Unified Border Element Transcoding Configuration Example

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Introduction

The Cisco Unified Border Element (CUBE) supports transcoding for calls that pass through and that require different codecs on the two call legs. Transcoding between various codecs is supported, and CUBE inserts a transcoder based on configuration as well as a mismatch between the codecs negotiated on the two call legs of the calls.

Transcoding requires DSPs to terminate the RTP stream and to decode and encode the voice payload with the appropriate codec. The DSPs used by CUBE for transcoding may be either co–resident on the same router as CUBE or may be located on a separate router platform.

Prerequisites

Requirements

Ensure that you meet these requirements before you attempt this configuration:

- Basic knowledge of how to configure and use Cisco IOS voice (such as dial–peers)
- Basic knowledge of how to configure and use CUBE
- Basic knowledge of transcoding. Refer to the Restrictions for Cisco Unified Border Element Configuration section of Overview of Cisco Unified Border Element for information about transcoding restrictions in CUBE.

Components Used

The information in this document is based on:
The DSP resources can also be internal to (or co–resident of) the same router platform that hosts CUBE. If this is the case, the control of the DSP resources is local to the router, and the SCCP control flow in the figure is not present.

The DSP resources that CUBE uses for transcoding must be configured regardless of whether or not the DSPs are co–resident with CUBE. The only difference in the configurations is the IP addressing between CUBE and the DSP resources. For a co–resident configuration, the IP address is the same for both.

**Configuration Steps**

This section describes how to configure external DSP transcoding. A Cisco 3745 router is used as a CUBE, and an AS5400XM is used for hosting the DSP resources for transcoding.

The configuration applies to this call flow:

1. The call starts from the OGW towards CUBE via H.323 with G.711.
2. CUBE forwards the call via H.323 to the OGW (which is configured for G.729).
3. For the call setup to the TGW to be successful, a codec conversion is required from G.711 to G.729. If transcoding resources are not configured or available, the call setup fails.

**CUBE Configuration for External Transcoding Control**

A CUBE router is configured to control the DSP resources for transcoding. This configuration uses the `telephony-service` command, which is similar to the transcoding configuration for Cisco Unified Communication Manager Express. The DSP resources register with the controlling entity (which in this example is CUBE, but could also be CUCME or CUCM).

```
3745 CUBE
vdouut3# show running-config | begin telephony
!
telephony-service
sdspfarm units 1 -- Specifies the maximum number of DSP farms that can be registered to CUBE. A maximum of 5 DSP resource units (farms) can be configured.
sdspfarm transcode sessions 128 -- Specifies the maximum transcoding sessions supported across all DSP farms registered with CUBE.
sdspfarm tag 1 vdouut1 -- Specifies the device name of the DSP farm. For uniqueness the device name can be the MAC address of the DSP source interface. In this example the hostname of the DSP farm router is used.
ip source-address 1.2.61.73 port 2000 The IP address and port-no: (TCP) of the interface through which SCCP messages are transmitted/received from CUBE.
```

**DSP Farm Configuration for Hosting External Transcoding DSP Resources**

A router is configured to host DSP resources for transcoding used by a controlling entity, which in this example is CUBE on a different router. The DSP resources are registered with the controlling entity to make them available to call flows.

```
DSP Farm
vdouutl# show running-config | begin voice-card
voice-card 1
dsp services dspfarm -- This makes the DSPs available for DSP farming which includes transcoding services.

vdouutl# show running-config | begin sccp
sccp local GigabitEthernet0/0 -- Defines the source interface of the DSP farm through which SCCP messages are exchanged with controlling CUBE.
sccp ccm 1.2.61.73 identifier 1 -- Specifies the IP address of the CUBE system that the DSP farm registers to. This should match the CUBE IP address on the ip source-address configuration on CUBE.
sccp
sccp ccm group 1 -- Group configuration for linking sccp ccm global configurations as well as the dspfarm profile(s)
bind interface GigabitEthernet0/0
associate ccm 1 priority 1 -- Associate the sccp identifier ccm with the sccp ccm group.
associate profile 1 register vdouutl -- Associate the dspfarm profile with the DSP farm device name. In this example the
```
hostname of the DSP farm hosted router is used (vdouut1). The same name must be used on CUBE where dsdfarm tag 1 is configured.

