Multicast Subsecond Convergence

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The Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature comprises a comprehensive set of features and protocol enhancements that provide for improved scalability and convergence in multicast-based services. This feature set provides for the ability to scale to larger services levels and to recover multicast forwarding after service failure in subsecond time frames.

Finding Feature Information in This Module

Your Cisco IOS software release may not support all of the features documented in this module. For the latest feature information and caveats, see the release notes for your platform and software release. To reach links to specific feature documentation in this module and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, use the "Feature Information for Multicast Subsecond Convergence" section on page 12.

Finding Support Information for Platforms and Cisco IOS and Catalyst OS Software Images

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco IOS and Catalyst OS software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to http://www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Contents

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Prerequisites for Multicast Subsecond Convergence

Service providers must have a multicast-enabled core in order to use the Cisco Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature.

Restrictions for Multicast Subsecond Convergence

Routers that use the subsecond designated router (DR) failover enhancement need to be able to process hello interval information arriving in milliseconds. Routers that are congested or do not have enough CPU cycles to process the hello interval may assume that the Protocol Independent Multicast (PIM) neighbor is disconnected, although this may not be the case.

Information About Multicast Subsecond Convergence

To configure the Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature, you must understand the following concepts:

Benefits of Multicast Subsecond Convergence

- The scalability components improve on the efficiency of handling increases (or decreases) in service users (receivers) and service load (sources or content).
- New algorithms and processes (such as aggregated join messages, which deliver up to 1000 individual messages in a single packet) reduce the time to reach convergence by a factor of 10.
- Multicast subsecond convergence improves service availability for large multicast networks.
- Multicast users such as financial services firms and brokerages receive better quality of service (QoS), because multicast functionality is restored in a fraction of the time previously required.

Multicast Subsecond Convergence Scalability Enhancements

The Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature provides scalability enhancements that improve on the efficiency of handling increases (or decreases) in service users (receivers) and service load (sources or content). Scalability enhancements in this release include the following:

- Improved Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP) and PIM state maintenance through new timer management techniques
- Improved scaling of the Multicast Source Discovery Protocol (MSDP) Source-Active (SA) cache

The scalability enhancements provide the following benefits:

- Increased potential PIM multicast route (mroute), IGMP, and MSDP SA cache state capacity
- Decreased CPU usage

PIM Router Query Messages

Multicast subsecond convergence allows you to send PIM router query messages (PIM hellos) every few milliseconds. The PIM hello message is used to locate neighboring PIM routers. Before the introduction of this feature, you could send the PIM hellos every few seconds. By enabling a router to send PIM hello messages more often, this feature allows the router to discover unresponsive neighbors more quickly. As a result, the router can implement failover or recovery procedures more efficiently.

Reverse Path Forwarding

Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding (RPF) helps to mitigate problems caused by the introduction of malformed or forged IP source addresses into a network by discarding IP packets that lack a verifiable IP source address. Malformed or forged source addresses can indicate denial-of-service (DoS) attacks based on source IP address spoofing.

RPF uses access control lists (ACLs) in determining whether to drop or forward data packets that have malformed or forged IP source addresses. An option in the ACL commands allows system administrators to log information about dropped or forwarded packets. Logging information about forged packets can help in uncovering information about possible network attacks.

Per-interface statistics can help system administrators quickly discover the interface serving as the entry point for an attack on the network.

Triggered RPF Checks

Multicast subsecond convergence provides the ability to trigger a check of RPF changes for mroute states. This check is triggered by unicast routing changes. By performing a triggered RPF check, users can set the periodic RPF check to a relatively high value (for example, 10 seconds) and still fail over quickly.

The triggered RPF check enhancement reduces the time needed for service to be restored after disruption, such as for single service events (for example, in a situation with one source and one receiver) or as the service scales along any parameter (for example, many sources, many receivers, and many interfaces). This enhancement decreases in time-to-converge PIM (mroute), IGMP, and MSDP (SA cache) states.

Topology Changes and Multicast Routing Recovery

The Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature set enhances both enterprise and service provider network backbones by providing almost instantaneous recovery of multicast paths after unicast routing recovery.

Because PIM relies on the unicast routing table to calculate its RPF when a change in the network topology occurs, unicast protocols first need to calculate options for the best paths for traffic, and then multicast can determine the best path.

Multicast subsecond convergence allows multicast protocol calculations to finish almost immediately after the unicast calculations are completed. As a result, multicast traffic forwarding is restored substantially faster after a topology change.

