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Circuit Style Segment Routing Policy  
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Abstract

This document describes how Segment Routing (SR) policies can be used to satisfy the requirements for bandwidth, end-to-end recovery and persistent paths within a SR network. The association of two co-routed unidirectional SR Policies satisfying these requirements is called "circuit-style" SR Policy (CS-SR Policy).

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## 1. Introduction

IP services typically leverage ECMP and local protection. However packet transport services (commonly referred to as "private lines") that are delivered via pseudowires such as [RFC4448], [RFC4553], [RFC9801], [RFC5086] and [RFC4842] for example, require:

- \* Persistent end-to-end bidirectional traffic engineered paths that provide predictable and identical latency in both directions
- \* A requested amount of bandwidth per path that is assured irrespective of changing network utilization from other services
- \* Fast end-to-end protection and restoration mechanisms
- \* Monitoring and maintenance of path integrity
- \* Data plane remaining up while control plane is down

Such a "transport centric" behavior is referred to as "circuit-style" in this document.

This document describes how Segment Routing (SR) Policies [RFC9256] and adjacency segment identifiers (adjacency-SIDs) defined in the SR architecture [RFC8402] together with a centralized controller such as a stateful Path Computation Element (PCE) [RFC8231] can be used to satisfy those requirements. It includes how end-to-end recovery and path integrity monitoring can be implemented.

A "Circuit-Style" SR Policy (CS-SR Policy) is an association of two co-routed unidirectional SR Policies satisfying the above requirements and allowing for a single SR network to carry both typical IP (connection-less) services and connection-oriented transport services.

## 2. Requirements Notation

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

## 3. Terminology

- \* BSID : Binding Segment Identifier
- \* CS-SR : Circuit-Style Segment Routing
- \* DWDM : Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing
- \* ID : Identifier
- \* LSP : Label Switched Path
- \* LSPA : LSP Attributes
- \* NRP : Network Resource Partition
- \* OAM : Operations, Administration and Maintenance
- \* OF : Objective Function
- \* PCE : Path Computation Element
- \* PCEP : Path Computation Element Communication Protocol
- \* PT : Protection Type
- \* SID : Segment Identifier
- \* SLA : Service Level Agreement
- \* SDH : Synchronous Digital Hierarchy
- \* SONET : Synchronous Optical Network
- \* SR : Segment Routing
- \* STAMP : Simple Two-Way Active Measurement Protocol
- \* TI-LFA : Topology Independent Loop Free Alternate

\* TLV : Type Length Value

#### 4. Reference Model

The reference model for CS-SR Policies follows the SR architecture [RFC8402] and SR Policy architecture [RFC9256] and is depicted in Figure 1.

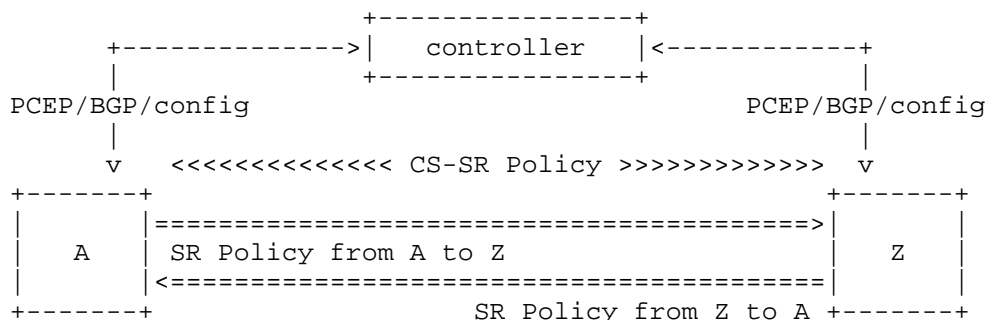


Figure 1: Circuit-style SR Policy Reference Model

Given the nature of CS-SR Policies, paths are computed and maintained by a centralized entity providing a consistent simple mechanism for initializing the co-routed bidirectional end-to-end paths, performing bandwidth allocation control, as well as monitoring facilities to ensure SLA compliance for the life of the CS-SR Policy.

CS-SR Policies can be instantiated in the headend routers by using PCEP or BGP as a communication protocol between the headend routers and the central controller or by configuration.

- \* When using PCEP as the communication protocol, the controller is a stateful PCE as defined in [RFC8231]. When using SR-MPLS [RFC8660], PCEP extensions defined in [RFC8664] are used. When using SRv6 [RFC8754] [RFC8986], PCEP extensions defined in [RFC9603] are used.
- \* When using BGP as the communication protocol, the BGP extensions defined in [RFC9830] are used.
- \* When using configuration, an appropriate YANG model such as [I-D.ietf-spring-sr-policy-yang] can be used.

