multiple bandwidth constraints on an MPLS-enabled interface to support various classes of service (CoS). These bandwidth constraints can be treated differently based on the requirement for the traffic class using that constraint.

The MPLS traffic engineering auto-tunnel mesh feature allows you to set up full mesh of TE tunnels automatically with a minimal set of MPLS traffic engineering configurations. The MPLS-TE auto bandwidth feature allows you to automatically adjusts bandwidth based on traffic patterns without traffic disruption.

The MPLS-TE interarea tunneling feature allows you to establish TE tunnels spanning multiple Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP) areas and levels, thus eliminating the requirement that headend and tailend routers should reside in a single area.

For detailed information about MPLS-TE features, see MPLS-TE Features - Details, on page 13.

How MPLS-TE Works

MPLS-TE automatically establishes and maintains label switched paths (LSPs) across the backbone by using RSVP. The path that an LSP uses is determined by the LSP resource requirements and network resources, such as bandwidth. Available resources are flooded by extensions to a link state based Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP). MPLS-TE tunnels are calculated at the LSP headend router, based on a fit between the required and available resources (constraint-based routing). The IGP automatically routes the traffic to these LSPs. Typically, a packet crossing the MPLS-TE backbone travels on a single LSP that connects the ingress point to the egress point.

The following sections describe the components of MPLS-TE:

Tunnel Interfaces

From a Layer 2 standpoint, an MPLS tunnel interface represents the headend of an LSP. It is configured with a set of resource requirements, such as bandwidth and media requirements, and priority. From a Layer 3 standpoint, an LSP tunnel interface is the headend of a unidirectional virtual link to the tunnel destination.

MPLS-TE Path Calculation Module

This calculation module operates at the LSP headend. The module determines a path to use for an LSP. The path calculation uses a link-state database containing flooded topology and resource information.

RSVP with TE Extensions

RSVP operates at each LSP hop and is used to signal and maintain LSPs based on the calculated path.

MPLS-TE Link Management Module

This module operates at each LSP hop, performs link call admission on the RSVP signaling messages, and keep track on topology and resource information to be flooded.

Link-state IGP

Either Intermediate System-to-Intermediate System (IS-IS) or Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) can be used as IGPs. These IGPs are used to globally flood topology and resource information from the link management module.

Label Switching Forwarding

This forwarding mechanism provides routers with a Layer 2-like ability to direct traffic across multiple hops of the LSP established by RSVP signaling.

Configuring MPLS-TE

MPLS-TE requires co-ordination among several global neighbor routers. RSVP, MPLS-TE and IGP are configured on all routers and interfaces in the MPLS traffic engineering network. Explicit path and TE tunnel interfaces are configured only on the head-end routers. MPLS-TE requires some basic configuration tasks explained in this section.

The following restrictions apply while configuring MPLS-TE.

- L3VPN over MPLS TE, L2VPN over MPLS TE, IPv6 over MPLS TE, and MPLS TE over MPLS TE are currently not supported.
- In MPLS-TE fast reroute (FRR), switch over time in case of a failure is less than 50 milliseconds. However, if there are any TE tunnels that are part of the equal-cost multipath (ECMP), the switch over of the TE tunnel may exceed 50 milliseconds.
- When the TE tunnel is in FRR active state, the tunnel statistics will be accounted over the primary TE tunnel and not over the backup TE tunnel.

Building MPLS-TE Topology

Building MPLS-TE topology, sets up the environment for creating MPLS-TE tunnels. This procedure includes the basic node and interface configuration for enabling MPLS-TE. To perform constraint-based routing, you need to enable OSPF or IS-IS as IGP extension.

Before You Begin

Before you start to build the MPLS-TE topology, the following pre-requisites are required:

- Stable router ID is required at either end of the link to ensure that the link is successful. If you do not assign a router ID, the system defaults to the global router ID. Default router IDs are subject to change, which can result in an unstable link.
- Enable RSVP on the port interface.

