



Implementing Static Routes

This module describes how to implement static routes.

Static routes are user-defined routes that cause packets moving between a source and a destination to take a specified path. Static routes can be important if the Cisco IOS XR software cannot build a route to a particular destination. They are useful for specifying a gateway of last resort to which all unroutable packets are sent.



Note For more information about static routes on the Cisco IOS XR software and complete descriptions of the static routes commands listed in this module, see the [Related Documents, on page 6](#) section of this module. To locate documentation for other commands that might appear while performing a configuration task, search online in the .

Feature History for Implementing Static Routes

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Release 5.0.0 | This feature was introduced. |
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- [Prerequisites for Implementing Static Routes, on page 1](#)
- [Restrictions for Implementing Static Routes, on page 1](#)
- [Information About Implementing Static Routes, on page 2](#)
- [Configuration Examples, on page 4](#)
- [Where to Go Next, on page 5](#)
- [Additional References, on page 5](#)

Prerequisites for Implementing Static Routes

You must be in a user group associated with a task group that includes the proper task IDs. The command reference guides include the task IDs required for each command. If you suspect user group assignment is preventing you from using a command, contact your AAA administrator for assistance.

Restrictions for Implementing Static Routes

These restrictions apply while implementing Static Routes:

- Static routing to an indirect next hop, (any prefix learnt through the RIB and may be more specific over the AIB), that is part of a local subnet requires configuring static routes in the global table indicating the egress interfaces as next hop. To avoid forward drop, configure static routes in the global table indicating the next-hop IP address to be the next hop.
- Generally, a route is learnt from the AIB in the global table and is installed in the FIB. However, this behavior will not be replicated to leaked prefixes. This could lead to inconsistencies in forwarding behavior.

Information About Implementing Static Routes

To implement static routes you need to understand the following concepts:

Static Route Functional Overview

Networking devices forward packets using route information that is either manually configured or dynamically learned using a routing protocol. Static routes are manually configured and define an explicit path between two networking devices. Unlike a dynamic routing protocol, static routes are not automatically updated and must be manually reconfigured if the network topology changes. The benefits of using static routes include security and resource efficiency. Static routes use less bandwidth than dynamic routing protocols, and no CPU cycles are used to calculate and communicate routes. The main disadvantage to using static routes is the lack of automatic reconfiguration if the network topology changes.

Static routes can be redistributed into dynamic routing protocols, but routes generated by dynamic routing protocols cannot be redistributed into the static routing table. No algorithm exists to prevent the configuration of routing loops that use static routes.

Static routes are useful for smaller networks with only one path to an outside network and to provide security for a larger network for certain types of traffic or links to other networks that need more control. In general, most networks use dynamic routing protocols to communicate between networking devices but may have one or two static routes configured for special cases.

Default Administrative Distance

Static routes have a default administrative distance of 1. A low number indicates a preferred route. By default, static routes are preferred to routes learned by routing protocols. Therefore, you can configure an administrative distance with a static route if you want the static route to be overridden by dynamic routes. For example, you could have routes installed by the Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) protocol with an administrative distance of 120. To have a static route that would be overridden by an OSPF dynamic route, specify an administrative distance greater than 120.

Directly Connected Routes

The routing table considers the static routes that point to an interface as “directly connected.” Directly connected networks are advertised by IGP routing protocols if a corresponding **interface** command is contained under the router configuration stanza of that protocol.

In directly attached static routes, only the output interface is specified. The destination is assumed to be directly attached to this interface, so the packet destination is used as the next hop address. The following example

shows how to specify that all destinations with address prefix 2001:0DB8::/32 are directly reachable through interface GigabitEthernet 0/5/0/0:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# router static  
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static)# address-family ipv6 unicast  
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static-afi)# 2001:0DB8::/32 gigabitEthernet 0/5/0/0
```

Directly attached static routes are candidates for insertion in the routing table only if they refer to a valid interface; that is, an interface that is both up and has IPv4 or IPv6 enabled on it.

Recursive Static Routes

In a recursive static route, only the next hop is specified. The output interface is derived from the next hop. The following example shows how to specify that all destinations with address prefix 2001:0DB8::/32 are reachable through the host with address 2001:0DB8:3000::1:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# router static  
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static)# address-family ipv6 unicast  
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static-afi)# 2001:0DB8::/32 2001:0DB8:3000::1
```

A recursive static route is valid (that is, it is a candidate for insertion in the routing table) only when the specified next hop resolves, either directly or indirectly, to a valid output interface, provided the route does not self-recurse, and the recursion depth does not exceed the maximum IPv6 forwarding recursion depth.

A route self-recurses if it is itself used to resolve its own next hop. If a static route becomes self-recursive, RIB sends a notification to static routes to withdraw the recursive route.

