Packet I/O Functionality and Hosting Applications

Application hosting environments

An application hosting environment is a platform that

- allows Linux applications to manage communication with IOS XR interfaces,
- establishes packet I/O communication channels with hosted applications, and
- enables integration of third-party tools, utilities, and operational workflows.

Need for Application Hosting

Over the last decade, there has been a need for a network operating system that supports operational agility and efficiency through seamless integration with existing tool chains. Service providers have been looking for shorter product cycles, agile workflows, and modular software delivery; all of these can be automated efficiently. It does that by providing an environment that simplifies the integration of applications, configuration management tools, and industry-standard zero touch provisioning mechanisms. The IOS XR matches the DevOps style workflows for service providers, and it has an open internal data storage system that can be used to automate the configuration and operation of the device hosting an application.

While we are rapidly moving to virtual environments, there is an increasing need to build applications that are reusable, portable, and scalable. Application hosting gives administrators a platform for leveraging their own tools and utilities. Cisco NCS 540 routers support third-party off-the-shelf applications. An application hosted on a network device can serve a variety of purposes. This ranges from automation, configuration management monitoring, and integration with existing tool chains.

Before an application can be hosted on a device, the following requirements must be met:

- Suitable build environment to build your application
- A mechanism to interact with the device and the network outside the device

When network devices are managed by configuration management applications, network administrators are freed of the task of focusing only on the CLI. Because of the abstraction provided by the application, while the application does its job, administrators can now focus on the design, and other higher level tasks.

Verify reachability of IOS XR and Packet I/O infrastructure

Ensure that interfaces configured on IOS XR are fully accessible from the Linux kernel and that packet I/O infrastructure enables default network reachability, supporting both native and third-party Linux applications.

Interfaces configured on IOS XR are programmed into the Linux kernel. These interfaces allow Linux applications to run as if they were running on a regular Linux system. This packet I/O capability ensures that off-the-shelf Linux applications can be run alongside IOS XR, allowing operators to use their existing tools and automate deployments with IOS XR.

The IP address on the Linux interfaces, MTU settings, MAC (Media Access Control) address are inherited from the corresponding settings of the IOS XR interface. Accessing the global VRF (Virtual Routing and Forwarding) network namespace ensures that when you issue the **bash** command, the default or the global VRF in IOS XR is reflected in the kernel. This ensures default reachability based on the routing capabilities of IOS XR and the packet I/O infrastructure.

Virtual addresses can be configured to access a router from the management network such as gRPC (Google Remote Procedure Call) using a single virtual IP address. On a device with two or more RPs (Route Processors), the virtual address refers to the management interface that is currently active. This functionality can be used across RP failover without the information of which RP is currently active. This is applicable to the Linux packet path.

Note **Automatic synchronization of secondary IPv4 and IPv6 addresses from XR to Linux OS**

The secondary IPv4 and IPv6 addresses that are configured for an XR interface are now synchronized into the Linux operating system automatically. With this secondary IPv4 and IPv6 address synchronization, the third party applications that are deployed on Cisco IOS XR can now use the secondary addresses. Prior to this release, only primary IPv4 and IPv6 addresses were supported and the secondary IPv4 and IPv6 addresses had to be configured manually in the Linux operating system.

Exposed XR interfaces (EXIs) and address-only interfaces support secondary IPv4 and IPv6 address synchronization:

- EXIs have secondary IP addresses added to their corresponding Linux interface
- Address-only interfaces have secondary IP addresses added to the Linux loopback device. For details about address-only interfaces, see show linux networking interfaces address-only.

The restrictions of secondary IPv4 and IPv6 addresses synchronization are:

- Secondary IPv4 addresses are not synchronized from Linux to XR for Linux-managed interfaces.
- The **ifconfig** Linux command only displays the first configured IPv4 address. To view the complete list of IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, use the **ip addr show** Linux command.

For details about secondary IPv4 and IPV6 addresses, see ipv4 address (network) and ipv6 address.

You can run **bash** commands at the IOS XR router prompt to view the interfaces and IP addresses stored in global VRF. When you access the Cisco IOS XR Linux shell, you directly enter the global VRF.