Example

This example enables MPLS-TE on a node and then specifies the interface that is part of the MPLS-TE. Here, OSPF is used as the IGP extension protocol for information distribution.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# interface hundredGigE0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# router ospf area 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-ospf)# area 0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-ospf-ar)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-ospf-ar)# interface hundredGigE0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-ospf-ar-if)# exit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-ospf)# mpls traffic-eng router-id 192.168.70.1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Example

This example enables MPLS-TE on a node and then specifies the interface that is part of the MPLS-TE. Here, IS-IS is used as the IGP extension protocol for information distribution.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# interface hundredGigE0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# router isis 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-isis)# net 47.0001.0000.0000.0002.00
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-isis)# address-family ipv4 unicast
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-isis-af)# metric-style wide
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-isis-af)# mpls traffic-eng level 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-isis-af)# exit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-isis)# interface hundredGigE0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-isis-if)# exit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Related Topics

- How MPLS-TE Works, on page 2
- Creating an MPLS-TE Tunnel, on page 4

Creating an MPLS-TE Tunnel

Creating an MPLS-TE tunnel is a process of customizing the traffic engineering to fit your network topology. The MPLS-TE tunnel is created at the headend router. You need to specify the destination and path of the TE LSP.

To steer traffic through the tunnel, you can use the following ways:

- Static Routing
- Autoroute Announce
- Forwarding Adjacency

From the 7.1.1 release, IS-IS autoroute announce function is enhanced to redirect traffic from a source IP address prefix to a matching IP address assigned to an MPLS-TE tunnel destination interface.

Before You Begin

The following prerequisites are required to create an MPLS-TE tunnel:

- You must have a router ID for the neighboring router.
- Stable router ID is required at either end of the link to ensure that the link is successful. If you do not assign a router ID to the routers, the system defaults to the global router ID. Default router IDs are subject to change, which can result in an unstable link.

Configuration Example

This example configures an MPLS-TE tunnel on the headend router with a destination IP address 192.168.92.125. The bandwidth for the tunnel, path-option, and forwarding parameters of the tunnel are also configured. You can use static routing, autoroute announce or forwarding adjacency to steer traffic through the tunnel.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# interface tunnel-te 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# destination 192.168.92.125
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# ipv4 unnumbered Loopback0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# path-option 1 dynamic
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# autoroute announce  or forwarding adjacency
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# signalled-bandwidth 100
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Verification

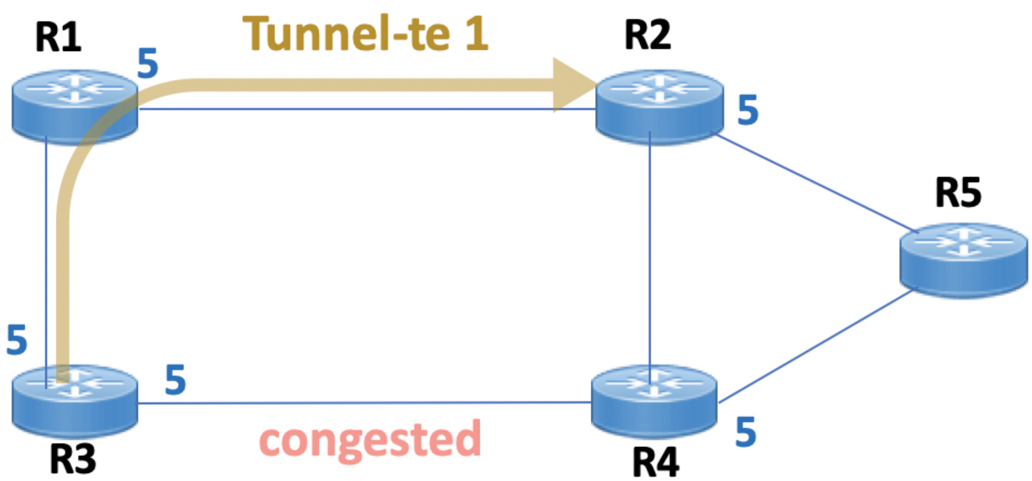
Verify the configuration of MPLS-TE tunnel using the following command.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# show mpls traffic-engineering tunnels brief

