

# **Configuring Flexible NetFlow**

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# **Prerequisites for Flexible NetFlow**

The following are prerequisites for your Flexible NetFlow configuration:

- You must configure a source interface. If you do not configure a source interface, the exporter remains in a disabled state.
- You must configure a valid record name for every flow monitor.
- You must enable IPv6 routing to export the flow records to an IPv6 destination server.
- You must configure IPFIX export protocol for the flow exporter to export netflow records in IPFIX format.
- You are familiar with the Flexible NetFlow key fields as they are defined in the following commands in the Cisco IOS Flexible NetFlow Command Reference:
  - match datalink—Datalink (layer2) fields
  - match flow—Flow identifying fields
  - match interface—Interface fields
  - match ipv4—IPv4 fields
  - match ipv6—IPv6 fields
  - match transport—Transport layer fields
  - match flow cts—Cisco TrustSec fields

- You are familiar with the Flexible NetFlow non-key fields:
  - collect counter—Counter fields
  - collect flow—Flow identifying fields
  - collect interface—Interface fields
  - collect timestamp—Timestamp fields
  - collect transport—Transport layer fields
- Flexible NetFlow configurations applied on one of the Layer 3 port-channel member port will also be
  applied across all other member ports within the same device. For devices configured either as part of
  stack or with StackWise Virtual, Cisco recommends to configure the Flexible NetFlow on the port-channel
  interface.

#### **IPv4 Traffic**

- The networking device must be configured for IPv4 routing.
- One of the following must be enabled on your device and on any interfaces on which you want to enable Flexible NetFlow: Cisco Express Forwarding or distributed Cisco Express Forwarding.

### **IPv6 Traffic**

- The networking device must be configured for IPv6 routing.
- One of the following must be enabled on your device and on any interfaces on which you want to enable Flexible NetFlow: Cisco Express Forwarding IPv6 or distributed Cisco Express Forwarding.

## **Restrictions for Flexible NetFlow**

The following are restrictions for Flexible NetFlow:

- Flexible NetFlow is not supported on the Layer 2 port-channel interface, but is supported on the Layer 2 port-channel member ports.
- Multiple Flexible Netflow configurations are supported either on port-channel interface or port-channel member ports but not on both.
- Traditional NetFlow (TNF) accounting is not supported.
- Flexible NetFlow version 9 and version 10 export formats are supported. However, if you have not configured the export protocol, version 9 export format is applied by default.
- Microflow policing feature shares the NetFlow hardware resource with FNF.
- Only one flow monitor per interface and per direction is supported .
- Layer 2, IPv4, and IPv6 traffic types are supported. Multiple flow monitors of different traffic types can be applied for a given interface and direction. Multiple flow monitors of same traffic type cannot be applied for a given interface and direction.

- Layer 2, VLAN, WLAN and Layer 3 interfaces are supported, but the device does not support SVI and tunnels.
- The following NetFlow table sizes are supported:

Trim Level	Ingress NetFlow Table	Egress NetFlow Table		
LAN Base	Not supported	Not supported		
IP Base	8 K	16 K		
IP Services	8 K	16 K		

- Depending on the switch type, a switch will have one or two forwarding ASICs. The capacities listed in the above table are on a per-ASIC basis.
- The switch can support either one or two ASICs. Each ASIC has 8K ingress and 16 K egress entries, whereas each TCAM can handle up to 6K ingress and 12K egress entries.
- The NetFlow tables are on separate compartments and cannot be combined. Depending on which ASIC processed the packet, the flows will be created in the table in the corresponding ASIC.
- NetFlow hardware implementation supports four hardware samplers. You can select a sampler rate from 1 out of 2 to 1 out of 1024. Only random sampling mode is supported.
- NetFlow hardware uses hash tables internally. Hash collisions can occur in the hardware. Therefore, in spite of the internal overflow Content Addressable Memory (CAM), the actual NetFlow table utilization could be about 80 percent.
- Depending on the fields that are used for the flow, a single flow could take two consecutive entries. IPv6
  flows also take two entries. In these situations, the effective usage of NetFlow entries is half the table
  size, which is separate from the above hash collision limitation.
- The device supports up to 63 flow monitors.
- SSID-based NetFlow accounting is supported. SSID is treated in a manner similar to an interface. However, certain fields are not supported such as user ID .
- The NetFlow software implementation supports distributed NetFlow export, so the flows are exported from the same device in which the flow was created.
- Ingress flows are present in the ASIC that first received the packets for the flow. Egress flows are present in the ASIC from which the packets actually left the device set up.
- The reported value for the bytes count field (called "bytes long") is Layer-2-packet-size—18 bytes. For classic Ethernet traffic (802.3), this will be accurate. For all other Ethernet types, this field will not be accurate. Use the "bytes layer2" field, which always reports the accurate Layer 2 packet size. For information about supported Flexible NetFlow fields, see Supported Flexible NetFlow Fields, on page 13.
- Configuration of IPFIX exporter on an AVC flow monitor is not supported.
- Flexible NetFlow export is not supported on the Ethernet management port, Gi0/0.
- When a flow record has only Source Group Tag (SGT) and Destination Group Tag (DGT) fields (or only either of the two) and if both the values are not applicable, then a flow will still be created with zero

values for SGT and DGT. The flow records are expected to include source and destination IP addresses, along with SGT and DGT fields.

- The flow monitor with flow record, that contains the CTS field, cannot be attached on the WLAN (SSID).
- For an IPv6 flow monitor, Source Group Tag (SGT) and Destination Group Tag (DGT) fields cannot co-exist with MAC address fields

## Information About Flexible Netflow

## Flexible NetFlow Overview

Flexible NetFlow uses flows to provide statistics for accounting, network monitoring, and network planning.

A flow is a unidirectional stream of packets that arrives on a source interface and has the same values for the keys. A key is an identified value for a field within the packet. You create a flow using a flow record to define the unique keys for your flow.