! dspfarm profile 1 transcode -- Configure the dspfarm profile to define the codecs supported, the maximum sessions, and enable SCCP.

codec g711ulaw
codec g711alaw
codec g729ar8
codec g729abr8
codec g729r8
codec g729br8
maximum sessions 128
associate application SCCP

Full Sample Configurations for Internal Transcoding

This section provides a full configuration example for a setup where the same router (an AS5400XM) is configured both to host CUBE and the DSP resources for transcoding. Salient parts of the configuration are displayed in bold text.

The differences between this configuration setup and DSP Farm Configuration for Hosting External Transcoding DSP Resources are as follows:

- The actual DSP resources (voice–card x > dsp services dsdfarm) and the controlling entity (telephony–service) appear on the same router.
- The IP address of the DSP resources (sccp ccm 9.13.29.30 identifier 1) and the IP address of the controlling entity (telephony–service > ip source–address 9.13.29.30 port) are the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5400XM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5400XM#show run
Building configuration...

Current configuration : 3149 bytes
!
version 12.4
service config
service timestamps debug datetime msec
service timestamps log datetime msec
no service password-encryption
!
hostname 5400XM
!
boot-start-marker
no boot startup-test
boot-end-marker
!
logging buffered 100000000 debugging
no logging console
enable secret 5 $1$g301$4BVklIIq97tihABYS6Guy/
enable password xxx
!
resource-pool disable
no aaa new-model
!
resource policy
!
voice-card 1
dsp services dsdfarm
!
voice-card 5
!
ip cef
!
voice service voip
  allow-connections h323 to h323
  allow-connections h323 to sip
  allow-connections sip to h323
  allow-connections sip to sip
h323
  modem passthrough none codec g729r8 pre-ietf
!
controller T1 5/0
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
controller T1 5/1
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
controller T1 5/2
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
controller T1 5/3
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
controller T1 5/4
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
controller T1 5/5
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
controller T1 5/6
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
controller T1 5/7
  framing sf
  linecode ami
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0
  ip address 9.13.29.30 255.255.255.0
duplex auto
  speed auto
  negotiation auto
  no cdp enable
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
  no ip address
  shutdown
duplex auto
  speed auto
  negotiation auto
  no cdp enable
!
interface Serial0/0
  no ip address
  shutdown
clock rate 2000000
  no fair-queue
!
interface Serial5/0
no ip address
shutdown
!
interface Serial0/1
  no ip address
  shutdown
  clock rate 2000000
  no cdp enable
  
  ip route 0.0.0.0 0.0.0.0 9.13.29.1
  !
  no ip http server
  !
dialer-list 1 protocol ip permit
  !
  sccp local GigabitEthernet0/0
  sccp ccm 9.13.29.30 identifier 1 version 4.0 -- Use its own IP address
  sccp
  !
  sccp ccm group 1
    associate ccm 1 priority 1
    associate profile 1 register XCODE123456
    keepalive retries 1
    keepalive timeout 10
    switchover method immediate
    switchback method immediate
    
  dspfarm profile 1 transcode
    codec g711ulaw
    codec g711alaw
    codec g729ar8
    codec g729abr8
    codec gsmfr
    codec g729r8
    codec g729br8
    maximum sessions 10
    associate application SCCP
    
  !
  dial-peer voice 1 voip
    destination-pattern 630222100.
    session protocol sipv2
    session target ipv4:9.13.29.22
    dtmf-relay rtp-nte digit-drop
    codec g711ulaw
    
  !
  dial-peer voice 2 voip
    session protocol sipv2
    incoming called-number 630222100.
    codec g729br8 bytes 10
    
  !
  dial-peer voice 3 voip
    destination-pattern 2000
    session protocol sipv2
    session target ipv4:9.13.29.22
    dtmf-relay rtp-nte digit-drop
    
  !
  dial-peer voice 4 voip
    session protocol sipv2
    incoming called-number 2000
    codec g711ulaw
    
