

# Introduction to OSPF

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### OSPF

- Open Shortest
  Path First
- Link state or SPF technology
- Developed by OSPF working group of IETF (RFC 1247)
- Designed for TCP/IP Internet environment
- Fast convergence

- Variable-length subnet masks
- Discontiguous subnets
- No periodic updates
- Route authentication
- OSPF standard described in RFC2328

#### **Link State**



### **Link State Routing**

- Neighbour discovery
- Constructing a Link State Packet (LSP)
- Distribute the LSP

(Link State Announcement – LSA)

- Compute routes
- On network failure
  New LSPs flooded

All routers recompute routing tables

### **Low Bandwidth Utilisation**



- Only changes propagated
- Multicast on multi-access broadcast networks

#### **Fast Convergence**

#### Detection Plus LSA/SPF



### **Fast Convergence**

- Finding a new route
  - LSA flooded throughout area
  - **Acknowledgement based**
  - **Topology database synchronised**
  - Each router derives routing table to destination networks



#### **IP Multicast for Sending/Receiving Updates**

#### Broadcast networks

All routers must accept packets sent to AllSPFRouters (224.0.0.5)

All DR and BDR routers must accept packets sent to AllDRouters (224.0.0.6)

 Hello packets sent to AllSPFRouters (Unicast on point-to-point and virtual links)

### **OSPF** Areas

- Group of contiguous hosts and networks
- Per area topological database

Invisible outside the area

**Reduction in routing traffic** 

Backbone area contiguous

All other areas must be connected to the backbone

Virtual Links



### **Classification of Routers**



- Internal Router (IR)
- Area Border Router (ABR)
- Backbone Router (BR)
- Autonomous System Border Router (ASBR)

### **OSPF Route Types**



routes imported into OSPF from other protocol or static routes

#### **Inter-Area Route Summarisation**



#### **External Routes**

- Prefixes which are redistributed into OSPF from other protocols
- Flooded unaltered throughout the AS
- OSPF supports two types of external metrics

**Type 1 external metrics** 

**Type 2 external metrics (Default)** 



 Type 1 external metric: metrics are added to the summarised internal link cost



 Type 2 external metric: metrics are compared without adding to the internal link cost



### **Topology/Link State Database**

- A router has a separate LS database for each area to which it belongs
- All routers belonging to the same area have identical database
- SPF calculation is performed separately for each area
- LSA flooding is bounded by area

### **Protocol Functionality**

- Bringing up adjacencies
- LSA types
- Area classification

#### **The Hello Protocol**

- Responsible for establishing and maintaining neighbour relationships
- Elects designated router on multi-access networks



### **The Hello Packet**

- Router priority
- Hello interval
- Router dead interval
- Network mask
- Options: T-bit, E-bit
- List of neighbours



### **Designated Router**

 There is ONE designated router per multi-access network Generates network link advertisements Assists in database synchronization



### **Designated Router by Priority**

- Configured priority (per interface)
- Else determined by highest router ID

Router ID is the loopback interface address, if configured, otherwise the highest IP address



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### **Neighbouring States**

#### • Full

Routers are fully adjacent

**Databases synchronised** 

**Relationship to DR and BDR** 



### **Neighbouring States**

### • 2-way

Router sees itself in other Hello packets DR selected from neighbours in state 2-way or greater



### When to Become Adjacent

- Underlying network is point to point
- Underlying network type is virtual link
- The router itself is the designated router
- The router itself is the backup designated router
- The neighbouring router is the designated router
- The neighbouring router is the backup designated router

#### LSAs Propagate Along Adjacencies



#### LSAs acknowledged along adjacencies

### **Routing Protocol Packets**

- Share a common protocol header
- Routing protocol packets are sent with type of service (TOS) of 0
- Five types of OSPF routing protocol packets

Hello – packet type 1

**Database description – packet type 2** 

Link-state request – packet type 3

Link-state update – packet type 4

Link-state acknowledgement – packet type 5

### **Different Types of LSAs**

### Four distinct type of LSAs

- Type 1 : Router LSA
- Type 2 :Network LSA
- Type 3 and 4: Summary LSA
- Type 5 and 7: External LSA

## Router LSA (Type 1)

- Describes the state and cost of the router's links to the area
- All of the router's links in an area must be described in a single LSA
- Flooded throughout the particular area and no more
- Router indicates whether it is an ASBR, ABR, or end point of virtual link

## Network LSA (Type 2)

- Generated for every transit broadcast and NBMA network
- Describes all the routers attached to the network
- Only the designated router originates this LSA
- Flooded throughout the area and no more

### Summary LSA (Type 3 and 4)

- Describes the destination outside the area but still in the AS
- Flooded throughout a single area
- Originated by an ABR
- Only inter-area routes are advertised into the backbone
- Type 4 is the information about the ASBR

### External LSA (Type 5 and 7)

- Defines routes to destination external to the AS
- Default route is also sent as external
- Two types of external LSA:
  - E1: Consider the total cost up to the external destination

E2: Considers only the cost of the outgoing interface to the external destination

 (Type 7 LSAs used to describe external LSA for one specific OSPF area type)

#### **No Summarisation**

- Specific Link LSA advertised out of each area
- Link state changes propagated out of each area



#### With Summarisation

- Only summary LSA advertised out of each area
- Link state changes do not propagate out of the area



#### **No Summarisation**

- Specific Link LSA advertised in to each area
- Link state changes propagated in to each area



#### With Summarisation

- Only summary link LSA advertised in to each area
- Link state changes do not propagate in to each area



### **Types of Areas**

- Regular
- Stub
- Totally Stubby
- Not-So-Stubby

#### **Regular Area (Not a Stub)**

• From Area 1's point of view, summary networks from other areas are injected as are external networks such as X.1



#### **Normal Stub Area**

- Summary networks, default route injected
- Command is area x stub



### **Totally Stubby Area**

Only a default route injected Default path to closest area border router



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### **Not-So-Stubby Area**

- Capable of importing routes in a limited fashion
- Type-7 LSA's carry external information within an NSSA





#### **Addressing for Areas**



#### Assign contiguous ranges of subnets per area to facilitate summarisation

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### **Summary**

### Scalable OSPF Network Design

- Area hierarchy
- **Stub areas**
- **Contiguous addressing**
- **Route summarisation**



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