The device supports the Flexible NetFlow feature that enables enhanced network anomalies and security detection. Flexible NetFlow allows you to define an optimal flow record for a particular application by selecting the keys from a large collection of predefined fields.

All key values must match for the packet to count in a given flow. A flow might gather other fields of interest, depending on the export record version that you configure. Flows are stored in the Flexible NetFlow cache.

You can export the data that Flexible NetFlow gathers for your flow by using an exporter and export this data to a remote system such as a Flexible NetFlow collector. The Flexible NetFlow collector can use an IPv4 or IPv6 address.

You define the size of the data that you want to collect for a flow using a monitor. The monitor combines the flow record and exporter with the Flexible NetFlow cache information.

Starting with the Cisco IOS XE 16.12.1 release, Source Group Tag (SGT) and Destination Group Tag (DGT) fields over Flexible NetFlow are supported for IPv6 traffic.

# Original NetFlow and Benefits of Flexible NetFlow

Flexible NetFlow allows the flow to be user defined. The benefits of Flexible NetFlow include:

- High-capacity flow recognition, including scalability and aggregation of flow information.
- Enhanced flow infrastructure for security monitoring and dDoS detection and identification.
- New information from packets to adapt flow information to a particular service or operation in the network. The flow information available will be customizable by Flexible NetFlow users.
- Extensive use of Cisco's flexible and extensible NetFlow Version 9 and version 10 export formats. With version 10 export format, support for variable length field for the wireless client's SSID is available.
- A comprehensive IP accounting feature that can be used to replace many accounting features, such as IP accounting, Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Policy Accounting, and persistent caches.
- Support for ingress and egress NetFlow accounting.

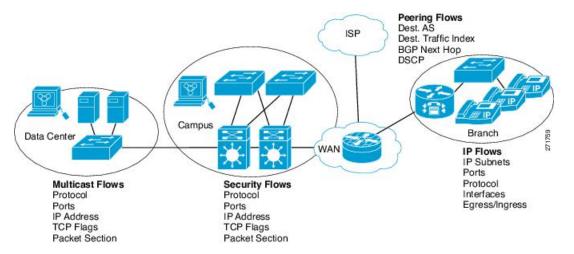
• Support for full flow accounting and sampled NetFlow accounting.

Flexible NetFlow allows you to understand network behavior with more efficiency, with specific flow information tailored for various services used in the network. The following are some example applications for a Flexible NetFlow feature:

- Flexible NetFlow enhances Cisco NetFlow as a security monitoring tool. For instance, new flow keys
  can be defined for packet length or MAC address, allowing users to search for a specific type of attack
  in the network.
- Flexible NetFlow allows you to quickly identify how much application traffic is being sent between hosts by specifically tracking TCP or UDP applications by the class of service (CoS) in the packets.
- The accounting of traffic entering a Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) or IP core network and its destination for each next hop per class of service. This capability allows the building of an edge-to-edge traffic matrix.

The figure below is an example of how Flexible NetFlow might be deployed in a network.

Figure 1: Typical Deployment for Flexible NetFlow



## **Flexible NetFlow Components**

Flexible NetFlow consists of components that can be used together in several variations to perform traffic analysis and data export. The user-defined flow records and the component structure of Flexible NetFlow facilitates the creation of various configurations for traffic analysis and data export on a networking device with a minimum number of configuration commands. Each flow monitor can have a unique combination of flow record, flow exporter, and cache type. If you change a parameter such as the destination IP address for a flow exporter, it is automatically changed for all the flow monitors that use the flow exporter. The same flow monitor can be used in conjunction with different flow samplers to sample the same type of network traffic at different rates on different interfaces. The following sections provide more information on Flexible NetFlow components:

## Flow Records

In Flexible NetFlow a combination of key and nonkey fields is called a record. Flexible NetFlow records are assigned to Flexible NetFlow flow monitors to define the cache that is used for storing flow data. Flexible NetFlow includes several predefined records that can help you get started using Flexible NetFlow.

A flow record defines the keys that Flexible NetFlow uses to identify packets in the flow, as well as other fields of interest that Flexible NetFlow gathers for the flow. You can define a flow record with any combination of keys and fields of interest. The device supports a rich set of keys. A flow record also defines the types of counters gathered per flow. You can configure 64-bit packet or byte counters. The device enables the following match fields as the defaults when you create a flow record:

- match datalink—Layer 2 attributes
- match flow direction Specifies a match to the fields identifying the direction of flow.
- match interface—Interface attributes
- match ipv4—IPv4 attributes
- match ipv6—IPv6 attributes
- match transport—Transport layer fields

#### **NetFlow Predefined Records**

Flexible NetFlow includes several predefined records that you can use to start monitoring traffic in your network. The predefined records are available to help you quickly deploy Flexible NetFlow and are easier to use than user-defined flow records. You can choose from a list of already defined records that may meet the needs for network monitoring. As Flexible NetFlow evolves, popular user-defined flow records will be made available as predefined records to make them easier to implement.

The predefined records ensure backward compatibility with your existing NetFlow collector configurations for the data that is exported. Each of the predefined records has a unique combination of key and nonkey fields that offer you the built-in ability to monitor various types of traffic in your network without customizing Flexible NetFlow on your router.

Two of the predefined records (NetFlow original and NetFlow IPv4/IPv6 original output), which are functionally equivalent, emulate original (ingress) NetFlow and the Egress NetFlow Accounting feature in original NetFlow, respectively. Some of the other Flexible NetFlow predefined records are based on the aggregation cache schemes available in original NetFlow. The Flexible NetFlow predefined records that are based on the aggregation cache schemes available in original NetFlow do not perform aggregation. Instead each flow is tracked separately by the predefined records.

#### **User-Defined Records**

Flexible NetFlow enables you to define your own records for a Flexible NetFlow flow monitor cache by specifying the key and nonkey fields to customize the data collection to your specific requirements. When you define your own records for a Flexible NetFlow flow monitor cache, they are referred to as *user-defined records*. The values in nonkey fields are added to flows to provide additional information about the traffic in the flows. A change in the value of a nonkey field does not create a new flow. In most cases the values for nonkey fields are taken from only the first packet in the flow. Flexible NetFlow enables you to capture counter values such as the number of bytes and packets in a flow as nonkey fields.