How to Configure Multicast Subsecond Convergence

This section contains the following procedures:

- Modifying the Periodic RPF Check Interval, page 4 (optional)
- Configuring PIM RPF Failover Intervals, page 5 (optional)
- Modifying the PIM Router Query Message Interval, page 6 (optional)
- Verifying Multicast Subsecond Convergence Configurations, page 7 (optional)

Modifying the Periodic RPF Check Interval

Perform this task to modify the intervals at which periodic RPF checks occur.

RPF Checks

PIM is designed to forward IP multicast traffic using the standard unicast routing table. PIM uses the unicast routing table to decide if the source of the IP multicast packet has arrived on the optimal path from the source. This process, the RPF check, is protocol-independent because it is based on the contents of the unicast routing table and not on any particular routing protocol.

Restrictions

Cisco recommends that users keep the default values for the **ip rpf interval** command. The default values allow subsecond RPF failover. The default interval at which periodic RPF checks occur is 10 seconds.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **ip multicast rpf interval** *seconds* [**list** *access-list* | **route-map** *route-map*]

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Router> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Router# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**ip multicast rpf interval** *seconds* [**list** *access-list* | **route-map** *route-map*] **Example:** `Router(config)# ip multicast rpf interval 10`	Configures the periodic RPF check intervals to occur at a specified interval, in seconds.

What to Do Next

Proceed to the "Configuring PIM RPF Failover Intervals" section on page 5 to configure the intervals at which PIM RPF failover will be triggered by changes in the routing tables. Proceed to the "Modifying the PIM Router Query Message Interval" section on page 6 to modify the interval at which IGMP host query messages are sent. Proceed to the "Verifying Multicast Subsecond Convergence Configurations" section on page 7 to display information about and to verify information regarding the Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature.

Configuring PIM RPF Failover Intervals

Perform this task to configure the intervals at which PIM RPF failover will be triggered by changes in the routing tables.

RPF Failover

In an unstable unicast routing environment that uses triggered RPF checks, the environment could be constantly triggering RPF checks, which places a burden on the resources of the router. To avoid this problem, use the **ip multicast rpf backoff** command to prevent a second triggered RPF check from occurring for the length of time configured. That is, the PIM "backs off" from another triggered RPF check for a minimum amount of milliseconds as configured by the user.

If the backoff period expires without further routing table changes, PIM then scans for routing changes and accordingly establishes multicast RPF changes. However, if more routing changes occur during the backoff period, PIM doubles the backoff period to avoid overloading the router with PIM RPF changes while the routing table is still converging.

Restrictions

Cisco recommends that users keep the default values for the **ip multicast rpf backoff** command. The default values allow subsecond RPF failover.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **ip multicast rpf backoff** *minimum maximum* [**disable**]

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Router> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Router# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**ip multicast rpf backoff** *minimum maximum* [**disable**] **Example:** `Router(config)# ip multicast rpf backoff 100 2500`	Configures the minimum and the maximum backoff intervals.

What to Do Next

Proceed to the "Modifying the PIM Router Query Message Interval" section on page 6 to modify the interval at which IGMP host query messages are sent. Proceed to the "Verifying Multicast Subsecond Convergence Configurations" section on page 7 to display information about and to verify information regarding the Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature.

Modifying the PIM Router Query Message Interval

Perform this task to modify the PIM router query message interval.

PIM Router Query Messages

Router query (hello) messages are used to elect a PIM designated router. The designated router is responsible for sending IGMP host query messages. By default, multicast routers send PIM router query messages every 30 seconds.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot/port*
4. **ip pim query-interval** *period* [**msec**]

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Router> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Router# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**interface** *type slot/port* **Example:** `Router(config)# interface ethernet 1/0`	Specifies the interface and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	**ip pim query-interval** *period* [**msec**] **Example:** `Router(config-if)# ip pim query-interval 45`	Configures the frequency at which multicast routers send PIM router query messages.

What to Do Next

Proceed to the "Verifying Multicast Subsecond Convergence Configurations" section on page 7 to display information about and to verify information regarding the Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature.

Verifying Multicast Subsecond Convergence Configurations

Perform this task to display detailed information about and to verify information regarding the Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **show ip pim interface** *type number*
3. **show ip pim neighbor**
4. **show ip rpf events**

DETAILED STEPS

Step 1 **enable**

Enables privileged EXEC mode.

