



# Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing

---

This module explains how to configure policy-based routing (PBR) to classify and forward Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) Virtual Private Network (VPN) traffic based on multiple VPN routing and forwarding (VRF) selection match criteria.

## Module History

This module was first published on May 2, 2005, and last updated on September 10, 2007.

## Finding Feature Information in This Module

Your Cisco IOS software release may not support all features. To find information about feature support and configuration, use the [“Feature Information for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing”](#) section on page 13.

## Contents

- [Prerequisites for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing, page 1](#)
- [Restrictions for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing, page 2](#)
- [Information About Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing, page 2](#)
- [How to Configure Policy-Based Routing To Direct MPLS VPN Traffic, page 3](#)
- [Configuration Examples for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing, page 10](#)
- [Additional References, page 12](#)
- [Feature Information for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing, page 13](#)

## Prerequisites for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing



---

**Americas Headquarters:**  
Cisco Systems, Inc., 170 West Tasman Drive, San Jose, CA 95134-1706 USA

© 2007 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.

- Multiprotocol BGP (MP-BGP), Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), Cisco Express Forwarding (CEF), and MPLS VPNs must be enabled in your network.
- The router must be running Cisco IOS software that supports policy-based routing (PBR).
- A VRF must be defined prior to the configuration of this feature. An error message is displayed in the console if no VRF exists.

## Restrictions for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing

- VRF Select is supported only in Service Provider (-p-) images.
- This feature can coexist with features that use VRF selection based on the source IP address, but these features cannot be configured together on the same interface. This is designed behavior to prevent VRF table selection conflicts that could occur if these features were misconfigured together. The console returns an error message if you attempt to configure the **ip vrf select source** and the **ip vrf policy-map** commands on the same interface.
- Protocol Independent Multicast (PIM) and multicast packets do not support PBR and cannot be configured for a source IP address that is match criteria for this feature.
- The **set vrf** command cannot be configured with the following commands in the same route map sequence:
  - **set ip default interface**
  - **set interface**
  - **set ip default next-hop**
  - **set ip next-hop**

A packet cannot be set to an interface or to a next hop when the **set vrf** command is specified. This is designed behavior. An error message is displayed if you attempt to configure the **set vrf** command with any of the above four set clauses.

- The *VRF Selection using Policy Based Routing* feature cannot be configured with IP prefix lists.
- If an interface is associated with a VRF by configuring the **ip vrf forwarding** interface configuration command, you cannot also configure the same interface to use PBR with the **set vrf** route map configuration command.
- PBR can be configured on an interface where a VRF is defined. However, the console displays the following warning messages if you attempt to configure both PBR and a VRF on the same interface:

```
%% Policy Based Routing is NOT supported for VRF" interfaces
%% IP-Policy can be used ONLY for marking "(set/clear DF bit) on
```

## Information About Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing

Before configuring this feature, you should understand the following concepts:

- [Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing Overview, page 3](#)
- [VRF Selection Introduces a New PBR Set Clause, page 3](#)

## Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing Overview

This feature allows you to route VPN traffic based on the following match criteria:

- **IP Access Lists** — IP addresses, IP address ranges, and other IP packet access list filtering options. Named, numbered, standard, and extended access lists are supported. All IP access list configuration options in Cisco IOS software can be used to define match criteria.
- **Packet Lengths**— Length of a packet in bytes. The packet length filter is defined in a route map with the **match length** route map configuration command.

Policy routing is defined in the route map. The route map is applied to the incoming interface with the **ip policy route-map** interface configuration command. IP access list match criteria is applied to the route map with the **match ip address** route map configuration command. Packet length match criteria is applied to the route map with the **match length** route map configuration command. The set action is defined with the **set vrf** route map configuration command. The match criteria is evaluated, and the appropriate VRF is selected by the set clause. This combination allows you to define match criteria for incoming VPN traffic and policy route VPN packets out to the appropriate VRF.

## VRF Selection Introduces a New PBR Set Clause

When configuring PBR, the following four set clauses can be used to change normal routing and forwarding behavior:

- **set ip default interface**
- **set ip interface**
- **set ip default next-hop**
- **set ip next-hop**

Configuring any of the above set clauses will overwrite normal routing forwarding behavior of a packet.