Flexible NetFlow adds a new Version 9 export format field type for the header and packet section types. Flexible NetFlow will communicate to the NetFlow collector the configured section sizes in the corresponding

Version 9 export template fields. The payload sections will have a corresponding length field that can be used to collect the actual size of the collected section.

### **Flexible NetFlow Match Parameters**

The following table describes Flexible NetFlow match parameters. You must configure at least one of the following match parameters for the flow records.

Table 1: Match Parameters

Command	Purpose
$match\ datalink\ \{dot1q\  \ ethertype\  \ mac\  \ vlan\ \}$	Specifies a match to datalink or Layer 2 fields. The following command options are available:
	• dot1q—Matches to the dot1q field.
	• ethertype—Matches to the ethertype of the packet.
	• mac—Matches the source or destination MAC fields.
	• vlan—Matches to the VLAN that the packet is located on (input or output).
match flow direction	Specifies a match to the flow identifying fields.
match interface {input   output}	Specifies a match to the interface fields. The following command options are available:
	• input—Matches to the input interface.
	• output—Matches to the output interface.
match ipv4 {destination   protocol   source   tos   ttl   version}	Specifies a match to the IPv4 fields. The following command options are available:
	• <b>destination</b> —Matches to the IPv4 destination address-based fields.
	• <b>protocol</b> —Matches to the IPv4 protocols.
	• source—Matches to the IPv4 source address based fields.
	• tos—Matches to the IPv4 Type of Service fields.
	• ttl—Matches to the IPv4 Time To Live fields.
	• version—Matches to the IP version from the IPv4 header.

Command	Purpose
match ipv6 {destination   hop-limit   protocol   source   traffic-class   version }	Specifies a match to the IPv6 fields. The following command options are available:
	<ul> <li>destination—Matches to the IPv6 destination address-based fields.</li> </ul>
	• hop-limit—Matches to the IPv6 hop limit fields.
	• <b>protocol</b> —Matches to the IPv6 payload protocol fields.
	• source—Matches to the IPv6 source address based fields.
	• traffic-class—Matches to the IPv6 traffic class.
	• version—Matches to the IP version from the IPv6 header.
$ \begin{array}{c} \textbf{match transport } \{ \textbf{destination-port} \mid \textbf{igmp} \mid \textbf{icmp} \mid \\ \textbf{source-port} \} \end{array} $	Specifies a match to the Transport Layer fields. The following command options are available:
	destination-port—Matches to the transport destination port.
	• icmp—Matches to ICMP fields, including ICMP IPv4 and IPv6 fields.
	• igmp—Matches to IGMP fields.
	• source-port—Matches to the transport source port.

## **Flexible NetFlow Collect Parameters**

The following table describes the Flexible NetFlow collect parameters.

### Table 2: Collect Parameters

Command	Purpose
collect counter { bytes { layer2 { long }   long }   packets { long } }	Collects the counter fields total bytes and total packets.
collect interface {input   output}	Collects the fields from the input or output interface.
collect timestamp absolute {first   last}	Collects the fields for the absolute time the first packet was seen or the absolute time the most recent packet was last seen (in milliseconds).

Command	Purpose			
collect transport tcp flags	Collects the following transport TCP flags:			
	• ack—TCP acknowledgement flag			
	• cwr—TCP congestion window reduced flag			
	• ece—TCP ECN echo flag			
	• fin—TCP finish flag			
	• psh—TCP push flag			
	• rst—TCP reset flag			
	• syn—TCP synchronize flag			
	• urg—TCP urgent flag			
	Note On the device, you cannot specify which TCP flag to collect. You can only specify to collect transport TCP flags. All TCP flags will be collected with this command.			
collect counter bytes	Configures the number of bytes seen in a flow as a nonkey field and enables collecting the total number of bytes from the flow.			
collect counter packets	Configures the number of packets seen in a flow as a nonkey field and enables collecting the total number of packets from the flow.			
collect timestamp sys-uptime first	Configures the system uptime for the time the first packet was seen from the flows as a nonkey field an enables collecting time stamps based on the system uptime for the time the first packet was seen from the flows.			
collect timestamp sys-uptime last	Configures the system uptime for the time the last packet was seen from the flows as a nonkey field and enables collecting time stamps based on the system uptime for the time the most recent packet was seen from the flows.			

## **Flow Exporters**

Flow exporters export the data in the flow monitor cache to a remote system, such as a server running NetFlow collector, for analysis and storage. Flow exporters are created as separate entities in the configuration. Flow exporters are assigned to flow monitors to provide data export capability for the flow monitors. You can create several flow exporters and assign them to one or more flow monitors to provide several export destinations. You can create one flow exporter and apply it to several flow monitors.

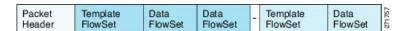
### **NetFlow Data Export Format Version 9**

The basic output of NetFlow is a flow record. Several different formats for flow records have evolved as NetFlow has matured. The most recent evolution of the NetFlow export format is known as Version 9. The distinguishing feature of the NetFlow Version 9 export format is that it is template-based. Templates provide an extensible design to the record format, a feature that should allow future enhancements to NetFlow services without requiring concurrent changes to the basic flow-record format. Using templates provides several key benefits:

- Third-party business partners who produce applications that provide collector or display services for NetFlow do not have to recompile their applications each time a new NetFlow feature is added. Instead, they should be able to use an external data file that documents the known template formats.
- New features can be added to NetFlow quickly without breaking current implementations.
- NetFlow is "future-proofed" against new or developing protocols because the Version 9 format can be adapted to provide support for them.

The Version 9 export format consists of a packet header followed by one or more template flow or data flow sets. A template flow set provides a description of the fields that will be present in future data flow sets. These data flow sets may occur later within the same export packet or in subsequent export packets. Template flow and data flow sets can be intermingled within a single export packet, as illustrated in the figure below.