            Signalling Summary:
                LSP Tunnels Process:  running
                       RSVP Process:  running
                         Forwarding:  enabled
            Periodic reoptimization:  every 3600 seconds, next in 2538 seconds
             Periodic FRR Promotion:  every 300 seconds, next in 38 seconds
            Auto-bw enabled tunnels:  0 (disabled)
                       TUNNEL NAME         DESTINATION      STATUS  STATE


                      tunnel-te1        192.168.92.125       up        up
            Displayed 1 up, 0 down, 0 recovering, 0 recovered heads
```

Automatic Modification Of An MPLS-TE Tunnel's Metric

If the IGP calculation on a router results in an equal cost multipath (ECMP) scenario where next-hop interfaces are a mix of MPLS-TE tunnels and physical interfaces, you may want to ensure that a TE tunnel is preferred. Consider this topology:

Figure 1: MPLS-TE Tunnel



1. All links in the network have a metric of 5.
2. To offload a congested link between R3 and R4, an MPLS-TE tunnel is created from R3 to R2.
3. If the metric of the tunnel is also 5, traffic from R3 to R5 is load-balanced between the tunnel and the physical R3-R4 link.

To ensure that the MPLS-TE tunnel is preferred in such scenarios, configure the **autoroute metric** command on the tunnel interface. The modified metric is applied in the routing information base (RIB), and the tunnel is preferred over the physical path of the same metric. Sample configuration:

```
Router# configure
Router(config)# interface tunnel-te 1
Router(config-if)# autoroute metric relative -1
```

The **autoroute metric** command syntax is **autoroute metric** {**absolute**|**relative**} *value*

- **absolute** enables the absolute metric mode, for a metric range between 1 and 2147483647.
- **relative** enables the relative metric mode, for a metric range between -10 and 10, including zero.

Note Since the **relative** metric is not saved in the IGP database, the advertised metric of the MPLS-TE tunnel remains 5, and doesn't affect SPF calculation outcomes on other nodes.

Related Topics

- How MPLS-TE Works, on page 2
- Building MPLS-TE Topology , on page 3

Configuring Fast Reroute

Fast reroute (FRR) provides link protection to LSPs enabling the traffic carried by LSPs that encounter a failed link to be rerouted around the failure. The reroute decision is controlled locally by the router connected to the failed link. The headend router on the tunnel is notified of the link failure through IGP or through RSVP. When it is notified of a link failure, the headend router attempts to establish a new LSP that bypasses the failure. This provides a path to reestablish links that fail, providing protection to data transfer. The path of the backup tunnel can be an IP explicit path, a dynamically calculated path, or a semi-dynamic path. For detailed conceptual information on fast reroute, see MPLS-TE Features - Details, on page 13

Before You Begin

The following prerequisites are required to create an MPLS-TE tunnel:

- You must have a router ID for the neighboring router.
- Stable router ID is required at either end of the link to ensure that the link is successful. If you do not assign a router ID to the routers, the system defaults to the global router ID. Default router IDs are subject to change, which can result in an unstable link.

Configuration Example

This example configures fast reroute on an MPLS-TE tunnel. Here, tunnel-te 2 is configured as the back-up tunnel. You can use the **protected-by** command to configure path protection for an explicit path that is protected by another path.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router # configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# interface tunnel-te 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# fast-reroute
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# exit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# interface HundredGigabitEthernet0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if)# backup-path tunnel-te 2
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# interface tunnel-te 2
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# backup-bw global-pool 5000
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# ipv4 unnumbered Loopback0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# destination 192.168.92.125
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# path-option 1 explicit name backup-path protected by 10
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# path-option 10 dynamic
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Verification

Use the **show mpls traffic-eng fast-reroute database** command to verify the fast reroute configuration.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# show mpls traffic-eng fast-reroute database

Tunnel head FRR information:
Tunnel      Out intf/label                        FRR intf/label      Status
----------  ----------------                      ----------------    -------
tt4000       HundredGigabitEthernet 0/0/0/3:34     tt1000:34          Ready
tt4001       HundredGigabitEthernet 0/0/0/3:35     tt1001:35          Ready
tt4002       HundredGigabitEthernet 0/0/0/3:36     tt1001:36          Ready
```

Related Topics

- Configuring MPLS-TE, on page 3
- Configuring Auto-Tunnel Backup, on page 8

- Configuring Next Hop Backup Tunnel, on page 9
- MPLS-TE Features - Details, on page 13

Configuring Auto-Tunnel Backup

The MPLS Traffic Engineering Auto-Tunnel Backup feature enables a router to dynamically build backup tunnels on the interfaces that are configured with MPLS TE tunnels instead of building MPLS-TE tunnels statically.