Step 2 **show ip pim interface** *type number*

Use this command to display information about interfaces configured for PIM.

The following is sample output from the **show ip pim interface** command:

```
Router# show ip pim interface Ethernet 1/0

Address          Interface                Ver/   Nbr    Query  DR     DR
                                          Mode   Count  Intvl  Prior
172.16.1.4       Ethernet1/0              v2/S   1      100 ms 1      172.16.1.4
```

Step 3 **show ip pim neighbor**

Use this command to display the PIM neighbors discovered by the Cisco IOS software.

The following is sample output from the **show ip pim neighbor** command:

```
Router# show ip pim neighbor

PIM Neighbor Table
Neighbor          Interface                Uptime/Expires    Ver   DR
Address                                                            Prio/Mode
172.16.1.3        Ethernet1/0              00:03:41/250 msec v2    1 / S
```

Step 4 **show ip rpf events**

Use this command to display information regarding the last 15 triggered multicast RPF check events.

The following sample output from the **show ip rpf events** command:

```
Router# show ip rpf events

Last 15 triggered multicast RPF check events

RPF backoff delay:500 msec
RPF maximum delay:5 sec

DATE/TIME             BACKOFF    PROTOCOL   EVENT         RPF CHANGES
Mar 7 03:24:10.505    500 msec   Static     Route UP        0
Mar 7 03:23:11.804    1000 sec   BGP        Route UP        3
Mar 7 03:23:10.796    500 msec   ISIS       Route UP        0
Mar 7 03:20:10.420    500 msec   ISIS       Route Down      3
Mar 7 03:19:51.072    500 msec   Static     Route Down      0
Mar 7 02:46:32.464    500 msec   Connected  Route UP        3
Mar 7 02:46:24.052    500 msec   Static     Route Down      0
Mar 7 02:46:10.200    1000 sec   Connected  Route UP        3
Mar 7 02:46:09.060    500 msec   OSPF       Route UP        3
Mar 7 02:46:07.416    500 msec   OSPF       Route Down      0
Mar 7 02:45:50.423    500 msec   EIGRP      Route UP        3
Mar 7 02:45:09.679    500 msec   EIGRP      Route Down      0
Mar 7 02:45:06.322    500 msec   EIGRP      Route Down      2
Mar 7 02:33:09.424    500 msec   Connected  Route UP        0
Mar 7 02:32:28.307    500 msec   BGP        Route UP        3
```

Configuration Examples for Multicast Subsecond Convergence

This section provides the following configuration examples

Modifying the Periodic RPF Check Interval Example

In the following example, the **ip multicast rpf interval** has been set to 10 seconds. This command does not show up in **show running-config** output unless the interval value has been configured to be the nondefault value.

```
!
ip multicast-routing
ip multicast rpf interval 10
.
.
.
interface Ethernet0/0
 ip address 172.16.2.1 255.255.255.0
.
.
.
ip pim sparse-mode
!
```

Configuring PIM RPF Failover Intervals Example

In the following example, the **ip multicast rpf backoff** command has been configured with a minimum backoff interval value of 100 and a maximum backoff interval value of 2500. This command does not show up in **show running-config** command output unless the interval value has been configured to be the nondefault value.

```
!
ip multicast-routing
.
.
.
ip multicast rpf backoff 100 2500
!
!

interface Ethernet0/0
 ip address 172.16.2.1 255.255.255.0
.
.
.
ip pim sparse-mode

!
```

Modifying the PIM Router Query Message Interval Example

In the following example, the **ip pim query-interval** command has been set to 100 milliseconds. This command does not show up in **show running-config** command output unless the interval value has been configured to be the nondefault value.

```
!
interface Ethernet0/0
 ip address 172.16.2.1 255.255.255.0
ip pim query-interval 100 msec
ip pim sparse-mode
```

Additional References

The following sections provide references related to the Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature.