Figure 2: Version 9 Export Packet



NetFlow Version 9 will periodically export the template data so the NetFlow collector will understand what data is to be sent and also export the data flow set for the template. The key advantage to Flexible NetFlow is that the user configures a flow record, which is effectively converted to a Version 9 template and then forwarded to the collector. The figure below is a detailed example of the NetFlow Version 9 export format, including the header, template flow, and data flow sets.

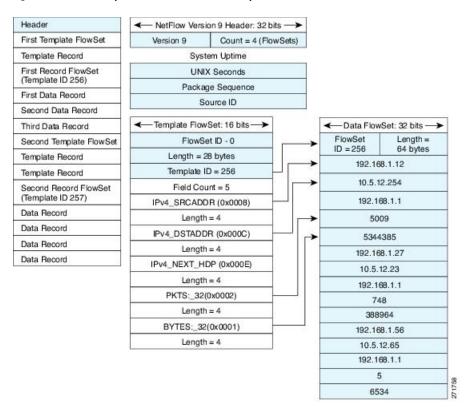


Figure 3: Detailed Example of the NetFlow Version 9 Export Format

### Flow Monitors

Flow monitors are the Flexible NetFlow component that is applied to interfaces to perform network traffic monitoring.

Flow monitors consist of a user-defined record, an optional flow exporter, and a cache that is automatically created at the time the flow monitor is applied to the first interface.

Flow data is collected from the network traffic and added to the flow monitor cache during the monitoring process based on the key and nonkey fields in the flow record.

Flexible NetFlow can be used to perform different types of analysis on the same traffic. In the figure below, packet 1 is analyzed using a record designed for standard traffic analysis on the input interface and a record designed for security analysis on the output interface.

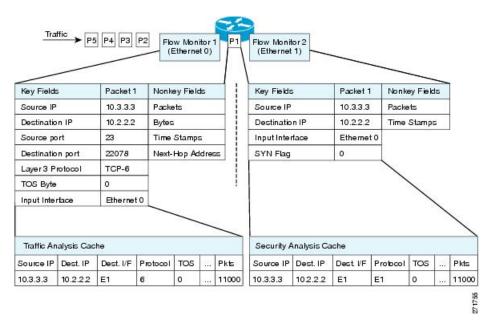
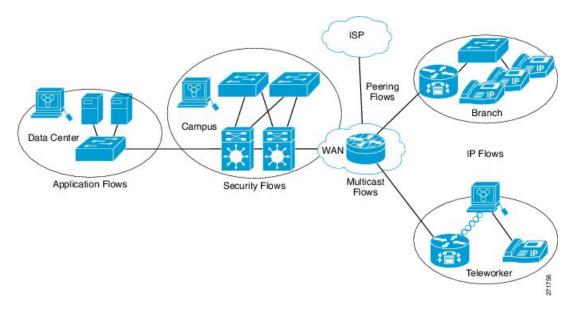


Figure 4: Example of Using Two Flow Monitors to Analyze the Same Traffic

The figure below shows a more complex example of how you can apply different types of flow monitors with custom records.

Figure 5: Complex Example of Using Multiple Types of Flow Monitors with Custom Records



### Normal

The default cache type is "normal". In this mode, the entries in the cache are aged out according to the timeout active and timeout inactive settings. When a cache entry is aged out, it is removed from the cache and exported via any exporters configured.

## **Flow Samplers**

Flow samplers are created as separate components in a router's configuration. Flow samplers are used to reduce the load on the device that is running Flexible NetFlow by limiting the number of packets that are selected for analysis.

Samplers use random sampling techniques (modes); that is, a randomly selected sampling position is used each time a sample is taken.

Flow sampling exchanges monitoring accuracy for router performance. When you apply a sampler to a flow monitor, the overhead load on the router of running the flow monitor is reduced because the number of packets that the flow monitor must analyze is reduced. The reduction in the number of packets that are analyzed by the flow monitor causes a corresponding reduction in the accuracy of the information stored in the flow monitor's cache.

Samplers are combined with flow monitors when they are applied to an interface with the **ip flow monitor** command.

# **Supported Flexible NetFlow Fields**

The following tables provide a consolidated list of supported fields in Flexible NetFlow (FNF) for various traffic types and traffic direction.



Note

If the packet has a VLAN field, then that length is not accounted for.

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
Key or Collect Fields							
Interface input	Yes	_	Yes		Yes		If you apply a flow monitor in the input direction:  • Use the match keyword and use the input interface as a key field.  • Use the collect keyword and use the output interface as a collect field. This field will be present in the exported records but with a value of 0.

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
Interface output	_	Yes		Yes	_	Yes	If you apply a flow monitor in the output direction:  • Use the match keyword and use the output interface as a key field.  • Use the collect keyword and use the input interface as a collect field. This field will be present in the exported records but with a value of 0.

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
<b>Key Fields</b>							
Flow direction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ethertype	Yes	Yes	_	_	_	_	
VLAN input	Yes	_	Yes	_	Yes		Supported only for a switch port.
VLAN output	_	Yes	_	Yes	_	Yes	Supported only for a switch port.
dot1q VLAN input	Yes	_	Yes	_	Yes	_	Supported only for a switch port.
dot1q VLAN output	_	Yes	_	Yes	_	Yes	Supported only for a switch port.
dot1q priority	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Supported only for a switch port.
MAC source address input	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
MAC source address output	_	_	_	_	_	_	
MAC destination address input	Yes	_	Yes	_	Yes	_	
MAC destination address output	_	Yes	_	Yes	_	Yes	
IPv4 version	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
IPv4 TOS	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
IPv4 protocol	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Must use if any of src/dest port, ICMP code/type, IGMP type or TCP flags are used.
IPv4 TTL	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
IPv4 source address	_	_	Yes	Yes	_	_	
IPv4 destination address	_	_	Yes	Yes	_		
ICMP IPv4 type	_	_	Yes	Yes			
ICMP IPv4 code	_	_	Yes	Yes	_	_	
IGMP type	_	_	Yes	Yes	_	_	