The MPLS-TE Auto-Tunnel Backup feature has these benefits:

- Backup tunnels are built automatically, eliminating the need for users to pre-configure each backup tunnel and then assign the backup tunnel to the protected interface.
- Protection is expanded—FRR does not protect IP traffic that is not using the TE tunnel or Label Distribution Protocol (LDP) labels that are not using the TE tunnel.

The TE attribute-set template that specifies a set of TE tunnel attributes, is locally configured at the headend of auto-tunnels. The control plane triggers the automatic provisioning of a corresponding TE tunnel, whose characteristics are specified in the respective attribute-set.

Configuration Example

This example configures Auto-Tunnel backup on an interface and specifies the attribute-set template for the auto tunnels. In this example, unused backup tunnels are removed every 20 minutes using a timer and also the range of tunnel interface numbers are specified.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router # configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# interface HundredGigabitEthernet0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if)# auto-tunnel backup
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if-auto-backup)# attribute-set ab
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# auto-tunnel backup timers removal unused 20
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# auto-tunnel backup tunnel-id min 6000 max 6500
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Verification

This example shows a sample output for automatic backup tunnel configuration.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# show mpls traffic-eng tunnels brief

            TUNNEL NAME         DESTINATION      STATUS  STATE
             tunnel-te0           200.0.0.3          up  up
             tunnel-te1           200.0.0.3          up  up
             tunnel-te2           200.0.0.3          up  up
             tunnel-te50          200.0.0.3          up  up
           *tunnel-te60         200.0.0.3          up  up
              *tunnel-te70        200.0.0.3          up  up
              *tunnel-te80        200.0.0.3          up  up
```

Related Topics

- Configuring Fast Reroute , on page 7
- Configuring Next Hop Backup Tunnel, on page 9
- MPLS-TE Features - Details, on page 13

Configuring Next Hop Backup Tunnel

The backup tunnels that bypass only a single link of the LSP path are referred as Next Hop (NHOP) backup tunnels because they terminate at the LSP's next hop beyond the point of failure. They protect LSPs, if a link along their path fails, by rerouting the LSP traffic to the next hop, thus bypassing the failed link.

Configuration Example

This example configures next hop backup tunnel on an interface and specifies the attribute-set template for the auto tunnels. In this example, unused backup tunnels are removed every 20 minutes using a timer and also the range of tunnel interface numbers are specified.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router # configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# interface HundredGigabitEthernet0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if)# auto-tunnel backup nhop-only
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if-auto-backup)# attribute-set ab
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# auto-tunnel backup timers removal unused 20
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# auto-tunnel backup tunnel-id min 6000 max 6500
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Related Topics

- Configuring Auto-Tunnel Backup, on page 8
- Configuring Fast Reroute , on page 7
- MPLS-TE Features - Details, on page 13

Configuring SRLG Node Protection

Shared Risk Link Groups (SRLG) in MPLS traffic engineering refer to situations in which links in a network share common resources. These links have a shared risk, and that is when one link fails, other links in the group might fail too.

OSPF and IS-IS flood the SRLG value information (including other TE link attributes such as bandwidth availability and affinity) using a sub-type length value (sub-TLV), so that all routers in the network have the SRLG information for each link.

MPLS-TE SRLG feature enhances backup tunnel path selection by avoiding using links that are in the same SRLG as the interfaces it is protecting while creating backup tunnels.

Configuration Example

This example creates a backup tunnel and excludes the protected node IP address from the explicit path.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router # configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# interface HundredGigabitEthernet0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if)# backup-path tunnl-te 2
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if)# exit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# interface tunnel-te 2
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# ipv4 unnumbered Loopback0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# path-option 1 explicit name backup-srlg
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# destination 192.168.92.125
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# exit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# explicit-path name backup-srlg-nodep
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# index 1 exclude-address 192.168.91.1
```

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# index 2 exclude-srlg 192.168.92.2
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Related Topics

- Configuring Fast Reroute , on page 7
- MPLS-TE Features - Details, on page 13

Configuring Flexible Name-Based Tunnel Constraints

MPLS-TE Flexible Name-based Tunnel Constraints provides a simplified and more flexible means of configuring link attributes and path affinities to compute paths for the MPLS-TE tunnels.