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
PIM-SM and SSM concepts and configuration examples	"Configuring Basic IP Multicast" module
PIM-SM optimization concepts and configuration examples	"Optimizing PIM Sparse Mode in a Large IP Multicast Deployment" module
Cisco IOS IP multicast commands: complete command syntax, command mode, defaults, command history, usage guidelines, and examples	*Cisco IOS IP Multicast Command Reference*

Standards

Standard	Title
No new or modified standards are supported by this feature, and support for existing standards has not been modified by this feature.	—

MIBs

MIB	MIBs Link
No new or modified MIBs are supported by this feature, and support for existing standards has not been modified by this feature.	To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL: http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs

RFCs

RFC	Title
No new or modified RFCs are supported by this feature, and support for existing standards has not been modified by this feature.	—

Technical Assistance

Description	Link
The Cisco Support website provides extensive online resources, including documentation and tools for troubleshooting and resolving technical issues with Cisco products and technologies. To receive security and technical information about your products, you can subscribe to various services, such as the Product Alert Tool (accessed from Field Notices), the Cisco Technical Services Newsletter, and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds. Access to most tools on the Cisco Support website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password.	http://www.cisco.com/techsupport

Command Reference

The following commands are introduced or modified in the feature or features documented in this module. For information about these commands, see the *Cisco IOS IP Multicast Command Reference* at http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/ios/ipmulti/command/reference/imc_book.html. For information about all Cisco IOS commands, use the Command Lookup Tool at http://tools.cisco.com/Support/CLILookup or a Cisco IOS master commands list.

- **debug ip mrouting**
- **debug ip pim**
- **ip multicast rpf backoff**
- **ip multicast rpf interval**
- **ip pim query-interval**
- **show ip pim interface**
- **show ip pim neighbor**
- **show ip rpf events**

Feature Information for Multicast Subsecond Convergence

Table 1 lists the release history for this feature.

Not all commands may be available in your Cisco IOS software release. For release information about a specific command, see the command reference documentation.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and software image support. Cisco Feature Navigator enables you to determine which Cisco IOS and Catalyst OS software images support a specific software release, feature set, or platform. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to http://www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Note Table 1 lists only the Cisco IOS software release that introduced support for a given feature in a given Cisco IOS software release train. Unless noted otherwise, subsequent releases of that Cisco IOS software release train also support that feature.

Table 1 Feature Information for Multicast Subsecond Convergence

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
Multicast Subsecond Convergence	12.0(22)S 12.2(14)S 12.2(15)T	The Multicast Subsecond Convergence feature comprises a comprehensive set of features and protocol enhancements that provide for improved scalability and convergence in multicast-based services. This feature set provides for the ability to scale to larger services levels and to recover multicast forwarding after service failure in subsecond time frames. The following commands were introduced or modified: **debug ip mrouting**, **debug ip pim**, **ip multicast rpf backoff**, **ip multicast rpf interval**, **ip pim query-interval**, **show ip pim interface**, **show ip pim neighbor**, **show ip rpf events**.
Multicast Subsecond Convergence	Cisco IOS XE Release 2.1	This feature was introduced on Cisco ASR 1000 Series Routers.

Glossary

convergence—Speed and ability of a group of internetworking devices running a specific routing protocol to agree on the topology of an internetwork after a change in that topology.

DR—designated router. OSPF router that generates link-state advertisements (LSAs) for a multiaccess network and has other special responsibilities in running Open Shortest Path First (OSPF). Each multiaccess OSPF network that has at least two attached routers has a designated router that is elected by the OSPF Hello protocol. The designated router enables a reduction in the number of adjacencies required on a multiaccess network, which in turn reduces the amount of routing protocol traffic and the size of the topological database.

Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP)—Internet Group Management Protocol. Used by IP hosts to report their multicast group memberships to an adjacent multicast router.

MBONE—multicast backbone. Multicast backbone of the Internet. MBONE is a virtual multicast network composed of multicast LANs and the point-to-point tunnels that interconnect them.

multicast—Single packets copied by the network and sent to a specific subset of network addresses. These addresses are specified in the Destination Address Field.

multicast address—Single address that refers to multiple network devices. Synonymous with group address.

Multicast Source Discovery Protocol (MSDP)—A mechanism to connect multiple Protocol Independent Multicast sparse mode (PIM-SM) domains. MSDP allows multicast sources for a group to be known to all rendezvous points in different domains.

PIM—Protocol Independent Multicast. Multicast routing architecture that allows the addition of IP multicast routing on existing IP networks. PIM is unicast routing protocol independent and can be operated in two modes: dense and sparse.

Reverse Path Forwarding (RPF)—Multicasting technique in which a multicast datagram is forwarded out of all but the receiving interface if the receiving interface is the one used to forward unicast datagrams to the source of the multicast datagram.

Note Refer to the *Internetworking Terms and Acronyms* for terms not included in this glossary.