



Configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software

Address resolution is the process of mapping network addresses to Media Access Control (MAC) addresses. This process is accomplished using the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP).

Feature History for Configuring ARP for Cisco Cisco IOS XR software

Release	Modification
Release 2.0	This feature was introduced on the Cisco CRS-1.
Release 3.0	No modification.
Release 3.2	This feature was supported on the Cisco XR 12000 Series Router.
Release 3.3.0	The vrf keyword and <i>vrf-name</i> argument were added to arp commands. Merged the Setting ARP Encapsulation section with the Defining a Static ARP Cache Entry.
Release 3.4.0	No modification.

Contents

- [Prerequisites for Configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software, page 41](#)
- [Restrictions for Configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software, page 42](#)
- [Information About Configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software, page 42](#)
- [How to Configure ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software, page 44](#)
- [Configuration Examples for ARP Configuration on Cisco IOS XR Software, page 47](#)
- [Additional References, page 48](#)

Prerequisites for Configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software

You must be in a user group associated with a task group that includes the proper task IDs for ARP commands. Task IDs for commands are listed in the *Cisco IOS XR IP Addresses and Services Command Reference Guide*.

For detailed information about user groups and task IDs, see the *Configuring AAA Services on Cisco IOS XR Software* module of the *Cisco IOS XR System Security Configuration Guide*.

Restrictions for Configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software

The following restrictions apply to configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR software:

- Reverse Address Resolution Protocol (RARP) is not supported.
- ARP throttling is not supported.



Note ARP throttling is the rate limiting of ARP packets in Forwarding Information Base (FIB).

Information About Configuring ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software

To configure ARP on Cisco IOS XR software, you must understand the following concepts:

- [IP Addressing Overview, page 42](#)
- [Address Resolution on a Single LAN, page 42](#)
- [Address Resolution When Interconnected by a Router, page 43](#)
- [ARP and Proxy ARP, page 43](#)
- [ARP Cache Entries, page 44](#)

IP Addressing Overview

A device in the IP can have both a local address (which uniquely identifies the device on its local segment or LAN) and a network address (which identifies the network to which the device belongs). The local address is more properly known as a *data link address*, because it is contained in the data link layer (Layer 2 of the OSI model) part of the packet header and is read by data-link devices (bridges and all device interfaces, for example). The more technically inclined person will refer to local addresses as *MAC addresses*, because the MAC sublayer within the data link layer processes addresses for the layer.

To communicate with a device on Ethernet, for example, Cisco IOS XR software first must determine the 48-bit MAC or local data-link address of that device. The process of determining the local data-link address from an IP address is called *address resolution*.

Address Resolution on a Single LAN

The following process describes address resolution when the source and destination devices are attached to the same LAN:

1. End System A broadcasts an ARP request onto the LAN, attempting to learn the MAC address of End System B.
2. The broadcast is received and processed by all devices on the LAN, including End System B.
3. Only End System B replies to the ARP request. It sends an ARP reply containing its MAC address to End System A.
4. End System A receives the reply and saves the MAC address of End System B in its ARP cache. (The ARP cache is where network addresses are associated with MAC addresses.)

5. Whenever End System A needs to communicate with End System B, it checks the ARP cache, finds the MAC address of System B, and sends the frame directly, without needing to first use an ARP request.

Address Resolution When Interconnected by a Router

The following process describes address resolution when the source and destination devices are attached to different LANs that are interconnected by a router (only if proxy-arp is turned on):

1. End System Y broadcasts an ARP request onto the LAN, attempting to learn the MAC address of End System Z.
2. The broadcast is received and processed by all devices on the LAN, including Router X.
3. Router X checks its routing table and finds that End System Z is located on a different LAN.
4. Router X therefore acts as a proxy for End System Z. It replies to the ARP request from End System Y, sending an ARP reply containing its own MAC address as if it belonged to End System Z.
5. End System Y receives the ARP reply and saves the MAC address of Router X in its ARP cache, in the entry for End System Z.
6. When End System Y needs to communicate with End System Z, it checks the ARP cache, finds the MAC address of Router X, and sends the frame directly, without using ARP requests.
7. Router X receives the traffic from End System Y and forwards it to End System Z on the other LAN.