In traditional TE, links are configured with attribute-flags that are flooded with TE link-state parameters using Interior Gateway Protocols (IGPs), such as Open Shortest Path First (OSPF).

MPLS-TE Flexible Name-based Tunnel Constraints lets you assign, or map, up to 32 color names for affinity and attribute-flag attributes instead of 32-bit hexadecimal numbers. After mappings are defined, the attributes can be referred to by the corresponding color name.

Configuration Example

This example shows assigning a how to associate a tunnel with affinity constraints.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# affinity-map red 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# interface HundredGigabitEthernet0/0/0/3
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-if)# attribute-names red
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# interface tunnel-te 2
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# affinity include red
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Configuring Automatic Bandwidth

Automatic bandwidth allows you to dynamically adjust bandwidth reservation based on measured traffic. MPLS-TE automatic bandwidth monitors the traffic rate on a tunnel interface and resizes the bandwidth on the tunnel interface to align it closely with the traffic in the tunnel. MPLS-TE automatic bandwidth is configured on individual Label Switched Paths (LSPs) at every headend router.

The following table specifies the parameters that can be configured as part of automatic bandwidth configuration.

Table 1: Automatic Bandwidth Parameters

Bandwidth Parameters	Description
Application frequency	Configures how often the tunnel bandwidths changed for each tunnel. The default value is 24 hours.
Bandwidth limit	Configures the minimum and maximum automatic bandwidth to set on a tunnel.

Bandwidth Parameters	Description
Bandwidth collection frequency	Enables bandwidth collection without adjusting the automatic bandwidth. The default value is 5 minutes.
Overflow threshold	Configures tunnel overflow detection.
Adjustment threshold	Configures the tunnel-bandwidth change threshold to trigger an adjustment.

Configuration Example

This example enables automatic bandwidth on MPLS-TE tunnel interface and configure the following automatic bandwidth variables.

- Application frequency
- Bandwidth limit
- Adjustment threshold
- Overflow detection

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# interface tunnel-te 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# auto-bw
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if-tunte-autobw)# application 1000
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if-tunte-autobw)# bw-limit min 30 max 1000
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if-tunte-autobw)# adjustment-threshold 50 min 800
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if-tunte-autobw)# overflow threshold 100 limit 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Verification

Verify the automatic bandwidth configuration using the **show mpls traffic-eng tunnels auto-bw brief** command.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# show mpls traffic-eng tunnels auto-bw brief

  Tunnel     LSP  Last appl  Requested  Signalled    Highest    Application
  Name        ID   BW(kbps)   BW(kbps)   BW(kbps)   BW(kbps)      Time Left
  -------------- ------ ---------- ---------- ---------- ---------- --------------
  tunnel-te1      5          500         300        420           1h 10m
```

Related Topics

- MPLS-TE Features - Details, on page 13

Configuring Auto-Tunnel Mesh

The MPLS-TE auto-tunnel mesh (auto-mesh) feature allows you to set up full mesh of TE Point-to-Point (P2P) tunnels automatically with a minimal set of MPLS traffic engineering configurations. You can configure one or more mesh-groups and each mesh-group requires a destination-list (IPv4 prefix-list) listing destinations, which are used as destinations for creating tunnels for that mesh-group.

You can configure MPLS-TE auto-mesh type attribute-sets (templates) and associate them to mesh-groups. Label Switching Routers (LSRs) can create tunnels using the tunnel properties defined in this attribute-set.

Auto-Tunnel mesh configuration minimizes the initial configuration of the network. You can configure tunnel properties template and mesh-groups or destination-lists on TE LSRs that further creates full mesh of TE tunnels between those LSRs. It eliminates the need to reconfigure each existing TE LSR in order to establish a full mesh of TE tunnels whenever a new TE LSR is added in the network.

Configuration Example

This example configures an auto-tunnel mesh group and specifies the attributes for the tunnels in the mesh-group.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router # configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# mpls traffic-eng
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# auto-tunnel mesh
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-auto-mesh)# tunnel-id min 1000 max 2000
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-auto-mesh)# group 10
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-auto-mesh-group)# attribute-set 10
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-auto-mesh-group)# destination-list dl-65
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te)# attribute-set auto-mesh 10
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-attribute-set)# autoroute announce
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-mpls-te-attribute-set)# auto-bw collect-bw-only
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit
```