This feature introduces the fifth set clause that can be used to change normal routing and forwarding behavior. You can use the **set vrf** command to select the appropriate VRF after the successful match occurs in the route map. However, the **set vrf** command cannot be configured with the above four PBR set clauses. This is designed behavior, because a packet cannot be set to an interface or a specific next hop when it is configured within a VRF. An error message will be displayed in the console if you attempt to configure the **set vrf** command with any of the above four PBR set clauses within the same route map.

## How to Configure Policy-Based Routing To Direct MPLS VPN Traffic

- [Defining the Match Criteria, page 3](#) (required)
- [Configuring the Route Map and Specifying VRFs, page 5](#) (required)
- [Applying a Route Map to an Interface, page 7](#) (required)
- [Configuring IP VRF Receive on the Interface, page 8](#) (required)
- [Verifying the Configuration, page 9](#) (optional)

## Defining the Match Criteria

The match criteria is defined in an access list. Standard and extended access lists are supported. The following sections show how to configure each type of access list:

- [Defining Match Criteria with a Standard Access List, page 4](#)
- [Defining Match Criteria with an Extended Access List, page 5](#)

Match criteria can also be defined based on the packet length by configuring the **match length** route-map configuration command. You use a route map to configure VRF selection based on packet length. See the “[Configuring the Route Map and Specifying VRFs](#)” section on page 5 for more information.

## Prerequisites

The following tasks assume that the VRF and associated IP address are already defined.

### Defining Match Criteria with a Standard Access List

#### SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **access-list** *access-list-number* {deny | permit} source [source-wildcard] [log]

#### DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	<b>enable</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enter your password if prompted.</li> </ul>
Step 2	<b>configure terminal</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	<b>access-list</b> <i>access-list-number</i> {deny   permit} source [source-wildcard] [log]  <b>Example:</b> Router(config)# access-list 40 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255 permit	Creates an access list and defines the match criteria for the route map. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Match criteria can be defined based on IP addresses, IP address ranges, and other IP packet access list filtering options. Named, numbered, standard, and extended access lists are supported. All IP access list configuration options in Cisco IOS software can be used to define match criteria.</li> <li>• The example creates a standard access list numbered 40. This filter will permit traffic from any host with an IP address in the 192.168.1.0/24 subnet.</li> </ul>

## Defining Match Criteria with an Extended Access List

### SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **ip access-list {standard | extended} [access-list-name | access-list-number]**
4. **[sequence-number] permit | deny protocol source source-wildcard destination destination-wildcard [option option-value] [precedence precedence] [tos tos] [log] [time-range time-range-name] [fragments]**
5. **exit**

### DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	<b>enable</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enter your password if prompted.</li> </ul>
Step 2	<b>configure terminal</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	<b>ip access-list {standard extended} [access-list-name access-list-number]</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config)# ip access-list extended NAMEDACL	Specifies the IP access list type, and enters the corresponding access list configuration mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A standard, extended, or named access list can be used.</li> </ul>
Step 4	<b>[sequence-number] permit   deny protocol source source-wildcard destination destination-wildcard [option option-value] [precedence precedence] [tos tos] [log] [time-range time-range-name] [fragments]</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-ext-nacl)# permit ip any any option any-options	Defines the criteria for which the access list will permit or deny packets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Match criteria can be defined based on IP addresses, IP address ranges, and other IP packet access list filtering options. Named, numbered, standard, and extended access lists are supported. All IP access list configuration options in Cisco IOS software can be used to define match criteria.</li> <li>• The example creates a named access list that permits any configured IP option.</li> </ul>
Step 5	<b>exit</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-ext-nacl)# exit	Exits named access list configuration mode, and enters global configuration mode.

## Configuring the Route Map and Specifying VRFs

You define a route map then assign an access list to it. Then you specify a VRF for the traffic that matches the criteria in the route map. Use the **set vrf** command to specify the VRF through which the outbound VPN packets are routed.

## Prerequisites

Define the VRF before configuring the route map; otherwise the console displays an error.

## SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
  2. **configure terminal**
  3. **route-map** *map-tag* [**permit** | **deny**] [*sequence-number*]
  4. **match ip address** {*acl-number* [*acl-number ...*| *acl-name ...*] | *acl-name* [*acl-name ...*| *acl-number ...*] }
- or
4. **match length** *minimum-length maximum-length*
  5. **set vrf** *vrf-name*
  6. **exit**

## DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	<b>enable</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enter your password if prompted.</li> </ul>
Step 2	<b>configure terminal</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	<b>route-map</b> <i>map-tag</i> [ <b>permit</b>   <b>deny</b> ] [ <i>sequence-number</i> ]  <b>Example:</b> Router(config)# route-map RED permit 10	Defines the conditions for redistributing routes from one routing protocol into another, or enables policy routing. Enters route map configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
<b>Step 4</b>	<pre>match ip address {acl-number [acl-number ...   acl-name ...]   acl-name [acl-name ...   acl-number ...] }</pre> <p><b>Example:</b>  Router(config-route-map)# match ip address 1  or  match length <i>minimum-length maximum-length</i></p> <p><b>Example:</b>  Router(config-route-map)# match length 3 200</p>	<p>Distributes any routes that have a destination network number address that is permitted by a standard or extended access list, and performs policy routing on matched packets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IP access lists are supported.</li> <li>The example configures the route map to use standard access list 1 to define match criteria.</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <p>Specifies the Layer 3 packet length in the IP header as a match criteria in a class map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The example configures the route map to match packets that are between 3 and 200 bytes in size.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 5</b>	<pre>set vrf vrf-name</pre> <p><b>Example:</b>  Router(config-route-map)# set vrf RED</p>	<p>Defines which VRF to send VPN packets that are successfully matched.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The example policy routes matched packets out to the VRF named RED.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 6</b>	<pre>exit</pre> <p><b>Example:</b>  Router(config-route-map)# exit</p>	<p>Exits route-map configuration mode and enters global configuration mode.</p>

## Applying a Route Map to an Interface

You apply a route map to the incoming interface with the **ip policy route-map** global configuration command.

### SUMMARY STEPS

- enable**
- configure terminal**
- interface** *type number* [*name-tag*]
- ip policy route-map** *map-tag*
- ip vrf receive** *vrf-name*
- end**

## DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	<b>enable</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enter your password if prompted.</li> </ul>
Step 2	<b>configure terminal</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	<b>interface</b> <i>type number [name-tag]</i>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config)# interface FastEthernet 0/1	Configures an interface and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	<b>ip policy route-map</b> [ <i>map-tag</i> ]  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-if)# ip policy route-map RED	Identifies a route map to use for policy routing on an interface.
Step 5	<b>ip vrf receive</b> <i>vrf-name</i>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-if)# ip vrf receive VRF_1	Adds the IP addresses that are associated with an interface into the VRF table. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This command can be configured so that the receiving packets can be received by the router after being set to a specific VRF.</li> </ul>
Step 6	<b>end</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-if)# end	Exits interface configuration mode and enters global configuration mode.

## Configuring IP VRF Receive on the Interface

You must add the source IP address to the VRF selection table. VRF Selection is a one-way (unidirectional) feature. It is applied to the incoming interface. If a match and set operation occurs in the route map but there is no receive entry in the local VRF table, the packet will be dropped if the packet destination is local.

## SUMMARY STEPS

- enable**
- configure terminal**
- interface** *type number [name-tag]*
- ip policy route-map** *map-tag*
- ip vrf receive** *vrf-name*
- end**

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<b>enable</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enter your password if prompted.</li> </ul>
Step 2	<b>configure terminal</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	<b>interface</b> <i>type number [name-tag]</i>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config)# interface FastEthernet 0/1	Configures an interface and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	<b>ip policy route-map</b> [ <i>map-tag</i> ]  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-if)# ip policy route-map RED	Identifies a route map to use for policy routing on an interface.
Step 5	<b>ip vrf receive</b> <i>vrf-name</i>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-if)# <b>ip vrf receive</b> VRF_1	Adds the IP addresses that are associated with an interface into the VRF table. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This command must be configured for each VRF that will be used for VRF selection.</li> </ul>
Step 6	<b>end</b>  <b>Example:</b> Router(config-if)# end	Exits interface configuration mode and enters privileged EXEC mode.