Follow these steps to verify reachability of IOS XR and Packet I/O infrastructure.

Procedure

Step 1 From your Linux box, access the IOS XR console through SSH (Secure Shell), and log in.

Example:

```
cisco@host:~$ ssh root@192.168.122.xxx
root@192.168.122.188's password:
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#
```

Step 2 View the ethernet interfaces on IOS XR.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show ip interface brief
```

This output displays the IP address and the status of the active NCS 1004 interfaces.

```
Tue Oct 28 17:53:00.194 IST

Interface                      IP-Address      Status          Protocol Vrf-Name
Loopback2                      2.2.2.2         Up              Up       default
MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0            10.127.60.173   Up              Up       default
MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/1            4.25.0.68       Down            Down     default
MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/2            unassigned      Shutdown        Down     default
```

Note
Use the **ip addr show** or **ip link show** commands to view all corresponding interfaces in Linux. The IOS XR interfaces that are **admin-down** state also reflects a **Down** state in the Linux kernel.

Step 3 Check the IP and MAC addresses of the interface that is in **Up** state.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show interfaces mgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/0
```

This output shows the configuration details of the **MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0** interface.

```
Tue Oct 28 17:54:36.066 IST
MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0 is up, line protocol is up
  Interface state transitions: 1
  Hardware is Management Ethernet, address is b026.80ff.d778 (bia b026.80ff.d778)
  Internet address is 10.127.60.173/24
  MTU 1450 bytes, BW 1000000 Kbit (Max: 1000000 Kbit)
     reliability 255/255, txload 0/255, rxload 0/255
  Encapsulation ARPA,
  Full-duplex, 1000Mb/s, CX, link type is autonegotiation
  loopback not set,
  Last link flapped 03:10:46
  ARP type ARPA, ARP timeout 04:00:00
  Last input 00:00:00, output 00:00:00
  Last clearing of "show interface" counters never
  5 minute input rate 4000 bits/sec, 6 packets/sec
  5 minute output rate 306000 bits/sec, 39 packets/sec
     747548 packets input, 857360447 bytes, 0 total input drops
     0 drops for unrecognized upper-level protocol
     Received 12247 broadcast packets, 48061 multicast packets
```

```
             0 runts, 0 giants, 0 throttles, 0 parity
     0 input errors, 0 CRC, 0 frame, 0 overrun, 0 ignored, 0 abort
     547486 packets output, 489284750 bytes, 0 total output drops
     Output 1 broadcast packets, 4 multicast packets
     0 output errors, 0 underruns, 0 applique, 0 resets
     0 output buffer failures, 0 output buffers swapped out
     1 carrier transitions
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#
```

Step 4 Verify that the bash command runs in global VRF to view the network interfaces.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash -c ifconfig
```

This output shows the active network interfaces in Linux.

```
Tue Oct 28 18:15:41.890 IST
Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 10.127.60.173  netmask 255.255.255.0  broadcast 0.0.0.0
        inet6 fe80::b226:80ff:feff:d778  prefixlen 64  scopeid 0x20<link>
        inet6 2001:420:5446:2014::281:178  prefixlen 119  scopeid 0x0<global>
        inet6 2001:420:5446:2014::281:378  prefixlen 119  scopeid 0x0<global>
        ether b0:26:80:ff:d7:78  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 9179  bytes 1140006 (1.0 MiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 8  bytes 816 (816.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING>  mtu 1400
        inet 127.0.0.1  netmask 255.0.0.0
        inet6 ::1  prefixlen 128  scopeid 0x10<host>
        loop  txqueuelen 1000  (Local Loopback)
        RX packets 508702  bytes 473586341 (451.6 MiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 508702  bytes 473586341 (451.6 MiB)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

to_xr: flags=4305<UP,POINTOPOINT,RUNNING,NOARP,MULTICAST>  mtu 1300
        unspec 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00  txqueuelen 2000  (UNSPEC)
        RX packets 257333  bytes 26930763 (25.6 MiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 273099  bytes 46297306 (44.1 MiB)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0
```

The **to_xr** interface indicates access to the global VRF.

Step 5 Access the Linux shell.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash
[ios:~]$
```

Step 6 (Optional) View the IP routes used by the **to_xr** interfaces.