Verification

Verify the auto-tunnel mesh configuration using the **show mpls traffic-eng auto-tunnel mesh** command.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# show mpls traffic-eng auto-tunnel mesh

Auto-tunnel Mesh Global Configuration:
  Unused removal timeout: 1h 0m 0s
  Configured tunnel number range: 1000-2000

Auto-tunnel Mesh Groups Summary:
  Mesh Groups count: 1
  Mesh Groups Destinations count: 3
  Mesh Groups Tunnels count:
    3 created, 3 up, 0 down, 0 FRR enabled

Mesh Group: 10 (3 Destinations)
  Status: Enabled
  Attribute-set: 10
  Destination-list: dl-65 (Not a prefix-list)
  Recreate timer: Not running
       Destination    Tunnel ID    State  Unused timer
  ----------------  -----------  -------  ------------
       192.168.0.2         1000     up   Not running
       192.168.0.3         1001     up   Not running
       192.168.0.4         1002     up   Not running
  Displayed 3 tunnels, 3 up, 0 down, 0 FRR enabled

Auto-mesh Cumulative Counters:
  Last cleared: Wed Oct  3 12:56:37 2015 (02:39:07 ago)
                      Total
  Created:                3
  Connected:              0
  Removed (unused):       0
```

```
Removed (in use):       0
Range exceeded:         0
```

Configuring an MPLS Traffic Engineering Interarea Tunneling

The MPLS TE Interarea Tunneling feature allows you to establish MPLS TE tunnels that span multiple Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP) areas and levels. This feature removes the restriction that required the tunnel headend and tailend routers both to be in the same area. The IGP can be either Intermediate System-to-Intermediate System (IS-IS) or Open Shortest Path First (OSPF).To configure an inter-area tunnel, you specify on the headend router a loosely routed explicit path for the tunnel label switched path (LSP) that identifies each area border router (ABR) the LSP should traverse using the next-address loose command. The headend router and the ABRs along the specified explicit path expand the loose hops, each computing the path segment to the next ABR or tunnel destination.

Configuration Example

This example configures an IPv4 explicit path with ABR configured as loose address on the headend router.