## Verifying the Configuration

To verify that the configuration is correct, perform the steps in this section.

### SUMMARY STEPS

- enable**
- show ip access-list** [*access-list-number* | *access-list-name*]
- show route-map** [*map-name*]
- show ip policy**

## DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	<code>enable</code>  <b>Example:</b> Router> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enter your password if prompted.</li> </ul>
Step 2	<code>show ip access-list [access-list-number   access-list-name]</code>  <b>Example:</b> Router# show ip access-list	Displays the contents of all current IP access lists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This command is used to verify the match criteria that is defined in the access list. Both named and numbered access lists are supported.</li> </ul>
Step 3	<code>show route-map [map-name]</code>  <b>Example:</b> Router# show route-map	Displays all route maps configured or only the one specified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This command is used to verify match and set clauses within the route map.</li> </ul>
Step 4	<code>show ip policy</code>  <b>Example:</b> Router# show ip policy	Displays the route map used for policy routing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This command can be used to display the route map and the associated interface.</li> </ul>

## Configuration Examples for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing

This section provides the following configuration examples:

- [Configuring Policy-Based Routing with a Standard Access List: Example, page 10](#)
- [Verifying Policy-Based Routing: Example, page 11](#)

### Configuring Policy-Based Routing with a Standard Access List: Example

In the following example, three standard access lists are created to define match criteria for three different subnets. A route map called PBR-VRF-Selection is assigned to interface Ethernet 0/1. If interface Ethernet 0/1 receives a packet whose source IP address is part of the 10.1.0.0/24 subnet, that packet is sent to VRF\_1.

```
access-list 40 permit 10.1.0.0 0.0.255.255
access-list 50 permit 10.2.0.0 0.0.255.255
access-list 60 permit 10.3.0.0 0.0.255.255
```

```
route-map PBR-VRF-Selection permit 10
 match ip address 40
 set vrf VRF_1
!
route-map PBR-VRF-Selection permit 20
 match ip address 50
 set vrf VRF_2
!
```

```
route-map PBR-VRF-Selection permit 30
  match ip address 60
  set vrf VRF_3
!
interface Ethernet0/1
  ip address 192.168.1.6 255.255.255.252
  ip policy route-map PBR-VRF-Selection
  ip vrf receive VRF_1
  ip vrf receive VRF_2
  ip vrf receive VRF_3
```

## Verifying Policy-Based Routing: Example

The following verification examples show defined match criteria and route-map policy configuration.

### Verifying Match Criteria

To verify the configuration of match criteria for PBR VRF selection, use the **show ip access-lists** command. The following **show ip access-lists** command output displays three subnet ranges defined as match criteria in three standard access-lists:

```
Router# show ip access-lists

Standard IP access list 40
  10 permit 10.1.0.0, wildcard bits 0.0.255.255
Standard IP access list 50
  10 permit 10.2.0.0, wildcard bits 0.0.255.255
Standard IP access list 60
  10 permit 10.3.0.0, wildcard bits 0.0.255.255
```

### Verifying Route-Map Configuration

To verify route-map configuration, use the **show route-map** command. The output displays the match criteria and set action for each route-map sequence. The output also displays the number of packets and bytes that have been policy routed per each route-map sequence.

```
Router# show route-map

route-map PBR-VRF-Selection, permit, sequence 10
  Match clauses:
    ip address (access-lists): 40
  Set clauses:
    vrf VRF_1
  Policy routing matches: 0 packets, 0 bytes
route-map PBR-VRF-Selection, permit, sequence 20
  Match clauses:
    ip address (access-lists): 50
  Set clauses:
    vrf VRF_2
  Policy routing matches: 0 packets, 0 bytes
route-map PBR-VRF-Selection, permit, sequence 30
  Match clauses:
    ip address (access-lists): 60
  Set clauses:
    vrf VRF_3
  Policy routing matches: 0 packets, 0 bytes
```

### Verifying PBR VRF Selection Policy

The following **show ip policy** command output displays the interface and associated route map that is configured for policy routing.