Assuming a BGP route 2001:0DB8:3000::0/16 with next hop of 2001:0DB8::0104, the following static route would not be inserted into the IPv6 RIB because the BGP route next hop resolves through the static route and the static route resolves through the BGP route making it self-recursive:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# router static  
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static)# address-family ipv6 unicast  
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static-afi)# 001:0DB8::/32 2001:0DB8:3000::1
```

This static route is not inserted into the IPv6 routing table because it is self-recursive. The next hop of the static route, 2001:0DB8:3000:1, resolves through the BGP route 2001:0DB8:3000:0/16, which is itself a recursive route (that is, it only specifies a next hop). The next hop of the BGP route, 2001:0DB8::0104, resolves through the static route. Therefore, the static route would be used to resolve its own next hop.

It is not normally useful to manually configure a self-recursive static route, although it is not prohibited. However, a recursive static route that has been inserted in the routing table may become self-recursive as a result of some transient change in the network learned through a dynamic routing protocol. If this occurs, the fact that the static route has become self-recursive will be detected and it will be removed from the routing table, although not from the configuration. A subsequent network change may cause the static route to no longer be self-recursive, in which case it is re-inserted in the routing table.

Fully Specified Static Routes

In a fully specified static route, both the output interface and next hop are specified. This form of static route is used when the output interface is multiaccess and it is necessary to explicitly identify the next hop. The next hop must be directly attached to the specified output interface. The following example shows a definition of a fully specified static route:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# router static
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static)# address-family ipv6 unicast
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static-afi)# 2001:0DB8::/32 Gigetherne0/0/0/0 2001:0DB8:3000::1
```

A fully specified route is valid (that is, a candidate for insertion into the routing table) when the specified interface, IPv4 or IPv6, is enabled and up.

Floating Static Routes

Floating static routes are static routes that are used to back up dynamic routes learned through configured routing protocols. A floating static route is configured with a higher administrative distance than the dynamic routing protocol it is backing up. As a result, the dynamic route learned through the routing protocol is always preferred to the floating static route. If the dynamic route learned through the routing protocol is lost, the floating static route is used in its place. The following example shows how to define a floating static route:

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config)# router static
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static)# address-family ipv6 unicast
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-static-afi)# 2001:0DB8::/32 2001:0DB8:3000::1 210
```

Any of the three types of static routes can be used as a floating static route. A floating static route must be configured with an administrative distance that is greater than the administrative distance of the dynamic routing protocol because routes with smaller administrative distances are preferred.



Note By default, static routes have smaller administrative distances than dynamic routes, so static routes are preferred to dynamic routes.

Configuration Examples

This section provides the following configuration examples:

Configuring Traffic Discard: Example

Configuring a static route to point at interface null 0 may be used for discarding traffic to a particular prefix. For example, if it is required to discard all traffic to prefix 2001:0DB8:42:1/64, the following static route would be defined:

```
configure
router static
address-family ipv6 unicast
2001:0DB8:42:1::/64 null 0
end
```

Configuring a Fixed Default Route: Example

A default static route is often used in simple router topologies. In the following example, a route is configured with an administrative distance of 110.

```
configure
router static
address-family ipv4 unicast
0.0.0.0/0 2.6.0.1 110
end
```

Configuring a Floating Static Route: Example

A floating static route is often used to provide a backup path if connectivity fails. In the following example, a route is configured with an administrative distance of 201.

```
configure
router static
address-family ipv6 unicast
2001:0DB8::/32 2001:0DB8:3000::1 201
end
```

Where to Go Next

For additional information about static routes, routing protocols, and RIB, consult the following publications:

- *Implementing and Monitoring RIB on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Configuration Guide for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*
- *Implementing BGP on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Configuration Guide for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*
- *Implementing EIGRP on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Configuration Guide for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*
- *Implementing IS-IS on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Configuration Guide for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*
- *Implementing OSPF on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Configuration Guide for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*
- *Implementing OSPFv3 on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Configuration Guide for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*
- *RIB Commands on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Command Reference for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*
- *Implementing RIP on Cisco IOS XR Software* in *Routing Configuration Guide for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers*

Additional References

The following sections provide references related to implementing Static Routes.

Related Documents

| Related Topic | Document Title |
|---|--|
| Static routes commands: complete command syntax, command modes, command history, defaults, usage guidelines, and examples | <i>Static Routing Commands</i> in <i>Routing Command Reference for Cisco NCS 6000 Series Routers</i> |

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 |
|------|--|
| — | 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: https://mibs.cloudapps.cisco.com/ITDIT/MIBS/servlet/index |

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 more content. | http://www.cisco.com/techsupport |