To satisfy the requirements of CS-SR Policies, each link in the topology MUST have:

- \* An adjacency-SID which is:

- Statically configured or auto-generated, but persistent: to ensure that its value does not change after an event that may cause dynamic states to change (e.g. router reboot).
  - Non-protected: to avoid any local TI-LFA protection [I-D.ietf-rtgwg-segment-routing-ti-lfa] to happen upon interface/link failures.
- \* The bandwidth available for CS-SR Policies specified.
  - \* A per-hop behavior ([RFC3246] or [RFC2597]) that ensures that the specified bandwidth is always available to CS-SR Policies independent of any other traffic.

When using link bundles (i.e. [IEEE802.1AX]), parallel physical links are only represented via a single adjacency. To ensure deterministic traffic placement onto physical links, an adjacency-SID SHOULD be assigned to each physical link (aka member-link) ([RFC8668], [RFC9356]). Similarly, the use of adjacency-SIDs representing parallel adjacencies Section 3.4.1 of [RFC8402] SHOULD also be avoided.

When using SR-MPLS [RFC8660], existing IGP extensions defined in [RFC8667] and [RFC8665] and BGP-LS defined in [RFC9085] can be used to distribute the topology information including those persistent and unprotected adjacency-SIDs.

When using SRv6 [RFC8754], the IGP extensions defined in [RFC9352] and [RFC9513] and BGP-LS extensions in [RFC9514] apply.

CS-SR Policy state reporting by the headend routers back to the central controller is essential to confirm success or failure of the instantiation and making the controller aware of any state changes throughout the lifetime of the CS-SR Policy in the network.

- \* When using PCEP for CS-SR policy instantiation, reporting is done using PCEP procedures of [RFC8231].
- \* When using BGP for CS-SR policy instantiation, reporting using BGP-LS procedures [I-D.ietf-idr-bgp-ls-sr-policy] has the benefit of both instantiation and state reporting being done over a single protocol (BGP), but reporting can also be done using an appropriate YANG model such as [I-D.ietf-spring-sr-policy-yang].
- \* When using configuration for CS-SR policy instantiation, state reporting could be done using an appropriate YANG model such as [I-D.ietf-spring-sr-policy-yang] or BGP-LS procedures [I-D.ietf-idr-bgp-ls-sr-policy].

#### 4.1. Managing Bandwidth

In a network, resources are represented by links of certain bandwidth. In a circuit switched network such as Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) / Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH), Optical Transport Network (OTN) or Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM) resources (timeslots or a wavelength) are allocated for a provisioned connection at the time of reservation even if no communication is present. In a packet switched network, resources are only allocated when communication is present, i.e. packets are to be sent. This allows for the total reservations to exceed the link bandwidth and can in general lead to link congestion and packet loss.

To satisfy the bandwidth requirement for CS-SR Policies it must be ensured that packets carried by CS-SR Policies can always be sent up to the reserved bandwidth on each hop along the path.

This is done by:

- \* Firstly, CS-SR Policy bandwidth reservations per link must be limited to equal or less than the physical link bandwidth.
- \* Secondly, ensuring traffic for each CS-SR Policy is limited to the bandwidth reserved for that CS-SR Policy by traffic policing or shaping and admission control on the ingress of the pseudowire.
- \* Thirdly, ensuring that during times of link congestion only non-CS-SR Policy traffic is being buffered or dropped.

For the third step several approaches can be considered:

- \* Allocate a dedicated physical link of bandwidth  $P$  to CS-SR Policies and allow CS-SR reservations up to bandwidth  $C$ . Consider bandwidth  $N$  allocated for network control, ensure that  $P - N \geq C$ .
- \* Allocate a dedicated logical link (i.e. 801.q VLAN on ethernet) to CS-SR Policies on a physical link of bandwidth  $P$ . Limit the total utilization across all other logical links to bandwidth  $O$  by traffic policing or shaping and ensure that  $P - N - O \geq C$ .
- \* Allocate a dedicated Diffserv codepoint [RFC2597] to map traffic of CS-SR Policies into a specific queue not used by any other traffic.
- \* Use of dedicated persistent unprotected adjacency-SIDs that are solely used by CS-SR traffic, managed by network design and policy (which is outside the scope of this document). These dedicated SIDs used by CS-SR Policies MUST NOT be used by features such as

TI-LFA [I-D.ietf-rtgwg-segment-routing-ti-lfa] for defining the repair path and microloop avoidance  
[I-D.bashandy-rtgwg-segment-routing-uloop] for defining the loop-free path.

The approach of allocating a Diffserv codepoint can leverage any of the following Per-Hop Behavior (PHB) strategies below, where  $P$  is the bandwidth of a physical link,  $N$  is the bandwidth allocated for network control and  $C$  is the bandwidth reserved for CS-SR policies:

- \* Use a Assured Forwarding (AF) class queue [RFC2597] for CS-SR Policies and limit the total utilization across all other queues to bandwidth  $O$  by traffic policing or shaping and ensure that  $P - N - O \geq C$ .
- \* Use a Expedited Forwarding (EF) class queue [RFC3246] for CS-SR Policies and limit the total utilization across all other EF queues of higher or equal priority to bandwidth  $O$  by traffic policing or shaping and ensure that  $P - N - O \geq C$ .
- \* Use a Expedited Forwarding (EF) class queue for CS-SR Policies with a priority higher than all other EF queues and limit the utilization of the CS-SR Policy EF queue by traffic policing to  $C \leq P - N$ .