Example:

```
[ios:~]$ ip route
default dev to_xr proto static scope link src 10.127.60.173 metric 2048 mtu 1500 advmss 1460
10.127.59.46 via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0 proto static metric 2048
10.127.60.0/24 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0 proto static scope link src 10.127.60.173
[ios:~]$
```

Programme routes in the kernel

The basic routes required to allow applications to send or receive traffic can be programmed into the kernel. The Linux network stack that is part of the kernel is used by normal Linux applications to send/receive packets. In an IOS XR stack, IOS XR acts as the network stack for the system. Therefore to allow the Linux network stack to connect into and use the IOS XR network stack, basic routes must be programmed into the Linux Kernel.

Follow these steps to programme routes in the kernel.

Procedure

Step 1 View the routes from the bash shell.

a) Enter the bash shell.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:NE_173#bash
Tue Oct 28 18:17:47.331 IST
```

b) In the bash shell, view the IP routes used by the **to_xr** interfaces.

Example:

```
[ios:~]$ ip route
default dev to_xr proto static scope link src 10.127.60.173 metric 2048 mtu 1500 advmss 1460
10.127.59.46 via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0 proto static metric 2048
10.127.60.0/24 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0 proto static scope link src 10.127.60.173
```

Step 2 Programme the routes in the kernel.

Two types of routes can be programmed in the kernel:

- **Default Route**: The default route sends traffic destined to unknown subnets out of the kernel using a special **to_xr** interface. This interface sends packets to IOS XR for routing using the routing state in XR RIB (Routing Information Base) or FIB (Forwarding Information Base). The **to_xr** interface does not have an associated IP address. In Linux, most applications expect the outgoing packets to use the IP address of the outgoing interface as the source IP address.

  With the **to_xr** interface, because there is no IP address, a source hint is required. The source hint can be changed to use the IP address another physical interface IP or loopback IP address. In this example, the source hint is set to 10.127.60.173, which is the IP address of the management interface. To use the Management port IP address, change the source hint:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config)#linux networking
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-net)#vrf default
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-vrf)#address-family ipv4
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)# default-route software-forwarding
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)# source-hint management-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)# source-hint default-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)#commit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)#
```

  This output shows the configurations for Linux network.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show running-config linux networking
linux networking
```

```
 vrf default
  address-family ipv4
   default-route software-forwarding
   source-hint management-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
   source-hint default-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
    !
   !
  !
 !
!
```

With this updated source hint, any default traffic exiting the system uses the Management port IP address as the source IP address.

- **Local or Connected Routes**: The routes are associated with the subnet configured on interfaces. For example, the 10.127.60.173 network is associated with the **Mg0_RP0_CPU0** interface.

Linux-managed IOS XR interfaces

A Linux-managed IOS XR interface is a network management capability that

- allows IOS XR interfaces to be configured and controlled entirely by the Linux operating system,
- supports the use of standard Linux automation tools, and
- bypasses the requirement to use IOS XR CLI or YANG models for interface management.

The Linux system contains multiple network namespaces, each mapping to a single interface in the XR control plane. By default, IOS XR interfaces are managed via IOS XR CLI or YANG models, with attributes inherited from XR. With Packet I/O functionality, configuration and management can be performed entirely within Linux, increasing flexibility and automation.

Configure an interface to be Linux-managed

In some scenarios, you may want to shift control of certain interfaces from the IOS XR operating system to the underlying Linux system. This allows direct Linux-based management and automation of network interfaces, facilitating advanced integration with Linux tools or external systems.

Follow these steps to configure an interface to be Linux-managed.

Procedure

Step 1 Check the available exposed-interfaces in the system.

Example:

```
RRP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config)#linux networking exposed-interfaces interface ?
  GCC0      OTN GCC0 interface(s) | short name is G0
  GCC1      OTN GCC1 interface(s) | short name is G1
  GCC2      OTN GCC2 interface(s) | short name is G2
  Loopback  Loopback interface(s) | short name is Lo
  MgmtEth   Ethernet/IEEE 802.3 interface(s) | short name is Mg
```

Step 2 Configure the interface to be managed by Linux.

Example:

This command configures a **MgmtEth interface** to be managed by Linux.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:NE_229(config)#linux networking exposed-interfaces interface mgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/2
linux-managed
Router(config-exi-if)#commit
```

Step 3 View the interface details and the VRF.

