

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)  
Request for Comments: 6516  
Category: Standards Track  
ISSN: 2070-1721

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February 2012

IPv6 Multicast VPN (MVPN) Support Using PIM Control Plane  
and Selective Provider Multicast Service Interface (S-PMSI)  
Join Messages

Abstract

The specification for Multicast Virtual Private Networks (MVPNs) contains an option that allows the use of PIM as the control protocol between provider edge routers. It also contains an option that allows UDP-based messages, known as Selective Provider Multicast Service Interface (S-PMSI) Join messages, to be used to bind particular customer multicast flows to particular tunnels through a service provider's network. This document extends the MVPN specification (RFC 6513) so that these options can be used when the customer multicast flows are IPv6 flows.

Status of This Memo

This is an Internet Standards Track document.

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## 1. Introduction

The Multicast Virtual Private Network (MVPN) specification [RFC6513] defines the notion of a "PMSI" (Provider Multicast Service Interface) and specifies how a PMSI can be instantiated by various kinds of tunnels through a service provider's network ("P-tunnels"). It also specifies the procedures for using PIM (Protocol Independent Multicast [RFC4601]) as the control protocol between Provider Edge (PE) routers. When PIM is used as the control protocol, PIM messages are sent through a P-tunnel from one PE in an MVPN to others in the same MVPN. These PIM messages carry customer multicast routing information. However, [RFC6513] does not cover the case where the customer is using IPv6, but the service provider is using P-tunnels created by PIM over an IPv4 infrastructure.

The MVPN specification [RFC6513] also specifies "S-PMSI (Selective PMSI) Join" messages, which are optionally used to bind particular customer multicast flows to particular P-tunnels. However, the specification does not cover the case where the customer flows are IPv6 flows.

This document extends [RFC6513] by adding the specification for handling customer IPv6 multicast flows when a service provider is using PE-PE PIM and/or S-PMSI Join messages over an IPv4 infrastructure. This document also specifies how to send multiple S-PMSI Join messages in a single UDP datagram.

This document uses terminology defined in [RFC6513]: C-source, C-group, C-flow, P-group, and (C-S,C-G).



Reserved (8 bits): this field SHOULD be zero when transmitted and MUST be ignored when received.

C-source (128 bits): the IPv6 address of the traffic source in the VPN.

C-group (128 bits): the IPv6 group address of the multicast traffic.

P-group (32 bits): the IPv4 group address identifying the P-tunnel. Data packets sent on this tunnel are encapsulated in IPv4 GRE packets with this group address in the IP destination address field of the outer header.

### 3.2. Encapsulation of S-PMSI Joins in UDP Datagrams

All S-PMSI Joins are encapsulated in UDP datagrams [RFC768]. A Type 4 S-PMSI Join MUST be encapsulated in an IPv6 UDP datagram. The IPv6 source address field of these datagrams SHOULD be the IPv4-mapped IPv6 address [RFC4291] corresponding to the IPv4 address that the originating PE router uses as its source address in the instance of PIM that is used to create the specified P-tunnel.

A single UDP datagram MAY carry multiple S-PMSI Join messages, as many as can fit entirely within it. If there are multiple S-PMSI Joins in a UDP datagram, they MUST be of the same S-PMSI Join type. The end of the last S-PMSI Join (as determined by the S-PMSI Join length field) MUST coincide with the end of the UDP datagram, as determined by the UDP length field. When processing a received UDP datagram that contains one or more S-PMSI Joins, a router MUST process all the S-PMSI Joins that fit into the datagram.

### 4. PE-PE PIM/IPv6 over an IPv4 P-Tunnel

If a VPN customer is using PIM over IPv6, but the SP (service provider) is using an IPv4 infrastructure (i.e., is using an IPv4-based control protocol to construct its P-tunnels), then the PE routers will need to originate IPv6 PIM control messages. The IPv6 Source Address field of any such IPv6 PIM control message SHOULD be the IPv4-mapped IPv6 address [RFC4291] corresponding to the IPv4 address that the originating PE router uses as its source address in the instance of PIM that is used to create the specified P-tunnel. If the IPv6 Destination Address field is the multicast address ALL-PIM-ROUTERS, the IPv6 form of the address (ff02::d) is used. These IPv6 PIM control messages are, of course, not transmitted natively over the service provider's network but rather are encapsulated in GRE/IPv4.

## 5. IANA Considerations

[RFC6513] created an IANA registry for the "S-PMSI Join Message Type Field". This document registers a new value in that registry:

Value: 4

Description: GRE S-PMSI for IPv6 traffic (unaggregated)

## 6. Security Considerations

There are no additional security considerations beyond those of [RFC6513].

## 7. Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank DP Ayyadevara, Arjen Boers, Rayen Mohanty, Rajesh Sharma, and Karthik Subramanian.

## 8. Normative References

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