## Additional References

```
Router# show ip policy

Interface      Route map
Ethernet0/1    PBR-VRF-Selection
```

## Additional References

The following sections provide references related to MPLS VPNs.

## Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Basic MPLS VPNs	<a href="#">Configuring MPLS Layer 3 VPNs</a>
MPLS VPN Carrier Supporting Carrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">MPLS VPN Carrier Supporting Carrier Using LDP and an IGP</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">MPLS VPN Carrier Supporting Carrier with BGP</a></li> </ul>
MPLS VPN InterAutonomous Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">MPLS VPN Inter-AS with ASBRs Exchanging IPv4 Routes and MPLS Labels</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">MPLS VPN Inter-AS with ASBRs Exchanging VPN-IPv4 Addresses</a></li> </ul>

## Standards

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

## MIBs

MIBs	MIBs Link
No new or modified MIBs are supported by this feature, and support for existing MIBs has not been modified by this feature.	To obtain lists of supported MIBs by platform and Cisco IOS release, and to download MIB modules, go to the Cisco MIB website on Cisco.com at the following URL: <a href="http://www.cisco.com/public/sw-center/netmgmt/cmtk/mibs.shtml">http://www.cisco.com/public/sw-center/netmgmt/cmtk/mibs.shtml</a>

## RFCs

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

## Technical Assistance

Description	Link
The Cisco Technical Support website contains thousands of pages of searchable technical content, including links to products, technologies, solutions, technical tips, and tools. Registered Cisco.com users can log in from this page to access even more content.	<a href="http://www.cisco.com/techsupport">http://www.cisco.com/techsupport</a>

## Feature Information for Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing

[Table 1](#) lists the features in this module and provides links to specific configuration information.

Not all commands may be available in your Cisco IOS software release. For details on when support for specific commands was introduced, see the command reference documents.

Cisco IOS software images are specific to a Cisco IOS software release, a feature set, and a platform. Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco IOS software image support. Access Cisco Feature Navigator at <http://www.cisco.com/go/fn>. You must have an account on Cisco.com. If you do not have an account or have forgotten your username or password, click **Cancel** at the login dialog box and follow the instructions that appear.



**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 Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Configuration Information
MPLS VPN—VRF Selection using Policy-Based Routing	12.3(7)T 12.2(25)S	<p>This feature allows you to classify and forward VPN traffic based on match criteria, such as IP access lists and packet length.</p> <p>The following sections provide information about this feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Directing MPLS VPN Traffic Using Policy-Based Routing Overview, page 3</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">VRF Selection Introduces a New PBR Set Clause, page 3</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Defining the Match Criteria, page 3</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">How to Configure Policy-Based Routing To Direct MPLS VPN Traffic, page 3</a></li> </ul>

---

CCVP, the Cisco logo, and Welcome to the Human Network are trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc.; Changing the Way We Work, Live, Play, and Learn is a service mark of Cisco Systems, Inc.; and Access Registrar, Aironet, Catalyst, CCDA, CCDP, CCIE, CCIP, CCNA, CCNP, CCSP, Cisco, the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert logo, Cisco IOS, Cisco Press, Cisco Systems, Cisco Systems Capital, the Cisco Systems logo, Cisco Unity, Enterprise/Solver, EtherChannel, EtherFast, EtherSwitch, Fast Step, Follow Me Browsing, FormShare, GigaDrive, HomeLink, Internet Quotient, IOS, iPhone, IP/TV, iQ Expertise, the iQ logo, iQ Net Readiness Scorecard, iQuick Study, LightStream, Linksys, MeetingPlace, MGX, Networkers, Networking Academy, Network Registrar, PIX, ProConnect, ScriptShare, SMARTnet, StackWise, The Fastest Way to Increase Your Internet Quotient, and TransPath are registered trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and certain other countries.

All other trademarks mentioned in this document or Website are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company. (0711R)

Any Internet Protocol (IP) addresses used in this document are not intended to be actual addresses. Any examples, command display output, and figures included in the document are shown for illustrative purposes only. Any use of actual IP addresses in illustrative content is unintentional and coincidental.

© 2007 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.