Recommendations for RSVP-TE and Segment Routing LSP co-existence
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Abstract

   Operators are looking to introduce services over Segment Routing (SR)
   LSPs in networks running Resource Reservation Protocol (RSVP-TE)
   LSPs. In some instances, operators are also migrating existing
   services from RSVP-TE to SR LSPs. For example, there might be
   certain services that are well suited for SR and need to co-exist
   with RSVP-TE in the same network. In other cases, services running
   on RSVP-TE might be migrated to run over SR. Such introduction or
   migration of traffic to SR might require co-existence with RSVP-TE in
   the same network for an extended period of time depending on the
   operator's intent. The following document provides solution options
   for keeping the traffic engineering database (TED) consistent across
   the network, accounting for the different bandwidth utilization
   between SR and RSVP-TE.

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction

   Introduction of SR [I-D.ietf-spring-segment-routing] in the same
   network domain as RSVP-TE [RFC3209] presents the problem of
   accounting for SR traffic and making RSVP-TE aware of the actual
   available bandwidth on the network links. RSVP-TE is not aware of
   how much bandwidth is being consumed by SR services on the network
   links and hence both at computation time (for a distributed
   computation) and at signaling time RSVP-TE LSPs will incorrectly
   place loads. This is true where RSVP-TE paths are distributed or
   centrally computed without a common entity managing both SR and RSVP-
   TE computation for the entire network domain.

The problem space can be generalized as a dark bandwidth problem to
cases where any other service exists in the network that runs in
parallel across common links and whose bandwidth is not reflected in
the available and reserved values in the TED. The general problem is
management of dark bandwidth pools and can be generalized to cases
where any other service exists in the network that runs in parallel
across common links and whose bandwidth is not reflected in the
available and reserved values in the TED. In most practical
instances given the static nature of the traffic demands, limiting
the available reservable bandwidth available to RSVP-TE has been an
acceptable solution. However, in the case of SR traffic, there is
assumed to be very dynamic traffic demands and there is considerable
risk associated with stranding capacity or overbooking service
traffic resulting in traffic drops.

The high level requirements or assumptions to consider are:

1. Placement of SR LSPs in the same domain as RSVP-TE LSPs MUST NOT
    introduce inaccuracies in the TED used by distributed or
    centralized path computation engines.

2. Engines that compute RSVP-TE paths MAY have no knowledge of the
    existence of the SR paths in the same domain.

3. Engines that compute RSVP-TE paths SHOULD NOT require a software
    upgrade or change to their path computation logic.

4. Protocol extensions SHOULD be avoided or be minimal as in many
    cases this co-existence of RSVP-TE and SR MAY be needed only
    during a transition phase.

5. Placement of SR LSPs in the same domain as RSVP-TE LSPs that are
    computed in a distributed fashion MUST NOT require migration to a
    central controller architecture for the RSVP-TE LSPs.

2. Conventions used in this document

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT",
"SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this
document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

3. Solution options

3.1. Static partitioning of bandwidth

In this model, the static reservable bandwidth of an interface can be
statically partitioned between SR and RSVP-TE and each can operate
within that bandwidth allocation and SHOULD NOT preempt each other.

While it is possible to configure RSVP-TE to only reserve up to a
certain maximum link bandwidth and manage the remaining link
bandwidth for other services, this is a deployment where SR and RSVP-
TE are separated in the same network (ships in the night) and can
lead to suboptimal link bandwidth utilization not allowing each to
consume more, if required and constraining the respective
deployments.

The downside of this approach is the inability to use the reservable
bandwidth effectively and inability to use bandwidth left unused by
the other protocol.

3.2. Centralized management of available capacity

In this model, a central controller performs path placement for both
RSVP-TE and SR LSPs. The controller manages and updates its own view
of the in-use and the available capacity. As the controller is a
single common entity managing the network it can have a unified and
consistent view of the available capacity at all times.

A practical drawback of this model is that it requires the
introduction of a central controller managing the RSVP-TE LSPs as a
prerequisite to the deployment of any SR LSPs. Therefore, this
approach is not practical for networks where distributed TE with
RSVP-TE LSPs is already deployed, as it requires a redesign of the
network and is not backwards compatible. This does not satisfy
requirement 5.

Note that it is not enough for the controller to just maintain the
unified view of the available capacity, it must also perform the path
computation for the RSVP-TE LSPs, as the reservations for the SR LSPs
are not reflected in the TED. This does not fit with assumption 2
mentioned earlier.

3.3. Flooding SR utilization in IGP

Using techniques in [RFC7810], [RFC7471] and [RFC7823], the SR
utilization information can be flooded in IGP-TE and the RSVP-TE path
computation engine (CSPF) can be changed to consider this
information. This requires changes to the RSVP-TE path computation
logic and would require upgrades in deployments where distributed
computation is done across the network.

This does not fit with requirements 3 and 4 mentioned earlier.