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
Key Fields continued							

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
IPv6 version	_		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same as IP version.
IPv6 protocol		_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same as IP protocol. Must use if any of src/dest port, ICMP code/type, IGMP type or TCP flags are used.
IPv6 source address	_	_	_	_	Yes	Yes	
IPv6 destination address	_	_	_	_	Yes	Yes	
IPv6 traffic-class	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same as IP TOS.
IPv6 hop-limit	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same as IP TTL.
ICMP IPv6 type	_	_	_	_	Yes	Yes	
ICMP IPv6 code	_	_	_	_	Yes	Yes	
source-port	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
dest-port	_	_	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
Collect Fields							

Field	Layer 2 In	Layer 2 Out	IPv4 In	IP v4 Out	IPv6 In	IPv6 Out	Notes
Bytes long	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Packet size = (Ethernet frame size including FCS - 18 bytes)
							Recommended:
							Avoid this field and use Bytes layer2 long.
Packets long	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Timestamp absolute first	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Timestamp absolute last	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
TCP flags	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Collects all flags.
Bytes layer2 long	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

# **Default Settings**

The following table lists the Flexible NetFlow default settings for the device.

### Table 3: Default Flexible NetFlow Settings

Setting	Default
Flow active timeout	1800 seconds
Flow timeout inactive	15 seconds

# **How to Configure Flexible Netflow**

To configure Flexible Netflow, follow these general steps:

- 1. Create a flow record by specifying keys and non-key fields to the flow.
- **2.** Create an optional flow exporter by specifying the protocol and transport destination port, destination, and other parameters.

- 3. Create a flow monitor based on the flow record and flow exporter.
- 4. Create an optional sampler.
- **5.** Apply the flow monitor to a Layer 2 port, Layer 3 port, or VLAN.

# **Creating a Flow Record**

Perform this task to configure a customized flow record.

Customized flow records are used to analyze traffic data for a specific purpose. A customized flow record must have at least one **match** criterion for use as the key field and typically has at least one **collect** criterion for use as a nonkey field.

There are hundreds of possible permutations of customized flow records. This task shows the steps that are used to create one of the possible permutations. Modify the steps in this task as appropriate to create a customized flow record for your requirements.

	Command or Action	Purpose	
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.	
	Example:	Enter your password if prompted.	
	Device> enable		
Step 2	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.	
	Example:		
	Device# configure terminal		
Step 3	flow record record-name	Creates a flow record and enters Flexible	
	Example:	NetFlow flow record configuration mode.	
	Device(config)# flow record FLOW-RECORD-1	<ul> <li>This command also allows you to modify an existing flow record.</li> </ul>	
Step 4	description description	(Optional) Creates a description for the flow	
	Example:	record.	
	Device(config-flow-record)# description Used for basic traffic analysis		
Step 5	match {ip   ipv6} {destination   source} address	Note This example configures the IPv4 destination address as a key field	
	Example:	for the record. For information	
	Device(config-flow-record)# match ipv4 destination address	about the other key fields available for the <b>match ipv4</b> command, and the other <b>match</b> commands that are available to configure key fields.	

	Command or Action	Purpose	
Step 6	Repeat Step 5 as required to configure additional key fields for the record.		
Step 7	match flow cts {source   destination} group-tag	Note	This example configures the CTS source group tag and destination
	Example:		group tag as a key field for the record. For information about the
	Device(config-flow-record) # match flocts source group-tag	W	other key fields available for the match ipv4/ipv6 command, and the other match commands that
	Device(config-flow-record) # match flocts destination group-tag	)W	are available to configure key fields.
		Note	• Ingress:
			• In an incoming packet, if a header is present, SGT will reflect the same value as the header. If no value is present, it will show zero.
			<ul> <li>The DGT value will not depend on the ingress port SGACL configuration.</li> </ul>
			• Egress:
			• If either propagate SGT or CTS is disabled on the egress interface, then SGT will be zero.
			• In an outgoing packet, if SGACL configuration that corresponds to the (SGT, DGT) exists, DGT will be non-zero.
			• If SGACL is disabled on the egress port/VLAN or if global SGACL enforcement is disabled, then DGT will be zero

	Command or Action	Purpose		
Step 8	Example:	Configures the input interface as a nonkey field for the record.		
		Note This example configures the input interface as a nonkey field for the record.		
Step 9	Repeat the above step as required to configure additional nonkey fields for the record.	_		
Step 10	end	Exits Flexible NetFlow flow record		
-	Example:	configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.		
	Device(config-flow-record)# end			
Step 11	show flow record record-name	(Optional) Displays the current status of the		
	Example:	specified flow record.		
	Device# show flow record FLOW_RECORD-1			
Step 12	show running-config flow record record-name	(Optional) Displays the configuration of the specified flow record.		
	Example:			
	Device# show running-config flow record FLOW_RECORD-1			

# **Creating a Flow Exporter**

You can create a flow export to define the export parameters for a flow.



Note

Each flow exporter supports only one destination. If you want to export the data to multiple destinations, you must configure multiple flow exporters and assign them to the flow monitor.

You can export to a destination using IPv4 or IPv6 address.