Example:

The example shows the information for **MgmtEth interface**:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-exi-if)#show run interface mgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/2
interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/2
 shutdown
!
```

Step 4 Verify the configuration in XR.

Example:

The example shows the configuration for **MgmtEth interface**.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show running-config linux networking
linux networking
 vrf default
  address-family ipv4
   default-route software-forwarding
   source-hint management-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
   source-hint default-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
   protection
    protocol tcp local-port 999 default-action deny
     permit interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
    !
   !
  !
 !
!
```

Step 5 Verify the configuration from Linux.

Example:

This example shows the configuration for external communication **MgmtEth interface**.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash

[ios:~]$$ ifconfig
Lo0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 20.2.2.2  netmask 255.255.255.255  broadcast 0.0.0.0
        ether 9a:91:5d:6d:ad:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 10.127.60.229  netmask 255.255.255.0  broadcast 0.0.0.0
        ether 74:88:bb:ff:fe:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 38285  bytes 4008458 (3.8 MiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0
```

```
lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING>  mtu 1400
        inet 127.0.0.1  netmask 255.0.0.0
        inet6 ::1  prefixlen 128  scopeid 0x10<host>
        loop  txqueuelen 1000  (Local Loopback)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

to_xr: flags=4305<UP,POINTOPOINT,RUNNING,NOARP,MULTICAST>  mtu 1300
        unspec 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00  txqueuelen 2000  (UNSPEC)
        RX packets 8  bytes 768 (768.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 5  bytes 288 (288.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

[ios:~]$ ifconfig -a
Lo0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 20.2.2.2  netmask 255.255.255.255  broadcast 0.0.0.0
        ether 9a:91:5d:6d:ad:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 10.127.60.229  netmask 255.255.255.0  broadcast 0.0.0.0
        ether 74:88:bb:ff:fe:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 38289  bytes 4008898 (3.8 MiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

Mg0_RP0_CPU0_1: flags=4098<BROADCAST,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        ether 74:88:bb:ff:fe:ca  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

Mg0_RP0_CPU0_2: flags=4098<BROADCAST,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        ether 74:88:bb:ff:fe:c9  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING>  mtu 1400
        inet 127.0.0.1  netmask 255.0.0.0
        inet6 ::1  prefixlen 128  scopeid 0x10<host>
        loop  txqueuelen 1000  (Local Loopback)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

sit0: flags=128<NOARP>  mtu 1480
        unspec 00-00-00-00-30-30-30-30-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00  txqueuelen 1000  (UNSPEC)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0
```

```
to_xr: flags=4305<UP,POINTOPOINT,RUNNING,NOARP,MULTICAST>  mtu 1300
        unspec 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00  txqueuelen 2000  (UNSPEC)
        RX packets 8  bytes 768 (768.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 5  bytes 288 (288.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

tunl0: flags=128<NOARP>  mtu 1480
        tunnel   txqueuelen 1000  (IPIP Tunnel)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

[NE_229:/misc/scratch]$
```

The IOS XR interface is now managed by Linux. You can verify and manage the interface directly from the Linux operating system, and use standard Linux automation tools as desired.

Configure custom MTU setting

Set a custom MTU value for a Linux-managed interface to optimize network performance and compatibility.

This task is useful when you need to customize the MTU setting of a Linux-managed interface on a router or device, ensuring it meets specific operational requirements. It also demonstrates how changes in Linux can affect IOS XR interface configuration.

Follow these steps to configure custom MTU setting.

Procedure

Step 1 Configure the MTU setting.

Example:

```
[ios:~]$ ifconfig Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0 up

[ios:~]$Router:Aug 1 17:41:54.824 UTC: ifmgr[266]: %PKT_INFRA-LINK-3-UPDOWN : Interface
HundredGigE0/0/0/24, changed state to Down
Router:Aug 1 17:41:54.824 UTC: ifmgr[266]: %PKT_INFRA-LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN : Line protocol on
Interface HundredGigE0/0/0/24, changed state to Down
Router:Aug 1 17:41:56.448 UTC: xlncd[253]: %MGBL-CONFIG-6-DB_COMMIT : Configuration committed by
user 'system'. Use 'show configuration commit changes 1000000022' to view the changes.
Router:Aug 1 17:41:56.471 UTC: ifmgr[266]: %PKT_INFRA-LINK-3-UPDOWN : Interface
HundredGigE0/0/0/24, changed state to Up
Router:Aug 1 17:41:56.484 UTC: ifmgr[266]: %PKT_INFRA-LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN : Line protocol on
Interface HundredGigE0/0/0/24, changed state to Up
Router:Aug 1 17:41:58.493 UTC: xlncd[253]: %MGBL-CONFIG-6-DB_COMMIT : Configuration committed by
user 'system'. Use 'show configuration commit changes 1000000023' to view the changes.

[ios:~]$
[ios:~]$ ip link set dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0 mtu 1400
[ios:~]$
[ios:~]$Router:Aug 1 17:42:46.830 UTC: xlncd[253]: %MGBL-CONFIG-6-DB_COMMIT : Configuration
committed by user 'system'. Use 'show configuration commit changes 1000000024' to view the changes.
```

Step 2 Verify that the MTU setting has been updated in Linux.

Example:

This example highlights the MTU setting for all interfaces in Linux.

```
[ios:~]$ ifconfig
Lo0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 20.2.2.2  netmask 255.255.255.255  broadcast 0.0.0.0
        ether 9a:91:5d:6d:ad:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1400
        inet 72.163.4.154  netmask 255.0.0.0  broadcast 72.255.255.255
        ether 74:88:bb:ff:fe:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 110019  bytes 11418001 (10.8 MiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING>  mtu 1450
        inet 127.0.0.1  netmask 255.0.0.0
        inet6 ::1  prefixlen 128  scopeid 0x10<host>
        loop  txqueuelen 1000  (Local Loopback)
        RX packets 50  bytes 4200 (4.1 KiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 50  bytes 4200 (4.1 KiB)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

to_xr: flags=4305<UP,POINTOPOINT,RUNNING,NOARP,MULTICAST>  mtu 1300
        unspec 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00  txqueuelen 2000  (UNSPEC)
        RX packets 9  bytes 864 (864.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 6  bytes 348 (348.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0
```

Step 3 Check the effect on the IOS XR configuration with the change in MTU setting on this interface.

a) Exit the bash terminal.

Example:

```
[ios:~]$ exit
logout
```

b) Verify the running configuration of the **mgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/*** interfaces.

Example:

The example shows the MTU settings for the **mgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/*** interfaces.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show running-config interface mgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/*
interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
 mtu 1450!
interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/1
 shutdown
!
interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/2
 shutdown
!
```

c) (Optional) Use the **show ip interface brief | include MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0** to see the **MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0** interface only.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show ip interface brief | include MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0            10.127.60.229   Up              Up       default
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#
```

The output indicates that the interface acts as a regular Linux interface, and IOS XR configuration receives inputs from Linux.

Synchronize statistics between IOS XR and Linux

Ensure that interface packet and byte statistics in Linux accurately reflect all traffic handled by IOS XR by configuring regular synchronization of statistics from IOS XR to the Linux kernel.

By default, the packet and byte counters maintained by Linux for IOS XR interfaces only reflect traffic sourced in Linux. To maintain accurate and up-to-date traffic counters, IOS XR can periodically synchronize statistics to Linux.

Enter the configuration mode using the **configuration** command.

Follow these steps to synchronize statistics between IOS XR and Linux.

Procedure

Step 1 Configure the statistics synchronization including the direction and synchronization interval.

Example:

The example shows statistics synchronization in global configuration:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config)#linux networking statistics-synchronization from-xr every 30s
```

Example:

The example shows statistics synchronization in exposed-interface configuration:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config)#linux networking exposed-interfaces interface mgmtEth 0/RP0/CPU0/2
statistics-synchronization from-xr every 10s
```

where :

- **from-xr**: The direction indicating that the interface packet statistics will be pushed from IOS XR to the Linux kernel.
- **every**: Shows the frequency at which to synchronize statistics. The intervals supported for global configuration are 30s and 60s. The intervals supported for exposed interfaces are 5s, 10s, 30s or 60s. The interval **s** is in seconds.

Step 2 Verify that the statistics synchronization is applied successfully on IOS XR.

Example:

This example highlights the statistics synchronization that is applied on IOS XR interface.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config)#show running-config linux networking
linux networking
 vrf default
  address-family ipv4
   protection
   protocol tcp local-port all default-action deny
    permit interface bundle-ether 1
```

```
    !
   !
  !
 !
exposed-interfaces
 interface bundle-ether 1 linux-managed
  statistics-synchronization from-xr every 10s
  !
 !
!
```

For troubleshooting purposes, use the **show tech-support linux networking** command to display debugging information.

Route synchronization

A route synchronization is a networking capability that

- enables routing information to be shared between IOS XR routing tables and Linux kernel routing tables,
- allows traffic from Linux applications to be sent through various network paths, and
- supports multiple routing scenarios to optimize communication between IOS XR and Linux.

Route synchronization methods

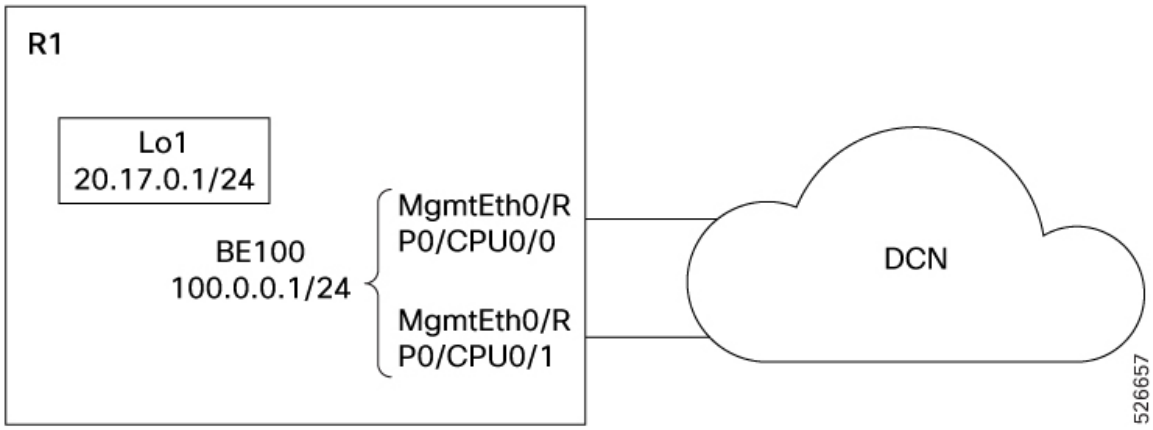
You can achieve route synchronization using three methods:

- Sending traffic from Linux via a connected network.
- Sending traffic from Linux via a network requiring a route, where the route is present in XR.
- Sending traffic from Linux via a network requiring a route (no route present).

Back-to-back topology

For each of the three scenarios, the following back-to-back topology is used for illustration. All interfaces are assumed to be configured with their IP addresses and up.

Figure 1: NCS 1004 back-to-back topology



All the three methods consider the R1 node has the same configuration.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash
[ios:~]$ ifconfig
Lo0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 20.2.2.2  netmask 255.255.255.255  broadcast 0.0.0.0
        ether 9a:91:5d:6d:ad:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
        inet 72.163.4.154  netmask 255.0.0.0  broadcast 72.255.255.255
        ether 74:88:bb:ff:fe:c8  txqueuelen 2000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 69764  bytes 7270201 (6.9 MiB)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING>  mtu 1400
        inet 127.0.0.1  netmask 255.0.0.0
        inet6 ::1  prefixlen 128  scopeid 0x10<host>
        loop  txqueuelen 1000  (Local Loopback)
        RX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 0  bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0