The use of a dedicated Diffserv codepoint for CS-SR traffic requires the marking of all traffic steered into CS-SR Policies on the ingress with that specific codepoint consistently across the domain.

In addition, the headends MAY measure the actual bandwidth utilization of a CS-SR Policy to raise alarms when bandwidth utilization thresholds are passed or to request the reserved bandwidth to be adjusted. Using telemetry collection the alarms or bandwidth adjustments can also be triggered by the controller.

## 5. CS-SR Policy Characteristics

A CS-SR Policy has the following characteristics:

- \* Requested bandwidth: bandwidth to be reserved for the CS-SR Policy
- \* Bidirectional co-routed: a CS-SR Policy between headends  $A$  and  $Z$  is an association of an SR Policy from  $A$  to  $Z$  and an SR Policy from  $Z$  to  $A$  following the same path(s)
- \* Deterministic and persistent paths: segment lists with strict hops using unprotected adjacency-SIDs.



- \* Not automatically recomputed or reoptimized: the segment list of a candidate path MUST NOT change automatically to a segment list representing a different path (for example upon topology change).
- \* More than one candidate paths in case of protection/restoration:
  - Following the SR Policy architecture, the highest preference valid path is carrying traffic.
  - Depending on the protection/restoration scheme (Section 8), lower priority candidate paths
    - o may be pre-computed.
    - o may be pre-programmed.
    - o may have to be disjoint.
- \* It is RECOMMENDED that candidate paths only contain one segment list to avoid asymmetrical routing due to independent load balancing across segment lists on each headend
- \* Continuity check and performance measurement are activated on each candidate path (Section 9) and performed per segment-list.

## 6. CS-SR Policy Creation

### 6.1. Policy Creation when using PCEP

#### 6.1.1. PCC-initiated Mode

Considering the scenario illustrated in Figure 1 a CS-SR Policy between headends A and Z is instantiated by configured a SR Policy on both headend A (with Z as endpoint) and headend Z (with A as endpoint).

Both headend routers A and Z act as PCC and delegate path computation to the PCE using PCEP with the procedure described in Section 5.7.1 of [RFC8231]. For SR-MPLS the extensions defined in [RFC8664] are used. And SRv6 specific extensions are defined in [RFC9603].

The PCRpt message sent from the headends to the PCE SHOULD contain the following parameters:

- \* BANDWIDTH object (Section 7.7 of [RFC5440]) : to indicate the requested bandwidth

- \* LSPA object (section 7.11 of [RFC5440]) : to indicate that no local protection requirements
  - L flag set to 0 : no local protection
  - E flag set to 1 : protection enforcement (section 5 of [RFC9488])
- \* ASSOCIATION object ([RFC8697]) :
  - Type : Double-sided Bidirectional with Reverse LSP Association ([I-D.ietf-pce-sr-bidir-path])
  - Bidirectional Association Group TLV ([RFC9059]) :
    - o R flag is always set to 0 (forward path)
    - o C flag is always set to 1 (co-routed)

If the SR Policies are configured with more than one candidate path, a PCRpt message MUST be sent per candidate path. Each PCRpt message does include the "SR Policy Association" object (type 6) as defined in [I-D.ietf-pce-segment-routing-policy-cp] to make the PCE aware of the candidate path belonging to the same policy.

The signaling extensions described in [I-D.ietf-pce-circuit-style-pcep-extensions] are used to ensure that:

- \* Path determinism is achieved by the PCE only using segment lists representing a strict hop by hop path using unprotected adjacency-SIDs.
- \* Path persistency across events that may cause dynamic states to change in the network (e.g. router reboot) is achieved by the PCE only including statically configured adjacency-SIDs in its path computation response.
- \* Persistency across network changes is achieved by the PCE not performing periodic or network event triggered re-optimization.

Bandwidth adjustment can be requested after initial creation by signaling both requested and operational bandwidth in the BANDWIDTH object but the PCE MUST NOT respond with a changed path.

As discussed in section 3.2 of [I-D.ietf-pce-multipath] it may be necessary to use load-balancing across multiple paths to satisfy the bandwidth requirement of a candidate path. In such a case the PCE will notify the headends A and Z to install multiple segment lists using the signaling procedures described in section 5.3 of [I-D.ietf-pce-multipath].

The candidate paths of the CS-SR Policy are reported and updated following PCEP procedures of [RFC8231].