3.4. Running SR over RSVP-TE

SR can run over dedicated RSVP-TE LSPs that carry only SR traffic.
In this model, the LSPs can be one-hop or multi-hop and can provide
bandwidth reservation for the SR traffic based on functionality such
as auto-bandwidth. The model of deployment would be similar in
nature to running LDP over RSVP-TE. This would allow the TED to stay
consistent across the network and any other RSVP-TE LSPs will also be
aware of the SR traffic reservations. In this approach, non-SR
traffic MUST NOT take the SR-dedicated RSVP-TE LSPs, unless required
by policy.

The drawback of this solution is that it requires SR to rely on RSVP-
TE for deployment. Furthermore, the accounting accuracy/frequency of
this method is dependent on performance of auto-bandwidth for RSVP-
TE. Note that for this method to work, the SR-dedicated RSVP-TE LSPs
must be set up with the best setup and hold priorities in the
network.

3.5. TED consistency by reflecting SR traffic

The solution relies on dynamically measuring SR traffic utilization
on each TE interface and reducing the bandwidth allowed for use by
RSVP-TE. It is assumed that SR traffic receives precedence in terms
of the placement on the path over RSVP traffic (that is, RSVP traffic
can be preempted from the path in case of insufficient resources).
This is logically equivalent to SR traffic having the best preemption
priority in the network. Note that this does not necessarily mean
that SR traffic has higher QoS priority, in fact, SR and RSVP traffic
may be in the same QoS class. The following methodology can be used
at every TE node for this solution:

o T: Traffic statistics collection time interval

o N: Traffic averaging calculation (adjustment) interval such that N
   = k * T, where k is a constant integer multiplier greater or equal
   to 1. Its purpose is to provide a smoothing function to the
   statistics collection.

o Maximum-Reservable-Bandwidth: The maximum available bandwidth for
   TE (this is the maximum available bandwidth on the interface,
   before any LSP reservations)

o RSVP-unreserved-bandwidth-at-priority-X: Maximum-Reservable-
   Bandwidth - sum of (existing reservations at priority X and all
   priorities better than X)

o SR traffic threshold percentage: The percentage difference of
   traffic demand that when exceeded can result in a change to the
   RSVP-TE Maximum-Reservable-Bandwidth

o IGP-TE update threshold: Specifies the frequency at which IGP-TE
   updates should be triggered based on TE bandwidth updates on a
   link

o M: An optional multiplier that can be applied to the SR traffic
   average. This multiplier provides the ability to grow or shrink
   the bandwidth used by SR

At every interval T, each node SHOULD collect the SR traffic
statistics for each of its TE interfaces. Further, at every interval
N, given a configured SR traffic threshold percentage and a set of
collected SR traffic statistics samples across the interval N, the SR
traffic average (or any other traffic metric depending on the
algorithm used) over this period is calculated.

If the difference between the new calculated SR traffic average and
the current SR traffic average (that was computed in the prior
adjustment) is at least SR traffic threshold percentage, then two
values MUST be updated:

o New Maximum-Reservable-Bandwidth = Current Maximum-Reservable-
   Bandwidth - (SR traffic average * M)

o New RSVP-unreserved-bandwidth-at-priority-X = New Maximum-
   Reservable-Bandwidth - sum of (existing reservations at priority X
   and all priorities better than X)

Note that the computation of the new RSVP-unreserved-bandwidth-at-
priority-X MAY result in RSVP-TE LSPs being hard or soft preempted.
Such preemption will be based on relative priority (e.g. low to high)
between RSVP-TE LSPs. It is RECOMMENDED that the IGP-TE update
threshold SHOULD be lower in order to flood unreserved bandwidth
updates often. From an operational point of view, an implementation
SHOULD be able to expose both the configured and the actual values of
the Maximum-Reservable-Bandwidth.

If LSP preemption is not acceptable, then the RSVP-TE Maximum-
Reservable-Bandwidth cannot be reduced below what is currently
reserved by RSVP-TE on that interface. This may result in bandwidth
not being available for SR traffic. Thus, it is required that any
external controller managing SR LSPs SHOULD be able to detect this
situation (for example by subscribing to TED updates [RFC7752]) and
SHOULD take action to reroute existing SR paths.

Generically, SR traffic (or any non-RSVP-TE traffic) should have its own priority allocated from the available priorities. This would allow SR to preempt other traffic according to the preemption priority order.

In this solution, the logic to retrieve the statistics, calculating averages and taking action to change the Maximum-Reservable-Bandwidth is an implementation choice, and all changes are local in nature. However, note that this is a new network trigger for RSVP-TE preemption and thus is a consideration for the operator.

The above solution offers the advantage of not introducing new network-wide mechanisms especially during scenarios of migrating to SR in an existing RSVP-TE network and reusing existing protocol mechanisms.

[4](#). Acknowledgements

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[6](#). IANA Considerations

This draft does not have any request for IANA.

[7](#). Security Considerations

No new security issues are introduced in this document beyond is already part of RSVP-TE and Segment routing architectures.

8. References

8.1. Normative References

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