to_xr: flags=4305<UP,POINTOPOINT,RUNNING,NOARP,MULTICAST>  mtu 1300
        unspec 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00  txqueuelen 2000  (UNSPEC)
        RX packets 8  bytes 768 (768.0 B)
        RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
        TX packets 6  bytes 348 (348.0 B)
        TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0
```

NCS 1004 supports route synchronization methods that combine the strengths of both IOS XR and Linux routing tables. This capability allows for flexible and efficient routing of traffic, ensuring that Linux applications can utilize IOS XR-managed network paths and take advantage of optimized connectivity configurations.

Send traffic from Linux via a connected network

Use this procedure to send traffic from Linux to verify connectivity with a connected network, leveraging automatically synchronized IP addresses and kernel-populated routes.

XLNC automatically synchronizes all relevant IP addresses, and the Linux kernel populates the necessary routes. No additional Linux configuration is required for this method. Traffic can be sent to the destination IP addresses, such as 12.0.0.2 or 100.0.0.2, from Linux on R1.

Before you begin

Follow these steps to send traffic from Linux via a connected network.

Procedure

Step 1 View the IP routes used by the **to_xr** interfaces.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash
[ios:~]$ ip route
default via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0
10.127.59.46 via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0
10.127.60.0/24 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0  scope link  src 10.127.60.173
```

Step 2 Verify connectivity with R2 node.

Example:

This output shows the details of network connectivity to R2 node IP 12.0.0.2.

```
[ios:~]$ ping 10.127.60.173
PING 10.127.60.173 (10.127.60.173) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.127.60.173: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.046 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.173: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.039 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.173: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.030 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.173: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.030 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.173: icmp_seq=5 ttl=64 time=0.030 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.173: icmp_seq=6 ttl=64 time=0.031 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.173: icmp_seq=7 ttl=64 time=0.038 ms
^C
--- 10.127.60.173 ping statistics ---
7 packets transmitted, 7 received, 0% packet loss, time 5999ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.030/0.034/0.046/0.009 ms
```

Send traffic from Linux using an XR route

Enable network services on Linux, such as Model Driven Telemetry and IOS-XR Install hosted on IOS XR platforms, to send traffic that is routed by IOS XR, ensuring proper connectivity as defined in IOS XR's routing table.

In IOS XR systems, Linux-based services may need to send traffic through the XR routing stack. By default, IOS XR selects the IP address of the lowest-numbered loopback (such as Loopback0) as a source hint for Linux-originated traffic. If connectivity to certain destinations requires a different source address, you must manually add routing entries on Linux. In future releases, XR routes can be automatically synced to Linux, but in this release manual configuration is required.

Follow these steps to send traffic from Linux via a network using an XR route.

Procedure

Step 1 Check the route details for the NCS 1004 node R1.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show route
Fri Oct 31 15:20:43.596 IST

Codes: C - connected, S - static, R - RIP, B - BGP, (>) - Diversion path
       D - EIGRP, EX - EIGRP external, O - OSPF, IA - OSPF inter area
       N1 - OSPF NSSA external type 1, N2 - OSPF NSSA external type 2
       E1 - OSPF external type 1, E2 - OSPF external type 2, E - EGP
       i - ISIS, L1 - IS-IS level-1, L2 - IS-IS level-2
       ia - IS-IS inter area, su - IS-IS summary null, * - candidate default
       U - per-user static route, o - ODR, L - local, G  - DAGR, l - LISP
       A - access/subscriber, a - Application route
       M - mobile route, r - RPL, t - Traffic Engineering, (!) - FRR Backup path
```

```
Gateway of last resort is 10.127.60.1 to network 0.0.0.0

S*   0.0.0.0/0 [1/0] via 10.127.60.1, 01:18:21
L    2.2.2.2/32 is directly connected, 01:18:22, Loopback2
S    10.127.59.46/32 [1/0] via 10.127.60.1, 01:18:21
C    10.127.60.0/24 is directly connected, 01:18:21, MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
L    10.127.60.173/32 is directly connected, 01:18:21, MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
```

Step 2 View the IP routes used by the **to_xr** interfaces.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash
Fri Oct 31 15:22:32.218 IST
[:~]$ ip route
default via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0
10.127.59.46 via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0
10.127.60.0/24 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0  scope link  src 10.127.60.173
[:~]$exit
```