#### 6.1.2. PCE-initiated Mode

The CS-SR Policy can be instantiated in the network between headends A and Z by a PCE using PCE-initiated procedures defined in [RFC8281]. For PCE-initiated procedures no SR Policy configuration is required on the headends A and Z acting as PCC. The PCE requests the headends A and Z to initiate the candidate paths of the CS-SR Policy by sending a PCInitiate message.

The PCInitiate message contains the same Bandwidth, LSPA, and ASSOCIATION objects used in PCC-initiated mode.

Following initiation, the candidate paths of the CS-SR Policy are reported and updated following PCEP procedures of [RFC8231] and share the same behavior as the PCC-initiated mode.

Connectivity verification and performance measurement is enabled via local policy configuration on the headends, as there is no standard signaling mechanism available.

#### 6.2. Policy Creation when using BGP

Again, considering the scenario illustrated in Figure 1, instead of configuring SR Policies on both headend A (with Z as endpoint) and headend Z (with A as endpoint), a CS-SR Policy between A and Z is instantiated by a request (e.g. application API call) to the controller.

The controller performs path computation and advertises the corresponding SR Policies to the headend routers via BGP.

To instantiate the SR Policies in headends A and Z the BGP extensions defined in [RFC9830] are used.

No signaling extensions are required for the following:

- \* Path determinism is achieved by the controller only computing strict paths and only including unprotected adjacency-SIDs in segment lists. Loose hops SHOULD NOT be used.
- \* Path persistency across events that may cause dynamic states to change in the network (e.g. router reboot) is achieved by the controller only including manually configured adjacency-SIDs in its path computation response.
- \* Persistency across network changes is achieved by the controller not performing periodic or network event triggered re-optimization.

If there are more than one candidate paths per SR Policy required, multiple NLRIs with different distinguisher values (see section 2.1 of [RFC9830]) have to be included in the BGP UPDATE message.

To achieve load-balancing across multiple paths to satisfy the bandwidth requirement of a candidate path, multiple Segment List Sub-TLVs have to be included in the SR Policy Sub-TLV. See section 2.1 of [RFC9830].

The candidate paths of a CS-SR Policy are updated by the controller sending another BGP UPDATE message to the headends A and Z.

The headends A and Z can report the CS-SR Policy candidate path state back to the controller via BGP-LS using the extension defined in [I-D.ietf-idr-bgp-ls-sr-policy].

Alternatively, CS-SR Policy candidate path state can be gathered using an appropriate YANG model such as [I-D.ietf-spring-sr-policy-yang].

Connectivity verification and performance measurement is enabled via local policy configuration on the headends, as there is no standard signaling mechanism available.

### 6.3. Maximum SID Depth Constraint

The segment lists used by CS-SR Policy candidate paths are constrained by the maximum number of segments a router can impose onto a packet.

When using SR-MPLS this constraint is called "Base MPLS Imposition MSD" and is advertised via IS-IS [RFC8491], OSPF [RFC8476], BGP-LS [RFC8814] and PCEP [RFC8664].

When using SRv6 this constraint is called "SRH Max H.encaps MSD" and is advertised via IS-IS [RFC9352], OSPF [RFC9513], BGP-LS [RFC9514] and PCEP [RFC9603].

The MSD constraint is typically resolved by leveraging a segment list reduction technique, such as using Node SIDs and/or Binding SIDs (BSIDs) (SR architecture [RFC8402]) in a segment list, which represents one or many hops in a given path.

As described in Section 5, adjacency-SIDs without local protection are used in CS-SR Policies to ensure that there is no per-hop ECMP, no localized rerouting due to topological changes, and no invocation of localized protection mechanisms, as the alternate path may not be providing the desired SLA.

If a CS-SR Policy path requires segment list reduction, a SR Policy can be programmed in a transit node, and its BSID can be used in the segment list of the CS-SR Policy, if the following requirements are met:

- \* The transit SR Policy is unprotected, hence only has one candidate path.
- \* The transit SR Policy follows the rerouting and optimization characteristics defined in Section 5 which implies the segment list of the candidate path MUST only use unprotected adjacency-SIDs.

This ensures that traffic for CS-SR Policies using a BSID does not get locally rerouted due to topological changes or locally protected due to failures. A transit SR Policy may be pre-programmed in the network or automatically injected in the network by a PCE.

## 7. CS-SR Policy Deletion

### 7.1. Policy Deletion when using PCEP

When using PCC-initiated mode, the headends A and Z send a PCRpt message with the R flag set to 1 to inform the PCE about the deletion of a candidate path.

When using PCE-initiated mode, the PCE does send a PCInitiate message to the headends A and Z and to instruct them to delete a candidate path.

## 7.2. Policy Deletion when using BGP

The controller is using the withdraw procedures of [RFC4271] to instruct headends A and Z to delete a candidate path.