ARP and Proxy ARP

Two forms of address resolution are supported by Cisco IOS XR software: Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) and proxy ARP, as defined in RFC 826 and RFC 1027, respectively.

ARP is used to associate IP addresses with media or MAC addresses. Taking an IP address as input, ARP determines the associated media address. After a media or MAC address is determined, the IP address or media address association is stored in an ARP cache for rapid retrieval. Then the IP datagram is encapsulated in a link-layer frame and sent over the network.

When proxy ARP is disabled, the networking device responds to ARP requests received on an interface only if one of the following conditions is met:

- The target IP address in the ARP request is the same as the interface IP address on which the request is received.
- The target IP address in the ARP request has a statically configured ARP alias.

When proxy ARP is enabled, the networking device also responds to ARP requests that meet all the following conditions:

- The target IP address is not on the same physical network (LAN) on which the request is received.
- The networking device has one or more routes to the target IP address.
- All of the routes to the target IP address go through interfaces other than the one on which the request is received.

ARP Cache Entries

ARP establishes correspondences between network addresses (an IP address, for example) and Ethernet hardware addresses. A record of each correspondence is kept in a cache for a predetermined amount of time and then discarded.

You can also add a static (permanent) entry to the ARP cache that persists until expressly removed.

How to Configure ARP on Cisco IOS XR Software

This section contains instructions for the following tasks:

- [Defining a Static ARP Cache Entry, page 44](#) (optional)
- [Enabling Proxy ARP, page 46](#) (optional)

Defining a Static ARP Cache Entry

ARP and other address resolution protocols provide a dynamic mapping between IP addresses and media addresses. Because most hosts support dynamic address resolution, generally you need not specify static ARP cache entries. If you must define them, you can do so globally. Performing this task installs a permanent entry in the ARP cache. Cisco IOS XR software uses this entry to translate 32-bit IP addresses into 48-bit hardware addresses.

Optionally, you can specify that the software responds to ARP requests as if it were the owner of the specified IP address by making an alias entry in the ARP cache.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure**
2. **arp** [**vrf** *vrf-name*] *ip-address hardware-address encapsulation-type*
or
arp [**vrf** *vrf-name*] *ip-address hardware-address encapsulation-type* [**alias**]
3. **end**
or
commit

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	<pre>configure</pre> <p>Example: RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# configure</p>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	<pre>arp [vrf vrf-name] ip-address hardware-address encapsulation-type</pre> <p>or</p> <pre>arp [vrf vrf-name] ip-address hardware-address encapsulation-type alias</pre> <p>Example: RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# arp 192.168.7.19 0800.0900.1834 arpa</p> <p>or</p> <pre>RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# arp 192.168.7.19 0800.0900.1834 arpa alias</pre>	<p>Creates a static ARP cache entry associating the specified 32-bit IP address with the specified 48-bit hardware address.</p> <p>Note If an alias entry is created then any interface to which the entry is attached will act as if it is the owner of the specified addresses, that is, it will respond to ARP request packets for this network layer address with the data link layer address in the entry.</p>

Command or Action	Purpose
<p>Step 3</p> <pre>end or commit</pre> <p>Example: RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# end OR RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# commit </p>	<p>Saves configuration changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you issue the end command, the system prompts you to commit changes: <pre>Uncommitted changes found, commit them before exiting (yes/no/cancel)? [cancel]:</pre> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Entering yes saves configuration changes to the running configuration file, exits the configuration session, and returns the router to EXEC mode. – Entering no exits the configuration session and returns the router to EXEC mode without committing the configuration changes. – Entering cancel leaves the router in the current configuration session without exiting or committing the configuration changes. • Use the commit command to save the configuration changes to the running configuration file and remain within the configuration session.