```
Router# configure
Router(config)# explicit-path name interarea1
Router(config-expl-path)# index1 next-address loose ipv4 unicast 172.16.255.129
Router(config-expl-path)# index 2 next-address loose ipv4 unicast 172.16.255.131
Router(config)# interface tunnel-te1
Router(config-if)# ipv4 unnumbered Loopback0
Router(config-if)# destination 172.16.255.2
Router(config-if)# path-option 10 explicit name interarea1
Router(config)# commit
```

MPLS-TE Features - Details

MPLS TE Fast Reroute Link and Node Protection

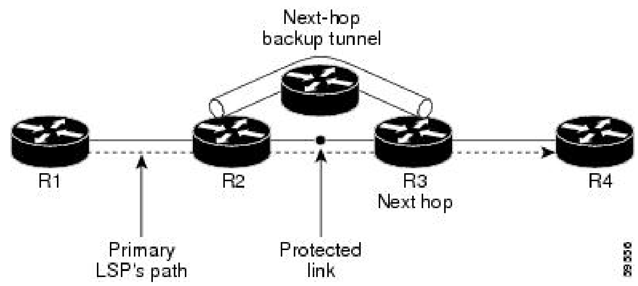
Fast Reroute (FRR) is a mechanism for protecting MPLS TE LSPs from link and node failures by locally repairing the LSPs at the point of failure, allowing data to continue to flow on them while their headend routers try to establish new end-to-end LSPs to replace them. FRR locally repairs the protected LSPs by rerouting them over backup tunnels that bypass failed links or node.

Note If FRR is greater than 50ms, it might lead to a loss of traffic.

Backup tunnels that bypass only a single link of the LSP's path provide link protection. They protect LSPs if a link along their path fails by rerouting the LSP's traffic to the next hop (bypassing the failed link). These tunnels are referred to as next-hop (NHOP) backup tunnels because they terminate at the LSP's next hop beyond the point of failure.

The following figure illustrates link protection.

Figure 2: Link Protection

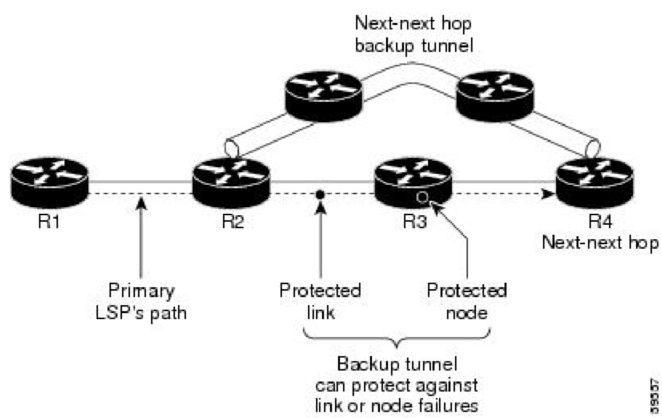


FRR provides node protection for LSPs. Backup tunnels that bypass next-hop nodes along LSP paths are called next-next-hop (NNHOP) backup tunnels because they terminate at the node following the next-hop node of the LSP paths, bypassing the next-hop node. They protect LSPs if a node along their path fails by enabling the node upstream of the failure to reroute the LSPs and their traffic around the failed node to the next-next hop. NNHOP backup tunnels also provide protection from link failures, because they bypass the failed link and the node.

NCS5000 Series Routers do not support node protection.

The following figure illustrates node protection.

Figure 3: Node Protection



MPLS-TE Forwarding Adjacency

MPLS TE forwarding adjacency allows you to handle a TE label-switched path (LSP) tunnel as a link in an Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP) network that is based on the Shortest Path First (SPF) algorithm. Both Intermediate System-to-Intermediate System (IS-IS) and Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) are supported as the IGP. A forwarding adjacency can be created between routers regardless of their location in the network. The routers can be located multiple hops from each other.

As a result, a TE tunnel is advertised as a link in an IGP network with the tunnel's cost associated with it. Routers outside of the TE domain see the TE tunnel and use it to compute the shortest path for routing traffic throughout the network. TE tunnel interfaces are advertised in the IGP network just like any other links. Routers can then use these advertisements in their IGPs to compute the SPF even if they are not the headend of any TE tunnels.

Automatic Bandwidth

Automatic bandwidth allows you to dynamically adjust bandwidth reservation based on measured traffic. MPLS-TE automatic bandwidth is configured on individual Label Switched Paths (LSPs) at every headend router. MPLS-TE automatic bandwidth monitors the traffic rate on a tunnel interface and resizes the bandwidth on the tunnel interface to align it closely with the traffic in the tunnel.

MPLS-TE automatic bandwidth can perform these functions:

- Monitors periodic polling of the tunnel output rate
- Resizes the tunnel bandwidth by adjusting the highest rate observed during a given period.