## 8. Recovery Schemes

Various recovery (protection and restoration) schemes can be implemented for a CS-SR Policy. As described in Section 4.3 of [RFC4427], there is a subtle distinction between the terms "protection" and "restoration" based on the resource allocation done during the recovery path establishment. The same definitions apply for CS-SR Policy recovery schemes, wherein:

- \* Protection: another candidate path is computed and fully established in the data plane and ready to carry traffic.
- \* Restoration: a candidate path may be computed and may be partially established but is not ready to carry traffic.

The term "failure" is used to represent both "hard failures" such complete loss of connectivity detected by continuity check described in Section 9.1 or degradation, i.e., when the packet loss ratio increased beyond a configured acceptable threshold.

### 8.1. Unprotected

In the most basic scenario, no protection or restoration is required. The CS-SR Policy has only one candidate path.

In case of a failure along the path the CS-SR Policy will go down and traffic will not be recovered.

Typically, two CS-SR Policies are deployed either within the same network with disjoint paths or in two separate networks and the overlay service is responsible for traffic recovery.

As soon as the failure(s) that brought the candidate path down are cleared, the candidate path is activated, traffic is sent across it and state is reported accordingly.

#### 8.1.1. Setup

When using PCEP, the single candidate path is established using the procedures defined in Section 6.1, activated and is carrying traffic.

A PCRpt message is sent from the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field in the LSP object Section 7.3 of [RFC8231] set to 2 to indicate the candidate path is active and carrying traffic.

When using BGP, the single candidate path is established using the procedures defined in Section 6.2, activated and is carrying traffic.

A BGP-LS update is sent from the headends A and Z to the controller with the SR Candidate Path State TLV of the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI having the

- \* C-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path was provisioned by the controller, and
- \* A-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path is active and is carrying traffic.

#### 8.1.2. Failure

When using PCEP, a PCRpt message is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with O field in LSP object changed from 2 to 0, to indicate the candidate path is no longer active and not carrying traffic.

When using BGP, a BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI of the candidate path and the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag cleared to indicate the candidate path is no longer active and not carrying traffic.

#### 8.1.3. Reversion

When using PCEP, a PCRpt message is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with O field in LSP object is set to 2, to indicate this candidate path is active again and traffic is sent across it.

When using BGP, a BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI of the candidate path and the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag change to 1 to indicate the candidate path is active again and traffic is sent across it.

## 8.2. 1:1 Protection

For fast recovery against failures the CS-SR Policy has two candidate paths. Both paths are established but only the candidate with higher preference is activated and is carrying traffic. The second candidate path MUST be computed disjoint to the first candidate path and programmed as backup in the forwarding plane as described in Section 9.3 of [RFC9256].

Upon a failure impacting the candidate path with higher preference carrying traffic, the candidate path with lower preference is activated immediately and traffic is now sent across it.

Protection switching is bidirectional. As described in Section 9.1, both headends will generate and receive their own loopback mode test packets, hence even a unidirectional failure will always be detected by both headends without protection switch coordination required.

Two cases are to be considered when the failure(s) impacting a candidate path with higher preference are cleared:

- \* Revertive switching: re-activate the higher preference candidate path and start sending traffic over it.
- \* Non-revertive switching: do not activate the higher preference candidate path and keep sending traffic via the lower preference candidate path.

### 8.2.1. Setup

When using PCEP, the two candidate paths are established using the procedures defined in Section 6.1. The candidate path with higher preference is activated and is carrying traffic.

When using PCC-initiated mode, appropriate diverse routing of the candidate path with lower preference from the candidate path with higher preference can be requested by the headends A and Z from the PCE by using the "Disjointness Association" object (type 2) defined in [RFC8800] in the PCRpt messages. The disjoint requirements are communicated in the "DISJOINTNESS-CONFIGURATION TLV"

- \* L bit set to 1 for link diversity
- \* N bit set to 1 for node diversity
- \* S bit set to 1 for SRLG diversity
- \* T bit set to enforce strict diversity



The P bit may be set for the candidate path with higher preference to allow for finding the best path for it that does satisfy all constraints without considering diversity to the candidate path with the lower preference.

The "Objective Function (OF) TLV" as defined in section 5.3 of [RFC8800] may also be added to minimize the common shared resources.

When using PCE-initiated mode, no signaling of diversity requirements between headends and the PCE is required.

A PCRpt message for the candidate path with higher preference is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field in the LSP object set to 2 to indicate this candidate path is active and carrying traffic.

Further, a PCRpt message for the candidate path with the lower preference is sent with the O field in the LSP object set to 1 to indicate the candidate path is signaled but not carrying traffic.

When using BGP, the two candidate paths are established using the procedures defined in Section 6.2. The candidate path with higher preference is activated and is carrying traffic.

When using BGP, the controller is already aware of the disjoint requirements and does consider them while computing both paths. Two NLRIs with different distinguisher values and different preference values are included in the BGP UPDATE sent by the controller to the headend routers.

A BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with a SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the candidate path with higher preference where the SR Candidate Path State TLV is having the

- \* C-Flag set to 1 to indicate that candidate path was provisioned by the controller, and
- \* A-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path is active and is carrying traffic.

Further, another SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the candidate path with lower preference where the SR Candidate Path State TLV is included having the

- \* C-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path was provisioned by the controller, and
- \* B-Flag set to 1 to indicate the role of backup path.

### 8.2.2. Failure

When using PCEP, a PCRpt message for the higher preference candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field changed from 2 to 0 to indicate that the candidate path is no longer active and not carrying traffic anymore.

Further, a PCRpt message for the lower preference candidate path is sent with the O field changed from 1 to 2 to indicate that the candidate path got activated and is carrying traffic.

When using BGP, a BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the higher preference candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag cleared to indicate that the candidate path is no longer active and not carrying traffic anymore.

Further, the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the lower preference candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the B-Flag cleared and A-Flag set to 1 is included in the BGP-LS update to indicate that the candidate path got activated and is carrying traffic.

### 8.2.3. Reversion

When using PCEP, for revertive switching a PCRpt message for the recovered higher preference candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field changed from 0 to 2 to indicate the higher preference candidate path got re-activated and is carrying traffic.

Further, a PCRpt message is sent for the lower preference candidate path with the O field changed from 2 to 1 to indicate that the lower preference candidate path is no longer active but signaled.

For non-revertive switching only a PCRpt message for the recovered higher preference candidate path with the O field set to 1 is sent to indicate that the higher preference candidate path got signaled but is not active.

When using BGP, for revertive switching a BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the recovered higher preference candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag set to 1 to indicate the higher preference candidate path got re-activated and is carrying traffic.

Further, the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the lower preference candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag cleared and B-Flag set to 1 is included in the BGP-LS update to indicate that the lower preference candidate path is no longer active but signaled.

For non-revertive switching only a BGP-LS update with a SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the higher preference candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the B-Flag set to 1 is sent to indicate that the higher preference candidate path got signaled but is not active.

### 8.3. Restoration

#### 8.3.1. 1+R Restoration

Similarly to 1:1 protection described in Section 8.2, in this recovery scheme the CS-SR Policy has two candidate paths.

To avoid pre-allocating protection bandwidth by the controller ahead of failures, but still being able to recover traffic flow over an alternate path through the network in a deterministic way (maintaining the required bandwidth commitment), the second candidate path with lower preference is established "on demand" and activated upon failure of the first candidate path.

As soon as failure(s) that brought the first candidate path down are cleared, the second candidate path is getting torn down and traffic is reverted back to the first candidate path.

Restoration and reversion behavior is bidirectional. As described in Section 9.1, both headends use continuity check in loopback mode and therefore, even in case of unidirectional failures, both headends will detect the failure or clearance of the failure and switch traffic away from the failed or to the recovered candidate path.

##### 8.3.1.1. Setup

The first candidate path is set up as described in Section 8.1.1.

##### 8.3.1.2. Failure

When using PCEP, the second candidate path with lower preference is established using the procedures in Section 6.1, activated and traffic is sent across it.

A PCRpt message for the lower preference candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field set to 2 to indicate this candidate path is active and carrying traffic.

Further, a PCRpt message for the higher preference candidate path is sent to the PCE with the O field changed from 2 to 0 to indicate this candidate path is no longer active.

When using BGP, the second candidate path with lower preference is established using the procedures defined in Section 6.2.

A BGP-LS update with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the lower preference candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the

- \* C-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path was provisioned by the controller, and
- \* A-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path is active and is carrying traffic.

Further, the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the higher preference candidate path is included with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag cleared, to indicate that the candidate this path is no longer active and not carrying traffic anymore.

#### 8.3.1.3. Reversion

When using PCEP, the second candidate path with lower preference is torn down using the procedures in Section 7.1.

A PCRpt message for the remaining candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with O field in LSP object is set to 2, to indicate this candidate path is active and traffic is sent across it.

When using BGP, the second candidate path with lower preference is torn down by using the procedures in Section 7.2.

A BGP-LS update with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the remaining candidate path is sent to the controller with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the

- \* A-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path became active and is carrying traffic again.

### 8.3.2. 1:1+R Restoration

For further resiliency in case of multiple concurrent failures that could bring down both candidate paths of 1:1 protection described in Section 8.2, a third candidate path with a preference lower than the other two candidate paths (in this section referred to as first and second candidate path) is added to the CS-SR Policy to enable restoration.

There are two possible operating models:

- \* R established upon double failure

As in Section 8.3.1, to avoid pre-allocating additional bandwidth by the controller ahead of failures, the third candidate path may only be requested when both candidate paths are affected by failures.

As soon as either the first or second candidate path recovers, traffic will be reverted and the third candidate path MUST be torn down.