  !
  gatekeeper
    shutdown
    
  telephony-service
  max-ephones 1
max-dn 1
ip source-address 9.13.29.30 port 2000 --> Use its own IP address
sdspfarm units 1
sdspfarm transcode sessions 10
sdspfarm tag 1 XCODE123456
ss7 mtp2-variant Bellcore 0
ss7 mtp2-variant Bellcore 1
ss7 mtp2-variant Bellcore 2
ss7 mtp2-variant Bellcore 3

line con 0
exec-timeout 0 0
logging synchronous
stopbits 1
line aux 0
stopbits 1
line vty 0 4
password cisco
login

scheduler allocate 10000 400
no process cpu extended
no process cpu autoprofile hog
end

Verify

The output in this section pertains to the configuration setup for external transcoding.

The Output Interpreter Tool (registered customers only) (OIT) supports certain show commands. Use the OIT to view an analysis of show command output.

CUBE

The device name with which the DSP farm is registered with CUBE and the IP address of the DSP farm host router are displayed in bold text.

vdouut3#show sdspfarm units
Load for five secs: 0%/0%; one minute: 0%; five minutes: 3%
Time source is NTP, 23:46:40.649 PST Tue Nov 21 2006

mtp-1 Device:vdouut1 TCP socket:[1] REGISTERED
actual_stream:256 max_stream 256 IP:1.2.61.71 27519 MTP YOKO keepalive 45
Supported codec:
    G711Ulaw
    G711Alaw
    G729
    G729a
    G729b
    G729ab
max-mtps:1, max-streams:256, alloc-streams:256, act-streams:0

This output shows the CUBE configuration setup.

vdouut3#show telephony-service
ip source-address 1.2.61.73 port 2000
max-ephones 128
max-dn 1
max-conferences 8 gain -6
dsdpfarm units 1
This output shows that after a call is made the codecs (displayed in bold text) that are used for the call legs through CUBE.

```
vdoouut3#show sdpfarm sessions active
Load for five secs: 1%/0%; one minute: 1%; five minutes: 1%
Time source is NTP, 23:52:43.922 PST Tue Nov 21 2006
Stream-ID:37 mtp:1 1.2.61.71 20190 Local:2000 START
usage: Ip-Ip
codec:G729 duration:20 vad:0 peer Stream-ID:38
Stream-ID:38 mtp:1 1.2.61.71 21326 Local:2000 START
usage: Ip-Ip
codec:G711Ulaw 64k duration:20 vad:0 peer Stream-ID:37
```

This output shows the sessions active between the OGW and the TGW through CUBE.

```
vdoouut3#show voip rtp connections
Load for five secs: 1%/0%; one minute: 1%; five minutes: 1%
Time source is NTP, 23:54:22.722 PST Tue Nov 21 2006
VoIP RTP active connections :
1 3991 3992 18496 17430 1.2.61.73 1.2.61.48
2 3992 3991 17382 19706 1.2.61.73 1.2.61.68
Found 2 active RTP connections
```

This output shows a compact summary of the active sessions and the codecs (displayed in bold text) used by the call legs.

```
vdoouut3#show call active voice compact
Load for five secs: 1%/0%; one minute: 1%; five minutes: 1%
Time source is NTP, 02:31:58,156 PST Wed Nov 22 2006
<callID>  A/O FAX T<sec> Codec     type  Peer Address  IP R<ip>:<udp>
Total call-legs: 2
4023 ANS     T25     g711ulaw  VOIP  P5200 1.2.61.48:16934
4024 ORG     T25     g729r8   VOIP  P6200 1.2.61.68:17040
```