Step 3 Add a route sync configuration in XR.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config)#linux networking
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-net)# vrf default
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-vrf)# address-family ipv4
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)#  default-route software-forwarding
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)#  source-hint management-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)#  source-hint default-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)#commit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios(config-lnx-af)#
```

Step 4 Verify the linux configuration in XR.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show running-config linux networking
Tue Oct 28 16:39:44.951 IST
linux networking
 vrf default
  east-west Loopback2
  address-family ipv4
   source-hint default-route interface MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
  !
 !
!
```

Step 5 Add a route with source IP address in Linux.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash
Fri Oct 31 15:22:32.218 IST
[:~]$#ip route add 10.127.60.0/24 dev to_xr scope link src 10.127.60.173
```

Step 6 Verify connectivity with R2 node.

Example:

```
[:~]$# ping 10.127.60.1
PING 10.127.60.1 (10.127.60.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=254 time=0.876 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=2 ttl=254 time=0.768 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=254 time=0.697 ms
```

```
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=4 ttl=254 time=0.824 ms
^C
--- 10.127.60.1 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3000ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.697/0.791/0.876/0.069 ms
[:~]$
```

Traffic sent from Linux through the to_xr interface is now routed according to IOS XR's RIB, and source IP selection matches the requirements of your network.

Send traffic from Linux via a network without an XR route

This method requires configuring routes within the Linux operating system. The source IP can be omitted, as it will be resolved automatically by Linux. These steps allow you to achieve the same outcome as scenario 2, but without dependency on XR routing.

Follow these steps to send traffic from Linux via a network without an XR route.

Procedure

Step 1 Check the route details for the NCS 1004 node R1.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#show route
Fri Oct 31 15:58:52.236 IST

Codes: C - connected, S - static, R - RIP, B - BGP, (>) - Diversion path
       D - EIGRP, EX - EIGRP external, O - OSPF, IA - OSPF inter area
       N1 - OSPF NSSA external type 1, N2 - OSPF NSSA external type 2
       E1 - OSPF external type 1, E2 - OSPF external type 2, E - EGP
       i - ISIS, L1 - IS-IS level-1, L2 - IS-IS level-2
       ia - IS-IS inter area, su - IS-IS summary null, * - candidate default
       U - per-user static route, o - ODR, L - local, G  - DAGR, l - LISP
       A - access/subscriber, a - Application route
       M - mobile route, r - RPL, t - Traffic Engineering, (!) - FRR Backup path

Gateway of last resort is 10.127.60.1 to network 0.0.0.0

S*   0.0.0.0/0 [1/0] via 10.127.60.1, 01:56:30
L    2.2.2.2/32 is directly connected, 01:56:31, Loopback2
S    10.127.59.46/32 [1/0] via 10.127.60.1, 01:56:30
C    10.127.60.0/24 is directly connected, 01:56:30, MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
L    10.127.60.173/32 is directly connected, 01:56:30, MgmtEth0/RP0/CPU0/0
```

Step 2 View the IP routes used by the **to_xr** interfaces.

Example:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#bash
Fri Oct 31 15:59:14.656 IST
[ios:~]$  ip route
default via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0
10.127.59.46 via 10.127.60.1 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0
10.127.60.0/24 dev Mg0_RP0_CPU0_0  scope link  src 10.127.60.173
[NE_173:~]$
```

Step 3 Set the route in Linux.

Example:

This command sets the route in the linux interface.

```
[ios:~]$ ip route add 10.127.60.0/24 dev to_xr scope link src 10.127.60.173
```

Step 4 Verify connectivity with R2 node.

Example:

```
[:~]$# ping 10.127.60.1
PING 10.127.60.1 (10.127.60.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=254 time=0.876 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=2 ttl=254 time=0.768 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=254 time=0.697 ms
64 bytes from 10.127.60.1: icmp_seq=4 ttl=254 time=0.824 ms
^C
--- 10.127.60.1 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3000ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.697/0.791/0.876/0.069 ms
[:~]$
```

Traffic is successfully sent from the Linux node via the manually configured route, bypassing the XR routing setup. You can confirm successful connectivity by receiving ping replies from the destination.