- \* R pre-established after single failure

Alternatively, the third candidate path can also be requested and pre-computed already whenever either the first or second candidate path go down with the downside of more bandwidth being set aside ahead of time. When doing so, the third candidate path MUST be computed diverse to the still operational candidate path.

The third candidate path will get activated and carry traffic when further failures lead to both the first and second candidate path being down.

As long as either the first or the second candidate path is active, the third candidate path is kept, updated (if needed) to ensure diversity to the active candidate path and is not carrying traffic.

Once both, the first and the second candidate path have recovered, the third candidate path is torn down.

Again, restoration and reversion behavior is bidirectional. As described in Section 9.1, both headends use continuity check in loopback mode and therefore even in case of unidirectional failures both headends will detect the failure or clearance of the failure and switch traffic away from the failed or to the recovered candidate path.

#### 8.3.2.1. R established upon double failure

##### 8.3.2.1.1. Setup

The first and second candidate path are set up as described in Section 8.2

##### 8.3.2.1.2. Failure

As failure(s) have brought down both the first and second candidate path, a third candidate path with lowest preference is established, activated and traffic is sent across it immediately to restore traffic.

When using PCEP, the third candidate path is established using the procedures in Section 6.1.

A PCRpt message for the third candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field set to 2 to indicate this candidate path is active and carrying traffic.

Further, a PCRpt message for both the first and second candidate path is sent to the PCE with the O field set to 0 to indicate the candidate paths are no longer active and are not carrying traffic.

When using BGP, the third candidate path is established using the procedures defined in Section 6.2.

A BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with a SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the third candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the

- \* C-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path was provisioned by the controller, and
- \* A-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path is active and is carrying traffic.

Further, the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRIs for the first and second candidate path are also included with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag and B-Flag cleared to indicate that those candidate paths are no longer active or backup and are not carrying traffic.

##### 8.3.2.1.3. Reversion

When using PCEP, the third candidate path is torn down using the procedures in Section 7.1.

A PCRpt message for the recovered candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with O field in LSP object is set to 1, to indicate this candidate path is signaled but is not carrying traffic.

When using BGP, the third candidate path is torn down by using the procedures in Section 7.2.

A BGP-LS update with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the covered candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the B-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path became backup and is not carrying traffic.

#### 8.3.2.2. R pre-established after single failure

##### 8.3.2.2.1. Setup

The first and second candidate path are set up as described in Section 8.2

##### 8.3.2.2.2. Failure

As a failure brought either the first or the second candidate path down, a third candidate path is established, but is not activated and is not carrying traffic.

When using PCEP, a PCRpt message for the third candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field set to 1 to indicate this candidate path is signaled but not carrying traffic.

Further, a PCRpt message for the failed candidate path is sent to the PCE with the O field set to 0 to indicate this candidate path is no longer active and not carrying traffic.

When using BGP, a BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with a SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the third candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the

- \* C-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path was provisioned by the controller, and

- \* B-Flag set to 1 to indicate the role of backup path.

Further, the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRIs for the failed candidate path is also included with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag and B-Flag cleared to indicate that the candidate path is no longer active or backup and is not carrying traffic.

Whenever later a failure happens, that leads to both the first and second candidate path to be down, the third candidate path gets activated and traffic is sent across it.

When using PCEP, a PCRpt message for the third candidate path is sent by the headends A and Z to the PCE with the O field set to 2 to indicate this candidate path is active and carrying traffic.

Further, a PCRpt message for both the failed candidate path is sent to the PCE with the O field set to 0 to indicate the candidate path is no longer active and is not carrying traffic.

When using BGP, a BGP-LS update is sent by the headends A and Z to the controller with a SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the third candidate path with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the

- \* C-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path was provisioned by the controller, and
- \* A-Flag set to 1 to indicate the candidate path is active and is carrying traffic.

Further, the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI for the failed candidate path is also included with the SR Candidate Path State TLV having the A-Flag cleared to indicate that the candidate path is no longer active and is not carrying traffic.

#### 8.3.2.2.3. Reversion

When transitioning from a state where both the first and second candidate path being down to a state where either of them is recovered. The third candidate path MAY be updated to ensure it is diverse to the active candidate path.

When using PCEP, the third candidate path is updated following PCEP procedures of [RFC8231].

When using BGP, the controller is sending a new BGP update with the SR Policy Candidate Path NLRI containing the new path.

When both the first and second candidate path have recovered, the third candidate MUST be torn down and the reversion procedures of Section 8.2 MUST be followed.

When using PCEP, the third candidate path is torn down using the procedures in Section 7.1.



When using BGP, the third candidate path is torn down by using the procedures in Section 7.2.

## 9. Operations, Administration, and Maintenance (OAM)

### 9.1. Continuity Check

The continuity check for each segment list on both headends MAY be done using

- \* Simple Two-Way Active Measurement Protocol (STAMP) in loopback measurement mode as described in section 6 and the session state described in section 11 of [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-mpls] for SR-MPLS and [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-srv6] for SRv6.
- \* Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) [RFC5880].
- \* Seamless BFD (S-BFD) [RFC7880].