Enabling Proxy ARP

Cisco IOS XR software uses proxy ARP (as defined in RFC 1027) to help hosts with no knowledge of routing determine the media addresses of hosts on other networks or subnets. For example, if the router receives an ARP request for a host that is not on the same interface as the ARP request sender, and if the router has all of its routes to that host through other interfaces, then it generates a proxy ARP reply packet giving its own local data-link address. The host that sent the ARP request then sends its packets to the router, which forwards them to the intended host. Proxy ARP is disabled by default; this task describes how to enable proxy ARP if it has been disabled.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure**
2. **interface** *type number*
3. **proxy-arp**
4. **end**
or
commit

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	<code>configure</code> Example: RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# <code>configure</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	<code>interface type number</code> Example: RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# <code>interface MgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/0</code>	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 3	<code>proxy-arp</code> Example: RP/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# <code>proxy-arp</code>	Enables proxy ARP on the interface.
Step 4	<code>end</code> OR <code>commit</code> Example: RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# <code>end</code> OR RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-if)# <code>commit</code>	Saves configuration changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you issue the end command, the system prompts you to commit changes: Uncommitted changes found, commit them before exiting (yes/no/cancel)? [cancel]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering yes saves configuration changes to the running configuration file, exits the configuration session, and returns the router to EXEC mode. Entering no exits the configuration session and returns the router to EXEC mode without committing the configuration changes. Entering cancel leaves the router in the current configuration session without exiting or committing the configuration changes. Use the commit command to save the configuration changes to the running configuration file and remain within the configuration session.

Configuration Examples for ARP Configuration on Cisco IOS XR Software

This section provides the following ARP configuration examples:

- [Creating a Static ARP Cache Entry: Example, page 48](#)
- [Enabling Proxy ARP: Example, page 48](#)

Creating a Static ARP Cache Entry: Example

The following is an example of a static ARP entry for a typical Ethernet host:

```
configure
arp 192.168.7.19 0800.0900.1834 arpa
```

The following is an example of a static ARP entry for a typical Ethernet host where the software responds to ARP requests as if it were the owner of both the specified IP address and hardware address, whether proxy ARP is enabled or not:

```
configure
arp 192.168.7.19 0800.0900.1834 arpa alias
```

The following is an example of configuring a static arp entry on an SRP device:

```
configure
arp 192.168.8.20 0800.0900.1723 srp
```

Enabling Proxy ARP: Example

The following is an example of enabling proxy ARP:

```
configure
interface MgmtEth 0/RP1/CPU0/0
proxy-arp
```

Additional References

The following sections provide references related to ARP.

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS XR QoS commands: complete command syntax, command modes, command history, defaults, usage guidelines, and examples	<i>Cisco IOS XR Modular Quality of Service Command Reference</i> , Release 3.4.0
Class-based traffic shaping, traffic policing, low latency queuing, and MDDR	<i>Configuring QoS Congestion Management on Cisco IOS XR Software</i> , Release 3.4.0
WRED, RED, and tail drop	<i>Configuring QoS Congestion Avoidance on Cisco IOS XR Software</i> , Release 3.4.0
Cisco IOS XR ARP commands	<i>Cisco IOS XR IP Addresses and Services Command Reference</i> , Release 3.4.0
Cisco IOS XR master command reference	<i>Cisco IOS XR Master Commands List</i> , Release 3.4.0
Cisco CRS-1 router getting started material	<i>Cisco IOS XR Getting Started Guide</i> , Release 3.4.0
Information about user groups and task IDs	<i>Configuring AAA Services on Cisco IOS XR Software</i> module of the <i>Cisco IOS XR System Security Configuration Guide</i>

MIBs

MIBs

To locate and download MIBs using Cisco IOS XR software, use the Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL and choose a platform under the Cisco Access Products menu: <http://cisco.com/public/sw-center/netmgmt/cmtk/mibs.shtml>

RFCs

RFCs	Title
RFC 826	<i>Ethernet Address Resolution Protocol: Or converting network protocol addresses to 48.bit Ethernet address for transmission on Ethernet hardware</i>
RFC 1027	<i>Using ARP to implement transparent subnet gateways</i>

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.	http://www.cisco.com/techsupport