For every traffic-engineered tunnel that is configured for an automatic bandwidth, the average output rate is sampled, based on various configurable parameters. Then, the tunnel bandwidth is readjusted automatically based on either the largest average output rate that was noticed during a certain interval, or a configured maximum bandwidth value.

While re-optimizing the LSP with the new bandwidth, a new path request is generated. If the new bandwidth is not available, the last good LSP remains used. This way, the network experiences no traffic interruptions. If minimum or maximum bandwidth values are configured for a tunnel, the bandwidth, which the automatic bandwidth signals, stays within these values.

The output rate on a tunnel is collected at regular intervals that are configured by using the **application** command in MPLS-TE auto bandwidth interface configuration mode. When the application period timer expires, and when the difference between the measured and the current bandwidth exceeds the adjustment threshold, the tunnel is re-optimized. Then, the bandwidth samples are cleared to record the new largest output rate at the next interval. If a tunnel is shut down, and is later brought again, the adjusted bandwidth is lost, and the tunnel is brought back with the initially configured bandwidth. When the tunnel is brought back, the application period is reset.

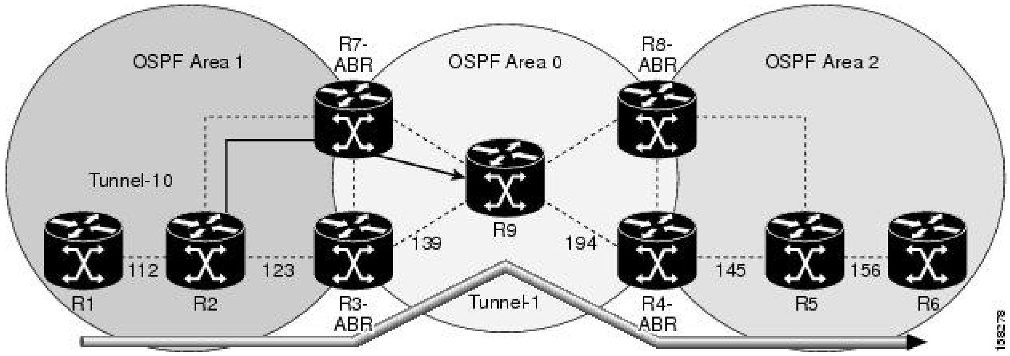
MPLS Traffic Engineering Interarea Tunneling

The MPLS-TE interarea tunneling feature allows you to establish TE tunnels spanning multiple Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP) areas and levels, thus eliminating the requirement that headend and tailend routers reside in a single area.

Interarea support allows the configuration of a TE LSP that spans multiple areas, where its headend and tailend label switched routers (LSRs) reside in different IGP areas. Customers running multiple IGP area backbones (primarily for scalability reasons) requires Multiarea and Interarea TE . This lets you limit the amount of flooded information, reduces the SPF duration, and lessens the impact of a link or node failure within an area, particularly with large WAN backbones split in multiple areas.

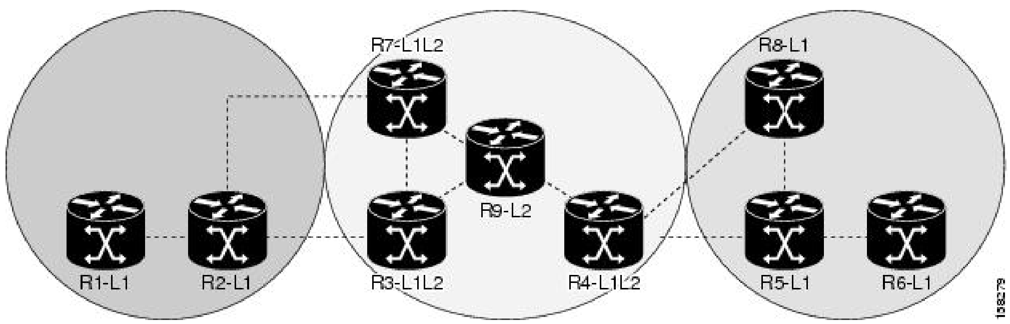
The following figure shows a typical interarea TE network using OSPF.

Figure 4: Interarea (OSPF) TE Network Diagram



The following figure shows a typical interlevel (IS-IS) TE Network.

Figure 5: Interlevel (IS-IS) TE Network Diagram



As shown in the Figure 5: Interlevel (IS-IS) TE Network Diagram, on page 16, R2, R3, R7, and R4 maintain two databases for routing and TE information. For example, R3 has TE topology information related to R2, flooded through Level-1 IS-IS LSPs plus the TE topology information related to R4, R9, and R7, flooded as Level 2 IS-IS Link State PDUs (LSPs) (plus, its own IS-IS LSP).

Loose hop optimization allows the re-optimization of tunnels spanning multiple areas and solves the problem which occurs when an MPLS-TE LSP traverses hops that are not in the LSP's headend's OSPF area and IS-IS level. Interarea MPLS-TE allows you to configure an interarea traffic engineering (TE) label switched path (LSP) by specifying a loose source route of ABRs along the path. Then it is the responsibility of the ABR (having a complete view of both areas) to find a path obeying the TE LSP constraints within the next area to reach the next hop ABR (as specified on the headend router). The same operation is performed by the last ABR connected to the tailend area to reach the tailend LSR.

You must be aware of these considerations when using loose hop optimization:

- You must specify the router ID of the ABR node (as opposed to a link address on the ABR).
- When multiarea is deployed in a network that contains subareas, you must enable MPLS-TE in the subarea for TE to find a path when loose hop is specified.
- You must specify the reachable explicit path for the interarea tunnel.