Command or Action	Purpose
configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Example:	
Device# configure terminal	
	configure terminal  Example:

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 2	<pre>flow exporter name Example:  Device(config) # flow exporter ExportTest</pre>	Creates a flow exporter and enters flow exporter configuration mode.
Step 3	<pre>description string Example:  Device (config-flow-exporter) # description ExportV9</pre>	(Optional) Describes this flow record as a maximum 63-character string.
Step 4	<pre>destination {ipv4-address  ipv6-address}  Example:  Device(config-flow-exporter) # destination 192.0.2.1 (IPv4 destination)  Device(config-flow-exporter) # destination 2001:0:0:24::10 (IPv6 destination)</pre>	Sets the IPv4/IPv6 destination address or hostname for this exporter.
Step 5	<pre>dscp value Example:  Device(config-flow-exporter) # dscp 0</pre>	(Optional) Specifies the differentiated services codepoint value. The range is from 0 to 63. The default is 0.
Step 6	<pre>source { source type  } Example:  Device(config-flow-exporter) # source gigabitEthernet1/0/1</pre>	(Optional) Specifies the interface to use to reach the NetFlow collector at the configured destination. The following interfaces can be configured as source:  • Auto Template—Auto-Template interface  • Capwap—CAPWAP tunnel interface  • GigabitEthernet—Gigabit Ethernet IEEE 802  • GroupVI—Group virtual interface  • Internal Interface—Internal interface  • Loopback—Loopback interface  • Null—Null interface  • Port-channel—Ethernet Channel of interface

	Command or Action	Purpose
		TenGigabitEthernet—10-Gigabit Ethernet  Tunnel—Tunnel interface  Vlan—Catalyst VLANs
Step 7	<pre>transport udp number Example:  Device(config-flow-exporter) # transport udp 200</pre>	(Optional) Specifies the UDP port to use to reach the NetFlow collector. The range is from 0 to 65535. For IPFIX exporting protocol, the default destination port is 4739.
Step 8	<pre>ttl seconds Example:   Device(config-flow-exporter) # ttl 210</pre>	(Optional) Configures the time-to-live (TTL) value for datagrams sent by the exporter. The range is from 1 to 255 seconds. The default is 255.
Step 9	<pre>export-protocol {netflow-v9   ipfix} Example:  Device(config-flow-exporter) # export-protocol netflow-v9</pre>	Specifies the version of the NetFlow export protocol used by the exporter.  • Default: netflow-v9.
Step 10	<pre>end Example: Device(config-flow-record)# end</pre>	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 11	<pre>show flow exporter [name record-name] Example:  Device# show flow exporter ExportTest</pre>	(Optional) Displays information about NetFlow flow exporters.
Step 12	copy running-config startup-config  Example:  Device# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

## What to do next

Define a flow monitor based on the flow record and flow exporter.

## **Creating a Customized Flow Monitor**

Perform this required task to create a customized flow monitor.

Each flow monitor has a separate cache assigned to it. Each flow monitor requires a record to define the contents and layout of its cache entries. These record formats can be one of the predefined formats or a user-defined format. An advanced user can create a customized format using the **flow record** command.

## Before you begin

If you want to use a customized record instead of using one of the Flexible NetFlow predefined records, you must create the customized record before you can perform this task. If you want to add a flow exporter to the flow monitor for data export, you must create the exporter before you can complete this task.



Note

You must use the **no ip flow monitor** command to remove a flow monitor from all of the interfaces to which you have applied it before you can modify the parameters for the **record** command on the flow monitor.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.
	Example:	Enter your password if prompted.
	Device> enable	
Step 2	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Device# configure terminal	
Step 3	flow monitor monitor-name	Creates a flow monitor and enters Flexible
	Example:	NetFlow flow monitor configuration mode.     This command also allows you to modify an existing flow monitor.
	Device(config)# flow monitor FLOW-MONITOR-1	
Step 4	description description	(Optional) Creates a description for the flow
	Example:	monitor.
	Device(config-flow-monitor)# description Used for basic ipv4 traffic analysis	
Step 5	record {record-name   netflow-original   netflow {ipv4   ipv6} record [peer]}	Specifies the record for the flow monitor.
	Example:	

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device(config-flow-monitor)# record FLOW-RECORD-1	
Step 6	cache {timeout {active   inactive}} seconds   { normal }	Associates a flow cache with the specified flow monitor.
	Example:	
Step 7	Repeat Step 6 as required to finish modifying the cache parameters for this flow monitor.	_
Step 8	exporter exporter-name	(Optional) Specifies the name of an exporter
	Example:	that was created previously.
	Device(config-flow-monitor)# exporter EXPORTER-1	
Step 9	end	Exits Flexible NetFlow flow monitor
	Example:	configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.
	Device(config-flow-monitor)# end	
Step 10	show flow monitor [[name] monitor-name [cache [format {csv   record   table} ]]]	(Optional) Displays the status for a Flexible NetFlow flow monitor.
	Example:	
	Device# show flow monitor FLOW-MONITOR-2 cache	
Step 11	show running-config flow monitor monitor-name	(Optional) Displays the configuration of the specified flow monitor.
	Example:	
	Device# show running-config flow monitor FLOW_MONITOR-1	
Step 12	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the
	Example:	configuration file.
	Device# copy running-config startup-config	

# **Creating a Flow Sampler**

Perform this required task to configure and enable a flow sampler.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.
	Example:	• Enter your password if prompted.
	Device> enable	
Step 2	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Device# configure terminal	
Step 3	sampler sampler-name	Creates a sampler and enters sampler
	Example:	configuration mode.
	Device(config)# sampler SAMPLER-1	<ul> <li>This command also allows you to modify an existing sampler.</li> </ul>
Step 4	description description	(Optional) Creates a description for the flow
	Example:	sampler.
	Device(config-sampler)# description Sample at 50%	
Step 5	mode {random} 1 out-of window-size	Specifies the sampler mode and the flow
	Example:	sampler window size.
	Device(config-sampler) # mode random 1 out-of 2	• The range for the <i>window-size</i> argument is from 0 to 1024.
Step 6	exit	Exits sampler configuration mode and returns
	Example:	to global configuration mode.
	Device(config-sampler)# exit	
Step 7	interface type number	Specifies an interface and enters interface
	Example:	configuration mode.
	Device(config)# interface GigabitEthernet 0/0/0	
Step 8	{ip   ipv6} flow monitor monitor-name	Assigns the flow monitor and the flow sampler
	[[sampler] sampler-name] {input   output}	that you created to the interface to enable sampling.
	Example:	