The use of STAMP is RECOMMENDED as it leverages a single protocol for both continuity check and performance measurement (see Section 9.2 of this document) and allows for a single session to be used, depending on the desired performance measurement session mode (two-way described in section 4, one-way described in section 5 or loopback described in section 6 of [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-mpls] for SR-MPLS and [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-srv6] for SRv6).

As the STAMP test packets are including both the segment list of the forward and reverse path, standard segment routing data plane operations will make those packets get forwarded along the forward path to the tailend and along the reverse path back to the headend.

To be able to send STAMP test packets for loopback measurement mode, the STAMP Session-Sender (i.e., the headend) needs to acquire the segment list information of the reverse path:

- \* When using PCEP, the headend forms the bidirectional SR Policy association using the procedure described in [I-D.ietf-pce-sr-bidir-path] and receives the information about the reverse segment list from the PCE as described in section 4.5 of [I-D.ietf-pce-multipath]
- \* When using BGP, the controller does inform the headend routers about the reverse segment list using the Reverse Segment List Sub-TLV defined in section 4.1 of [I-D.ietf-idr-sr-policy-path-segment].

For cases where multiple segment lists are used by a candidate path, the headends will declare a candidate path down after continuity check has failed for one or more segment lists because the bandwidth requirement of the candidate path can no longer be met.

## 9.2. Performance Measurement

Assuming a single STAMP session in loopback mode is used for continuity check and performance measurement, the round-trip delay can be measured and the round-trip loss can be estimated as described in section 8 of [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-mpls] for SR-MPLS and [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-srv6] for SRv6.

Considering that candidate paths are co-routed, the delay in the forward and reverse direction can be assumed to be similar. Under this assumption, one-way delay can be derived by dividing the round-trip delay by two.

## 9.3. Candidate Path Validity Verification

A stateful PCE/controller is in sync with the headend routers in the network topology and the CS-SR Policies provisioned on them. As described in Section 5 a path MUST NOT be automatically recomputed by the controller after or optimized for topology changes unless it is a restoration path.

However, there may be a requirement for the stateful PCE/controller to tear down a path if the path no longer satisfies the original requirements, such as insufficient bandwidth, diversity constraint no longer met or latency constraint exceeded and only the stateful PCE/controller can detect this and not the headend routers themselves.

For a CS-SR Policy configured with multiple candidate paths, a headend may switch to another candidate path if the stateful PCE/controller decided to tear down the active candidate path.

## 10. External Commands

External commands are typically issued by an operator to control the candidate path state of a CS-SR Policy using the management interface of:

- \* Headends: When the CS-SR Policy was instantiated via configuration or PCEP PCC-initiated mode
- \* PCE/controller: When the CS-SR Policy was instantiated via BGP or PCEP PCE-initiated mode

### 10.1. Candidate Path Switchover

It is very common to allow operators to trigger a switch between candidate paths even if no failure is present, e.g., to proactively drain a resource for maintenance purposes.

A operator triggered switching request between candidate paths on a headend is unidirectional and SHOULD be requested on both headends to ensure co-routing of traffic.

### 10.2. Candidate Path Re-computation

While no automatic re-optimization or pre-computation of CS-SR Policy candidate paths is allowed as specified in Section 5, network operators trying to optimize network utilization may explicitly request a candidate path to be re-computed at a certain point in time.

## 11. Security Considerations

This document does provide guidance on how to implement a CS-SR Policy leveraging existing mechanisms and protocol extensions. As such, it does not introduce any new security considerations.

Security considerations for the SR Policy Architecture defined in Section 10 of [RFC9256] do apply to this document.

Depending on how a CS-SR Policy is instantiated and reported, the following security considerations do apply

\* PCEP:

- Section 7 of [RFC8664]
- Section 6 of [RFC9603]
- Section 8 of [I-D.ietf-pce-segment-routing-policy-cp]
- Section 6 of [I-D.ietf-pce-sr-bidir-path]
- Section 7 of [I-D.ietf-pce-circuit-style-pcep-extensions]
- Section 10 of [I-D.ietf-pce-multipath]
- Section 8 of [I-D.ietf-idr-sr-policy-path-segment]

\* BGP:

- Section 7 of [RFC9830]
- Section 9 of [I-D.ietf-idr-bgp-ls-sr-policy]

\* Configuration:

- Section 8 of [I-D.ietf-spring-sr-policy-yang]

Depending on the protocol used for OAM, the following security considerations do apply

- \* STAMP: Section 15 of [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-mpls] and [I-D.ietf-spring-stamp-srpm-srv6]
- \* BFD: Section 9 of [RFC5880]

## 12. IANA Considerations

This document has no IANA actions.

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