**DSP Farm Host**

This output shows the status of the DSP resources registration status. Salient information appears in bold text.

```
vdoouut1#show sccp
SCCP Admin State: UP
Gateway IP Address: 1.2.61.71, Port Number: 2000
IP Precedence: 5
User Masked Codec list: None
Call Manager: 1.2.61.73, Port Number: 2000
  Priority: N/A, Version: 3.1, Identifier: 1
Transcoding Oper State: ACTIVE - Cause Code: NONE
Active Call Manager: 1.2.61.73, Port Number: 2000
TCP Link Status: CONNECTED, Profile Identifier: 1
Reported Max Streams: 256, Reported Max OOS Streams: 0
Supported Codec: g711ulaw, Maximum Packetization Period: 30
Supported Codec: g711alaw, Maximum Packetization Period: 30
Supported Codec: g729ar8, Maximum Packetization Period: 60
Supported Codec: g729abr8, Maximum Packetization Period: 60
Supported Codec: g729r8, Maximum Packetization Period: 60
Supported Codec: g729br8, Maximum Packetization Period: 60
```
Supported Codec: rfc2833 dtmf, Maximum Packetization Period: 30
Supported Codec: rfc2833 pass-thru, Maximum Packetization Period: 30
Supported Codec: inband-dtmf to rfc2833 conversion, Maximum Packetization Period: 30

This output shows the configuration of the DSP resources (while idle).

```
vdouut1#show dspfarm all
Dspfarm Profile Configuration
    Profile ID = 1, Service = TRANSCODING, Resource ID = 1
    Profile Description :
    Profile Admin State : UP
    Profile Operation State : ACTIVE
    Application : SCCP   Status : ASSOCIATED
    Resource Provider : FLEX_DSPRM   Status : UP
    Number of Resource Configured : 128
    Number of Resource Available : 128
    Codec Configuration
    Codec : g711ulaw, Maximum Packetization Period : 30
    Codec : g711alaw, Maximum Packetization Period : 30
    Codec : g729ar8, Maximum Packetization Period : 60
    Codec : g729abr8, Maximum Packetization Period : 60
    Codec : g729r8, Maximum Packetization Period : 60
    Codec : g729br8, Maximum Packetization Period : 60

    SLOT DSP VERSION  STATUS CHNL USE   TYPE   RSC_ID BRIDGE_ID PKTS_TXED PKTS_RXED
    1    1   9.2.1    UP     N/A  FREE  xcode  1      −         −         −
    1    1   9.2.1    UP     N/A  FREE  xcode  1      −         −         −
    1    1   9.2.1    UP     N/A  FREE  xcode  1      −         −         −
```

This output shows the status of the DSP resources (after a call is made).

```
vdouut1#show sccp connections summary
SCCP Application Service(s) Statistics Summary:
    Total Conferencing Sessions: 0, Connections: 0
    Total Transcoding Sessions: 1, Connections: 2
    Total MTP Sessions: 0, Connections: 0
    Total ALG-Phone Sessions: 0, Connections: 0
    Total BRI-Phone Sessions: 0, Connections: 0
    Total SCCP Sessions: 1, Connections: 2

vdouut1#show dspfarm dsp active
SLOT DSP VERSION  STATUS CHNL USE   TYPE   RSC_ID BRIDGE_ID PKTS_TXED PKTS_RXED
    1    1   9.2.1    UP    1    USED  xcode  1      15        9400      9405
    1    1   9.2.1    UP    1    USED  xcode  1      16        9400      9394

Total number of DSPFARM DSP channel(s) 1
```

This output shows the RTP sessions between the DSP resources (this router) and the controlling entity (CUBE). Two VoIP call legs with different codecs are shown. The legs are both established with CUBE (1.2.61.73).

```
vdouut1#show voip rtp connections
VoIP RTP active connections :
    No. CallIId   dstCallIId  LocalRTP  RmtRTP  LocalIP    RemoteIP
    1   46         47         17668    2000   1.2.61.71       1.2.61.73
    2   48         47         21530    2000   1.2.61.71       1.2.61.73
Found 2 active RTP connections
```

vdouut1#show call active voice compact
<callIId>  A/O FAX T<sec> Codec type Peer Address IP R<ip>:<udp>
Troubleshoot

Here are some useful troubleshooting commands for transcoding:

- debug sccp messages
- debug ephone mtp
- debug ephone state

Note: Refer to Important Information on Debug Commands before you use debug commands.

Related Information

- Overview of Cisco Unified Border Element
- Voice Technology Support
- Voice and Unified Communications Product Support
- Troubleshooting Cisco IP Telephony
- Technical Support & Documentation – Cisco Systems