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device(config-if)# ip flow monitor FLOW-MONITOR-1 sampler SAMPLER-1 input	
Step 9	end	Exits interface configuration mode and returns
	Example:	to privileged EXEC mode.
	Device(config-if)# end	
Step 10	show sampler sampler-name	Displays the status and statistics of the flow
	Example:	sampler that you configured and enabled.
	Device# show sampler SAMPLER-1	

# **Applying a Flow to an Interface**

You can apply a flow monitor and an optional sampler to an interface.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Device# configure terminal	
Step 2	interface type	Enters interface configuration mode and configures an interface.
	Example:  Device(config) # interface GigabitEthernet1/0/1	Flexible NetFlow is not supported on the L2 port-channel interface, but is supported on the L2 port-channel member ports.
		Command parameters for the interface configuration include:
		• <b>GigabitEthernet</b> —GigabitEthernet IEEE 802
		• Loopback—Loopback interface
		• TenGigabitEthernet—10- Gigabit Ethernet
		• Vlan—Catalyst VLANs
		• Range—Interface range

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 3	{ip flow monitor   ipv6 flow monitor} name [  sampler name] {input}  Example:	Associate an IPv4 or an IPv6 flow monitor, and an optional sampler to the interface for input or output packets.
	Device(config-if)# ip flow monitor MonitorTest input	You can associate multiple monitors to an interface in both input and output directions.
Step 4	{ip flow monitor   ipv6 flow monitor   datalink flow monitor} name [sampler name] {input   output}	Associate an IPv4, IPv6 and datalink flow monitor, and an optional sampler to the interface for input or output packets.
	<pre>Example:  Device(config-if)# ip flow monitor MonitorTest input</pre>	You can associate multiple monitors of different traffic types to an interface in the same direction. However, you cannot associate multiple monitors of same traffic type to an interface in the same direction.
Step 5	end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
	Example:	
	Device(config-flow-monitor)# end	
Step 6	<pre>show flow interface [interface-type number] Example:  Device# show flow interface</pre>	(Optional) Displays information about NetFlow on an interface.
Stop 7	conv. munning config stantum config	(Ontional) Savos your antries in the
Step 7	copy running-config startup-config  Example:	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.
	Device# copy running-config startup-config	

# **Configuring a Bridged NetFlow on a VLAN**

You can apply a flow monitor and an optional sampler to a VLAN.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device# configure terminal	
Step 2	<pre>vlan [configuration] vlan-id Example:  Device(config) # vlan configuration 30 Device(config-vlan-config) #</pre>	Enters VLAN or VLAN configuration mode.
Step 3	<pre>ip flow monitor monitor name [sampler sampler name] {input   output}  Example:  Device (config-vlan-config) # ip flow monitor MonitorTest input</pre>	Associates a flow monitor and an optional sampler to the VLAN for input or output packets.
Step 4	copy running-config startup-config  Example:  Device# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

# **Configuring Layer 2 NetFlow**

You can define Layer 2 keys in Flexible NetFlow records that you can use to capture flows in Layer 2 interfaces.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Device# configure terminal	
Step 2	flow record name	Enters flow record configuration mode
	Example:	
	Device(config)# flow record L2_record Device(config-flow-record)#	
Step 3	match datalink {dot1q  ethertype   mac   vlan}	Specifies the Layer 2 attribute as a key.
	Example:	

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device(config-flow-record)# match datalink ethertype	
Step 4	end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
	Example:	
	Device(config-flow-record)# end	
Step 5	show flow record [name ]	(Optional) Displays information about NetFlow
	Example:	on an interface.
	Device# show flow record	
Step 6	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the
	Example:	configuration file.
	Device# copy running-config startup-config	

# **Monitoring Flexible NetFlow**

The commands in the following table can be used to monitor Flexible NetFlow.

Table 4: Flexible NetFlow Monitoring Commands

Command	Purpose
show flow exporter [broker   export-ids   name   name   statistics   templates]	Displays information about NetFlow flow exporters and statistics.
show flow exporter [ name exporter-name]	Displays information about NetFlow flow exporters and statistics.
show flow interface	Displays information about NetFlow interfaces.
show flow monitor [ name exporter-name]	Displays information about NetFlow flow monitors and statistics.
show flow monitor statistics	Displays the statistics for the flow monitor
show flow monitor cache format {table   record   csv}	Displays the contents of the cache for the flow monitor, in the format specified.
show flow record [ name record-name]	Displays information about NetFlow flow records.
show sampler [broker   name   name]	Displays information about NetFlow samplers.

# **Configuration Examples for Flexible NetFlow**

## **Example: Configuring a Flow**

This example shows how to create a flow and apply it to an interface:

```
Device# configure terminal
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with {\tt CNTL/Z.}
Device (config) # flow export export1
Device (config-flow-exporter) # destination 10.0.101.254
Device (config-flow-exporter) # transport udp 2055
Device (config-flow-exporter) # exit
Device (config) # flow record record1
Device(config-flow-record) # match ipv4 source address
Device(config-flow-record) # match ipv4 destination address
Device (config-flow-record) # match ipv4 protocol
Device (config-flow-record) # match transport source-port
Device(config-flow-record) # match transport destination-port
Device(config-flow-record) # collect counter byte long
Device (config-flow-record) # collect counter packet long
Device(config-flow-record) # collect timestamp absolute first
Device(config-flow-record) # collect timestamp absolute last
Device(config-flow-record) # exit
Device(config)# flow monitor monitor1
Device(config-flow-monitor)# record record1
Device (config-flow-monitor) # exporter export1
Device(config-flow-monitor)# exit
Device(config) # interface tenGigabitEthernet 1/0/1
Device (config-if) # ip flow monitor monitor1 input
Device(config-if)# end
```

# **Example: Monitoring IPv4 ingress traffic**

This example shows how to monitor IPv4 ingress traffic (int g1/0/11 sends traffic to int g3/0/11).

```
Device# configure terminal
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
Device(config)# flow record fr-1
Device(config-flow-record)# match ipv4 source address
Device(config-flow-record)# match ipv4 destination address
Device(config-flow-record)# match interface input
Device(config-flow-record)# collect counter bytes long
Device(config-flow-record)# collect counter packets long
Device(config-flow-record)# collect timestamp absolute first
Device(config-flow-record)# collect timestamp absolute last
Device(config-flow-record)# collect counter bytes layer2 long
Device(config-flow-record)# exit

Device(config)# flow exporter fe-ipfix6
```

```
Device (config-flow-exporter) # destination 2001:0:0:24::10
Device(config-flow-exporter) # source Vlan106
Device(config-flow-exporter) # transport udp 4739
Device (config-flow-exporter) # export-protocol ipfix
Device (config-flow-exporter) # template data timeout 240
Device (config-flow-exporter) # exit
Device(config) # flow exporter fe-ipfix
Device (config-flow-exporter) # description IPFIX format collector 100.0.0.80
Device (config-flow-exporter) # destination 100.0.0.80
Device(config-flow-exporter) # dscp 30
Device (config-flow-exporter) # ttl 210
Device(config-flow-exporter) # transport udp 4739
Device(config-flow-exporter) # export-protocol ipfix
Device (config-flow-exporter) # template data timeout 240
Device(config-flow-exporter) # exit
Device(config)# flow exporter fe-1
Device(config-flow-exporter) # destination 10.5.120.16
Device (config-flow-exporter) # source Vlan105
Device(config-flow-exporter) # dscp 32
Device(config-flow-exporter) # ttl 200
Device(config-flow-exporter)# transport udp 2055
Device (config-flow-exporter) # template data timeout 240
Device(config-flow-exporter) # exit
Device(config) # flow monitor fm-1
Device (config-flow-monitor) # exporter fe-ipfix6
Device(config-flow-monitor)# exporter fe-ipfix
Device (config-flow-monitor) # exporter fe-1
Device(config-flow-monitor) # cache timeout inactive 60
Device(config-flow-monitor)# cache timeout active 180
Device(config-flow-monitor)# record fr-1
Device(config-flow-monitor)# end
Device# show running-config interface g1/0/11
Device# show running-config interface g1/0/36
Device# show running-config interface q3/0/11
Device# show flow monitor fm-1 cache format table
```

## **Example: Monitoring IPv4 egress traffic**

```
Device# configure terminal
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
Device(config)# flow record fr-1 out
Device(config-flow-record)# match ipv4 source address
Device(config-flow-record)# match ipv4 destination address
Device(config-flow-record)# match interface output
Device(config-flow-record)# collect counter bytes long
Device(config-flow-record)# collect counter packets long
Device(config-flow-record)# collect timestamp absolute first
Device(config-flow-record)# collect timestamp absolute last
Device(config-flow-record)# exit

Device(config-flow-exporter)# destination 10.5.120.16
Device(config-flow-exporter)# source Vlan105
```

```
Device (config-flow-exporter) # dscp 32
Device(config-flow-exporter) # ttl 200
Device(config-flow-exporter) # transport udp 2055
Device (config-flow-exporter) # template data timeout 240
Device(config-flow-exporter) # exit
Device(config)# flow exporter fe-ipfix6
Device (config-flow-exporter) # destination 2001:0:0:24::10
Device (config-flow-exporter) # source Vlan106
Device (config-flow-exporter) # transport udp 4739
Device(config-flow-exporter) # export-protocol ipfix
Device (config-flow-exporter) # template data timeout 240
Device(config-flow-exporter)# exit
Device(config)# flow exporter fe-ipfix
Device (config-flow-exporter) # description IPFIX format collector 100.0.0.80
Device(config-flow-exporter) # destination 100.0.0.80
Device(config-flow-exporter) # dscp 30
Device (config-flow-exporter) # ttl 210
Device (config-flow-exporter) # transport udp 4739
Device (config-flow-exporter) # export-protocol ipfix
Device (config-flow-exporter) # template data timeout 240
Device(config-flow-exporter) # exit
Device (config) # flow monitor fm-1-output
Device(config-flow-monitor)# exporter fe-1
Device(config-flow-monitor)# exporter fe-ipfix6
Device (config-flow-monitor) # exporter fe-ipfix
Device(config-flow-monitor)# cache timeout inactive 50
Device(config-flow-monitor)# cache timeout active 120
Device (config-flow-monitor) # record fr-1-out
Device(config-flow-monitor)# end
Device# show flow monitor fm-1-output cache format table
```

## **Additional References for NetFlow**

#### **Related Documents**

Related Topic	Document Title	
Platform-independent command references	Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference, Cisco IOS XE Release 3S (Catalyst 3650 Switches)	
Platform-independent configuration information	Configuration Fundamentals Configuration Guide, Cisco IOS XE Release 3S (Catalyst 3650 Switches)	

## **Error Message Decoder**

Description	Link
To help you research and resolve system error messages in this release, use the Error Message Decoder tool.	https://www.cisco.com/cgi-bin/Support/Errordecoder/index.cgi

## **Standards and RFCs**

Standard/RFC	Title
RFC 3954	Cisco Systems NetFlow Services Export Version 9

## **MIBs**

MIB	MIBs Link
All the supported MIBs for this release.	To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL:
	http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs

## **Technical Assistance**

Description	Link
The Cisco Support website provides extensive online resources, including documentation and tools for troubleshooting and resolving technical issues with Cisco products and technologies.	http://www.cisco.com/support
To receive security and technical information about your products, you can subscribe to various services, such as the Product Alert Tool (accessed from Field Notices), the Cisco Technical Services Newsletter, and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds.	
Access to most tools on the Cisco Support website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password.	

# **Feature Information for Flexible NetFlow**

Release	Modification
Cisco IOS XE 3.3SECisco IOS XE 3.3SE	This feature was introduced.
Cisco IOS XE Gibraltar 16.12.1	Support was introduced for SGT and DGT fields over FNF for IPv6 traffic.

Feature Information for Flexible NetFlow